

## Sport

## Cheers down under

From page 13

enormous admiration for our team because they were being bucketed, they were being written off and only a couple of weeks ago people were talking about them being out of the final six and definitely not in the semi-finals."

He nominated captain Steve Waugh was the key to Australia's triumph.

"I think the real turning point for the team and the thing that made last night possible in the first instance and really sets us up to win on Sunday was Steve Waugh's century in the encounter last weekend," he said, referring to Waugh's match-winning 120 not out.

"That is the best one-day innings I have seen, not only for the circumstances in which he batted but also for the pressure that he was under."

"An I would like to join, I am sure, millions of other Australians in congratulating the team in wishing them luck for Sunday."

"I can assure you I will be watching every ball."

Labour opposition leader Kim Beazley joined Howard in congratulating the team.

"Congratulations to Steve Waugh and the boys, a fantastic outcome," he said. "An unbelievable game, I've not seen one like it."

## Run-out, oh no!

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batsman Gary Kirsten's weekly column.

The headline, "Easily the emptiest day of my career," summed up what was to come.

"What a day! I honestly never believed it was possible to feel as empty as this," a mournful Kirsten wrote.

"I have experienced disappointment before, but nothing has ever -- or will ever -- leave me feeling like this again."

"It was the biggest match of our lives and we responded to the occasion as well as the pressure, and at this stage I cannot even speak let alone begin to write about my feelings and the emotions we experienced in the closing stages of the match."

"I know life, and the game, goes on. But at present, I cannot imagine getting over this."

"There was so much to lose. Everything, in fact. No-one remembers losing finalists, let alone semifinalists."

Radio talk shows have also reflected the nation's mourning, with most callers choosing to commiserate with their team.

"Hansie and the boys deserve nothing less than a heroes' welcome, they have done us proud," a woman caller said.

Another recited a stanza from Grantland Rice's famous poem: "For when the one great scorer comes to write against your name he will ask not whether you won or lost, but how you played the game."

## Born again enchanter

From page 13

The 29-year-old wasn't concerned about the constant criticism.

"The ball has been coming out pretty good (throughout the tournament)," he said. "I had a couple of off games, but that's the nature of one-day cricket."

"Today it was all or nothing.... I don't think I've bowled better in a one day game than today."

"I think I'm getting back to the way I used to bowl. So I think that quashes any thoughts that my shoulder has gone or that I'm not good and all that sort of things."

By the end of his first spell - eight overs, four maidens, 12 runs for three wickets - he was being applauded at the end of each of his mesmerising overs.

The only people not clapping at Edgbaston were the batsmen, as they clung to their crease by their fingernails, praying for survival.

Nor was Gatting. The England selector, busy elsewhere, missed the Gibbs dismissal but must surely have made a point of watching the television highlights on Thursday evening.

Waue was to end with figures of 10-4-29-4 after an extraordinary final over in his spell which he conceded 14 runs.

Jacques Kallis, bamboozled by Waue's flight and spin, was dropped first ball by Paul Reiffel at mid-off. The batsmen ran three, Shaun Pollock then smashed a six and a four before taking a single off the fourth.

With the fifth Kallis attempted to hit Waue over the top, but his shot straight at Steve Waugh at cover.

"Someone had to produce a good spell and Waue was the man," Waugh said. "He's a genius."

Waue said Australia was yet to produce their best form in this World Cup, despite winning eight of their ten games, and he issued a warning to Pakistan: "Look out in the final."

## Contrasting

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we had to really dig deep," said the man who was only one win away from his predicted seventh to lift the World Cup.

Rain may delay proceedings to decide that London forecasts have Sunday morning as cloudy and humid with rain. It is supposed to clear around noon, which could mean a late start with first-innings century-maker Chris Read out for just a single this time.

Daren Maddy struck an unbeaten 80 as defending champions Leicestershire powered to 228 for three in their second innings to establish a lead of 251 against Hampshire.

David Mills' four for 47 had helped dismiss Hampshire for 382, which included 60 from Adrian Aymes.

## QUOTABLE QUOTES

LONDON, June 18 (AFP): Who said what during the 1999 cricket World Cup: "I don't know about morals, I'm here to win the World Cup. They make the rules, we have to do as we see fit."

**Australian captain Steve Waugh after his decision to bat slowly against the West Indies to try and eliminate New Zealand.**

"Brian Lara has done extremely well but he can't bat for the whole team. There's nothing wrong with his captaincy. We are not far off from being a decent side."

**West Indies team manager Clive Lloyd after the team's first-round exit.**

"It almost feels like playing at home but that has been the case here in England for a long time. Asians love their cricket. The English, I think, are a bit more inclined towards football."

**Mohammed Azharuddin after India's victory over England at Edgbaston.**

"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.**

"It's not the Pakistan players we fear, but the fans."

**Indian captain Mohammed Azharuddin ahead of their politically-sensitive match at Old Trafford.**

"It's only a game, after all."

**Pakistan cricket captain Wasim Akram appeals for calm before the match against India.**

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**A World Cup umpire after declaring they did not want to be responsible for protecting camera-stamps from fans during pitch invasions.**

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**29-year-old Zimbabwean Neil Johnson, after limping his way to 132 not out against Australia.**

"Run, Inze, run!"

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