

Worcs go six points clear

LONDON, Aug 9 (AFP): Yorkshireman David Leatherdale helped Worcestershire Royals put one over on the county of his birth in Sunday's top-of-the-table clash in Division One of the English National League.

Leatherdale's 54 helped Worcestershire pile up 228 for seven at Headingley as Yorkshire totalled just 143 all out in 37.2 overs to slip six points behind their one-day league rivals.

Bottom-of-the-pile Essex Eagles crashed against Kent Spitfires at Canterbury, going down to a five-wicket defeat, after making only 139 all out in 32 overs.

In Division Two, table-toppers Sussex Sharks got the better of Durham Dynamos at Riverside but there was no way back for bottom club Durham, with Sussex taking less than 30 overs to wrap up an eight-wicket victory.

Somerset Sabres kept the pressure on Sussex at the top after a thrilling two-run victory in their rain-affected game against Middlesex Crusaders at Southampton.

Australian Justin Langer, coming in down the order at number five, was the man who almost carried the Crusaders to an unlikely victory. But, having hit a lightning 84, he was snapped up by occasional medium-pacer Michael Burns.

In the County Championship match between Leicestershire and Warwickshire at Grace Road, Warwickshire's first innings subsided from 214 for four to 306 all out with Leicestershire opener Darren Stevens out for a duck before rain stopped play.

The final day of four between Gloucestershire and Hampshire was abandoned without a ball being bowled at Bristol.

Czech squad for friendly

PRAGUE, Aug 9 (AFP): Czech Republic squad announced here on Monday for friendly with Switzerland in Drnovice on August 18.

Goalkeepers: Ladislav Maier (Rapid Vienna), Pavel Srnicek (Sheffield Wednesday)

Defenders: Marek Nikl (Nuremberg), Tomas Repka (Fiorentina), Jan Suchoparek (TeBe Berlin), Roman Tyce (1860 Munich)

Midfielders: Miroslav Baranek (Sparta Prague), Radek Bejbl (Atletico Madrid), Tomas Galasek (Willem II Tilburg), Pavel Horvath (Slavia Prague), Pavel Nedved (Lazio), Jiri Nemec (Schalke 04), Karel Poborsky (Benfica), Radomir Sloncik (Bank Ostrava)

Forwards: Jan Koller (Anderlecht), Pavel Kuka (VfB Stuttgart), Vratislav Lokvenc (Sparta Prague), Rene Wagner (Rapid Vienna)

Slovakian team for Israel match

BRATISLAVA, Aug 9 (AFP): Slovakian squad announced here on Monday for friendly international with Israel to be played on August 18 in Bratislava.

Goalkeepers: Miroslav Koenig (Slovan Bratislava), Kamil Susko (Spartak Trnava)

Defenders: Marian Zeman (Vitesse Arnhem), Stanislav Varga (Slovan Bratislava), Jozef Valachovic (OD Trencin), Jaroslav Hrabal (Trnava), Roman Kratochvil (Inter Bratislava), Marian Suchanek (Inter Bratislava)

Midfielders: Robert Tomaschek (Slovan Bratislava), Vladimir Labant (Sparta Prague), Peter Dubovska (Oviedo), Vladimir Kozuch (Tatran Presov), Marek Ullaky (Spartak Trnava), Peter Nemeth (Inter Bratislava)

Forwards: Jozef Majors (Slovan Bratislava), Martin Fabus (Sigma Olomouc), Attila Pinte (Inter Bratislava)

Emerson clears

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looks as a threat in this month's home series against Australia.

The Australian team arrives in Sri Lanka on August 17 for three Tests and a one-day tournament against the host nation and India.

Emerson, left off the umpiring roster the coming Australian summer involving India and Pakistan, says he had a doctor's certificate saying he was fit to continue umpiring but the ACB chose to ignore it.

Sri Lanka, led by former captain Arjuna Ranatunga, were threatening to quit the tour until Emerson was dumped.

Emerson during the interview also refused to reveal the identity of a senior Australian player who told him "100 per cent" of Test cricketers believe Muralitharan throws.

The England-Sri Lanka one-dayer last summer was the second time Emerson called Muralitharan for chucking — he made the same call in Brisbane three years before.

Babes now

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other areas, such as Mombasa, Nyanza province and Nakuru.

"We are going to get financial assistance to develop the game from the ICC so that we will be able to produce more cricketers in the country," says Harilal Shah, vice chairman of the Kenyan Cricket Association.

Given that eight of the present squad of 15 are African compared to the single player — a Ugandan at that — who was playing club cricket in Kenya 15 years ago, the game has clearly come a long way.

Graveney goes on record



LONDON, Aug 9: England chairman of selectors David Graveney played down suggestions today that at a dinner on Sunday night with incoming coach Duncan Fletcher was a "crisis" meeting.

"It was just an informal meeting," he said as the rain, which delayed the start of play on the final day of the third test against New Zealand, offered England the chance to escape from Old Trafford with a draw.

"It (the dinner) didn't quite live up to the billing it has been given in the media," Graveney said.

Graveney and Fletcher, who takes up his post on October 1 in time for the tour of South Africa, dined with England captain Nasser Hussain and the English Cricket Board trio of Lord Maclaurin (chairman), Brian Bolus (management advisor), and Simon Pack (international teams director) to discuss the team's current malaise.

"There is no defence in that we are not playing well but this is certainly not a crisis. It was just one of those chats," said Graveney.

"We were looking at what

happens at the Oval (in the fourth and final Test) and the future. It's always a balance between winning the next game and what happens over the next couple of years."

There has been growing concern over the way England have performed this summer.

In the world Cup, which they hosted, they failed to get beyond

the first round and they have been outplayed by New Zealand, one of Test cricket's lesser powers, in the current series.

But Graveney's comments follow criticism not just of the players but of the selectors as well.

Mike Gatting and Graham Gooch, in particular, have come under fire for a conservative attitude which has been England's downfall.

Recall of Hick, for the seventh time in an England career which began in 1991, has caused consternation especially as leaked reports that Graveney was against his return suggest a certain disharmony among the selectors.

"We are aware, and I am

aware as chairman of the selectors that there are some priorities and I am not deaf to the cries of the public," Graveney said.

The public, meanwhile, may now be deaf of the cries of the selectors.

Just 4,000 turned up for the fourth day's play on Sunday at Old Trafford.

DAVID GRAVENEY

Gough's another WC role

LONDON, Aug 9 (Internet report): England's fastest bowler Darren Gough, video specialists PT Video and Sky Sports have collaborated to produce "Carnival of Cricket — the Official World Cup Review Featuring Darren Gough", the definitive and official video guide to the 1999 Cricket World Cup.

The video is now available for all.

From the preliminary rounds right through to the final, one of the most enigmatic cricketers in the World today, Gough takes cricket fans through all the action and all the emotion from the 1999 World Cup.

The video also features Sky Sports' unparalleled team of commentators including David Gower, Ian Botham, Bob Willis, Alan Border and Sunil Gavaskar, amongst others.

With extensive match coverage, including arguably the most exciting one-day internationals ever between Australia and South Africa in the semi-finals, "Carnival of Cricket — the Official World Cup Review Featuring Darren Gough" looks at the most influential games, the best strokes, the greatest catches and the personalities who really stood out in this World Cup, including Lance

Klusener, Shoaib Akhtar, Sachin Tendulkar and the inimitable Waugh twins.

In addition, there's Gough's unique insight into the tournament, with specially shot digi-camera footage as he goes behind the scenes with the

pitch and commented: "I am a fast bowler first and foremost, and have never seen myself as a film-maker, but I have really enjoyed myself with the camera right from day one."

For a cricket fan this video will be the perfect review of the Cricket World Cup, and even if you're not a fan it's a great way to experience the excitement of international one-day cricket."

Andrew Silver, Licensing Manager at Sky Sports said:

"We know that cricket fans will want to watch "Carnival of Cricket — the Official World Cup Review Featuring Darren Gough" to re-live the highlights of the spectacular Sky Sports' World Cup coverage, and even though England did not make it too far, we are sure demand will be huge amongst all cricket fans."

PT Video are also releasing

"Carnival of Cricket — Darren Gough's World Cup Review" on DVD, which promises to utilise the capability of DVD technology to give viewers even more unseen footage and features not available on the traditional VHS format.

Carnival of Cricket is also the first ever made-for-DVD sports programme and the first ever DVD to fully utilise multiple camera angles.

DARREN GOUGH

England cricket team. We also get in amongst the crowds for an exclusive fan's eye view of the whole proceedings.

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WC role

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FA await ref's report on Gullit

LONDON, Aug 9: The English Football Association (FA) were on Monday awaiting referee Uriah Rennie's match report before deciding whether to act against Newcastle United manager Ruud Gullit following Saturday's Premiership match at St James Park, reports AFP.

The Dutchman blew his top at the referee after Newcastle lost their opening Premiership game of the season to Aston Villa 1-0 and had captain Alan Shearer sent off in his 100th appearance for the club.

Rennie showed Shearer, who will be 29 on Friday, a red card after deciding he had committed two bookable offences, both during aerial challenges with Villa's Colin Calderwood.

Shearer shook his head in disbelief as he saw red for the first time in his illustrious career.

"We are aware, and I am aware as chairman of the selectors that there are some priorities and I am not deaf to the cries of the public," Graveney said.

The public, meanwhile, may now be deaf of the cries of the selectors.

Just 4,000 turned up for the fourth day's play on Sunday at Old Trafford.

An FA spokesman said on Monday no action could be taken until Rennie's match report landed at Lancaster Gate.

Gullit raged after the defeat

that he would be willing to pay any fine imposed by the FA because he knew he was right.

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