

Pollock plunders Zimbabwe

BLOEMFONTEIN, Oct 29: Shaun Pollock took four wickets as Zimbabwe stumbled to 121 for seven at tea on the first day after being sent in to bat in their Test match against South Africa at Springbok Park on Friday, reports AFP.

Pollock took full advantage of a pitch which offered good bounce to the fast bowlers as he claimed four for 34, upstaging his new ball partner Allan Donald, who took one for 32 in the first Test match played in Donald's home town of Bloemfontein.

The top order were swept aside as Hansie Cronje's decision to field was justified. Only visiting captain Alastair Campbell, who made 27, offered resistance before a seventh wicket stand of 38 between Gavin Rennie (14) and Guy Whittall (22 not out).

Zimbabwe's troubles started when Pollock trapped Grant Flower lbw for nought with his second ball. He followed up in his fifth over when Murray Goodwin top-edged a hook to wicketkeeper Mark Boucher.

Zimbabwe slumped to 79 for six when Pollock had Andy Flower lbw and Campbell caught by Lance Klusener at gully off a rebound from Cronje at third slip. In between, Donald had Neil Johnson caught behind.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the first day of the Test between South Africa and Zimbabwe at Springbok Park Friday:

ZIMBABWE: First innings			
G Flower	lbw b Pollock	0	
Gripper run out (Dippenaar)	16		
Goodwin c Boucher b Pollock	7		
Campbell c Klusener b Pollock	27		
A Flower lbw b Pollock	13		
Johnson c Boucher b Donald	6		
G Rennie c Cullinan b Kallis	14		
G Whittall not out	22		
B Strang not out	4		
Extras (lbw: 5; nb: 4; w: 3)	12		
Total: (For 7 wkt in 57 overs)	121		
To bat: Henry Olonga, Mpumelo Mbawana			
Fall of wickets: 1-1; 2-14; 3-40; 4-63; 5-78; 6-79; 7-117			
Bowler	O	M	R
Donald	14	4	32
Pollock	15	4	31
Klusener	13	5	21
Kallis	12	4	27
Adams	3	1	5
0	0	0	0

SOUTH AFRICA: Adam Ba-cher, Boeta Dippenaar, Jacques Kallis, Darryl Cullinan, Hansie Cronje (Captain), Jonty Rhodes, Shaun Pollock, Mark Boucher, Lance Klusener, Allan Donald, Paul Adams.

Prawns are not for M Wasim

BRISBANE, Oct 29: Pakistan batsman Mohammad Wasim spent three hours in a Australian hospital after a severe allergic reaction to the first and last prawn he will ever eat, reports AFP.

Wasim had one tentative bite of prawn during dinner at the team hotel and was rushed to Royal Brisbane Hospital soon afterwards when he started vomiting, his eyes puffed up and rashes broke out on various parts of his body.

The tourists had their first look at Allan Border Field on Friday, where they play Queensland in a four-day match starting Saturday but Wasim was not seeing much because his eyes, hidden behind sunglasses, were still swollen.

He has asked team manager Yawar Saeed to be given until Saturday morning to prove he is healthy enough for Pakistan's final match before the First Test at the Gabba from November 5.

"It was just a small piece of prawn," said Wasim, who scored an even 100 against Western Australia at the WACA Ground in Perth on Wednesday night.

"They gave me injections (at the hospital) in my hands and legs and gave me oxygen because I wasn't breathing properly. It was a little scary because I've never been through anything like this before."

Wasim is a certain starter for the First Test and had no hesitation in claiming the Pakistanis possessed a stronger bowling attack than the hosts.

The battle between the new ball pairings of Shoaib Akhtar and Wasim Akram and Australia's Glenn McGrath and Damien Fleming plus Shane Warne's duel with fellow spinners Mushtaq Ahmed and Sajid Mushtaq, will go a long way to deciding the Test.

Asked if Pakistan had the edge on Australia in any area, Wasim said: "I think in bowling. We have got the pace and two all-rounders and two of the best spinners."

"It is always hard to beat Australia over here but we are looking forward to the series because we have been playing well for six or seven months."

Wasim said McGrath was an excellent bowler but claimed the big New South Welshman did not have the firepower of Akhtar, the world's quickest and potentially deadliest pace-man.

"McGrath just concentrates on line and length without worrying about pace, he bowls nicely and it will be a good contest between him and our bowlers."

Cuban boxer to be tried in USA

HAVANA, Oct 29: Cuba said yesterday it would not object to a fair trial in the United States of its boxing hero Teofilo Stevenson, who was briefly detained in Miami at the weekend for allegedly roughing up an airman, reports Reuters.

"Stevenson is a man of honour, a man of his word," Foreign Ministry spokesman Alejandro Gonzalez said, when asked what line Havana would take if Stevenson, now in Cuba after posting bail in the United States, is summoned for trial in Miami.



Tottenham Hotspur's Frenchman David Ginola (C) is under pressure from Kaiserslautern's Martin Wagner (R) during their UEFA Cup second round clash at White Hart Lane on October 28.

— AFP photo

UEFA Cup second round first leg

Lens cruise, Spurs scrape



LONDON, Oct 28:

Frenchman David Ginola won a controversial penalty at White Hart Lane which Steffen Iversen converted to give English club Tottenham Hotspur a 1-0 victory over Kaiserslautern of Germany in their UEFA Cup second round, first leg clash on Thursday, reports AFP.

In another second round, first leg game at Lens, the home side virtually assured themselves a spot in the next round by thrashing Dutch side Vitesse Arnhem 4-1.

Tottenham's French wing wizard appeared to play for a penalty 11 minutes before half-time as he went down under an innocuous challenge from goalkeeper Andre Reineke.

Turkish referee Orhan Erdem pointed to the spot and Iversen kept his cool to drive the ball into the bottom left corner for his seventh goal of the season.

Iversen made amends for a glaring miss a minute earlier after Ginola had put him clean through on goal with a breathtaking pass.

With just Reineke to beat, the blond striker shot tamely at him, when really he should have buried the chance.

Both teams were forced to employ a 4-5-1 formation as a result of injuries to strikers.

Chris Armstrong failed a fitness test on his ankle and

that left Iversen to again forage alone up front for Spurs.

Kaiserslautern lost French World Cup striker Youri Djorkaeff, who suffered a bruised testicle after being hit by the ball during Saturday's game, leaving Olaf Marschall on his own up front.

Spurs' Argentine left-back Mauricio Taricco also shaved a post for the home side before the interval and eight minutes into the second half Ginola hit a first time curler with his right foot which beat the goalkeeper but crashed back off the far post.

Kaiserslautern rarely threatened but their players congratulated each other at the end and they will be confident of overturning the deficit in the second leg next Thursday in Germany.

Lens' victory over Arnhem gave coach Francois Brisson high hopes of continuing his first ever European adventure.

Brisson, who took over from axed Daniel Leclercq the day after Lens squeezed through the first round, enjoyed an impressive attacking display from the northern French club.

Lens proved too much for Arnhem, eighth in the Dutch table, and Brisson must be optimistic about the second leg at the Gelredome ultramodern stadium, one of the venues for Euro 2000.

Lens didn't take long to get off the mark. Philippe Brunel stroked the ball into the net in the 73rd minute past Warmuz for the goal.

Two minutes later, Lens had restored their two-goal lead.

Cyril Rool crossed from the left and keeper Dragosav Jevic and Alex Nyarko went up for the ball and the ball rebounded into the net.

Nyarko was credited with the goal though it wasn't clear he had got the touch.

Jocelyn Blanchard scored from an acute angle with three minutes to go following a cross from Charles-Edouard Coridon on the left to finish the scoring.

Bergkamp devastated



LONDON, Oct 29:

Dutchman Dennis Bergkamp said on Thursday that Arsenal's premature exit from the League, for the second season running, was the biggest disappointment of his club career, reports AFP.

The 30-year-old striker has known all the highs and lows of the game in his distinguished career.

He was a UEFA Cup winner with Inter Milan, the double Footballer of the Year in England two years ago when Arsenal won both the Premiership and FA Cup, and a World Cup semi-finalist with Holland.

Wednesday's 1-0 Wembley defeat by Fiorentina was his 44th European tie, a defeat which knocked Arsenal out of the competition.

After the anti-climax of another failed Arsenal campaign at the top level he said: "I'm sure that our results in the Champions League do not reflect the way we have played - especially in the away games at Barcelona and Fiorentina."

But while the Italian side - an ordinary-looking outfit, apparently in crisis after three consecutive Serie A defeats - now join Barcelona as the top two from Group B to reach the

France last year was a bad feeling, probably the worst.

"But in club football this felt just the same. It was just like the defeat against the French team Lens which put us out last season - only it feels much worse a second time."

The big frustration is that I'm sure that our results in the Champions League do not reflect the way we have played - especially in the away games at Barcelona and Fiorentina."

At least the Arsenal players and fans will be able to cheer the decision to go back to Highbury for the UEFA Cup matches.

They have never been comfortable at Wembley even though it was another 73,000-plus crowd which urged them on against the Italians.

Many face being locked out of 38,000-capacity Highbury, which is full for every Premiership game, but you suspect there will not be too many complaints.

Bergkamp said: "Going into the UEFA Cup doesn't seem much consolation now but maybe it will be good to give us some more experience."

French First Division preview

Marseille paying a price



MARSEILLE,

France, Oct 29: Marseille's injuries after success in Europe have hampered their domestic preparations for their home match against Strasbourg on Saturday, reports AFP.

Spanish midfield playmaker Ivan de la Peña is out for two weeks with a badly twisted right ankle and, in defence, William Gallais and Pierre Issa have been added to the injury list.

Their European Champions League qualification following a 3-2 defeat at Austria's Sturm Graz has come at a high price.

Gallas had problems finishing the match at Graz and Issa has a muscular injury to his left leg and both are doubtful for the weekend.

Marseille lie in seventh spot, seven points behind leaders Lyon.

Fourth-placed Paris Saint Germain must do without three key players in their away game at Le Havre.

Their talented Nigerian playmaker Jay-Jay Okocha, who pulled his left hamstring, is still not back to full fitness. Mickael Madar and Eric Rabesandratana are also out.

Meanwhile, Monaco are still

without keeper Fabien Barthez following his operation to remove a bad bruise on his left thigh after a dead leg. Tony Sylvain is set to deputize for Monaco in fifth spot, travel to Nantes on Friday's other game.

Monaco, in fifth spot, travel to Nantes on Friday's other game.

"We know United will share

with their fans, and all of us,

the disappointment that a solution has not been found.

"Crucially the club, for totally

understandable reasons,

has not wanted to devalue the FA Cup as they see it, by entering a team other than their strongest. This would have been inevitable given their potential fixture congestion."

"Manchester United have confirmed to us their full com-

mitment to the FA Cup in the

future, and they will take their place next season."

"We are totally confident the unique circumstances of this season will not be repeated. The FA Cup remains very special."

Fixtures

Friday: Sedan v Lyon.

Nantes v Monaco.

St Etienne v Metz, Bastia v Troyes and Auxerre v Montpellier on Saturday, and Lens against Rennes on Sunday.

Saturday: Le Havre v Paris SG, Nancy v Bordeaux, St Etienne v Metz, Bastia v Troyes, Marseille v Strasbourg, Auxerre v Montpellier.

Sunday: Lens v Rennes

Bundesliga preview

Bayern's time to start delivering

COLOGNE, Germany, Oct 29: Bayern Munich host Wolfsburg on Saturday with ground to make up as they currently place just fourth in the Bundesliga two points adrift of leaders Dortmund, reports AFP.

The Bavarians did their Champions League hopes a power of harm in midweek by losing at PSV Eindhoven and desperately need a fillip at home.

Club president Franz Beckenbauer afterwards blasted last season's European Cup runners-up, who now will crash out of the competition if they fail to beat Group F rivals Glasgow Rangers in their final opening phase match.

Beckenbauer suggested that if Bayern showed similar form to Tuesday they would not be going much further after goals from Ruud van Nistelrooy and Luc Nilis either side of half-time cancelled out a strike from teenage star Roque Santa Cruz.

"I can't explain our lethargic showing," said Beckenbauer, who demanded an improvement.

Bayern can look forward to a return for both Mehmet Scholl and Thomas Strunz in midfield

and a brace from Steffen Iversen, who had a great night, was also involved in the second goal. He crossed from the left and an unmarked Pascal Nouma knocked the ball into the net from six metres after 17 minutes.

It had been two late goals from Nouma against Maccabi Tel Aviv which had put Lens through to this second round.

After the break, Lens neatly had another goal but Arnhem captain Marc Van Hiltum cleared the ball off the line.

The top clash of the weekend sees leaders Dortmund, who likewise are unsure of their