

Sport

Bits & pieces

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throwing contest. "It was all very professional," he said.
The other lads thought it was hilarious and the locals couldn't believe it. I got nothing for it — except haggis for lunch," he said.

FLIP FOR ZIMBABWE

HARARE, June 16 (AP): Going within a whisker of a first ever World Cup semifinal was a big boost for Zimbabwean cricket.

David Houghton's team issued only because Australia beat South Africa in the final Super Six and it had an inferior run-rate to New Zealand.

Bearing in mind host England and two-time titlists the West Indies didn't even make it to the Super Sixes, it was a great performance by a nation considered the weakest of the nine Test playing teams.

But an editorial in the national daily, The Herald, while congratulating the team, called for more to be done to attract more home grown players, especially from the majority black population.

Zimbabwe's 12.7 million people, only 70,000 are whites, with 20,000 Asians and 40,000 of mixed race. Yet whites constitute 90 per cent of first class cricketers.

The Herald noted that the only two good batsmen to enter the Zimbabwe line up had grown up and matured in other countries. Neil Johnson (South Africa) and Murray Goodwin (Australia).

"While everyone is pleased they decided to come home to the land of their birth, it would be folly to rely on a continual flow of child emigrants returning home," said the Herald.

"A lot more still needs to be done especially in ensuring that the national team reflects the racial mix of the Zimbabwean nation."

The Herald said that the team's success had attracted more people to the game by watching on TV.

"There is a lot more interest in the game," it said. "Many who have never watched a cricket match in their lives before were glued to their television screens on the days Zimbabwe played."

THE OFFICIALS

LONDON, June 16 (AP): Steve Bucknor of the West Indies and England's David Shepherd will umpire the World Cup final at Lord's on Sunday.

The third umpire is to be India's Srinivas Venkatraghavan and Ranjan Madugalle of Sri Lanka will be the match referee.

Low on confidence

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ing. "I wasn't sure who to shout in the end," another South African supporter whispered sheepishly after Sunday's game, fearful of his admiration for the enemy being overheard in this unblinkingly one-eyed society.

Victory last Sunday would have sent Australia packing from the tournament. Now South Africa have it all to do again and with their morale damaged by defeat.

The cricketing mood in the country since then has been unusually gloomy.

Perfect day for cricket

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one that Fleming was too late to tackle was pitched at 92 mph. The Old Trafford pitch is known to be a heaven for spinners, but it also has encouragement for the seam bowlers. Pakistan, unfortunately for the Kiwis, has a large set of both. And so it was that the Pakistani bowlers, with the exception of Shahid Afridi, seemed to gain from the well-worn wicket.

Contrary to earlier BBC reports late last evening, Salim Malik was not recalled into the side and Wahajuddin Wasti found his place safe. This was after Wasim's announcement after yesterday's nets that the team would be announced this morning.

Roger Twose, who was unlucky to find Ijaz's stretched-out right hand after the gully fielder flew to his right, had moments that was not in cricket's daily routine. In the 25th over, Twose kicked the dust off a Kiwi. He was a failed stumping attempt. He did, of course, apologise immediately to the wicket-keeper. Later, he stopped Shoaib in his track as something got in his eyes and was only relieved by the help of his captain, his running mate at the time.

This being cricket, one never knows what lies in store. New Zealand may be rewarded for their cautious approach for they finished in the vicinity of 240, always a big ask if the consistency of the Pakistani batsmen takes over. And, for certain, if the Kiwi bowlers get the movement that the wicket promised all day.

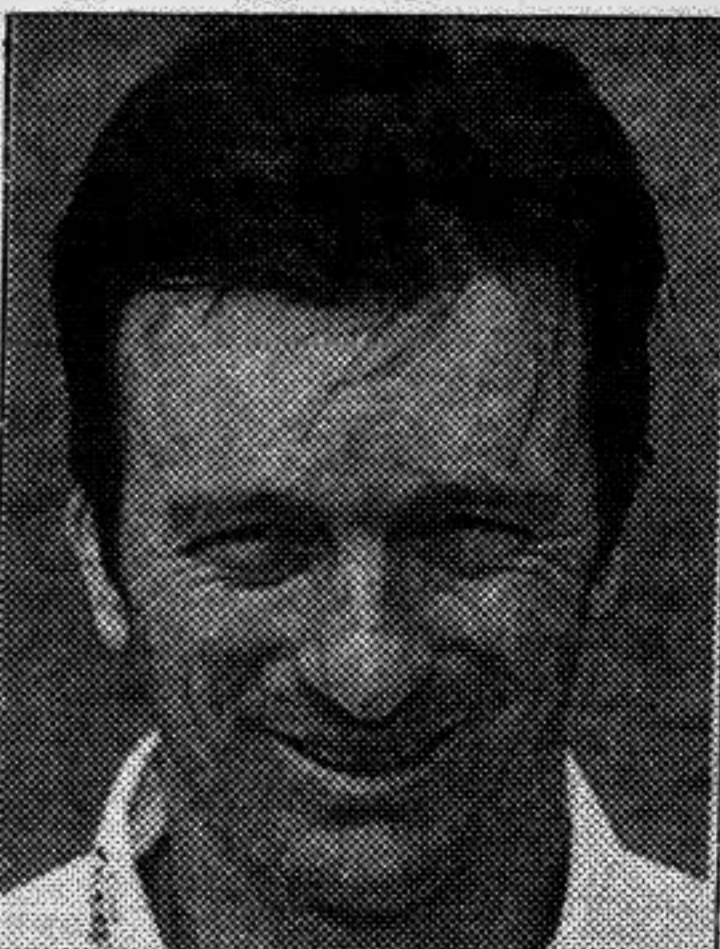
Kallis' stomach may upset SA

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risk he and the selectors would take. "It's painful batting as well. He's still in some discomfort especially with cross bat shots. "I told the selectors it's a risk to play him, that he could break down even though it's a one-day international, there is a risk of doing further damage to the muscles."

"There are only two more games at most — obviously that comes into it — so I suppose they will put that into the pot when they make that decision. "He had his appendix removed in September 1997. It could be related to that, but a stomach strain is a stomach strain."

Back on Waugh-path

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hopefully we can rectify that. "Good teams have to play well under pressure — that's what makes a good team, winning the big points."



STEVE WAUGH

"We have been good at that in Test cricket over the last three or four years, one-day cricket not quite so good. But I think we are putting it together at the right time now."

"We will learn from the last World Cup final where we probably weren't prepared well enough and obviously didn't perform on the day."

"This side has a good mixture of experience, youth and enough talent to win the game. If you combine all that and play well, we will be hard to beat. "I just hope this game is not as close as the last. It was a little too close for comfort."

Australia won by five wickets but with only two balls to spare in what must go down as the most dramatic match of the World Cup so far. South Africa missed the

services of key all-rounder Jacques Kallis at Headingley and he had a gentle work-out in the Edgbaston nets yesterday. Kallis has a stomach injury, which is not muscular but



MARK WAUGH

linked to the scar tissue from an appendix operation on the 1997 tour to Pakistan.

He had the second of two scans a couple of days ago and that showed a marked improvement on the first.

Woolmer, on the day he pulled out of the running for the vacancy of England coach, said, "Jacques is progressing well and hopefully he'll be fit to play."

"At Headingley we were 20 runs short and our fielding could have been better."

"It is a case of everyone concentrating on the job; we have played better than we did on Sunday."

"We never put them under pressure and we were beaten by a fantastic innings from Steve Waugh."

Counting on Kallis

BIRMINGHAM, England, June 16: South Africa are hoping Kallis effect will tilt Thursday's mouthwatering World Cup semifinal against Australia in their favour, reports Reuters.

There is rarely much to separate the two southern hemisphere rivals in ability as their classic encounter last Sunday showed when Australia successfully chased 272 for victory, winning with two balls to spare.

Australia will be greatly buoyed by that win, their fifth in succession following qualifying round defeats to New Zealand and Pakistan which threatened their progress into the second round.

But two crucial factors could have a bearing on the outcome at Edgbaston.

Firstly, they did not need to win on Sunday, having already qualified for the semifinals, and ultimately could not match Australia's backs to the wall desperation.

Second, they should have Jacques Kallis back in their line-up.

The absence of the talented all-rounder hurt South Africa badly at Headingley. His replacement, left arm spinner Nicky Boje, gave away one run in his first over and then was savaged for 28 off his next two.

Hansie Cronje was forced to bowl seven overs and went for 50 runs.

That came after Lance Klusener and Allan Donald had conceded just 16 in eight overs to pile the pressure on Steve Waugh and Ricky Ponting.

"We knew we had to get after the fifth bowler," said Waugh who ended unbeaten on 120. "Cronje agreed. "Once they'd started hitting Nicky and I it was difficult for the others to come back," he said.

"When you lose Jacques you lose two cricketers. He is a very good player."

Kallis batted and bowled, albeit gingerly, in the nets on Tuesday and coach Bob Woolmer said he hoped he would be fully recovered from his abdominal problem.

He's very important to us and he'll probably play even if he's not 100 per cent," said Woolmer.

Australia are also likely to make one change, recalling bruised finger victim Darren Lehmann for Damien Martyn.

But their biggest weapon could be a psychological one.

Both sides have tried to play down the relevance of last Sunday's match, but the steely determination shown by Waugh reminded the South Africans they do not have a monopoly on the highly professional approach.

"They are the two best sides in cricket today and I think it will be another great match," said Woolmer who retires as coach after the tournament. "It would have been nice to have put them on the plane home on Sunday but that's history and the lads are very keen to redress the balance."

"Both teams have high skill levels, are strong mentally and physically very fit. The difference on Sunday was Steve Waugh who was magnificent."

Bruished Brijesh

MUMBAI, June 16: The manager of India's World Cup team Brijesh Patel has blamed poor bowling and fielding along with inconsistent performances for India's failure to reach the semifinals, reports PTI.

After arriving here in the wee hours today along with six players, Patel told reporters that the Indians will have to work hard on their bowling and fielding to compete successfully with the top teams in future.

"The boys did pretty well in the English conditions and fought against all odds against Sri Lanka, England (in the league) and Pakistan (in Super Six stage), but were inconsistent," Patel said.

Warne wary

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the law of averages - we've beaten them so many times in big matches, it must be their turn."

During the tri-nation series in Australia last year, South Africa won six games in a row before losing both finals to the hosts.

Warne was reminded of the semi-final three years ago in India when Australia fought back from the brink to defeat the West Indies by runs.

"I reckon there is something in our blood that gives us that hunger and desire to come through as winners," he said.

Goodbye on Wasim's mind

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He also feels he is now at the peak of his captaincy powers. "I don't believe people are born leaders. You grow into the job and learn about it."

Wasim is relishing his spell as skipper and believes his style is helping to relax the players and get the best out of them in this World Cup.

He said: "This is my third or fourth time as captain. This time the players wanted me and asked the Pakistan Board to appoint me. I refused at first and it's a long story that I am not going to start to go into now!"

"But the boys know I am a relaxed captain who can get the best out of them. They respond to me and we help each other on and off the field instead of being sick of the sight of each other. "I have learnt a lot about captaincy. When I was captain in 1993 I didn't know what it was all about."

"It is something you work at and work out. I have made millions of mistakes but I have learnt."

Looking at Lord's

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markable late developers. He was drafted into South Africa's one-day side last year and then called up as a late replacement for the tour of England.

Elworthy showed that he had not neglected his batting entirely with a Test debut 48 on that tour, and helped South Africa clinch this year's series against New Zealand with eight wickets in his second Test appearance.

But it is in this World Cup that the seamer has come into his own, conceding just over three runs an over with his nagging line and picking up 10 wickets.

His performance in the Super Six thriller against Australia on Sunday was typical, removing opener Adam Gilchrist and number four Damien Martyn in his 10 overs.

Fiercest foes face to face

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coming the only side to win a series against them since Cronje had become captain in 1994.

Cronje, five years younger than his rival, has the additional problem of struggling to find his own form with the bat at number five.

If he is as tough as teak, then Waugh is cast in steel.

And if the match turns into a tale of two captains, then Waugh, with 342 runs at an average of 85.50 compared to his counterpart's disastrous 98 at 14, is well ahead.

His back-to-the-wall century at Headingley, according to coach Geoff Marsh was "a freak innings. But it's an innings you know Stephen can play. Innings like that come from within."

Marsh said he saw the innings coming. "You could tell in his eyes at lunch. I sat and had lunch with him and he was just so focussed."

Waugh, asked about his bloody-minded refusal to accept defeat, said: "You've got to muster up enough courage as you can, because it's easy to walk away and say it's too tough and leave it to someone else."

South Africa will have to meet that determination head-on if they are to win at Edgbaston.

At least all-rounder Jacques Kallis will be back, missing the first encounter with a stomach muscle injury. South Africa badly missed his bowling. He will replace left-arm spinner Nicky Boje.

Australia, meanwhile, seem certain to recall Darren Lehmann, who missed the first game with a split finger. Damien Martyn is likely to make way.

The bowling attacks look well matched, with Allan Donald, Kallis and Pollock on the one hand, and the resurgent Glenn McGrath, Damien Flem-

ing and Paul Reiffel on the other.

Australia, however, have the more variety, with leg spinner Shane Warne to call on.

The batting line-ups also look balanced, with all-rounders Lance Klusener and Tom Moody offering the batting fireworks near the bottom of each order.

SQUADS

AUSTRALIA (probable):

Adam Gilchrist, Mark Waugh, Ricky Ponting, Steve Waugh (capt), Darren Lehmann, Michael Bevan, Tom Moody, Shane Warne, Paul Reiffel, Damien Fleming, Glenn McGrath.

SOUTH AFRICA (probable): Gary Kirsten, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Daryll Cullinan, Hansie Cronje (capt), Jonty Rhodes, Shaun Pollock, Lance Klusener, Mark Boucher, Steve Elworthy, Allan Donald.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Australia won the last three-match Test series against South Africa 1-0, but Hansie Cronje's team ended the third Test feeling cheated after Mark Waugh was given not out after hitting his stumps. His unbeaten century helped Australia avoid defeat and win the series.

South Africa have had the upper hand in recent one-dayers. They won six games in a row up to January 1998, but then lost the next two as Australia stole a home tri-nations tournament. They met in an unofficial encounter at the Commonwealth Games, when an under-strength South Africa beat Steve Waugh's full-strength team in the final. Pollock took four for 14 that day, with Steve Waugh hitting 90 not out.

The Australian captain produced a magical 120 not out last Sunday to beat South Africa with two balls to spare and keep his side in the tournament, at the same time setting up this rematch.

1999 WORLD CUP RESULTS TO DATE

Australia: Beat Scotland by 6 wickets, lost to Pakistan by 10 runs, lost to New Zealand by 5 wickets, bt Bangladesh by 7 wickets, bt West Indies by 6 wickets. Super Six: Beat India by 77 runs, bt Zimbabwe by 44 runs, bt South Africa by 5 wickets.

South Africa: Beat India by 4 wickets, bt Sri Lanka by 89 runs, bt Kenya by 7 wickets, bt England by 122 runs, lost to Zimbabwe by 48 runs. Super Six: Beat Pakistan by 3 wickets, bt New Zealand by 74 runs, lost to Australia by 5 wickets.

PREVIOUS WORLD CUPS

The sides had played just once, in 1992, when the South Africans won by nine wickets in Sydney. Allan Donald played a key role with three wickets for 34 before Keppeler Wessels, now retired, made 81 not out.

VENUE

Edgbaston. Home of county side Warwickshire and a regular Test centre. The ground where Brian Lara made 501 not out against Durham in 1994, the highest individual score in first-class cricket. The venue where hosts England were knocked out of the World Cup. Capacity: 17,000 (AFP).

Shane the seer

EDGBASTON, June 16: Australian leg spinner-turned-soothsayer Shane Warne predicted the South African Herschelle Gibbs could drop a catch through showmanship during the teams' World Cup clash, Geoff Marsh revealed here on Tuesday.

Gibbs caught Steve Waugh half-way through his match-winning innings of 120 against South Africa at Headingley on Sunday but then let the ball slip to the floor as he prematurely celebrated.

Marsh told the Australian Associated Press: "We don't often talk about what happens in team meetings, but Shane actually said if Herschelle takes a catch, stand your ground, because he doesn't hold them."

Warne's judgement was apparently based on seeing Gibbs, regarded as one of the best fielders in the world, suddenly and unexpectedly fling the ball back over his shoulder in celebration after taking a catch against the West Indies.

"We laughed at him (Warne)

in the team meeting, then he came out on the balcony and laughed at us. It was unbelievable -- only Warne could do that," Marsh said.

Gibbs blunder -- the umpires ruled he did not have full control of the ball before dropping it -- cost South Africa the match and saved Australia from being knocked out of the tournament.

Steve Waugh paid tribute to Warne's observation. "It was pretty prophetic," he said.

"Everyone looked at Shane and said: 'What are you talking about?' It was a great piece of observation."

"I must admit I'd forgotten about it until after the match."

He added: "I think you've got to hold the catch a bit longer than some blokes are doing. (England's) Adam Hobbins is one in particular who just takes it and throws it straight away."

"It doesn't hurt to hold it a bit longer. I think most blokes will do that from here on in."

South Africa and Australia clash again in the semifinals here on Thursday.

It's all because of bad timing

LONDON, June 16 (Internet report): Bob Woolmer believes he has become too deeply involved in South African cricket to suddenly switch to the England camp.

Woolmer, at one time the favourite to succeed David Lloyd as England coach, today withdrew his name from a shortlist including Duncan Fletcher, Dav Whatmore and Jack Birkenshaw.

The job, in any case, simply came at the wrong time with applicants being interviewed during South Africa's preparations for Thursday's World Cup semi-final against Australia at Edgbaston.

Woolmer said he would make an announcement on his future after the tournament, which is his last engagement as South Africa's national coach.

"It's very difficult when you have been intrinsically involved in South African cricket for five years to suddenly swap countries, and I hope people understand that," said Woolmer.

"I've been involved in South Africa for a long time, all the way back to 1970-71. I've coached a lot of cricketers there and I coached some of the present South African side when they were 15 or 16."

"I think it will be hard for me to come out of that situation straight into the English cricket game when I haven't been here for five years."

"I don't know what the scenario is, I can only see from the outside, or what I read in the newspapers."

Woolmer took the South African post after guiding Warwickshire to the Treble, and there have been some speculation that he could return to the Midlands county.

He added: "I thought about the England job long and hard and I decided that instead of beating about the bush and keeping them waiting, it was better for all of us, including myself, the South African team and English cricket, that I pulled out of the running."

"I do need a break, and I'm going to take it. I've decided exactly where my future lies, but for the moment I'm concentrating on the World Cup."

South Africa lost Sunday's thriller against Australia at Headingley by five wickets, so Woolmer is glad to be back in familiar surroundings at Edgbaston. "A happy hunting ground" - for the re-match.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

CROSSWORD puzzle grid and clues. Across clues include: 1. Ointment, 50. Arrow, 5. Weir, 8. Indy, 12. Carreras, 13. Away from, 14. Model Mac, 15. Percolate, 16. Full, 17. duration, 18. Prepare, 20. Refugees, 21. 'Chow down', 22. Capp and Capone, 23. Invigorating, 26. Cavalier, 30. Com-motion, 31. End of a Seuss title, 32. Court, 33. Phone, 36. Adar or Elul, 38. Resis-tance unit, 39. Needlefish, 40. Carroll kid, 43. Reversal, 47. Umbago, 49. Pedestal. Down clues include: 1. Occurrence, 51. Neg's, 52. Seize, 53. Criterion, 54. Shelter, 55. Hook, 56. Henchman, 57. DOWN, 1. Wild party, 2. Carpet, 3. Erstwhile, 22. Stearward, 23. Scroogean, 24. Vitamin, 5. Blue and white, 25. Charged bit, 26. Feed-bag morsel, 7. Chaps, 8. Go over, 27. Plant, 28. End of Ripley's, 29. Word from Homer, 31. Line of fashion?, 34. Case list, 35. Mets' home, 36. Wrestling surface, 37. Goes around the world?, 39. Skin components, 40. Slightly, 41. Kegler's path, 42. Summer-time desserts, 43. Old woman's home?, 44. Leading man, 45. Coal distilling byproduct, 46. 'Fish Magic' artist, 48. Sgt.'s subordinate.

CRYPTOQUIP puzzle grid and solution. The grid is a 10x10 square with some letters filled in. The solution is: Z E T E V C A U N C K G S, A H J J T Y H B C K J J C, S Z B B H V, M N T B M H U T V H, N H ' G G C V S H V M V C T Y H J J H U. The text below the grid says: Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DO YOU THINK I COULD LOCATE BOOKS ABOUT TREES IN A BRANCH LIBRARY? Today's Cryptoquip clue: M equals C. The text at the bottom says: The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.