

Zim make India toil

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, Oct 27: Saturday's day-night match between India and Zimbabwe was a three-wicket win over Zimbabwe on Thursday to qualify for the Sharjah tri-series final against Sri Lanka, reports AFP.

The Indian captain made 66 in a third-wicket stand of 106 with Vinod Kambli (60) as his team overcame a dramatic collapse to cross Zimbabwe's modest 218-9 with nine balls to spare.

No other batsman in the top six managed to reach double figures as India slipped to 158-6 in the 38th over before Sushil Joshi (25 not out) and Vijay Dahiya (20) put on 42 valuable runs for the seventh wicket.

Dahiya was dismissed by Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak with 19 runs still remaining, but Ajit Agarkar (16 not out) helped Joshi carry the Indians to a hard-earned victory.

It put to shade an unbeaten 105 by Alistair Campbell, who carried his bat through the Zimbabwe innings to record his fourth one-day century.

The last league match on Friday between India and Sri Lanka will enable the rivals size up each other ahead of Sunday's final worth 50,000 dollars to the winners.

Zimbabwe, who ended the league with four successive defeats, return home later on Thursday to prepare for a two-Test tour of India starting on November 5.

Ganguly reached the 6,000-run mark in his 152nd match by hitting Paul Strang for a six. He became the third highest scorer for India after world record holder Sachin Tendulkar (9,546) and Mohammad Azharuddin (9,378).

Zimbabwe's new fast bowler Travis Friend scared the Indians by removing Sachin Tendulkar and Sridharan Sriram in his third over to make it 18-2.

When Friend returned for his second spell to have Ganguly caught on the third man fence, India lost four wickets in the space of 34 runs to throw open the game.

Campbell's century after Zimbabwe were sent to bat in the day-night match was not backed up by the other batsmen, the highest score being Guy Whittall's 26.

India's young left-arm seamer Zaheer Khan wrecked Zimbabwe with four for 42 from 19 overs, while new ball partner Venkatesh Prasad finished with two for 38.

SCOREBOARD

Full scoreboard of the Sharjah tri-series one-day international between India and Zimbabwe here on Thursday:

ZIMBABWE: 218 for 9 in 50 overs. Ganguly 66, Joshi 25 not out, G Whittall 26, Zaheer 4/42, Prasad 2/38.

INDIA: Tendulkar c P Strang b Friend 4, Ganguly c sub (Marillier) b Friend 66, Sriram c Mbanga b Friend 0, Kambli c Streak b G Flower 60, Yuraj c P Strang b Mbanga 4, Robin run out 7.

Dahiya c A Flower b Streak 20, Joshi not out 25, Agarkar not out 16, Extras (b-1, lb-6, w-9, nb-1) 17. Total (For 7 wts in 48.3 overs) 218.

Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-19, 3-124, 4-133, 5-153, 6-158, 7-200.

Bowler O M R W
Friend 10 0 39 3
B Strang 10 0 36 0
Streak 8 0 38 1
Mbanga 7 0 29 1
P Strang 3 0 20 0
Viljoen 7.3 0 42 0
G Flower 3 1 8 1

Result: India won by three wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Alistair Campbell.

Enqvist, Hewitt advance

BASLE, Switzerland, Oct 27: Second seeded Sweden's Thomas Enqvist cruised into the quarterfinals of the Swiss indoor championships yesterday with workmanlike 6-4, 6-2 defeat of Frenchman Jerome Golmard, reports Reuters.

Third seeded Australian Lleyton Hewitt, searching for his fifth title of the season, also advanced with little fuss, disposing of Sweden's Andreas Vinciguerra 6-3, 7-5.

Seventh seed Nicolas Pietrangeli of Ecuador, a finalist in Tokyo two weeks ago, was the only seed to fall in the second round, upset 7-6 (8-6), 7-6 (7-5) by French qualifier Nicolas Thomann, a lowly 184 in the world rankings.

Enqvist showed no sign of the ankle injury that forced him to retire from his first round match in Vienna two weeks ago and needed just 70 minutes to dispose of Golmard.

That took his head-to-head record against the 38th ranked Frenchman to a perfect 4-0.

"My ankle feels fine, I feel comfortable and I'm hitting the ball cleanly and not making too many mistakes," said Enqvist, the highest remaining seed in the \$1 million tournament after compatriot Magnus Norman went out on Tuesday with a sore back.

There were also encouraging performances from two former Swiss champions and British Davis Cup teammates, Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski.

Fourth seeded Henman booked his quarterfinal place with a tidy 6-3, 6-4 win over Frenchman Arnaud Clement while Rusedski won a battle of the big serves over Dutchman Richard Krajicek.

He beat the former Wimbledon champion 2-6, 7-6, 7-5 to reach the final for the first time since February.

Warne eyeing Boxing Day Test



MELBOURNE, Oct 27: Shane Warne has set his sights on returning for the Boxing Day Test after confirming he will miss at least the first three clashes against the West Indies here this summer with a fractured finger, reports AFP.

Australia's all-time leading wicket-taker damaged the ring finger on his right hand, his spinning finger, as he made a mess of taking a simple catch at first slip to dismiss New South Wales Test batsman Mark Waugh in the Sheffield Shield on Thursday.

While Warne vowed to stay positive, he said it was disappointing because it came at a time when he was on the verge of recapturing his best form.

"Generally, my whole career I have been positive and upbeat about everything and I generally come back better than ever," he said.

"But the most disappointing thing is I'm finally back to some really good form and some really good bowling."

"My variety is good, my shoulder is feeling like brand new, my body feels good and I'm pretty fit — just when everything seems to be going right, this happens. However, I've just got to keep positive and hopefully I'll be right in six to eight weeks."

Warne said he was likely to have surgery on Saturday at the earliest to repair the top knuckle — the same hand operated on in 1996.

Victorian team doctor Trefor (Eds: correct) James said the break was a simple one but complicated by the fact it was the spinning finger.

"The worst-case scenario is if the fixation isn't very secure then it might need to be protected for longer and if Shane develops a lot of stiffness it will take him longer to recover."

Warne underwent knee surgery earlier this year following a gruelling English county season with Hampshire, which forced him out of Australia's tour to Kenya. He has also previously had shoulder and finger operations.

Australia's leading wicket-taker admitted the latest injury was his own fault.

He was in the slips when Waugh top-edged an attempted

"One of the fracture fragments has got a tendon that attaches to it and that's part of the problem because if Shane attempts to move it then that will stop the fracture from healing," he said.

"I should have caught it better than I did but it was just one of those things that happened I suppose," he said. "I was just happy to catch it after I nearly made a meal of an absolute soda."

He said he immediately knew it was damaged.

"I thought it was broken straight away but you just hope for the best and hope it's only a bruise."

His absence from the Test side also means he will miss Australia's attempt to equal the West Indies' record of 11 for the most consecutive Test victories in the first Test in Brisbane starting November 23.

"Obviously I have been a pretty big part of that over a long period of time, being vice-captain for a lot of it and playing a leadership role ... so to miss out on what we have set out to achieve is pretty disappointing."

The injury is likely to mean a Test recall for wrist-spinner Stuart MacGill.

So far, MacGill's international career has been based around Warne's fitness. He made his Test and one-day debuts only because of past injuries to the Victorian but grabbed the chance when it came.

His 12 Tests have netted him 59 wickets at an average of 23.32 and his three one-dayers have seen him concede 3.5 runs per over in 30 overs, as well as taking six wickets at 17.50.

His last Test was over 18 months ago in the West Indies.

At the close, Queensland were in trouble at 258 for six in their first innings in reply to Tasmania's 403.

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MacGill's reminder

MELBOURNE, Oct 27: Stuart MacGill appears to have bowled himself into contention to take over injured Shane Warne's Australian Test spot with a mesmerising spell of leg spin here Friday, reports AFP.

Warne confirmed Friday that he will miss at least the first three Tests against the West Indies here this summer with a fractured finger suffered while fielding on Thursday.

MacGill announced he was ready for a Test recall by demolishing Victoria's middle-order for New South Wales on the third day of the Sheffield Shield cricket match.

MacGill snared 3-0 in ten balls to have Victoria wallowing at 62 for six on his way to impressive figures of 3-34 off 17 overs.

Despite MacGill's heroics, the Blues were unable to press home their dominance on another rain-marred day and Victoria finished the day at 140 for six and still needing another 111 runs to take first innings points after New South Wales were bowled out for 250.

Victoria had Brad Hodge and skipper Paul Reifel to thank for their survival with the pair combining for an unbroken 78-run partnership. Hodge was 60 not out at stumps with Reifel on 34.

Elsewhere, fringe Test player Damien Martyn signalled he would not give away his spot lightly with a patient century for Western Australia (WA) against South Australia at the Adelaide Oval.

Martyn top-scored with 122 in WA's first innings of 480 for eight declared while teammate and Australian vice-captain Adam Gilchrist was also in brilliant touch with 102.

WA took complete control of the match late in the day to leave South Australia on the ropes at 133 for five at stumps on day two, still needing 198 runs to avoid the follow-on.

Paceman Damien Wright gave Tasmania the upper hand against champions Queensland with a late burst of wickets on the second day of their match in Brisbane.

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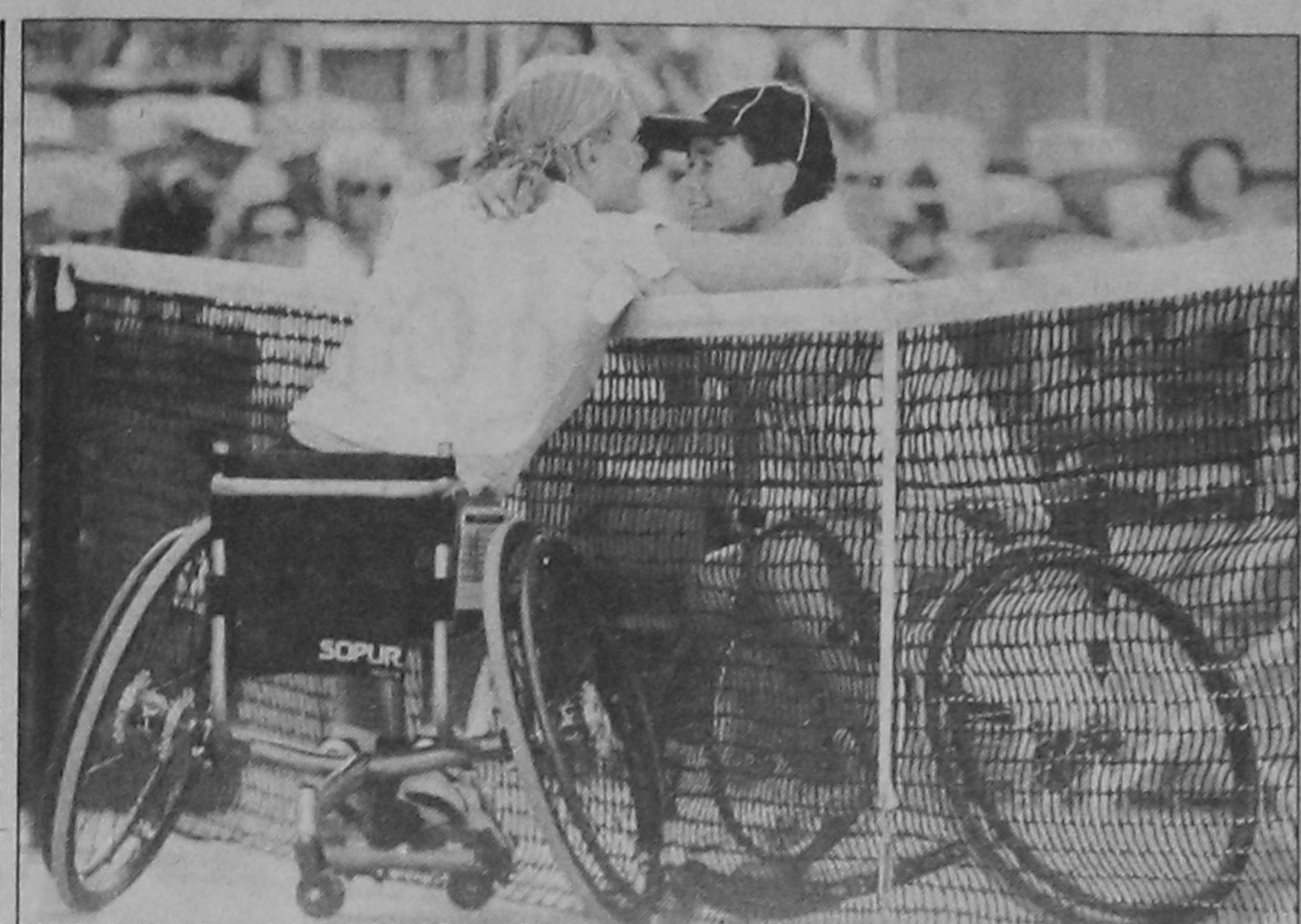
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Dutchwoman Esther Vergeer (L) being congratulated by compatriot Sharon Walraven after the former won the wheelchair tennis gold at the Paralympic Games in Sydney yesterday. —AFP photo

Beatrice 'Thorpe' Hess

SYDNEY, Oct 27: Mother-of-two Beatrice Hess wants to be the Ian Thorpe of Paralympic swimming after claiming her sixth gold medal of the Games here Friday, reports AFP.

It was the 38-year-old Frenchwoman's 17th Paralympic gold medal and with it her ninth world record swim of the week.

Just as she has done this week, Hess, a mild cerebral palsy sufferer, was too strong for her rivals winning the 50m freestyle in 36.85secs to stamp herself as the swimmer of the meet.

Hess pitched France to seventh on the medals table with 26 golds behind tearaway leaders Australia with two days' competition remaining.

"Hess doesn't care for Paralympic comparisons — she's looking at Australian swimming marvel Thorpe, who won three golds at the Olympics in the same pool last month."

"I want to be remembered in Paralympic history — you have Ian Thorpe, why not Beatrice Hess?" she said.

She said she was determined to repeat her feat of winning six golds at the last Atlanta Paralympics to not only prove it was possible but to dedicate her triumphs to her family.

"I wanted to do what I did in Atlanta because everybody says it's impossible, I want to show it's possible if you work hard," she said.

"I give the medals to my children and my brother-in-law who has cancer. You need someone else to think about and to motivate you."

Organisers told Vashishtha he should have competed in the class and disqualified him from the event.

But Vashishtha missed out on a medal in the shot put as that event had already been decided.

Indian team spokesman Des Lucas said the athlete was robbed of the gold medal.

"He's been robbed of any chance of competing," he said.

"It's unfair to the