

**Castle Cup final**  
**Angola take**  
**first leg**

LUANDA, Sept 27: The destiny of the Castle Cup Southern Africa championship hangs in the balance after Angola beat Namibia 1-0 in the first leg of the final here on Sunday.

Middlefielder Alberto 'Betinho' Ferreira scored the 14th-minute winner by converting a penalty kick before a capacity 60,000 crowd at the Citadela Stadium.

Ferreira regained his composure after being tripped by Namibia captain Bimbo Tjhero and calmly slotted a low shot into the corner of the net past the outstretched hand of Ronnie Kanalelo.

It was ironic that outsiders Namibia should lose to a penalty kick as they reached the final of the three-year competition for the first time by beating Malawi, South Africa and Swaziland in shootouts.

However, the Brave Warriors should not be unhappy with the result as missing stars Mohammed Ouseb, Robert Nauseb, Razendru Tjikzu and Quinton Jacobs will be available for the second leg in Windhoek on Saturday.

Angola were on top for the most of the opening half on a warm, cloudless afternoon in the coastal capital city with leading Castle Cup scorer Ferreira prominent.

However, the Brazilian-coached Black Antelopes tired in the closing stages and Namibian Simon Uttoni completed a miserable match by failing to score with only goal-keeper Fernando 'Nando' Morais to beat.

Oswaldo Joni' Cruz rescued Angola earlier in the second half by heading a spectacular overhead kick from Eliphas Shivute off the line when Morais misjudged an Uttoni corner.

Uttoni fired over twice late in the first half with only the goalkeeper to beat while the legs of Kanalelo foiled Ferreira and unmarked Salvador 'Jaburu' Avelino spurned another chance by heading at Kanalelo.

Long-serving Angolan defender Juliao Kutonha won the man of the match prize awarded after each match in a championship bankrolled by a South African brewery.

**English Div 1**

**Ipswich down**  
**Man City**

IPSWICH, England, Sept 27: A 67th-minute goal by debutant Gary Croft gave Ipswich Town a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Manchester City at Portman Road in the English first division on Sunday, reports AFP.

The result lifted Ipswich into second place on 17 points, one point behind leaders Birmingham and one ahead of City.

Croft, who signed from Blackburn in midweek, collected a pass from Jamie Clapham and his right foot shot deflected off veteran defender Richard Johnson giving City goalkeeper Nicky Weaver no chance.

Ipswich had gone ahead after 43 minutes when a glorious header gave David Johnson his ninth goal of the season.

He rose to power home a right-wing cross from Fabian Wilnis. Weaver got a hand to the ball but could not prevent it from entering the net.

It was the first goal City had conceded in away league matches this season.

Ipswich abandoned their sweeper system for the second half and within five minutes City had drawn level.

A cross from Paul Dickov from the left enabled Bermudian international Shaun Goater to glide home his seventh goal of the season.

**Basketball**  
**diplomacy!**

SEOUL, Sept 27: South Korean basketball players headed to North Korea today to play the first friendly matches between the hostile nations divided for more than 50 years, organisers said, reports AFP.

An 80-strong delegation, including 26 basketball players from South Korea's biggest conglomerate Hyundai Group, flew to Beijing in the morning heading for Pyongyang, Hyundai officials said.

The Hyundai team will play the first inter-Korean friendly basketball matches, dubbed here the "Unification Basketball Tournament," against its Northern counterpart in Pyongyang on Tuesday and Wednesday.

South Korea's three major television networks, including KBS, plan to broadcast the matches — a women's and a men's mixed match on Tuesday, and a women's and a men's match on Wednesday — via satellite.

**WTA Tour**  
**rankings**

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, Sept 27 (Reuters): Top 20 women's tennis players, according to the WTA Tour rankings issued today (number in brackets is previous week's ranking):

Players	pts
1 (1) Hingis	5,620
2 (2) Davenport	5,014
3 (3) Venus Williams	3,991
4 (4) Serena Williams	3,144
5 (5) Monica Seles	2,880
6 (6) Mary Pierce	2,628
7 (9) Amanda Coetzer	1,929
8 (7) Barbara Schett	1,918
9 (8) Julie Hingis	1,897
10 (13) Van Roost	1,833
11 (10) Nathalie Tauziat	1,796
12 (17) Amelie Mauresmo	1,753
13 (12) Sandrine Testud	1,721
14 (16) Conchita Martinez	1,586
15 (11) Sanchez-Vicario	1,574
16 (15) Kournikova	1,554
17 (17) Likhovtseva	1,449
18 (18) Novotna	1,421
19 (19) Irina Spirlea	1,319
20 (22) Amy Frazer	1,300

# Sachin at the helm till March



NEW DELHI, Sept 27: (Internet report): Sachin Tendulkar has been named skipper of the Indian team till March next year, says a report of The Hindu daily.

The national selectors, under the newly-elected chairman, Chandu Borde, met here on Saturday and after prolonged discussions announced the Rest of India XI for the Irani Trophy match against Karnataka next week, besides the India 'A' and Board President's XI teams which will face the visiting New Zealand team in two three-day fixtures, next month.

Addressing mediapersons, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary, JY Lele, said Tendulkar's nomination was "subject to his fitness." Tendulkar, after being diagnosed for back ailment in Adelaide, had indicated that he would be fit to lead the side again in the home series against New Zealand.

After the World Cup, Tendulkar was named skipper for the three-nation tournament in Colombo and Singapore but owing to a recurrence of the back-injury, the master batsman could complete only the first leg of his assignment. Jadeja and Ganguly shared the responsibility in Singapore before the latter led India to a 2-1 triumph over West Indies in Toronto.

Jadeja regained the captaincy for the on-going four-nation tournament in Nairobi.

The Board secretary, however, had no answer when told that, unlike India, countries like South Africa and Australia tested many of young players in home against New Zealand between October 10 and November 17, besides three Tests and a tri-series involving host Australia and Pakistan, between November 26, 1999 to February 13, 2000.

Lele also said that Kapil Dev, the new coach, would participate in the selection process from the next meeting of the committee as an "invited member." The selectors will meet on October 5 to announce the team for the first Test against New Zealand at Mohali (October 10 to 14).

Announcing that the new physiotherapist, South African Andrew Leipus, would join the team at Mohali on October 8 or 9, Lele defended India playing so much international cricket.

"India played less than 12 Tests and 40 one-day internationals (the ceiling laid down by

the ICC) in a season while Australia and South Africa played more," Lele pointed out.

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