

JU football Inter department title Govt. and politics'

From JU Correspondent Ching scored a brilliant hat-trick as the department of Government and Politics lifted the Jahangirnagar University inter-department football title for the fourth time in a row...

Department of Archeology won the fair play trophy.

Zia Smriti cricket

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Dec 30: Kumar Para Sporting Club defeated Golden Star Sporting Club by 20 runs in the Shaheed Zia Smriti tournament at the Rajshahi Government College ground today.

Kumar Para scored 141 for six in the stipulated 25 overs after winning the toss. In reply, Golden Star were all out for 121 in 25 overs losing seven wickets. Uzzal with 39 was the top scorer for Golden. SMCC Club beat Padma Sporting Club by 54 runs in the other match of the day.

Chess course

Sports Reporter The Botvinnik Chess School, a chess development project of the cultural department of Russian Federation Embassy, will run a 3-month long training course which will start after the Eid-ul-Fitr, says a press release yesterday.

Miller included for third Test

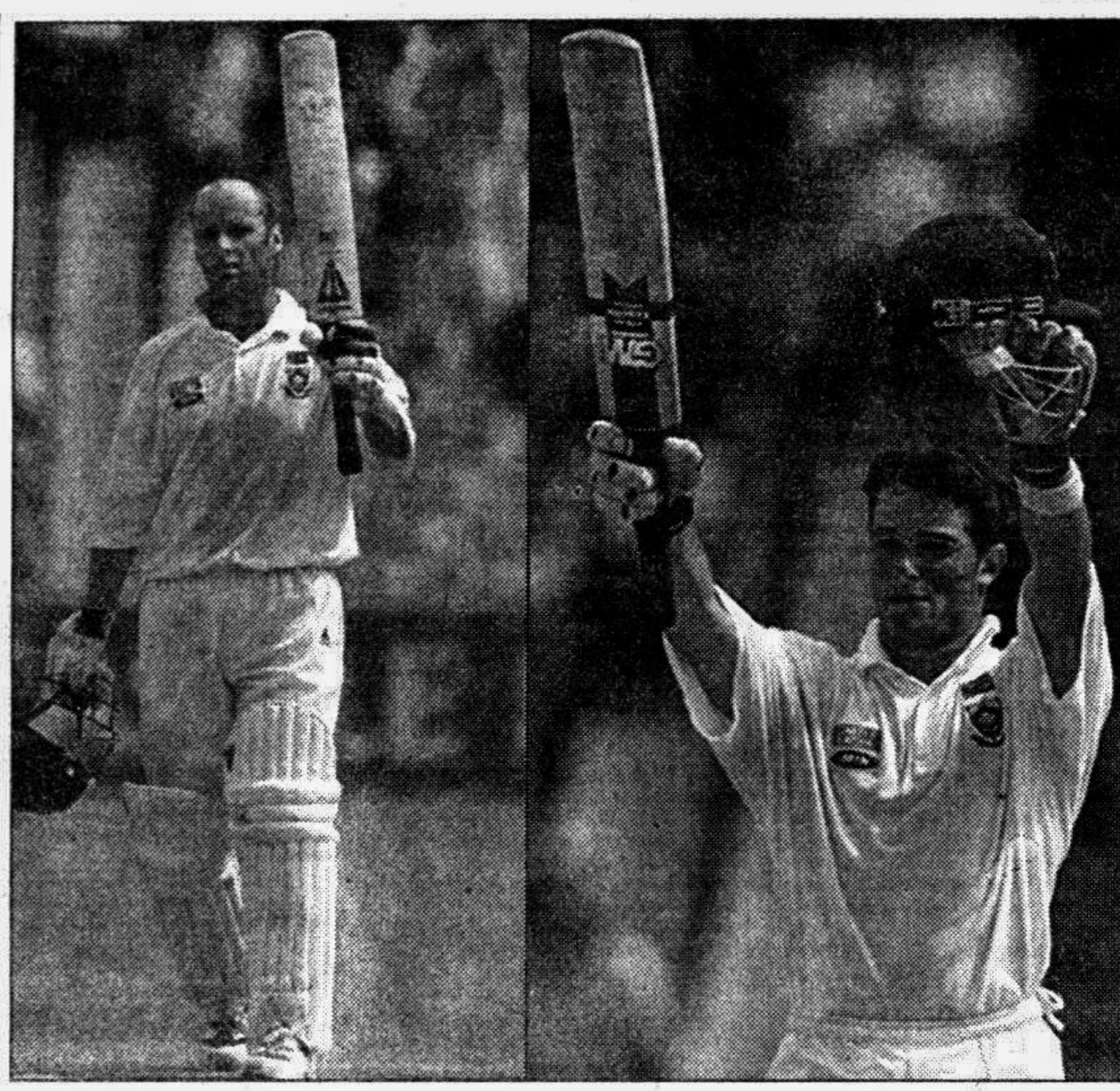
MELBOURNE, Dec 30: Off-spinner Colin Miller has been added to a 13-strong Australian squad for the third Test against India starting at the Sydney Cricket Ground on January 2, reports AFP.

All 12 members of the team which beat India by 180 runs in the second Test at the MCG here Thursday have been retained, but one player will be released on the morning of the match.

Australia captain Steve Waugh said Miller would add another option to his already flexible outfit but he said whether Miller would play or not would depend on the state of the SCG pitch.

Waugh's national commitments have prevented him from playing on his New South Wales home ground this summer and he was bemused at conflicting reports of the state of the SCG pitch.

Australia: Steve Waugh (capt), Shane Warne (vice-capt), Michael Slater, Greg Blewett, Justin Langer, Mark Waugh, Ricky Ponting, Adam Gilchrist, Damien Fleming, Brett Lee, Glenn McGrath, Michael Kasprowitz, Colin Miller.



ENGLAND'S DOUBLE NIGHTMARE! South African opener Gary Kirsten (L) and wicketkeeper Mark Boucher acknowledging the fans' applause after reaching their 200 and 100 runs respectively against England at Durban yesterday.

Kirsten's marathon double ton Durban Test drawn

DURBAN, South Africa, Dec 30: Gary Kirsten played the second-longest innings in Test history to earn South Africa a draw in the third Test against England at Kingsmead here on Thursday, reports AFP.

The match ended in anti-climax when Kirsten, level with the South African record score held by teammate Darryl Cullinan, overbalanced slightly and was bowled around his legs by part-time off-spinner, Mark Boucher.

Only Hanif Mohammad, who batted for 970 minutes against West Indies in Bridgetown in 1957/58, has played a longer innings in Test cricket.

Kirsten's marathon innings started on Tuesday after South Africa had been shot out for 156 in their first innings and for England it was a case of deja vu as he hit 210 against the tourists at Old Trafford in almost 11 hours last year.

Hanif's innings was also played after his side had been made to follow on.

Kirsten, 32, had been out of form and some critics had called for him to be dropped but, in a crisis for his side, the left-handed opening batsman found reserves of endurance and concentration in a chanceless innings.

He faced 642 balls and hit 26 boundaries, and said afterwards he was not disappointed to miss sole ownership of the record.

"It doesn't really matter what happened at the end," he said.

"I was just happy to spend a long time at the wicket. I wasn't thinking of the record until Hanse (Cronje) said there was enough time to go for it. By the time I got out, I was so tired I was struggling to hit the ball far."

England captain Nasser Hussain paid tribute to Kirsten's marathon innings.

"Gary Kirsten played brilliantly. Hussain, who scored a superb century in England's first

innings, added that he was happy with the way his side had kept going to the end.

"We have had a couple of good weeks," he said.

"I am happy with where we are. The series will be decided in Cape Town and we're up for it," he added.

Wicketkeeper Mark Boucher shared a record South African fifth-wicket stand of 192 with Kirsten and made his second successive century as a night-watchman in Test cricket.

The partnership made the game safe for South Africa, who started the final day only 41 runs ahead with six wickets standing.

The first wicket of the day did not fall until three balls before tea when Boucher top-edged a pull against occasional bowler Chris Adams and was caught by wicketkeeper Alec Stewart for 108.

It was a third Test century for Boucher, who made 125, a world record for a night-watchman, against Zimbabwe earlier this season on the previous occasion he was asked to move up the order to bat at the end of a day.

Kirsten became the third South African to make two double centuries in Tests, joining Dudley Nourse and Graeme Pollock. When he was on 173 he regained the record for most Test runs by a South African from Cronje. By the end of his innings he had taken his total to 3792.

After reaching his double century, Kirsten was able to bat mainly against second-line bowlers as Hussain rested his main bowlers, looking ahead to the fourth Test starting in Cape Town on Sunday.

The Kirsten-Boucher partnership took the game beyond England's reach. Neither batsman gave a chance until Boucher hit a return catch to part-time bowler Darren Maddy when he had 66, but by then the match was already safe.

Then Boucher played some magnificent strokes to reach his century, including three fours in an over off Andrew Caddick, England's main strike bowler.

Caddick, who took seven for 46 in the first innings, did not bowl again and had to be content with figures of one for 70 in the second innings although he had the consolation of sharing man of the match honours with the inestimable Kirsten.

SCOREBOARD

Close of play scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the third Test between South Africa and England at Kingsmead here

on Thursday: ENGLAND: First innings 366-9 declared (M Butcher 48, N Hussain 146 not out, A Stewart 95)

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 156 (S Pollock 64, A Caddick 7-46)

SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings (overnight 251-4) 275

Kirsten b Butcher 275, Gibbs c Maddy b Caddick 26, Kallis c Stewart b Gough 69, Cullinan c Stewart b Flintoff 16, Cronje c Stewart b Flintoff 1, Boucher c Stewart b Adams 108, Klusener b Butcher 45, Pollock not out 7

Extras: (b-5; lb-13; w-2; nb-5) 25 Total: (For 7 wks in 209.2 overs) 572

Fall of wickets: 1-41; 2-193; 3-242; 4-244; 5-436; 6-537; 7-572

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Includes Caddick, Silverwood, Gough, Flintoff, Tufnell, Adams, Maddy, Butcher, Hussain.

Result: Match drawn. Man-of-the-match: Gary Kirsten and Andrew Caddick. Series: South Africa lead 1-0.

Fourth Test: Cape Town, January 2 to 6. Fifth Test: Centurion, January 14 to 18.

Rhodes recalled

DURBAN, South Africa, Dec 30: Batsman Jonty Rhodes was recalled to the South African squad for the fourth Test against England starting at Newlands, Cape Town, on Sunday, reports AFP.

Rhodes' omission from the team that drew the third Test in Durban caused controversy. He was named in a squad of 12 after the Test ended on Thursday, being added to the eleven who played in Durban.

The squad: Hansie Cronje (captain), Gary Kirsten, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Darryl Cullinan, Jonty Rhodes, Lance Klusener, Shaun Pollock, Mark Boucher, Alan Donald, Paul Adams, Mornantau Hayward.

Gary ducks medioman

DURBAN, Dec 30 (Internet report): South African opening batsman, Gary Kirsten, occupied centre stage for seven-and-a-half hours at Kingsmead on Wednesday and then declined to make the customary brief 'guest appearance' at the post-play media conference.

The official explanation was that he was suffering from dehydration and was being treated for cramp. A pity seeing that just 24 hours previously England captain Nasser Hussain, after having batted for well over 10 hours, had been able to discuss at length his innings and his side's third Test aspirations.

Following on Lance Klusener's reticence to surface after his brilliant 174 in the second Test in Port Elizabeth, Kirsten's 'snub' didn't go down well.

He was, however, quick to make amends by issuing his views through an official spokesman.

"My innings today was great for me in that I have always set myself the target of getting 10 Test hundreds. So it was not only particularly pleasing that I do so, but also because I got my hundred at a time when my side, was in trouble.

Div I cricket

From page 13 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, Eskaton Sabuj Sangha prevailed over Dhaka Wanderers by 15 runs.

In a low-scoring affair, Eskaton scored 187 before being all out in 48.3 overs with Farid making a fighting 49. Wanderers, in their chase, were all out for 172 despite a brilliant 74 from Jewel.

India fined for going slow

MELBOURNE, Dec 30: Sachin Tendulkar's India reeled under a triple blow after being thrashed by 180 runs in the second Test against Australia here on Thursday, reports AFP.

Each of the 11 players were fined five per cent of their match fees for slow over rates during the five days of the Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

The fine by match referee Ranjan Madugalle of Sri Lanka cost each player 50 US dollars, and came over a 1,000-dollar fine imposed on seamer Venkatesh Prasad earlier in the match.

Prasad was reported by the umpires after his aggressive show of emotion at the dismissal of Australian opener Michael Slater on the second day.

Prasad came within a few feet of the batsmen and wildly swung his arms in the air after having him caught on the fine-leg fence.

The dismal day was compounded by the news that opening batsman Sadagopan Ramesh was ruled out of the third and final Test at Sydney from Sunday because of injury.

Ramesh cracked his left thumb after being hit by a vicious lifter from Australia's latest pace sensation Brett Lee on the fourth day.

Ramesh, who made 26 in the second innings, retired hurt after facing the first over from Damien Fleming on Thursday.

Coach Kapil Dev said India will not call for a replacement for the Test and will choose their team from the 15 available players.

Sinclair left out of ODI squad

WELLINGTON, Dec 30: Hard on the heels of its Test series whitewash of the West Indies, New Zealand today named its squad for the first two of five one-day matches against the trounced side, reports Reuters.

Several changes had been made to the side that took the Test series two nil. New Zealand Cricket convenor of selectors Ross Dykes said in a statement.

New Zealand's success over the past 12 months had made the selectors' job easier, he added.

Batsman Mathew Sinclair, who scored 214 against the West Indies on his Test debut on Monday, had been left out of the 12-man squad because the 24-year-old player had not yet proved his effectiveness in the shorter game, Dykes said.

The one day game is a different discipline and Mathew has yet to prove himself in this format. His limited over batting average is 18 compared to his first class average of over 45.

The key area of debate remained the fourth seam bowler position," Dykes said. "The selectors believe Shayne O'Connor bowled extremely well without statistical reward during the Boxing Day Test.

He showed his effectiveness against the high number of left-handed batsmen in the West Indies side and demonstrated outstanding control of line and length," Dykes said.

Gary Stead, Mathew Sinclair and Paul Wiseman were not required for the one day internationals to be played in the new year, while Roger Twose, Chris Harris and one day specialist Scott Styris came into the 12-man squad.

Twose was named subject to fitness. A scan of his knee on Wednesday revealed no evidence of residual damage from an injury sustained several weeks ago, but Twose will play in a provincial game today before being passed as fit.

SA announce Invitation XI

DURBAN, Dec 30 (Reuters): The South African Invitation XI to play England in a three-day tour match at St George's Park in Port Elizabeth from January 9 was announced by the national selectors on Thursday.

SA Invitation XI: Rudi Steyn, Carl Bradford, James Bryant, Neil McKenzie (captain), Ashwell Prince, Justin Ontong, Wendell Bossenger, Roger Telemachus, Garnett Kruger, Greg Smith, Henry Williams. 12th man: Robin Peterson.

That means continuing to pick up as many points as we can, which is what we are doing."

Liverpool are at last playing with conviction and are the one major force rising from the



Sheffield Wednesday's Belgian international striker Giles de Bilde (R) tries to keep possession while Chelsea defender Bernard Lambourde (L) attempts to keep him in check during their Premiership match at Stamford Bridge on December 29.

Chelsea blank Wednesday

LONDON, Dec 30: Chelsea beat bottom club Sheffield Wednesday 3-0 at Stamford Bridge on Wednesday with goals from Dennis Wise, Tore Andre Flo and Jody Morris securing victory and lifts Gianluca Vialli's side to seventh in the Premiership on 30 points, reports AFP.

Tottenham stay sixth on 37 points after drawing 1-1 at Aston Villa with Tim Sherwood putting George Graham's side ahead just before half time only for Ian Taylor to equalise for the home side with 15 minutes to go.

Chelsea were unchanged from the side which won 2-1 at Southampton on Sunday and again did not feature a single English player at the start of play.

But Wise replaced Didier Deschamps midway through the

first half and the England international put his side ahead after 31 minutes, slotting home Gustavo Poyet's knock down from Dan Petrescu's cross.

Flo made it two-nil three minutes later striking a powerful right foot shot past Czech keeper Pavel Srnec when Poyet played him through after robbing Lee Briscoe in midfield.

Chelsea dominated the second half but failed to add to their tally until seven minutes from time when substitute Morris - another Englishman who also started on the bench - chested the ball in after Srnec failed to deal with Poyet's header.

England midfielder Sherwood scored his third goal in two games four minutes before the break to put Tottenham ahead at Aston Villa.

Villa dominated the opening 45 minutes of the Premiership clash and Sherwood's 30-yard rocket shot was the visitors' first serious attempt on goal.

Paul Merson, set up the equaliser for John Gregory's side, sliding in an angled pass to Taylor who hooked his effort into the roof of the net.

Villa almost snatched victory in injury-time when Darius Vassell broke into the area but keeper Ian Walker was equal to his curling shot.

STANDINGS table showing English Premiership table after Wednesday's matches. Columns: Team, Won, Drawn, Lost, Goals for, Goals against, Points.

Liverpool not going overboard

LIVERPOOL, England, Dec 30: Liverpool played down talk of their English Premiership title challenge on Wednesday despite emerging from their seventh successive home victory after their 3-1 win over Wimbledon on Tuesday, reports AFP.



ROBBIE FOWLER

Robbie Fowler, back after three months of ankle problems to score the 150th goal of his Liverpool career on Tuesday, was equally determined to play down the current situation.

"I'm surprised, I didn't think we would do so well so quickly. It's a great thing for the club but I don't want to say how high we can go."

He said: "To be honest we have not even talked about titles, we are happy going along picking up as many points as we can. Nobody in the dressing room has even mentioned the league table."

"We just want to finish as high up the table as we can, and

that means continuing to pick up as many points as we can, which is what we are doing."

Liverpool are at last playing with conviction and are the one major force rising from the

pack who will worry the title chasers.

And manager Gerard Houllier has now got a powerful new strike force at his disposal.

Fowler and Michael Owen, both stricken by injury problems all season, have hardly played in tandem this term.

Now Owen has proved his fitness with four goals in three matches, and Fowler is at last back in contention as a would-be strike partner.

The temptation for Houllier now will be to play Owen and Fowler together at Tottenham but with Titi Camara in such fine form too, it is a tough decision.

Fowler is aware of the problem his manager faces.

"Now my battle is to get a starting place, but it's a good battle to have. It not a bad headache for the manager to have, he's got a great squad and there are other players than me trying to get into the team."

"I obviously want to play every game, but if the team is winning and scoring goals, then that's the main thing."

Romario on song

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec 30 (Reuters): Vasco da Gama striker Romario scored two goals in a 4-1 friendly win over African champions Raja Casablanca, then signed autographs for his star-struck opponents.

Players from the Moroccan club ran to surround the former Brazil international at the final whistle, asking for his autograph and posing with him for photographs.

Wednesday's game was a warm-up for next month's world club championship in which both teams are taking part.

Egyptian striker for Benfica

LISBON, Dec 30: Egyptian international forward Abdelsatar Sabry will sign for Portuguese First Division side Benfica on a three-and-a-half-year deal, it was reported in Portuguese magazine A Bola Wednesday, reports AFP.

CROSSWORD puzzle by Eugene Sheffer. Includes clues for Across and Down, and a Cryptquip section with a grid and solution.

Paul Merson of Aston Villa and (R) under pressure from Tottenham Hotspur's Mauricio Taricco during their Premiership tussle at Villa Park on December 29.