

## Hockey series Pakistan beat India

LAHORE, Feb 16: Pakistan fought hard to beat India 4-2 today in their fifth hockey match, edging closer to taking the nine-match series, reports AFP.

After the first match of the second leg Pakistan lead by four matches to one. Pakistan had won the four-match Indian leg by three to one.

Two expertly taken penalty corner goals by Sohail Abbas and one each by Atif Bashir and Mohammad Khalid helped Pakistan outlast the visitors.

Both teams made some good moves with Pakistan benefiting from the induction of left-in Mohammad Khalid, who missed the Indian leg of the series due to injury.

The first goal came in the 20th minute when captain Atif Bashir received the ball on the edge of the circle. His ferocious shot gave Indian goalie Jagdish Ponnappa no chance.

The home team went two up when Sohail Abbas scored through a penalty corner in the 26th minute while India failed to score from any of the four short corners they forced in the first half.

Pakistan kept up the tempo when play resumed. Mohammad Sarwar fed Mohammad Khalid a golden pass in the 39th minute. Khalid's shot was deflected by a defender for Pakistan's third goal.

India forced four short corners in three minutes and finally scored in the 49th minute through Baljit Singh Saini. They were further rewarded with a penalty stroke converted by Baljit Singh Dhillon with 15 minutes to go.

Pakistan held the fort with some wise ball possession and added their fourth goal in the last minute on a penalty corner by Sohail Abbas. It was his seventh in the series, all off penalty corners.

The team meet in the sixth match in Karachi on Thursday.

## Langer not swayed by style

SYDNEY, Feb 16: Justin Langer says he is good at making "ugly lollies" and has put his hand up to the next scrap of Australian cricket, reports AFP.

The West Australian left-hander wants to make a long Test career out of substance rather than style and sees himself as the successor to newly-retired captain Mark Taylor for grafting his runs.

Australia leave for a four-Test tour of the West Indies on Wednesday, knowing that runs against the once mighty calypso giants are hard to come by.

"I think I'm good at making ugly lollies," Langer said today.

"It's part of being a top order batsman. In all the articles about Tubby's (Taylor's) retirement they said that's what he was good at — making some ugly runs."

That's a lot of my game. Sometimes I make a tough 40 or 50 and thrive on those situations."

And Langer firmly believes such innings are underpinned by the public.

"I'm biased because I tend to play them sometimes but you look at great players like David Boon, Allan Border, Steve Waugh, Mark Taylor — the best ones over the last few years have been the real scrappers," he said.

"There have been some pretty and elegant Australian batsmen but the ones who stand out and have made the most runs have been the scrappers."

The 28-year-old Langer will be on his seventh Test tour and one he hopes will enable him to cement the difficult No. 3 bat position.

Langer has batted at No. 3 several times in his stop-start six-year career and finally cracked a maiden Test ton in Pakistan in October.

"It's been nice to string eight Tests together. I've always craved that opportunity because I've had an one-off career," Langer said.

## Sad end to successful Sacchi

MADRID, Feb 16 (Reuters/ Internet): Arrigo Sacchi's emotional farewell to arms at Atletico Madrid marks a disappointing end to one of the most successful coaching careers in recent times.

The diminutive Italian, who rose from the obscurity of the amateur leagues to coach AC Milan to greatness and his country to within a penalty kick of lifting the World Cup, quit the game on Monday eight months into a two-year contract.

Looking close to tears as he read from a prepared statement, he put his unexpected decision down to exhaustion, begging to be left in peace from the relentless scrutiny of the Spanish media.

But the real problem faced by Sacchi, the master tactician, was trying to instill his trademark zonal system of play on what was, with one or two exceptions, a squad of doubtful quality.

It was a different story at AC Milan between 1987 and 1991, when Sacchi was able to build one of the great teams of the game.

Inspired by the attacking flair of Ruud Gullit and Marco van Basten, and shored up by the likes of their Dutch compatriot Frank Rijkaard and Italian Franco Baresi, Milan went on to dominate European football until the early 1990s.

An Italian league title in his first season in charge was followed by successive European Cup wins, two European Super-cups and a pair of Intercontinental Cup successes.

Despite all the silverware, Sacchi's obsessive nature led to confrontations with his leading players, including van Basten, and he left the club in 1991.

But the Italian soccer federation soon summoned him to lift the spirits of a national team who surprisingly failed to qualify for the 1992 European championship finals.



ARRIGO SACCHI

Refreshed, he took to the Atletico job with alacrity, signing a host of new players including the stylish Vladimir Jugovic from Lazio to take the playmaker's role in midfield.

Other imports from Italian soccer coach Dino Zoff said on Monday he hoped Sacchi was not quitting the sport for good.

"I'm sad (Sacchi's) Spanish adventure has ended in this way," Zoff told reporters.

"I hope his announcement is just the result of him feeling temporarily a bit low. I don't see why he should leave soccer. It could just be a brief disillusionment," Zoff said.

Without their leading scorer

of the previous season Atletico were always liable to struggle, particularly as Sacchi failed to get the best out of Juninho, the Brazilian forward who, after making just a handful of appearances, was almost provoked into a move back to England's premier league.

Sacchi's habit of falling out with leading players — Gianluca Vialli and Roberto Biagi — were other big names who struggled to agree with him — perhaps stems from the fact that, despite all his success as a coach, he was no more than a moderate player, whose amateur career ended when he was 19.

After working for seven years for his father's show firm, Sacchi returned to soccer in 1972 when he began coaching the amateur team in his home town of Fusignano.

By 1977 he entered professional soccer as youth coach at Cesena and in 1982 was appointed to his first senior post as coach of Serie C club Rimini.

In 1985, Sacchi was appointed to Parmar then also in the third division, immediately winning promotion to division two, while the following season Parma defeated AC Milan in an Italian Cup tie.

That success attracted the attention of AC Milan millionaire media magnate owner Silvio Berlusconi, who liked Parma's style.

Berlusconi brought Sacchi to Milan, thus ushering in one of the great footballing dynasties — and guaranteeing Sacchi's reputation as one of the greats of the game, regardless of his less than spectacular record at his final club.

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"Knowing the knee injury could end my career, I've gained some perspective. I don't see things as grimly as four or five years ago," said Graf.

Graf, always known as a perfectionist, arrived in Hanover Saturday, and has been practicing twice a day under a new coach.

The most important thing to me is I can play again — with all the dedication that's necessary," Graf said.

## Barbara baffles Jennifer

HANOVER, Germany, Feb 16 (AP): Austria's eighth-seeded Barbara Schett easily trounced Jennifer Capriati at the 500,000 dollar Hanover WTA tournament Monday, but it was Steffi Graf who stole the show.

Graf trained in front of 250 spectators, returning to a tournament where the former No. 1 made a comeback from a career-threatening knee injury last year.

Germany's most popular female sports star, Graf had been wildly cheered by 4,000 spectators last February after stepping on the court for the first time in nine months.

"What I most remember is the way I was greeted from people that left a stronger memory than the matches," said Graf, who has since fought her way back to a No. 7 ranking.

Schett had no trouble beating Capriati, the former Olympic champion, 6-4, 6-2. The American, once a teenage star, has fallen to 87th in the rankings.

Romania's Ruxandra Dragomir also advanced with a 6-3, 6-2 victory against France's Sarah Pitkowska and France's Sandrine Testud slipped by qualifier Andrea Glass of Germany 7-6, 6-1.

The top seeds like Graf, defending champion Patty Schnyder of Switzerland, Jana Novotna and Venus Williams first see action on Wednesday.

Graf, 29, has own three tournaments and beaten numerous top players during her comeback, but 1999 began with losses to world No. 1 Martina Hingis at the Australian Open and Tokyo.

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## Courier cruises

MEMPHIS, Tennessee, Feb 16: Former world No. 1 player Jim Courier made quick work of Geoff Grant with 6-0, 6-3 victory Monday night in the Kroger St. Jude Tournament.

Grant's 49-minute victory capped a day of matches among unseeded players in the tournament. The tournament's seeded players open play Tuesday or Wednesday.

Courier, who won this tournament in 1993, is on a comeback from a right arm injury which dropped his world ranking to 117 last year.

He currently is ranked 69th.

He had very little trouble with Grant, winning the first set in 18 minutes. He will face No. 3 seed Michael Chang on Wednesday.

"I came out of the blocks quickly, and that's great," Courier said. "I was real happy with that. I felt like I was flowing a little bit, which is good."

Courier said the difference now is that his arm, bolstered by a weight lifting regimen, doesn't hurt.

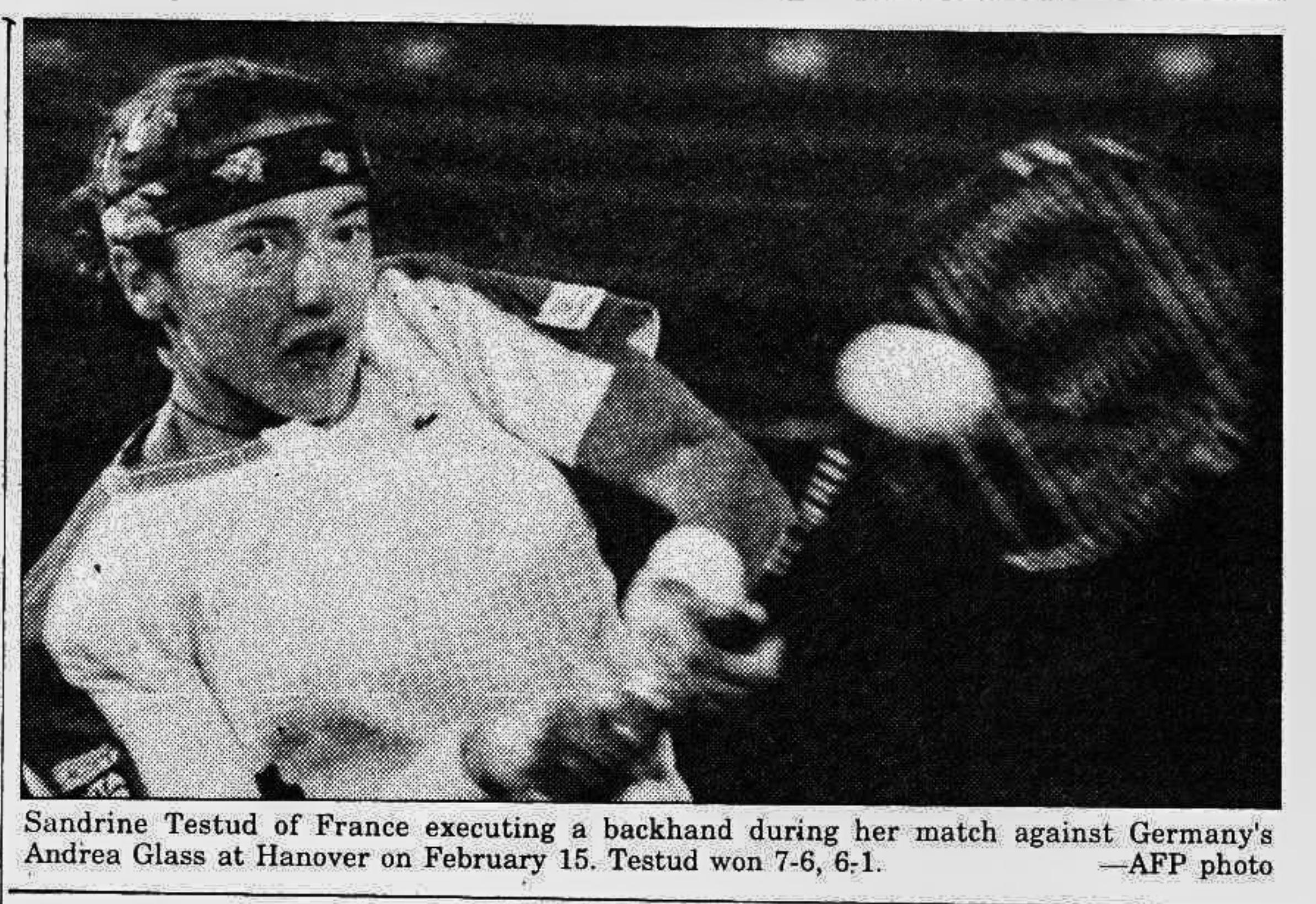
"Right now, my right arm is pretty sound," Courier said.

"That's the main thing. I never noticed it before it started to hurt. Sometimes you don't realize you're walking well until all of a sudden you hurt your foot."

Grant said he played so poorly in the match, Courier probably couldn't tell about his own level of play.

"I didn't even really make him work that hard," Grant said.

"Once you give a guy of his talent and ability a head start, it's almost impossible to catch up."



Sandrine Testud of France executing a backhand during her match against Germany's Andrea Glass at Hanover on February 15. Testud won 7-6, 6-1. — AFP photo

It appeared, however, that De La Hoya had the best of several close rounds simply because he was busier.

Asked if he thought he was in trouble after 11 rounds, the 26-year-old De La Hoya said, "Truly, I thought I was in total control. I never thought I had to come back dramatically."

Nevertheless, De La Hoya clinched the victory in dramatic fashion.

The champion, who weighed in officially at 147 pounds but was 153 at fight time, knocked

## Rosset's 14th

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia, Feb 16: Switzerland's Marc Rosset captured his 14th career title Sunday, defeating David Prinosil of Germany 6-3, 6-4 in the final of the St. Petersburg Open, reports AP.

Second-seed Rosset was last year's runner-up, losing to Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands.

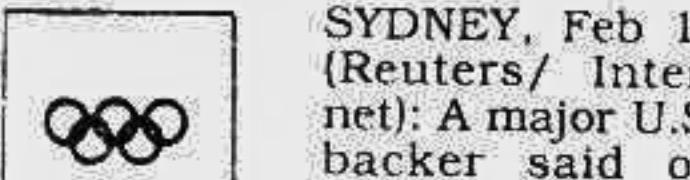
"Last year I came here and lost. This year I won. I'm a very happy person today," Rosset said.

Rosset dominated play through the first set, but lost control of his serve in the second. "I had a bad serving game," he said. "It's something I have to work on."

The pivotal point of play came in the second set at 3-3 when Prinosil missed a volley.

"I was losing concentration," Prinosil said. "I made some simple mistakes. I was trying to go to the net because he wasn't making any mistakes at the base line."

## Big backer threatens to pull out



SYDNEY, Feb 16 (Reuters/ Internet): A major U.S. backer said on Tuesday Sydney's Olympic bid committee appeared to have been involved in bribery to win the Games and threatened not to go ahead with \$20 million worth of sponsorship.

David D'Alessandro, president of John Hancock Financial Services, said his company's concern was so profound it would not proceed with \$20 million in television advertising unless the bribery scandal was resolved.

It would also remove the five Olympic rings from its stationery and billboards.

"Perhaps the IOC will do the right thing only when it understands that its revenues as well as its reputation are in peril," D'Alessandro said, adding the company spent \$40 million every four years as one of the IOC's 10 major worldwide sponsors.

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Knight told reporters on Tuesday that SOCOG would review its spending plans in August if the extra sponsorship money did not become available, but he maintained it was not critical to SOCOG's approved budget of \$1.67 billion.

D'Alessandro, writing in The Sydney Morning Herald newspaper, said statements by Australian Olympic Committee

and John Coates appeared to fit the dictionary definition of bribery.

Coates said in January that he had promised payments of \$35,000 to the national sports associations of two IOC members from Kenya and Uganda.

The financial offers were made "hours before" the crucial vote for the 2000 Games was taken in Monte Carlo in 1993. Sydney beat Beijing by two votes.

Former Sydney bid chairman, Australian Finance Minister John Fahey and Nick Greiner, released a statement later on Tuesday saying that Coates's "arrangements" with Kenya and Uganda had been made without the bid committee's knowledge and had already been considered by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

The IOC has cleared Coates's actions as within Olympic rules.

Another senior Sydney Olympics official, organising committee chief executive Sandy Holloway, said last week that the scandal was hurting SOCOG's efforts to fill a possible \$141 million shortfall in its overall sponsorship target of \$559 million.

## Cartoon Network

6:30 World Famous Toons

Jhony 7:00 Tom & Jerry Kids

Scooby & Scrappy D 7:30 Perilous Pups & Pussycat

9:30 Drink The Milk 10:00 Flinstone Kids 10:20 Richie Rich

11:00 Top Cat 11:30 Captain Planet 12:00 Scooby Doo 12:30 The Cartoon Grand Prix 1:30

Fantastic Max 2:00 Crocado 2:30 The First Edition 9:00 Serial Ret

Be Like Naam 9:30 Current Affairs 10:30 Captain