

UEFA Cup Udinese sent packing

UDINE, Italy, March 7: Slavia Prague lost 2-1 to Udinese here on Tuesday night but the Czech club still qualified for the UEFA Cup quarter-finals on the away goals rule, reports AFP.

Udinese dominated the second half but Slavia, unbeaten in their last 19 domestic matches, reached the last eight thanks to their 1-0 victory in the home leg last week.

Stefano Fiore opened the scoring in the 22nd minute, only for Libor Koller to level for Czech league leaders Slavia just before the break.

Argentinian substitute Roberto Sosa restored Udinese's lead on the night in the 51st minute but it wasn't enough to save the Serie A club.

Team coach Luigi De Canio said: "We didn't make it. It's a great disappointment, especially for the way we played in the second half."

Fiore, at 24 one of Italy's brightest midfield prospects, broke the deadlock with a right-foot shot from close range.

Siddons quits cricket

SYDNEY, Mar 8: Jamie Siddons, the most prolific run-scorer in the history of Australian domestic cricket, announced his retirement from the game today, reports Reuters.

The former South Australian captain said he had decided to call it quits because of ongoing back and arm injuries but hoped to stay involved in the game as a coach.

"I've had a great life in cricket, but both mentally and physically it's now the right time for me to retire," Siddons said in a statement.

Regarded as one of the finest batsmen never to have played Test cricket for Australia, Siddons made his first-class debut for Victoria in 1984-85 before joining South Australia in 1991.

Murali pulls

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in Rawalpindi by a narrow two-wicket margin.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fourth day of the second cricket Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka at Arbab Niaz Stadium at Peshawar on Wednesday:

SRI LANKA: First innings 268 (M Atapattu 75, M Jayawardene 36, Shoaib Akhtar 5-75)

PAKISTAN: First innings 199 (S Anwar 74, I Haq 58 not out, Muttiah Muralitharan 4-77)

SRI LANKA: Second innings
Atapattu c Sohail b Arshad 29
Jayasuriya lbw b Waqar 9
Arnold c Youhana b Arshad 66
Jayawardene lbw b Waqar 10
Dilshan c Atiq b Sohail 7
Kalutharathana lbw b Akhtar 0
De Silva c Youhana b Arshad 31
Vaas c Youhana b Arshad 5
Pushpakumara c Zaman b Younis 14
Wickremasinghe c Waqar b Akhtar 5
Muralitharan not out 2
Extras: (b-4, lb-7, nb-5) 26
Total (All out in 73.2 overs) 224

Fall of wickets: 1-7: 2-69; 3-90: 4-108; 5-109; 6-188; 7-201; 8-206; 9-222; 10-224

Bowler: O M R W
Waqar 16 3 38 3
Akhtar 12 2 47 2
Arshad 20 3 81 3
Razaq 17 9 27 0
Sohail 8 3 20 2

PAKISTAN: Second innings
Anwar not out 32
Afzidi st Kalutharathana b Muralitharan 31
Inzamam c Jayawardene b Muralitharan 9
Sohail c Dilshan b Jayasuriya 0
Youhana lbw b Muralitharan 6
Y Khan c Arnold b Vaas 8
Razaq lbw b Muralitharan 5
A Zaman b Vaas 2
W Younis c Jayawardene b Muralitharan 0
Arshad not out 0
Extras: (b-9, lb-6, nb-11) 26
Total (for 8 wks in 68.4 overs) 222

Fall of wickets: 1-59; 2-77; 3-82; 4-103; 5-145; 6-208; 7-222; 8-222

Bowler: O M R W
Vaas 15 3 55 2
Pushpakumara 10 1 31 0
Wickremasinghe 12 5 22 0
Muralitharan 26 4 4 71 5
Jayasuriya 5 1 28 1

S Anwar retired hurt at 86-3 with his personal score on 30 and returned when his team were at 208-6.

Umpires: John Hampshire (England) and Mohammad Nazir (Pakistan)

TV umpire: Ikram Rabbani
ICC Match Referee: Brian Hastings (New Zealand)



Libor Koller(R) of Slavia Prague trying to break free from Udinese's Massimo Margiotta during their UEFA Cup fourth round second leg match at Udine on March 7.—AFP photo

UEFA Cup fourth round second leg

Italians in a tricky situation



PARIS, March 8: Italian league leaders Juventus, AS Roma and defending champions Parma all go into Thursday's UEFA Cup fourth-round, second-leg matches facing tough tasks as they aim to qualify for the quarter-finals.

They will be hoping not to suffer the same fate as Serie A rivals Udinese, who exited on the away goals rule to Czech league leaders Slavia Prague on Tuesday.

The matchup between former French champions Lens and Spanish outfit Atletico Madrid is also finely balanced after a 2-2 draw in Madrid, while Arsenal, Real Mallorca and Galatasaray are all in strong positions after the first-leg matches last week.

Despite their slim 1-0 victory in Turin, Juventus and their inspirational leader Zinedine Zidane will rely on their renowned defensive strength away to a Celta Vigo side who have not shone in recent Spanish league action.

Juventus are five points clear at the top of Serie A and have only lost one league match all season whilst Celta Vigo lie sixth in the Primera Liga and have lost a worrying twelve matches to date.

Reigning champions Parma, who thrashed Marseille 3-0 in last year's final, have had a recent return to form after a eight-game winless streak which ended with the 1-0 first-leg victory over Werder Bremen.

The holders will probably need to notch up at least one more goal to be safe, however, as Bremen boast the second-best attack in the Bundesliga.

Perhaps the most intriguing match of the evening will take place in Leeds where AS Roma will enter the intimidating cauldron that is Elland Road.

David O'Leary's young side pulled off a brilliant 0-0 draw in Rome last week led by a sparkling performance from England keeper Nigel Martyn.

Roma, however, are

formidable opposition and after their latest league success - a 1-0 victory over Torino, they are up to fourth in Serie A and looking for a Champions League place next season. The winner of the Leeds-Roma clash will play Slavia Prague in the last eight.

Lens go into their match with Spanish strugglers Atletico Madrid without their suspended Cameroonian midfielder Alex Nyarko and the injured Cyril Rool but their two away goals could prove invaluable as they try to save a disappointing season at the Felix Bollaert stadium.

Atletico will be led by a new coach after Raddy Antic returned to the helm for the third time on Saturday and replaced Italian Claudio Ranieri, who resigned after the clubs recent poor results.

Lens could go through as Atletico have relegation fears on their mind and are certainly more concerned about the upcoming league match against Valladolid at the weekend.

Arsenal will be without Dutch striker Dennis Bergkamp, who misses the trip to La Coruna due to his fear of flying, but should have no trouble eliminating the Spanish leaders Deportivo after they handed out a 5-1 thrashing in the first-leg at Highbury. Defense could also be a worry for Arsene Wenger's men as Tony Adams is almost certainly ruled out with his persistent groin injury and both Martin Keown and Gilles Grimandi are suspended, having picked up three bookings apiece in Europe this season.

Wenger is likely to ask troubled French compatriot Emmanuel Petit to switch from midfield to partner Ukrainian Oleg Luzhny in central defence where Luzhny, normally a right-back, deputised for Adams in the first leg.

However, Deportivo, who lost in the league on Sunday to lowly Malaga, will be without Brazilian playmaker Djalminha after he was sent off

in the first leg for headbutting Grimandi in the chest - though the Frenchman reacted somewhat over the top.

Real Mallorca go to the Stade Louis II in Monaco without injured Yugoslav playmaker Jovan Stankovic - who grabbed a first leg hat-trick but is suffering from a knee injury.

Real, losing Cup Winners' Cup finalists last year, will have to be careful defending a 4-1 lead against France's most potent domestic attack which features World Cup winner David Trezeguet and Italian ace Marco Simone.

The runaway French leaders will be without Mexican defender Rafael Marquez who is suspended after being sent-off in the first leg last week.

Right-back Willie Sagnol is doubtful with a stomach injury but the Monagasques will not be thinking about defense when the match kicks off Thursday as they will have to score at least three times.

Former European champions Borussia Dortmund face an uphill task as they attempt to overturn a shock 2-0 home defeat in the first-leg at the hands of Turkish champions Galatasaray.

Dortmund are mid-table in the Bundesliga but will take heart from the fact that Premier side Chelsea went into the Champions League and came away with a 5-0 victory.

THURSDAY'S MATCHES:

Leeds United (Eng) v AS Roma (Ita)

Galatasaray (Tur) v Borussia Dortmund (Ger)

Lens (Fra) v Atletico Madrid (Spa)

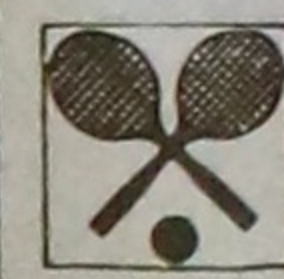
Celta Vigo (Spa) v Juventus (Ita)

Deportivo La Coruna (Spa) v Arsenal (Eng)

Monaco (Fra) v Real Mallorca (Spa)

Werder Bremen (Ger) v Parma (Ita)

Early exit for Rafter



SCOTTSDALE, Arizona, Mar 8: Patrick Rafter was gunned down by a young Spaniard in the first round of the Franklin Templeton Tennis Classic on Tuesday, suffering a defeat that left him wondering if he had come back too soon from October shoulder surgery, reports Reuters.

Hampered by cool, damp conditions that did little to help his recuperating right shoulder,

and a lack of match play, a rusty eight-seeded rafter fell to 20-year-old Juan Carlos Ferrero 6-4, 6-2 in 73 minutes.

"It was pretty cold out there and I need the conditions to be hotter and the court quicker," said Rafter, who was playing just his second ATP Tour event, having returned to the tennis wars last week in Florida.

"I felt like I could have done very well here but that changed when I saw the conditions," he said.

"When I tried to work it out, I ran out of time. I got kicked in the teeth. I'm going to get a lot of that over the next few months,"

Rafter predicted.

Another former top player coming back from surgery met with a better fate as third seed Marcelo Rios of Chile cruised to a 6-4, 6-4 victory over American Vincent Spadea for his first win of the year.

Rios lost his opening match in his hometown of Santiago last week in his return from November groin surgery.

"I couldn't walk," he said of the injury.

"I'm really happy coming back to win match like this, added Rios of the 66-minute sweep.



International women Master Rani Hamid (R) pondering her next move against Arifuzzaman during the third round of the United Insurance International Masters chess tournament yesterday.

Dubai World Cup March 25

Record entries of top thoroughbreds have ensured that Dubai will be the focus of attention world-wide when the world's richest horse race, the Emirates-sponsored Dubai World Cup, takes place at Nad Al Sheba race-track on March 25, says a press release.

The race, carrying a purse of 6 million US dollars, is the thrilling finale of a programme of seven races carrying a total purse of 12 million US dollars in prize money. It will also set in motion the second round of the Emirates World Cup Racing Championship.

Starting with the Dubai World Cup and ending with the Hong Kong Cup in December, the Dubai World Series links 11 top international races in a bid to find the world champions thoroughbred. Also sponsored by Emirates, it has been called the Formula One of horse racing.

The 118 nominations included 45 from the USA, 27 from the UAE, 10 each from Australia and Great Britain, six from Hong Kong, five from Saudi Arabia, four from Japan, three from France, two each from South Africa and Ireland, and one each from Argentina, Chile, Germany and New Zealand.

Australia beat N Districts

HAMILTON, Mar 8: Opener Greg Blewett regained form with an unbeaten 83 as Australia coasted to a five-wicket victory Wednesday over Northern Districts in a four-day tour match, reports AP.

The Australians resumed at 55 for two and raced to 198 for five, reaching the target with two sessions to spare.

Australia dismissed Northern Districts for 300 in the first innings and then, after declaring at 383 for four, removed the hosts for 280 in the second innings.

The Australian bowlers grabbed some batting practice in the second innings, with Shane Warne (24) and Brett Lee (39) promoted up the order ahead of regular top-order batsmen Matt Hayden and Damien Martyn.

Australia will be aiming for a national-record equalling eighth successive Test win when they take on New Zealand in the first Test of a three-match series starting Saturday in Auckland.

Balderstone passes away

LONDON, Mar 8 (Internet report): Chris Balderstone (59), one of the few men to have played Test cricket and League football, died suddenly at his home in Carlisle yesterday.

He played a major role in Leicestershire winning their first County Championship title, in 1975, following eight years at Yorkshire. He won two Test caps against the all-conquering West Indies side of 1976.

His football career started at Huddersfield Town, but after 117 appearances as an inside forward he moved to Carlisle. He made 369 appearances for the club, scoring 68 goals, and was a member of the side which gained promotion to the First Division for just one season, 1974-75, during which they briefly topped the table.

A member of the first-class umpires' list since 1988, Balderstone stood in two limited-overs internationals against South Africa and was highly respected.

Balderstone made 19,034 first-class runs at an average of 34.11 and took 310 wickets with his tossed up, left-arm spin at 26.32. He was an outstanding fielder but ruefully recalled the time he dropped Viv Richards, then on 151, at the Oval in 1976 off Derek Underwood. Richards went on to make 291. "I don't think 'Deadly' ever forgave me," he said. "To make matters worse, I bagged a pair."

Khalifman was able to exchange off White's strong knight at the time control but White's advantage persisted. Kasparov maneuvered for another fifteen moves, but Khalifman was able to keep all of his weak points covered. Kasparov

conceded the draw on move 55. Earlier Tuesday, Kramnik drew with the world's second-ranked player Viswanathan Anand of India.

Anand playing with whites sacrificed a pawn on move 14 against Kramnik's Petroff Defence.

On move 19, Grandmaster Valery Salov felt that Anand had a good compensation for the pawn insofar as Kramnik's rook had been forced to the awkward b4 square.

Indeed, Kramnik decided to give up his misplaced rook for a knight. "The problem is that I'm trapping a rook that you're trying to give me," Anand told Kramnik after the game.

Despite Anand's material advantage of a rook for knight and pawn, Kramnik's position was extremely solid with a well placed knight on d5. Since the position offered no real winning chances to either side, the players agreed to a draw.

Against Spanish Alexei Shirov, Peter Leko of Hungary opened with 1.e4 (the English opening) for the first time in his career at the elite level. His second, grandmaster Amador Rodriguez, said that they wanted to avoid the overanalyzed lines of the Najdorf Sicilian that Shirov knows so well.

On move 13, Rodriguez assessed the position as slightly better for Leko. The position was characteristic of the Maroczy Bind of the Sicilian Defence.

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The position was characteristic of the Maroczy Bind of the Sicilian Defence, with White having pawns on c4 and d4 that restrain blacks attempts to free his position.

Leko had the advantage throughout the game but Shirov was able to generate counterplay by penetrating with his rook and attacking Leko's king.

At move 56, Leko had a mate threat that could not be parried, but his own king could not escape from perpetual check in order to deliver it. He was therefore forced to concede the draw.

The standings after seven rounds of the ten-round tournament are: Kasparov, Kramnik 4.5; Leko 3.5; Khalifman, Shirov 3; Anand 2.5.

Kramnik has White against Kasparov tomorrow in the game that could decide the tournament that ends March 10.

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Donald prefers to look ahead



JOHANNESBURG, Mar 8: Paceman Allan Donald is not too disappointed he fell short of the magical 300-Test wicket mark during South Africa's successful tour of India, reports Reuters.

"I said it wasn't going to be the end of the world if I didn't achieve it. I was very happy with my performance and I always knew 10 wickets was going to be a very difficult task in two Test matches on those wickets," he said on his return from India.

Donald is still three wickets short of the 300 mark and will miss the tour to Sri Lanka in July and August due to commitments for English county Warwickshire.

"You need a bit of luck and it didn't happen, but I think it could well be so fitting coming back from England later in the year and the first Test against New Zealand is in Bloemfontein."

"So hopefully, if selected, I could get back in the side and do it there. It would be really nice," said Donald, whose entire provincial playing career in South Africa has been with Free State, whose headquarters are in Bloemfontein.

Warwickshire are undertaking a pre-season tour to South Africa, starting in Bloemfontein this month, with former South African coach Bob Woolmer at the helm.

"I've got time off until they

arrive for pre-season in Bloemfontein, but I'm not going to take any part in that," Donald said.

"I've spoken to Bob Woolmer and he just wants me there for the first two days of the tour and then I'm going to go back (to England) on about the 28th of

March and rest up before the season actually kicks off."

Donald said he'd be continuing to work hard.

"I think that I'm very close to getting back to what I'm used to. In the spells I bowled in India, I felt anything but that, so I need to keep trimming up and stay in form."

The fast bowler dubbed 'white lightning' added that South Africa's series victory in India was the side's most im-

portant achievement since their re-admittance to international cricket nine years ago.

"We respect every win we've achieved so far, but I don't think they come better than this," he said after arriving back in Johannesburg with four other players not staying on for the one-day series.

"The guys enjoyed the win, but there was almost a feeling of 'Oh, the series is over,'" Donald said after Monday's innings and 71-run victory in Bangalore that sealed India's first home series defeat for 13 years.

"I don't think the guys have actually realised what's happened. I mean, (Australian) Allan Border's side couldn't do it; there are a lot of guys who haven't been able to achieve what we did, and all credit to the coaching staff, (captain) Hansie (Cronje) and everyone who planned this victory quite cleverly."

"It's nice to be part of history, that's for sure."

Batsman Daryll Cullinan said he thought the series win might change perceptions of South Africa who are now ranked a close second to Australia in Wisden's unofficial test rankings.

"For us to have played the way we did, I think has answered a lot of questions when it comes to our ability as a side."

"With those (away) series wins against Pakistan (1997) and Sri Lanka (1993) in the past, I think people may have to reconsider one or two opinions about our ability."

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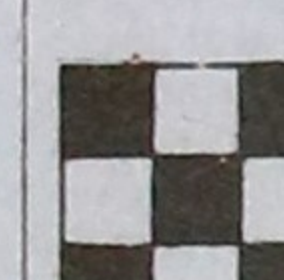
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Kasparov, Kramnik share lead



LINARES, Mar 8: The world's top ranked chess player Garry Kasparov of Russia and his fellow countryman Vladimir Kramnik, ranked 3rd, were tied for first place, after both drew in the seventh round of the Linares Grandmaster tournament, reports AP.

Kasparov gained a clear edge against FIDE world champion Alexander Khalifman but was unable to press home the win.

Kasparov came up with a new move on move seven against the relatively rare sideline of the Winawer Variation of the French Defence adopted by Khalifman. He soon built up what Grandmaster Valery Salov called a "dangerous attack."

Khalifman managed to halt the attack, but that did not solve his problems. Kasparov had a strong knight outpost on e5 and Khalifman was stuck with the bad bishop characteristic of the French (i.e., a bishop with no scope because it's blocked by its own pawns).

Khalifman was able to exchange off White's strong knight at the time control but White's advantage persisted. Kasparov maneuvered for another fifteen moves, but Khalifman was able to keep all of his weak points covered. Kasparov

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