

Sport

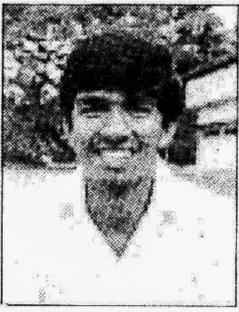
Ruchira Laksiri Perera
 Born: October 27, 1976; Colombo
 Major teams: Bloomfield
 Known as: Ruchira Perera
 Bowling style: Left-arm fast medium
 Test Debut: Sri Lanka v India at Colombo, Asia-Test, 1998/99

STATISTICAL RECORD (TEST)

Batting	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	C	St
	1	1	1	1	1	11.11					
Bowling	O	M	R	W	Ave	Best	5	10	SR	Econ	
	44	6	185	1	185.00	1-125			264.0	4.20	

Gallage Pramodya Wickramasinghe

Born: August 14, 1971; Matara
 Major teams: Sri Lanka, Sinhales Sports Club and Burgher Recreation Club
 Known as: Pramodya Wickramasinghe
 Batting style: Right-hand bat
 Bowling style: Right-arm fast medium
 Test Debut: Sri Lanka v Pakistan at Sialkot, 1st Test, 1991/92
 Latest Test: Sri Lanka v Pakistan at Lahore, Asia-Test, 1998/99



STATISTICAL RECORD (TEST)

Batting	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	C	St
	32	51	5	481	51	10.45		1	9	
Bowling	O	M	R	W	Ave	Best	5	10	SR	Econ
	959.2	178	2916	66	44.18	6-103	2		87.2	3.03

—Compiled by S Ashfaul Haque

Davis Cup Malaysia outplay hosts

Bangladesh suffered a miserable 0-3 loss to mighty Malaysia in the second day of the Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Group III at the Ramna tennis complex yesterday, reports APB.

Despite the defeat, Bangladesh who beat Syria and earned a point on the inaugural day, ensured their stay in the group as Syria lost to SAR Hong Kong while Bahrain pulled out of the meet.

In the first singles, Dilip Passia won the first set comfortably 6-3 but lost the other sets 3-6, 9-7.

In the other single, Nadeem Kamran Ashraf lost to his Malaysian opponent 4-6, 2-6. Shovon Jamil and Wallullah Jelunel lost to Ramachandran and Yew Ming 4-6, 3-6 in the doubles.

SAR Hong Kong outplayed Syria 3-0.

Chung Melvin Tong beat Samir Saeduddin 6-4, 2-6, 6-0 in the first singles. Wang Lucent Wayne Wong defeated Rabi Bou 6-2, 6-2 while Wayne Wong and Ping Lam Michael Wu beat Salim and Abdul Rahim, 6-2, 6-2.

In another group match, Tajikistan defeated Pacific Oceania 2-1. Tajikistan won both singles but lost the doubles.

The means

From page 13

Riding on the friendly Pak bowling, Sri Lanka raced to their target of 293 to eclipse India on run-rate. Only after that mission was accomplished, Akram decided to bowl a bit. Remember he didn't pick up the ball almost all day.

Three deliveries later, he became the first Pakistani and 22nd bowler in the 125-year history of Test cricket to have achieved a hat-trick.

Sri Lanka's batting heroes were centurions Romesh Kaluwitharana and Russel Arnold.

In Pakistan's second innings, Wasti got another hundred which put him in an elite group of batsmen who have scored a ton in both innings of a Test.

When Pakistan declared, Sri Lanka required 385 to win. But bad weather helped their bid for safety. The game eventually ended in a tame draw when stumps were drawn for the curtailed final day.

Wasti was the unrivalled choice for Man-of-the-Match.

BRIEF SCORES

CALCUTTA TEST
PAKISTAN: First innings 185 (Moin Khan 70; J Srinath 5-46)

INDIA: First innings 223 (S Ramesh 79; S Akhtar 4-71; W Akram 3-65)

PAKISTAN: Second innings 316 (S Anwar 188 not out, Y Youhana 65; Srinath 8-86)

INDIA: Second innings 232 (V V S Laxman 67; Akhtar 4-47; Saqlain 3-69)
 Result: Pakistan won by 46 runs

COLOMBO TEST

INDIA: First innings 518 for seven declared (S Ramesh 143, R Dravid 107, M Azharuddin 87, S Ganguly 56, S Tendulkar 53)

SRI LANKA: First innings 485 (M Jayawardena 242, A Ranatunga 66; A Kumble 4-134, H Singh 3-127)

INDIA: Second innings 306 for five (Tendulkar 124, Ganguly 75)
 Result: Match drawn

LAHORE TEST

PAKISTAN: First innings 398 (W Wasti 133, Y Youhana 83, I Nazir 64; P Wickremasinghe 6-103)

SRI LANKA: First innings 328 (R Arnold 123, R Kaluwitharana 100; W Akram 4-30, Saqlain 4-82)

PAKISTAN: Second innings 314 for eight declared (Wasti 121 not out, S Afridi 84)

SRI LANKA: 165 for two (Arnold 56 not out, Jayawardena 50)
 Result: Match drawn

Asian chess

Thipsay tames Rajib

MUMBAI, Mar 11: Grand Master (GM) Praveen Thipsay of India defeated Bangladesh's Enamul Hossain Rajib to emerge sole leader after the fourth round while Bhagya-shree Thipsay is leading in the women's section of the Asian Zonal chess championship here yesterday, reports PTI.

India's GM Dibyendu Barua alongwith IM Abhijit Kunte and Pakistan's Mahmud Lodhi were in second spot with three points each.

Thipsay tamed Hossain, who defeated Barua on Tuesday, to earn fourth consecutive victory. Enamul playing black, employed sharp Sicilian Pelikan opening and created active play on queenside.

Overnight leader Kunte was toppled by compatriot V Saravanan in Price opening. Kunte landed into difficulties in the opening and Saravanan won a piece on 19th move.

Kunte tried to simplify the position and gave up one more pawn to enter into opposite colour bishop ending. But Saravanan foiled his attempts to score a victory after 61 moves.

The eighth wonder!

Hasan Masood

The final of the inaugural Asian Test Championship between Pakistan and Sri Lanka will be landmarked in 120 years of Test cricket history as the first match to be played at a neutral venue.

Moreover, unlike the 1447 Test matches played so far, this is for the first time that both the teams will go on to the field knowing that there are as many as five options to decide a winner, should the match end in a tame draw.

This will be the eighth Test match in Dhaka. Seven previous Tests were played in Dhaka (Dacca), the then capital of East Pakistan, from 1955 to 1969 before the independence of Bangladesh.



FAZAL... 12/120 in the 3rd Test

Khan Mohammad returned with his career best bowling figures of 6 for 21. This match also ended in a draw.

The third Test was played at the Dhaka Stadium between Pakistan and West Indies in March 1959.

In the low-scoring match, Pakistan recorded their only Test win at Dhaka by 41 runs, mainly because of their famous fast bowler Fazal Mahmood, who took 12 wickets, six in each innings, for 100 runs.

Then came Australia in the November of the same year under the leadership of Richie Benaud and they defeated Pakistan by eight wickets. This was also Pakistan's only Test defeat at Dhaka.



HANIF... 3 centuries

Match 1. Pakistan v India (January, 1955)

Toss: Pakistan. Pakistan: 257 (Waqar Hasan 52, Imtiaz 54, Ghulam Ahmed 5/109) and 158 (Almuddin 51, Waqar Hasan 51, SP Gupta 5/18)

India: 148 (PH Punjabi 26, P Umrigar 32, Ramchand 37, Mahmood Hussain 6/67, Khan Mohammad 4/42) and 147 for 2 (P Roy 67*, V Manjrekar 74*)

Result: Match drawn.

Match 2. Pakistan v New Zealand (November, 1955)

Toss: New Zealand. New Zealand: 70 (McGibon 29*, Khan Mohammad 6/21,

Sharpe 56, Davidson 4/42, R Benaud 4/69) and 134 (DA Sharpe 35, Ijaz 20, Mackay 6/42, R Benaud 4/42)

Australia: 225 (Harvey 96, Davidson 66, Fazal 5/71) and 112 for 2 (McDonald 44*, Harvey 30)

Result: Australia won by 8 wickets.

Match 5. Pakistan v England (January, 1962)

Toss: Pakistan. Pakistan: 393 for 7 declared (Javed Burki 140, Hanif 111, Saeed 69, Lock 4/155) and 216 (Hanif 104, Almuddin 50, Lock 4/70, DA Allen 5/30)

England: 439 (G Pullar 165, Barber 86, Barrington 84,

D'Souza 4/94) and 38 for no loss.

Result: Match drawn.

Match 6. Pakistan v England (February, 1969)

Toss: Pakistan. Pakistan: 246 (Mushtaq Mohammad 52, Asif Iqbal 44, J Snow 4/70) and 195 for 6 declared (Majid Khan 49*, Saeed 33, Underwood 5/94)

England: 274 (BL D'Oliveira 114*, D Graveney 46, Parvez Sajjad 4/75) and 33 for no loss.

Result: Match drawn.

Match 7. Pakistan v New Zealand (November, 1969)

Toss: New Zealand. New Zealand: 273 (G Turner 110, MG Burgess 59, Intikhab 5/91) and 200 (MG Burgess 119*, Dowling 26, Intikhab 5/91)

Pakistan: 290 for 7 declared (Asif Iqbal 92, Shafiq Rana 65, Howarth 4/85) and 51 for 4.

Result: Match drawn.

SA gain early initiative

CHRISTCHURCH, Mar 11: South Africa were in command of the second cricket Test at close of the first day after they ripped New Zealand out for 168 and then scored 54 without loss, reports AFP.

On a wicket that held few terrors, Gary Kirsten on 35 and Herschelle Gibbs on 15 easily held out the New Zealand new-ball attack and looked well placed to set South Africa up for a big total.

Kirsten, who hit a century in the drawn first Test, was timing the ball well, driving and cutting six boundaries in his 90 minutes of batting.

New Zealand captain Dion Nash's decision to bat first in the heavy atmosphere on a wicket expected to assist the early bowlers was a surprise.

But although Allan Donald, Shaun Pollock and Paul Adams all had fine bowling figures for South Africa, Pollock at one stage sitting on a hat-trick — it was loose shots that undid most of the New Zealand batsmen.

Two wickets fell in the first half hour and, apart from a brief period before lunch when the batsmen cashed in on some wayward bowling, New Zealand never really recovered.

Donald began the collapse when he bowled Bryan Young five and then Pollock had Roger Twose for a duck when he flashed at a wide delivery and was taken at first slip by Daryll Cullinan.

Matthew Horne looked in good touch, taking 14 from Lance Klusener's first over. But he went to Jacques Kallis second ball for 36, also flashing outside the off-stump to the caught at second slip by Kirsten.

New Zealand scored 104 in the morning session including 17 boundaries, but three wickets in as many overs shortly after lunch by Donald and Pollock left the innings in tatters at 104-6.

Nathan Astle had looked in complete command on a wicket that was playing flat and true but clever bowling by Donald had him caught for 44 on the third man boundary slashing at a wide delivery.

Pollock then picked up his second wicket when Chris Harris was struck on the glove from a short lifting delivery and was taken for nought by Adams at short leg.

Donald, starting to bowl with better rhythm, in the next

over had debutant Gary Stead caught by wicketkeeper Mark Boucher for 27 as he chased a wide delivery.

Adams chimed in when he deceived Nash, given out lbw without playing a shot, and later held Daniel Vettori for 18 in a second lbw decision.

Pollock sucked Adam Parore into hooking down to substitute Dale Benkenstein three quarters of the way to the boundary.

With his next ball he removed Simon Doull but Geoff Allott, the stubborn non-scoring batsman of the first Test, survived the hat-trick.

Pollock the best of the bowlers, finishing with four for 34, while Donald had the fine figures of three for 54, and Adams to for nine.

Both sides had injury worries. Donald left the field before the New Zealand innings ended, having aggravated a stomach muscle injury.

Perhaps more seriously for the state of the game, New Zealand strike bowler Simon Doull twisted an ankle after bowling just 5.5 overs. Following a break, he returned to the field but still limped.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the end of the first day of the second cricket Test between South Africa and New Zealand at Lancaster Park on Thursday.

NEW ZEALAND: First innings
 Horne c Kirsten b Kallis 36
 Young b Donald 5
 Twose c Cullinan b Pollock 0

Ashe c Klusener b Donald 44
 Stead c Boucher b Donald 27
 Harris c Adams b Pollock 0
 Parore c sub (Benkenstein) b Pollock 0

Nash lbw b Adams 14
 Vettori lbw b Adams 18
 Doull c Boucher b Pollock 0
 Allott not out 1
 Extras: (nb-5, lb-4) 9
 Total: (All out in 63.4 overs) 168

Fall of wkts:
 1-13; 2-18; 3-60; 4-112; 5-115; 6-115; 7-138; 8-157; 9-157

Bowler O M R W
 Donald 17.5 4 54 3
 Pollock 17 5 34 4
 Klusener 12 3 37 0
 Kallis 5 1 21 1
 Cronje 6.1 4 9 0
 Adams 5.4 2 9 2

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings
 Kirsten not out 35
 Gibbs not out 15
 Extras: (lb-2, nb-2) 4
 Total: (For no loss in 24 overs) 54

Bowler O M R W
 Doull 5.5 2 6 0

Sabina Park's promise

KINGSTON, Mar 11: Sabina Park, notorious as the only ground to have forced the abandonment of a Test cricket match, will be ready for the upcoming Test between Australia and the West Indies, keepers said Wednesday, reports AP.

"We are on target for Saturday. We will not be having a repeat of that this time," said Pat Gordon, a member of the Sabina staff.

Management says much has been done to prevent a repeat of the embarrassing spectacle against England last year, which saw the first Test abandoned after only 10 overs.

Umpires ruled the pitch wasn't up to standard after several of the English batsmen were struck by short-pitched deliveries.

Three first-class matches have been played at Sabina Park since January. The spinners got a lot out of (the pitch) in the Busta Cup matches and we are expecting the same for the Test," said Gordon.

Premier Div hockey

Ajax, Mariners split points

The Green Delta Insurance Premier Division Hockey League match between Ajax SC and Mariner Youngs Club ended 3-3 at the Maulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday, reports UNE.

Yousuf put Mariners ahead in the 18th minute by a field goal and Titu restored parity for Ajax from a penalty corner in the 34th minute. In the second half a Mariners again went ahead when Shahid scored in the 37th minute from a penalty corner. Zahid increased the Mariner's margin with a field goal eleven minutes later.

Shuvo and Tuhin scored two goals to save Ajax from a defeat. Shuvo netted a field goal in 59th minute while Tuhin scored from a penalty corner in the 67th minute.

A study in strategy

NEW YORK, Mar 11 (AFP): Evander Holyfield plans to work his way inside the reach of Lennox Lewis and use flurries of hard and quick punches to chop down his larger rival like a tall tree.

British powerhouse Lewis has toughened his left jab to make the trip more difficult for Holyfield and has a few more surprises waiting should the American expect the hesitant Lewis of past years.

Such are the strategies at work here as Lewis and Holyfield prepare for Saturday's unification bout for the undisputed world heavyweight boxing championship, a title no fighter has held in six years.

Holyfield, 36, will receive 20 million dollars for risking his world Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation crowns. Lewis, 33, receives 10 million dollars for risking his World Boxing Council title.

In sparring sessions with rivals similar to Lewis in size, Holyfield approaches low and moves past a left jab to land several blows to the mid-section. When that is blocked, he counters and goes for the head.

"You waste energy trying to get somebody in position. Whatever he gives, you take it," Holyfield said. "You can't block all the targets."

Holyfield workout partner James Gaines has seen the plan in action. "He wants to go inside and beat Lennox to the punch," he said. "It's the smart thing to do."

Don Turner, Holyfield's trainer, said he plans to warn the referee that Lewis pulls foes off balance in clinches.

Lewis denied it and hinted he will watch for the head-butting tactics from Holyfield that Mike Tyson said pushed him into biting off a piece of Holyfield's ear in their epic 1997 title encounter.

"I have always boxed a clean fight. I don't need to use my head," Lewis said. "I'm sure Evander is going to do whatever he can to get an edge. So will I cuffing, slapping, but definitely no biting."

Lewis is known for his powerful right hand, but Holyfield's camp has seen some weak spots there and urged Holyfield to watch for them.

"He hasn't been throwing his rights straight on. He has been looping them," said Gary Bell, another Holyfield sparring partner. "Holyfield is working on some things to counteract

the way he works up, the mental part, the concentration, he is a much better fighter now than he was before, plus, Evander knows what's coming. Lennox has never been in a fight of this magnitude. He hasn't experienced the hoopla."

Holyfield, 36-3 with 25 knockouts, has done more sparring with larger foes than his typical fitness and weightlifting regimen.

Lewis, 34-1 with 27 knockouts, has worked to perfect his jab to keep Holyfield at bay and set up his devastating right.

"We have talked about it. We have worked on it," said Lewis' trainer Emanuel Steward. "I'm through talking. He has got to do it."

Also expect more speed than usual from Lewis, who has worked to match the footspeed and fist furries of Holyfield.

"You will be surprised, Steward said. "You're going to see Lennox Lewis maybe a little faster than Evander Holyfield."

Egerton Marcus, a Lewis training partner, said Lewis is on his game after serving as janitor of the heavyweight division while big-name foes such as Tyson, Riddick Bowe, George Foreman and Holyfield passed him by.

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