

Pete may end year not as number one

STUTTGART, Oct 25: Pete Sampras' hopes of finishing the season as world number one for the seventh time in a row virtually disappeared after he pulled out of the Eurocard Open yesterday, reports Reuters.

The 28-year-old Wimbledon champion was forced out of the tournament which begins today through a shoulder injury.

His exit cost him 195 ranking points and he now lies 1,100 behind US and French Open champion Andre Agassi.

If top seed Agassi wins in Stuttgart, then the gap between the two would grow far too much for Sampras to realistically catch up.

He plans only two more tournaments in 1999, the Paris Open the week after next and the ATP World Championship finals in Hanover two weeks after that.

Kumble

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McMillan lbw Kumble 31
Cairns b Joshi 2
Vettori not out 8
Wiseman lbw Kumble 0
Extras (0-5, lb-9, nb-10) 24
Total: (All out in 66.5 overs) 155

Fall of wickets: 1-16; 2-16; 3-17; 4-28; 5-33; 6-71; 7-128; 8-138; 9-150; 10-155

Bowler: O M R W
Srinath 9 5 12 0
Ganguly 1 0 2 0
Kumble 26.5 5 67 6
Joshi 15 6 27 1
Singh 15 3 33 3

INDIA: Second innings

Ramesh b Cairns 5
Gandhi not out 31
Dravid lbw Nash 1
Tendulkar not out 44
Extras (lb-1, nb-1) 2
Total: (For two wickets in 19 overs) 83

Fall of wickets: 1-5; 2-7
Bowler: O M R W
Cairns 3 1 10 1
Nash 4 1 11 1
Vettori 6.2 2 22 0
Wiseman 5 0 39 0

Result: India won by eight wickets to take a 1-0 lead in the three-Test series.

Umpire: Anil

First Test: Mohali

— Drawn.

Final Test: Ahmedabad, October 29 to November 2.

Lillee set for

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SQUADS

President's XI: Simon Katich (captain), Jo Angel, Rob Baker, Ryan Campbell, Matthew Hayden, Michael Hussey, Brendon Julian, Stuart Karpilien,

— Langer, Dennis Lillee, Lillee, Marsh (last man to be named).

Pakistan: (from): Wasim Akram (captain), Moiz Khan (vice-captain), Saeed Anwar, Wajahatullah Wasti, Ghulam Ali, Inzamamul Haq, Ijaz Ahmed, Yousef Youhanna, Mohammad Wasim, Abdur Razzaq, Azhar Mahmood, Saqlain Mushtaq, Mushtaq Ahmed, Mohammad Akram, Shoib Akhtar, Waqar Younis (to be named).

ITINERARY

October 1999

— v ACB Chairman's XI

Oct 26, Lilac Hill, Perth.

v Western Warriors

Oct 27, Perth, Day/Night match.

v Queensland Bulls

Oct 30-Nov 2, Border Field, Albin.

v Australia, 1st Ansett, Australia Test

Nov 5-9 Brisbane.

v Southern Redbacks

Nov 12-15, Adelaide.

v Australia, 2nd Ansett

Australia Test

Nov 18-22, Hobart.

v Australia, 3rd Ansett

Australia Test

Nov 26-30, Perth.

January 2000

v Australia 'A'

Jan 2, Perth, Day/Night match.

v Australia 'A'

Jan 4, Adelaide, Day/Night match.

v Queensland Bulls

Jan 6, Brisbane, Day/Night match.

v Australia, Carlton & United Series

Jan 9, Brisbane, Day/Night match.

v India, Carlton & United Series

Jan 10, Brisbane, Day/Night match.

v Australian Country XI

Jan 12, Canberra.

v Australia, Carlton & United Series

Jan 16, Melbourne.

v Australia, Carlton & United Series

Jan 19, Sydney, Day/Night match.

v India, Carlton & United Series

Jan 21, Hobart.

v Australia, Carlton & United Series

Jan 23, Melbourne.

Day/Night match.

v India, Carlton & United Series

Jan 25, Adelaide, Day/Night match.

v India, Carlton & United Series

Jan 28, Perth, Day/Night match.

February 2000

Carlton & United Series

First Final

Feb 2, Melbourne, Day/Night match (Reserve Day: Feb 3).

Carlton & United Series

Second Final

Feb 4, Sydney, Day/Night match (Reserve Day Feb 5).

Carlton & United Series

Third Final (if required)

Feb 6, Sydney, Day/Night match (Reserve Day Feb 7).

The official programme, as announced by the Australian Cricket Board, is subject to change without notice.

The Pakistan team will return to Pakistan on December 2, 1999 and return to Australia on December 30, 1999.

Nasser's men fly to SA today



LONDON, Oct 25: England's cricketers set off for their tour of South Africa on Tuesday as the worst team in the world, reports Reuters.

They aim to return next February with the makings of a side who can offer an authentic challenge for the Ashes in 2001 and the World Cup in 2003.

England's longer term objectives were a prime consideration in giving captain Nasser Hussain eight players in a squad of 17 with only nine Test caps between them.

For all their lack of international experience, they were identified as the prospects who might ultimately transform the team's ailing fortunes.

They were at their lowest ebb after failing to progress beyond the first round the World Cup and losing a four-Test series to New Zealand 2-1 in the last English season.

Hussain said: "We are the worst side in the world but we must try to keep on an even keel, try and look long term and set a game plan for two or three years down the line."

The feeling generally when we sat down to pick the side was 'let's see an injection of youth and new talent'. That's what we've tried to do for this tour, and I'm excited to see how some of these lads are going to go."

Sussex captain and powerful top-order batsman Chris Adams, Yorkshire opener Michael Vaughan, his county teammate and all rounder Gavin Hamilton, and Northamptonshire off-spinner Graeme Swann are the uncapped quartet with the opportunity to help haul England out of the doldrums.

In addition, relative newcomers Darren Maddy, Andrew Flintoff, Chris Read and Alex Tudor will be battling for a regular place during the four-month southern African adventure which includes a one-day series in Zimbabwe.

Read, the Nottinghamshire wicketkeeper who played three of the Tests against New Zealand, appears to have the hardest job because Alec Stewart has been pencilled in as the first-choice Test keeper.

Former England skipper Stewart forms part of the 'spine of experience' that chairman of selectors David Graveney says they want to have running through the side.

Such a backbone starts with opener Michael Atherton, who is returning to the scene of his epic, match-saving 185 not out in the Johannesburg Test four years ago, continues with Stewart and Hussain in the middle, and has Darren Gough at the base.

Gough is not only their premier strike bowler but also the heart of the team, a personality whose infectious spirit can be guaranteed to lift the mood of

the dressing room.

He can rattle the South African batting, too, as he did so memorably with his Test best of six for 42 to fire England to a series-winning victory at Headingly in 1998.

Hussain will want men of heart and character around him for what will be a demanding assignment.

"South Africans, by their personality, nationality and team spirit, are very up for it," the England captain said. "They are in your face sort of people on and off the field, and it's going to be a hard tour that will take a strong character to come

ENG V SA: SERIES BY SERIES

LONDON, Oct 25 (Reuters): Results of all Test series between England and South Africa.

Season	Tests	Eng won	SA won	Drawn
1888-89	in South Africa	2	2	0
1891-92	in South Africa	1	1	0
1895-96	in South Africa	3	3	0
1898-99	in South Africa	2	2	0
1905-06	in South Africa	5	1	4
1907	in England	3	1	0
1909-10	in South Africa	5	2	3
1912	in England	3	3	0
1913-14	in South Africa	5	4	0
1922-23	in South Africa	5	2	1
1924	in England	5	3	0
1927-28	in South Africa	5	2	2
1929	in England	5	2	0
1930-31	in South Africa	5	0	1
1935	in England	5	0	1
1938-39	in South Africa	5	1	0
1947	in England	5	3	0
1948-49	in South Africa	5	2	0
1951	in England	5	3	1
1955	in England	5	3	2
1956-57	in South Africa	5	2	2
1960	in England	5	3	0
1964-65	in South Africa	5	1	0
1965	in England	3	0	1
1994	in England	3	1	1
1995-96	in South Africa	5	0	1
1998	in England	5	2	1
	Totals	115	49	21
				45

out on top.

Strength of character comes about in different ways. If you want to be in their face, then be in their face, but it also comes out from inner strength."

Recalling the fiery confrontation between Atherton and fast bowler Allan Donald in the 1998 Trent Bridge Test, Hussain said: "I don't think Mike said a lot but you could see in his eyes and in his face he was going to be strong."

"I think that's the sort of strength of character and the way we want our team to be. It has to come from knowing your game and feeling 100 per cent confident in your ability whatever they throw at you."

England's itinerary opens on November 1 and includes five Tests against South Africa and a triangular one-day series with the host nation and Zimbabwe.

ITINERARY

Oct 26: Depart UK.

Nov 1: v NPO XI, Randjesfontein.

Nov 2, 3: v Easterns, Benoni.

Nov 3-8: v Combined Western

Hussain did not establish himself as an England regular until six years after that 1990 Caribbean tour, by which time his growing maturity and fiercely determined middle order batting brought him back in favour with the national selectors.

It was at the Jamaica ground on March 1, 1990, that England, including new boy Hussain, beat the all-conquering West Indies in a Test for the first time in 16 years.

Nearly 10 years on, Hussain recalls that a key element in England's triumph was the inclusion of players who had never tasted defeat at the hands of West Indies.

As he now prepares for his first overseas assignment as England captain, Hussain hopes the composition of his squad for the tour of South Africa will have a similar effect on the country's cricket fortunes.

England, bottom of the unofficial Test rankings after losing a four