

Bradman baffled!

SYDNEY, Apr 6: Sir Donald Bradman, a rare public statement, said he was humbled to learn he had been chosen as Wisden's cricketer of the 20th century, reports Reuters.

The semi-reclusive Australian, whose Test batting average of 99.49 has stood unchallenged since he retired in 1948, released a brief statement today to show his appreciation of the award.

"I am very honoured to be recognised by Wisden in this way," Bradman said in the statement issued through the Bradman Museum in Bowral, New South Wales.

Bradman, who lives alone in his suburban Adelaide home, said he was just as thrilled to learn England's Sir Jack Hobbs had also been selected as one of the top five players.

"I am very pleased that Jack Hobbs was also chosen as he was one of my boyhood heroes," Bradman said.

Bradman was the clear winner of Wisden's poll to decide the top five players of the last century, and the only players chosen by each of the 100 panellists.

West Indies captain Sir Garfield Sobers finished second with 90 votes ahead of Hobbs, 30, Australian leg-spinner, Shane Warne, 27, and Sir Vivian Richards, former West Indies captain, with 25.

Warne was the only specialist bowler as well as the only current player to make the top five.

Like Bradman, Warne, who broke Dennis Lillee's Australian Test record of 355 wickets against New Zealand a fortnight ago, said he was thrilled by the recognition.

"It's a huge honour to be included while I'm still playing and it's hard for me to wrap my head around it," Warne said.

"I'm very shocked because I didn't know about it. Even if I had known about it I wouldn't have expected to be chosen."

Unlike the other four greats, all knighted by the British monarch on the nomination of their governments, Warne is unlikely to become Sir Shane — Australia and its state governments no longer nominate people for British honours.

Tyson to fight in Helsinki

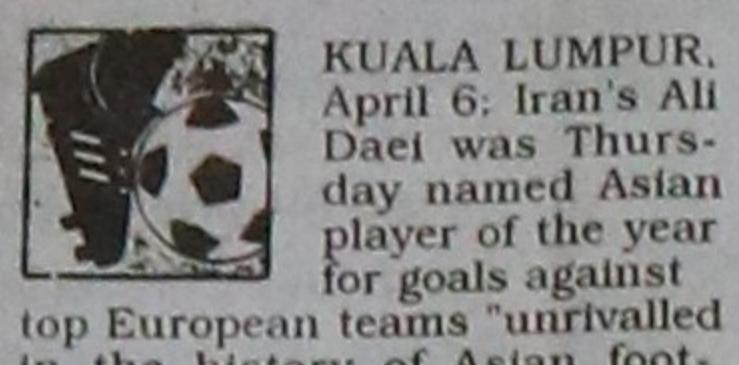
HELSINKI, Apr 6: Former world heavyweight champion Mike Tyson will fight in Helsinki in August against an unnamed opponent, Finnish daily IltaSanomat (IS) said on Wednesday. It said Tyson's manager Shelly Finkel had agreed on Monday with Helsinki-based Monte Young for a fight on August 19 at the outdoor Finland Stadium, reports Reuters.

No other details were given. It said Young would be in Helsinki next week with further information about the fight.

IS said the bout would mark a return to Finland for Tyson, who as an 18-year-old fought in a tournament in Tampere in 1984.

Tyson will fight American Lou Savarese in Milan on May 20 and his handlers want to stage further bouts in Europe.

AFC announce awards for 1999



ALI DAEI

European Champion's League against Chelsea and AC Milan.

"Against Chelsea he twice outfoxed two members of the French World Cup-winning defence in Marcel Desailly and Frank Leboeuf," the AFC said.

"He followed that by scoring in one of the great stints in world football, the San Siro."

Ali Daei had been challenged for the top award by Sun Wen; Japan's Hidetoshi Nakata, twice Asian player of the year; Hwang Sun Hong of South Korea; Kuwait's Bashir Abdullah; and Japan's Masashi Nakayama.

The AFC said the achievement

ment of the Chinese women in finishing runner-up in the Women's World Cup "brought much respect for Asian footballers", reports AFP.

The Kuala Lumpur-based Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said Ali Daei, who plays for his national side and Germany's Hertha Berlin, brought "unrivalled positive publicity" for Asian soccer in 1999.

He was scheduled to receive the award from AFC president Sultan Ahmad Shah at a ceremony in Beirut Thursday evening.

China's Sun Wen, the first woman to be nominated for player of the year, was named Asia's most valuable women's player of 1999.

China's women's team, which she captained in the finals of the Women's World Cup in the United States last year, bagged the award for Asian national team of the year.

Jubilo Iwata, which won the Asian Super Cup and the Asian Club Championships in 1999, was named club team of the year. Japan also took the fair play award.

Uzbekistan's Mahmood Rakimov, who died in a car crash in December, was named Asian coach of the year. He masterminded his team's qualification for the Asian Cup in Lebanon this October and moved Uzbekistan up 24 places in the FIFA rankings.

Qatar's Waleed Hamzah, a star performer in the FIFA World Youth Under-17 Championship in New Zealand, is youth player of the year.

Abdul Rahman al-Zeidi of Saudi Arabia is Asian referee of 1999 and Youssef Berjaoui of Lebanon was named football writer of the year.

Pakistan begin

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into the innings, but leg-spin bowlers Mushtaq Ahmed and Shahid soon snuffed them out in the space of seven balls to leave the score 108 for four.

When Viljoen was run out by Younis' throw to wicketkeeper Moin in the 32nd over, Zimbabwe were 118 for five and it looked like they would die a painful death.

The rest of the batting tried very hard to get them back into the match. Pakistan's bowlers however, were unwavering in line, length and commitment, and the Zimbabwean batting struggled through to the end.

Only veteran Guy Whittall with a patient 31 off 64 balls offered any kind of prolonged resistance in the bottom-half of the batting as Zimbabwe declined from 151 for six in the 42nd over.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard in the third match of the triangular limited-overs international cricket series between Zimbabwe and Pakistan at the Antigua Recreation Ground on Wednesday:

ZIMBABWE

Johnson c Nazir b Arshad	20
G. Flower c Younis b Razaq	36
Carlisle c Youhana b Mushtaq	30
Goodwin c Nazir b Afridi	17
A. Flower c Nazir b Afridi	5
Viljoen run out (Younis)	5
Whittall b Akram	31
Streak c Moin b Akram	15
Nakla c Youhana b Waqar	1
Murphy not out	4
Brent not out	4
Extras: (b-9; lb-2; w-9; nb-3)	23
Total: (For 9 wkt in 50 overs)	199
Fall of wickets: 1-59, 2-61, 3-100, 4-108, 5-118, 6-151, 7-188, 8-191, 9-195.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Waqar	7	0	26	2
Akram	8	0	31	2
Razaq	9	0	40	1
Arshad	10	3	26	1
Mushtaq	10	1	30	2
Afridi	10	0	35	2

Pakistan

Nazir c Carlisle b Johnson	6
Afridi c Johnson b Viljoen	69
Younis lbw b Streak	6
Inzamam c Nakla b Viljoen	32
Youhana run out (Johnson)	21
Moin not out	25
Razaq not out	28
Extras: (lb-1; w-10; nb-2)	13
Total: (For 5 wkt in 47.1 overs)	200

Did not bat: Waqar Younis, Mushtaq Ahmed, Arshad Khan, Mohammad Akram.

Fall of wickets: 1-12, 2-41, 3-109, 4-136, 5-153.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Streak	8	0	33	1
Johnson	3	0	23	1
Brent	7	0	29	0
Nakla	3	0	24	0
Murphy	10	0	30	0
Viljoen	10	1	30	2
G. Flower	6	0	30	0

Pakistan won by five wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Shahid Afridi.

Next match: Pakistan vs West Indies, Kingstown, April 12.

POINTSTABLE

Standings in the triangular limited-overs international cricket series in the West Indies after match played on Wednesday (played, won, drawn, lost, points):

W Indies	2	2	0	4
Pakistan	1	1	0	2
Zimbabwe	3	0	3	0

Did not bat: Waqar Younis, Mushtaq Ahmed, Arshad Khan, Mohammad Akram.

Result: Pakistan won by five wickets.

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