

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Bob Woolmer
(South Africa cricket coach)
"Coaching cricket is my passion and something I love."

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-115

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
May 7, '99 and draw shortly afterwards

1	Who will replace Bob Woolmer as South Africa cricket coach?	Ford	Stewart	Marsh
2	When England last hosted cricket World Cup?	1975	1987	1983
3	Umpire Steve Bucknor is a	Guyanese	Jamaican	Trinidadian
4	The final match of the 1999 cricket World Cup will be held at	Edgbaston	Lord's	Oval
5	The World Cup match between Bangladesh and Scotland will be played in	Edinburgh	Belfast	Cardiff

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

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Women's h'ball

Rangpur, Madaripur, Rajshahi and Chittagong won their respective matches on the second day of the three-day Shalimar Print Saree inter-divisional women's handball competition at the Sultana-Kamal Women's Sports Complex yesterday, reports UNB.

In the morning, Rangpur beat Dhaka 14-2, Rajshahi beat Chittagong 13-2, and Madaripur beat Rangamati 18-12.

In the afternoon, Rangpur beat Rangamati 21-8, Madaripur beat Rajshahi 18-10 and Chittagong beat Dhaka 6-5.

DU basketball

Sports Reporter
Computer Science Department got off to a flying start in the inter-department basketball tournament of Dhaka University defeating Applied Physics 51-31 points in the inaugural match played at the DU gymnasium yesterday.

In another match, English Department thrashed Bio-Chemistry 93-41.

Earlier, Prof Dr SM Inamul Haque, the chairman of the tournament committee and provost of Shahidullah Hall, inaugurated the 12-team meet.

M'singh hockey

Baikali Krija Chakra thrashed Mukul Boys Club 8-1 in the First Division hockey league at the local stadium today, reports UNB.

Tawfik scored three goals while Mosharraf and Bhulu netted two each and Selim one for the winners.

Mukul scored a consolation goal for the losers.

The first match between Rupantar Sangha and Surjo Mukhi Niketon was postponed following a controversial goal by Raki of Rupantar.

Army b'ball

RANGPUR, May 5: Three more robin league matches were decided on the second day of the Bangladesh Army annual basketball championship at the Rangpur Cantonment here today, says an ISPR press release.

The hosts beat Dhaka Engineers 62-43. Jessore Area defeated Dhaka Infantry 120-61 and Momenshahi Area overcame Savar Area 68-65.

Protea: Rank Poison



World Cup gets underway here in May.

The form book, however, suggests a battle royal between South Africa and 1987 Cup holders Australia for the title, with Pakistan and defending champions Sri Lanka ready to take advantage of any slip-ups.

The English, always more competitive on home soil despite failing to win the 1975, 1979 and 1983 tournaments here, will be hoping that rain, green wickets and a white ball will turn their medium-paced seamers and swing bowlers into match-winners.

Such conditions would certainly handicap the south Asian sides, whose batsmen are used to flatter wickets and whose spinners may lose some of their fizz in the wet.

Hansie Cronje's South Africa, in contrast, look like a side for all seasons and will start as favourites to win the 12-nation tournament, which is expected to attract 500,000 spectators and a television audience of some two billion.

Their batting may not be the most spectacular but it has improved markedly since 1996 and runs very deep, with the likes of all-rounders Jacques Kallis, Shaun Pollock and Lance Klusener all enhancing their reputations in recent seasons.

The bowling looks as formidable. Strike bowler Allan Donald, a seasoned Warwickshire veteran who lives in England, knows all about local pitches, while Pollock is as dangerous.

Kallis' medium-fast has been a revelation and captain Hansie Cronje, with his medium-paced seamers, is as shrewd a tactician as they come. Veteran off spinner Pat Symcox's sudden retirement just before the tournament is the one South African setback.

The event, running between May 14 and June 20, comprises two groups of six: South Africa, Sri Lanka, England, India, Zimbabwe and Kenya in group A, Australia, Pakistan, New



FIXTURES

Group A
South Africa
First-round
May 15: v India, Hove
May 19: v Sri Lanka, Northampton
May 22: v England, The Oval
May 26: v Kenya, Amstelveen (Netherlands)
May 29: v Zimbabwe, Chelmsford

Zealand, West Indies, Bangladesh and Scotland in group B.

They will play each other once before the top three teams from each pool proceed to the 'Super Sixes', where each group A side will play each group B side and vice-versa, adding their points to the ones already gained in the first round from matches against other qualified teams.

The top four - in effect the teams who win five or more of their eight games - will contest the semi-finals. The World Cup will see 42 matches over five weeks.

Australia, under Steve Waugh, are another formidable combination. They, however, have blended Test players with hand-picked one-day specialists, unlike the South Africans, who will field a virtual Test side.

The Australian batting, led by the Waugh twins, looks formidable, as does their bowling, spearheaded by the magnificent Glenn McGrath - arguably the best pace bowler in the world. A question mark, however, hangs over leg spinner Shane Warne, who is struggling

to rediscover his form after an operation.

Australia, who won the title in 1987 and were finalists in 1975 and 1996, also boast the best one-day specialist in the world - Michael Bevan, a fine fielder, a useful leg spinner and a supreme manager of run chases.

Sri Lanka, in contrast, have been struggling in recent months. Their one weakness, their bowling, has failed to come on while their trump card, off spinner Muttiah Muralitharan, has found himself caught in a new controversy over his bowling action.

Their batting, however, is a joy. Sanath Jayasuriya is the fastest-scoring one-day opener in the game and Aravinda de Silva is one of the top three or four batsmen currently playing.

Skipper Arjuna Ranatunga, who averaged 120 in the last World Cup, is an elite player and thinker.

Seaming wickets, however, could hamper their dashing strokeplay.

Pakistan, despite a desperate 1998 which saw them lose to Australia and Zimbabwe at home while a match-fixing scandal continued to rage, look like the best of the rest. And they are peaking just at the right time.

Few of their opponents will discount an eleven including the likes of Saeed Anwar, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Ijaz Ahmed, Wasim Akram and Saqlain Mushtaq.

The scandals, if anything, seem to have welded the team closer together under Wasim. As they showed in 1987, they are at their most dangerous when wounded.

England, like Australia relying on one-day specialists, look efficient. India, with Sachin Tendulkar, the best batsman in the world, in their ranks, can beat anybody on their day.

Brian Lara's West Indies, despite the shock retirement of Carl Hooper, stopped the rot against Australia in April after a disastrous run of form and may yet feature in the closing stages.

New Zealand, three-time semi-finalists, will feel quite at home in English conditions and should not be discounted to at least shock one or two of the major sides.



THE DREADED SCOREBOARD: A Star file photo of the infamous 1992 World Cup semifinal between England and South Africa.

Let fate be just



June 20. And that's just what their opponents think.

Hansie Cronje's team, choking with world-class all-rounders, are widely accepted as the best unit ever to play the one-day game.

Their dominance, extending back several years, is all the more remarkable in that cricket's limited-over format is a game traditionally as unpredictable as Russian roulette.

Cronje makes no apologies for believing that his team can win the tournament.

"We are setting goals which we believe are realistic," he says. "It isn't pressure, it's a challenge."

Since Cronje and coach Bob Woolmer came together at the start of the 1994/95 season, South Africa have won 77 one-dayers and lost 22.

All that is missing is a World Cup.

In 1992, the South Africans, just back from their apartheid-induced isolation, missed out on the final after a controversial rain rule washed away

their chances against England.

In 1996, they won all five group matches, looked the best side in the competition and then lost their Karachi quarter-final against the West Indies as Brian Lara hit a century.

Woolmer will be stepping down as coach after the World Cup and Cronje says this will probably be his last tilt at winning the event.

The side will never be better-equipped to do so.

In Shaun Pollock, Jacques Kallis and Lance Klusener, they have three genuine all-rounders. No other side can boast such a trio. Cronje, a pug-nacious number five and a bowler of niggardly medium pace, and Jonty Rhodes, the best, most flamboyant fielder in the world and a batsman of growing stature, complement them.

Allan Donald provides the cutting edge to the bowling, which only lacks a proven spinner, while the batting, once regarded a potential Achilles heel, is now regarded as top bracket.

There is plenty of hard-nosed know-how as well. Seven of the team played in the 1996 tournament, while Cronje, Rhodes and Donald are all playing in their third World Cup. And there is form. Over the

past season, South Africa have won the Commonwealth Games event, the mini World Cup in Bangladesh, whitewashed the West Indies 5-0 in their Test series before beating them 6-1 in the one-dayers and also beaten New Zealand away in both formats.

There is only one blot. South Africa will be playing 'politically incorrect' cricket in England after only including one non-white player, Herschelle Gibbs, in their 15-man squad.

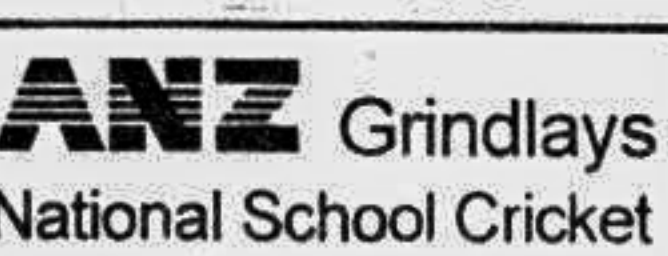
South African Sports Minister Steve Tshwete is so furious with the failure to include more burgeoning players from the Rainbow Nation's minorities that he is refusing to support the team.

Cronje's team, however, may be able to do without his backing.

A few months ago, Australian star Greg Blewett said that "in one-day cricket these days there isn't any side that stands out apart from South Africa."

So even the opposition thinks the Proteas should triumph.

Squeaky win for Wills Little



Mirpur Bangla High beat Shaheed Abu Taleb High by 81 runs in the ANZ Grindlays 17th national schools cricket championship at the Uttara Friends Club ground yesterday, reports UNB.

Batting first, Mirpur Bangla scored 230 for four in stipulated 35 overs. Jewel hammered 89 runs off 63 balls with nine fours and two sixes. Shimul took two wickets for 44 runs.

In reply, Shaheed Abu Taleb were all out for 149 in 32.4 overs. Latiful picked up three wickets for 25 runs while Rajib and Abdullah took two wickets apiece.

At the Mohammadpur Eidgah ground, Wills Little Flower defeated Ganabhaban Government High by three wickets.

Ganabhaban made 186 for nine in stipulated 35 overs with Monir scoring 33 runs. Badrudza claimed three wickets for 26 runs and Monir took two for 19.

In reply, Wills Little Flower reached their target in 31.4 overs losing seven wickets. Monir scored 52 runs and Rajib 40. Monir picked up three wickets for 27 runs.

Banani Model beat Bidyanketon Pre-cadet by three wickets at the Orient Club ground.

Batting first, Bidyanketon scored 206 all out in 30.1 overs with Tofu making 90. Shafiq and Jony captured three wickets each.

In reply, Banani Model reached their target in 30.4 overs losing seven wickets. Sujon made 60 and Pavel 30. Alam picked up three wickets for 42 runs.

Ctg in Biman Cup final



JOYPURHAT, May 5: Chittagong advanced to the final of Biman Cup under-14 national football championship with a 2-1 win against Rajshahi in the first semifinal at the local stadium today, reports UNB.

In the final on May 8, Chittagong will play either the hosts Nilphamari who meet tomorrow.

Zahed Parvez Chowdhury put Chittagong ahead, in the 38th minute while Didarul Alam widened the winners' margin in the 56th minute.

Milton Rozario of Rajshahi pulled one back in the 65th minute.

Kapil avoids comparisons

NEW DELHI, May 5: The victorious team of 1983 and the current 1999 squad are very different and any comparison between the two would put further pressure on the Indian team now in England for the Seventh World Cup starting on May 14, cricket legend Kapil Dev said today, reports PTI.

Both teams are quite different and even the conditions are different and any comparison between the two teams is not justified. I think it will put further pressure on the team in England, said Kapil, who led India to its biggest sporting achievement in 1983.

About India's prospects in the mega event starting on May 14, Kapil said the Indian team was good and could win if it performed to its potential. They will have to perform consistently, the world's highest test wicket-taker said.

The former Indian captain, who left later in the day for Kathmandu for the World Legends Cup - a tournament aimed at promoting the World Cup, was speaking to reporters after inaugurating a website on the World Cup at Taj Man Shingh hotel here.

The site www.TheWorldCup99.com developed by its buffs, will provide latest scores and results during the tournament and also include interesting information, trivia, player profiles, special editorials and quiz on the World Cup.

Div I cricket Provati Sangha clinch title

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAH, May 5: Provati Sangha became unbeaten champions of the Rajshahi First Division cricket league today.

Provati Sangha earned maximum 16 points from eight matches.

Upashahar Cricket Club became the runners-up gaining 14 points.

Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner Khan Shahabuddin distributed prizes.

A total of 16 teams took part in the league this year.

The Daily Star Sport Countdown Gallery



days to go IF LOOKS COULD KILL: South Africa's brilliant all-rounder Jacques Kallis. — Star file photo

SA's Jacq-pot

JOHANNESBURG, April 27 (Reuters): Cricket's decision to embrace technology has brought an added dimension to watching the game at many grounds.

The most recent device to stimulate spectator interest is the speedometer, which measures how fast a delivery has been bowled and shows the result on a monitor screen.

It can produce some compelling figures, such as those that showed South Africa's pace bowling all-rounder Jacques Kallis was often not far behind the speed of Allan Donald during last year's Test series in England.

A number of the home batsmen who were undone by Kallis' bowling would testify to the potential quality of his developing pace and swing, not least when he captured four for 24 in his team's victory in the Lord's Test.

Such attributes mean Kallis is likely to be pivotal to South

Africa's chances of lifting the World Cup in England.

At the age of 23 and after 27 Tests and 65 limited overs internationals, the Western Province all-rounder has cemented his place in Hansie Cronje's team.

Kallis has shown the potential and the temperament to become South Africa's next major batsman after Gary Kirsten and Daryll Cullinan.

He could also be the top order batsman of Barry Richards' class the country's selectors have searched for since South Africa's readmission to world cricket in 1991 following the dismantling of apartheid.

When Kallis made his international debut, during England's tour of South Africa in 1995-96, he was considered a batsman who bowled occasionally.

However, his natural ability to swing the ball at lively pace soon saw him take on an all-rounder's role.

Kallis' aggregate of 2,127 runs in one-day internationals have been scored at a healthy average of 40.13 and have in-

cluded five centuries. He has taken 44 wickets at 30.43 each with best figures of five for 30.

Kallis, who is also one of the best close catchers in the team, is a fine example of the South African policy of picking players who are proficient in at least two of the three core disciplines of batting, bowling and fielding.

Batting at number three in tests, Kallis' sound technique allows for an effortless adjustment to the qualities required in the number three or four position he fills in the limited over game.

As comfortable on the back foot as he is on the front, with an array of strokes on either side of the wicket, Kallis is a difficult batsman to contain.

His bowling in helpful early-season English conditions may prove even more important than usual to the South African attack.

He has become one of the players Cronje turns to when it matters most, and he should not lack opportunities to live up to that reputation at the World Cup.

Down under dread

UNDATED (AFP): Allan Donald has no doubt about his ideal finish to the 1999 World Cup.

"I would like to play against Australia in the final -- and beat them," says South Africa's match-winning fast bowler.

In a team packed with all-

rounders, Donald is the one out-and-out specialist bowler in the likely first-choice starting XI.

Unlike virtually every other member of the side, Donald is unlikely to be able to contribute a handsome half-century -- but that won't worry Hansie Cronje and the South African team management as long as Donald is fit and firing.

When Donald speaks of win-

ning a final against Australia, he is expressing a heartfelt desire to fit in the last piece of a jigsaw as a climax to a magnificent international career.

It will be the last chance for Donald, 32, to win a world championship -- and to secure a major triumph against arch-rivals Australia, who are ranked alongside South Africa by bookmakers as joint favourites for the World Cup.

Donald has been a central figure in some titanic duels against Australia, starting with the memorable night in Sydney in 1992 when South Africa, the raw newcomers, upset the host nation and defending champions in their debut World Cup match.

South Africa hold a 19-18 edge in one-day matches against the Aussies but in recent years the matches that have really counted have mainly gone Australia's way.

Twice South Africa have been pipped 2-1 in the best-of-three finals to World Series tournaments in Australia. Frustratingly for Donald, when the sides last met in 1997/98 he was man of the match as South Africa won the first leg -- but then pulled up with a buttock muscle injury in the second leg won by the home side and had to miss the decider.

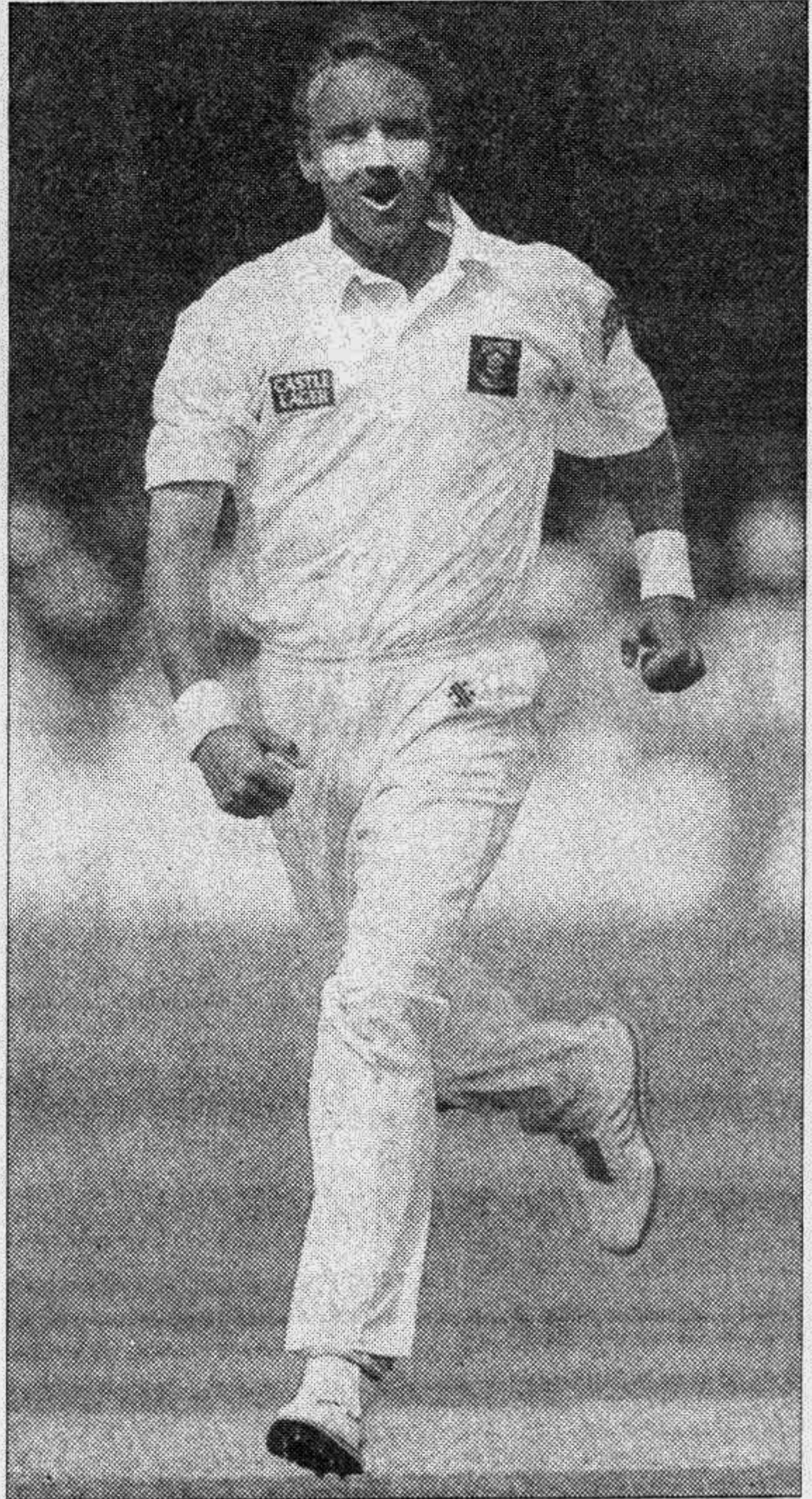
Going into the World Cup, there is concern that years of world class fast bowling are finally taking their toll on South Africa's all-time most potent wicket-taker in both Tests and one-day internationals.

Hamstring and stomach muscle injuries affected him in his last five Test matches against the West Indies and New Zealand. He had to miss the final Test in New Zealand in March but then played in a one-day international -- only to suffer a recurrence of the stomach muscle injury.

Donald is confident he will be one hundred percent fit for the World Cup after six weeks of rest, but the South African management will need to nurse him through a potentially gruelling tournament in which the winning team will have to play 10 matches within five weeks.

It is possible that Donald will only be picked for the really important matches, with a view to ensuring he is able to play a full part if South Africa reach the semifinal and final.

What is certain is that South Africa will be looking to Donald to make crucial breakthroughs when he does play.



Allan Donald... demon fast bowler. — Star file photo