

Champions' hockey Germany, Holland reach final

AMSTERDAM, June 3: Germany booked a men's Champions' Trophy final against the Netherlands by beating Australia 4-2 in Amstelveen on Friday, reports Reuters.

Rain gets on Fletcher's nerves

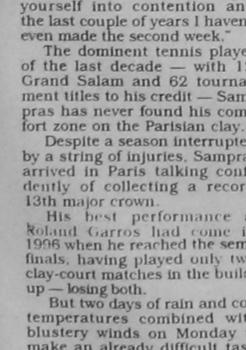
NOTTINGHAM, England, June 3: England coach Duncan Fletcher could not hide his disappointment after the second day of the second and final Test here against Zimbabwe at Trent Bridge was abandoned without a ball being bowled on Friday, reports AFP.

Curse of clay!

PARIS, June 3 (Reuters): It was a new stadium but the same old result as Pete Sampras made another early exit from the French Open on Monday, surrendering in five sets to Australia's Mark Philippoussis.

Saqlain quickly on target

LONDON, June 3: Pakistani off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq made an immediate impact on his return to English County Championship with a solid all-round display for Surrey at The Oval Friday, reports AFP.



SAQLAIN MUSHTAQ

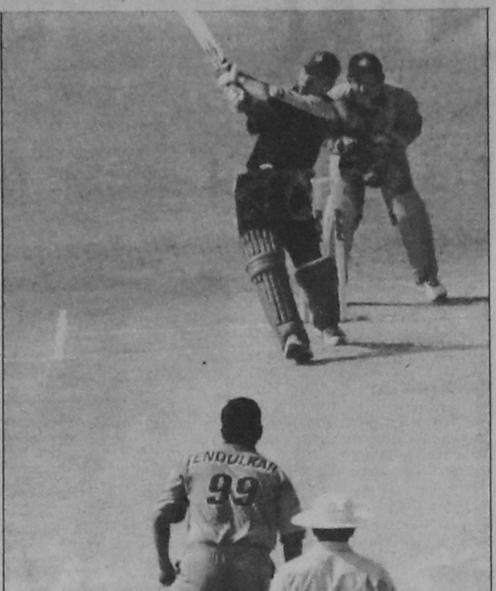
class bowling averages last season, upstaged his fellow spinner Warne with two wickets, including that of Giles White for 96 as Hampshire closed on 207 for eight, 126 runs behind.

Agassi penalised

PARIS, June 3: Former French Open champion Andre Agassi was Friday hit with a 10,000 dollar fine for skipping the press conference after his shock second-round loss to Karol Kucera of Slovakia at Roland Garros, reports AFP.

Fourteenth Ather-ton

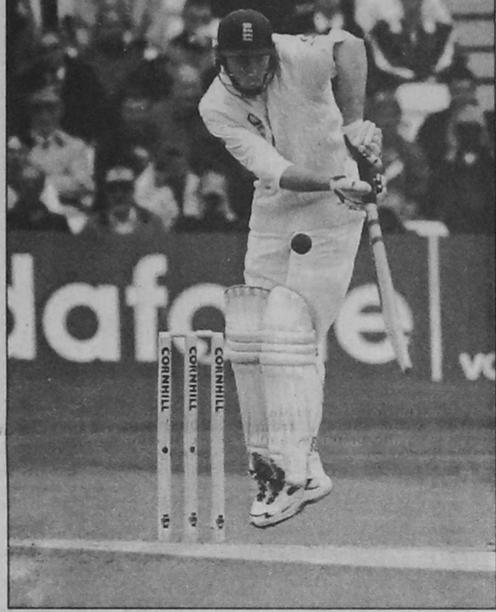
NOTTINGHAM, England, June 3: Michael Atherton scored his 14th Test century but Guy Whittall's two quick wickets ensured it was the tourists who had the better of the pre-lunch session on the third day of the second and final Test here at Trent Bridge on Saturday, reports AFP.



Saeed Anwar, the Pakistan opener whacks Sachin Tendulkar towards midwicket during his quickfire 43 yesterday.

Poor batting by Windies

WORCESTER, England, June 3: Brian Lara was out for one on his return to cricket from a self-imposed exile as West Indies launched their tour of England on Friday, reports Reuters.



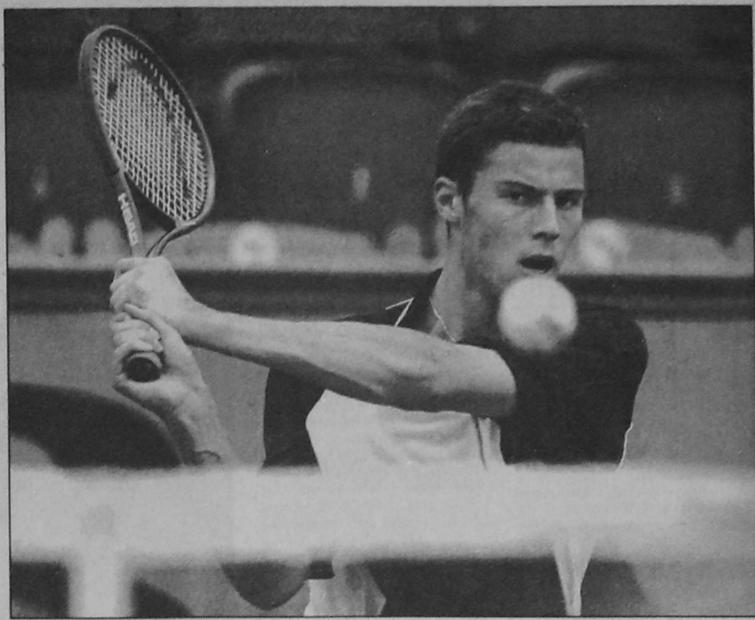
ATHER-TON: England opener Michael Atherton in action during his century knock against Zimbabwe in the third Test at Trent Bridge yesterday.

Kuerten sees Chang off

PARIS, June 3: Gustavo Kuerten won the battle of former champions against Michael Chang in the third round of the French Open on Friday, reports Reuters.

Norman, Safin storm thru'

PARIS, June 3: Third seed Magnus Norman and 12th seed Marat Safin underlined their title credentials as they cruised into the last 16 of the men's singles at the French Open with straight sets victories here on Saturday, reports AFP.



Russian Marat Safin plays a backhand return against German Tommy Haas during their French Open third round encounter yesterday.

FRENCH OPEN NOTEBOOK

PARIS, June 3 (AFP): Rising Russian star Marat Safin is home-hunting. Safin has stopped working with his longtime Spanish coach Rafael Mensua and is considering moving his residence from Valencia, Spain.

SMOKE 'EM OUT

Playing at a Grand Slam is a stressful business with big bucks and rankings points at stake. Small wonder that some players need to let off a bit of steam.

DON'T BLINK

If you'd blinked you'd virtually have missed it. Some men's singles matches can last for almost five hours on the slow, red clay at Roland Garros but Rika Hiraki's first-round mixed doubles match Friday was over after just five points.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a Cryptoquip section at the bottom.

Friday's answer

37 West Point Camera Hand-cream ingredient 5 Suspend newcomer 3 Aye canceler 23 Captivate 9 Arcking shot 38 Cameroon neighbor 4 Wanders 24 Super-market tabloid 12 'Rubaiyat' poet 40 Autumnal stone 6 Saharan 26 Hazel, for one 13 'Manon' melody 42 Chartres chum 7 Diarist 27 Pasty 14 Lamb's 43 'Forget it' dam 48 Zero-star 8 Kitchen drawer port 15 Take an eye for an eye 50 Hodge-podge provider contents 9 Zest 29 Cabinet pos. 17 Bumped into 51 Conclusion 11 Track transactions 31 Cold-shouldered 18 Nourish 52 Damp and chills 34 Speak lovingly 21 Haste 53 Adjacent 16 Previously named 35 Light yellow-pink 20 'Norma' 37 Aries or Taurus 38 Stare open-mouthed 39 '... I didn't like' 40 Micro-wave 41 Make coffee 44 Magda's sis 45 - de France 46 Velo 47 Speck