

Wickremasinghe wrecks hosts

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe, Nov 19: A personal best six wickets for only 60 runs by Promodya Wickremasinghe enabled Sri Lanka to bowl Zimbabwe out for 286 in their first innings of the first Test here Friday, reports AFP.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Zimbabwe innings on the second day of the first Test against Sri Lanka on Friday. ZIMBABWE: First Innings (overnight 256-8)

Tourists toil in Pretoria

PRETORIA, Nov 19: An excellent 85 by newcomer Michael Vaughan and a vigilant 81 by veteran batsman Michael Atherton held the visiting England side's innings together on the opening day of their four-day fixture against a Northern-Gauteng XI at Centurion Park on Thursday, reports AFP.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of the opening day of the four-day fixture between a Northern-Gauteng XI and England at Centurion Park on Thursday.

Ukraine in mourning

KIEV, Nov 19 (Reuters/Internet): A bitter 1-1 draw in a Euro 2000 qualifier with Slovenia dashed Ukraine's hopes of playing in their first major championship finals and has turned into a national tragedy for the ex-Soviet state.

Pele transcends sports

LONDON, Nov 19 (Reuters/Internet): Edson Arantes do Nascimento, known to the world as Pele and long regarded as soccer's greatest player, can now claim to be the greatest sportsman of all after winning a Reuters poll to find the century's top personality.

His position at the pinnacle, ahead of Muhammad Ali and Carl Lewis, shows how the brilliant Brazilian transcended sporting and national barriers. In his glorious career and continues to do so more than 20 years after he retired.



A file photo of Pele.

Because of his grace, control and balance it is sometimes forgotten just how powerful a player he was. Virtually impossible to knock off the ball in possession, he was a fearsome sight in fully flight.

He played his last international, his 111th, in 1971 and three years later retired from the club game with an incredible 1,281 goals in 1,363 senior appearances. Santos retired his number 10 shirt.

Brazil celebrates goal of all goals

RIO DE JANEIRO, Nov 19 (AFP): With 16 centum just six weeks away Brazil will appropriately celebrate another historic 1000 on Friday but this time one relating to its rich footballing history - the 30th anniversary of Pele's 1000th goal.

He could but that if I saved it I would kick the ball to the Vasco fans. Pele, normally ice-cool in front of goal, recalled that his knees were trembling as he took the penalty. He said: "I had to breathe heavily and slowly to compose myself. When I struck the ball I thought Andrada would save it. But when I saw the ball had gone in I felt an enormous relief."

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of the opening day of the four-day fixture between a Northern-Gauteng XI and England at Centurion Park on Thursday.

Cascarino hangs up his boots

DUBLIN, Nov 19: Veteran Republic of Ireland striker Tony Cascarino confirmed on Thursday that his international career was over following his side's failure to reach the finals of Euro 2000, reports AFP.

Romario Vasco bound?

RIO DE JANEIRO, Nov 19: Brazil's 1994 World Cup winning hero Romario will move from Flamengo to bitter Rio de Janeiro rivals Vasco da Gama, who want the talented but maverick forward to enhance their squad for the World Club Championships in January, it emerged Thursday, reports AFP.

However, it remains to be seen if the player will be eligible for that groundbreaking tournament, to be staged in Brazil, as the deadline for new signings was on November 15.

Romario has agreed a one-year deal with Vasco da Gama with an option for a second year, the club revealed Thursday.

It means that Romario will play alongside Edmundo, dubbed 'the animal' in the Vasco front line. The two are hugely talented but both have reputations for causing problems off the field and are currently out of favour with Brazil coach Wanderley Luxemburgo, a stickler for discipline.

Slovenians show their love for heroes

LJUBLJANA, Nov 19 (Reuters/Internet): Some 3,000 Slovenian fans stood in the snow at two in the morning on Thursday to greet their soccer heroes at the airport after the national side qualified for their first ever big event.

Euro leagues' preview

PARIS, Nov 19 (AFP): This weekend in Spain Real Madrid host Real Sociedad in their first fixture since the sacking of coach John Toshack while in Germany former Bayern Munich bad boy Mario Basler looks to turn over a new leaf with Kaiserslautern when they face Hertha Berlin.

Serie A preview A fiesta in the offing

MILAN, Nov 19: Two weeks after their last feat on the Serie A, Italy's ravenous soccer fans are set for a feast this weekend with Juventus taking on champions AC Milan and an action-packed derby in Rome, reports AFP.

It easily and when that happens, there's no mercy. "We were presumptuous," he admitted. "We should have waited for them to come forward and then hit them on the break. But we felt good. Too good. And we didn't have the humility to wait for the right moment."

Passions are being aroused in both halves of the country, with league leaders Lazio hoping to settle a score with AS Roma and Juventus looking for a timely show of strength against Milan.

Roma will meanwhile turn to Totti's playmaking skills and the goal sense of Vincenzo Montella at a packed Olympic stadium.

Equally important is the fact that after years of playing entertaining but unsuccessful football with former coach Zdenek Zeman, Roma have now become credible title challengers under Fabio Capello.

What's less clear is whether Delvecchio will return from injury in time to deny Brazilian Fabio Junior a place in Capello's starting line-up.

But by far the biggest source of motivation for Sven Goran Eriksson's men is pure revenge. For if Lazio today aren't Italy's champions, it's mainly down to Roma and the derby defeat they inflicted at the end of last season, ending Lazio's 17-match unbeaten run and plunging them into crisis.

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Both sides have something to prove and both want to win

League clash Wednesday with Feyenoord while 16th-placed Newcastle, still in the UEFA Cup, go to another promoted side Watford, who have just bought French player Xavier Gravelaine.

They managed it last season and George Weah's goals also helped steer the team to the title. And now they have the Serie A's top scorer, seven-goal Andriy Shevchenko, to help them as well.

Premiership preview Sunderland test for Liverpool

LONDON, Nov 19: Surprise package Sunderland host Liverpool Saturday in this week's end's most attractive English Premiership fixture which pits the third-placed hosts, promoted to the top flight at the end of last season, against Liverpool, who lie fifth - their best showing for some time, reports AFP.

Michael Owen and the numerous foreigners such as Guinean Titi Camara, attracted by the reputation - and the financial package - offered by the legendary club.

Liverpool are unbeaten in the league for nearly two months and suddenly there seems a new understanding between home grown players like

Second placed Leeds tackle another promoted side in Bradford, who are 17th. Meanwhile, fourth-placed Arsenal face eighth-placed Middlesbrough just days before their UEFA Cup match with Nantes. Tottenham, in sixth, hope to pick up points at 14th-placed Southampton.

Ninth-placed Chelsea travel to 10th-placed Everton ahead of their European Champions

Saturday: Arsenal v Middlesbrough, Derby v Manchester United, Everton v Chelsea, Leeds v Bradford, Leicester v Wimbledon, Southampton v Tottenham, Sunderland v Liverpool, Watford v Newcastle

Sunday: West Ham v Sheffield Wednesday

Sunday: Coventry v Aston Villa



Jubilo Iwata's Japanese international defender Takashi Fokniss rises above Saudi Arabian side Al-Ittihad's Hamza Idriss to clear the ball during their Asian Super Cup encounter in Jeddah on November 18.