

Column One SPORTS TALK



Martina Hingis
(World No 1 tennis player)
"I hate playing you."
After losing to Lindsay Davenport in the 2000 Australian Open final.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN
Competition-126

✓ Tick the Correct Answers
Post to The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm
Feb 4, 2000 and draw
shortly afterwards

- How many centuries did Tendulkar score in the Tests series against Australia recently?
One Two Three
- Who won the last ever European Cup Winners' Cup soccer?
Lazio Barcelona Man United
- Who was named player of the cricket World Cup?
Kluseker S Waugh Dravid
- Where did Maurice Greene break the 100m world record?
Athens Seattle Toronto
- Who lifted the National Cricket League title?
Chittagong Sylhet Khulna

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)

POWERED WITH
EN-VITS
ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

National League

Too many unforced errors

Former national cricketer and selector **Rafiqul Alam** was better known for his guts both on and off the field. In his playing days, the dashing cricketer played with straight bat. When it comes to cricket's betterment, Rafiq can write the straight thing too.

—Sports Editor



BCB's (Bangladesh Cricket Board) 'sole' priority to attaining Test status as early as possible is a welcome strategy, and I think all of us should share the same view.

It is a simple truth that if we get Test status right now we won't be winning Test matches in the next 10 years - and if we get Test status 10 years later then we will be needing another 10 years after that to win a Test match. It is better that the ICC (International Cricket Council) confers the Test status on Bangladesh right now. So that the feeling of big cricket gets injected to the officials, players and other associated bodies soon. It will enable them to smell the smoke early and get ready to water the fire instead of doing that 10 years later. Cricket is a killingly competitive sport. One must run faster in order to stay in the same place or the race.

And, to get the players ready for the big game the BCB has introduced longer-version cricket in the domestic circuit styled as National League. The inaugural National League consisted of six divisional teams playing on home and away basis concluded recently. The infrastructure of the League was created either by the development committee of BCB or by imitating the Australian Sheffield Shield cricket system. It needs to be analysed.

First of all, it was a big mistake to create so many venues and wickets in such a short time. None of the facilities especially the most important area of a cricket field - the 22-yard strip - were all under-prepared as the wickets had been during the early 70's. It was always better to select 3 to 4 venues, not 10-11, apart from Dhaka where cricket is being played regularly over the years. In Australia, there are only six venues so that each and every facility can be provided to the players. A good wicket has the pace and bounce in it and offers both batsman and bowler a 50-50 chance to perform.

As a spectator in some of those matches, I found a batsman who scored runs seldom tried to settle down and did never play shots judging the merit of balls. Same went with the bowlers. They got many of their wickets which they never deserved. So the skills and tactics of cricket were hardly there to matter. But in case of selec-

tive 3 or 4 venues for this League the organisers could have provided better wickets, maximum facilities and ideal environment needed for a First Class match.

Management in almost every sphere was full of mistakes. The very first mistake was made when the DSAs, which hosted the League matches, were not conferred and provided with any direct financial help. Each divisional secretary, who is the local BCB member, handled the financial matters. What would happen had not been the DSAs co-operative with the divisional committee? The right thing was to involve the DSAs more by allowing them to handle at least 60 per cent of the allotted money. This would have created a harmonious relationship between the divisional committees and the DSA officials.

Players representing the divisions were also not treated well by their respective teams due to the shortage of funds and the influence non-cricketing officials. Besides, players, hired from other districts, can never produce 100 per cent team spirit in a club team or even a district team. Apart from Chittagong and Sylhet, who became champion and runners-up respectively more than a daily allowance of Taka 200!

Crickets kits worth over Taka 70,000 were provided by the BCB to each division. But those were either sold out or presented to their relatives or other high-ups of the division. Excepting Chittagong, team management of other divisions was dominated by non-cricketing and political goons. The allotted money of around Taka 10 lacs were mostly mishandled and gobbled up.

Humiliation for Dhaka Division in cricket is not a new experience. Reasons have been many to count. A man, who played football all his life and is still a football official, has turned cricket manager. A coach who might have known and got on well with players of 20 years ago and an assistant manager who superseded even the captain were not good enough to handle a star-studded Dhaka team, let alone getting the best out of them.

Wherever the Dhaka team went people thronged the ground only to have a glimpse of these exaggerated stars who touched such a low that went beyond imagination. It is not



understandable, why does not the BCB or the CDM take charge of the Dhaka Divisional team immediately to put cricket on the right track and inspire millions of its followers?

BCB should know a fish can not go up a tree until someone hangs one up there. It is vital that administrators handle issues regarding the appointment of development officers with more deftness and dynamism. But at the same time, I strongly feel that the cricketers deserve a lot better and a lot more. The Board has to meet the requirements like money, management, environment, pitches, dressing room facilities, outfields, transportation, accommodation, umpires and their safety quite satisfactorily. A venue, lacking the above-mentioned necessities, should not be given any matches. If the Board doesn't ensure these, two old men and a dog would be the spectators and cricket will be the ultimate sufferer.

Every body appreciated when the BCB took the bold step to take cricket to every nook and corner of the country and let the game develop nationally. But at the same time, I strongly feel that the cricketers deserve a lot better and a lot more. The Board has to meet the requirements like money, management, environment, pitches, dressing room facilities, outfields, transportation, accommodation, umpires and their safety quite satisfactorily. A venue, lacking the above-mentioned necessities, should not be given any matches. If the Board doesn't ensure these, two old men and a dog would be the spectators and cricket will be the ultimate sufferer.

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Ealham erases Zimbabwe



KIMBERLEY, South Africa, Jan 30: Mark Ealham seized England's best one-day international bowling figures of five for 15 in their triangular tournament match against Zimbabwe on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Medium-pacer Ealham, whose wickets were all leg before, helped to restrict Zimbabwe to 161 for nine in their 50 overs after they won the toss and opted to bat.

Ealham struck first in the 21st over by dismissing Grant Flower for 28. Four overs later he sent Flower's brother, Zimbabwean captain Andy, on his way for eight.

Stuart Carlisle scored two before becoming Ealham's third victim in the 27th over, followed two balls later by Guy

Whittall for a duck. Murray Goodwin became the fifth lbw victim in the 29th over when he was trapped in front by Ealham for 15.

Ealham's spell, along with fellow medium pacer Mark Alleyne's removal of Alistair Campbell for 28, sent Zimbabwe tumbling from 71 for one to 98 for seven in 9.5 overs.

John Rennie, who made 23, and Heath Streak, top scorer with 35 not out, then shared an eighth-wicket stand of 62 to spare some of Zimbabwe's blushes.

England's previous best one-day figures were five for 20 by off-spinner Vic Marks against New Zealand in Wellington in the 1983-84 season.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the Zimbabwe innings in the triangular-series

match against England on Sunday:

ZIMBABWE

N Johnson c Hussain b Caddick	11
G Flower lbw b Ealham	28
A Campbell c Solanki b Alleyne	28
M Goodwin lbw b Ealham	15
A Flower lbw b Ealham	8
S Carlisle lbw b Ealham	2
G Whittall lbw b Ealham	0
H Streak not out	35
J Rennie c Hussain b Gough	23
H Olunga b Gough	0
Extras (lb-4, w-6, nb-1)	11
Total: (For nine wickets)	161

Did not bat: A Whittall
Fall of wickets: 1-15; 2-71; 3-73; 4-92; 5-96; 6-97; 7-98; 8-160; 9-161

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Gough	10	2	31	2
Caddick	10	2	21	1
White	10	1	44	0
Alleyne	10	0	46	1
Ealham	10	3	15	5

Asia Cup qualifying

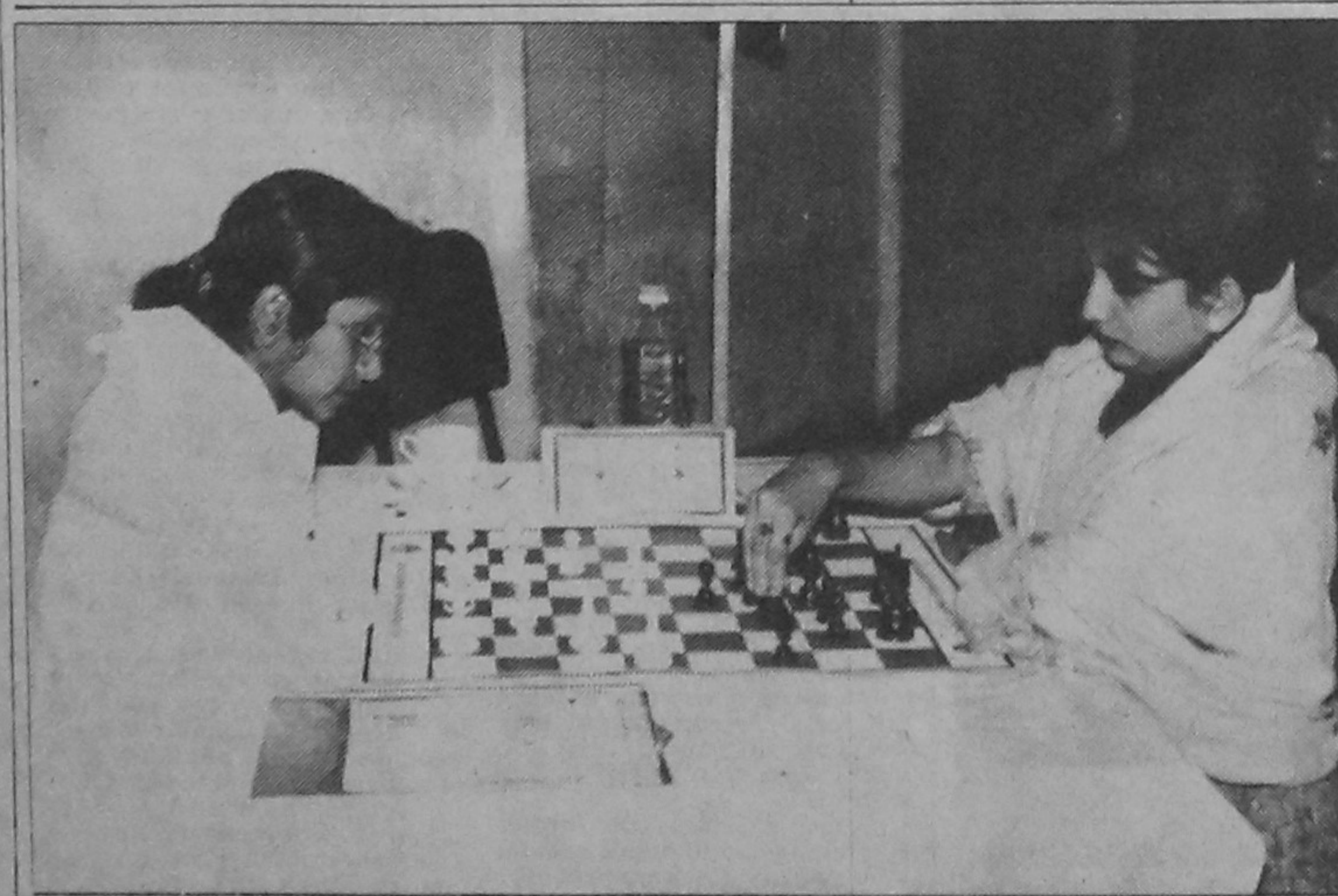
China enter finals

HANOI, Jan 30: China have qualified for the final of the Asia Cup soccer tournament later this year after proving too strong for Vietnam, reports Reuters.

China beat its valiant hosts 2-0 in southern Ho Chi Minh City on Saturday evening, after earlier dishing out a thrashing to Guam and the Philippines in other matches being played in Group Nine of the qualifying games.

There are 10 groups of qualifying rounds in total for the Asia Cup, and only the group winners go through, local soccer officials have said. The final will be played in Lebanon this October.

Vietnam finished second in Group Nine, followed by the Philippines and Guam.



Shabana Parveen Nipa (R) makes a move against Taniya Parveen during the fourth round of the 21st national women's chess championship at the NSC yesterday. — Star photo

Div I cricket

Jewel jewel of Orient

Sports Reporter

BRIEF SCORES

ESKATON SS: 146 all out in 48.5 overs (Farid 29, Jashim 23, Khokon 20, Kamaluddin 4/28, Lucky 2/16, Dalim 2/31)
ORIENT SC: 149 for 2 in 42.3 overs (Jewel 54 n.o., Aslam 47 n.o., Kajol 35; Sajid 1/11)
Result: Orient SC won by eight wickets.

Orient Sporting Club thrashed Eskaton Sabuj Sangha by eight wickets as the First Division Cricket League resumed in the capital after a lengthy recess.

Opener Jewel scored an unbeaten half-century as the winners reached 149 for two in 42.3 overs at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. Earlier Eskaton were dismissed for 146 in 48.5 overs.

Jewel, who lost his opening partner Rubel cheaply with the score on nine with only three overs gone, shared a 81-run second wicket partnership with one-day Kajol who chipped in with 35.

After Kajol returned on 90, Middle order Aslam took Eskaton bowlers to the sword and scored 47 in an unbeaten 59-run partnership with Jewel that saw Orient safely through without any further loss.

Jewel hit seven fours in his 97-ball 54 while Aslam hammered six boundaries in his 62-ball knock.

Earlier, Farid top-scored with 29 after Eskaton were put into bat. Kamaluddin was the most successful Orient bowler taking four for 28 from his 9.5 overs while Lucky and Dalim shared four wickets.

It was Orient's fourth win in seven outings.

Damal Smriti champions Khelaghar Samaj Kalyan Sangha and Young Cricketers are leading 12-team league table with five wins from six matches each respectively.

MCC head for home

Sports Reporter

The 14-member Marylebone Cricket Club led by former England Test player Min Patel returned home last night.

The famous London-based Club comprised of county cricketers played a four-day game and two three-dayers against different selections during their three weeks here.

All the encounters ended in draws. The visitors managed only a single victory - beating Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Eleven by six wickets in a limited-overs match at the Jessore Stadium on January 23.

A day/night 50-over contest against the Bangladesh national team was abandoned after torrential rain played havoc at the Bangabandhu National Stadium on Saturday.

The tourists were denied the opportunity to face the Bangladesh national team in their four-day match as many cricketers boycotted the game at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in protest at a CDM decision to ban seven leading players. BCB hurriedly assembled a relatively inexperienced outfit Dhaka Metropolitan Eleven to take on the visitors.

The cricketers under the banner of Cricketers' Welfare Association of Bangladesh however, withdrew the boycott following intervention by BCB president Saheb Hossain on January 22 and decided to play the remaining matches.

Rajshahi cricket

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Jan 30: Dorgapara Jubo Cricket Scl moved into semifinal in the Shahed Zia Smriti Cricket tournament at the Rajshahi Government College ground today.

Dorgapara defeated Nowhata Sporting Club by 58 runs in the first quarterfinal.

Nowhata won the toss and invited Dorgapara to bat first. The winners made 165 in 32 overs before being all out.

Murtuza 36 was the top-scorer for the winners. In reply, Nowhata all out for 107 in 31.1 overs.

Meanwhile, Alid Club beat Kajhata Sporting Club by nine wickets in the First Division league at local stadium today.

Winning the toss, Kajhata batted first and made 86 in 39 overs before being all out.

In reply, Alid Club reached the winning target losing one wicket in 17.2 overs.

RU cricket

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Jan 30: Statistics Department and General History won their respective matches of the Rajshahi University inter department cricket tournament today.

Statistics defeated Arabic by eight wickets at RU Stadium in the first match. History beat Bangla by 12 runs at Near Habibur Rahman Hall ground in other match of the same time.

No respite for India



PERTH, Australia, Jan 30: Australia's Mr Reliable, number four batsman Michael Bevan, was in the thick of the action again when his side beat India by four wickets - but with only three balls to spare - in a Carlton and United tri-nation one-day match at the WACA Ground here today, reports AFP.

Left-hander Bevan, 29, crossed a sweet 92-ball 71 (nine fours) as the home side scored 230 from 49.3 overs in a rain-interrupted innings after India made 226 from their 50 overs after winning the toss.

In a much tighter finish than had seemed likely when Bevan was fourth man out in the 43rd over with Australia needing only a further 37 runs, Australia began the last over seeking seven runs from Venkatesh Prasad's six balls.

Shane Warne, better known for his leg-spinning exploits, became a hero with the bat

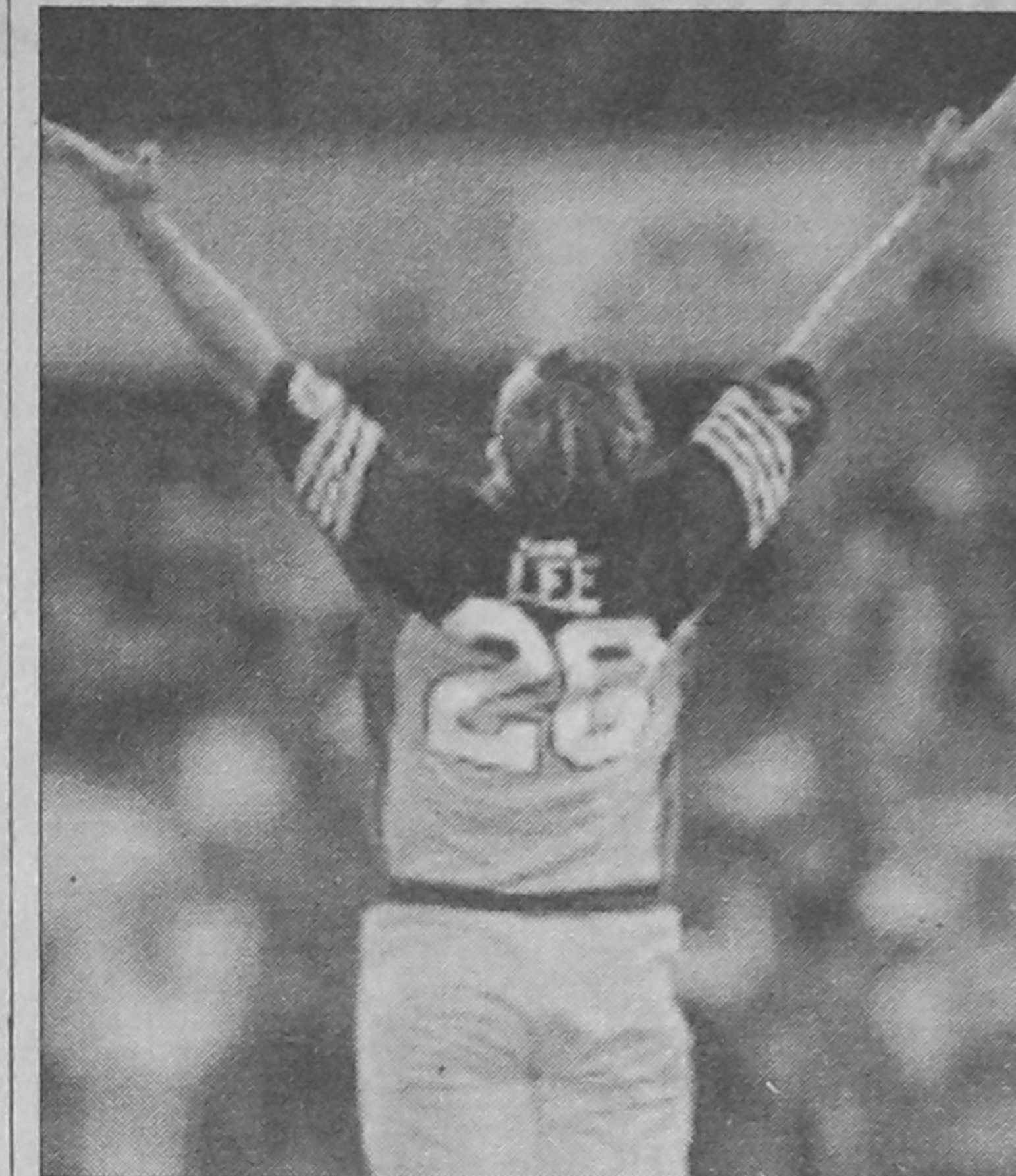
12 qualifying matches before Steve Waugh's men take on Pakistan in the best-of-three finals against Pakistan, starting in Melbourne on Wednesday.

Australia will head to the Melbourne Cricket Ground for the day-night clash brimming with confidence after seven wins out of eight matches in the run-in games.

Pakistan won four of their qualifiers, while India had a sole success.

In India's innings, number three batsman Rahul Dravid resuracted the side's hopes with a well measured 65 from 108 balls - his best knock of the series.

Dravid and left-hander Hrishikesh Kanitkar (30 from 50 balls) fashioned a crucial 81 from 99 balls for the third wicket after yet another ill-fated Indian start in which both openers, Sachin Tendulkar and Vangipurappu, were out for three each inside the first nine overs with a paltry 11 runs posted.



Australia's Shane Lee is elated after claiming the wicket of Rahul Dravid in yesterday's Carlton and United tri-series game at the WACA Ground. — Internet photo

when he whacked the first ball through mid-wicket for four and then smashed the third over wide long-on for six. The world one-day champions again exhibited their resilience in a tight corner.

While they had a scare over the last few overs, they had earlier bowled with purpose and penetration, fielded with their trademark desperation and batted just as well as was necessary to win.

It was a top-rate limber-up - with the late pressure providing extra value - in the last of the

Tendulkar, unusually tentative, fell to a superb delivery by paceman Damien Fleming which seamed away, striking the off-stump as the batsman attempted to drive.

Laxman poked at express bowler Brett Lee's first delivery, giving Shane Warne a comfortable first slip catch. Robin Singh hit a lively 51-ball 15, failing only narrowly to complete his third half-century of the series.

He shared an enterprising 73-run sixth-wicket liaison with wicketkeeper Samir Di-

ghe, who was unbeaten with 36 off 38 balls - the right-hander's top score in eight knocks in the contest.

Brett Lee, considered by Steve Waugh to be the fastest bowler in the world, worked up a ferocious pace during a seven-over workout, recording a fastest delivery of 96.1 miles per hour (154.8 kilometres per hour). Lee, 23, is aiming to become the first bowler to top the magic 100 mph.

The firebrand from New South Wales was handicapped by the severe heat and high humidity, and was forced off the field after his first four overs to recover.

An Australian Cricket Board spokesman said: "He was so over-heated he was put in an ice bath to cool down."

His recovery was rapid, because he was able to return to the field to bowl another three overs, with his fastest ball coming in his seventh of the day.

India received a major blow even before the game started, with key players Sourav Ganguly and Jacob Martin (knee problems) and Anil Kumble (thigh strain) being sidelined with injuries from Friday night's clash with Pakistan.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the triangular-series one-day match between India and Australia at the WACA on Sunday:

INDIA

Laxman c Warne b Lee	3
Tendulkar b Fleming	3
Dravid c M Waugh b S Lee	65
Kanitkar b Ponting b Martyn	30
Gandhi c Martyn b Warne	13
R Singh c M Waugh b McGrath	45
Dighe not out	36
Joshi not out	2
Extras (lb-14, w-7, nb-8)	29
Total: (For six wickets in 50 overs)	226
Fall of wickets: 1-11; 2-11; 3-92; 4-113; 5-145; 6-218.	

Did not bat: J Srinath, A Agarkar, V Prasad.

Bowling

	O	M	R	W
McGrath	9	3	22	1
Fleming	8	2	37	1
B Lee	7	0	22	1
S Lee	8	0	38	1
Warne	9	0	57	1
Martyn	5	0	19	1
S Waugh	4	0	17	0

AUSTRALIA

M Waugh c Dighe b Joshi	40
Gilchrist c Singh b Agarkar	6
Ponting c Agarkar b Joshi	33
Bevan c Tendulkar b Singh	71
S Waugh b Singh	19
Martyn not out	3
S Lee run out	2
S Warne not out	16
Extras (lb-7, w-9, nb-8)	24
Total: (For six wickets in 49.3 overs)	230
Fall of wickets: 1-39; 2-78; 3-136; 4-190; 5-201; 6-205.	

Did not bat: B Lee, G McGrath, D Fleming.

Bowling

	O	M	R	W
Srinath	10	0	55	0
Agarkar	10	1	30	1
V Prasad	9.3	0	59	0
Joshi	10	1	33	2
Singh	10	1	37	2

Result: Australia won by four wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Michael Bevan.

First Final: Australia v Pakistan, February 2, Melbourne.

Francis no match for Tyson



MANCHESTER, Jan 30 (AP): Mike Tyson gave British boxing fans the kind of fight they wanted to see and the

kind he needed to get back into the championship picture.

Tyson, the former undisputed heavyweight champion, smashed British champion Julius Francis to the canvas five times and stopped him at 1:03 of the second round Saturday night.

"My objective was to go right in there and bang him out," Tyson said after his victory before a sellout crowd of 21,000 roaring fans in the MEN Arena.

"I've got a long way to go but I'm still trying. My next couple of fights will be in Europe. I'll fight whoever Shelly Finkel wants me to fight," he said, referring to his boxing adviser.

Finkel said he doesn't have

anything lined up.

"We have a goal to win the title this year," he said.

The British fighter Tyson wants to meet next is Lennox Lewis, the undisputed champion. Lewis' manager, Frank Maloney, has said he doesn't think a Lewis-Tyson fight would happen until next year.

"I have to have a few fights before I fight him," Tyson said. "When I do, I'm sure I'll be victorious."

Before the two can fight, a deal has to be worked out between HBO, which has Lewis under contract, and Showtime, which has Tyson under contract.

The 33-year-old Tyson, of course, will have to beat some stiffer opposition than Francis if he wants to become a major pay-per-view player in the United States again.

Although Tyson was wild in the first minute of the fight, he

landed some impressive punches once he found the range.

"I was a little anxious, but as I calmed down, I said, 'I'm going to start playing some solid punches to the body,'" Tyson said.

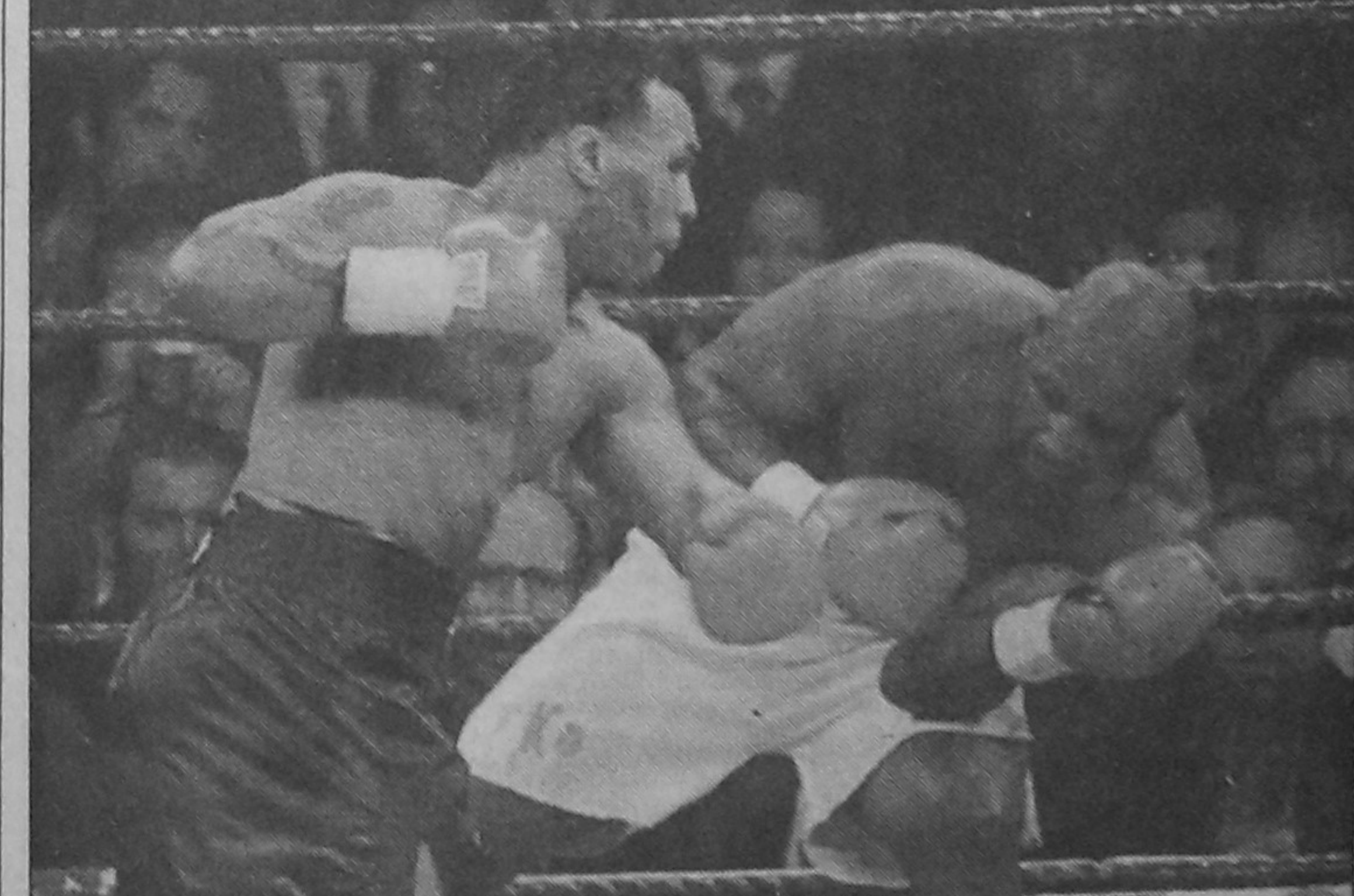
"Painful," Francis said when asked how those punches felt.

It was Tyson's second victory in three fights since his consecutive losses to Evander Holyfield.

Tyson had an unimpressive victory over Francois Botha about a year ago, followed by his one-round no-contest against Orlin Norris, whom he knocked down after the bell.

Tyson lost the WBA title when he was stopped in the 11th round by Holyfield on Nov. 9, 1996. He was disqualified for biting Holyfield's ears in the third round on June 28, 1997, and lost his licence for just over

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Briton Julius Francis (R) takes evasive action in the face of Mike Tyson onslaught during their heavyweight bout in Manchester on January 29. — AFP photo