

Fredericks laid to rest

GEORGETOWN, Sept 12: Former West Indies batsman Roy Clifton Fredericks was buried Monday amid glowing tributes from politicians and Caribbean cricket greats, reports AP.

"It is a sad day for West Indies cricket," David Holford, a former teammate of Fredericks' and a former West Indies chief selector, said during the funeral at St. George's Anglican Cathedral in downtown Georgetown.

Fredericks, 57, died of throat cancer in New York on September 5.

"West Indies cricket today is in dire need of his ilk," said Roger Harper, the coach of the West Indies senior team.

Fredericks was born and raised in Blairmont, a sugar cane-farming community in eastern Guyana. He played in 59 Test matches for the West Indies, scoring 4,133 runs and averaging 42.49 runs per innings.

He was most remembered for the 169 runs made against the mighty Australian team during a 1975-76 tour. He rattled off his century in 71 balls before the lunch interval, including 18 fours and a six, struck off the day's second ball. His innings lasted a mere three hours before he was dismissed.

Fredericks retired from cricket in the early 1980s but served as sports minister from 1980 to 1985.

The funeral was attended by President Bharat Jagdeo and several past and current Test players.

Ali mingles with the crowd

ADELAIDE, Sept 12: Former Olympic gold medalist Muhammad Ali brought his customary wit and charm to the northern suburbs of Adelaide on Tuesday, abandoning his luxury car to hand out autographed photos to about 100 fans, reports AP.

Ali, three-time world heavyweight boxing champion, shook hands, signed autographs and joked with well-wishers at the Viz factory. He is in Australia as the guest of Viz owner Richard Pratt of Melbourne.

Dressed in a short-sleeved patterned shirt and green pants, Ali said when he was boxing he rarely got an opportunity to meet the ordinary people wherever he went.

"So this is the reason I've taken this tour, to see and meet the people," he said. "So you can see that I am as pretty as I said I was."

Despite shaking visibly from Parkinson's disease, Ali showed he still had the ability to deliver his killer remarks.

"If you saw a picture of her you'd know I was telling the truth ... she took after me."

But he received the most rousing applause when he said his visit to Adelaide held a special significance for his boxing career.

"I'm here to make a shocking announcement ... I'm coming back," Ali said. "Coming back to my senses."

Ali also revealed that it was the theft of his bike at age 12 that led him to take up boxing after he reported the loss to a policeman who was training some fighters at the time.

"I never found the bike but I kept boxing," he said. "I was a 12-year-old knocking out other 12-year-olds."

Zimbabwe going slowly



BULAWAYO, Sept 12 (Internet report): Tight bowling by the New Zealand spinners restricted Zimbabwe to 185 for four on the opening day of the first Test at the Queens Sports Club.

Left-arm Daniel Vettori and off-spinner Paul Wiseman sent down 55 of the 102 overs bowled in the day as the home side set out in search of their first-ever Test victory over the Black Caps.

Vettori made the initial breakthrough by having Grant Flower caught behind and conceded just 35 runs from his 31 overs, while Wiseman finished the day with figures of two for 50.

The two sides each included a player making their Test debuts, with Mark Richardson given his chance by the tourists after scoring 302 against Zimbabwe A in their last match and 21-year-old David Mutendera making his first appearance for Zimbabwe.

New Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak opted to bat first after winning the toss but openers Flower and Gavin Rennie made just seven runs from the opening 10 overs.

Chris Cairns and Shayne O'Connor were guilty of sending

down too many deliveries which the batsmen did not have to play and Flower gradually raised his tempo to collect four boundaries.

But left-arm spinner Vettori looked a far more potent threat when he was introduced into the attack and dismissed Flower for 24 with a ball which turned sharply and bounced higher than the batsman expected, and he was caught behind.

Rennie was determined to make the most of his opportunity after being recalled to the Zimbabwe side following the retirement from international cricket of Murray Goodwin and Neil Johnson.

He batted for 207 minutes in total, but managed only one boundary in his 36.

Rennie was dismissed during the afternoon session when he hit a delivery from Wiseman straight into the grasp of Craig McMillan at short extra cover.

Zimbabwe were 105 for two at tea and added another 15 runs before Stuart Carlisle was caught by Matt Horne for 38 after facing 140 balls.

Andy Flower finally gave the crowd something to cheer with two sixes and two fours in his 29 made from only 32 balls, but was then removed by Chris

Cairns. Alistair Campbell maintained his concentration, however, and he and Craig Wishart saw Zimbabwe through to the close without further damage.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close on the first day of first Test between New Zealand and Zimbabwe at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo on Tuesday:

ZIMBABWE: First Innings

G Flower c Parore b Vettori 24
Rennie c McMillan b Wiseman 36
Carlisle c Horne b Wiseman 38
Campbell not out 37
A Flower c Astle b Cairns 29
Wishart not out 10
Extras (b-4; lb-3; nb-4) 11
Total: (For 4 wkt in 102 overs) 185
Fall of wickets: 1-40; 2-91;
3-120; 4-157.

To bat: H Streak, D Mutendera, P Strang, M Nkala, B Strang.

Bowler O M R W

Cairns 18 8 42 1
O'Connor 20 6 28 0
McMillan 3 0 18 0
Vettori 31 15 35 1
Astle 5 3 5 0
Wiseman 25 11 50 2

NEW ZEALAND: S Fleming, A Parore, M Richardson, M Horne, M Sinclair, N Astle, C McMillan, C Cairns, D Vettori, P Wiseman, S O'Connor.

Premiership
Campbell spurs Spurs

LONDON, Sept 12: Tottenham captain Sol Campbell scored with an unstoppable header to keep George Graham's men hot on the heels of the Premiership pacemakers on Monday after a 1-0 win over London rivals West Ham, reports AFP.

Defeat for Harry Redknapp's team leaves the Hammers still searching for their first win of the new season and they will look back to rue a handful of first-half chances which went begging.

A fine performance from Neil Sullivan had kept Spurs in the hunt. The former Wimbledon keeper produced a string of vital saves during a breathless opening to a frenetic London derby.

Spurs finally made the breakthrough after 67 minutes after a spell of pressure on the visitors goal.

Oyvind Leonhardsen swung a corner into the penalty area and Campbell leapt above Frederick Kanoute to thump a header into the net off the underside of the bar.

Midfielder Steffen Freund came close to doubling the lead moments later. Campbell was again involved, teeing-up the German for a fierce drive from 25 yards which clipped the West Ham crossbar.

Norwegian international Steffen Iversen was then thwarted by Hislop in the closing stages but Campbell's strike was enough to push Tottenham to the dizzy heights of fifth place in the Premiership.

Ronald goes under cover!

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept 12: Fears of being robbed have prompted Brazilian star Ronaldo to move out of his house in a posh suburb of Rio after his property's security alarm went off twice in his absence within three days. Globo daily reported Monday, reports AFP.

Globo quoted the player's advisor, Rodrigo Palva, as saying the Inter Milan striker was worried about his family's safety and had been undergoing physiotherapy on his injured knee in a clinic Sunday when the alarm sounded for the second time.

On the first occasion on Friday, his wife Milene, worried for her safety, had fled to go stay with friends.

Palva, who said Ronaldo was "very nervous," only installed the security system two months ago after hearing strange noises which he believed might have been burglars.

Ronaldo will stay at a secret address until leaving next month for the United States, where he will continue convalescing following his recent knee surgery in Paris.

Kapernick said there were no on-going investigations into competitors refusing tests.

"Sometimes, the athletes have simply not been where they said they would be, perhaps because they have delayed their arrival in Australia," she said.

Former Olympic 100m champion Linford Christie, presently serving a two-year ban for testing positive for steroids, but actively coaching a group of British athletes at a pre-Olympic camp on Queensland's Gold Coast, was involved in an angry scene at the weekend, after drug-testers arrived at the track during a public training session and requested samples from his athletes.

Australian Olympic team doctor Brian Sando has forecast that some athletes may pull out of the Games because of advances in testing for EPO.

There may be some people who suddenly develop serious injuries that are going to prevent them from competing - and no doctor can tell you they've seen the patient," said Sando.

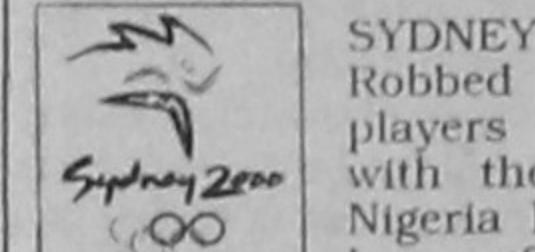
There are always reasons why people may save themselves the embarrassment of a positive test and develop a reason for not competing and not coming to Australia.

Barber, Platini to attend Asia Cup opener

SYDNEY, Sept 12: FIFA president Sepp Blatter and French football legend Michel Platini will attend the opening ceremony and kickoff of next month's Asia Cup, officials said here.

FIFA secretary-general Michel Zen-Ruffinen said following a meeting here both men would be present at the tournament, which gets underway in Lebanon on October 12.

Games' most popular event begins today



SYDNEY, Sept 12: Robbed of key players staying with their clubs, Nigeria have slim hopes of extending

their Olympic soccer title when the Sydney 2000 tournament begins on Wednesday, reports AP.

No such worries for the United States women's team, who are favoured to repeat their Atlanta triumph despite the loss of injury-hit standout Michelle Akers.

The tournament is already

club Wolfsburg are also missing and the roster bears no comparison to the 1996 squad which brilliantly beat Brazil 4-3 in the semifinal and Argentina 3-2 in the final.

Bothre are only two survivors on the squad - Chelsea's Celeste Babayaro and Garba Lawal of Dutch club Roda JC.

With Italy and host Australia in the same group, Bothre's team will struggle to make the quarterfinals and could well be going home early. They should at least start with a victory, opening against modest Honduras.

Four years ago, a squad that included Ronaldinho, Rivaldo and Roberto Carlos managed only the bronze medal. Brazil's young squad have far fewer stars this time.

Their lineup does include 20-year-old Gremio striker Ronaldinho - a likely target for the rich clubs of Europe. The Brazilians start with a game against Slovakia at the Brisbane Cricket Ground on Thursday when the other Group D teams, South Africa and Japan, meet at Canberra's Bruce Stadium.

Benny McCarthy, who plays in the Spanish league for Celta Vigo, and Manchester United's Quinton Fortune lead the South African attack while Japan has AS Roma's Hidetoshi Nakata.

The Group C games on the opening day are United States vs. Czech Republic at Canberra and Cameroon against Kuwait at Brisbane. On Thursday, Spain face South Korea at Adelaide and Chile, likely with veteran Inter Milan striker Ivan Zamorano, meets Morocco at Melbourne.

The top two teams in each group qualify for the quarterfinals and are likely to be Italy and Australia from Group A and Spain and Chile from Group B.

The other two groups appear more evenly matched.

The Czech Republic, Cameroon and the United States are expected to be fighting over the two places from Group C and Brazil are a hot favourite to advance from Group D, with the second spot a wide-open contest.

While only a handful of players return from Atlanta in the men's event because of the age restrictions, the United States and China, finalists four years ago, have most of their stars back.

Each team has 10 players returning with Mia Hamm, who starred in the Americans' win on home turf, again leading the US attack and China's Sun Wen another candidate to be star of the tournament.

One player missing is Akers, who was forced into retirement two weeks ago by a persistent shoulder injury after more than 150 national team games.

With the eight teams split into two groups, the Americans and Chinese are with Norway and Nigeria and will meet in the first round at Melbourne on Sunday.

The Americans begin their defence against Norway in Melbourne on Thursday when the Chinese face the Nigerians in Canberra.

Organisers of the event have set up double-headers with men's games following women's matches in the same stadium on the same night.

They expect some 1.2 million fans to watch the matches - 32 men's and 20 women's - more than for any other sport at the games.

Barca-Leeds match of the night

PARIS, Sept 12: Barcelona take on English qualifiers Leeds United at the Nou Camp stadium on Wednesday night in what could be the pick of the evening in the first phase of the Champions League, reports AFP.

Barcelona kicked off their domestic campaign this weekend with an away win at Malaga where Brazil's World player of the year Rivaldo scored twice from the centre forward position that departed coach Luis Van Gaal denied him.

New coach Lorenzo Serra Ferrer, promoted from the youth-team, has former charge Gerard, who has returned to Barcelona after impressing at Valencia, amongst a wealth of options in midfield despite Luis Figo's defection to Real Madrid.

Leeds United, last year's beaten UEFA Cup finalists, will miss injured striker Harry Kewell but can count on the returning Darren Huckerby to lead a three-man attack for David O'Leary's powerful young side.

The northern Germans beat Juventus in the 1983 European Cup final.

Sweden's Helsingborg, who eliminated Inter Milan in the qualifiers and have scored four times on each of their last three league outings, seem well pre-

pared for the visit of German champions Bayern Munich in Group F.

Also in Group F Paris Saint Germain mark their return to the Champions League with a trip to Trondheim and Norwegian champions in the weekend when they beat St Etienne 5-1.

Nicholas Anelka scoring a brace - as he did against Troyes - has led the PSG attack to 17 goals in seven outings.

Elsewhere, Spanish champions Deportivo La Coruna travel to Greece in what should be an exciting encounter with Panathinaikos.

English Champions Manchester United, already top of the Premiership, should overcome Belgian champions Anderlecht on Wednesday.

PSV Eindhoven and Dynamo Kiev meet in the group's other match and will be keen to score a few points before they have to meet the 1999/2000 Champions league winners.

FIXTURES

Wednesday's Champions League first phase first round fixtures:

Group A: SV Hamburg (Ger) v Juventus (Ita)

Panathinaikos (Gre) v Deportivo La Coruna (Spa)

Group B: Rosenborg (Nor) v Paris SG (Fra)

Helsingborg (Swe) v Bayern Munich (Ger)

Group C: Kiev (Ukr) v Manchester United (Eng) v Anderlecht (Bel)

PSV Eindhoven (Ned) v Dynamo Kiev (Ukr)

Leeds United (Eng) v Anderlecht (Bel)

Group D: Barcelona (Spa) v Leeds (Eng)

AC Milan (Ita) v Besiktas (Tur)

Phase 1, Matchday 1 3:00 X-Games Preview/Recap Summer X Games Wrecked 3:30 Inside Cricket: 2nd Session 4:00 Boxing Series Espn2 Friday Night Fights Bay St 5:30 Motorsport Asia 6:00 Women's Pro Billiards 2000 Wpba Classic Tour Alpine, CA USA Finals 7:00 Live Cricket: The Sahara Cup 2000 Toronto, CANADA- Pakistan Vs India Preview 8:00 Live Cricket: The Sahara Cup 2000 Toronto, CANADA- Pakistan Vs India 3rd Odi, 1st Session 11:30 Live Cricket: The Sahara Cup 2000 Toronto, CANADA- Pakistan Vs India 3rd Odi, 2nd Session

Phase 1, Matchday 2 10:00 Cricket: The Sahara Cup 2000 Toronto, CANADA- Pakistan Vs India 3rd Odi, 2nd Session

Phase 1, Matchday 3 10:00 Cricket: The Sahara Cup 2000 Toronto, CANADA- Pakistan Vs India