

Waugh wants bouncer back

MELBOURNE, Nov 4 (Internet report): Australian captain Steve Waugh wants to get the spic back into one-day cricket by giving bowlers the right to bowl one bouncer an over.

In his new diary, Neve Satisfied, Waugh says the current rule - making any delivery above shoulder height a no-ball - must be changed.

"It takes the unexpected bouncer, or throat ball, out of the fast bowler's armoury as well as depriving the batsman of any chance of playing the hook," he said.

The 35-year-old skipper said his opinions were confirmed during a one-day match against New Zealand earlier this year. When Australian fast-bowler Brett Lee bowled Adam Parore from a bouncer that cannoned off his helmet to the stumps, the umpires ignored Parore's pleas for a no-ball, sparking a massive crowd protest.

Waugh watched the incident from the dressing-room and noted the sobering effect it had on the Kiwi dressing-room. "The mood went from frivolity and laughter to fright and silence in one split second," Waugh wrote.

One-day rules are heavily in favour of the batsman but Waugh would like to see the balance of power tilted slightly back the other way.

"I think it should be like the Mercantile Mutual rule where you can bowl one ball per over between the shoulder and head and it's a legal delivery," he says.

It's really important to have that facet of the game in one-day cricket where blokes can play the hook shot if they want to and bowlers can get stuck into a batsman if they are a bit vulnerable.

That way one-day cricket can expand. There's been a lot of rules come into the game over the last 12 months which players don't agree with, but that's one rule that can come in which would make it easier for the umpires and more challenging for players."

Tiger Cup

Holders edge Cambodia



SONGKHLA, Thailand Nov 5: Singapore's attacking midfielder Mohamed Rafi Mohamed Ali saved face for the defending champions as they scraped to a 1-0 victory over Cambodia in the opening tie of the Tiger Cup at the Tinsulanon Stadium on Sunday evening, reports AFP.

The 28-year-old sent in a curling freekick 20-metres out from the left into the far right top of goal, with Cambodia goalkeeper Soun Dara well beaten. It was a goal that Singapore desperately needed as they had practically pitched camped in the Cambodian air, from the start.

The Singaporeans were all over the Cambodians hose defence was overworked but had managed to keep Singapore's strikers at bay.

When Cambodia had possession, they failed to string enough passes needed to convert and seemed overawed by the occasion with Singapore breaking the deadlock in the 25th minute.

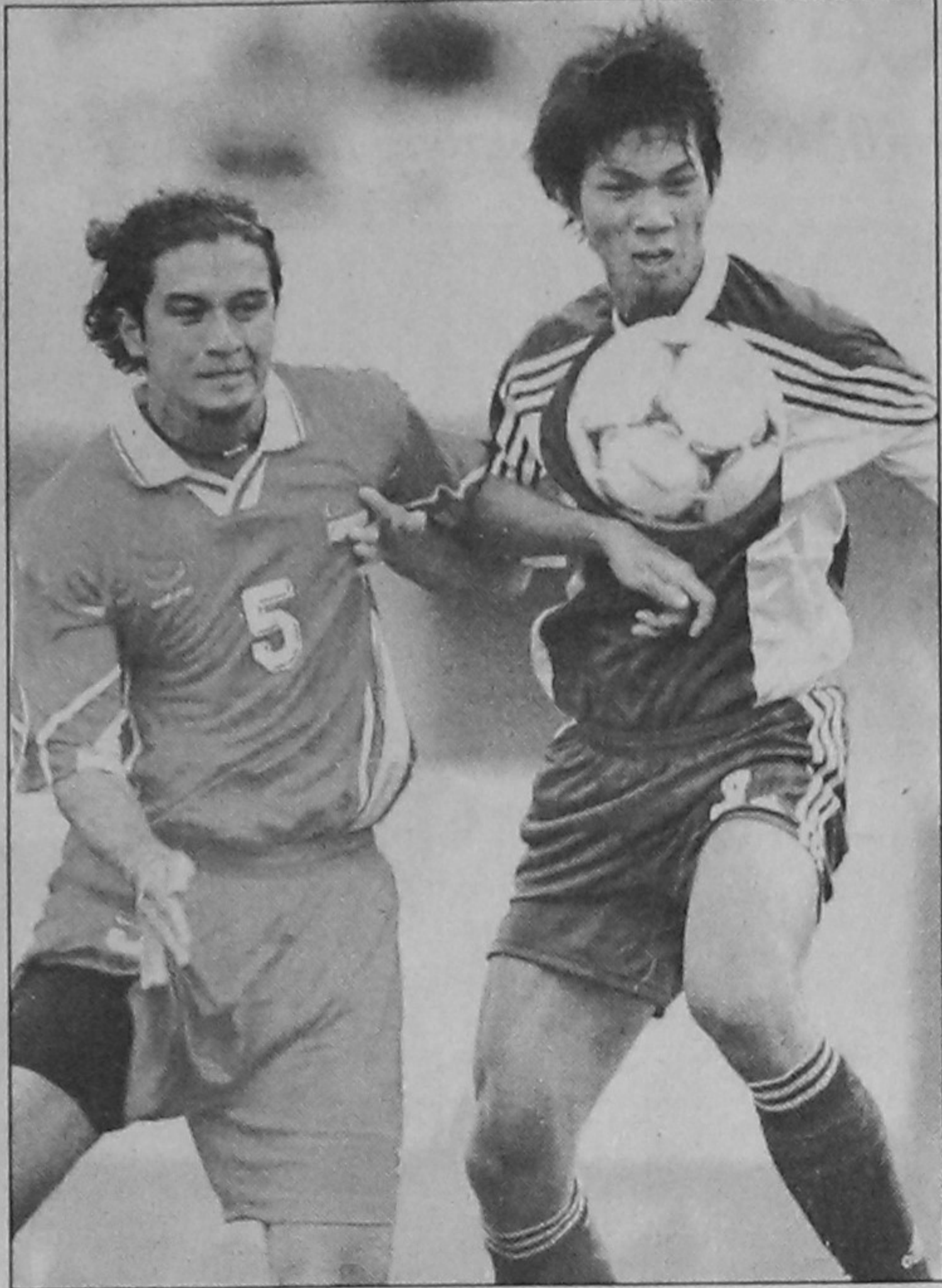
Three minutes later Singapore nearly made it 2-0 but captain Mohamed Nazri Nasir's header hit the bar.

Singapore, despite incessant attacks, had to settle for a 1-0 lead at the half-time whistle. Cambodia were a bit more settled in the second half and in the 47th minute captain Chudn Maline sent a powerful shot from just outside the penalty area but it was safely collected by Singapore goalkeeper Mohamed Rezal Hassan.

It was the first time Hassan was forced to make a save. Singapore came back strongly with substitute Mohamed Noor Mohamed Ali seeing his header go wide in the 63rd minute while Nazri's shot was blocked by the diving Cambodian goalkeeper in the 76th minute.

Cambodia did manage to trouble the Singapore defence but their shooting was pathetic. Singapore had a golden opportunity to increase the lead in the 84th minute but Ali's connection from a low cross from the right sailed over the bar at close range.

Cambodia came dangerously close to equalising in the last few minutes but Singapore managed to hold on to a slim victory.



Aide Iskandar Bin Sahak (L) of Singapore locked in a tussle with Cambodia's Chea Makara during their Tiger Cup encounter at Songkhla, Thailand yesterday. — AFP photo

Dutch First Div

PSV show class

AMSTERDAM, Nov 5: PSV Eindhoven announced themselves as a Dutch Premiership title candidate Saturday with a dominant 2-0 win at FC Twente Enschede, reports AP.

The victory improves PSV's record to 6-3-1 (win-draw-loss) and takes them to within a point of leaders Feyenoord, though the Rotterdam side has played two games fewer.

Moroccan winger Adil Ramzi opened the scoring after 10 minutes, following up on the rebound after Twente keeper Sander Boschker parried John de Jong's effort.

The game was decided in the 67th minute when the Twente defense stopped in their tracks appealing for offside, and Finnish midfielder Joonas Kolkkka snapped up the chance.

Two teams remain unbeaten in the league this season. Feyenoord and low-rated NEC Nijmegen, who maintained fourth place with a 2-2 draw at newly promoted NAC Breda.

Johan Neeskens, a Dutch international stalwart in the 1970s and NEC's new trainer, has made the tiny club's side very difficult to beat this year, as four wins and seven draws in a club record 11-game unbeaten streak testify.

Familiar foes face-off

QUEBEC, Nov 5: Top seed and defending champion Jennifer Capriati and fellow American Chanda Rubin set up a repeat of last year's final at the \$180,000-dollar Bell Challenge event here Saturday, reports AP.

Capriati, who defeated Rubin in the championship match here for one of her two titles of 1999, rallied to defeat fourth-seeded Amy Frazier 3-6, 7-5, 7-5 in Saturday's semis.

Rubin, seeded second, had a much easier time, defeating unseeded American Meilen Tu 7-5, 6-1.

On Sunday Rubin will be hoping it's third time lucky. Before falling to Capriati in last year's final in three sets, she lost the 1998 final here to Tara Snyder.

Capriati, who received a first-round bye, started off the year by reaching the semifinals at the Australian Open but struggled after splitting with renowned coach Harold Solomon, going winless in the clay-court season.

After reaching the fourth round at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open, Capriati captured her first title of the year and ninth of her career at the Seat Open in Luxembourg in October. She followed that with a first-round loss at Filderstadt, Germany, but reached the semifinals at Zurich two weeks later before losing to top seed Martina Hingis.

Tauziat tumbles

LEIPZIG, Germany, Nov 5: Number one seed Nathalie Tauziat of France fell at the semifinal stage in the 635,000-dollar Leipzig Open on Saturday, reports AFP.

Defending champion Tauziat was beaten by Russia's seventh seed Elena Likhovtseva 6-1, 6-4. "Of course I'm disappointed," said Tauziat. "If you're the titleholder and in the semi-final, you obviously want to go on and win the event. But I was far from that sort of form.

"I was too slow today and Elena was clearly better." On Sunday, 25-year-old Likhovtseva attempts to win her first title since winning on the Gold Coast in 1997.

Top guns trained on Lyon

LYON, Nov 5: Leading seeds at the 800,000-dollar Lyon Grand Prix starting Monday will be out to make up for poor in-door performances as the 2000 season leads into its concluding stages, reports AFP.

Gustavo Kuerten, Andre Agassi, Thomas Enqvist and Alex Corretja all turned in showings to forget at the Stuttgart Masters in Germany. Now, with three weeks left before the start of the eight-man Masters Cup final in Lisbon and three places still up for grabs, even Lisbon confirmed entries like Kuerten and Agassi will have something to prove.

One of France's best-known gourmet cities will provide the chance for double Roland Garros champion Kuerten from Brazil to come good after taking a third-round defeat in Germany against Sebastian Grosjean.

The top seed begins his week at the Palais des Sports against Romanian Andre Pavel, who accounted for Agassi in Stuttgart.

Agassi takes on a qualifier, but the American veteran is only playing in his second event since August and needs to shake the cobwebs out of his game.

That didn't happen in Stuttgart, "I have to be somewhat humble about my tennis and accept where I am," he said. "It's frustrating, I hope I can improve consistently in the next few weeks." "That's what I'm looking to do. But it will take a while before I'm feeling great."

Back when WI were kings



PERTH, Nov 5 (Internet report): The great West Indies wicket-keeper-batsman, Jeff Dujon, played in all 11 Tests of that record-winning streak back in 1983-84.

At the time Dujon had no idea he and his formidable teammates were creating history and a reputation as the greatest of all teams.

It was all so simple then. Dujon is back in Australia for another tour, his fifth or sixth, he thinks. This time he is assistant coach and has the job of educating a young and inexperienced team about the harsh realities of life on the road in Australia.

But now the roles are reversed. The Australians are top dog while the West Indies, after patchy recent form, are the innocents abroad.

To make the role reversal almost perfect, Steve Waugh's Australians need to win the first Test to equal the record of 11 consecutive Test wins set by Clive Lloyd's West Indies in those halcyon days. Back then, the West Indies were all-conquering. Look at the names - Greenidge, Haynes, Richards, Lloyd, Dujon, Marshall, Holding, Garner, Croft.

Records - who, when, where, why, what - that's not important and I'm not going down that road," Dujon said. "I don't dwell on things like where we used to be. I see it as a challenge and we've got to deal with it to get this team up to perform. This tour comes at a very good time because it will be a really good barometer of exactly where we're at. This Australian team is the best in world cricket today. They play very disciplined and hard cricket and we can take a leaf out of their book in the way they approach the game."

If ever there was proof of the cyclical nature of the game, the notion that a West Indies team has come to learn from the way Australia plays it.

"I've always looked at the Australian team as the product of years of development and training and probably using our team of the mid-80s as the yardstick," Dujon said. "They went through a development process that brought depth to

lack of planning, of infrastructure and of financial investment for starters.

"During the '80s, our team didn't change very much," he said. "It was the same team which played Test and one-dayers, so young players weren't even touring with the team."

"As a result, we weren't home much to play in our first-class cricket, so the standard of cricket went down and there was always this feeling that we would just keep producing players. Then we lost the nucleus of that team all at the same time, which changed the whole situation. We brought youngsters in who didn't understand what the game at that level was all about. It was too late before they realised that 'hey, it's not just going to happen - what are we going to do about it?'"

"And when the team we had was broken up, the (inter-island) politics came back into it."

Dujon is under no illusions about the challenge ahead for the West Indies. This team has limited first-class experience and lacks the professional education that English county cricket gave to the great West Indians of the 1970s and '80s.

"Australia is a formidable side. But they're 11 people playing cricket and they're human beings and the fact is they don't win every game. If you go out there with the image you're fighting Goliath, you get nowhere."

Meanwhile, West Indies batsman Brian Lara is trying to convince his English legal advisers to allow him to speak about the latest match-fixing allegations raised against him by India's police report released last week. Team manager Ricky Skerritt said yesterday that Lara was eager to "set the record straight."



JEFF DUJON the Australian team and depth to the Australian cricket in general."

Like many others, Dujon would fancy his old team's chances against the current pacesetters. "I would have fancied the team I played in against any team I've seen. The team I played in didn't think about losing, I'm not boasting - we just didn't think about it, which is why we probably didn't lose too much."

So why the steep decline? A

Air Force athletics

The inter-base athletic championship of the Bangladesh Air Force got underway at the BAF Base Bashur playground at Kurmitola yesterday, says an ISPR press release.

On the opening day two events were finalised while the heats of three events were also held.

Those who clinched gold were: Sepoy Jabbar of the BAF Base Bashur in 1,500 and Sergeant Hattin of the BAF Base Zahur Haque in high jump.

Purabi b'ball

Gregorians Club and Dhumketu Club earned comfortable wins in the Purabi Insurance First Division Basketball League at the Dhamondi Basketball gymnasium yesterday, reports UNB.

Gregorians defeated Hornets Sporting Club 98-48. They led first half 40-16.

Dhumketu beat Surid Sangha 94-44 after leading the first half 42-32.

CBI dismisses Ajay's claim

NEW DELHI, Nov 5: CBI yesterday retired the charges made by Ajay Jadhava that its report on betting and match-fixing was premised on false and concocted evidence and said the entire report was based on proof gathered by the investigating agency, reports PTI.

A CBI spokesman said whatever CBI had stated in the report was on the basis of evidence in possession of the agency.

He said the agency had procured printouts of telephone calls made by both Jadhava and bookie Uttam Chand alias Topi from various cellular phone companies.

The calls were made only during matches and there were instances of even late night telephone conversations, the spokesman said.

Beside this, Jadhava has accepted during his questioning that he knew Uttam Chand, the spokesman said.

Lara doesn't talk about it

PERTH, Nov 5: West Indies star batsman Brian Lara remained tight-lipped here Sunday over allegations he accepted money for match-fixing, reports AFP.

On the West Indian team's first full day in Australia after arriving Saturday, Lara, 31, refused to comment on claims he was paid 40,000 American dollars to under-perform in two one-day matches during his team's tour of India in 1995.

Indian bookmaker Mukesh Kumar Gupta made the payment to Lara, a report issued last week by the Indian Central Bureau of Investigation said. Lara issued a brief statement in London last Thursday categorically denying taking money from a bookmaker or anyone else to under-perform.

But he has doggedly refused to talk to the media on the issue since the team landed in Perth Saturday.

West Indies manager Ricky Skerritt said Sunday Lara was remaining silent on the advice of his London lawyer. He would like to comment, Skerritt said, but would not do so until he received the green light from his lawyer.

French First Division

PSG's stumble again



PARIS, Nov 5: Paris Saint Germain suffered their second straight league set-back on Saturday as they went down 1-0 at Auxerre to deal a blow to their title hopes, reports AFP.

Modest Sedan added to PSG's misfortune by thumping Guingamp 3-0 away to go top of the table by a point with 25 points from 14 games to PSG's 24.

Kapo Obou was Auxerre's hero as he headed the only goal on the hour from a Moussa Saib corner, outjumping a static visiting back four.

Auxerre had a shoal of chances and largely dominated the match as they scored a win which moved them out of the drop zone.

Nicolas Anelka had a quiet day at the office though he nearly set up Laurent Leroy for a late equaliser only for Fabien Cool in the Auxerre goal to smother the effort.

Cool was under employed compared with PSG counterpart Lionel Letizi, who had to make several fine saves.

Former Newcastle and Rangers striker Stephane Guivarch worked like a Trojan throughout

for Auxerre and came close on several occasions only to find France international Letizi, who overcame a throat complaint to play, in inspired form.

"We wanted to prove we can beat the big teams and I think today the fans will have been very satisfied. We deserved to win," beamed Auxerre coach Daniel Rolland.

PSG skipper Eric Rabesandratana admitted his side had not deserved to take anything back to the capital.

"We didn't have enough ideas out there and we need to ask ourselves a few questions," he told French television.

Sedan, who have never lifted the title, handed Guingamp a first defeat in eight games as they wrapped up their second away success of the season with two goals from Tony Brogno and a third from Ouis N'Diefi.

Guingamp finished with ten men after a late red card for skipper Claude Michel.

Bordeaux, the champions two seasons ago, followed up last week's win at the Parc des Princes with a lisp-gasp 1-0 home success over Lille, who were hoping for a win which would have left them joint top of the heap.

Pascal Feindouno, who won the title-winning goal against PSG two seasons ago, scored the goal in the final seconds.

Marseille are in dire trouble after they lost 1-0 at home to Rennes to slide into the drop zone.

As fans called for the return of former president Bernard Tapie Rennes' Philippe Delavey notched the only goal on 35 minutes to all but silence the 45,000 crowd as the hosts suffered a third home loss.

Liberian star George Weah tried to lift the team with a header and an overhead kick just off target but his efforts found no reward.

Elsewhere, Lens thrashed former leaders Bastia 4-0 to revive their hopes of a top six place and Nantes saw off Metz 2-0 to leap into the top five.

On Friday, in a match of two European Champions League hopefuls, Lyon beat reigning champions Monaco 2-0 at the Stade Louis II with two fine headers, one after just four minutes from Pierre Laigle and the other eight minutes from the end by Steve Marlet.

Bottom sides Toulouse and Strasbourg fought out a 0-0 draw.

Hewitt faces Ferreira



STUTTART, Nov 5: Confident Australian teenager Lleyton Hewitt moved into his first Masters Series final Saturday, running past Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov 6-4, 6-7 (5-7), 6-3 to set up a Sunday showdown with South African veteran Wayne Ferreira, reports AFP.

A decade in age and experience will separate the pair of finalists at the Schueverhalle when they play a best-of-five match Sunday at the 2.95 million-dollar event.

At 19 and full of youthful energy, Hewitt used his young legs to run down everything in sight and still come out fresh against Kafelnikov, the hardest

worker in the game playing in his 88th singles match of the season.

Ferreira controlled Frenchman Sebastien Grosjean for a 6-4, 6-2 result, a satisfying end for the South African who said he was ready to go on holiday last week due to the poor state of his play.

"I'm very excited to be playing Lleyton," said Ferreira. "He's got a lot of game and I'll have to overpower him and play aggressive if I want to win. It's been a number of years since I've given myself a chance to win a title and I'd like to take advantage of this opportunity."

Hewitt, winner of four titles this year and a top-ten contender since January in the race to this month's eight-man season championship in Lisbon, is bursting with confidence

heading into the title match.

"I'm full of confidence at the moment - I can mix it up with anybody out there," he said.

The win gave the Australian a 4-1 career mark against Kafelnikov and threw a road-block in the way of the Russian's bid to qualify this week for the Lisbon final.

Kafelnikov stands next in the queue to qualify for one of three remaining places while Hewitt is behind him in the race by one spot. Already into the field are Gustavo Kuerten, Marat Safin, Magnus Norman, Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi.

Hewitt said that his draw has been a tough one, starting with former Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek and progressing through back-to-back Brits in the form of Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski.



Champion Sohel Asif of Narayanjan Club (standing R) and runners-up Yasir M Farook (standing L) with their trophies after the prize distribution ceremony of the first NH Fabrics Snooker Championship at the Narayanjan Club on November 4. Chief guest Syed Mahboob (3rd from L), general secretary of the Bangladesh Billiards and Snooker Federation, and Narayanjan Club chairman Khair Ahmed (2nd from L) are also seen.

Young Sino grabs glory



JAKARTA, Nov 5: China's young shuttler Xie Xingfan stole the ladies singles title from third-seed Indonesian Ellen Angelina in the finals of the 150,000 dollar Asian Badminton Championships on Sunday, reports AFP.

The South Korean ladies' double team Lee Hyo Jung and Yim Kyung Jin also denied their Indonesian opponents, Ety Tantri and Minarti Timur, the chance to add to the host team's titles, winning 15-8, 15-13.

But the host country collected three titles, two from all-Indonesian finals in the men's singles and the mixed doubles, the third victory came in the men's doubles.

The 19-year-old unseeded Xie began her match in a lane

fashion, often unable to return dropshots from Angelina, six years her senior.

Angelina led the first set throughout and took it 11-2.

But in the second set, Xie changed her play pattern to cover for her weakness in returning dropshots.

Xie banked on the advantage of her height to rely on lob shots and a more aggressive play to turn the tables.

She evened the score early in the second set at 1-1 and kept an increasingly wide and unbeatable lead to close the set off at 11-7.

A much more confident Xie maintained the strategy in the decider, keeping the pressure on her opponent's weakness - her difficulty in returning lobs.

With few problems, and helped by Angelina's unforced errors, Xie took the third set at 11-3.

In the third set, I sort of got confused and did not know what to do. Xie controlled the game since the beginning of the decider and I could not get out of that situation," Angelina said after the game.

The title was the first and only for the Chinese in the Asian Badminton Championships where China did not field its top players.

In an unremarkable play, the Korean ladies' Lee and Yim despatched Indonesia's Tantri and Timur in a straight set victory, 15-8, 15-13.

In the men's singles, first seed Taufik Hidayat defeated Rony Agustinus, a newcomer, in a marathon 14-17, 15-2, 15-3 encounter.

Hidayat had already surprised the championship by defeating second-seed Wong Choon Hann from Malaysia in the quarter finals.

The first two sets were fast-paced with both players engaged in an aggressive exchange of attacks and serves.

Hidayat relied on short services and gradually jump smashes while Agustinus surprised the crowds with a display that showed he was perfectly capable of playing at the same level.



Chinese Xie Xingfan proudly shows off the ladies' singles title of the Asian Badminton Championships after her victory over Indonesian Ellen Angelina in the final in Jakarta yesterday. — AFP photo



PAY TO LADIES' SINGLES CHAMPION 1000 7500 5th November 2000

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Cryptoquip puzzle section with a grid of letters and clues for words hidden within.