

One more smoke-less day Shane!

SYDNEY, Apr 29: Previously a 40-a-day man, Shane Warne is just one day shy of collecting 200,000 dollars (128,000 US) for staying off cigarettes...

"I heard I was meant to be at the WACA cricket ground smoking in the viewing area... there's lots of people saying all different things..."

Warne resurrected his career during the recent one-day series against the West Indies after being dumped for the fourth Test following surgery on his shoulder...

Davis Cup US-Australia tie sells out fast

BOSTON, Massachusetts, Apr 29: July's Davis Cup Centennial celebration tie between the United States and Australia...

US officials will decide in the next two weeks about increased seating capacity for the quarterfinal tie.

Aussies attuned to achieve

SYDNEY, Apr 29 (AFP): Australia, the best Test side in the world, will field a mix-and-match side at the World Cup in a bid to extend their dominance to the one-day game.

Their success, however, will depend largely on one man - leg spinner Shane Warne.

Should he disappoint in the World Cup, the side will lose both its balance and much of its bowling bite.

The policy at one stage saw a disgruntled Mark Taylor in charge of Tests but dropped from the one-day side in favour of Steve Waugh.

Just in time, however, things began to click for the side.

We've played some good one-day cricket over the last year and a half," says Darren Lehman, one of several players now regarded as an automatic one-day choice but not always picked for Tests.

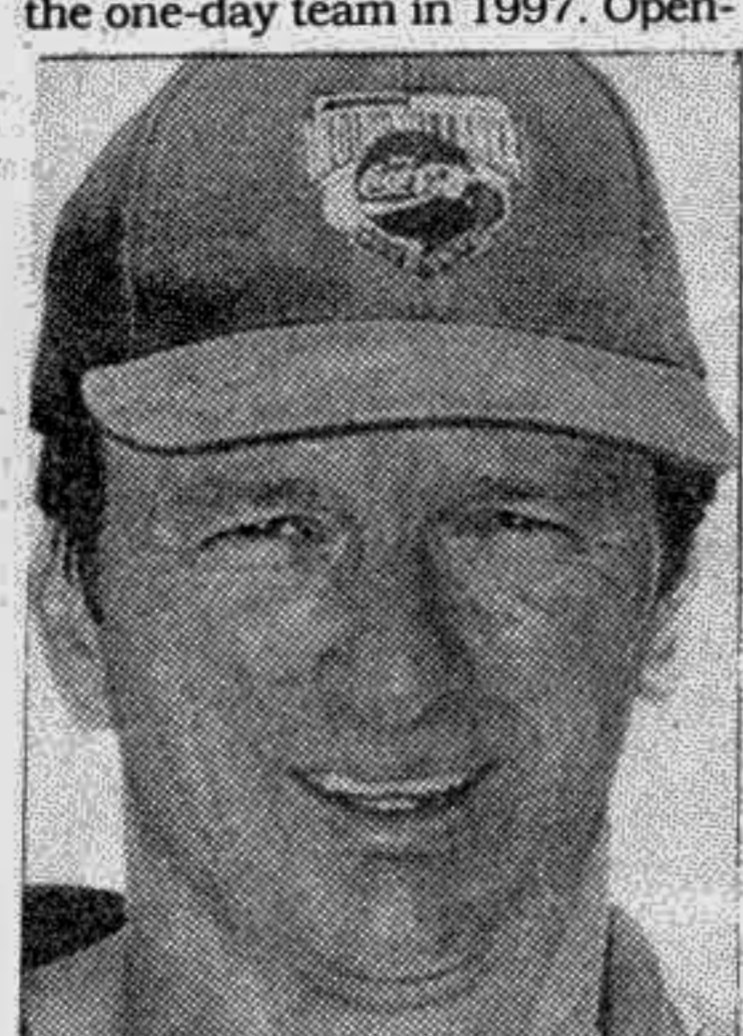
It's an advantage to be so settled in terms of the direction you're going and what sort of game-plan you go in with.

Michael Bevan, meanwhile, is probably the best organiser of end-of-innings run chases in the game.

"If we play to our potential we can win, but you've got to hope a lot of things go your way and you play well enough on a given day."

The decision to look for players attuned to the one-day format has uncovered several gems.

Wicketkeeper-batsman Adam Gilchrist, yet to play a Test, deposed Ian Healy from the one-day team in 1997.



STEVE WAUGH

ing the batting as a pinch-hitter, he boasts five one-day centuries, including a national record 154 off 129 balls against Sri Lanka, and is now widely regarded as one of the most dangerous one-day batsmen in the world.

Michael Bevan, meanwhile, is probably the best organiser of end-of-innings run chases in the game.

Australia will be keen to face the memories of an unhappy 1996 World Cup.

Then, they were criticised throughout Asia after refusing to play in Colombo after a bombing massacre.

They still reached the final, only to lose to their most bitter international rivals - Sri Lanka.

Keegan wants the job BUDAPEST, Apr 29 (AFP/AP): Stand-in coach Kevin Keegan revealed Wednesday he has agreed to lead England beyond Euro 2000.

Speaking after the 1-1 draw here Wednesday with Hungary, Keegan confirmed he will decide in the next two weeks whether to accept the job on a full-time or part-time basis, but insisted: "I will definitely take the job."

His club Fulham, whom he has taken to the Second Division championship, have been kept fully informed of developments, Keegan said.

Moments after England's 1-1 friendly draw with Hungary in Budapest, Keegan had told Sky television that he was yet to make up his mind about the job.

As for the possibility of continuing the job on a part-time basis while still managing Fulham, Keegan said: "I do want the job. I don't want people to think I don't want the job."

Dale declared fit

BRISBANE, Apr 29 (AFP/Internet) Australian paceman Adam Dale declared Thursday he is over a bout of pneumonia and eager to return to the Australian squad for next month's World Cup in England.

The seamer is expected to fly out of Brisbane on Friday to re-join the Australian team after being forced home from the tour of the West Indies earlier this month with fears he would miss cricket's showpiece tournament.

Dale said he was satisfied with his recovery after completing three bowling sessions this week under the guidance of Queensland coach John Buchanan.

"The doctors say I won't be affected as long as I don't do anything foolish," Dale said.

"I'm convinced it's gone but now I have to get the energy and the strength back to where I'd like and I'm not 100 per cent yet from that point of view."

When Australia lost the last World Cup final to Sri Lanka in 1996, Dale was in Brisbane watching on television.

But he has emerged as one of the keys to Australia's hopes of regaining the trophy they last won in 1987, even if he ex-

pressed surprise at one magazine tipping him to be Australia's standout player in England.

"I've played 24 one-day internationals and if you put five or six of the bokes together in our team, they've probably played 1,000," Dale said.

"I'm still trying to establish myself in the team and I've been to keep doing that. At no time do I ever think that I'm a walk-up star to play or that I'll be successful every time I walk out on the park."

"I've played in plenty of games when the batsmen get the better of you and anyone capable of playing in a World Cup is capable of hitting you around the park."

While Australia and South Africa have been ranked as World Cup favourites, Dale said the team would not underestimate its opponents despite facing cricket minnows Scotland in their opening clash on May 16.

Australia then face matches against New Zealand, Pakistan, Bangladesh and the West Indies before the top six teams advance to a further qualifying series from June.

"If we do things right then we have the skills to win but we would be foolish to underestimate any team," he said.

Brown wins MU contract

MANCHESTER, Apr 29: Manchester United defender Wes Brown has been rewarded with a new five-year contract for his remarkable season for club and country, reports AFP.

United began talks with Brown some months ago after he won a regular place in the first-team squad and the 20-year-old has finally put pen to paper on a new deal.

The agreement caps a remarkable season for Brown, who is being hailed as the new Paul McGrath, United's stalwart Irish defender of the 1980s.

As well as rising through the ranks at Old Trafford, he has enjoyed rapid promotion with England.

He played for England in last summer's European Under-18s Championships in Cyprus before becoming a regular with the Under-21s this season.

On Wednesday, England coach Kevin Keegan handed him his first senior cap in the 1-1 draw against Hungary at Budapest.

Morocco shock Netherlands

ARNHEM, Holland, Apr 29: Morocco shocked Holland in a friendly international here on Wednesday, beating the co-hosts of next year's European Championships 2-1, reports AFP.

Youssef Chippo put the visitors ahead on the hour and Salaheddine Bassir doubled their advantage with 20 minutes remaining before PSV Eindhoven striker Ruud Van Nistelrooy scored a consolation in the dying seconds before a stunned 27,000 crowd.

The Dutch, coached by Frank Rijkaard, a member of the star-studded side which lifted the 1988 European Championship trophy, were sluggish throughout and allowed themselves to be caught on the counter-attack by the speedy Moroccans.

Pains of greatness

By Tawfiq Aziz Khan

It was a sunny afternoon at Lord's, Sir Len Hutton was softly complaining about a persistent pain in his back.

It was in the august company, Thanks to John Arlott who had introduced me to the 'greats' as a 'friend and gentleman from Bangladesh.'

Miller was the temperamental speedster of the Australian side that played England in the forties and fifties. His partner Ray Lindwall was quick himself but batsmen of the time felt 'Miller's faster one was faster than Lindwall's fastest one.'

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flow from his bat had he been fully fit and did not have the pains of greatness.

Jayasuriya, still the most dreaded one-day opener, despite Shahid Afridi, or even Tendulkar, has been out of form and out of cricket for quite some time now.

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place. His pains and problems with groin, a common one for fast bowlers, made his career miserable for some time.

But his strong determination coupled with modern medical and surgical methods have brought him back into the attack again. He, too, has lost valuable time.

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TRACK RECORD

LONDON, Apr 29 (AFP): Australia's World Cup track record: 1975-1996: Played 38, won 22, lost 15, forfeited 1

1975: Played 5, won 3, lost 2 Group matches Leeds, June 7 - Australia bt Pakistan by 73 runs. Australia 278-8 (Edwards 80 not), Pakistan 205 (Majid Khan 65, Asif Iqbal 53, Lille 5-3-34)

1979: Played 3, won 1, lost 2 Group matches Lord's, London, June 9 - England bt Australia by 6 wks. Australia 159-9, England 160-4 (Gooch 53)

1983: Played 6, won 2, lost 4 Group matches Nottingham, June 9 - Zimbabwe bt Australia by 13 runs. Zimbabwe 239-6 (Fletcher 69 not), Australia 226-7 (Wessels 76, R. Marsh 50 not, Fletcher 4-42)

1987: Played 8, won 7, lost 1 Group matches Madras, October 9 - Australia bt India by 1 run. Australia 270-6 (G. Marsh 110), India 269 (Srikkanth 70, Sidhu 73, McDermott 4-56)

1992: Played 8, won 5, lost 3 (1 forfeited) Group matches Colombo, February 17 - Sri Lanka v Australia. Australia forfeit match

1996: Played 8, won 5, lost 3 (1 forfeited) Group matches Vishakhapatnam, India, February 23: Australia bt Kenya by 97 runs. Australia 304-7 (M. Waugh 130, S. Waugh 82, Ali 3-45), Kenya 207-7 (Otieno 85, M. Odundo 50)

1997: Played 8, won 5, lost 3 (1 forfeited) Group matches Vishakhapatnam, India, February 23: Australia bt Kenya by 97 runs. Australia 304-7 (M. Waugh 130, S. Waugh 82, Ali 3-45), Kenya 207-7 (Otieno 85, M. Odundo 50)

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TRACK RECORD

Lahore, November 4 - Australia bt Pakistan by 18 runs. Australia 267-8 (Boon 65, Imran Khan 3-36), Pakistan 249 (Javed Miandad 70, Imran Khan 58, McDermott 5-44)

1992: Played 8, won 4, lost 4 Preliminary round Auckland, February 22 - New Zealand bt Australia by 37 runs. New Zealand 248-6 (Crowe 100 not, Rutherford 57), Australia 211 (Boon 100)

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Solution to the crossword puzzle.

CRYPTOQUIP puzzle and solution.

Yesterdays answer.