

Second Test  
Unchanged  
India

MOHALI, India, Oct 14: India retained today the 14-member squad which played the first Test against New Zealand for the second Test which begins in the northern city of Kanpur on October 22, reports AFP.

Chandu Borde, chairman of the selection committee, told reporters here the decision was taken unanimously by the selection committee.

**The team:** Sachin Tendulkar (captain), Devang Gandhi, Sadagopan Ramesh, Rahul Dravid, Saurav Ganguly, Ajay Jadeja, Vijay Bharadwaj, MSK Prasad, Anil Kumble, Sunil Joshi, Jayavagal Srinath, Venkatesh Prasad, Harbhajan Singh, Debasish Mohanty.

Hussain hopes to upset SA

LONDON, Oct 14 (Internet report): Nasser Hussain is adamant England can turn the world cricket ratings on their head by beating South Africa this winter.

The England captain, mindful of England's position at the foot of Wisden's world rankings after their home series defeat by New Zealand and South Africa's elevated standing near the top, insists nevertheless that he and his players have it in them to beat Hansie Cronje and Co.

Looking ahead to the Test series which starts next month, Hussain said, "Everyone keeps telling us we've got no chance, but that makes us more determined."

"If they think they're going to be playing the worst side in the world they've got a few surprises coming. We've got a good chance to win."

Hussain, speaking to schoolchildren in Essex as part of a Tesco-sponsored initiative, admitted: "South Africa are one of the two best sides in the world at the moment, and according to the rankings - we're the worst."

Even so he is gearing himself and his team up for a series win in South Africa, adding it is crucial he and his team deliver in the interests of the English game in the long as well as short term.

The most important thing is for England to win. Then the stars become superstars and the youngsters find it all more exciting," he said.

"Our system at county level is not elitist enough. We need to gear everything towards playing for England."

Thompson to stay at Kent

LONDON, Oct 14 (Internet report): Kent County Cricket Club yesterday announced that Julian Thompson has agreed to play for Kent next season.

He has accepted a one-year contract that gives him the opportunity to build on his exceptional performances in 1999 and boosts Kent's chances of success in 2000.

At the end of the 1999 season the Club agreed with Julian that he should take time to consider the options available to him between his chosen career of medicine and the extension of his career in cricket.

The Club is delighted that he has elected to give himself the chance of another year in the game.

Commenting on Julian's decision, Paul Millman, Kent's Chief Executive, said:

"Everyone at Kent is delighted with the choice that Julian has made. As our Player of the Year in 1999 he made an outstanding contribution to the Club and his decision to stay is obviously a major boost to our chances of success in 2000."

"On the back of our recent signing of Rahul Dravid as our Overseas Player and the reappointment of Matthew Fleming as Captain, this development means that our prospects for next season are much enhanced."

Schett ousted by Morariu

ZURICH, Oct 14: American qualifier Corina Morariu beat fifth seed Barbara Schett of Austria 7-6, 0-6, 6-4 yesterday to win a place in the quarterfinals of the European Indoor Championship, reports Reuters.

The 21-year-old's first victory over a top 10 player earned her a clash with world number one Martina Hingis.

"I've had a couple of close matches against the top players but haven't been able to pull through," said Morariu. "So I guess this would be the biggest win of my career."

Schett, who has yet to reach a final this season but is enjoying the best year of her career climbing to number seven in the world rankings, looked in complete control as she took a 4-1 lead in the opening set.

But Morariu fought back to take five of the next six games, forcing the set to a tie-break to which she won 8-6.

A second set collapse by the American allowed Schett to level the match but Morariu again struck a vein of form in the third, racing to a 4-1 lead and then holding on for victory.

"She (Schett) was a little irritated after the first set so she started really going for her shots in the second," said Morariu. "In the third I regrouped and was able to hang in there."

Fourth seed Amanda Coetzer of South Africa battled back from a set down to book her place in the quarterfinals with a 1-6, 6-3, 6-2 win over Swiss Patty Schnyder while sixth seed Julie Haldor-Decugis of France avenged a first round defeat by Anke Huber in Filderstadt last week with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over the German.

# Bravehearts' battle royale



LONDON, Oct 14 (AP): Picture custard-haired Paul Gascoigne in 1996, lying prostrate on the Wembley turf as England team-mate Teddy Sheringham squirts a water bottle into his mouth.

Picture thousands of rampant Scottish fans snapping a Wembley crossbar and hacking up chunks of the hallowed turf to stick on their mantelpieces in 1997.

Picture Scotland legends Jim Baxter and Denis Law inspiring epic Wembley victories in 1963 and again in 1967, when England were World Cup holders.

Picture all this, and you begin to understand why fans both north and south of the border are working themselves into a frenzy over the Euro 2000 play-off between England and Scotland after the two were paired in Wednesday's draw.

The fixture between the so-called Auld Enemies is the oldest international in the history of the game, dating back 127 years to 1872, when England earned a 0-0 draw in Glasgow.

In all the fixture, abandoned as an annual encounter 10 years ago because of the long history of crowd disorder it attracted, has been played 108 times, with England winning 44 to Scotland's 40.

Since 1989, the teams have met just once, on a sunny June day at Euro 96 when Gascoigne's superb individual goal helped England to a 2-0 win at Wembley.

Scotland's Gary McAllister

saw a penalty saved by David Seaman with the score at 1-0, and Scots fans swear to this day that the ball mysteriously moved off its spot just before he struck it too close to the England keeper.

Such stories are the stuff of football folklore of course, and, apart from several thousand cans of lager, revenge is what the Tartan Army will be thirsting for come the second leg of the play-off at Wembley on November 17.

Former Scotland international Andy Gray certainly believes so.

"I was a supporter in Euro 96 - dressed in tartan - and I was so disappointed at Wembley because we did well that day," Gray said.

"There is a chance now for Scotland to do themselves justice. It will be a lot closer than some would suggest."

There is no doubt that England have got a stronger squad but Scotland have got a very good team spirit, good organisation and don't give many goals away."

By the time they reach Wembley, Scotland hope to have established a lead at the revamped Hampden Park in the first leg, likely to take place on November 13 at 1:00 pm (1200 GMT).

Scotland's recent record against England is not good - they have lost four of the last five encounters and scored just one goal in the process.

The form book, of course, counts for nothing in derby matches, and both legs are

likely to be scrappy and frenetic, with tempers frayed both on and off the pitch. The Beautiful Game it will not be.

Former Rangers and England winger Trevor Steven played in the last Hampden Park game between the two countries, which England won 2-0 in 1989, and insists that the first leg in Glasgow will be the key to the tie.

"Hampden is a changed stadium now. I played in the last England game there and it was important that we won just for a bit of peace on a day-to-day basis because there were few of us playing in Scotland," Steven said.

"But you can't look past the first game - that is the vital match. England are the stronger team on paper."

The passion of the Scots will be immense on the day but England have the better individual quality."

Security-wise, the draw is the second worst option for the authorities.

An England trip to Dublin to face Ireland would have posed greater problems following the crowd violence which forced the abandonment of a 'friendly' between the two sides in 1995.

But violence has always been associated with England-Scotland fixtures and in 1996 there were running battles between rival fans and police around London's Trafalgar Square after Scotland's defeat.

England's 2000 World Cup bid organisers will be among those hoping there is no recurrence next month.

## Baby Flos bloom

OSLO, Oct 14 (Reuters): Norwegian star striker Tore Andre Flo and his brother Jostein did not just play soccer at the 1998 World Cup finals in France - both their girlfriends got pregnant, reports Reuters.

Jostein Flo, also a striker with Norwegian club Stromsgodset, came up with the idea of simultaneous pregnancies while sharing a flat in France with Chelsea's Tore Andre and their cousin Havard Flo who plays for England's Wolverhampton.

The daily Dagbladet quoted

Jostein on Wednesday as saying: "I proposed it in the room. Tore Andre took the hint but Havard was a bit slow and took an extra two months before he got round to it."

Jostein's partner Trine Grung had a baby boy, Trine, in the middle of March. Tore Andre's girlfriend Randi Svedal also had a son, Johan, on March 26, just over nine months after Norway beat Brazil 2-1 in one of the biggest upsets of the World Cup. Havard became a father in May.

Tore Andre scored one of Norway's goals in the defeat of Brazil as Norway made it through the first round only to be knocked out by Italy.

Dagbladet discloses that the couple used to say they were going off to play "tennis", with euphemisms for sex including "three sets," "five sets" or "tiebreak."

The Flo family have been a mainstay of Norwegian soccer in the 1990s and the selection of all three men for the World Cup marked their biggest triumph together.

## French First Division

# Auxerre gain at Monaco's cost

PARIS, Oct 14: Auxerre went top of the French First Division Wednesday with a 3-1 at Strasbourg while Monaco, who could have gone top if they had won, crashed 3-2 at the hands of defending champions Bordeaux, who produced their best performance of the season, reports AFP.

The French First Division

has been a topsy-turvy affair

this season with Auxerre,

Monaco, Paris St Germain, Lyon and even Sedan all top-

ping the table at some stage in

marked contrast to last season,

when Bordeaux and Marseille

were streets ahead of their

ivals throughout the campaign.

Auxerre's win saw them take

over the summit from Lyon.

It only took Auxerre two

minutes to make their mark in

the Alsatian capital.

Defender Laurent Ciechelski

gave the Burgundy side a 1-0

lead and just five minutes Auxerre skipper Stephane Guivarc

h made it 2-0 to the visitors with a well-taken goal.

Steve Marlet was the creator of both goals with crosses from the right.

French World Cup winner Guivarc's return to Auxerre after a nightmare year with Newcastle and Rangers has transformed the fortunes of the club that only escaped relegation on the last day of last season.

Auxerre narrowed the deficit after 17 minutes.

Olivier Echouafni floated into the Auxerre area unmarked to loop a header from Teddy Bertin's freekick past goalkeeper Fabien Cio.

After 32 minutes Marlet got his reward and made it 3-1 after a cross from Guivarc's World Cup team-mate Bernard Diomede. That was the end of the scoring in a match dominated by the visitors.

Bordeaux, meanwhile, made a strong start and after it was no surprise when they took the lead.

It was last season's Champi-

onship winning strikeforce of Sylvain Wiltord and Lilian Laslandes that came up with the goal.

The duo, currently France coach Roger Lemerre's first-choice starting line-up, linked up superbly. Corentin Martins freed Wiltord down the right and Wiltord, the French first division's top scorer last season, played in an inch-perfect first-time centre which Laslandes cleverly diverted past the advancing Fabien Barthez.

Bordeaux were dominating but Monaco squared the match out of the blue. Italian striker Marco Simone held off a challenge before beating Bordeaux's goalkeeper Ulrich Rame with a low shot.

But almost immediately Laslandes put Bordeaux back ahead, superbly volleying a Francois Grene cross past Barthez.

Laslandes missed a glorious hat-trick opportunity in the second period after a flowing move involving Wiltord, Johan Micoud and Martins and was then withdrawn.

Laslandes joins Guivarc's in second spot in the goalscoring charts behind Monaco's David Trezeguet.

Shortly after his departure Monaco almost made it 2-2.

Simone fed Ludovic Giuly, who skipped past two tackles and his shot was half-stopped by Rame. The ball went spinning towards goal but Bordeaux defender Jerome Bonnissel cleared the ball just before Giuly could get a touch.

But Wiltord wrapped up the points with a 74th minute goal. He planted his shot wide of Barthez's right hand for his sixth goal of the season.

Monaco reduced arrears when Simone made it 3-2 with five minutes remaining. A harmless looking long throw was headed on but Rame, who had just made a superb stop from Giuly, could not prevent Simone's volley from finding the net.

Rennes thrashed newly promoted Sedan 5-0 in the most one-sided match of the night. The pick of the goals was the second a superb five-man move finished by an angled shot from Cedric Bardon.

St Etienne boosted their campaign with a 1-0 win at Montpellier secured by Brazilian striker Alex while Lens crashed 2-0 in Corsica to Bastia.

Metz and Nancy finished 2-2 in the Lorraine derby while Troyes vanquished Le Havre 3-1.

## Juve target Nakata

MILAN, Oct 14: Juventus want to sign Perugia's Japanese star Hidetoshi Nakata, the Gazzetta dello Sport reported on Thursday, partly for his footballing skills and partly for his sponsorship potential, reports AFP.

Unknown here before last season, Nakata is now rated as one of the best playmakers in Italian football.

He scored twice on his Serie A debut last year, against the very club now interested in signing him, and has proved his consistency again this season.

However, the former Asian Player of the Year is being sought not only for his vision on the field, but also his lucrative image off it - particularly with Japan preparing to co-host the 2002 World Cup finals.

Juventus are interested in the player and Nakata's Japanese sponsors, along with the Turin club, are equally attracted by the idea of him playing for one of the world's greatest football teams as the finals draw closer.

The Gazzetta claimed that Nakata has already been the subject of transfer talks at Juventus in the past, with the Turin club having had a chance to sign the midfielder two years ago.

The move reportedly failed to materialise as the club felt that Nakata, then only 20, wasn't ready to face the onslaught of the world's toughest football league. "Now the situation has changed a lot," the paper said.

The high-profile pair were joined by Liverpool, Derby and Watford following the exits of fellow top flight sides Newcastle, Bradford and Sunderland on Tuesday.

United, fielding a virtual third team, lost 3-0 at Aston Villa while Chelsea went down 1-0 at home to first division Huddersfield.

Gambill said playing against Chang in a quarterfinal in Shanghai last week for that city's Heineken Open helped him address parts of his game he was unhappy with.

"I didn't have a lot going my way," Chang said after the match. "I feel like I played good tennis, it wasn't my day to get the breaks. I had my chances and I wasn't able to take advantage of them."

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