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## Grumpy old Gaekwad

NOTTINGHAM, June 13 (AP)—India's coach has blamed his team's inconsistency and mental fatigue from an overdose of one-day cricket for its exit from the World Cup despite flashes of brilliance.

Although India's elimination from the tournament was known on Friday, it is going back home on a low note after losing its last Super Six fixture on Saturday by five wickets against New Zealand.

"We just weren't consistent," Indian coach Anshuman Gaekwad said. "When we played well, we were exceptionally well ... but we failed to keep the momentum."

Gaekwad attributed the inconsistency to excessive cricket played by the Indians, especially one-day internationals.

"Physically you might get attuned to it but the mental fatigue takes its toll on the performance," he said. "When mental fatigue sets in, the players tend to relax a bit ... that's what might have happened with the Indian team."

"On ability we should have made the semifinals," he said. Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin concurred.

"We've played a lot of one-

dayers in the last three years," he said.

"The boys came out with some brilliant individual performances, but we lacked overall consistency ... these things do happen and there's little one could do," he said.

The Indians were among the top performers with four batsmen—Saurav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar and Ajay Jadeja—hitting five of the eight centuries scored in the tournament so far. Dravid and Ganguly also are the highest run-makers of the tournament.

Saturday's victory gave the Kiwis a place in the semifinals but skipper Stephen Fleming said his team's progress was hampered by road blocks.

"Our entry into the semifinals was anything but smooth," said Fleming, and credited it to doing "the right things at the right time."

New Zealand, with a net run-rate of -0.52, qualified ahead of Zimbabwe (-0.79) after both teams finished level on five points in the Super Six standings.

But because of the World Cup point awarding system, Zimbabwe, who haven't won a sin-

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## Twose toast of the Kiwis

TRENT BRIDGE, England, June 13 (AFP)—England's cricket selectors did not want Roger Twose when he was available and they won't get him back now.

The 31-year-old, after another match-winning performance which took New Zealand into their fourth World Cup semifinals, has been quick to stress that he is now pure Kiwi.

The stocky Devon-born left-hander, indeed, has almost become a talisman for the New Zealand team.

He will never have the sporting sex-appeal of the big hitting Lance Klusener, just as New Zealand will never match the attractions of the South Africans.

But he is an honest trier. He nudges and nudges, eking out runs. And he is effective.

He would rather give you his fingernails than his wicket. Five not-outs in eight visits to the crease have given him a World Cup average of 90.66.

His undefeated 60 against India, capped by the winning runs as he pulled leg-spinner Anil Kumble to the mid-wicket fence, underlined his value.

Earlier, he had made sure his team qualified for the second round with an 80 not out against the Australians.

On Saturday, he had come to the crease with the New Zealand run-chase wobbling at 90 for three.

Nathan Astle, Craig McMillan and Stephen Fleming had all fallen to extravagant shots.

Twose, who made his debut for New Zealand in the 1995/96 season after emigrating and marrying a local woman, came in and did what he does best, taking things back to basics.

He nudged and he nudged and the singles began to come. He said: "It has been a good World Cup and it is great to be in England where my parents and brother have managed to come to every game."

"It is a great feeling when you see their faces at the end of the match."

Twose, the nephew of former English wicketkeeper Roger Tolchard, almost did not make the World Cup.

Two years ago he went into self-imposed exile. A loss of form and "business reasons" seemed to have ended his international career before it had really begun.

Yet last December, after limiting himself to captaining Wellington, he was drafted back after Astle broke a bone in his hand.

He has not looked back. If he can take New Zealand into their first World Cup final — they reached the last four in 1975, 1979 and 1992 — he will be the toast of the nation.

A few people will also raise a glass to him in Warwickshire, where he played much of his early cricket under the tutelage of Bob Woolmer.

And he will also have a few people wishing him well in the English coastal town of Torquay, his birthplace.



South Africa's Daryll Cullinan pulling towards mid-wicket yesterday.

—AFP photo

### Gordon will get his share

State Minister for Youth and Sports, Obaidul Quader will hand over Tk 3 lakh as prize money to Gordon Greenidge in London on behalf of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, reports UNB.

The prize is part of the cash rewards announced earlier by the Prime Minister after Bangladesh's superb performance in the World Cup.

Quader leaves for London today to witness the semifinals and final of the World Cup at the invitation of International Cricket Council (ICC).

### SCORERS & TAKERS

LONDON, June 13 (Reuters): **Leading run-scorers and wicket-takers at the World Cup after Saturday's Super Six match:**

#### TOP RUN-GETTERS

Rahul Dravid (India)	461
Saurav Ganguly (India)	379
Neil Johnson (Zimbabwe)	367
Mark Waugh (Australia)	333
Ajay Jadeja (India)	285
Roger Twose (New Zealand)	272
Jacques Kallis (South Africa)	259
Saeed Anwar (Pakistan)	240
Inzamam-ul-Haq (Pakistan)	239
Sachin Tendulkar (India)	253
Moin Khan (Pakistan)	236
Ricky Ponting (Australia)	224
Steve Waugh (Australia)	222
Gavin Hamilton (Scotland)	217
Lance Klusener (South Africa)	214
Herschelle Gibbs (South Africa)	210
Ridley Jacobs (West Indies)	205

#### TOP WICKET TAKERS

Geoff Allott (New Zealand)	20
Lance Klusener (South Africa)	16
Saglam Mushtaq (Pakistan)	16
Glenn McGrath (Australia)	14
Shoaib Akhtar (Pakistan)	13
Azhar Mahmood (Pakistan)	13
Allan Donald (South Africa)	12
Wasim Akram (Pakistan)	12
Javagal Srinath (India)	12
Neil Johnson (Zimbabwe)	12
Darren Gough (England)	11
Courtney Walsh (West Indies)	11
Heath Streak (Zimbabwe)	11
Abdul Razzaq (Pakistan)	11
Chris Cairns (New Zealand)	11

## Give youngsters a go

LONDON, June 13 (Internet report)—Pakistan captain Wasim Akram has suggested England's selectors should place their faith in youth.

Following the World Cup exit, England now find themselves waiting for the Test series against New Zealand, while a new coach is due to be appointed this month.

Wasim, whose side have already secured their place in the semi-finals, feels that if England are looking for solutions then it may not just be a case of looking at the captaincy.

"Allec has done a good job and before that Michael Atherton was doing an even better job," said Wasim. "So I think changing the captain is not going to change anything because you still have the same 12 to 14 players."

"If a captain makes mistakes — bowing changes, the batting order — then fair enough, but if you lose consistency then it's not the captain's fault it's the whole team's fault."

"You might as well change the whole team. If you're losing then you might as well have the young players in and give them a year or two."

"Okay, they may well lose, but they will eventually improve and go on to play for another 10 to 15 years. It just takes time."

There are cricketers out there, like Andrew Flintoff and Mark Chilton. If you looked

around you could find 11 or 12 who could play for England.

"People will say they are too young, but nobody is too young to play for their country in any sport."

"We played Abdul Razzaq at 18 and Shahid Afridi at 17 and now they are 22 and 23 and they have experience and know how

and would love nothing more than to sample the fantastic fanatical fervour which came with that victory."

In complete contrast came the startling hatred from the supporters following the quarter-final defeat to India two years ago.

Wasim's father was kidnapped for a day, his house was burgled, effigies of him were burnt and he required a police escort for months afterwards.

"That was going way too far," revealed Wasim. "Both myself and my family have been through a lot. In the end, I know I have done nothing wrong."

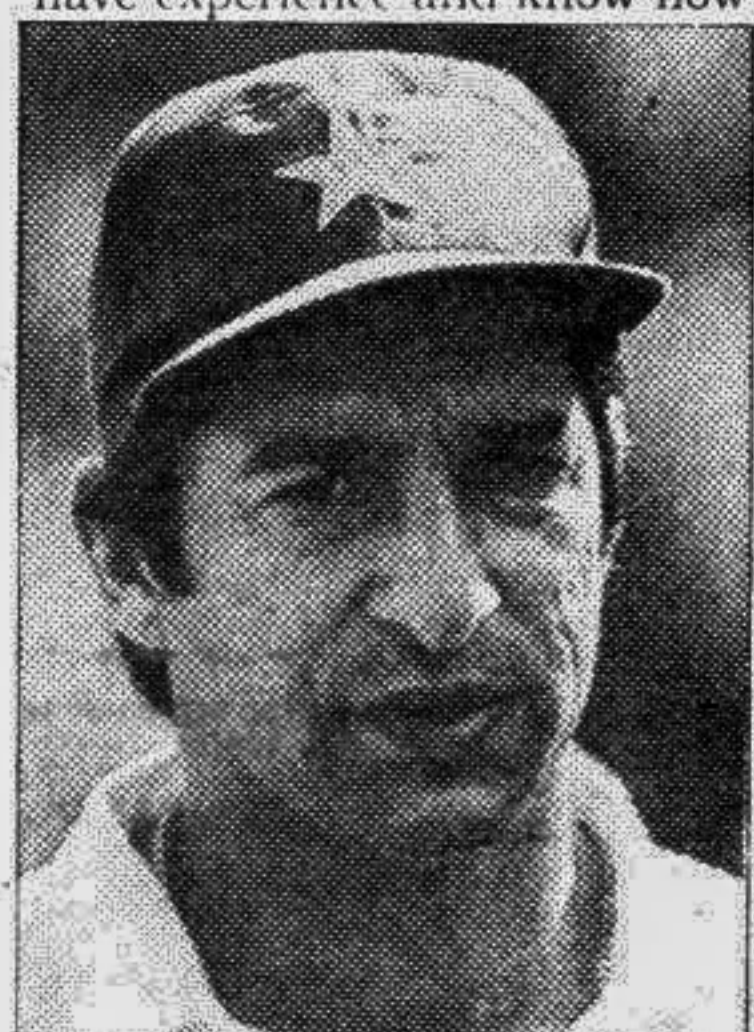
"Quite a few times I have thought it just wasn't worth the risk, that it was too much, but the support I have received has been excellent."

"To answer back to those people who criticise me and are jealous of me, I know I only have to perform on the field."

"When we won the World Cup in 1992, you cannot imagine the feeling and the reception we got back home."

"So it would be extraordinary if we won the World Cup, both here and back in Pakistan, but I'm not thinking about the final yet — only about the semi-final."

Speaking on BBC's Radio 5 Live, he added: "I don't want to put too much pressure on the players, although they know they are only one game away from the big one."



WASIM AKRAM

to handle the pressure.

Over the years, Wasim has sampled the extreme highs and lows which defeat in the World Cup have brought, and is now just two games away from emulating the feat of nine years ago.

Then, Wasim led to his side to victory in the 1992 final against England in Melbourne

## Rixon dreaming of the ultimate glory

LONDON, June 13 (Internet report)—Coach Steve Rixon is closing in on a dream which has been three years in the making after guiding a New Zealand side, accused of lacking stars and character, to the brink of a surprise World Cup success.

While other teams have star appeal like Glenn McGrath, Shoaib Akhtar, Sachin Tendulkar and Lance Klusener, New Zealand have quietly but efficiently progressed to the semifinals.

And in doing so the Kiwis have disturbed the organisers' hopes of a last four comprising the major sides of world cricket.

But as Australian-born Rixon begins preparations for a week which could result in the greatest triumph in New Zealand cricket history, he is anxious to refute the suggestion that their progress has been achieved through boring and uninspiring cricket.

They may not have an explosive batsman capable of changing the course of a match in just a few overs while few of their bowlers are likely to excite supporters to the same degree as Akhtar, McGrath or Allan Donald.

Yet there is growing evidence to suggest New Zealand's band of relative unknowns are improving fast with Geoff Allott currently the leading wicket-taker in the tournament with 20 victims while Adam Parore's 26 off 14 balls clinched the five-wicket victory over India yesterday which sealed their qualification.

"Nobody really rated us in the early stages and that suited us fine, we weren't really bothered about a huge amount of press and people putting extra pressure on us," admitted Rixon.

"All the comments that were made about us were fairly bland and they were obviously from people who really haven't been watching New Zealand recently because if anything we err on

recklessness and not boring cricket."

Rixon, who forged his reputation at New South Wales where he guided them to three Sheffield Shield titles and three one-day trophies in five years after they had suffered seven

years without any success, believes New Zealand's lower order in particular is the envy of other sides in the tournament.

"We have the likes of Nathan Astle at the top of the order and Gavin Larsen and Chris Harris, who all have a role to play but while teams continue to lose early wickets, it's a vital role and I'd be very surprised if quite a few sides wouldn't trade a few of our guys for that middle area," he said.

"We have worked hard for three hard years, getting an at-

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Steve Rixon, who forged his reputation at New South Wales where he guided them to three Sheffield Shield titles and three one-day trophies in five years after they had suffered seven

## Their hearts weren't there

TRENT BRIDGE, England, June 13: Around 6,000 Indian spectators still had their hearts in it here on Saturday. The body language of the 11 that mattered, however, suggested they were already thinking of home, reports AFP.

Mohammad Azharuddin's side, playing for pride in their final fixture after already being eliminated from the tournament, made a respectable 251 for six.

But they failed to defend that total as New Zealand got home in a dramatic finish.

Nobody could accuse the Indians of not trying.

But the keen competitive edge that has characterised their play in the Cup seemed to have evaporated.

Their faces told the story. A tired-looking Sachin Tendulkar, the best batsman in the world but whose tourna-

ment was undermined by the death of his father, winced when he was bowled middle stump.

Rahul Dravid, the top scorer of the tournament, shook his head all the way back to the pavilion when he was caught. He swiped with his bat at the ground but even that gesture seemed half-hearted.

Saurav Ganguly, whose 183 against Sri Lanka was the best individual score of the competition, just looked sour when Geoff Allott yoked him while Azharuddin, after putting on 90 for the fourth wicket, grimaced.

Team coach Anshuman Gaekwad had said on Friday: "We still want to win our last match. We may as well go out with a bang."

But even the ultra-aggressive Debashish Mohanty was not quite himself here.

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Gary Kirsten flicks against Australia at Headingley.

—AFP photo

## India to part with Kokinos?

TRENT BRIDGE, England, June 13: India's second-round exit from the cricket World Cup claimed its first casualty today — but it was not underfire skipper Mohammad Azharuddin, reports AFP.

Sources said the team's Australian physiotherapist, Andrew Kokinos would not have his contract renewed.

"Kokinos is out, he has not been much of a help to the players," an Indian cricket board source said.

Kokinos was hired from the Australian Institute of Sports after being recommended by former Test captain Ian Chappell in January 1997.

Azharuddin, meanwhile, received support from Indian cricket chief Raj Singh Durgapur after the team's World Cup campaign ended with defeat here on Saturday to New Zealand.



"I don't think there is anything wrong with Azhar's captaincy," Durgapur said.

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WE'VE DONE IT: New Zealand batsmen Roger Twose (L) and Adam Parore about to embrace each other after completing their run chase against India at Trent Bridge on June 12.

—AFP photo

### SUPER SIX STANDINGS

LONDON, June 13 (AFP): Cricket World Cup Super Six table after Saturday's match:

Team	P	W	L	T	NR	Pts	NRR
• South Africa	4	3	1	0	0	6	+0.23
• Pakistan	5	3	2	0	0	6	+0.65
• New Zealand	5	2	2	0	1	5	-0.52
Zimbabwe	5	2	2	0	1	5	-0.79
Australia	4	2	2	0	0	4	+0.44
India	5	1	4	0	0	2	-0.15

Table includes team points and results retained from first round. (\* denotes semifinalists)



New Zealand's top scorer Matthew Horne drives against India.

—AFP photo