

Walsh's arm right as rain

JAMAICA, Oct 24: Julian Fountain is a fielding coach, not a faith healer, but he claims he has restored one of the weakest throwing arms in cricket to its former strength.

He told the Daily Gleaner after a recent session with Jamaican players at Kingston's Sabina Park that the great West Indies fast bowler Courtney Walsh should now be able to throw from the deep for the remainder of his cricketing career.

The 37-year-old Walsh has not thrown from the outfield for a number of years, preferring to bowl in the ball for those of pain associated with throwing from distances. But, according to the paper, he was convinced by Fountain to try a different style that had done the trick.

"When I came here, I was told that Walsh couldn't throw and that he hadn't thrown for ten years," Fountain said.

"However, I managed to convince him to change what he did, the way he threw the ball and he was able to throw to me from 20-25 yards without any pain whatsoever."

"I think it was a case of Walsh being tense, not relaxed when throwing, and that caused the pain," Fountain added.

Fountain, a 37-year-old Englishman, was appointed by the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) to work with the team during last season's home series against Australia and the World Cup in England.

But he does not have a full-time WICB contract and told the Gleaner he is not happy with the consistency with which he works with the senior team.

"I haven't been with the senior team since the World Cup," he explained.

"I understand that developing youngsters is key because they are supposed to be the ones to take over in the future but there are fielding practices in the senior team that need to be corrected. (Courtesy: Daily Gleaner of Jamaica)

Azhar remains defiant

BHOPAL, Oct 24: Deposed Indian captain Mohammad Azharuddin Saturday ruled out possibility of his retiring from the game in the near future and said he was confident that he would be selected for the third Test against New Zealand, reports PTI.

"I have not at all thought of retiring from the game of cricket, the veteran of 98 Tests and 323 one-day internationals told reporters here.

He said he was not only hopeful but confident as well that he would be selected for the October 29-November 2 third and final Test against the tourists at Ahmedabad and for the Australian tour starting November 22.

The team for the final Test against New Zealand will be selected at Kanpur on October 26 while that for the one-day matches and the Australian tour are scheduled to be picked during the Ahmedabad Test.

The 36-year-old wristy Hyderabad batsman said he had no problems with the new coach and former colleague Kapil Dev or in playing under the new captain Sachin Tendulkar and pointed out that he had given good performances under Tendulkar's captaincy earlier.

Test debut for Dippenaar

JOHANNESBURG, Oct 24 (AFP): Hendrick "Boet" Dippenaar will make his Test debut for South Africa against Zimbabwe in Bloemfontein Friday in the first of two home-and-away Tests between the southern Africa neighbours.

Dippenaar, 22, was picked as an opening batsman following injuries to both South Africa's regular Test openers, Gary Kirsten and Herschelle Gibbs.

He will partner Adam Bacher, who was recalled after being dropped last season.

Kirsten's record run of 53 consecutive Tests for South Africa ended when he suffered a broken bone in his left little finger in a provincial match Friday, while Gibbs has not recovered from a toe tendon injury he received during a one-day tournament in Kenya earlier this month.

The Test will be the first to be played in Bloemfontein. The return match will start in Harare on November 11.

TEAM

Hansie Cronje (captain), Adam Bacher, Boet Dippenaar, Jacques Kallis, Darryl Cullinan, Jonty Rhodes, Shaun Pollock, Mark Boucher, Lance Klusener, Allan Donald, Paul Adams, Nicky Boje (12th man).

Victory for Victoria

ADELAIDE, Australia, Oct 24 (AFP): A double-century opening partnership propelled Victoria to a come-from-behind outright victory over South Australia in their Sheffield Shield cricket match at the Adelaide Oval Sunday.

South Australia set a target of 287 runs off 79 overs in declaring their second innings at 220 for five.

But centuries by openers Matthew Elliott and Jason Arnberger and the failure of the South Australian bowlers pushed Victoria past the total with nine wickets to spare.

Victoria scored 287 for one in 64.5 overs with Elliott and Arnberger compiling an opening stand of 242.

Arnberger brought up his second first-class century to remain not out 123 of 182 balls with 14 fours. Elliott made 137 off 188 deliveries, including 16 fours and one six.

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