

PwC ratings
Cairns top all-rounder

UNDATED, Apr 5: Although New Zealand were thrashed 3-0 by Australia in the Test series recently, one good news for the Kiwis is that Chris Cairns has climbed to the number one spot on the PricewaterhouseCoopers list for all-rounders.

Cairns has 457 points on the PwC index while South Africans Shaun Pollock and Jacques Kallis were following him with 422 and 410 points respectively. Pakistan's Wasim Akram is in the fourth place with 264 points.

Pollock is leading the list for bowlers with 905 points. Glenn McGrath, Allan Donald, Curtly Ambrose and Muttiah Muralitharan are the other bowlers who found their names in the top five with 896, 877, 822 and 763 points respectively.

Brett Lee, Australia's newest bowling sensation, has soared to sixth in the ratings. His rapid climb comes after taking 31 wickets in just five Test matches at an average of just over 16 runs per wicket. He has 735 points. West Indies' record-breaking first bowler Courtney Walsh is in the eighth spot with 714 points. He is just behind Anil Kumble, who has 722 points. Damien Fleming is ninth with 699 and Wasim Akram seals the top-ten with 690 points.

Source: Internet

Rajshahi cricket

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAH, Apr 5: Rajshahi Primary Sports Training Centre defeated Masjid Mission Academy by 148 runs in the second Siraj Memorial Under-14 Kishore Cricket tournament match played at Rajshahi Medical College main hostel playground today.

Winning the toss, Masjid Mission invited the winners to bat first who collected 177 runs for seven wickets in the stipulated 30 overs. Sajib made the highest 46 followed by 31 not out from Purjit and 19 from Jony. Abir and Tamir bagged three and two wickets respectively.

In reply, Masjid Mission were all out collecting only 33 runs in 15.4 overs. Nahian bagged three wickets. Earlier, Rajshahi Metropolitan Police Commissioner and president of Rajshahi Metropolitan Sports Association Khondokar Shahab Ali formally inaugurated the tournament.

BIR SRESHTHA CRICKET
Pioneer Cricket Club defeated Alinagar Janakalyan Sangha in the Bir Sreshtha Shahid Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir First Division Cricket League match played at Chaitiawabganj Stadium yesterday.

Winning the toss, Pioneer Club defeated first and made 138 runs for all in 38.5 overs.

In reply, Alinagar collected 111 runs in 27.2 overs losing all the wickets.

To win a tournament of this

Davis Cup quarterfinals

Australia, USA favourites



PARIS, Apr 5: Australia and the United States both have comfortable looking home Davis Cup quarterfinals this week as they home in on another final between the two greatest rivals in the competition's history, reports AP.

The Australians, 27 times winners and the defending champions, play on the grass of Adelaide against a German side depleted through injury and dissension.

Top-ranked German Nicolas Kiefer has opted out of team tennis as he chases personal goals, while number two Tommy Haas has withdrawn with a hip injury.

To make matters even worse for German captain Carl-Uwe Steeb, there are new injury doubts over his third-ranked player Rainer Schuttler who pulled up in training in Adelaide on Monday.

Australia have had their problems too, with their hero of last year Mark Philippoussis pulling out with a calf muscle injury.

But captain John Newcombe has a raft of talent to call on headed by the exciting teenager Lleyton Hewitt and two-time US Open winner Pat Rafter.

Rafter, on the injury comeback trail himself is likely to be limited to the doubles and possibly to the reverse singles if needed, according to Newcombe.

Wayne Arthurs, a serve and volleyer who is comfortable on grass as he showed when he reached the last 16 at Wimbleton last year as a qualifier, is expected to play in the first round of singles play.

Despite the odds on Australia, the cagey Newcombe is warning against complacency.

"When you have got nothing to lose you go for it and they could put in a blinder against you," he said.

"Our job is to make sure that we play to our maximum which should be good enough to win, but you never know," he added.

Over in Los Angeles, US rookie Davis Cup captain John McEnroe has the luxury of fielding the best two players in the world in Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras along with the world's top two doubles players in Jared Palmer and Alex O'Brien against the Czech Republic.

Sampras is coming off a morale-boosting four-set win over Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten in the final of the Miami Masters series event, the biggest of the year outside of the four Grand Slam events.

It was his first title of a year beset with injuries and talk that his years at the top were finally taking its toll on him.

"I hadn't played a match that tough in many, many months," said Sampras of the Kuerten final.

"To win a tournament of this

US superstar Andre Agassi during a practice session at California on April 4 ahead of his team's Davis Cup matches against the Czech Republic.

— AFP photo

For the first time since 1995 to the United States.

The Czech Republic triumphed 3-2 in their last meeting with the states, the 1996 quarterfinals, when the Czech team was led by Petr Korda and David Rikl.

It was the hero of the tie, winning all three of his matches.

His first career victory over Tim Henman, a 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 triumph in the reverse singles, gave the Czechs an unassailable 3-1 lead. He also defeated Jamie Delgado and teamed with David Rikl to beat Henman and Neil Woodbridge in doubles.

"The US team is a big favourite," Novak admitted. "But we're going to try to win every match. We have nothing to lose, that's a good advantage for us. We'll see on the weekend."

Adding Damm, who reached the men's doubles final at the Ericsson Open in Miami, Florida, last weekend, will give Kukal some more options when the draw is made on Thursday.

"I feel very confident after being in the doubles final in Key Biscayne," said Damm, who teamed with Slovak Dominik Hrbatý but lost to Australians Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge in the final.

Both Steeb was anything but defeatist.

He said that while the Australians were very strong, his players were capable of causing an upset.

"For sure we are the underdogs and the Australians are clearly the favourites," Steeb said.

"But there's always chances. Davis Cup always has surprises, it's different to a normal tournament."

"Our players, on a good day, they can beat any player ... so if things are going well every match is open."

Michael Kohlmann said the team was in a good mood and having fun.

"I think we are all pretty pumped up right now ... everybody wants to give his best," he said.

Kohlmann was called in to replace Haas, who injured his hip a week ago. Haas led his country into the quarterfinals with a 4-1 win over the Netherlands. Kiefer refused to play Davis Cup for Germany.

Czech players have taken on the best that US tennis has to offer before. In the 1992 quarterfinals, one of the previous seven ties that featured both

the best that US tennis has to offer.

Steib only has David Prinosil, Marc-Kevin Goellner and Kohlmann.

Kohlmann is in a good mood and having fun.

"It's not easy to play on new courts, you have to get used to them. And I don't think Davis Cup has ever been played in this area," he said.

Not that Kukal was underestimating the task ahead: beating what he calls "probably the best team ever."

Czech players have taken on

the best that US tennis has to

offer before. In the 1992 quarterfinals, one of the previous seven ties that featured both

the best that US tennis has to offer.

Steib only has David Prinosil, Marc-Kevin Goellner and Kohlmann.

Kohlmann is in a good mood and having fun.

"It's not easy to play on new

courts, you have to get used to them. And I don't think Davis Cup has ever been played in this area," he said.

Not that Kukal was underestimating the task ahead: beating what he calls "probably the best team ever."

Czech players have taken on

the best that US tennis has to

offer before. In the 1992 quarterfinals, one of the previous seven ties that featured both

the best that US tennis has to

offer before. In the 1992 quarterfinals, one of the previous seven ties that featured both

the best that US tennis has to

offer before. In the 1992 quarterfinals, one of the previous seven ties that featured both

the best that US tennis has to

offer before. In the 1992 quarterfinals, one of the previous seven ties that featured both

the best that US tennis has to

offer before. In the 1992 quarterfinals, one of the previous seven ties that featured both

the best that US tennis has to

offer before. In the 1992 quarterfinals, one of the previous seven ties that featured both

the best that US tennis has to

offer before. In the 1992 quarterfinals, one of the previous seven ties that featured both

the best that US tennis has to

offer before. In the 1992 quarterfinals, one of the previous seven ties that featured both

the best that US tennis has to

offer before. In the 1992 quarterfinals, one of the previous seven ties that featured both

the best that US tennis has to

offer before. In the 1992 quarterfinals, one of the previous seven ties that featured both

the best that US tennis has to

offer before. In the 1992 quarterfinals, one of the previous seven ties that featured both

the best that US tennis has to

offer before. In the 1992 quarterfinals, one of the previous seven ties that featured both

the best that US tennis has to

offer before. In the 1992 quarterfinals, one of the previous seven ties that featured both

the best that US tennis has to

offer before. In the 1992 quarterfinals, one of the previous seven ties that featured both

the best that US tennis has to

offer before. In the 1992 quarterfinals, one of the previous seven ties that featured both

the best that US tennis has to

offer before. In the 1992 quarterfinals, one of the previous seven ties that featured both

the best that US tennis has to

offer before. In the 1992 quarterfinals, one of the previous seven ties that featured both

the best that US tennis has to

offer before. In the 1992 quarterfinals, one of the previous seven ties that featured both

the best that US tennis has to

offer before. In the 1992 quarterfinals, one of the previous seven ties that featured both

the best that US tennis has to

offer before. In the 1992 quarterfinals, one of the previous seven ties that featured both

the best that US tennis has to

offer before. In the 1992 quarterfinals, one of the previous seven ties that featured both

the best that US tennis has to

offer before. In the 1992 quarterfinals, one of the previous seven ties that featured both

the best that US tennis has to

offer before. In the 1992 quarterfinals, one of the previous seven ties that featured both

the best that US tennis has to

offer before. In the 1992 quarterfinals, one of the previous seven ties that featured both

the best that US tennis has to

offer before. In the 1992 quarterfinals, one of the previous seven ties that featured both

the best that US tennis has to

offer before. In the 1992 quarterfinals, one of the previous seven ties that featured both

the best that US tennis has to

offer before. In the 1992 quarterfinals, one of the previous seven ties that featured both

the best that US tennis has to

offer before. In the 1992 quarterfinals, one of the previous seven ties that featured both

the best that US tennis has to

offer before. In the 1992 quarterfinals, one of the previous seven ties that featured both

the best that US tennis has to

offer before. In the 1992 quarterfinals, one of the previous seven ties that featured both

the best that US tennis has to

offer before. In the 1992 quarterfinals, one of the previous seven ties that featured both

the best that US tennis has to

offer before. In the 1992 quarterfinals, one of the previous seven ties that featured both

the best that US tennis has to

offer before. In the 1992 quarterfinals, one of the previous seven ties that featured both

the best that US tennis has to

offer before. In the 1992 quarterfinals, one of the previous seven ties that featured both

the best that US tennis has to