

Cronje must go to jail

UNDATED (Internet report): Writing in The Age of Melbourne, Peter McFarlane claims that it is in the interests of cricket that Cronje should go to jail.

McFarlane says that cricketers need an example to serve as a deterrent. And he feels that Cronje is very much in line to be handed a prison sentence.

Even if he is found to have fulfilled his part of the bargain in the South African context, Cronje might still find the Indian authorities would require him to stand trial. So far, there has been no indication that he will be extradited.

Of course, if Cronje is subjected to legal proceedings in India, it is logical that Mohammad Azharuddin will suffer the same consequences - assuming the ABC Four Corners programme is accurate in its claims that Azharuddin enriched himself to the tune of many millions of dollars by fixing matches.

McFarlane closes: "It may well be that Azharuddin will find himself in jail before the Cronje affair is finished. But before the year is finished, Cronje must be charged with criminal offences. ... To allow him to escape without a trial and a subsequent guilty verdict would make a complete farce of cricket's efforts to discover the depth and breadth of match-fixing."

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, July 31 (Reuters): Top 20 women tennis players, according to latest WTA Tour rankings (number in brackets indicates previous week's ranking):

Table with 2 columns: Player, Pts. Lists top 20 women tennis players and their points.

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German League Cup

Bayern breeze into final



AUGSBURG, Germany, July 31: Bayern Munich and Hertha Berlin will play off Tuesday evening in the final of the German pre-season League Cup, reports AFP.

Bayern Munich booked their place in the final on Sunday when they cruised to a 4-1 victory over Kaiserslautern in the southern German town of Augsburg.

"We didn't blow them away," Bayern trainer Ottmar Hitzfeld said modestly.

"We were often restrained but stood well in defence and were at our most dangerous only when we got a fast break from the back."

"We didn't dominate the game the way the 4-1 result makes it appear. It was an even match played by two very good teams. I have to say though I was really happy with our moves on the fast break."

Germany striker Carsten Jancker put Bayern ahead after just four minutes and Mehmet Scholl added to that lead with his score from the 31st minute.

Bayern offered a trimmed-down team with captain Stefan Effenberg out on an Achilles tendon injury.

Hertha Berlin defeated Bayer Leverkusen in the other League Cup semi-final on Saturday. The two sides were tied 1-1 at the end of 90 minutes but Hertha had the better luck in a penalty shoot-out, winning it 5-4.

Ulf Kirsten put Leverkusen ahead on 44 minutes, nodding home from a corner kick, while Michael Preetz finished a lovely Stefan Beinlich through ball in the 88th minute to force the penalty shoot-out.

Hungarian keeper Gabor Kiraly was Hertha's match winner. He finger-scraped two Leverkusen spot kicks before finally stopping that of Torben Hoffmann with a low dive to the right.

"Any defeat hurts," Leverkusen coach Christoph Daum said, "but when it's not a Bundesliga game the damage is not so great and we can at least sit down afterwards and have a good long think about our mistakes."

Assistant Germany coach Michael Skibbe was at the game making notes on the form of Beinlich, Preetz and others as he compiles a list of candidates able to take part in a rebuilding of the national team.



Kaiserslautern's Benjamin Reich (R) evading a sliding tackle from Bayern Munich's Thomas Strunz during the German Cup semifinal at Augsburg on July 30.

— AFP photo

WTA Tour rankings

Table with 2 columns: Player, Pts. Lists top 20 women tennis players and their points.

Wounded

From page 8

But the most important thing is that we ended with a victory against England and the confidence is going to be very high with the guys approaching things in the Test series in a positive frame."

"As desperate as England are to end their depressing sequence against the tourists -- they have held the Wisden Trophy just twice since its inception in 1963 and have not beaten them since 1969 -- West Indies are equally determined to preserve that record."

Lara said: "The signs I have seen in the dressing room are that we have got things together and we will be looking to carry that on from Trent Bridge."

The Test matches are always going to be a different ball game and we had Chanderpaul, Walsh and Ambrose missing from that series of one-dayers, but there were other guys in that team who will be playing in the Tests and that's why beating England boosted their morale.

Gin is Villa's tonic



LONDON, July 31: David Ginola signed on Sunday for Aston Villa in a 3million pound (4.5million dollar) transfer from Premiership rivals Tottenham.

The French star broke the news on his official website, www.ginola4.com, after several hours of negotiations with Villa manager Greg Gynoy and chairman Doug Ellis in a Birmingham hotel on Sunday afternoon.

Ginola has signed a two-year contract with the Villa Park club.

Writing on his website Ginola told his fans: "I have to say that I feel as though a weight has finally been lifted off my shoulders, and I can now look forward to the season ahead."

"I had been in limbo at Tottenham since the middle of June, when the bombshell news dropped that Alan Sugar (the Tottenham chairman) had accepted a 3million pound (4.5million dollars) bid for me from Villa."

Clearly the news was not pleasant for the 33-year-old French international outcast. "It totally ruined my summer. I never asked to leave. I was happy at White Hart Lane, (Tottenham's ground) and my family were settled in North London."

Spurs - and I am not quite clear whether it was Alan Sugar or George Graham (Tottenham's manager) didn't want me around any more, and so were prepared to let me leave."

Ginola, almost as well-known in England for his shampoo commercials and campaigns against landmines as his football, then found that his dismay did not end there.

"Once I got over the shock I was very disappointed to learn that the club had put a 3million pound (4.5million dollars) price tag on my head. I am not and although I feel I have still got at least two years left in me, playing at the highest level, I felt I should have been rewarded for my time at Spurs with a free transfer. That would have given me far more freedom in choosing which club to join."

Ginola, who claimed he had turned down overseas offers before deciding to stay in England with Villa, denied reports in British newspapers that his supposedly outrageous demands had nearly caused the deal to collapse.

"As for demanding his and his Mercedes and a six-bedroom mansion, I can confirm that there is no truth in any of those ridiculous statements. All I did was to try to get a decent wage, again wildly exaggerated in the press for having to leave Tottenham and uprooting to the Midlands."

"People have to appreciate that I did not anticipate any of this, having signed a three-year contract with Tottenham only 12 months ago."

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"I'm happy that it was England and not Zimbabwe we beat in that final game. I just feel that we have now got one up them and hopefully we can take the confidence that win gave us into the remainder of the tour."

"We were all very disappointed with how things went for us in the one-day series. We played six games and it took us until the sixth match to win."

"But the most important thing is that we ended with a victory against England and the confidence is going to be very high with the guys approaching things in the Test series in a positive frame."

"As desperate as England are to end their depressing sequence against the tourists -- they have held the Wisden Trophy just twice since its inception in 1963 and have not beaten them since 1969 -- West Indies are equally determined to preserve that record."

Lara said: "The signs I have seen in the dressing room are that we have got things together and we will be looking to carry that on from Trent Bridge."

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"Although the Tests will be different, winning can be contagious and it is nice we have got something on the board leading up to a Test match."

West Indies coach Roger Harper was satisfied with the three-day workout despite the loss of 44 overs on the first day because of rain.

Harper said: "It was good to see some of our batsmen spend time in the middle and it was an excellent knock from Wavell."

"We have managed to get in some useful practice ahead of the Test, although we would have liked some more of our top order batsmen to have made bigger scores."

The one selection problem the West Indies appear to have is who to play in Chanderpaul's place in the middle order.

It could come down to a choice between Chris Gayle and 20-year-old Ramnarain Sarwan -- but Sarwan missed out on his chance to make the spot his own when he was superbly stumped by Stephen Adhead off Carl Crowe when he had made 22.

Until then he had looked in no trouble and had produced some delightful attacking shots to confirm what a quality player he is.

Diego's book coming soon



BUENOS AIRES, July 31: The ever controversial Diego Maradona is to unveil his memoirs and his thoughts on life in general in an autobiography set to hit the bookstands in October, it emerged Sunday, reports AFP.

The tome, entitled, "I am Diego," will appear simultaneously in Argentina, Spain, Mexico and Colombia, its editor Guillermo Schavelzon, who holds the international rights, told reporters.

Schavelzon is already pumping the literary event for all it's worth as he also holds the rights to an audio book version, press columns and a special Internet project.

The 300-page book will see Maradona look back over his career and how a stellar start - he made his Argentina debut after a handful of first team matches - eventually descended into drug problems, suspensions and eventual retirement in disgrace.

He stopped playing professionally on October 30, 1997, the day of his 37th birthday.

Maradona recalls how "the first football I had was the best present anyone ever made me in my life. I was three years old and I slept with it cradled in my arms all night."

The World Cup winner started writing the book in Havana, where he spent several months earlier this year following his latest brush with cocaine which had brought on cardiac problems.

"I have finally decided to tell all. There remain things to say. With all the things I have already said I'm not sure I have yet recounted the most important aspects," he said.

Part of the book will dwell on Maradona's relationship with former Argentina coaches Cesar Menotti and Carlos Bilardo, as well as his quarrels with former FIFA president Joao Havelange and the clubs whom he enchanted - but also frustrated.

Another of his memories is the infamous "hand of God" goal he scored to help defeat England in the 1986 World Cup finals, while Maradona also touches on his "relationship with the corridors of power" - his meetings with, among others, Argentine presidents Raul Alfonsin and Carlos Menem, Cuban dictator Fidel Castro, Spain's King Juan Carlos and Pope John Paul II.

Maradona insists that "everything I recount in the book is true. I swear that on the lives of my daughters."

Lindsay loses to Venus again

Lee stands trial today



SYDNEY, July 31: Australian fast bowler Brett Lee remains on track for next month's one-day series against South Africa despite his appearance before an International Cricket Council panel on Tuesday, reports AFP.

Lee's bowling action will be scrutinised by the ICC's Illegal Deliveries Panel during a worldwide telephone hook-up chaired by former Indian batting great Sunil Gavaskar.

While Australian team sources remain adamant Lee has little to fear, the Australian Cricket Board will vigorously defend the 23-year-old speedster.

ACC chief executive Malcolm Speed said there had been "a considerable amount of correspondence" with the ICC in recent weeks to clarify the issue after the ACC was left in the dark for almost three months.

It took the ICC until late June to inform the ACC that Lee's action had been questioned by two umpires during Australia's tour of New Zealand in March and early April.

"The overriding concern of the ACC is to ensure that Brett is given a fair hearing," Speed said Monday.

It is expected the ICC panel will either clear Lee's bowling action or recommend he undergoes minor remedial work.

Australian fast bowling great Dennis Lillee has said the doubt over Lee would evaporate quickly although he was uncertain what to expect from the ICC panel.

The 10-man panel, which features a representative from each Test-playing nation, will watch video footage of Lee.

It can only pass on its recommendations to the ACC, which then decides its own course of action in a change of procedure since Pakistan pacerman Shoaib Akhtar was temporarily banned by the panel in January.

That leaves Lee free to play against South Africa when the three-match one-day series begins at Melbourne's Colonial Stadium on August 16.

Outside of any ACC decision, Lee's only concern is being no-balled during a match for an illegal action, but that hasn't been a problem yet in his rapid rise to cricket stardom.

Lee has refused to talk about the hearing but said two weeks ago he was "absolutely confident" there wasn't a problem with his action.

The New South Wales quick hasn't bowled since undergoing ankle surgery in May following his outstanding debut Test season, capturing 31 wickets at an average of just 16.06.

His presence in the South African series, alongside in-form spearhead Glenn McGrath and comeback paceman Jason Gillespie, shapes as a huge boost for Australia.

Marauding McGrath



LONDON, July 30: Worcestershire moved back to the top of Division Two of the county championship -- at least temporarily -- as Glenn McGrath's best match figures of his career helped them to a 52-run home success over Gloucestershire at New Road on Sunday, reports AFP.

The Australian paceman followed his seven for 29 in the first innings with three for 40 to give him overall figures of 10 for 69 from 31 overs as struggling Gloucestershire, chasing a 237 target, were dismissed for 184 with more than a day to spare.

It was the fifth 10-wicket return of McGrath's career and his second for his adopted county -- for whom he has made a major impact in the first year of a split two-year contract which will be completed in 2002.

McGrath has re-established himself as the country's leading wicket-taker ahead of Surrey's Martin Bicknell with 62 victims.

In all he has taken 88 wickets for Worcestershire.

Victory moved Worcestershire from fifth spot into pole position but now they will have to do without his services in the push for promotion for the next two-and-a-half weeks.

After Wednesday's National League game with Northamptonshire, McGrath will fly back to Australia to play in the one-

day series with South Africa in Melbourne.

In Division One Yorkshire are poised to leapfrog rivals Lancashire into second place in the County Championship as bat dominated ball on the third day of the Roses match at Headingley on Sunday.

Despite fears that the notoriously seamer-friendly surface

at Headingley, would lead to a clatter of wickets and an early result, Lancashire go into the final day just 18 runs ahead with eight wickets intact on a feathered pitch.

With the match seemingly petering into a draw, David Byas' side, one point behind Lancashire at the start of the match, stole a march in the race to catch champions Surrey thanks to a healthy first-

nings lead of 109.

Byas struck a painstaking 81 and Gary Fellows compiled a Championship-best 45 in Yorkshire's 376 over Australian star Darren Lehmann failed to add to his overnight score of 63.

Byas' opposite number John Crawley well set on 46 in Lancashire's 127 for two.

The other two Division One games in progress also appear to be heading for stalemate.

Durham lead Somerset by 85 runs at Chester-le-Street, where veterans Peter Bowler (107) and Graham Rose, with an unbeaten 82, guided the visitors away from the perils of 88 for six to 280 - a first-innings deficit of 12.

John Wood claimed five wickets before Durham managed 73 for three second time around.

Kent also staged a fightback at Canterbury, declaring on 251 for nine against Derbyshire thanks to an unbeaten 80 from Paul Nixon and 60 from Min Patel after Kevin Dean had almost single-handedly reduced the home side to 111 for seven.

Left-arm paceman Dean took a career-best eight for 52 and Derbyshire reached stumps at 54 without loss - an 82-run advantage.

Shane erases Essex



SOUTHAMPTON, England, July 31: Shane Warne produced his best limited-overs performance for Hampshire to guide his side to a six-wicket win over Essex in the National League Division Two here on Sunday, reports AFP.

Warne took four for 32 and also held a stunning catch at slip to dismiss Essex danger man and his fellow Australian Stuart Law.

But the master leg-spinner marred his fine day by getting out to a first-ball duck as Hampshire pursued Essex's disappointing total of 185 for nine.

Warne dismissed Paul Grayson, Danny Law and England captain Nasser Hussain after the visitors had lost the toss and been put into bat.

Hussain was in circumspect form, taking 65 balls to make 34. Essex were chiefly indebted for even a modest score to Stephen Peters, who made a valiant half-century as wickets fell around him.

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Petit sees bright days ahead



BARCELONA, July 31: French international midfielder Emmanuel Petit was the picture of enthusiasm Sunday night after new club Barcelona presented the player at the Nou Camp following his transfer from Arsenal, reports AFP.

"This is a golden opportunity for me. If all goes to plan, playing for Barca can be the highlight of my career," said Petit, who won the World Cup and the English Premiership and FA Cup double two seasons ago before adding the European Championship last month.

Reuter out for three months

Petit, who made his name at Monaco before Arsene Wenger took him to Highbury, said he believed his chances of Champions League glory would be greater at Barca than had he remained in England.

"I believe there is a greater possibility of winning the Champions League with Barcelona than with any other club," said the ponytailed 30-year-old.

Barcelona vice-president Joan Castells meanwhile insisted Brazilian playmaker Rivaldo is not for sale.

"We are going to negotiate with him and will do all we can to ensure he wants to stay with us," said Castells.

Rivaldo wants a substantial pay rise to around 5.5 million dollars a year and AC Milan are believed to be ready to meet that sum.

The Italians have already made an offer in the region of 50 million dollars and Ernesto Bronchetti, an agent involved in a would-be deal, said Friday that the club wanted the player and vice-versa.

But Barca are determined not to lose him having already seen Portuguese star Luis Figo move to hated rivals Real Madrid for around 55 million dollars, a world record.

Real after Makelele

MADRID, July 31: Real Madrid are set to sign French international midfielder Claude Makelele from Celta Vigo, Spanish media reports said Monday, reports AFP.

"There are no problems with Real Madrid for the transfer," Celta president Horacio Gomez was quoted as saying.

Gambill hands Chang victory

LOS ANGELES, July 31: Fourth seed Michael Chang saw a nearly two-year title drought come to an end yesterday when sixth-seeded Jan-Michael Gambill was forced to retire with an injury during the final of the Los Angeles men's hard-court tournament, reports Reuters.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 45 Magician's hatful? 3 Teeter-totter quorum 4 Obnoxious person 47 Second consonant 9 Pich Little 12 Squabble Teapot 13 Access Berry 49 Dared Aida 14 Kimono closer 54 Acquired rival 55 The wealthy 56 Copycat 57 Fireplace residue 18 Playwright 58 Don't blink 19 Brought forth 59 Aye canceler 21 Low point 24 Antitoxins 25 Discoverer's cry 26 Trawler equipment 28 Dissuade 31 Yaya con- 33 Bracketed word 35 Doubtless 36 Symbols of servitude 38 Epoch 40 Part of a canine name 41 Weaponry 43 Now yesterday's answer

Crossword grid with numbers 1-31 and some letters filled in.

CRYPTOQUIP P B D D I D S P G J S J K A B K X K A K S P J W D I J P P I D X V A Z B V X K G D K I I J W D Z J G D. Saturday's Cryptoquip: MY FATHER LIKED HIS WORK AT THE CORSET FACTORY, AND CLAIMED IT WAS A CINCH. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals L.