

Sport

M'singh hockey

MYMENSINGH, May 6: Mohammad SC and Siraj Memorial Club earned massive victories against their respective rivals in the First Division hockey league at the local stadium today, reports JNB.

In the first match, two hattricks by Harun and Don enabled Mohomedans to overwhelm Provati Sena Club 10-0.

Harun scored four goals, Don three, Jhunu two and Reji one for the winners.

In another match, Siraj Memorial Club crushed Mukul Boys Club 11-1 with a hattrick by Sohel who scored six goals in total.

Riad and Shahin netted two each and Sumon one for the winners while Titu scored the consolation goal for the losers.

Hockeyroos beat S Africa

PERTH, May 6: Olympic champions Australia defeated a gallant South Africa 3-1 on the second night of the four-nation Telstra Challenge women's hockey series at the Perth Hockey Stadium today, reports AFP.

In cool conditions, the Hockeyroos completed a workmanlike victory after whipping South Korea 4-0 on the opening night.

Shelley Andrews gave Australia the lead in the 16th minute against South Africa.

The same players made it 2-0 after 51 minutes and Katrina Powell added a third in the 59th.

Astle attuned to attack



UNDATED, May 6 (AFP): Nathan Astle is New Zealand's most effective one-day batsman and if he realises his promise, has the potential to be one of the stars of the 1999 World Cup.

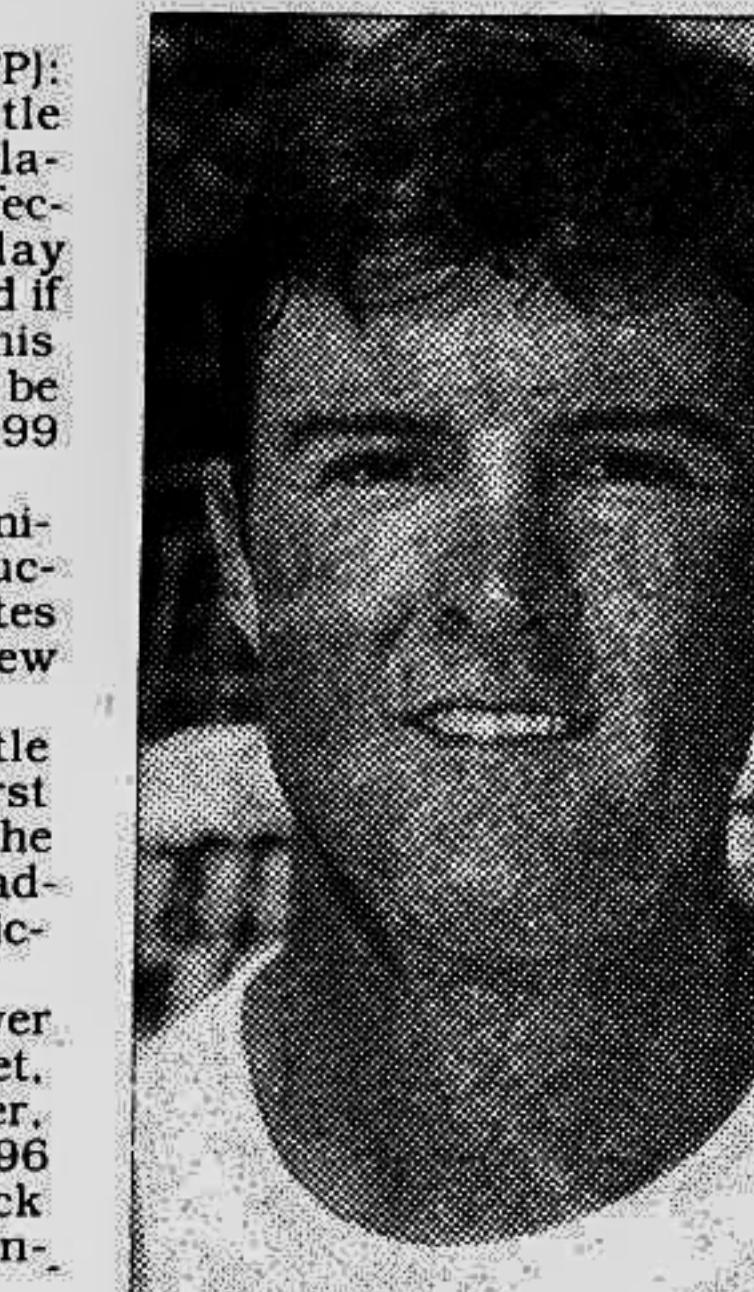
Because he is such a dominating batsman, personal success for Astle usually translates into team success for New Zealand.

A front foot player, Astle likes to attack from the first ball. And in one-day cricket he likes to open so he can take advantage of the fielding restrictions.

Originally touted as a player only suited to one-day cricket, the 28 year-old right-hander silenced those critics in 1996 when he scored back-to-back Test centuries in the West Indies.

Because of the way he likes to play his cricket, Astle always gives the bowlers a chance and leaves his team vulnerable to a top order collapse. But he has forged a formidable record for New Zealand, scoring a record six one-day centuries and 17 half centuries in his 81 innings at a respectable average of 35.48.

It was no coincidence that in the two matches won by New Zealand in their recent five-match series against South Africa, Astle scored 95 and a century.



NATHAN ASTLE

bowlers and take them on, let them know that wherever they bowl, I've got something to counteract. Playing a flashy cover drive gives you a buzz, but the intention's not to impress people watching. Domination's the key when you bat."

The stocky, right-hander with woodchopper arms has shown he has the ability to smash any bowler straight back over his head for six.

He uses a very heavy two pound 13 ounce bat to do the business.

Astle is a phlegmatic, cheerful and straightforward character who rarely shows emotion on the field and he doesn't like to spend too much time analysing the game. Originally, picked at first class level as a bowler, Astle's gentle medium pace is likely to be used heavily during the World Cup. His bowling is usually accurate and difficult to get away and his 54 wickets in one-day internationals testify that he is more than a mere part-timer.

He is an extremely reliable fielder both in the slips and outfield who, showed in the home season that he is capable of taking stunning catches.

Although not from a cricketing family, Astle's sister Lisa has played for the New Zealand Women's team while she and brother Daniel have played table tennis for New Zealand.

TRACK RECORD

LONDON, May 6 (AFP): New Zealand's World Cup track record: 1975-1996: Played 35, won 18, lost 16

Semifinalists: 1975, 1979, 1992

Eliminated before semifinals: 1983, 1987, 1996

1975

Played 4, won 2, lost 2

Group matches

Birmingham, June 7 - New Zealand bt East Africa by 181 runs. New Zealand 309-5 (Turner 171 not, Parker 66). East Africa 128-8 (Hadlee 3-21, Howarth 3-29)

Nottingham, June 11 - England bt New Zealand by 80 runs. England 266-6 (Fletcher 131). New Zealand 186 (Morrison 55, Greig 4-45)

Manchester, June 15 - New Zealand bt India by 4 wkt. India 23 (Abid Ali 70, McKechnie 3-49). New Zealand 233-6 (Turner 114 not)

Semifinal Oval, London, June 18: West Indies bt New Zealand by 5 wkt. New Zealand 158 (Howarth 51, Julien 4-27, Holder 3-30). West Indies 159-5 (Greenidge 55, Kallicharan 72, Collinge 3-28)

1979

Played 4, won 2, lost 2

Group matches

Nottingham, June 9 - New Zealand bt Sri Lanka by 9 wkt. Sri Lanka 189 (Ternekoon 59, McKechnie 3-25). New Zealand 190-1 (Turner 83 not, Howarth 63 not)

Leeds, June 13 - New Zealand bt India by 8 wkt. India 182 (Gavaskar 55, Cairns 3-36, McKechnie 3-24). New Zealand 183-2 (Edgar 84 not)

Nottingham, June 16 - West Indies bt New Zealand by 32 runs. West Indies 244-7 (Greenidge 65, Lloyd 73 not). New Zealand 212-9 (Roberts 3-43)

Semifinal

Manchester, June 20 - England bt New Zealand by 9 runs. England 221-8 (Bream 53, Gooch 71). New Zealand 212-9 (Wright 69, Hendrick 3-55)

1983

Played 6, won 3, lost 3

Group matches

Oval, London, June 9 - England bt New Zealand by 106 runs. England 322-6 (Lamb 102). New Zealand 216 (Crowe 97)

Birmingham, June 11, 12 - New Zealand bt Pakistan by 52 runs. New Zealand 238-9 (Rashid Khan 3-47, Abdul Qadir 4-21). Pakistan 186 (Hadlee 3-20, Coney 3-28)

Bristol, June 13 - New Zealand bt Sri Lanka by 5 wkt. New Zealand 206 (Madugalle 60, Hadlee 5-25). New Zealand 209-5 (Turner 50, Howarth 76)

Birmingham, June 15 - New Zealand bt England by 2 wkt. England 234 (Fowler 69, Gower 92 not, Hadlee 3-32, Cairns 3-44). New Zealand 238-8 (Howarth 60, Coney 66 not, Willis 4-42)

Derby, June 18 - Sri Lanka bt New Zealand by 3 wkt. New Zealand 181 (de Mel 5-32). Sri Lanka 184-7 (Kuruppu 62, Dias 64 not)

Nottingham, June 20 - Pakistan bt New Zealand by 11 runs. Pakistan 261-3 (Zaheer Abbas 103 not, Imran Khan 79 not). New Zealand 250 (Coney 51, Mudassar Nazar 3-43)

1987

Played 6, won 2, lost 4

Group matches

Hyderabad, India, October 10 - New Zealand bt Zimbabwe by 3 runs. New Zealand 242-7 (Snedden 64, Crowe 72). Zimbabwe 239 (Houghton 142, Butchart 54)

Bangalore, India, October 14 - India bt New Zealand by 16 runs. India 252-7 (Sidhu 75, Kapil Dev 72 not, Patel 3-36). New Zealand 236-8 (Rutherford 75, Jones 64)

Indore, India, October 18, 19 - Australia bt New Zealand by 3 runs. Australia 199-4 (30 overs) (Boat 87, Jones 52). New Zealand 196-9 (Crowe 58)

Calcutta, October 23 - New Zealand bt Zimbabwe by 4 wkt. Zimbabwe 227-5 (Arnott 51, Houghton 50, Pycroft 52). New Zealand 228-6 (Crowe 58, Crowe 88 not)

Chandigarh, India, October 27 - Australia bt New Zealand by 17 runs. Australia 251-8 (Marsh 126 not, Jones 56). New Zealand 234

1990

Played 6, won 3, lost 3

Group matches

Oval, London, June 9 - England bt New Zealand by 106 runs. England 322-6 (Lamb 102). New Zealand 216 (Crowe 97)

Birmingham, June 11, 12 - New Zealand bt Pakistan by 52 runs. New Zealand 238-9 (Rashid Khan 3-47, Abdul Qadir 4-21). Pakistan 186 (Hadlee 3-20, Coney 3-28)

Bristol, June 13 - New Zealand bt Sri Lanka by 5 wkt. New Zealand 206 (Madugalle 60, Hadlee 5-25). New Zealand 209-5 (Turner 50, Howarth 76)

Birmingham, June 15 - New Zealand bt England by 2 wkt. England 234 (Fowler 69, Gower 92 not, Hadlee 3-32, Cairns 3-44). New Zealand 238-8 (Howarth 60, Coney 66 not, Willis 4-42)

Derby, June 18 - Sri Lanka bt New Zealand by 3 wkt. New Zealand 181 (de Mel 5-32). Sri Lanka 184-7 (Kuruppu 62, Dias 64 not)

Nottingham, June 20 - Pakistan bt New Zealand by 11 runs. Pakistan 261-3 (Zaheer Abbas 103 not, Imran Khan 79 not). New Zealand 250 (Coney 51, Mudassar Nazar 3-43)

1996

Played 6, won 3, lost 3

Group matches

Ahmedabad, India, February 14 - New Zealand bt England by 11 runs. New Zealand 239-6 (Astle 101). England 228-9 (Hick 85, Nash 3-27)

Baroda, India, February 17 - New Zealand bt Holland by 119 runs. New Zealand 307-8 (Spearman 68, Fleming 66, Cairns 52, Parore 55, Lubbers 3-48). Holland 188-7 (Harris 3-24)

Faisalabad, Pakistan, February 20: South Africa bt New Zealand by 5 wkt. New Zealand 177 (Donald 3-34). South Africa 178-5 (Cronje 78)

Faisalabad, Pakistan, Feb 27 - New Zealand bt United Arab Emirates by 109 runs. New Zealand 276-8 (Spearman 78, Twose 92, Saeed 3-45). United Arab Emirates 167-9 (Thomson 3-20)

Lahore, March 6 - Pakistan bt New Zealand by 46 runs. Pakistan 281-5 (Aamir Sohail 50, Saeed Anwar 62, Salmi Malik 55 not). New Zealand 235

Quarters

Madras, March 11 - Australia bt New Zealand by 6 wkt. New Zealand 286-9 (Geroni 89, Harris 130). Australia 289-4 (M. Waugh 110. S. Waugh 59 not)

Others: v East Africa: Played 1, won 1 (1975). v Holland: Played 1, won 1 (1996). v UAE: Played 1, won 1 (1996)

AGAHLI'S OTHERS

v Australia: Played 4, won 1 (1992). lost 3 (1987 x2, 1996)

v England: Played 6, won 3 (1983, 1992, 1996), lost 3 (1975, 1983)

v India: Played 5, won 3 (1975, 1979, 1992), lost 2 (1987 x2)

v Pakistan: Played 5, won 1 (1983), lost 4 (1983, 1992 x2, 1996)

v South Africa: Played 2, won 1 (1992), lost 1 (1996)

v Sri Lanka: Played 4, won 3 (1979, 1983, 1992), lost 1 (1983)

v West Indies: Played 3, won 1 (1992), lost 2 (1975, 1979)

v Zimbabwe: Played 3, won 3 (1987 x2, 1996)

ROK's plan

SEOUL, May 6: The South Korean government plans to offer loans to cities hosting the 2002 finals to make sure the event goes ahead with problems, officials said, reports AFP.

Finance and Economy Ministry said the government has set aside about 150 billion won (125.4 million dollars) to help host cities facing economic problems.

South Korea, co-hosts of the 2002 World Cup finals with Japan, is planning to build 10 stadiums despite the financial crisis that hit the country in 1997, forcing it to go to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a 57-billion-dollar bailout.

However, the negotiations have now turned into a race against time for Juventus officials, as Del Piero's contract has little more than a year to run. If no agreement is reached by June next year, the club will not earn a cent from the departure of a player worth around 30 million dollars.

Meanwhile, Warne will keep 200,000 Australian dollars (128,000 US) paid by a sponsor for staying off the cigarettes despite being caught smoking three days before the bet was due to end.

Australia's spin king, previously a 40-a-day man, told reporters he had won his battle to kick the habit and banked the cash, but pictures published here Thursday show him puffing away in a Barbados bar days before the stunt concluded.

Warne claimed the cigarette on April 25 was "a mere blip" in an otherwise smoke-free four-month deal with Nicorette chewing gum manufacturer Upjohn and Pharmacia to pack it in.

It had been quite a stressful 10-week period and unfortunately I had a night out with the lads, it was quite late at night and I gave into the temptation once, he was quoted as saying in The Australian, which printed the picture.

He said he had phoned Nicorette to confess immed-

itly, although the paper regu-

larly develop a champion spinner of their own, with plans to coach while he was employed here.

"If I can breathe a bit of the Australian mentality into these young English players then I think it's got to help," he said.

Two-thirds of England's county teams have Australians as overseas players and the World Cup will be an ideal opportunity for others to show off their wares -- and land lucrative contracts for the following summer.

Warne was expected to land a county berth, while Adam Dale and Adam Gilchrist would also rank among the top targets.

"It's different this time, I'm optimistic they'll let me come," Warne told Australian Associated Press.

"I've already spoken to a couple of counties and I'm pretty certain that I'll be spending next summer here."

We have a six-month break from international duty after we finish our tour of New Zealand in March.

"I won't be needed by the national team again until October so this is a great chance to fulfil a dream I've had for a long time of playing a season in England."

Warne spent a year in England as a teenager 10 years ago, playing for a Bristol club.

Somerset, Hampshire, Gloucester and Sussex are likely to bid for his services but press reports suggested Lancashire was favoured to land Warne a 150,000 pound contract.

But Warne said he would probably look at teams who were under-achieving, and hoped to be captain