

# Yorke boost didn't work for Lara

MANCHESTER, England, May 30: Manchester United football star Dwight Yorke made a surprise cricket World Cup appearance here on Sunday, reports AFP.

His winning habit failed to rub off on good friend Brian Lara as the West Indies lost to Australia.

Yorke, who played for the English champions as they won their third trophy of the season against Bayern Munich in the European Cup final on Wednesday, came onto the field with the drinks trolley during Australia's innings.

He joked with childhood friend and fellow Trinidadian Lara and the rest of the team.

Manchester United's stadium is just down the road from the Old Trafford cricket ground.

Earlier in the World Cup Lara had asked for permission to go and watch Yorke play in Barcelona on Wednesday but the West Indies management refused as it would have meant him missing the group B game against Scotland.

# France, World XI share honours

MARSEILLE, May 31: France drew 2-2 with a World XI in Jean-Pierre Papin's testimonial match at the Velodrome on Sunday, reports Reuters.

SCORES: France: Youri Djorkaeff 59 pen, Nicolas Anelka 77.

World XI: Joerg Albertz 57, Lillan Laslandes 75. Halftime: 0-0. Attendance: 60,000.

# TEAMS

FRANCE: Fabien Barthez (Stade Rennais), Lilian Thuram (Paris Saint Germain), Marcel Desailly (Lyon), Vincent Candela (Alain Boghosian), Emmanuel Petit, Youri Djorkaeff, Robert Pires (Vikash Dhorasoo 59), Nicolas Anelka, Christophe Dugarry (Sylvain Wilford 57).

WORLD XI: Sebastiano Rossi (Guillaume Warmuz 45), Christian Ziege, Nisa Savellie (Rafael Martin Vazquez 45), Frank Verlaar (Alain Roche 45), Paolo Maldini (Marc Hottiger 29, Marc Keller 62), Michel Pavon (Papin 71), Thomas Helmer, Ali Benarbia (Jerg Albertz 45), Enzo Scifo (E. Swerisson 59), Jean-Pierre Papin (Lillan Laslandes 45), Marco Simone (Kazu Miura 23, Ibrahim Ba 59).

# Iversen inspires Norway

OSLO, May 31: Steffen Iversen scored three minutes into the game as Norway beat Georgia 1-0 on Sunday in a qualifier for the Euro 2000 championship Sunday, reports AP.

Chelsea's Tore Andre Flo passed to Iversen, who scored with a well-placed header.

Norway led Group 2 with 13 points at 4-1-1, five points ahead of Latvia with one game in hand. Georgia remains in the lower half with four points at 1-1-4.

"It's important winning games like this. I was getting a little nervous when we missed several great chances in the second half," Norway's national coach Nils Johan Semb said.

# Some solace

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stunned the West Indies in the 1996 World Cup, and Alpeh Vadhvani put on 161 for the sixth wicket — a world record for any country — as the bedraggled Sri Lankan bowlers struggled to get a grip on the slippery ball.

Odupe produced easily his best performance in this tournament to reach 82 before finally being bowled by Sanath Jayasuriya in the 47th over.

Vadhvani went on to reach his highest ever one-day score as he finished unbeaten on 73. The match dribbled to a close in poor light in front of a few hundred spectators.

Sri Lanka will now go home to face the music after a campaign that never really got started and produced victories over Zimbabwe and Kenya but heavy defeats at the hands of South Africa, England and India.

# Azzu walking

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five games but missed out on run rate.

"You can't play the game on a weather forecast," Stewart said. "It rained yesterday then Zimbabwe beat South Africa and that put us under pressure and that's not good."

"I thought we bowled well. We went past the outside edge a number of times the first 15 or 20 overs."

"I thought losing Nasser (Hussain) just before we came off yesterday was disappointing and then losing Graham Thorpe and Andy Flintoff to injury today — they were two crucial wickets."

Stewart admitted that England's lack of match practice at the crease during the World Cup had cost them dear.

"You can practise but you cannot beat batting out in the middle," he said.

"You can only win games and we won three of them very well and very easily, but against South Africa we collapsed as a batting team and here we were not quite up to it."

It is the first time England have failed to qualify for the second stage of a World Cup, but Stewart urged critics not to panic.

"It always happens when England lose, we have all been through it. If England lose it is a crisis and everything has to be looked at. If South Africa had won we would have progressed, and we wouldn't be having this conversation."



Bangladesh's Khaled Mahmud follows through on an off-drive while Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar reaching for the ball during yesterday's World Cup match. — AFP photo

# It's all in the rules

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as the match wore on.

Lara said he was aware West Indies would benefit from stretching the match out. "The longer we spent in the field the better for us. If we could have got more overs in the field I would have been happier."

During the match, a packed Old Trafford gradually became aware that the competitive element had disappeared from the game as Waugh and Bevan blocked over after over.

They eventually passed the total after 40.4 overs and boos echoed around the ground as the teams walked off.

ECB Technical Director Hugh Morris acknowledged the crucial qualifying match at Old Trafford had highlighted a problem. "It's certainly something we will review," he said.

Waugh said the Australian team had discussed the possibility of such a situation arising at their team meeting on Saturday. "We are a professional cricket side. I do not make the rules," he said.

Matthew Engel, Editor of cricketing bible Wisden, said World Cup organisers had been proud of the system they had devised for the 1999 tournament until Sunday.

"The system put in place that was looking rather neat has had its disadvantages rather ruthlessly exposed and made far worse by the fact that games being played at the end of a qualifying round are being played on different days."

"It's an obvious flaw and one that you would not see in football competitions," Engel said.

New Zealand face a tough task today against Scotland to qualify, according to the rules.

If New Zealand bat first and score 200, then they must win by 121 runs, if they score 250 they must win by 118 runs and if they score 300 they need to win by 114 runs.

If Scotland bat first and score 100, New Zealand must pass that total by the 21st over, if they score 150 they must pass it by the 23rd over and they must pass a score of 200 by the 25th over.

# Brian Laudrup quitting Copenhagen

COPENHAGEN, May 31: Danish First Division FC Copenhagen said today attacking midfielder Brian Laudrup was quitting the team for personal reasons, reports Reuters.

Laudrup, who joined FC Copenhagen from English Premier League Chelsea in December, has not decided where his future lies, FC Copenhagen said in a statement.

# 2002 WC logo unveiled

TOKYO, May 31: Co-hosts Japan and South Korea unveiled the official logo for the 2002 World Cup on Monday in ceremonies organisers said marked the beginning of the final stage of preparations for soccer's premier event, reports AP.

The emblem was revealed simultaneously in the co-hosts' capitals, Seoul and Tokyo, by local organisers and officials of world soccer's governing body, FIFA.

The 2002 World Cup will be the first in Asia and the first staged in two countries.

The circular logo features a stylized drawing of the World Cup trophy in red, blue, yellow, green and gold. The various colours are meant to represent the mix of teams that play in the World Cup.

An infinity symbol forms the two zeros of the year 2002 in the text of the logo, representing the eternal spirit of the event, organisers said. Across the bottom, the name "Korea" is written in blue, next to "Japan" in red.

"Launching the emblem marks the beginning of a grand festival for all soccer fans," said FIFA vice president Chung Mong-joon.

The need for simultaneous ceremonies in Tokyo and Seoul highlighted the challenges of a co-host arrangement which carries heavy political significance.

Japan ruled Korea as a colony for most of the first half of the century, and relations between neighbouring nations have never been warm.

# SCOTLAND-NEW ZEALAND SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Scotland innings against New Zealand at Edinburgh yesterday:

SCOTLAND	R	B	4	6
M Smith c Cairns b Nash	1	14	0	0
M Allingham c Fleming b Allott	2	25	0	0
G Salmond lbw b Allott	1	13	0	0
G Hamilton c Allott b Astle	20	49	2	0
I Stanger c Astle b Cairns	27	58	1	0
J Brinkley c Parore b Allott	0	6	0	0
J Williamson c & b Harris	10	24	0	0
A Davies c sub (DL Vettori) b Harris	24	48	3	0
J Blain lbw b Harris	0	1	0	0
Asim Butt c Twose b Harris	10	10	0	1
N Dyer not out	2	8	0	0
Extras: (b-1, lb-7, w-13, nb-3)	24			
Total: (All out in 42.1 overs)	121			

Fall of wickets: 1-2 (Smith, 3.4 ov); 2-11 (Salmond, 6.6 ov); 3-12 (Allingham, 10.1 ov); 4-66 (Hamilton, 24.4 ov); 5-68 (Brinkley, 26.4 ov); 6-68 (Stanger, 27.2 ov); 7-100 (Williamson, 35.1 ov); 8-100 (Blain, 35.2 ov); 9-110 (Asim Butt, 37.2 ov); 10-121 (Davies, 42.1 ov).

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Allott	10	3	15	3 (1 nb)
Nash	10	3	16	1 (1 nb)
Bullfin	6	0	31	0 (1 nb, 2 w)
Cairns	8	0	26	1 (1 nb, 3 w)
Astle	5	1	18	1 (2 w)
Harris	3.1	0	7	4 (1 w)

Toss: New Zealand.

Umpires: RE Koertzen (SA) and ID Robinson (Zim).

TV Umpire: SA Bucknor (WI).

Match Referee: CW Smith (WI).

# BATTING, BOWLING SO FAR

LONDON, May 31 (Reuters): Top batting and bowling performances at the cricket World Cup after Sunday's matches (\*denotes not out):

BATTING	
183 — Saurav Ganguly (India) v Sri Lanka, May 26, Taunton.	
145 — Rahul Dravid (India) v Sri Lanka, May 26, Taunton.	
140* — Sachin Tendulkar (India) v Kenya, May 23, Bristol.	
104* — Rahul Dravid (India) v Kenya, May 23, Bristol.	
97 — Saurav Ganguly (India) v South Africa, May 15, Hove.	
96 — Jacques Kallis (South Africa) v India, May 15, Hove.	
88* — Nasser Hussain (England) v Kenya, May 18, Canterbury.	
88 — Alex Stewart (England) v Sri Lanka, May 14, Lord's.	
62 — Maurice Odupe (Kenya) v Sri Lanka, May 30, Southampton.	
81 — Younis Youhan (Pakistan) v Scotland, May 20, Durham.	
81* — Inzamamul Haq (Pakistan) v Australia, May 23, Leeds.	
80 — Roger Twose (New Zealand) v Australia, May 20, Cardiff.	
80 — Ridley Jacobs (West Indies) v New Zealand, May 24, Southampton.	
77 — Shivnarine Chanderpaul (West Indies) v Pakistan, May 16, Bristol.	
76 — Darren Lehmann (Australia) v New Zealand, May 20, Cardiff.	
76 — Gavin Hamilton (Scotland) v Pakistan, May 20, Durham.	
76 — Neil Johnson (Zimbabwe) v South Africa, May 29, Birmingham.	
73* — Graeme Hick (England) v Sri Lanka, May 14, Lord's.	
73* — Inzamamul Haq (Pakistan) v New Zealand, May 28, Derby.	
73* — Alpeh Vadhvani (Kenya) v Sri Lanka, May 30, Southampton.	

BOWLING	
5 for 14 — Glenn McGrath (Australia) v West Indies, May 30, Manchester.	
5 for 21 — Lance Klusener (South Africa) v Kenya, May 26, Amstelveen.	
5 for 31 — Robin Singh (India) v Sri Lanka, May 26, Worcester.	
4 for 17 — Allan Donald (South Africa) v England, May 22, The Oval.	
4 for 25 — Courtney Walsh (West Indies) v Bangladesh, May 21, Dublin.	
4 for 34 — Darren Gough (England) v Kenya, May 18, Canterbury.	
4 for 37 — Alan Mullaly (England) v Sri Lanka, May 14, Lord's.	
4 for 37 — Geoff Allott (New Zealand) v Australia, May 20, Cardiff.	
4 for 37 — John Blain (Scotland) v Bangladesh, May 24, Edinburgh.	
4 for 40 — Wasim Akram (Pakistan) v Australia, May 23, Leeds.	
4 for 42 — Neil Johnson (Zimbabwe) v Kenya, May 15, Taunton.	
4 for 56 — Debashish Mohanty (India) v Kenya, May 23, Bristol.	
4 for 64 — Geoff Allott (New Zealand) v Pakistan, May 28, Derby.	

# LALOO'S APPEAL

PATNA, May 31: Rastriya Janata Dal (RJD) president Laloo Prasad Yadav today urged the federal government to immediately ban the telecast of the cricket World Cup in view of the 'war-like situation' in Jammu and Kashmir, reports PTI.

"It is grave injustice to our brothers who are engaged in a grim battle with Pakistani intruders in Kargil sector," he said.

"It is not a time to sit and enjoy the game when the country is locked in an armed conflict. The entire country — children, office goers, etc. are all glued to their TV sets... this is too bad," he lamented.

# Winning start for Canada coach

TORONTO, May 31: Davide Xausa scored his first goal for Canada to make coach Holger Osieck a winner in his home debut with a 1-0 decision Saturday over Guatemala, who had two players sent off in the dying seconds, reports AP.

Canada tied Northern Ireland 1-1 in Belfast on April 27. Osieck's first game at the helm.

Neither team was at full strength for the game, played in brilliant sunshine at Varsity Stadium.

Guatemala's German Ruano was ejected near the end of a game following a nasty tackle. He also appeared to spit on Canadian defender Jason DeVos, who was wiping at his face as a teammate restrained him.

# Bangladesh win Gavaskar's heart

Indian cricket great Sunil Gavaskar said yesterday, Bangladesh is inching closer towards achieving the ultimate goal of cricket — Test status, reports APB.

The former Indian Test opener was all praise for ICC champion Bangladesh for their gradual and steady improvement in the World Cup.

Gavaskar made the observation while commenting on ESPN and Star Sports during the match between Bangladesh and Pakistan yesterday.

Gavaskar said cricket enjoys great popularity in Bangladesh and enthusiasm for the game there is quite immense. "This is vital and a plus point," the little master noted.

He suggested Bangladesh cricketers should produce a few more positive results to their one-day international tally.

Bangladesh have won two ODI matches so far, win — the first against Kenya last year while the other against Scotland in the ongoing World Cup.

The legendary Gavaskar believed that through developing their skills the Bangladesh cricketers can grow in confidence to play at the highest level of the game.

He also appreciated their performances in the World Cup.

"They scored 182 runs against the West Indies, 178 against Australia and did very well against a marvellous bowling attack of Pakistan", Gavaskar ended.

# Aussies alarm aspirants

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sports psychologist to talk to the players.

But most of all the Australians have found no problems with the criticism levelled at them, especially by the British media.

"There's nothing more dangerous than when the Australians are under pressure in England. It's well known that we enjoy the pressure," said Waugh.

The Australian team will probably be relishing the hostile headlines on Monday after Waugh deliberately slowed his team's run rate at Old Trafford to try to help West Indies qualify for the second round and penalise New Zealand, a ploy aimed at boosting Australia's chances.

# Arjuna admits it at last

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heavy defeats against all the top countries.

"We came over with two goals to win competitive cricket and to win one game."

"I believe we did play competitive cricket and will go home having improved as players individually. But unfortunately we did not get anywhere near to winning a game."

"The conditions never suited us. It has been wet and cold in the main and we prefer it to be hot and warm so that we can rely on our spinners."

# Bits & pieces

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Red Devils' achievements.

England's ouster from the tournament at the preliminary stage Sunday could curtail the interest further even though it is hosting the prestigious event after 16 years.

England's cricket authorities have put on a brave face and predict, perhaps while hoping secretly, that the fans' indifference will not deepen and spell the tournament's doom.

England's manager and chief selector David Graveney acknowledged that English fans will be disappointed by their team's absence from the later stages, but said the tournament shall survive this shock.

# SUPER SIX FIXTURE

Date	Match	Venue/Live Coverage
June 4	India vs Australia	The Oval (BTV/Star Sports)
June 5	South Africa vs Pakistan	Trent Bridge (BTV/ESPN)
June 6	Zimbabwe vs New Zealand	Headingley (BTV/Star Sports)
June 8	India vs Pakistan	Old Trafford (BTV/ESPN)
June 9	Zimbabwe vs Australia	Lord's (BTV/Star Sports)
June 10	South Africa vs New Zealand	Edgbaston (BTV/ESPN)
June 11	Zimbabwe vs Pakistan	The Oval (BTV/Star Sports)
June 12	India vs New Zealand	Trent Bridge (BTV/ESPN)
June 13	South Africa vs Australia	Headingley (BTV/Star Sports)

# Sporting Black Caps

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But New Zealand skipper Stephen Fleming admitted on Sunday: "We probably would have done the same in that situation because we would have had to put the self-interests of our team first."

New Zealand coach Steve Rixon, a former Australian test wicketkeeper, also found it impossible to condemn.

"It was hard to watch but I can understand why he did it," said Rixon, who has often spoken about trying to instil an Australian will-to-win into the New Zealand cricketing psyche.

Tim Murdoch, general manager of New Zealand Cricket, was almost admiring. "I think people are reasonably accepting of what happened. It's probably pretty shrewd and it's not against the spirit," he said.

Even Brian McKechnie, the man on the receiving end of Chappell's 1981 grass-cutter and always the first to be called on to adjudicate on trans-Tasman discord, couldn't quite bring himself to bracket Waugh with Chappell.

"To a point I can see why they have done it. At least Waugh has been honest about it," said McKechnie. "But it's the same scenario as 1981 — it's in the rules but mightn't be morally right."

Waugh had no argument there.

"I don't know about it being moral but it's in the rules and we needed two points to go through the next round."

"At the end of the World Cup we are going to be accountable not only to ourselves but people back home and if we don't win they are going to ask why," said the captain.

Another reason why New Zealand have not made too much of a fuss is that despite the never-ending furor about the underarm ball, they have their own skeleton in the cricketing cupboard.

In the 1992 World Cup, unbeaten New Zealand were assured of qualification with one group match remaining against Pakistan.

Had they won it, however, Australia could have made the semifinals with a guaranteed home fixture, forcing New Zealand also to play their semifinal in Australia rather than at home.

They did not deliberately lose, of course, but after scoring just 166, the previously unbeaten team was swept aside by seven wickets to earn an Auckland semifinal.

It might not have been morally right but it was within the rules. However, New Zealand lost out because they were beaten in that semifinal by Pakistan, the eventual winners.

# Stewart's days

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Lloyd, however, praised the form of his bowlers but said his team had failed to bat well enough in two first round defeats.

"We bowled really well and fielded excellently but to win World Cups you have to win these games against South Africa and India and we fell well short."

"It is standing up and being counted... we have not been up to it (chasing runs)."

"I don't need to say much in the dressing room, the place is desolate. You can talk around it for ever but the bottom line is we have not batted well enough."

"It was there to take and we just didn't do it."

England have yet to announce a successor to Lloyd ahead of a Test series against New Zealand.

England's exit from the World Cup was greeted with a mixture of resignation, gallows humour and invective by the press today.

The tabloids stuck to the invective, the Sun with a huge back page headline screaming: "Guilty of wrecking English cricket."

"Doomsday, it's disaster as our cricket hits new low," it continued on the next page, with the match report beginning: "Let's get things fully in proportion — this was only the most catastrophic day ever for English cricket."

The Daily Star added: "Spineless England were last night branded a bunch of bottlers — by their own coach."

The Daily Mail said many of Alec Stewart's side were in tears after their "humiliating end."

The broadsheets, however, were almost as vitriolic. The Daily Telegraph said Graeme Hick was particularly to blame for losing his wicket, calling it "a disgraceful way to go, an abdication."

It added: "We have surely seen the last of him now as England player."

The daily's inside pages, however, resorted to humour.

Comparing the English cricketer with his Australian cousin, it said: "One of them snarls like a doberman greeting the new postman, while the other one is more inclined to react like a freshly salted slug."

# Greene's repeat act

EUGENE, Oregon, May 31: For Maurice Greene, nothing changed much in the Prefontaine Classic.

Not even the strong wind, as he swept the sprints for the second straight year, reports AP.

Nothing changed much for Marion Jones and Michael Johnson either as they won their specialties Sunday.

And the 25th Prefontaine Classic again produced another outstanding mile, with 10 runners breaking the four-minute barrier, led by Kenya's Noah Ngeny.

Greene, ranked No 1 in the world in the 100 metres and the 1997 world champion, won the 100 in 9.84 seconds, a time that equalled Canadian Donovan Bailey's world record, but was negated by a wind of 12.60 kph (7.83 mph), well over the allowable of 7.20 kph (4.473 mph) for record purposes. The clocking has been bettered only six other times.

Forty minutes later, Greene

won the 200 in 20.06, a time that would have broken the meet record of 20.15 by Johnson in 1995, if not for the wind.

Last year, with slightly less wind, Greene ran even faster, winning the 100 in 9.79 and the 200 in 19.88. Still it was over the limit.

"I think this track loves me, and I love this track," Greene said. "I love this city."

Greene's love affair with Eugene and the University of Oregon's Hayward Field will continue next month at the USA Championships, the qualifying meet for the World Championships. He is expected to face Johnson in a 200 showdown.

As world champion in the 100, Greene does not have to qualify in the event. Neither does Johnson in the 400, since he also is the world champion. Thus, both will concentrate on the 200 for the national championships.

"The 200 was a little challenging," Greene said after his magnificent double that excited the crowd of 12,247. "I was

# Bad boy Asprilla!

CARTAGENA, Colombia, May 31: Soccer star Faustino Asprilla added to his bad-boy reputation early Sunday, firing shots into the air at a resort hotel after getting drunk and trying to force women to dance with him in its disco, authorities said, reports AP.

Asprilla, a striker for Italian Club Parma and the Colombian national team, was briefly detained by police, who confiscated his Glock pistol and told him to "go get some sleep," said city police commander Francisco Javier Bermudez.

The 29-year-old World Cup star fired three shots into the air after making a scene on the dance floor in the Las Americas hotel in this Caribbean port, witnesses said.

Bermudez said the pistol was registered legally to Asprilla, who was partying with several Italian citizens whose names were not given.

Asprilla has made a habit of getting into trouble during his periodic return visits to his native country.

In 1995, he was caught in his hometown of Tulua with an unregistered gun and sentenced to a year in jail. He avoided prison after promising better conduct.