

Steve foresees Aussie decade

SYDNEY, Jan 5: Fresh from an innings and 141-run defeat of India and a clean sweep of home Tests this summer, Australian skipper Steve Waugh has predicted Australia will dominate world cricket for the next decade, reports AP.

Waugh's Australians completed a 3-0 whitewash of India at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Tuesday, which followed a 3-0 series win over Pakistan late last year for a 6-0 record down under plus a one-off Test win against Zimbabwe.

Waugh said the Australians had set a goal of winning all six home Tests this summer, so it was no surprise to finish with an emphatic win against India with two days to spare.

"I didn't think we should lose a Test," he said. "For me as captain, the highlight was watching the players mature and become battle-hardened, tough Test match cricketers capable of taking Australia over in the next 10 years and remaining the top cricket nation."

"We have got the basis of a great team. Once the older guys depart, whenever that is, it's going to be a team that can take over and continue the mantle of being the No 1 cricket side in the world."

Australia wrapped up the series by ousting India for 150 then scoring 552 for five declared, with Justin Langer notching a record 223 and Ricky Ponting adding 141 not out for a lead of 402.

Glenn McGrath snared five wickets for 55, returning 10-103 for the match, as India were bowled out for 261 in the chase. Opener Venkat Laxman, who scored 167, provided the only serious resistance to the Australian bowling attack.

Australia, rated the world's No 1 Test team, also won the limited-overs World Cup in England last June by crushing Pakistan in the final at Lord's.

A tri-nation limited-overs series involving Australia, Pakistan and India starts January 9 with Australia versus Pakistan in Brisbane.

Pakistan go into the series opener at the Gabba in disarray and without express bowler Shoaib Akhtar, who was set to return Wednesday to Pakistan to sit out an International Cricket Council ban for an alleged illegal bowling action.

The Pakistanis have slumped to successive defeats in Perth and Adelaide at the hands of the Australian second-stringers who make up the national A team.

Meanwhile, Indian skipper Sachin Tendulkar, who was named player-of-the-test-series after scoring 278 runs at an average of 46.33 under difficult circumstances against Australia, said his team had learned from its recent losses.

"It has been a tough tour for the bowlers, not only the batters," said Tendulkar.

He also threw a different ball game when you play in Australia compared to India where we rely more on turning tracks.

Tendulkar said the Indian players were looking forward to the limited-overs series. India's first game is against Pakistan in Brisbane on January 10.

Australia-India Test avgs

SYDNEY, Jan 5 (Reuters): Australia v India 1999-2000 Test "average:"
BATTING/FIELDING (Tabulate under matches, innings, not outs, runs, highest score, 50s, 100s, average, catches, stumpings).

Australia										
Ricky Ponting	3	5	2	375	141	1	2	125.00	3	-
Justin Langer	3	5	-	289	223	-	1	57.80	6	-
Adam Gilchrist	3	5	1	221	78	2	-	55.25	9	1
Steve Waugh	3	5	-	137	51	1	1	34.25	8	-
Mark Waugh	3	5	1	88	86	1	-	29.33	3	-
Shane Warne	3	5	-	144	88	1	-	28.80	1	-
Greg Blewett	2	1	-	27	27	-	-	27.00	-	-
Brett Lee	1	2	1	25	21	-	-	25.00	1	-
Michael Kasprovicz	3	5	-	123	91	1	-	21.50	5	-
Glenn McGrath	3	2	-	5	4	-	-	2.50	1	-
Damien Fleming	3	2	2	43	31	-	-	-	-	-
India										
Sachin Tendulkar	3	6	-	278	116	2	1	46.33	-	-
Venkat Laxman	3	6	-	221	167	-	1	36.83	2	-
Saurav Ganguly	3	6	-	177	60	1	-	29.50	5	-
Anil Kumble	3	6	2	102	28	-	-	25.50	-	-
Sadogopan Ramesh	2	4	1	60	28	-	-	20.00	1	-
Hrishikesh Kanitkar	2	4	-	74	45	-	-	18.50	-	-
Rahul Dravid	3	6	-	93	35	-	-	15.50	1	-
Mannava Prasad	3	6	-	52	14	-	-	8.67	10	-
Javagal Srinath	3	6	1	42	15	-	-	8.40	3	-
Venkatesh Prasad	3	6	3	22	10	-	-	7.33	1	-
Vijay Bharadwaj	1	1	-	6	6	-	-	6.00	-	-
Ajit Agarkar	3	6	-	19	19	-	-	3.17	-	-
Devang Gandhi	1	2	-	4	4	-	-	2.00	1	-

BOWLING (tabulate under matches, overs, maidens, runs, wickets, average, best figures):										
Australia										
Mark Waugh	3	5.0	1	17	2	8.50	2-12	-	-	-
Glenn McGrath	3	113.0	34	248	18	13.78	5-48	-	-	-
Brett Lee	2	69.0	19	184	13	14.15	5-47	-	-	-
Damien Fleming	3	96.2	25	279	12	23.25	5-30	-	-	-
Greg Blewett	3	14.0	4	49	2	24.50	1-5	-	-	-
Shane Warne	3	127.0	35	335	8	41.88	4-92	-	-	-
Michael Kasprovicz	1	17.0	2	85	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ricky Ponting	3	1.0	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Michael Slater	3	1.0	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
India										
Ajit Agarkar	3	108.0	24	351	11	31.91	3-43	-	-	-
Sourav Ganguly	3	21.0	2	90	2	45.00	1-34	-	-	-
Sachin Tendulkar	3	9.0	-	46	1	46.00	1-34	-	-	-
Javagal Srinath	3	126.0	18	461	10	46.10	4-130	-	-	-
Venkatesh Prasad	3	106.3	25	356	7	50.86	3-83	-	-	-
Anil Kumble	3	146.2	22	450	5	90.00	2-72	-	-	-
Vijay Bharadwaj	1	12.0	1	35	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hrishikesh Kanitkar	2	1.0	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Venkat Laxman	3	3.0	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-

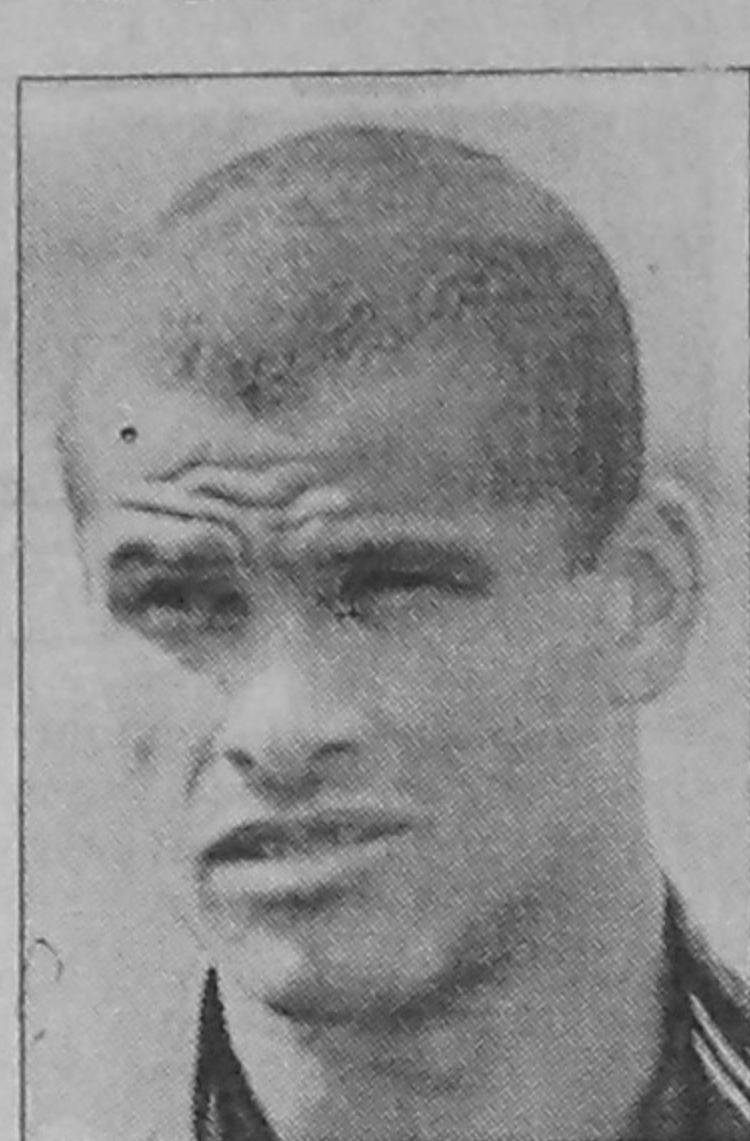
Rivaldo left in the cold

BARCELONA, Jan 5: The row between Barcelona's authoritarian Dutch coach Louis van Gaal and his European Footballer of the Year Rivaldo continued on Tuesday as the Brazilian was left out of the squad to play Real Sociedad on Wednesday, reports AFP.

Van Gaal, who guided Barcelona to the title last year but who sees his side nine points off the pace going into the final half of the season, has barred the 27-year-old Brazilian from the squad since the latter indicated he wanted to assume a central playmaking role rather than the left wing position where he has made his name.

Although the continuing row could revive Serie A leaders Lazio's 62.4million dollars bid for him, Rivaldo, who had already indicated when he was in Brazil over Christmas that he wanted to stay at the Catalan giants until 2003, said he had nothing against the Dutchman.

"I have nothing against van Gaal and he has nothing against me," Rivaldo told Marca newspaper.



RIVALDO

"However, I have taken the decision to no longer play on the left and I will continue to try and win a place in the centre," added Rivaldo, who inspired Brazil to last year's Copa America trophy.

For his part van Gaal, who coached Ajax to the 1995 European Cup, refused to comment but he is known not to want to be seen by setting a precedent in allowing a player to get his own way over a tactical change.

Both parties have their supporters among the Barcelona playing staff with current playmaker Josep Guardiola sympathising with Rivaldo.

"Rivaldo is a grown-up. He has taken a decision and one must respect it even if the interests of the club should come first," Guardiola said.

However, Finnish striker Jari Litmanen, who was a member of the Ajax team that won the European Cup under van Gaal, disagreed.

"Why should he be allowed to change as it's been two years since Rivaldo played on the left in which he has been our leading scorer and created a lot of goals," Litmanen said.

"Lazio, who have already signed veteran Italian striker Fabrizio Ravanelli from Marseille during the winter break, will have to make an offer in the next fortnight before the transfer window shuts."

Necaxa winning hearts already



RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan 5: World Club Championship favourites Manchester United were given a lesson in diplomacy on Tuesday by Necaxa, their Mexican opponents in their first match, reports Reuters.

While the European champions, in a move interpreted by Brazilian fans as a snub, trained in secret for the second day running, Necaxa were singing the praises of the host city and planning a meeting with children from a shanty town.

Necaxa will be rank outsiders when they meet United on Thursday but have outclassed the English club in their dealings with the locals.

The outgoing Mexicans arrived in Rio a week ago and have opened all their training sessions to local fans and the media.

They also announced that on Wednesday players would meet children on a beach near their hotel and exchange shirts, while a small team delegation would then visit the poor Rocinha neighbourhood nearby.

PSG's Rodriguez joins Lens

LENS, France, Jan 5: Paris Saint Germain striker Bruno Rodriguez, loaned to English Premiership side Bradford at the start of the season, said at a Tuesday press conference here he had signed a four-and-a-half year contract with Lens, reports AFP.

Earlier officials of the northern French First Division club said Rodriguez would be switching clubs for 15 million francs (about 2.45m dollars).

lie and media, and they have spent the rest of the time holed up in their hotel.

The policy has proved largely pointless as photographers have managed to snatch pictures by climbing on to roofs of nearby buildings.

United's presence in Brazil, at the expense of the defence of the FA Cup they won last season, is partly a public relations exercise aimed at boosting England's bid to host the 2006 World Cup.

Arias said his team, champions of the CONCACAF region, were not daunted at the prospect of facing United. "They have won everything there is to win but we are more worried about ourselves," he said.

The controversial competition kicks off on Wednesday in Sao Paulo with a double bill. First, Real Madrid take on underdogs Al Nassr from Saudi Arabia, then local side Corinthians play African champions Raja Casablanca.

Fans in Rio said they had been having trouble getting tickets. Several supporters said they had gone to various of the advertised selling points in the search for tickets, only to be told they were unavailable.

Attempts to buy them at the advertised Internet address also proved fruitless, they said.



FLO IN FULL FLOW: Chelsea's Norwegian international striker Tore Andre Flo (in white), trying to battle his way past a diving Loventry defender Paul Williams during their Premiership encounter at Coventry on January 4. — AFP photo

Primera Liga Valencia, Celta draw

MADRID, Jan 5: Valencia midfielder Gerard Lopez scored the first goal of the new millennium in the Spanish First Division as the home side drew 1-1 with Celta Vigo on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

Celta remain third with 29 points from 18 games and Valencia are fifth on 26.

Deportivo Coruna lead the league with 36 points and Real Zaragoza are second with 30 points. Both teams have played a game less than Celta but have matches today.

Gerard put Valencia ahead after just six minutes when he headed home a Gaizka Mendiet corner.

Celta poured on the pressure and twice went close through Russian international Valery Karpin.

But they had to wait until five minutes after the break before drawing level when Juan Velasco got his first goal since moving from Sevilla during the summer.

The Spanish under-21 international defender darted down the right wing, shook off his marker on the edge of the box and calmly slotted the ball past Valencia goalkeeper Andoni Palop.

A minute's silence was observed before the kick-off in memory of the mother of King Juan Carlos, who died on Sunday and was buried on Tuesday. All the players wore black armbands.

Historians select Pele as the best

FRANKFURT, Jan 5: Pele has been voted player of the 20th century, coming ahead of Johan Cruyff and Franz Beckenbauer in a poll by a group of soccer historians, reports AP.

Pele, the former Brazilian star, received 1,705 points, while Cruyff, the former Dutch star, got 1,303 points in the poll by the International Federation of Football History and Statistics, which announced the results late Tuesday at a gala reception near Frankfurt.

Beckenbauer, the former German libero, was third at 1,228 points.

"I think the poll has the right winner," Cruyff said. "Surely it was decisive that Pele won three World Cup titles."

Although Cruyff never won a World Cup title, he came ahead of Beckenbauer, whose team beat the Netherlands in the 1974 final.

Cruyff said the technical level of the game today was not as good as before.

"We have to learn again to play on the streets. That's where you learn the decisive things," he said.

Alfredo di Stefano took fourth place in the poll, followed by Diego Maradona, Ferenc Puskas, Michel Platini, Garrincha, Eusebio and Bobby Charlton.

Lev Yashin, the late Russian giant, was voted the top goalkeeper of the century, followed by Gordon Banks of England and Dino Zoff of Italy.

They were followed by Sepp Maier of Germany, Ricardo Zamora of Spain, Jose Luis Chilavert of Paraguay, Peter Schmeichel of Denmark, Peter Shilton of England, Frantisek Planicka of Czechoslovakia and Raul Carrizo of Argentina.

Chilavert and Schmeichel were the only still active players on the two lists.

In other honours, Germany's Oliver Kahn beat out Schmeichel and Chilavert to be proclaimed top world goalkeeper in 1999.

Mia Hamm led the top women players of 1999, followed by another American, Michelle Akers.

Y2K jolt for Jeffers

LONDON, Jan 5: A New Year's eve punch-up has earned Everton's promising young striker Francis Jeffers a police caution for drunk and disorderly behaviour, reports AFP.

The 18-year-old pleaded forgiveness on Tuesday, saying he went to the aid of Don Hutchison when the Everton skipper was attacked by two men at a Liverpool hotel.

He was arrested when police arrived and taken to the police station where he accepted a caution for being drunk and disorderly.

"After midnight on New Year's Eve/Day, I was walking from a hotel celebration with my girlfriend, 50 yards behind my club captain Don Hutchison and his wife," he said.

Don was insulted and then physically abused by two men. I ran forward to prevent further fighting and got involved in the fracas.

"The police arrived and I was arrested and taken to the police station, whereupon I accepted a caution so as not to cause my club and my family any embarrassment."

"I deeply regret getting involved in a situation such as this and would like to apologise for any unpleasantness caused to anyone and I hope that the club and fans will forgive my involvement."

Jeffers is Everton's brightest prospect and was called into the full England squad by Kevin Keegan ahead of the friendly against Hungary in Budapest last April.

He played his first game last season at Derby on February 6 and made his home debut in the 2-1 FA Cup fifth round win against Coventry when he scored his first goal for the club.

In September he was sent off in a Merseyside Derby for fighting with Liverpool keeper Sander Westerveld.



Luis Milla (L) of Valencia is sandwiched between Celta Vigo's Valeri Karpin (L) and Giovanna during their Primera Liga clash at Valencia on January 4. — AFP photo

Premiership

Flo saves Chelsea's day

LONDON, Jan 5: Coventry drew 2-2 with Chelsea in the English Premiership on a Tuesday night they proved themselves the most vulnerable club in the land in the moments after scoring as Norwegian Tore Andre Flo twice equalized, reports AFP.

Twice Coventry went ahead in the second half, through Belgian Cedric Roussel and then Republic of Ireland star Robbie Keane, and on both occasions Flo equalized in a matter of seconds.

Coventry coach Gordon Strachan twice choked on his own goal celebrations as Flo darted through moments later to spoil them.

Flo now has five goals from his last three games and his 13 goal total equals last season's haul.

Strachan said afterwards: "I was physically sick and it's not often you get that. It happened once and then it happened again. And it was incredible."

"You play against a big club and do very well, look like you are likely to win and then look what happens."

However Strachan did admit they had done very well to earn four points in their last two games against Arsenal and Coventry.

Earlier, Coventry had enjoyed the better of a disappointing first half.

Gordon Strachan's side had beaten Arsenal 3-2 on Boxing Day and the confidence was there in their play although clear-cut chances were at a premium in the opening 45 minutes.

Chelsea briefly threatened in the opening minutes and Paul Williams made an important tackle on the edge of his own area to halt Flo in his tracks after Didier Deschamps had slotted the ball into his path.

The trickery of Keane was causing problems and Chelsea's Italian international midfielder Roberto Di Matteo was yellow-carded after bringing down the Republic of Ireland international.

"Coventry looked full of confidence after their victory over Arsenal and Chelsea newcomer Emerson Thome was forced to concede a corner at full stretch to deny Roussel after Keane had intercepted a pass from Zola."

Chelsea posed little in the way of an attacking threat although Flo should have done better with a near-post header in the 39th minute which he sent over the bar following a Gianfranco Zola free kick.

Belgian under-21 interna-

tional Roussel however brought the match alive. Moroccan Mustapha Hadji had an initial shot blocked by Roussel but it fell nicely for him to fire the ball home with his left foot.

Just as Coventry were celebrating Gianfranco Zola surged up the left before selling a dummy to create an opening for a cross. He found Flo who firmly fired the ball home.

In the 81st minute, Keane scored with a fabulous header to yet again give Coventry the lead. A cross from the right found Roussel at the far post who nodded a looping header back across the box.

Keane was perfectly positioned with a firm header in-off the base of the left hand post and he dived headlong on to the pitch in celebration.

Once more it was left to Norwegian international Flo, who scored the winning goal against Brazil at the World Cup, to put a dampener on Coventry morale with a superb chip past keeper Magnus Hedman.

Chelsea coach Gianluca Vialli said: "Look at the way things went on the pitch. They had the lead and twice we came back. It's frustrating because I feel we should play that way before we go a goal down. Very soon I would like to see Chelsea in a better position."

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Natore

Notice Inviting RHD Tender

- Tender Notice No : 09-NRD/99-2000 Eng
- Name of work : Construction of brick abutment for launching of Bailey bridge at diff KM of Naogaon-Atari-Natore Road under Road Division, Natore during 1999-2000 in 2 (two) groups.
- Chargeable head :
- Estimated cost :
- Earnest money : As per group list.
- Time allowed for completion of work :
- Eligibility of contractor :
- Name of offices where tender will be received : (a) Addl Chief Engineer, RHD, Rajshahi Zone, Rajshahi.
(b) Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi.
(c) Superintending Engineer, RHD, RHD Road Circle, Pabna.
(d) Superintending Engineer, RHD, Monitoring & Evaluation Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka.
(e) Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Natore/Pabna/Sirajgonj.
- Name of offices where tender will be sold : (a) Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi.
(b) Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Natore, Pabna/Sirajgonj/Rajshahi/Planning Division (P&D) Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka.
(c) Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD Road Sub-Division-1/1/1st line, Natore.
- Last date for selling tender : 17-1-2000 Eng during office hours.
- Last date & time for receiving tender : 18-1-2000 Eng at 12-30 PM.
- Date & time for opening tender : 20-1-2000 Eng at 12-45 PM.
- Date of Lottery (if nec) : 27-1-2000 Eng at 12-00 Noon.

NB: 1. Rate & quantity of schedule of works will be corrected as per approved estimate at the time for execution of formal tender.

2. The tenderer must submit along with the tender attested copy of "VAT" registration certificate, otherwise the tender will be treated as informal.

3. The tenderer must submit along with the tender attested copy of Tax-payer Identification Number (TIN), otherwise the tender will be treated as informal.

4. The tenderer must submit along with the tender attested copy of Page No 6 & 7 of the new registration book related page in connection with up-to-date renewal or Treasury challan, otherwise the tender will be treated as informal.