

## Nash doubtful for Zim Tests

CHRISTCHURCH, Sept 5 (Internet report): Black Caps all-rounder Dion Nash is likely to miss both Test matches against Zimbabwe as he recovers from back trouble, but his tour selection has been endorsed by coach David Trist.

Trist, speaking to The Press from Mutare where the Black Caps have just finished their first tour match, said there was nothing amiss with Nash as he gradually increases the workload on his lower back which has been prone to stress fractures.

Trist said he was almost ready and bowling most days, but was such a valuable all-rounder he did not want him rushed back.

Nash is expected to be fully fit for the following one-day series against Zimbabwe, the ICC knockout tournament in Nairobi which follows, and the limited-over segment of the South African tour.

## England's Ashes odds rise to 3-1

LONDON, Sept 5: England's chances of beating Australia in next year's Ashes were rated at 3-1 by bookmakers William Hill following Monday's Test series triumph over West Indies, reports Reuters.

Australia still remain favourites for the Ashes contest at 8-5, with a drawn series offered at 7-2.

England's standing in the game rose after they completed a 3-1 victory over West Indies at the Oval, their first series success against their opponents since 1969.

## Walsh to take his time

LONDON, Sept 5 (AFP): Courtney Walsh will put his feet up for a few weeks as he ponders whether to follow Curtly Ambrose into retirement.

England beat the West Indies by 158 runs in the fifth and final Test here at The Oval on Monday, the tourists all out for 215 chasing 374.

The victory gave England a 3-1 win, their first Test series victory over the West Indies since 1969 and the Wisden Trophy.

Magnificent resistance by Ambrose, given guard of honour by the England players as he walked out to bat in his final Test, was eventually ended when he was caught at slip by Michael Atherton off Dominic Cork for 28 that featured three fours.

Walsh, in his last Test in England, also got the same reception from his opponents but two balls later he was lbw to Cork for nought.

Walsh, who has taken his world Test record to 483 wickets, refused to say if he too was following Ambrose into retirement or going on West Indies' tour of Australia this winter instead.

"I'm going to put my feet up and have a rest. All the boys are disappointed but we've got to think about what's happened," said Walsh, who added that he "couldn't go on forever".

## Chess course

A five-month Grand Masters chess training course begins today at Bangladesh Chess Federation conference room, reports UNB.

Latvian GM Igo Raosis will conduct the course.

Leading players of the country will take part.

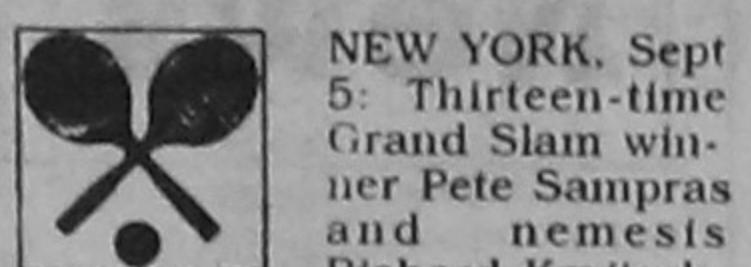
The participants are: Zia, Reest, Rakib, Rajib, Shilpi, Lavli, Shakil, Amin, Pallab, Moin (Chittagong), Monir (Narayanganj), Nasir, Sumon, Emon, Rani Hamid, Iva, Nipa, Tamina, Zakiya, Debraj (Barisal), Firoz (Narayanganj), Mustafa (Mymensingh), Javed, Azad, Udas, Ratul, Babi, Parash, Royal (Jhenaidah) and Sumi (Khulna).

## Luxemburgo, stars due Down Under

GOLD COAST, Australia, Sept 5: Brazilian coach Wanderley Luxemburgo and three of his star players will arrive on the Gold Coast today to complete the South American side's under-23 Olympic squad, reports Reuters.

Striker Ronaldinho and midfielders Alex and Athirson will join their team mates at the Carrara Stadium where a friendly is scheduled against local side Gold Coast City today night.

## Sampras versus Krajicek



NEW YORK, Sept 5: Thirteen-time Grand Slam winner Pete Sampras and Richard Krajicek advanced to US Open quarterfinal showdown with straight-set triumphs Monday in matches interrupted 2 1/2 hours by rain, reports AFP.

Fourth seed Sampras, the only man not to lose a set here, beat South Korean qualifier Lee Hyung-Tak 7-6 (7/4), 6-2, 6-4 while the big-serving Dutchman hit 15 aces and 50 winners to oust Slovakia's Dominik Hrbaty 7-6 (13/11), 6-4, 6-1.

"He possesses some heavy heat," Sampras said. "Hopefully I can get some returns back. That's the key to the match, who puts more pressure on the service game. It's going to be tough to break. He's confident against me."

Krajicek, ranked 23rd, is 6-3 against Sampras. Their only prior Grand Slam match was in 1996 at Wimbledon. Krajicek won 7-5, 7-6, 6-4 to inflict the seven-time Wimbledon winner's only defeat at the All-England Club since 1992.

"It won't be an easy match," Sampras said. "It's a matter of making him play as much as possible. It's a match that's gonna come down to a couple points."

Krajicek had won four in a row against Sampras before the 29-year-old American took their most recent meeting last year at Cincinnati.

"It'll be a difficult test," Krajicek said. "Sampras serves on another level than most guys. It's always tougher to return when the ball comes so quick.

"To have a good chance against Pete, I think it's better to play him early. His final record in Grand Slams (13-2) is unbelievable."

"If I were to win that point, I would have had two more serves

and a chance to win the set," Lee said through a translator. "I lost a lot of emotion and I was not myself at the beginning of the second set."

Only four of the top 10 remain in the 15 million-dollar Grand Slam event after earlier exits by 1999 champion Andre Agassi, No. 2 Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil and No. 5 Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia.

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Carlos Moya, the 1998 French Open champion, eliminated Corretja 6-3 (7/4), 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 to book a date with 1999 US Open runner-up Todd Martin, who beat Frenchman Pioline 7-6 (7/5), 6-3, 6-2 in the other rain-interrupted affair.

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## WC 2002 Argentina, Brazil bookies' pick

LONDON, Sept 5: Brazil and Argentina are favourites to win the 2002 World Cup, ahead of world and European champions France, according to bookmakers William Hill, reports Reuters.

Brazil bounced back after a poor series of results to trounce Bolivia 5-0 in a South American World Cup qualifier in Rio de Janeiro at the weekend, while Argentina beat Peru 2-1 in Lima.

Brazil, who won the trophy for the fourth time in 1994 and who were runners-up in 1998, were quoted at 5-1 with Argentina, winners in 1978 and 1986.

France, held to a 1-1 draw at home to England on Saturday, are rated at 6-1, ahead of Italy (9-1), the Netherlands (11-1) and Spain (12-1).

They are followed by three nations on 20-1 - England, Germany and Nigeria.

Wales, who opened their qualifying campaign with a 2-1 defeat in Belarus on Saturday, are the biggest outsiders - quoted at 1,000-1.

## England climb up the ladder

LONDON, Sept 5 (Internet): England climbed to sixth place in the Wisden World Championship after winning the series against West Indies on Monday.

This equals the highest placing ever for the side, rated the worst international team in the world after they lost to New Zealand at The Oval a year ago, and they have a chance of climbing into the top half of the table over the next few months if they win their forthcoming Test series in Pakistan and Sri Lanka, the teams immediately above them in the table.

Australia still lead, as they have done since January 1997, narrowly ahead of South Africa. West Indies remain in third place by 0.07 of a point, but could fall below England next year as they take on on Australia in Australia.

The Wisden World Championship - unofficial but widely-accepted - began in 1996 as a means of ranking the nine teams who have played Tests. It counts the most recent series, both home and away, between each pair of countries. Teams receive two points for winning a series and one for drawing. A one-off Test counts as a series.

Because not everyone has played everyone else, percentages are used. Series not renewed after seven years are excluded from the table, recalculation taking place each September. This has helped England this time: the series against India and Sri Lanka in 1992-93, which they lost, have now dropped out.

Only three other Olympic marks ranked in the top 50 in the 10,000. There were none in the 1,500, 5,000, marathon or the walks, and only one in the 3,000 steeplechase — the then-world record 8:08.02 by Andres Garderud of Sweden in 1976, and that was No. 49.

In the women's events, there were four remaining marks in the 1,500, led by Russian Tatjana Kazankina's 3:56.56 in 1980, which was No. 23 at the beginning of the year, and four in the 10,000, headed by Portuguese Fernanda Ribeiro's 31:01.63 in 1996, No. 34.

The biggest beneficiaries of the cool conditions might be the walkers.

"Usually the weather is conducive for sprinters," US race walker Andrew Hermann said. "After being in Seville and Athens (for the past two World Championships), where it was scorching hot, you will see both world-class times that you didn't see in those conditions."

"Anyone from the 5,000 up is ecstatic about this. The sprinters have had it warm every other meet."

The second victim was Canadian high jumper Mark Boswell who had more than 7,000 dollars cash stolen after losing his wallet at Brisbane International Airport.

Boswell had left his wallet on a trolley at the airport after he flew in from Europe early today.

While key players like skipper Mohi Khan, Inzamamul Haq, Wasim Akram and Saqlain Mushtaq have been named in the probables, there was no place for wrist-spinner Shafiq Ahmad who was sent as an observer to Singapore. Also missing from the list is paceman Shabbir Ahmad.

Interestingly, the selectors had submitted 34 probables to the cricket board. But after a meeting between the advisory panel members, the list was reduced to 22.

## PAK PROBABLES

Moin Khan (captain), Inzamamul Haq (vice-captain), Saeed Anwar, Imran Nazir, Salim Elahi, Younus Khan, Yousef Youhana, Ijaz Ahmad, Faisal Iqbal, Imran Abbas, Hu m a y u n, Fa h a t (wicketkeeper), Waqar Younis, Kabir Khan, Mohammad Akram, Wasim Akram, Azhar Mahmood, Abdur Razzaq, Saqlain Mushtaq, Shoaib Malik, Mushtaq Ahmad, Danish Kaneria and Arshad Khan.

The times this year don't matter," Boldon said. "You run to win. The Olympics is when time matters least."

That's what Jones should be thinking. She is facing a Herculean task in trying to win an unprecedented five gold medals and will need to pace herself to remain fit for five events — the 100, 200, 400 relay, 1,600 relay and long jump.

She has come the closest to breaking Flo-Jo's marks of 10.49 in the 100 and 21.34 in the 200. Jones' best times are 10.65 and 21.62, both at altitude. Sydney is at sea level, so that will not help her.

If the weather is cool, "it will have a physical and psychological effect on the sprinters and jumpers," said Ernie Gregorie, an assistant US women's coach in charge of the long jumpers, triple jumpers and hurdlers.

TOGETHERNESS: The US Olympic swimming team having a group hug before a practice session at the Olympic Pool in Sydney yesterday. —AFP photo

## Serena stays on course



NEW YORK, Sept 5: A controversial line call that saved a set point helped lift defending champion Serena Williams past 17-year-old Wimbledon semifinalist Jelena Dokic and into the US Open quarterfinals, reports AFP.

Fifth seed Williams downed Dokic 7-6 (9/7), 6-0 here Monday. The 18-year-old American made 24 unforced errors in the first set, five of them in a row to squander a 4-1 lead in the tie.

Williams will next face second-seeded compatriot Lindsay Davenport, who beat 18-year-

set to Williams and basically the match, for she was never competitive after that.

"That's what turned around the whole set, the whole match," Dokic said. "That linesperson was closer to it than I was. It was very close. You could have called it either way. It could have got the line. Maybe not. It was a very close call at 6-5 in the tie-breaker. It was called. You have to go on."

Williams will next face second-seeded compatriot Lindsay Davenport, who beat 18-year-

Elena Dementieva.

But Dokic's defeat was the talk of the Flushing Meadows. She was already having to deal with the US Open banishment of her father Damir for abusive behaviour, the same situation she faced at Wimbledon.

"You have to deal with situations," she said. "You have to be block things out. You have to be able to play the game whether something is happening or not."

"It's hard to come out and play the next set when you have lost such a hard set, like it's slipping away. In the second set she didn't give anything away. She got all her returns and served well the entire match. She just kept going after that first set, I'm a little disappointed I didn't get that first set."

"If I won that first set maybe I would have even won the match in two sets. I would have gotten on a roll and got her under pressure. She's the defending champion. If she gets tight and you get a few points, it could have been the end. But it was called out. It's too late to change it now."

Williams hit 14 aces, giving her a tournament-best 36, to end Dokic's dream.

With 20-year-old Venus on a 23-match win streak and the opposite side of the bracket, Serena has the chance to fulfil a lifelong dream in an all-American US Open final.

"It'll be the great opportunity of a lifetime," Serena Williams said. "It's what we have worked for so many years and we hope that it can finally come true. We're marked women. Everybody wants to beat a Williams sister."

No one more so than Hingis, who lost a Wimbledon quarterfinal to Venus and last year's US Open final to Serena. But the Swiss 19-year-old must first beat Seles, as she has done in 10 of their 12 meetings.

"In the last few meetings I have always beaten her," Hingis said. "You never know. She never gives up. I never underestimate her. That's maybe why I always play her so well."

Fourth seed Pierce, who had beaten Huber five times in a row, ended her ordeals after only 38 minutes following her set-costing sixth double fault. She played little since her Roland Garros victory due to the rotator cuff injury.

"It was sore and just with every serve I hit it got worse," Pierce said.

Dementieva, ranked 25th, struggled to oust 57th-rated American Lilia Osterloh 6-3, 6-7 (4/7), 7-6 (7/5). The Russian squandered two match points in set two, failed three times serving for the match in the last set and needed two more tie-breaker match points before Osterloh hit a backhand wide to lose.



Swiss Martina Hingis executes a backhand return against Sandrine Testud of France during their US Open third round engagement on September 4. —AFP photo

old Belgian No. 58 Justine Henin 6-0, 6-4 in 75 minutes.

"I was a little tight in the first set," Williams said. "I made too many errors but I came back. I fought back and got the big points when it counted. That's what champions do."

An overhand smash salvaged the first set point but a Dokic backhand that landed oh-so-close to the line was ruled out to rescue the reigning champion.

"You win some, you lose some. That's just how it is," Williams said. "After a while you get to know you're not going to get every point, that you're not going to