

Nat'l youth cricket

M'singh enter final round

MYMENSINGH, Mar 2: Mymensingh emerged zonal champions to reach the final round of the national youth under-16 cricket championship beating Netrokona by seven wickets at the local Circuit House ground today, reports UNB.

Put into bat, Netrokona were shot out for 73 in 24.4 overs. Sunny Junior and Riyadh bagged three wickets each. Mymensingh reached their target making 77 for three in only 9.2 overs.

Johnny scored the 28 while Munna took two wickets conceding 22 runs.

Sunny was adjudged man-of-the-match.

Cork stays at Derby

DERBY, England, Mar 2 (AFP): England all-rounder Dominic Cork on Monday signed a new four-year contract at English County Championship side Derbyshire and is guaranteed to be captain for the first two years.

Cork said he had settled his differences with the county and a statement issued by Derbyshire said the county hoped Cork would continue as captain "for many years."

Cork last month put in a written request to be released from his contract after his demands that two committee members be ousted were rejected. Former chairman Vic Brownett resigned because of the power struggle.

Cork also claimed a "dirty tricks campaign" was being run within the club against him after it was reported he had abused Trevor Bowling, the newly-appointed chairman.

"I am so happy that all the differences have been sorted out, and we have a structure that we feel can allow me to concentrate all my efforts into leading Derbyshire into a successful future," Cork said.

Bowler to face the music

LONDON, Mar 2 (Reuters/Internet): Liverpool's Robbie Fowler faces a possible misconduct charge after allegations on Tuesday that he provoked fellow England international Graeme Le Saux with homosexual taunts during a Premier league match.

The English Football Association (FA) confirmed it had requested a video tape of Saturday's Chelsea-Liverpool match during which defender Le Saux knocked Fowler to the ground.

Television cameras caught Le Saux felling Fowler but referee Paul Durkin missed the incident. "The television pictures are pretty damning," Durkin said later.

The Chelsea player could face a four-match ban but newspapers said Chelsea would argue Fowler provoked Le Saux repeatedly with sexual gestures and taunts during the 2-1 Chelsea win.

A Liverpool spokesman declined to comment on the reports.

The Mirror newspaper said Chelsea planned to use photographs of Fowler taunting Le Saux as evidence in their player's defence. Le Saux is married with a daughter.

An FA spokesman said neither player had been charged as yet. "We've asked to look at the video," he said.

It is the second time this season that Le Saux has come to blows with a Liverpool and England player.

In October, he was told by former England coach Glenn Hoddle to slim down after he and Liverpool captain Paul Ince had an altercation in the tunnel at Anfield after a 1-1 draw.

On Monday Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier was charged by the FA with misconduct after a verbal attack on a referee following the match against Charlton last month.

Houllier was angered by Reed's decision to send off Jamie Carragher in the 1-0 defeat at Charlton on February 13.

It was the second time this season Reed has dismissed a Liverpool player and after the game, Houllier could not contain his anger.

He said at the time: "Maybe the referee wanted Charlton to win. It was not harsh, it was dubious."

Carragher was dismissed for "violent conduct" after a foul on Charlton's Martin Pringle in the 68th minute of the match.

Although he was not reported by Reed, the FA has decided to take action against the Frenchman.

Houllier said on Monday: "I'm very disappointed to be charged by the FA over conduct I made after the game at Charlton two weeks ago."

"I have subsequently requested a personal hearing at which point I trust the FA will provide me with the opportunity of discussing the matter personally with referee Reed."

Houllier charged with misconduct

LIVERPOOL, Mar 2 (Reuters/Internet): Liverpool's French manager Gerard Houllier was charged by the English Football Association with misconduct on Monday after his verbal attack on a referee following his side's match against Charlton last month.

But Houllier has asked the FA to let him meet referee Mike Reed to explain his side of the matter.

Houllier was charged by the FA with misconduct after a verbal attack on a referee following the match against Charlton last month.

Larsen exits

COPENHAGEN, Mar 2: Fourth-seeded Fabian Santoro of France easily defeated wildcard Thomas Larsen of Denmark 6-2, 6-0 in the first round of the Copenhagen Open ATP tournament on Monday, reports AP.

A long day ahead of hosts

AUCKLAND, Mar 2: South Africa have one-day to get 10 wickets to win the first Test of the three-match series against New Zealand after they forced the home side to follow on the fourth day, today, 269 runs behind South Africa's first innings of 621 for five declared, reports AFP.

New Zealand were four for no wicket in their second innings after being bowled out in the first innings for 352. They need 266 runs to make South Africa bat again.

However, South Africa will have to work hard on the docile Eden Park wicket on which only 15 wickets have fallen in the first four days of the Test.

An indication of how dead the wicket remains is that No 11 tailender Geoff Allott was able to bat 102 minutes, without scoring, without South Africa being able to dislodge him.

New Zealand's hero of the day was Chris Harris who remained 68 not out. His third Test half century.

The time he spent at the crease was more important than the runs he scored. He batted for over five hours and if New Zealand escapes with a draw. They may have him to thank.

Unorthodox left-arm spinner Paul Adams has been able to extract unerring turn out of the bowlers' footmarks and he may hold the key to whether South Africa can force the win.

New Zealand started in relative comfort at 205 for two but their position very rapidly deteriorated.

In the first over of the morning Craig McMillan, after hitting a four, chased a wide ball from captain and parttime bowler Hansie Cronje and was caught by wicketkeeper Boucher for 26.

Matthew Horne in the next over, having added a single to his overnight score of 92, was deceived and bowled by left-arm spinner Adams.

Allan Donald and Shaun Pollock then took the second new ball with the scent of victory in their nostrils and both bowled with hostility.

Pollock was rewarded when he got Adam Parore to edge on to his wickets.

After lunch Lance Klusener made further inroads when he achieved a double breakthrough. First he bowled Matthew Bell for six when the batsman played the wrong line to a ball delivered from wide out.

Then, in his next over, he had New Zealand captain Dion Nash nicking a ball down the leg into Mark Boucher's gloves to give the keeper his fourth catch of the innings.

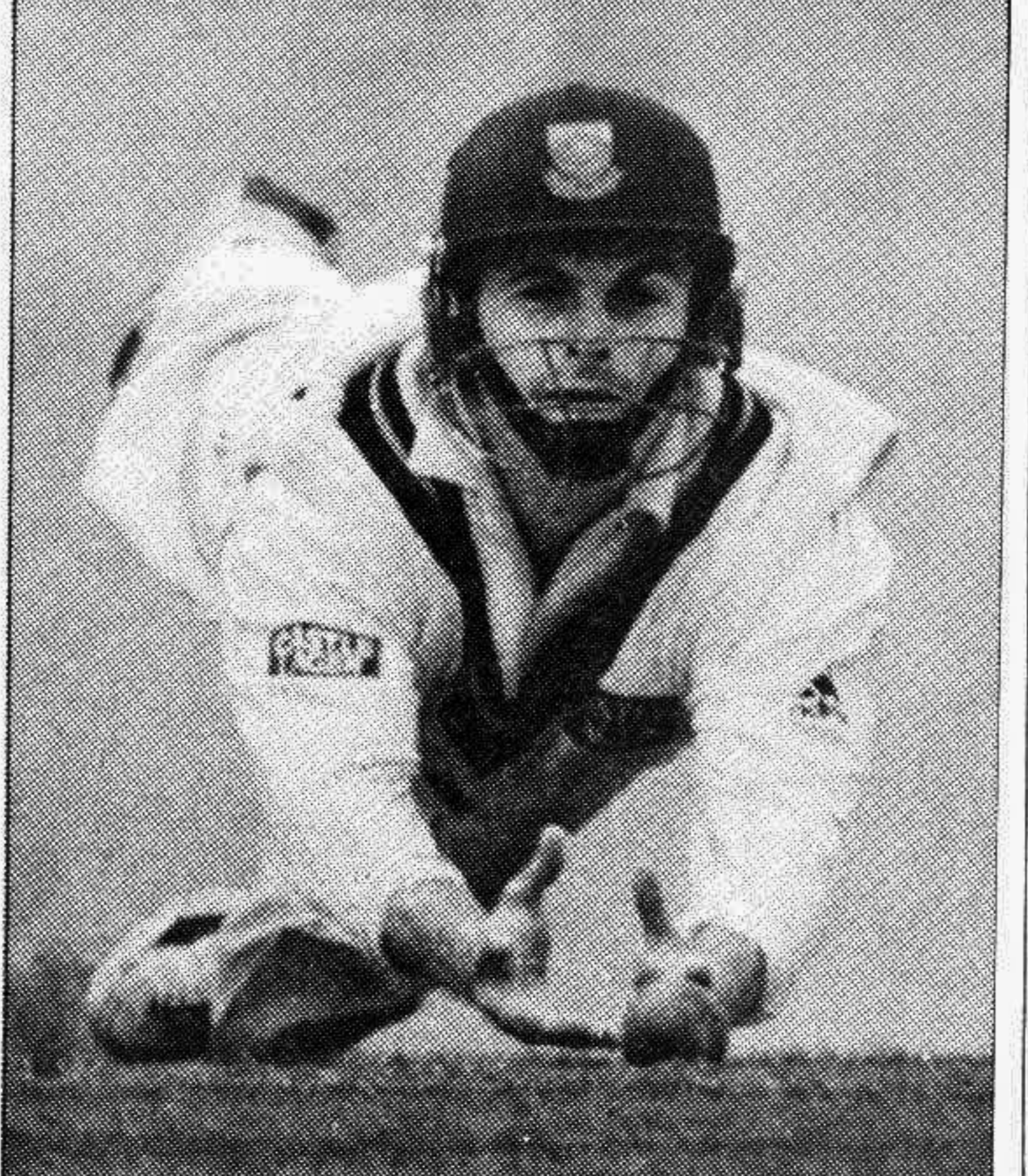
At that stage New Zealand had lost five wickets for just 41 runs, but resistance finally

came from Chris Harris and the tailender.

Tail-ender Simon Doull made 17 and added 26 with Harris until he was taken with a smart catch shortly after the tea interval by Herschelle Gibbs off Adams.

South Africa may rue a dropped catch early in Allott's innings by Jacques Kallis off Klusener.

Kallis finally had Allott caught avoiding a bouncer and



South Africa's Gary Kirsten dives full-length for an attempted catch on the penultimate day of the opening Test against New Zealand at Auckland yesterday. — AFP photo

New Zealand's openers had to survive one over at the end of play.

Allott blamed his batting partner Harris for remaining scoreless so long, when Harris turned down several opportunities to run.

He said he was unsure whether he was proud of his batting record.

"I'm not sure whether to be happy with it or not," he said. "The boys have given me a bit of gibbing already."

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the close of the fourth day of the first cricket Test, between New Zealand and South Africa at Eden Park on Tuesday.

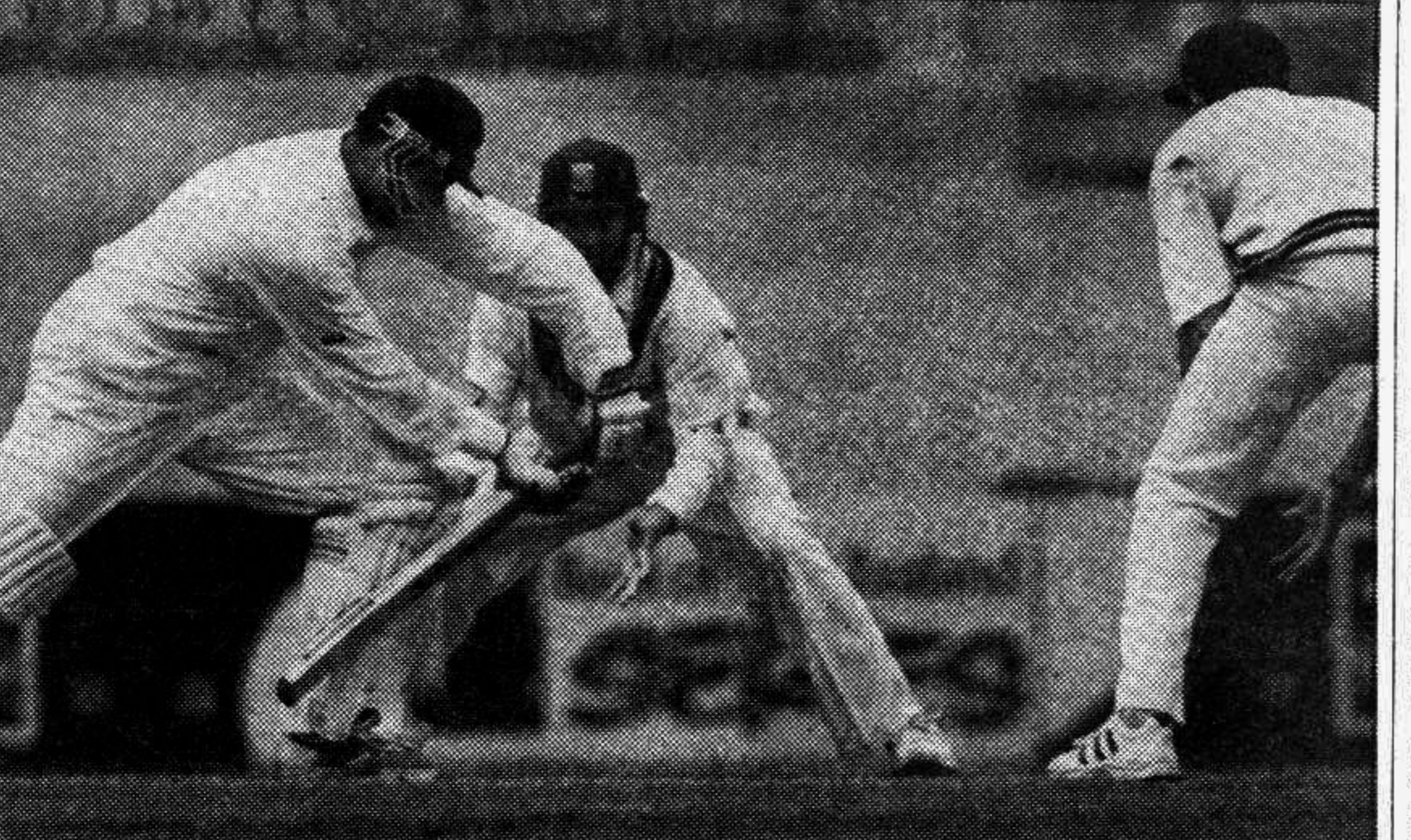
SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 621-5 dec

Total:	352			
Fall of wkts: 1-80; 2-170; 3-210; 4-210; 5-224; 6-241; 7-251; 8-288; 9-320				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Donald	27	16	40	2
Pollock	28	11	51	1
Klusener	27	8	60	2
Adams	46	18	103	3
Kallis	21.4	10	44	1
Cronje	2	1	8	0
Cronje	9	2	25	1

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings

Horne not out	4			
Bell not out	0			
Extras:	4			
Total (No wkt)	44			
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Kallis	1	0	4	0

Umpires: Daryl Harper (Australia), Doug Cowie (New Zealand).



MOST VALUABLE NOUGHT? New Zealand tailender Geoff Allott plays a forward defensive shot during his 102-minute vigil at the crease against South Africa yesterday. Allott was eventually dismissed without scoring but his effort could well save the match for the hosts. — AFP photo

Allott proud of the nought

AUCKLAND, Mar 2 (Reuters/Internet): New Zealand tailender Geoff Allott admitted after his record-breaking nought against South Africa that it was probably the best duck he'll ever score.

Allott came to the crease with his side on 320 for nine, still 102 runs away from avoiding the follow on in the first Test against South Africa at Eden Park on Tuesday and with nearly an hour and a three quarters of the fourth day to play.

The left-arm seamer, who bats right handed, proceeded to survive for 101 minutes facing 77 balls to break a 53-year-old record for the longest scoreless innings in the history of the game.

England's Godfrey Evans took 97 minutes to score his first run against Australia in Adelaide in 1946 but Allott - who has more first class wickets than runs in his career, 86 to 83 - had not even scored when he was finally caught at slip.

"I had no idea of the record until the public address announcer said that I'd broken the New Zealand record (previously held by John Wright who took 66 minutes to open his account against Australia in Wellington, 1981-82).

Asked whether he was afraid he might edge a four through the slips on the way towards the world record, Allott scoffed at suggestions he was aiming for the record.

"A tailender is never afraid of getting runs - in fact, if Harry (Chris Harris) hadn't turned down about five easy singles then I might never have got anywhere near it," Allott said after the fourth day play.

He did, however, enter into the spirit of the unusual occasion by raising his bat to all corners of the ground, and smiling broadly, as a small but enthusiastic crowd cheered every dot ball as he neared, and then broke, one of the game's least sought-after batting records.

Even the South Africans were smiling, said a sheepish Allott. "You've got to see the funny side."

New Zealand were all out for 352 and were four without loss in their second innings at the close of play on the fourth day. South Africa declared for 621-5 in their first innings.

Houllier was charged by the FA with misconduct after a verbal attack on a referee following the match against Charlton last month.

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It was the second time this season Reed has dismissed a Liverpool player and after the game, Houllier could not contain his anger.

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Gifts, girls & Bordeaux

BORDEAUX, France, March 2 (Reuters/Internet): Soccer agent Ljubomir Barin told a French court on Tuesday he helped Girondins Bordeaux attempt to bribe referees with offers of gifts and girls before European Cup matches in the 1980s.

The Croat is one of four men on trial charged with fraud and bribery. The other three are the club's ex-general manager, the former secretary-general and another agent.

"All the European referees wanted to come to Bordeaux," Barin told the court.

He said he had offered his services to then Bordeaux president Claude Bez, who died last year, after Girondins "got robbed" by a refereeing decision in a European Cup match against Hamburg SV in 1981.

After that he had received 500,000 francs (\$100,000) ahead of each European Cup match to ensure there was no repeat.

The court is trying to find out what happened to a sum of 4.2 million francs (\$800,000) spent by the club between 1983 and 1988.

Barin said on Tuesday: "Bordeaux would offer fur coats, shirts, gifts for the kids. Sometimes girls, I don't deny it. There were sometimes three or four of them."

But former club secretary-general Herve Bizot said the money was not meant to bribe referees but "to create a favourable environment around them."

France's two most famous referees, Michel Vautrot and Joel Quiniou, both testified it was the custom for referees to be offered gifts at European Cup matches.

"But it was after the games and in the presence of the UEFA delegate," Vautrot said. "They were gifts bearing the team's colours, nothing else."

Barin insisted such practices as he had described were no longer taking place in European soccer.

The trial continues.

Kenya name WC team

NAIROBI, Mar 2: Kenyan cricket authorities have gone for a blend of youth, experience and ability to withstand cold English weather when selecting the country's 19-member team for the 1999 cricket World Cup, reports AFP.

Selectors' chairman Asif Padamsi said today that cold English weather conditions during the 50 overs tournament in May was a major factor in their selection process.

"We opted for experience in batting and fitness in bowling. Because of the cold conditions, it is going to be difficult for the bowlers and you have to be very fit to adopt to the standards."

Half of the members of the team did duty for Kenya during their first World Cup appearance in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in 1996.

Left-handed spinner Asif Karim will lead the side with all-rounder Maurice Odumbe, who captained Kenya in 1996, as his deputy.

Two youngsters will be making their debut. Eighteen-year-old student Mohammed Sheikh and Jimmy Kamande impressed the selectors, who included the new Kenyan coach, Alvin Kallicharan from the West Indies, during month-long trials.

Kenya has been invited to tour Bangladesh for a tri-nation tournament starting in Dhaka on March 19. The third participants will be Zimbabwe. Kenya's first round World Cup opponents at Taunton on May 15.

SQUAD

Asif Karim (captain), Maurice Odumbe (vice-captain), Steve Tikolo, Ravindu Shah, Hitesh Modi, Thomas Odoyo, Kennedy Otieno, Alibesh Vadhier, Martin Suji, Tony Suji, Sandip Gupta, Joseph Angara, Jimmy Kamande, Mohammed Sheikh, Deepak Chudasama.

Reserves: Francis Otieno, Peter Ochiewi, Lamech Onyango, Brijal Patel.

Busta Cup Barbados march into final

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Mar 2: Barbados qualified for the final of the Busta Cup regional cricket competition by defeating Jamaica by six wickets at Kensington Oval in Bridgetown on Monday, reports AP.

Half-centuries by opener Sherwin Campbell and left-hander Floyd Reifer guided the hosts to their victory target of 196 halfway through the final session. Campbell set the foundation with 61, his second half-century of the match, while Reifer laid the finishing touches with an undefeated 58. Campbell's innings carried him to a season high of 597 runs in six matches.

Leg-spinner Bryan Murphy was the pick of the visiting bowlers, taking three for 54 from 22 overs.

Campbell and Philo Wallace gave Barbados a bright start, adding 45 before Wallace was caught behind off Murphy for 26.

The wickets of Adrian Griffith and captain Roland Holder on either side of lunch gave Jamaica renewed spirit, but Campbell and Reifer added 78 for the fourth wicket to guarantee the win.

Campbell fell just before tea after just under four hours at the crease. He faced 188 balls and hit six fours. Reifer hit the winning runs after batting 143 minutes, facing 111 balls and hitting seven boundaries.

The success was Barbados' fifth in six matches this season and ensured that the team beat each of the five other territories in the competition. Jamaica was the only team to avoid defeat in the round-robin stages when they drew their final round match two weeks ago.

Barbados' superior form in preliminary action means it will host the final from March 20-23 at the Kensington Oval. The Barbadians opponents will be Trinidad and Tobago, who advanced after taking first innings points from Guyana in their rain-hit semifinal a week ago.

Australia's tour of the West Indies will be affected by Barbados' advance to the final. The visitors' match against the West Indies "A" team scheduled for last weekend has now been shifted from Bridgetown to the Antigua Recreation Ground in St John's.

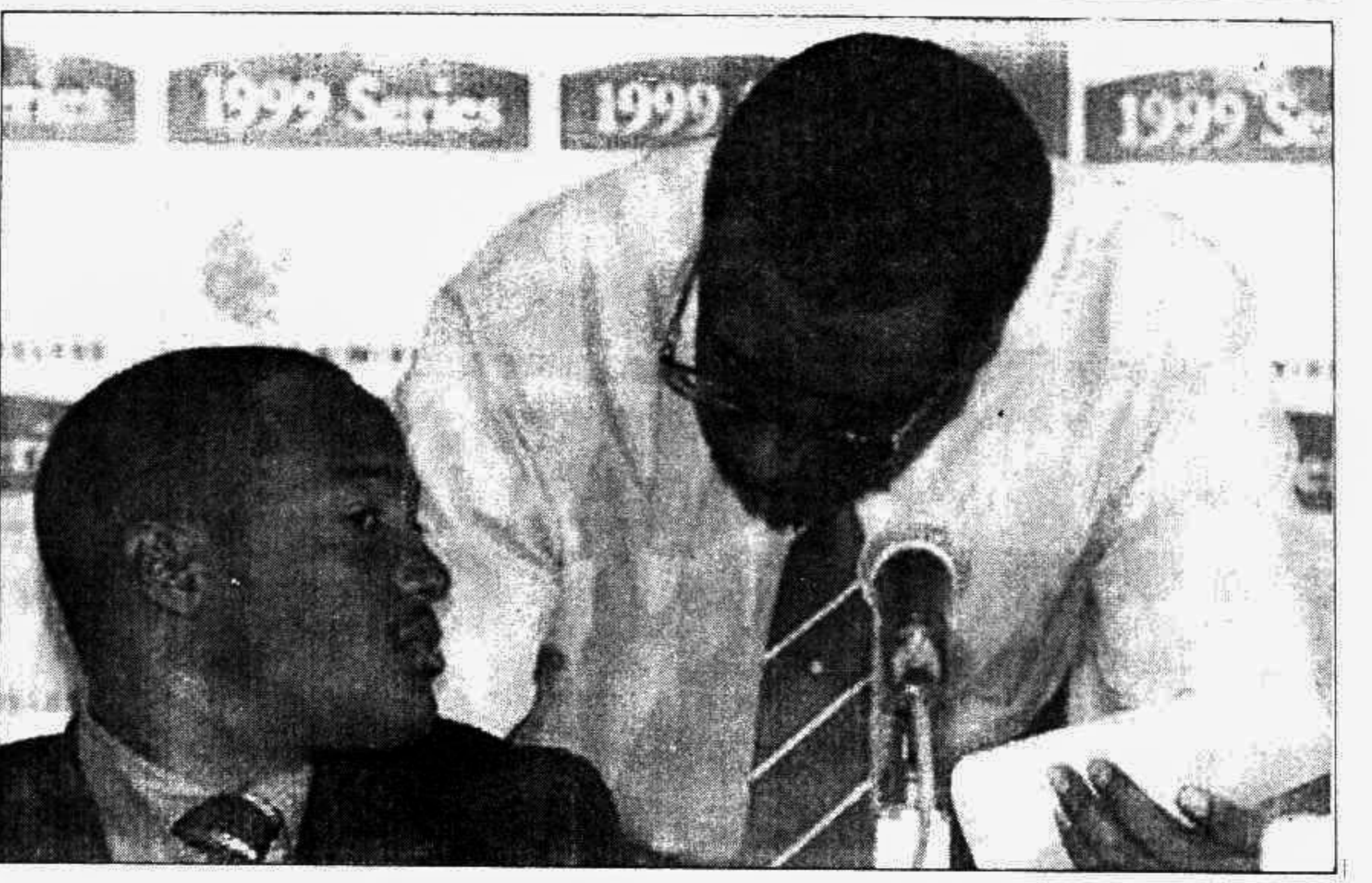
Warren against ban on alcohol

LONDON, Mar 2: Promoter Frank Warren on Monday rejected claims that banning alcohol from venues would curb the problem of violence at boxing matches in Britain, reports AFP.

There have been growing calls for drink to be banned following the riot in the English town of Oldham on Saturday which left one man dead.

The calls have been led by fighter Paul "Silky" Jones, who fought Jason Matthews in the main event in Oldham.

But Warren, whose sports network organisation promoted the bill, believes much of the violence is pre-planned.



West Indies skipper Brian Lara (L) and manager Clive Lloyd discussing something during a press conference at Port of Spain, Trinidad on March 1. — Internet photo

Windies' wholesale changes

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad, Mar 2: Five newcomers were named in an extended West Indies squad of 15 announced Monday for the first Cable and Wireless cricket Test against Australia that begins at Queen's Park Oval Friday, reports AP.

Batsmen Suruj Ragoonath, Lincoln Roberts and Dave Joseph and Barbadian fast bowlers Pedro Collins and Corey Collymore are the players with no international experience.

"It is a blend of young cricketers and our most experienced and tested players," chairman of selectors Mike Findlay told reporters at the Trinidad Hilton.

The selectors' options were limited by injuries to batsmen Shivnarine Chanderpaul (shoulder) and Darren Ganga (back) and bowlers Franklyn Rose and Dinanath Ramnarine (shoulder). Veteran all-rounder Carl Hooper remains in Adelaide, Australia, with his ill new-born son and his wife, Constance.

Trinidadian Ragoonath, a 30-year-old journeyman with 10 years' first-class experience, is the 12th player chosen as an opening batsman since the break-up of the famous Gordon Greenidge-Desmond Haynes partnership in 1991.

The other opening position goes to Sherwin Campbell, whose prolific regional form and healthy Test average of 37.02 allows him to add to his 30 Tests. He has been out of favour since being dropped for the fifth Test against England last season, but his 597 runs in six Busta Cup matches are a season high.

There are also recalls for Campbell's Barbadian captain, Roland Holder, Jamaican left-hander Jimmy Adams and experienced Trinidadian all-rounder Phil Simmons.

Right-hander Holder, 31, played the last of his 10 Tests against England in Antigua a year ago. Simmons has spread his 26 Tests over 11 years since his debut in 1988 in Madras, not surprising given his batting average of 22.26 and bowling return of four wickets at a cost of 64.25 each.

Adams returns to the team after missing the ill-fated series in South Africa. He returned home with a finger injury before playing a match. He has struggled for form of late but still averages over 50 in Test cricket and his left-arm spin is an asset.

That trio will contest the final middle order positions with rakkies Roberts and Joseph.

Joseph is a 29-year-old Antiguan with two centuries in the 1999 regional tournament. The powerful right-hander also top-

scored with 64 for the President's XI in the first innings against the Aussies over the weekend.

Roberts, 24, made his maiden first-class century this year and is a hard-hitting right-handed batsman.

Collins and Collymore join Mervyn Dillon and Reon King as youthful support bowlers for the long-serving pace greats Courtney Walsh and Curtly Ambrose.

Left-arm Collins, 22, has the experience of two "A" team tours to South Africa and in 1998-99 to India and Bangladesh. Collymore is a year younger and in his first year of first-class cricket.

Dillon and King are among six survivors of the disastrous South Africa tour, where the West Indies were swept 5-0 in the Test series and lost the one-day Test series, had stood up to net practice and he was confident that he would be ready for the Test.

Ridley Jacobs, one of the only successes in his debut series in South Africa, retains his spot as wicketkeeper.

THE 15: Brian Lara (captain), Phil Simmons, Suruj Ragoonath, Sherwin Campbell, Roland Holder, Jimmy Adams, Dave Joseph, Lincoln Roberts, Ridley Jacobs, Courtney Walsh, Curtly Ambrose, Mervyn Dillon, Reon King, Pedro Collins, Corey Collymore.

Cullinan's bittersweet record

AUCKLAND, Mar 2 (Reuters/Internet): South Africa's Darryl Cullinan said it was a dream come true to have hit a marathon 275 not out in the first Test between South Africa and New Zealand on Tuesday, though it embarrassed him to eclipse a boyhood idol.

The stylish right hander, who turns 32 on the day after the Test, broke Graeme Pollock's individual Test scoring record for South Africa to complete his collection of national records.

Cullinan scored a first class century for Border at the age of 16 years and 304 days, and then made 337 for Transvaal against Northern Transvaal at the beginning of the 1993-94 season, to take his country's youngest and biggest first class centuries.

Since then, although he wouldn't admit it publicly, he has dreamt of making a similar impression in the test arena.

"Secretly it was a dream I always had, having got the first class record in South Africa, but I honestly never thought I'd do it," Cullinan said after his record innings.

"I thought holding the domestic record was probably pretty good, and maybe I'd settle for that," he added. "So, yes, it was a dream come true; all I can say is that it's good to have dreams, and it's even better when they come true in life."

But even as Pollock praised Cullinan from Johannesburg, saying he was a fitting successor and fine player in his own right, Cullinan was expressing some regret over the feat.

"The fact that it was Graeme's record makes me a bit embarrassed. He only played 23 Tests. Who knows what he could have done if he'd got his full quota? Because of that it was with mixed emotions that I passed his record."

Shaun Pollock, South African vice captain, was Cullinan's batting partner.

"It was ironic having Shaun at the other end, when we walked out to bat he said that Graeme had called the night before and told him to call 'yes-no-sorry' when I was on 273!"

There was, at least, a Pollock on the field when Graeme's record was broken.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Shoot forth
4 "Lion King" villain
8 Very lenient
12 Guitar's kin
13 California city
14 Garfield's pal
15 Mosaic pavement
17 Trunk growth
18 Billions and billions
19 Third rock from the sun
20 Publish
22 Streamlet
24 Year
25 They'll eat you out of house and home
29 Praiseful piece
30 Aegean island
31 Mount stat.
32 Diamond-cut
34 Slow leak
35 Emcee
36 Trebek
38 Microsoft VIP

DOWN

2 — out a living
3 Oyer's partner
4 Viewpoint
5 Snug and warm
6 Wood-shaping tool
7 Carnival locale
8 Mogadishu tongue
9 Stench
10 1978
11 "Entertainment Tonight" ex-host
12 Protude
16 Pealed
19 "Desire Under the Sun"
20 Whodunit basis
21 Took the train
22 Work on a soundtrack
23 Press agent?
25 Track runner's goal
26 Third
27 Pennsylvania port
28 "At Sea"
30 Mall event
33 Daikon, e.g.
34 Tim or Tyne
36 Scintilla of light
37 Fetch
38 Walt Kelly's possum
39 Boule's planet
40 denizens
40 Neighborhood
42 Huck's pal
43 Prior night
44 "Kitchy"—
45 "Newhart" setting

Solution time: 26 mins.

CRYPTOQUIP

K H X D X R B L C V B W U B

U B X C X E U R B D U I D X J O X N
K B ' N J W K J B L N X I H X
W U O B X V I E N

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AN UPBEAT AUTHOR WILL BE APT TO TELL US THAT BUSINESS IS ALL WRITE.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: E equals G

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.