

Bits and pieces

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based punter has placed 125,000 Australian dollars (82,500 dollars) on South Africa to beat Australia in their World Cup semifinal, a spokesman for a Australian betting firm said today, reports Reuters.

Australia and South Africa meet in the semifinal at Edgbaston today.

A spokesman for Darwin All Sports said the punter backed South Africa at 1.65 Australian dollars or at odds of 6-4 on to reach the final. If successful he would make an \$81,000 Australian dollars profit.

Man of the moment

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They won the title under Imran Khan in 1992 beating England before 100,000 Australian fans at the Melbourne cricket ground.

Anwar, a 30-year-old computer engineer from Karachi, has 17 one-day centuries to Tendulkar's record-setting 22. But his 194 against India at Madras two years ago remains unsurpassed.

The Indian attack holds special fascination for Anwar.

In the inaugural Asian Test match at Calcutta earlier this year, Anwar carried his bat for an undefeated 186 in the second innings as Pakistan recovered from a seemingly hopeless 26 for six on the first morning to win the match.

It surpassed his 176 against England at The Oval in 1996.

Anwar was almost lost to cricket two years ago when he returned from Australia with what was later diagnosed as fatigue syndrome.

"I was tiring easily," Anwar remembered. "I got out of bed and could not walk. I thought I would die."

Anwar, exhausted and suffering from cramps in the unbearable Madras heat, needed a runner in the later part of his innings of 194. But he believes the time is not far when a batsman would get 200 in a one-day match.

"It can be done, specially on the flat sub-continent wickets where the bat dominates the ball," he said.

"I was too tired at Madras. But I have always dreamt since then of reaching 200."

Akram and the whole of Pakistan will settle for much less if he can get a third successive World Cup century in the final at Lord's on Sunday.

Pin-up boy

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was the Sun's caption of Akhtar's action photo, and described one-sided the semi-final as an "open and shut case."

The Mirror, under the headline 'Runaway Akhtar roams Kieve', said his "batting taking speed and ruthless approach brought New Zealand to their knees."

The paper gave due credit to the record first-wicket stand between century-maker Saeed Anwar and Wahajuddin Wasti, but said "the abiding memory of this sadly one-sided semi-final was the explosive bowling of Shoaib."

"There has been no more thrilling spectacle than the Rawalpindi Express accelerating to the wicket off that fearsome 30-yard run-up, frequently followed by a splintering of stumps."

The papers, however, came down heavily on the unruly fans who invaded the pitch when Pakistan still needed six for victory and were relieved none of the players were injured.

"It was a grotesque, indeed an unacceptable way for an international match to conclude," the Telegraph said, adding: "If security arrangements are not tightened for Sunday's final at Lord's, the competition could yet end with a serious disturbance."

Interesting Internet

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the ground," it noted at the start of one match in Birmingham "no doubt seeking refuge from their city."

"There's some hilarious irreverence on the site," enthused one frequent user, a London lawyer who naturally wanted his internet diversion to remain anonymous.

"It's not perhaps something you'd do at home, but while I'm at work it's a useful way of staying in touch. People would have bought in radios before, but now they can use this."

Other sites offer less spin and a more straight-up-and-down delivery. Khe! (www.khe!.com), a seven-man operation based in Bombay, is more clinical, though no less exhaustive in its ball-by-ball coverage.

The UK-based site www.cricworldcup99.com, for its part, offers a scrolling commentary running across the screen and an optional live feed from BBC radio.

In all cases, site access is free. Operations rely on advertising revenues, and Cricinfo estimates it has run up half a million dollars during the World Cup alone.

"That's the way the internet operates -- it is advertising-driven," said Rajesh Jain, director of IndiaWorld Communications which runs the Khe! site.

"For the Pakistan-India game we had 1.2 million page views," Jain said. "For our nine Indian and international advertisers, that's pretty good exposure."

"A lot of sites will naturally die once the World Cup is over, but we have built a community and will continue bringing live cricket to our visitors."

Black Caps

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failure was underlined by Twoes.

Twoes, regarded as little more than a canny, stubborn journeyman, scored 46, following an 80 not out against Australia, 54 not out against Scotland and 60 not out against India.

Batting at five, he finished with 318 runs in nine games.

His World Cup average of 79.5, extraordinarily was three higher than the combined average of the four men above him.

Jeremy Coney, captain of the only New Zealand to win series in England and Australia, believes a lack of technique is the chief problem facing the current outfit.

"If you haven't got technique to fall back on, then you've got problems," he said.

New Zealand's other concern is their bowling, which apart from Allott looked short of class during the World Cup.

In response the New Zealand management are sending pace bowler Carl Bunton and left-arm spinner Matthew Hart home after the Cup and flying in leg-spinner Brooke Walker.

Simon Doull, not required during the World Cup, is one of the best swing and seam bowlers in the world and will return for the England series and Matthew Bell will replace Astle as an opening bat.

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QUOTABLE QUOTES

LONDON, June 17 (AFP): Who said what during the Super Six second round of the 1999 cricket World Cup:

"He had Australia for breakfast, lunch and dinner." **India coach Anshuman Gaekwad on Sachin Tendulkar, who hit three consecutive centuries against the Green Caps last year.**

"I couldn't say I was out of form because I haven't been out there long enough to know." **Australian batsman Darren Lehmann.**

"It's not the Pakistan players we fear, but the fans." **Indian captain Mohammed Azharuddin ahead of their politically sensitive match at Old Trafford.**

"Pakistan is only a game, after all, Pakistan cricket captain Wasim Akram appeals for calm before the match against India."

"Party away! Feel the warm glow. Wake up feeling good. Savour the moment, make it last." **The Indian Express newspaper, after the victory over Pakistan.**

"The jubilation today reminds me of December 16, 1971, when men, women and children came out of their homes to celebrate the victory of our independence war ... again the whole nation has awakened for another victory." **Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina after the team's win over Pakistan.**

"It's not up to us any more. We don't want pushing and shoving while some idiot, who's had 26 pints, tries to wrestle the stump off us." **A World Cup umpire after declaring they did not want to be responsible for protecting camera-stumps from fans during pitch invasions.**

"It was the greatest day of my cricketing career. I hope they think they lost someone who could have played for them." **Zimbabwe's Neil Johnson after taking three wickets and scoring 76 in the shock win over South Africa, the side that rejected him.**

"I've just got a bad knee, ankle, groin and back. I'm an old man now." **29-year-old Zimbabwean Neil Johnson, after limping his way to 132 not out against Australia.**

"Run, Inzie, run!" **Pakistan fans to Inzamam-ul-Haq, a notoriously bad runner between the wickets.**

"I haven't a clue when I was last out. World record, no, I didn't know. What world record? Wow, that's good, thanks." **South African Lance Klusener on being informed he had overtaken Javed Miandad's record of 395 runs without being dismissed.**

"They have the best fast bowler in the world in Allan Donald and a couple of world class players in Jacques Kallis and Daryll Cullinan in the middle-order. Then there is Klusener." **New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming on South Africa.**

"When he grows older, he will learn it's not all about being fast." **South Africa captain Hansie Cronje after Pakistan pace sensation Shoaib Akhtar conceded 17 runs in the last-gasp defeat to the South Africans.**

"I heard that even during practices, the players were using their mobile phones. They behaved as if they could not function without cellular phones." **Sri Lankan cricket board chief Thilanga Samathipala after the team's early World Cup exit.**

"What's sad is that we are singled out every time. It's made to sound as if we are cheats, which we definitely are not." **Pakistan manager Zafar Aftab after ball-tampering allegations were levelled at his players.**

"I've been saying he's the best off-spinner ever that I've seen, and he showed that again today by taking a hat-trick." **Wasim Akram after Saqlain Mushtaq's heroics against Zimbabwe.**

"I'm really not sure what people want from him. If they want to try and take the guy down and lose one of Australia's greatest ever cricketers, they're going the right way about it." **Steve Waugh on press criticism of Shane Warne.**

"Sometimes teams get written off too early, sometimes too much is written about some sides ... Other teams should be more concerned about us." **Steve Waugh on press criticism of his team before they qualified for the semifinals.**

"You can't blame Gibbs, it happens." **South African skipper Hansie Cronje after Herschelle Gibbs dropped Steve Waugh off a sitter. The Australian captain went on to make 120 not out and win the game, depriving South Africa of an easy semi-final against Zimbabwe.**

Cricket in America

RESTON, Virginia, June 17 (AP): The most vital pieces of equipment at this cricket match weren't the bats, balls, wickets or even water jugs in the 32-degree Celsius (90-degree Fahrenheit) heat of a Saturday afternoon.

Nope. The match between the Fairfax Cricket Club and Mobil 2 might not have been possible without a good supply of cellular phones, useful for tracking developments an ocean away.

"Thirty-five balls, 36 runs, three wickets left!" yelled one of the waiting FCC batsmen, holding a phone to his ear and excitedly ticking off a barrage of statistics that mean nothing to 99 per cent of Americans.

They're in contract, you can believe that," said Hal Sheikh, taking in the numbers as he also waited his turn to bat. "The wonder of cell phones."

Make no mistake. Everyone who came to this Washington Cricket League match at Lake Fairfax Park loves to play the game. But the World Cup was taking place at the same time — specifically, a Super Sixes match between Pakistan and South Africa — and the distraction was just too great to ignore. Someone had to stay behind, watch the game on television and phone in with the updates.

"You don't know how hard it was to come, leaving that game," said Faraz Haider, who moved to the United States from Karachi six years ago and paid 275 dollars for the full, 42-game World Cup package on pay-per-view.

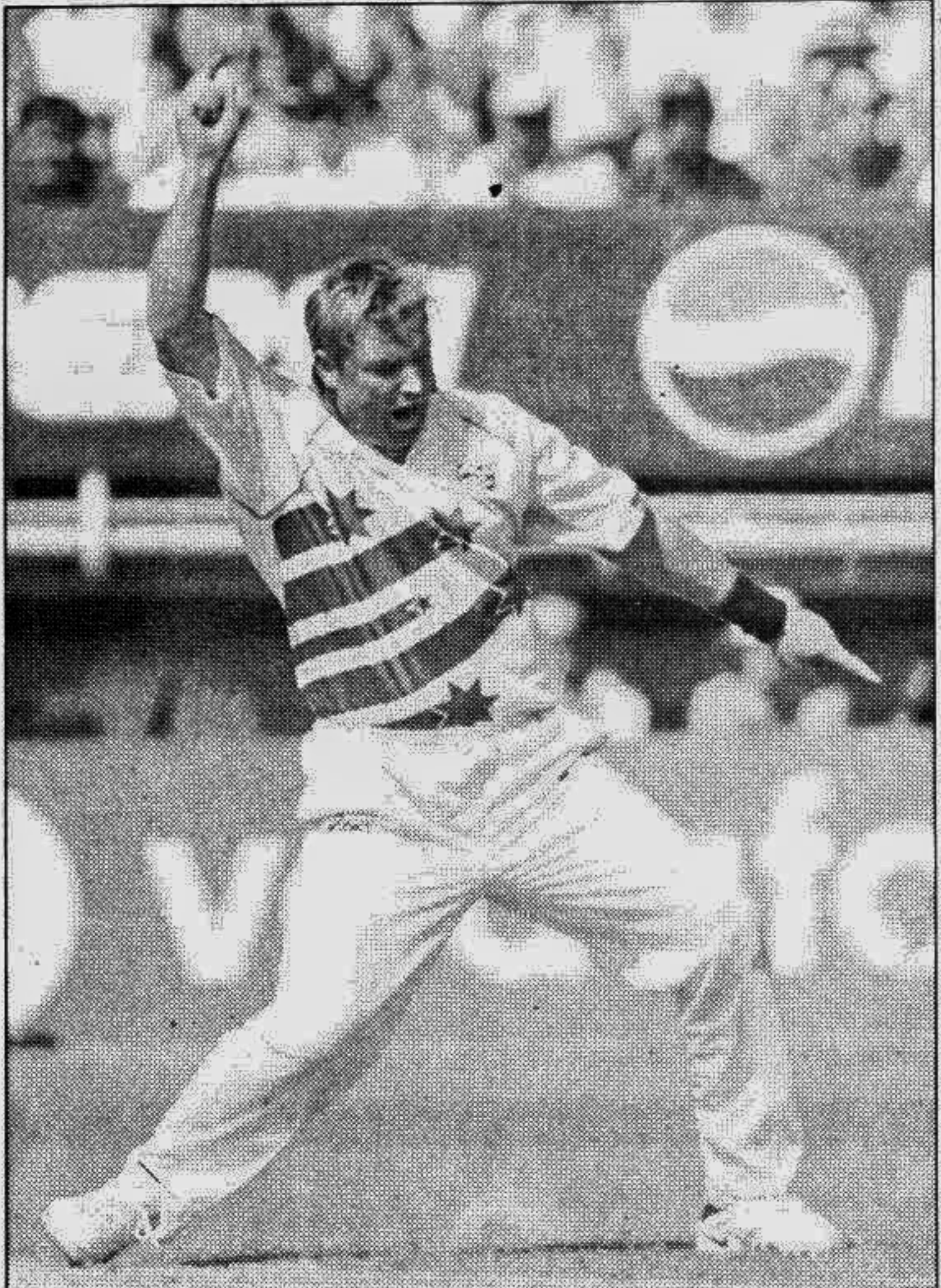
With barely a ripple of attention in the land of baseball, the World Cup is of major importance to the 500 or so cricketers in the 26-team WCL, including David Roll, the only American-born player in the entire league.

"I'm fairly recognised because I'm the American guy," said Roll, the league's vice president. "It's a sad statement. It's more due to a lack of exposure. A lot of people don't know it's played here, unless you stumble across a game."

Rolls tumbled across the game during a visit to England a few years back. He watched on television as England's Graham Gooch scored an amazing 333 against India. Roll saw a few other matches in person and was hooked.

Now, if he could only win over some of his countrymen.

"Most Americans complain about a baseball game that



Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne celebrates the fall of a South African wicket yesterday. — AFP photo

Murali puts Surrey in spin

LONDON, June 17: Muttiah Muralitharan kept Lancashire in contention on the second day of their county championship match against leaders Surrey with another six wicket haul at The Oval, reports Reuters.

The Sri Lankan spinner, who took 14 wickets in the match on his championship debut last week, finished with 6087 as Surrey were dismissed for 298, giving them a first innings lead of 104.

England captain Alex Stewart finally came good again, making his highest score in any class of cricket this season before being bowled by Muralitharan for 95.

Lancashire's former England skipper, Mike Atherton, then followed suit by making 52 in his first game since recovering from the back injury that forced him to miss the World Cup.

By the close Lancashire had reached 100-3 in their second innings, still trailing by four runs.

At Southampton, second placed Hampshire were indebted to half-centuries from Robin Smith (78), Will Kendall (52) and Jason Lane (50) as they closed at 239-4 in reply to Leicestershire's 405 all out. Ben Smith, 126 not out overnight, was Leicestershire's last man out for 154 made off 310 balls with 16 fours.

England batsman Chris Read hammered the days top score of 160 — his maiden century — against Warwickshire at Trent Bridge. Read and Chris Tolley (51) shared a seventh-wicket stand of 148 to help Nottinghamshire recover from 10 for two overnight to reach 327 all out for a lead of 11. Warwickshire closed at 24-2.

At Canterbury, Steve James' second championship century of the season put Glamorgan in a strong position against Kent. James (103) shared century stands with Alun Evans (50) and Adrian Dale (46 not out) as the Welsh county closed 49 runs in arrears on 283-2.

At New Road, bottom of the table Worcestershire lead Somerset by 149 runs with seven second innings wickets in hand. At Headingley, Yorkshire struggled to 124-7 in their second innings against Sussex for a lead of 203. Sussex had trailed by 79 after being all out first time round for 192.

Party time in Pakistan

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Former Test cricketers Iqbal Qasim and Tauseef Ahmed described the victory as "great" and "historic" but said Pakistan needed to work hard in the finals, where they would face a tougher team than New Zealand.

"Every player has to give his best to bring the cup home," Qasim said, adding that "Wasim has a golden chance to create history and we wish him the luck."

Many fans said they would prefer Pakistan face Australia rather than South Africa in the final.

Hansie Cronje's side beat Pakistan in the Super Six encounter but Pakistan defeated Australia in the group matches.

Wasim fears

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can chase," Akram said.

New Zealand's captain Stephen Fleming said Pakistan was looking more and more impressive.

"Their all-round prowess is making Pakistan appear menacing for any opposition," Fleming said, adding that Pakistan had grown in strength since beating New Zealand by 62 runs in the group stage of the competition.

Fleming said his team was outplayed by a fantastic opening partnership that took the fight away from New Zealand.

"I thought 240 was a fighting total but they put together a great partnership," Fleming said. "Anwar and also pace bowler Shoaib (Akhtar) were outstanding, simply brilliant."

"With Anwar going on and on we just did not have a chance."

"Shoaib proved a handful with his quick stuff," Fleming said. "He consistently gets good bounce and is quite difficult to handle when he manages to add swing to the speed."

Fleming added his young and improving team will take heart from some good results in the tournament.

"We had some good results. We've done well but we had to leave it here," he said.

New Zealand will stay back for a four-Test series against England starting on July 1 in Edgbaston.

Korda calls it quits

LONDON, June 17: Sixteen months ago, Petr Korda reached No 2 on the ATP Tour ranking after winning the Australian Open, reports AP.

But after failing to qualify for Wimbledon, losing to Danny Sapsford 3-6, 7-6, (7-4), 6-4 Tuesday qualifying, Korda announced his retirement. He had hoped to retire after playing the grass-court classic.

Korda's career has nosedived in the wake of drug-taking charges after testing positive last year at Wimbledon for the steroid Nandrolone.

Korda — who maintains he doesn't know how the steroid got into his system — has been in a legal battle for a year with the International Tennis Federation, which is seeking to have him banned.

The case is now before a three-judge panel at the Court of Arbitration for Sports in Lausanne.

The ITF initially let Korda off the hook over the drug-taking incident and then moved to have him banned after it faced criticism for being lax on drugs.

Steve does it again

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as the one at Headingley last Sunday that was differentiated by only two balls.

At World Cup's second semifinal, the combat to win the right to face Pakistan at the Lord's final, there was nothing to separate the two sides.

It was Jacques Kallis versus Mark Waugh, Allan Donald against Glenn McGrath.

Herschelle Gibbs pitted opposite Adam Gilchrist, Hansie Cronje facing Steve; the list goes on.

Pakistan, favourites now with South Africa to lift the trophy, could relax nonchalantly in their hotel room because whoever wins today, the date at Lord's would be equally challenging, a memorable contest. Despite the arguments against the complicated methodology that ICC derived to pick the top two, the Lord's final coming Sunday promises

to be fitting finale to a wonderful tournament.

On a cloudy morning Hansie Cronje won a vital toss. When two bulls are equal to the task, it matters which one decides the sequence. Following Australia's miraculous win at Headingley in the final Super Six match, thanks to Steve Waugh, Cronje just could not risk allowing the Aussies to chase again. They have proved they are good at it. He looked up. It was cloudy. And he decided to field. Mark Waugh, nay Shaun Pollock, proved him right almost instantly.

While acknowledging the spring in the wicket that put rubbed off much of the Aussie shine, full credit must go to the superb fielding of the South Africans. They were on full alert, not letting almost anything go by, urging each other on as the innings developed.

This was Allan Donald's home ground. More than that,

the South African paceman owns a house in the suburbs of Birmingham, a stone's throw from the Warwickshire ground. He was enjoying himself thoroughly, bowled well enough, held Adam Gilchrist's rash shot at third man with confidence of a homegrown boy.

The other plus point in the South African innings was Jacques Kallis, reputedly the world's best all-rounder. He overcame a fitness test, but just, after missing Sunday's defeat to Australia due to a rib injury. It was learnt that he would bat, but was definitely ruled out as a bowler. Such was the spirit of the team that the Glamorgan recruit bowled his ten overs quota with courage. He was fit as a fiddle.

The target of 214 does not seem to be a tall task for the South Africans, not with the depth of batting they have. But then, so did the Australians.

Hingis vows to keep cool

EASTBOURNE, England, June 17 (AP): As Martina Hingis prepares for her 1 seed-ing at Wimbledon, she promised Wednesday there would be no more tantrums like the one in the French Open final loss to Steffi Graf.

Hingis smashed her racket and then marched around the net to dispute a line call. She also served underarm and climbed the umpire's chair to make another protest as she threatened to be defaulted in the Grand Slam final.

Hingis stalked off the court after losing to Graf and allegedly struck an official of the WTA Tour before being led sobbing back to the court by her mother Melanie Molitor.

"There's no way that could happen again," she said at Eastbourne, where she is playing doubles in the grass-court warmup for Wimbledon.

"I'm still young and I hope I can learn from it," she added.

"You can't do what I did and be happy about it."

"I think I've been raised well. I probably lost a bit of control of my feelings and my temper, but it definitely won't happen again. The rules are made for something, and I didn't respect them. That's not right, and that's why I got what I did (from the umpire)."

"It wasn't the best behaviour of course. I did things I wasn't allowed to do, like going on the other side (of the net), but I did them and these things happen. Now I just have to go on with my life."

Hingis was evasive when asked if her mother had scolded her for her behaviour, but she said nobody else would have gotten her to return to the court.

"She understands me the best, so there's no need to talk about what happened," said the WTA Tour's No. 1-ranked player. "She knows how I feel. But I knew I had to go out there. It wouldn't have been fair to anybody if I didn't. It would

have been too much."

Hingis fled to the sanctuary of her home in the Czech Republic to escape the fury afterwards — riding horses — and said she saw none of the headlines labelling her a spoiled brat.

"I didn't read any newspapers. We just cut the grass on some land we have there, and made a tennis court by drawing some lines, and played some volleys and serves and over-heads."

She said she also sought refuge in several friends on the tour.

"I only care what the closest people to me say," she said.

"There are not too many people telling you the truth if you're one of the best players in the world. But you have to respect somebody."

"Anna (Kournikova) and I are close and the relationship is building," she added. "She came to me in Paris when I was crying, and Nathalie Tauziat also."

And what about her reception at Wimbledon — where she won two years ago — after being booed off the court in Paris?

"I don't really know what to expect, but I don't think it (the jeering) will happen at Wimbledon," she said. "The crowd is more polite and the people here at Eastbourne seem to be okay."

WIMBLEDON MERIT LIST

LONDON, June 17 (Reuters): Following is a list of men's and women's Wimbledon champions over the past 20 years:		1979 — Borg
		WOMEN
MEN		1998 — Jana Novotna (CZE)
1997 — Sampras	1997 — Martina Hingis (SWI)	1996 — Steffi Graf (GER)
1996 — Richard Krajicek (NED)	1995 — Graf	1994 — Conchita Martinez (SPA)
1995 — Sampras	1993 — Graf	1992 — Graf
1994 — Sampras	1991 — Graf	1990 — Martina Navratilova (USA)
1993 — Sampras	1989 — Graf	1988 — Graf
1992 — Andre Agassi (USA)	1987 — Navratilova	1986 — Navratilova
1991 — Michael Stich (GER)	1985 — Navratilova	1984 — Navratilova
1990 — Stefan Edberg (SWE)	1983 — Navratilova	1982 — Navratilova
1989 — Boris Becker (GER)	1981 — Chris Evert Lloyd (USA)	1980 — Evonne Goolagong Cawley (AUS)
1988 — Pat Cash (AUS)	1979 — Navratilova	
1987 — Becker		
1986 — Becker		
1985 — Becker		
1984 — John McEnroe (USA)		
1983 — McEnroe		
1982 — Jimmy Connors (USA)		
1981 — McEnroe		
1980 — Bjorn Borg (SWE)		



Czech tennis star Petr Korda listens to a question during a press conference in Prague on June 16 where he announced his retirement. — AFP photo

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Trot

4 Bat wood

7 Vatican

8 Gests

10 Foreigner

11 Silvery

13 "Some Like It Hot"

16 Corrode

17 Adds NaCl

18 A foot wide?

19 News-week rival

20 Despot

21 Type of cheese

23 Emitted beams

25 Omnipotent money

26 Brazen

27 Abby's sis

28 Worker's request

30 Felonious flight

33 Minor

3 Beginning

4 Court decree

5 Burma

6 Pay attention to

7 Entreaty

8 ACE

9 Sternutation

10 Candle

12 Tally

14 St. Louis team

15 Sun. speech

19 Up to, in verse

20 Ms. Charrise

21 Tendon

22 Less ruddy

23 "Golden Girls" role

24 French city known for lace

25 Flyers

26 O.H.M.S.

27 Authoritative text

28 Sketch show

29 Ms. reveille

30 Sill

31 Locality

32 Eds.' stack

34 "Monopoly" card

35 Red Cross bigwig

Yesterday's answer

Cryptogram puzzle grid and solution.

CRYPTOQUIP

Y G Y G O Q W O F R T B A R
T Y O B Y O J D R U R Q
R U R D F D R G B A R H J F W
H R W G W H J F W

Yesterday's Cryptogram: IF A FROG SHOULD GET TAKEN OUT TO DINNER, CHANCES ARE HE'LL ORDER CROAKETTES.

Today's Cryptogram clue: G equals W

The Cryptogram is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals Q, it will equal Q throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.