

ABC jr. basketball ROK cagers reign supreme

Masood Akhtar Mobaraki
South Korea became champions of the 16th ABC men's junior championship with a comfortable 28-point win in the final over China at the Maba Stadium in Kuala Lumpur last week.

The Koreans banked on the strategy of converting as many three pointers as possible against the six-time champions and favourites China to complete a 120-92 victory.

Seven Korean players had the distinction of scoring three pointers.

China champions of the previous meet held at Calcutta, failed to live up to their reputation as the leading force in Asian basketball and looked at bay against the fast movement and sharp shooting of their opponents.

The Korean attacking trio of Bang Sung Yoon, Kim Hak Seop and Kim Il Du repeatedly penetrated the Chinese defence.

On the other hand, China tried their best to put up a fighting display with Wang Bo and Zhang Jixing but to no avail.

Kim Jae Won, the inspirational South Korean coach was adjudged the best coach of the tournament while Bang Sung, who scored 23 points in the final for Korea was declared the most valuable player of the competition.

The ten-day event started at the Malaysian capital with 16 teams divided into 4 groups.

Dr. Carl Ching, president of ABC, the president of Malaysian Basketball Association, and Tom MacCarthy of ABCP witnessed the final and distributed prizes among the teams.

Finals:

(1) Korea, (2) China, (3) Taipei (4) Japan (5) S Arabia (6) Hong Kong (7) Qatar and (8) Kuwait.

Note: The writer is a basketball journalist and a contributor.

Hingis back to business

CARLSBAD, California, Aug 2: World number one Martina Hingis reached the third round of the 535,000-dollar WTA Acura Classic with a 6-2, 7-6 victory over Belgium's Dominique Van Roost here Tuesday.

The Swiss teen, defending champion here, is competing in her first event since a Wimbledon quarterfinal loss to eventual champion Venus Williams.

Eng, WI get

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form — 11 defeats in the last 12 Tests — suggests England will rarely get a better chance.

Dominic Cork, meanwhile, will also be another England player looking forward to Thursday.

With Andy Flintoff struggling with a back problem, Cork was recalled after a 20-month absence at Lord's and took seven wickets in the match with his right-arm swing bowling before securing a dramatic victory with an undefeated 33 not out, including a six and four fours.

Cork, unusually for an Englishman, seems to enjoy playing West Indies.

On his 1995 debut, he took seven for 43 against them in the second innings. Two matches later, at Old Trafford, he took eight wickets in the match, including a hattrick.

TEAMS

ENGLAND (from): Michael Atherton, Marcus Trescothick, Nasser Hussain (captain), Graham Thorpe, Graeme Hick, Michael Vaughan, Alec Stewart, Craig White, Andrew Caddick, Dominic Cork, Robert Croft, Darren Gough, Matthew Hoggard.

WEST INDIES (from): Shervin Campbell, Chris Gayle, Adrian Griffith, Wavell Hinds, Brian Lara, Jimmy Adams (captain), Ramaresh Sarwan, Ridley Jacobs, Mahendra Nagamootoo, Courtney Walsh, Curtly Ambrose, Franklyn Rose, Ron King.

Umpires: Doug Cowie (New Zealand) and Peter Willey (England).

Bradman sues six cos

ADELAIDE, Australia, Aug 2: Cricket legend Sir Donald Bradman took six companies to the Federal Court Wednesday to protect his name and reputation, reports AFP.

The action, brought by Sir Donald, 91, and The Bradman Foundation, accuses the companies and two directors used his name to mislead the public into believing they were associated with the world's greatest cricketer.

In a 20-page statement of claim, it was claimed using the name 'Bradman' breached the foundation's registered Bradman trade marks and the company directors 'aided and abetted'.

Legal firm Allen Allen and Hemmings said proceedings had begun after attempts to resolve the matter out of court failed.

It said Sir Donald and the foundation wanted the court to restrain the companies from misleading conduct, order steps taken to change their company names and for other relief including an order for costs.

The Bradman Foundation, a charitable organisation, operates the Bradman Museum at Bowral in New South Wales.

The national icon also Wednesday demanded an Adelaide restaurateur drop plans to

name an establishment after him.

Allen, Allen and Hemmings wrote to owner Lyn Mounsey saying Bradman is uncomfortable with his name being associated with the sale of alcohol.

The letter alleges trademark infringement, misleading and deceptive conduct and passing off a product.

"Sir Donald Bradman and his family are personally very concerned about your unauthorised conduct," said the letter.

"Our client has at all times deliberately avoided any association between the name 'Bradman' and the production, promotion or sale of alcohol and this conduct represents

grave abuse of our client's reputation and standing."

Mounsey bought Luciano's restaurant on Burbridge Road in Adelaide in May.

She planned to rename it Bradman's Cafe/Restaurant after the master batsman agreed to the road being renamed Sir Donald Bradman Drive.

Mounsey told reporters she had spent 5,500 dollars (3,300 US) on signage and asked Bradman to reconsider the matter.

"All my intentions were honourable right along the way. I feel fairly deflated now," she said.

Bradman became a national icon during the depression years of the 1930s. Known as 'The Don,' his achievements are unlikely to be equaled.

He scored 6,996 runs in 52 Tests from 1928 to 1948, hitting 29 hundreds and 13 half-centuries for an average of 99.94. His highest score was 334 in the first innings against England at Leeds in 1930.

Bradman had only seven ducks in Tests, with his most famous one coming in his last Test innings against England at The Oval in 1948. If he had hit one more boundary in any of his tests he would have averaged 100.

He was born in New South Wales but has lived in Adelaide since the 1930s.

SIR DON BRADMAN

Pak judge rebukes PCB

KARACHI, Aug 2: Former Supreme Court Judge Gibrallurin G. Ebrahim Tuesday slapped out at Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) for taking action against players on the basis of an inquiry report, reports AFP.

The Judge made mere recommendations and all the allegations were not substantiated and yet the PCB took action against players," Ebrahim told a seminar on match-fixing in cricket.

A Lahore High Court judge, Malik Mohamad Qayyum conducted investigations into match-fixing allegations from September 1998 to October 1999.

Following the report life bans were imposed on former captain Salim Malik and Ataur Rehman while six others — Wasim Akram, Mushtaq Ahmed, Saeed Anwar, Inzamamul Haq, Waqar Younis and Akram Raza — were fined in May this year.

Ebrahim questioned the relevance of the report.

The findings should have

been handed over to the authorities and should not have been made public," he said.

"We have condemned no less than eight or nine top level players besides tarnishing our image in international cricket on all personal suspensions," Ebrahim a key Pakistani jurist said.

"There should be an inquiry on why these findings were made public," he said.

Ebrahim himself conducted a one-man inquiry against Malik in 1995 after Australian trio Shane Warne, Tim May and Mark Waugh alleged Malik offered them a bribe to underperform in matches played in Pakistan in 1994.

Ebrahim had absolved Malik on lack of evidence after Australians refused to turn up to testify.

"Shane Warne did not turn down Malik's offer and the next day Pakistan won the Test from a difficult position," he said, referring to the Karachi Test in the 1994 series in which Pakistan beat Australia by one wicket.

Abbas observed match-fixing was hard to eliminate.

"Match-fixing is a strong force, it cannot be eliminated but it can be controlled," he said.

Warne and May had alleged Malik offered them \$10,000 each.

Andre falters, Pete thru'

TORONTO, Canada, Aug 2: Top seed Andre Agassi, playing his first match since injuring his back in a car crash was ousted from the Tennis Masters Series event here Tuesday while second seed Pete Sampras scraped through, reports AFP.

France's Jerome Golmard eliminated Agassi 7-6, 7-6 while Sampras struggled before beating French qualifier Michael Llodra 5-7, 6-2, 7-6 in first-round action at the rain-plagued 2.95 million-dollar hardcourt event.

"My back" obviously wasn't ready for the pounding," Agassi said. "I wasn't able to be at my best because of it. I'm just not quite there."

"It has been a few weeks for me since I really hit tennis balls. I expected it to be tough ... but I'm just not ready yet. There's no question I still have a lot of ground to cover."

Agassi's time is running out. He is set to compete at next week's Masters Series event in Cincinnati, then defend his title at Washington before opening the defence of his US Open

crown October 28.

A three-time champion here, Agassi had been out since his car was rear-ended July 9 in Las Vegas as he went home after losing in a Wimbledon semifinal. Agassi withdrew from Davis Cup and last week's ATP Los Angeles event.

Agassi's only other first-round loss this year came at Indian Wells.

Golmard, ranked 61st, won for the first time in four tries against Agassi and avenged a third-round loss to the American at Wimbledon.

The tournament's number three seed, Magnus Norman of Sweden lost his first round match on Monday, while the fourth seeded Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil went through.

Joining Kuerten and Sampras in the second round was Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov. The fifth seed prevailed in a late match Tuesday against up-and-coming Spaniard Fernando Vicente 7-5, 3-6, 7-6 (7/0).

In another late match, Wimbledon finalist Pat Rafter of Australia needed three sets to defeat British number three Arvind Parmar.

Rain had halted Agassi's match Monday and delayed play Tuesday for nearly three hours. Agassi double faulted on set point in the first tiebreaker and Golmard took the second on his third match point.

Sampras, coming off his record 13th career Grand Slam title at Wimbledon last month,

struggled past Llodra, a 20-year-old ranked 142nd in the world.

The American lost the first set 5-7 against the hard-hitting Frenchman before taking control in the second. His greater experience proved crucial in the third as he won the decisive tiebreak 7-4.

"I thought he came out and played great," said Sampras of Llodra.

Golmard, ranked 61st, won for the first time in four tries against Agassi and avenged a third-round loss to the American at Wimbledon.

"It's a dream for me," Golmard said. "I need a few days, maybe a few weeks, to enjoy this victory. I never thought in my mind I could beat the No. 1 in the world. I can't wait to tell my parents."

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