Hunte laid to rest

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados. Dec 14: Conrad Hunte, a cricket batsman for the West Indies during the 1960s who spent seven years coaching in the black townships of South Africa, was buried Monday amid praise for his contributions to the game, reports AP.

Ali Bacher, head of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, called Hunte the "Nelson Mandela of cricket" for his work encouraging black South African youth to excel at a game once dominated in that country by whites.

Bacher called Hunte a visionary whose "presence, example, humility and dedication helped make for a better future

for all South Africans." Hunte died at age 67 of a heart attack in Sydney, Australia on December 3 while attending a conference for Moral Re-Armament, an international human rights movement that he belonged to for almost

40 years. Hunte played 44 Tests for the West Indies between 1958 and 1968. In 1991 he moved to South Africa and began coaching youth teams in the townships. He returned to Barbados in 1998 and was recently elected president of the Barbados Cricket Association.

Former teammates, cricket officials and politicians packed into St Michael's Cathedral in Bridgetown for the service. Hunte was then buried at St Andrew's Parish Church near Shorey, the village where he was born on Barbados' east coast.

Hunte was the second of three former West Indian and Barbadian players to die in the space of a month. Former fast bowler and team coach Malcolm Marshall died of colon cancer November 4 and former fast bowler Sylvester Clarke collapsed and died December 4. reportedly of diabetic complica-

Big 'century' for Boucher

PORT ELIZABETH, Dec 14 (Internet report): South African wicketkeeper Mark Boucher had most to gain when his captain Hansie Cronje chose to prolong the second Test against England on Monday despite a positive result looking almost impossible.

Boucher had 99 Test dismissals when the captains first had the opportunity to call the match off half an hour early with England safely placed at 135 for four after being set an improbable 302 to win.

When Jacques Kallis then found the outside edge of Andrew Flintoff's bat and Boucher grabbed a brilliant, one-handed catch low to his right, he had reached his century of dismissals in fewer Tests (23) than anyone in the game's history.

He also became, by more than two years, the youngest wicketkeeper to claim 100 vic-

Boucher's predecessor in the South African side, Dave Richardson, shared the old record (24 Tests) with Australia's Wally Grout while England's Alan Knott, at 25 years and 120 days, was older by more than two years when he reached the 100 mark. Boucher turned 23 just 10 days ago.

Boucher was also fastest to 50 dismissals, has a share in the world ninth wicket test record (195), has the highest score ever made by a nightwatchman (125) and has the longest sequence of runs scored without a bye being conceded in the history of the game.

Of his 100 dismissals, 42 have been claimed off the fast bowling of Allan Donald. "It's his record as much as it

is mine." Boucher said. "I just catch them.

Rajshahi cricket

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Dec 14: Sepay Para Sporting Club (Red) defeated Plamna Moon Sporting Club by 55 runs in the Birshrestha Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir Smriti Gold Cup Cricket Tournament today at Railway ground.

Sepay Para piled up an impressive 170 for eight in allotted 23 overs after winning the toss. Robiul was the highest scorer with 44 for the winners.

In reply, Plamna Moon were all out for 115 in 220 overs. Apel was the top scorer with 39. Rasul was the most effective Sepay Para bowler taking four for 18.

Sylhet in

From page 13

Nayeem c Saffuddin b S Mehmud 11

Rajin run out Nastrul b S Mehmud Saifullah c Akram b S Mehmud Aloke c Saifuddin b Enamul Neeyamur not out Rafique c Safiuddin b S Mehmud Mortuza c Akram b S Mehmud Iqbal c Akram b Enamul lmran run out Extras: (b-3, lb-1, nb-9) Total: (All out in 44.4 overs)

Fall of wickets: 1-7; 2-16; 3-38; 4-41; 5-46; 6-46; 7-63; 8-73; 9-105. Bowler: Anis 15 Safiuddin

S Mehmud 15.4 Enamul 21 Ziaur Rashid SYLHET: Second innings

Parvez b Enamul Nayeem lbw b Enamul Rajin c Azam b S Mehmud Saifullah batting Mortuza batting Extras: (nb-5) Total: (For 3 wickets in 23 overs) 37

Fall of wickets: 1-19; 2-33; 3-

Bowler: Anis Safiuddin Enamul S Mehmud

Early signs good for Windies



he was happy se lectors had plenty of form players to choose from ahead of the first cricket Test against New Zealand starting on Thursday, reports Reuters. The biggest dilemma facing

Lara and his West Indies co-selectors, coach Viv Richards, Clive Lloyd and Test veteran Jimmy Adams, is whether to play a spinner on a Hamilton pitch which often favours the seamers on the first morning.

The bowling choice could come down to a straight tradeoff between off-spinner Nehemiah Perry and left-arm fast bowler Pedro Callins, who were both impressive in the just completed drawn match against provincial side Auckland. The West Indies are also

armed with slow bowling choices in Jimmy Adams, with his orthodox left-arm spin, and Shivnarine Chanderpaul's leg breaks.

Courtney Walsh, who is just 12 wickets shy of Kapil Dev's world record of Test victims (434), and Franklyn Rose and Mervyn Dillon appear certain

Lara said the West Indies would name up to 13 players on the eve of the match and decide who would play after inspecting the pitch on the morning of the

"We've got a full squad of 16 to choose from and that's great,"

Lara told reporters. "For all of the places (where) there is competition, which while difficult, is a healthy situation," he said.



BRIAN LARA

Lara's joy at having a full squad to choose from was even greater after in-form opener Sherwin Campbell's apparent recovery from a slight leg injury. He had retired hurt as a precaution on the last day of a first-class match against Auckland on Monday.

Campbell scored centuries in both innings of that drawn match and West Indies management are confident he will play.

Yet the opening combination still poses some headaches for selectors in the two-Test series. Campbell's normal partner

is Adrian Griffith but Darren Ganga has emerged as a contender after hitting his first century for West Indies in their second innings against Auckland.

New Zealand are still having trouble with their opening partnership and have dropped Matthew Bell for Gary Stead, who was drafted in to the tour of India last month to replace the injured Craig McMillan.

While performing creditably against India, Stead has struggled during his home summer. particularly in a New Zealand A

has been given a clean bill of ing New Zealand at full strength.

New Zealand selectors also face hard decisions among their

match against England A. New ball bowler Dion Nash health after a back injury, leav-

bowlers and will choose between impressive seamer Andrew Penn left-arm counterpart Shane O'Connor and left-arm spinner Daniel Vettori. The Hamilton pitch is likely

to be a green-top suiting seamers and the long-range weather forecast suggests rain.

Steve stands by Mark



ADELAIDE, Dec 14 (Reuters): Australian captain Steve Waugh has defended his twin brother Mark

against calls for him to be sacked from the test side. Mark has scored just 18 runs in his last five innings and is under pressure to retain his place for the second test against

India starting in Melbourne on

December 26. But Steve said he believed his sibling should be given another chance despite admitting he was down on form and confidence.

"If I was a selector I'd pick him because he's a match winner and a proven Test match player," Steve said. "Although you've also got to get runs.

"If your confidence is down then all of a sudden your feet aren't moving and you're not playing your normal shots and you're a little bit timid. "He's got to get a little bit

more sharpness in his game. He's got things to work on." Although he scored a century in Australia's first test win over Pakistan last month. Mark has struggled to maintain any con-

making 13 or less runs in 12 of his past 15 innings. Mark has also been burdened by Australia's frantic

schedule, as the only member of

sistency over the past year.

the national Test and one-day sides to have played virtually non-stop for the past 18 months.

But he has been able to retain his place on account of his brilliant record over the past decade in both forms of the



M WAUGH

As one of the most stylish batsmen eyer to play the game. Mark has scored more than 6.000 Test runs for Australia. including 17 centuries, at an average of 41, plus 13 limitedovers hundreds.

He's also a fine slips fieldsman with 123 test catches to his credit, third on the all-time list With 98 caps already under his belt. Mark is desperate to keep his place in the side so that he can play his 100th test at his home ground of Sydney against India next month.

At 34 years of age, he knows there is little chance of him ever regaining his place in the side if he is shown the door. "He'd been doing well to come

back from that," Steve said. "But from my point of view, he's had a hand in two of our four Test wins (this summer) and that's not too bad. "It's got to come from him,

Mark's got to do it himself." Former Australian captain Mark Taylor has also lent his support to Waugh. Taylor went through one of the longest form slumps in Australian cricket history before saving his career with a century against England before making a record equalling 334 in one of his last Tests.

"I am very biased. As I said a number of times when I was captain, I never liked to see a side I played in without Mark

Waugh," Taylor said. "I really hope he at least finishes this summer then see what happens.

"If he doesn't score runs after that he is open to the selectors' axe, I suppose, but I think he deserves at least two more Test matches."

Life inside Japan's soccer kingdom



Dec 14: IWATA, Japan. (Reuters): They call it the "Kingdom of Soccer" in Japan and judging by the passion of the fans and the dedication of the Shizuoka local government in the build-up to the 2002 World Cup finals, it is easy to see why.

Tadanori Arata, the president of Jubilo Iwata soccer club. sums up the feelings of most residents of Shizuoka, southwest of Tokyo, when he says: "Soccer is in the blood of everyone in the city and in the region. We are taught it in schools. It is part of the way of

Fumihiko Yasumoto, the president of archrivals Shimizu S-Pulse, is for once in | complete agreement with Arata. . "Unlike many other places in Japan, our region, Shizuka. has embraced soccer for decades. As a port area, the foreign sailors brought the game to this part of Japan decades ago

and the people here fell in love with the game. The crucial point was that it also captured the attention of some young teachers and they began teaching the game in our high schools as long as 70 years ago. We are all very proud of

Although the name of Shizuoka prefecture is not well known internationally, the area has been visited by millions of tourists as Mount Fujiyama is located within its boundaries. In 2002 thousands more will

come to Shizuoka, many of them transported the 200 kilometres from Tokyo in less than 90 minutes on Japan's famed Shinkansen bullet train. Their destination will be the 100 billion yen (978 million

built in a valley in the Ogasayama Hills above the city. The 50,000-capacity allseater stadium is one of 10 venues in Japan for the tournament co-hosted with South Korea and offers a fascinating

glimpse into the future of stadium design The stadium has been designed with many environment-friendly features and, according to one of the design team, will "exist in perfect harmony with the surrounding

hillsides.' It has movable seats, making it easy to uncover a running track for athletics, and has its own underground reservoir. Akihisa Ohmura, the direc-

tor of the stadium's development explained: "The reservoir will store and use the rain-water that falls on the roof for watering the grass and flushing all the toilets. There is also equipment designed for saving water

and saving on electricity costs. "The stadium will, we believe, co-exist with nature and really lift the spirits of the peo-

ple of Shizuoka. While work continued on getting the Ecopa ready for the World Cup, a smaller stadium a few kilometres away was resonating with the atmosphere special to local derbies all over the world.

More than 17,000 fans were packed into Jubilo Iwata's ground for the first leg of the J-League Championship playoff

remaining strictly neutral. "They are the best two teams in Japanese soccer and I would like them both to win." he

wait another two years." . In the meantime they are

content with the passion of the J-League though Saturday's match was a poor one with Jubilo winning 2-1 after an extra-time golden goal from Japanese international Masashi Nakayama.

But Shimizu's English manager Steve Perryman is convinced his team can overturn that result at their home ground in the second leg next Saturday.

between the home side, winners of the first stage of the season. and Shimizu S-Pulse, winners of the second stage two weeks The light blue colours of the Jubilo fans and the vivid orange of the visiting Shimizu

supporters provided a colourful backdrop to the match while a non-stop cacophony from both sets of fans made it appear as if there were 50,000 in the ground.

Shizuoka prefecture governor Yoshinobu Ishikawa was

joked. 'You can see the passion of the fans here, this is why we call Shizuoka the Kingdom of Japanese soccer. Bringing the World Cup here means so much to the area, people can hardly

Honours even, say skippers

PORT ELIZABETH, Dec 14 (Internet report): South Africa and England walked away from a drawn second cricket Test at St George's Park on Monday with the honours pretty evenly divided.

South African captain Hansie Cronje was delighted at the way his men had fought back from 140 for five to once again top 400 in their first innings, while his opposite number Nasser Hussain was very happy at the way his troops had performed after having "been blown away a bit" in the first

"In the past England have tended to collapse under pressure," added Hussain. "We would have been back in the hotel. So I was very happy at the way everybody got stuck in."

While disappointed that his bowlers had been unable to nail South Africa to the wall, Hussain admitted that when you are up against Lance Klusener. Shaun Pollock and Mark Boucher at seven, eight and nine it's very much like having to bowl a side out twice.

"Klusener came at us and we weren't able to contain him," he said. "But let's face it the wicket wasn't exactly a minefield even when I was batting out there at six o'clock this afternoon."

Man-of-the-match Klusener, who racked up a career best 174, said he would much prefer to be taking wickets at the moment. "That's what I'm in the side for." he said. "If I get a few runs, that should be a bonus. I'd trade a whole bunch of runs for some wickets," he confessed.

"You can't win everything you play," said Cronje, who was satisfied at the way the game had progressed.

African Nations Cup SA to do without McCarthy,

Masinga

JOHANNESBURG, Dec 14: Strikers Benni McCarthy and Philemon Masinga were notable absentees when South Africa named their 2000 African Nations Cup squad here on Tuesday, reports AFP.

McCarthy retired from innternational football last September to concentrate on his career with Spanish club Celta Vigo and Masinga twisted a knee training with Italian club Bari last week.

Benni burst on to the international limelight at the 1998 finals in Burkina Faso, winning the player of the tournament award and finishing joint top scorer with Egyptian Hossam Hassan.

He has scored 13 goals in 22

appearances for Bafana Bafana

(The Boys), including four within 13 minutes against Namibia in a Nations Cup group The absence of McCarthy and Masinga opened the door for Glen Salmon from Dutch

Breda, who is the only uncapped squad member. Coach Trott Moloto produced no shocks with the selection of Sundowns goalkeeper John Tlale ahead of Brian Balovi from Kaizer Chiefs the only

slight surprise.

Second Division club NAC

There are 13 European-based players, five from England, four from Turkey, two from Holland and one from France and Switzerland, and five of the nine locals come from champions Sundowns. Kaizer Chiefs, for so long the

the dominant force in South Africa, have only one representative, striker Siyabonga Nomvete, while there are three players from arch-rivals Orando Pirates. South Africa, Nations Cup

winners in 1996 and runnersup to Egypt last year, are in Group 2 with the Democratic Republic of Congo, Algeria and Gabon.

Ghana and Nigeria will cohost the biennial showcase of African football from January 22 to February 13.

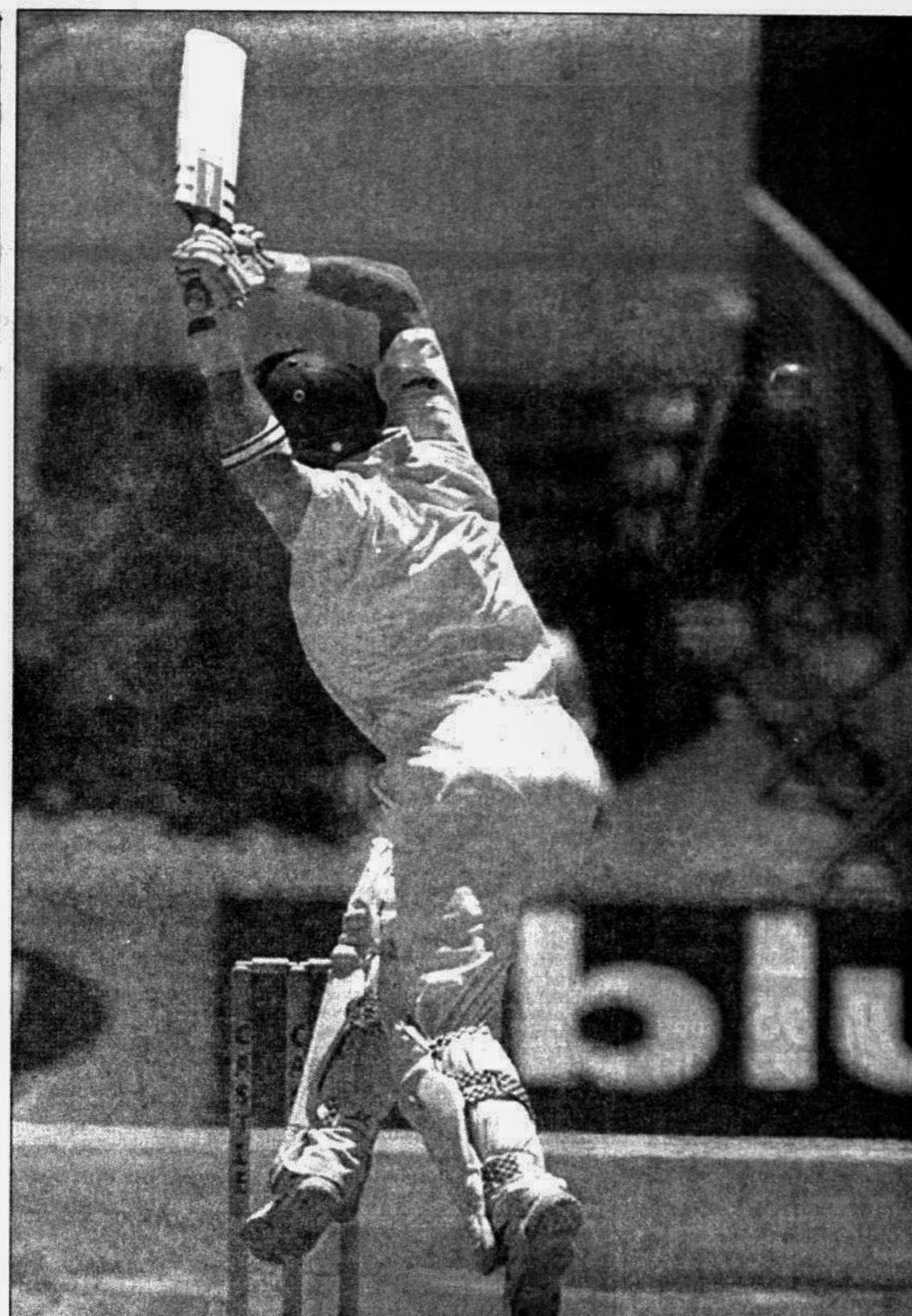
SQUAD Goalkeepers: Andre Arendse (Oxford/Eng). John Tlale (Sundowns), Hans Vonk

(Heerenveen/Ned). Defenders: Mark Fish (Bolton/Eng). Pierre Issa (Marseille/Fra), Papi Khomane (Orlando Pirates), Lucas Radebe Leeds/Engl. Frank Schoeman

(Sundowns) Midfielders: Alex Bapela, Isaac Shai (Sundowns), Steve Lekoelea, Thabo Mngomeni (Pirates). Quinton Fortune (Manchester Utd/Eng), Helman Mkhalele (Ankaragucu/Tur). Moshoeu John (Fenerbahce/Tur). Dumisa Ngobe (Genclerbirligi/Tur), Eric Tinkler (Barnsley/Eng).

Strikers: Shaun Bartlett (Zurich/Swi), Daniel Mudau (Sundowns), Pollen Ndlanya (Goztepspor/Tur), Siyabonga Nomvete (Kaizer Chiefs), Glen Salmon (Breda/Ned)





THE SKIPPER'S BALLET! England captain Nasser Hussain gets himself into an awkward position while trying to leave a ball on the last day of the second Test against South Africa at Port Elizabeth on December 13.

Koertzen comes under fire



LONDON, Dec 14: The English press savaged South African umpire Rudi Koertzen today following his controversial decisions in the drawn second cricket Test at Port Elizabeth, reports Reuters.

Four of the six English wickets to fall in their second innings went to dubious decisions with Koertzen, who is from Port Elizabeth, responsible for three of them.

"He's a Rudi Joke" said the tabloid Sun. The Daily Mail said: "Umpire's gaffes leave England seething" while the Guardian's back-page headline read: "England survive umpiring nightmare." Former England seamer

Mike Selvey, reporting on the match for the Guardian, said: "If this is the best the International Cricket Council (ICC) can come up with then things have reached a sorry pass. The players and the game deserve bet-

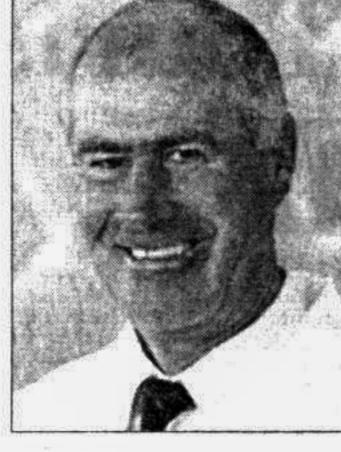
Former England captain and all-rounder lan Botham, working at the Test for television, said: "You are being very polite if you say those decisions were dreadful. A couple of them were beyond me."

Former England opener Geoff Boycott added: "Some of the decisions were plain diaboli-

Opener Mark Butcher was the first to suffer as he was given out lbw to a ball pitching outside leg stump while another

impressive innings by Michael Vaughan was brought to a premature end when Koertzen gave him out caught behind when TV replays appeared to show no contact. West Indian umpire Steve

Bucknor then gave Alec Stewart out lbw to a ball that appeared to be missing leg stump by a distance. But the most bemusing decision of all came when Chris Adams was given out caught by Jonty Rhodes after the ball



RUDI KOERTZEN

popped up from his pad. Few South Africans appealed and Rhodes appeared uninterested but Koertzen put his finger up-much to the disbelief of Adams who spread his arms and shouted "no way" before reluctantly returning to the pavil-

square leg, was involved in a bizarre situation when Lance Klusener bowled at England captain Nasser Hussain from 15 metres behind the stumps Hussain stepped away from his wicket, the ball narrowly

Later Koertzen, standing at

missing the stumps, but a no ball was not called. Hussain sought guidance from Koertzen but Klusener repeated the ploy next delivery and Hussain played the ball which, under the laws of the game, should have been called a no ball because Bucknor could not see his delivery action.

Koertzen was also involved in controversy on Sunday when he ruled South African batsman Jacques Kallis not out after Adams claimed a low catch in the gully.

ICC regulations forbid players from talking to the media about umpiring decisions. "It's not for me to comment on umpires." said Hussain. "I shall fill in my report which will be a private opinion on what thought of it. You've all seen it and I'll leave it to others to comment publicly."

Koertzen is due to stand in the fifth and final Test beginning on January 14 in Pretoria. South Africa's players might

feel that the mistakes have evened things up after they were on the end of some poor decisions during their 1998 series defeat in England.

South Africa lead the series

1-0 and the third Test starts in

Durban on December 26.

African Nations Cup

JOHANNESBURG,

Nigeria at full strength



Nigeria have included 12 players who competed at the 1998 World Cup in a provisional squad of 29 for the African Nations Cup next month, reports AFP. Defenders Celestine Baba-

varo, Godwin Okpara, Taribo

West, midfielders Mutiu Ade-

poju. Finidi George, Garba

Lawal, Sunday Oliseh, Augustine Okocha and strikers Daniel Amokachi, Tijani Babangida, Victor Ikpeba and Nwankwo Kanu are the survivors from France. Arsenal star Kanu was voted African Footballer of the Year for the second time this month

and former winners of the

award included are Emmanuel

Amunike and Ikpeba. The list released by the national association contains 25 European-based professionals and Dutch coach Jo Bonfrere chose only two locals, goalkeeper Murphy Akanji and defender Harrison Omokoh.

There was also room for a

couple of stars based in North

Africa, goalkeeper Ndubuisi Egbo from Egyptian club Al-Masry and striker Julius Aghahowa from Champions League runners-up Esperance of Tunisia. Sections of the Nigerian media expressed surprise at the been in action for their clubs

Dec 14: Co-hosts this season. Amunike last played for Spanish club Barcelona in mid-1997 when he was laid up with a knee injury and is now suspended from team activities because of a dispute over medical

AT____ 1 1 New address for West

MILAN, Dec 14: Nigerian international defender Taribo West is staying in Milan but changing allegiances after securing a free transfer from Inter for Alberto Zaccheroni's AC Milan, reports AFP.

The deal was struck here on

Monday after week of negotia-

tions. Inter's new coach Mar-

cello Lippi made it clear that he had no place for the African star after taking over last summer. AC Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani said: "West is

a player who could certainly be useful to Zaccheroni. "And it seems a very advantageous operation to me from both a technical and a financial viewpoint, since we are getting a

25-year-old player at no cost." West, who joined Inter from French club Auxerre in 1997. said: "I realise that this is a really important thing for my career. And I am here to show that inclusion of Amokachi, Amuam strong, both on the pitch nike and West as they have not and off it.

Bonfrere succeeded compatriot Thijs Libregts this month after a tug-of-war between the sports ministry and the football association, who favoured another Dutch coach, Clemens Westerhof.

"Every coach starts with some people for him and some against. It is normal and I must convince those opposing me that they are wrong." Bonfrere said in a recent radio interview. "I intend proving them

wrong by creating a team that will play well and win matches. The players must also be prepared to sacrifice some time over the Christmas and New Year holidays so that they can celebrate later.' Bonfrere, who received a 300,000-dollar signing-on fee

and 30,000 dollars a month.

guided Nigeria to their finest

football achievement in 1996 when the West African nation won the Atlanta Olympics tournament. Nigeria are co-hosting the biennial African football showcase with Ghana from January 22 to February 13 and

Tunisia five years ago. The Super Eagles were banned from the 1998 event in Burkina Faso by the African Football Confederation (CAF) after refusing to defend the title in South Africa on security grounds.

will be appearing for the first

time since lifting the cup in