

Hayden's Test reminder

BRISBANE, Nov 6 (AFP) — Opener Matthew Hayden gave the Test selectors something to ponder when he put champions Queensland in control of their Sheffield Shield cricket match against Victoria here Monday.

Hayden scored a solid 81 as Queensland cruised to 243 for four at the close of the second day's play in reply to Victoria's first innings 249.

When a thunderstorm sent the small crowd scurrying for shelter in the final session, Queensland were poised to snare first innings points in the four-day game.

Middle-order batsmen Andrew Symonds (39) and Clinton Peirce (13) were leading the charge after Martin Love (51) and captain Stuart Law (29) fell to Victorian paceman Michael Lewis (2-33), who surrendered one run in a dazzling three-over spell.

Victoria, resuming the day at 229 for four, collapsed adding just 20 runs for the loss of their last six wickets.

Queensland's pace attack was led by Andy Bichel (4-69) and Adam Dale (3-50).

'Match-fixing' shouldn't go unpunished

CHENNAI, Nov 6: Offences like match-fixing should not go unpunished, Union Minister of State for Youth and Sports Affairs, Pon Radhakrishnan, said yesterday, reports PTI.

Answering questions from newsmen at the airport here, he said the government would do whatever was possible in law regarding those named in the CBI's report on match-fixing and betting in cricket.

On the appointment of a foreign coach for the Indian cricket team Krishnan said he would welcome the appointment of foreign coaches for any sport in the country, as it would help the players sharpen their skills and improve their capability.

While the government was willing to extend all facilities for such measures to improve the quality of sport, those who availed of these facilities should guard against falling a prey to evils like match-fixing. In such an eventuality, the government would not hesitate to take action against those concerned, he added.

Waugh looks for big scores

SYDNEY, Nov 6 (AFP) — Australian captain Steve Waugh has shrugged off a run of low scores and says he is close to peak batting form in the lead-up to the opening cricket Test against the West Indies later this month.

Waugh said Monday he was keen for more batting time as he prepares to lead New South Wales against Tasmania in their Sheffield Shield match starting in Hobart Tuesday.

The four-day game gives the Blues' clutch of Test players an opportunity to put form on the board for the first Test starting in Brisbane on November 23.

Waugh, whose brother and NSW teammate Mark was among those mentioned in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) of India match-fixing report released last week, has produced a series of early season cameos.

He made 13 and 25 in the Blues' only four-day fixture against Victoria and compiled scores of 27 not out, 49 and 36 in their three one-day engagements.

"I'm hitting the ball very well, I've been getting 20s and 30s every day, but nothing substantial at this stage," Waugh said Monday.

"Melbourne was a bit tough. I missed out in the first dig and in the second we were looking for quick runs, so I don't want to read too much into that."

"But I'm feeling really good and I feel as if I'm peaking and going towards the right direction. I just want to keep that going and get some time in the middle."

Even with Test spearhead Glenn McGrath rested with a sore shoulder, NSW could field a pace attack comprising international brothers Brett and Shane Lee.

Queensland in command

BRISBANE, Nov 6: Matthew Hayden and Martin Love scored half centuries to put Queensland in a commanding position at the halfway stage of their Australian first class clash with Victoria today, reports Reuters.

Hayden smashed 81 and Love 51 as the reigning champions reached the close of play at 243 for four in reply to Victoria's first innings total of 249.

Victoria, beaten by Queensland in last year's national final, lost their last six wickets for 20 after resuming at 229-4. Paceman Andy Bichel took four for 69.

M'singh soccer

MYMENSINGH, Nov 6: Abahani defeated Probhati Sena 7-0 in the First Division football league at the local stadium today, reports UNB.

Sohel netted four goals while Ataur, Tipu and Jewel scored one each for the winners.

Mohammedan will take on Friends Eleven tomorrow at the same venue.

Malaysia hold Vietnam

SONGKHLA, Thailand Nov 6: Vietnam's fire-power came to naught against the Malaysians who defended stoically for a well-earned point against the favourites in their opening match of the Tiger Cup Sunday, reports AFP.

The Vietnamese, runners-up in the last tournament two years ago, saw numerous attempts at goal foiled by goalkeeper Kamarulzaman Hassan and the defenders, in the match held at the Tinsulanon Stadium.

It was indeed a frustrating night for Vietnam skipper Le Huynh Duc and his men as they sought to start the tournament on a winning note.

However, the Malaysians, who were completely dominated in the first half but played much better in the second, were playing for a draw and that was exactly what they got.

Vietnam started on an emphatic note and in the ninth minute Nguyen Hong Son sent in a stiff shot from just outside the box but keeper Hassan had no problems.

In the very next minute skipper Le, in a one-to-one situation with Hassan, pushed the ball too far in front and the Malaysian goalkeeper made a gallant save.

Only after the first 20 minutes did Malaysia have a look at the Vietnam goal with striker Azman Adnan troubling Vietnam goalkeeper Mai Tien Dung with a grounder.

However except for sporadic attacks by the Malaysians, it was the Vietnam team who enjoyed a fair share of the ball and came close to scoring.

Dogged defending by central defender B. Rajnikanth and

company thwarted the Vietnamese strikers.

The second half saw the Vietnam continue the onslaught but they were frustrated time and again by the Malaysian defence and soon the Malaysians started building up some

fine moves.

However they never really came close to scoring and it was Vietnam who had the final try in the 87th minute when Vu Mien Hiel skied his volley, much to the anguish of the hundreds of Vietnamese fans.



Nizaruddin Yusoff (R) of Malaysia tackling Do van Khai of Vietnam during their Tiger Cup fixture at Songkhla, Thailand on November 5.

—AFP photo

Tainted stars await Tax blitz

NEW DELHI, Nov 6 (AFP) — Indian revenue officials will soon ask five national players charged with match fixing and corruption to pay up huge taxes on their hidden wealth, officials said here Sunday.

Officials from the Income Tax Department said they will soon proceed against the five — former captain Mohammad Azharuddin, Ajay Jadeja, Nayan Mongia, Ajay Sharma and whistle-blower Manoj Prabhakar.

An official said similar action will be taken against bookmakers who along with players and officials of India's cricket board were raided by federal revenue officials in a nation-wide crackdown in July this year.

"We have achieved reasonable success in the probe into cricketers and bookies who have huge concealed incomes from various sources," he said, adding the department would trap the players into confessing their hidden income.

The tax department has unearthed unaccounted money running to millions of rupees (dollars) from bank lockers and

homes of some of the people raided in July, an official said.

The tainted players and a clutch of illegal bookies would be asked to give detailed accounts of what they had earned in the past 10 years, officials said, adding that any attempt to conceal facts would draw "severe punishment."

The tax department stepped in three days after the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) named the five as match fixers and sent its probe report to the Indian government for further action.

The players have been banned by India's cricket board from playing in domestic or international matches.

Jadeja on Saturday described the CBI report as "concocted" saying talking to bookies was not a crime. Mongia on Sunday pleaded not guilty and accused Azharuddin of levelling false allegations.

"His statement is totally false," the stumper told the Press Trust of India in Baroda, referring to Azharuddin's statement to the CBI that Mongia also took money to divulge match information to the bookies.

"The absurdity of the allega-

tion can be gauged by the fact that I was not a member of the team in the two matches referred to by Azharuddin."

"My record also speaks for me. Since 1995, I have never dropped a catch or missed stumping chances in the matches I played. I am not a recognised batsman, so the question of my involvement in match fixing or a scandal does not arise," he said.

Two of the several bookies named in the CBI report are also linked to a Delhi Police probe which in April implicated former South African skipper Hansie Cronje and four of his teammates for fixing matches in India.

The CBI launched its probe after former Test all-rounder Prabhakar claimed that Indian cricket icon Kapil Dev had offered him 2.5 million rupees (54,000 dollars) to underperform against Pakistan in a one-day match in 1994.

Manoj Prabhakar was quoted Sunday in an interview with Sydney's Sun-Herald as saying his decision to expose illegal betting saved many international players from the deadly wrath of the Indian mafia.

NYC Marathon

El Mouaziz, Petrova rule

NEW YORK, Nov 6: Abdelhader El Mouaziz, motivated by his failure in the Olympic marathon to turn the 31st New York City Marathon into a one-horse race here Sunday when he became the first Moroccan to win the 26.2-mile event in 2hrs 10mins 09 sec, reports AFP.

He grabbed the lead at the 11-mile mark and was never headed on route to the finish line in Central Park, where he dropped to his knees and kissed the ground in celebration.

The 31-year-old Moroccan also ended Kenya's three-year winning streak in New York. Kenyan Japhet Kosgei was a full 2min 21sec behind the winner, with Kenyan Shem Kororia third.

Despite the Moroccan's comfortable win, the time was below his personal best of 2:07.33 in London this year.

In the women's race, Ludmila Petrova, 32, a mother of two, surprised by becoming the first Russian to win the women's race in 2:25:45.

It was her first marathon of the year and she beat her previous personal best of 2:29.13 set in the 1998 Boston Marathon.

Petrova took the lead at 16

European natants steal the show

HONOLULU, Nov 6: European swimmers dominated the final event of the first FINA world open water swimming championships, taking all the medals in both the men's and women's 25 km races on Saturday off Waikiki Beach, reports Reuters.

Russia's Yuri Roudinov and Alexei Akatiev finished one-three in the men's event, as the versatile David Meca of Spain placed second.

Edith Van Dyk of the Netherlands won her second gold medal of this inaugural world championship by winning the women's event, ahead of Italy's Viola Valli and German Angela Maurer.

Russia won the overall men's team title while Italy captured the women's team crown.

miles and relinquished it only briefly before moving back to the front and claiming a victory over Italy's Franca Fiacconi, with Kenya's Margaret Okayo third.

The Russian had time on her mind because the first thing she did after winning was look at her watch. She finished fourth here two years ago.

Petrova, of Cheboksary, Russia, said the win came in part because of her husband's help.

"In the past my husband was not much of a help and I had to cook and clean for him and my two daughters, now he is helping me with cooking. Part of the victory belongs to him."

Petrova said her training over the past two weeks indicated she was "going in the right direction" and she was running some "pretty good times."

"During the race I was concerned about past champions, particularly (Tegla) Loroupe behind me. It is a great honour for me to beat them in a great race like the New York City Marathon," she added.

El Mouaziz, who overcame pain in his left foot during the

race, said his seventh-placed finish in Sydney left him disappointed and he used this as the basis of his preparation for New York.

"I had to try to win New York to clear it (the disappointment in Sydney)" he said.

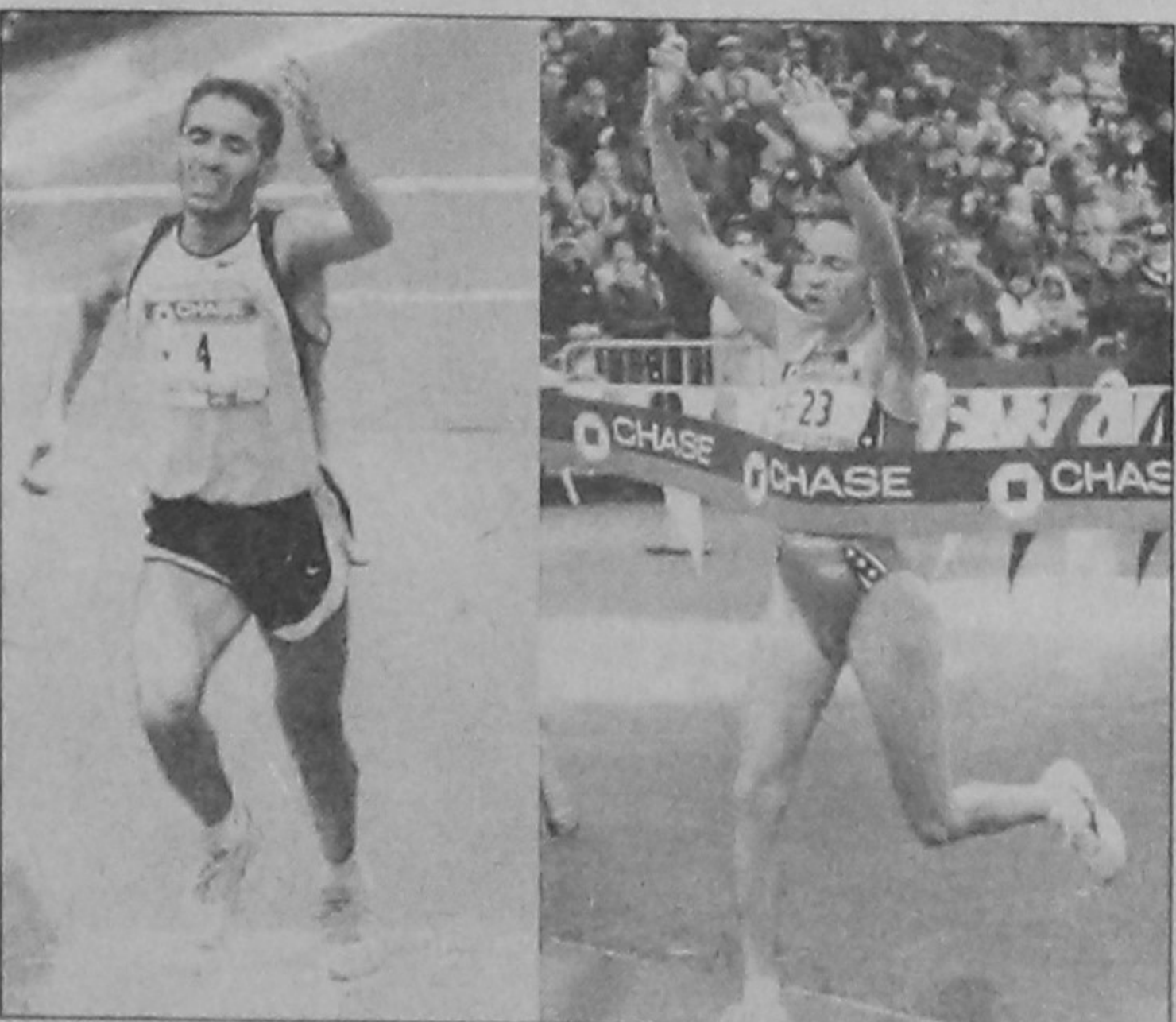
Mouaziz said the gusty winds and chilly conditions were difficult, but with eight miles to go he was confident of victory.

At the 20-mile mark, El Mouaziz had streaked to a 1min 20sec lead over Kosgei, and when he stepped into Central Park his advantage had ballooned to 1:40.

Fiacconi, Petrova and Kenyan Helen Kunmutai dominated the early stages until China's Sun Yingjie entered the picture after 12 miles.

Loroupe made a late charge that was slowed by leg cramps. Fiacconi dropped back in the field, but then seemed to regain strength and stamina and worked her way back to second.

Defending women's champion Adriana Fernandez of Mexico finished 13th. She said she did not feel well in the second half, but she did not want to quit.



A combo picture of New York City Marathon winners Morocco's Abdelhader El Mouaziz and Russia's Ludmila Petrova.

—AFP photo

Rubin exacts revenge

QUEBEC, Canada, Nov 6: A third straight trip to the finals of the 180,000-dollar WTA Tour event here proved the charm for American Chanda Rubin on Sunday, reports AFP.

The second-seeded Rubin beat countrywoman Jennifer Capriati, 6-4, 6-2, today to avenge a loss in last year's final here. In 1998, Rubin fell to Tara Snyder in the championship match.

"It is nice to win," Rubin said. "It is tough to beat Jennifer on any day. She can play a winner from anywhere on the court. I felt good about the way I played all week and I am happy to have finally won."

In the first set, Rubin took control early breaking Capriati in the fourth game to lead 3-1.

Capriati won three of the next four games before Rubin broke her again to take the set.

Rubin then broke Capriati twice as she rolled to a 4-0 lead in the second set and on to victory.

"I just wanted to win the first set," said Rubin, who claimed her first title of the year and the third of her career. "I was not thinking of last year when I won the first set 6-4 but lost the match to Jennifer. I did not want to give her any chances out there."

"I want to congratulate her, not just for this win here but for her entire season," Capriati said. "She played a great game and I am just sorry that I could not do any better but I think I was just done for the week."

Kournikova's problem

BERLIN, Nov 6: The former coach of Russian tennis beauty Anna Kournikova, Dutchman Eric van Harpen, said Sunday his former charge needed more discipline if she wanted to break her singles tournament duck, reports AFP.

Van Harpen did not mince his words as he told Der Spiegel magazine he believed that the US-based Kournikova would not make progress as long as the organisers of women's events treated her "like a little queen" whose looks can hugely boost an event's marketing appeal.

"She has sufficient talent to be in the world top five and stay there for a long time. But she doesn't do everything she can to get there. She's not disciplined enough in her work," van Harpen asserted.

"When she reached her career best of ninth I thought she would come and tell me: 'that's it, we've made it, nobody can knock us out of the top ten. But nothing happened,'" said Harpen, noting that they both had different "conceptions of notions of professionalism."

The 19-year-old Kournikova did in fact haul herself back into the top ten last week after a final appearance in Moscow, where she went down to doubles partner Martina Hingis.

But van Harpen insisted that she was too liable to allow the trappings of fame to distract her.

He accused Kournikova, now coached by her mother, of "lacking a capacity to concentrate, impatience in long rallies and ignoring my tactical advice."

Asked about Kournikova's talent for drawing publicity to herself and the events in which she plays and noting that some 90 per cent of her estimated 14 million dollars a year in earnings come from marketing contracts van Harpen said that could only harm her.

"That comes into conflict with her sporting interests. She is the victim of her perfect marketing campaign," van Harpen told Der Spiegel.

Asked if she sometimes received preferential treatment at some events despite failing to win any tournaments van Harpen said that "sometimes tournament directors meet up and draw up a list of the most popular players."

"In Europe, in the United States and Asia, Kournikova is top of the list."

Hidayat lifts Asian badminton title

JAKARTA, Nov 6: Indonesia's Taufik Hidayat overcame a hostile reception from spectators and beat compatriot Rony Agustinus to take the men's title at the Asian Badminton Championships Sunday night, reports AP.

Hidayat, who crashed at the Sydney Olympics, was often jeered by the crowd before he overcame Agustinus 14-17, 15-2, 15-3.

"The spectators didn't really like it. I just wanted to prove that I could do my best after my defeat in the Olympic quarterfinals," said Hidayat who has a world ranking of five.

Chinese newcomer Xie Xingfang took the women's singles title, outclassing Indonesia's Ellen Angelina 2-11, 11-7, 11-3.

Tony Gunawan and former world number one Rexy Mainaky easily shutout Malaysia's Lee Wan Wah and Choong Tan Fook 15-8, 15-9 for the men's doubles. Gunawan won gold for the same event in Sydney.

It was Mainaky's final court appearance. He is retiring to coach in Britain.

South Korea's Lee Hye-jung and Yim Kyung-jin dominated the women's doubles final 15-8, 15-13 against Indonesians Etty Tantri and Minarti Timur.

Dujjon just disappointed

PERTH, Nov 6 (AFP) — Former West Indies cricket great Jeffrey Dujon has lashed out at cricket administrators for scheduling too many one-day games and leaving too little time to prepare for Tests.

Dujon, 44, the Windies new assistant coach, fired his broadside here Monday as the tourists prepared for Tuesday's opening match in a tight Australian schedule, which includes a five-Test series against the world's best side.

The team led by Jimmy Adams takes on a strong Australian Cricket Board Chairman's XI in a limited-overs clash at Lila Hill Park, Caversham, near here.

Pointing out four planners have scheduled only two first-class games and two one-dayers before the first Test starting Brisbane November 23, Dujon said: "You don't get much preparation wherever you go nowadays, because the focus tends to be on the games that make the money - the one-day games."

"We are playing more and more one-day internationals now, and you get the feeling sometimes that they are trying

to get the Test matches out of the way."

Dujon added this tight schedule got in the way of preparing for Tests, which is what matters most to players.

"I believe a minimum of three first-class games would be ideal. I really don't see the value

of the one-day games at the beginning of a Test series."

Adequate preparation was especially important for the current West Indies team because the young batsmen needed to get a good feel for Australian conditions, he said.

"But I suppose we have to make the best use of what we have got, and we have to take every game very seriously," he said.

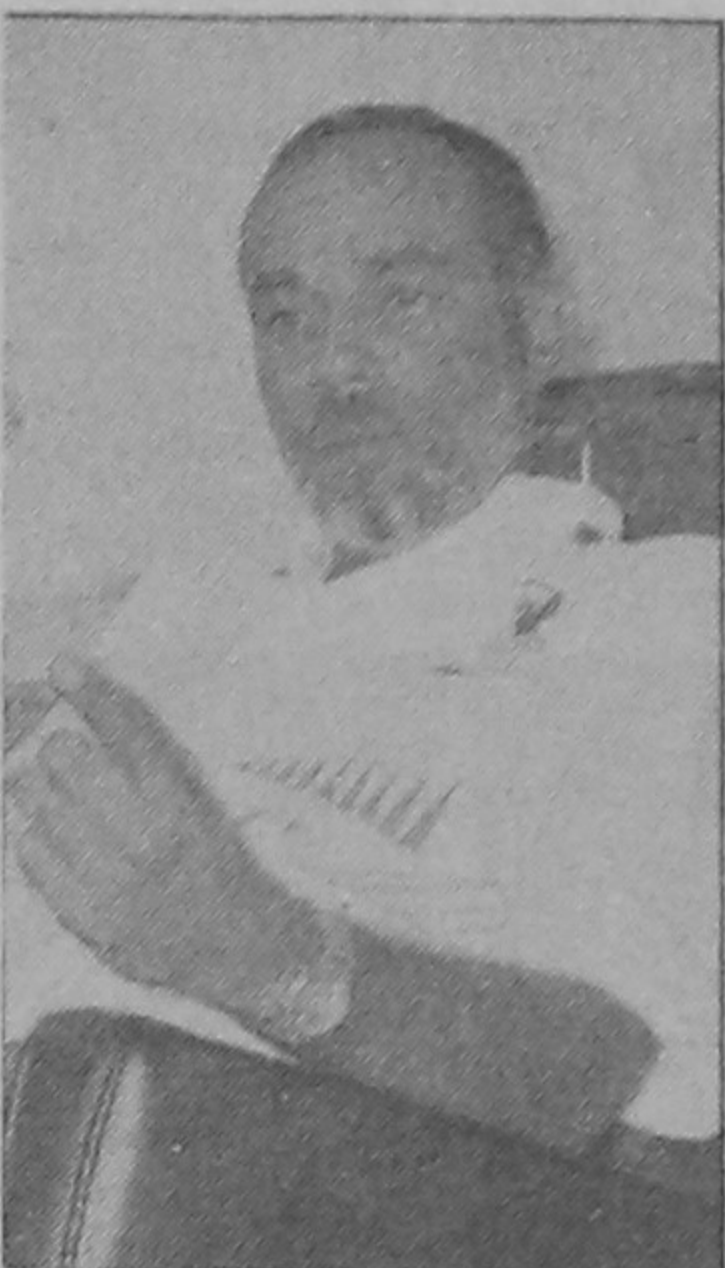
The tourists' only two first-class games before the Brisbane Test will be against Western Australia, from Thursday (November 9) in Perth, and against Victoria in Melbourne, from November 17.

The other one-day clash is against a Northern Territory Cricket Association XI in Alice Springs November 14.

Dujon was appointed to his new position as assistant coach, supporting coach Roger Harper, earlier this year.

As a champion Test wicket-keeper, Dujon pounced 267 catches and gathered five stumpings in 81 Tests - a performance bettered only by Australian glovemen Ian Healy and Rodney Marsh.

He also clubbed five Test centuries and punched 16 half-centuries at the game's highest level.



JEFF DUJON

Wayne tames a toughie

STUTTGART, Nov 6: Veteran Wayne Ferreira snapped a four-year trophy drought Sunday night, outlasting Australian teenager Lleyton Hewitt 7-6 (8/6), 3-6, 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (7/2), 6-2 to claim victory at the 2.95 million-dollar Stuttgart Masters, reports AFP.

It was August, 1996, when the 29-year-old South African last tasted success when he won the Canadian Open.

In the interim he laboured in journeyman mode with little to show by way of victories.

But that changed after more than four hours on court against Hewitt, 19, one of the young guns of the game tipped for stardom in the changing of the generations.

"Age and experience, that's what did it," joked a joyful Ferreira. "The older I get the better I get. It was a great series of comebacks to win."

"I'm ready for a holiday now. I think I deserve it. But I've still got two weeks to play."

Hewitt looked ready to notch his fifth trophy of the season, but Ferreira had other plans.

The veteran squared the match at two sets each then ran away with the fifth on the strength of two breaks of the young Aussie.

Nevertheless, Hewitt moved closer to a possible berth in the eight-man season finale in Lis-

bon from November 28. Three qualifying spots for the elite event remain with three weeks left in the ATP season.

Eighth seed Hewitt experienced just how tough life can be against a determined opponent in a major final as he fought a see-saw battle of momentum with Ferreira from South Africa.

The unseeded Ferreira had accounted for Swede Thomas Enqvist and Australian Mark Philippoussis during this week at the Schlegelhalle.

In the fourth set, the pair matched each other ball for ball as serve ruled, forcing the third tiebreaker of the long afternoon. The South African took a 5-2 lead and moved to within a point of a squared-up match when Hewitt netted a backhand approach.

Ferreira knotted it at two sets each on Hewitt's weak return into the net. The teenager got the final set off to a poor start, dropping the first game on a double-fault.

That opened the floodgates, with the veteran racing out to 4-0 as Hewitt's attack fell to pieces, though he did rally for 1-4 before finally taking the loss.

Ferreira earned a career-high pay cheque of 434,000 dollars. Hewitt earned 228,000 dollars.

Hewitt moved out to an early break to start the encounter,



Wayne Ferreira of South Africa celebrates after beating Australian Lleyton Hewitt in the Masters Series final in Stuttgart.

—AFP photo

Clijsters lifts Leipzig title

LEIPZIG, Nov 6: Belgium's Kim Clijsters beat seventh seed Elena Likhovtseva of Russia 7-6 (8/6), 4-6, 6-4 to win the 635,000-dollar Leipzig Open on Sunday to yet increase her reputation, reports AFP.

The 17-year-old Clijsters, ranked 31 in the world, earned victory by holding her nerve on the big points.

"I have played a lot recently and I didn't feel in great form," Clijsters said however. "But I just kept battling anyway. It was incredibly difficult."

It was the third tour victory for Clijsters, the daughter of former football international Leo Clijsters and girlfriend of Australian tennis star Lleyton Hewitt, who was playing in the Stuttgart Masters final on Sunday.

In 1999, Clijsters won in Luxembourg and this year she claimed her second title in Hobart and was runner-up in Filderstadt in October.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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