

Eves' WC cricket

Kiwis enter last four

WELLINGTON, Dec 11: New Zealand confirmed their semi-final spot at the women's World Cup cricket tournament in Christchurch, defeating South Africa by 158 runs today, reports Reuters.

India also stayed on course for a semifinal berth, defeating winless Ireland by 30 runs.

Unbeaten Australia lead the completion with 10 points from five wins, followed by New Zealand with five wins from six matches. India and South Africa round out the top four with four and three wins respectively. The New Zealand game finished early when South Africa's Helen Davies was unable to bat due to a suspected broken finger.

Rajshahi cricket

From Our Correspondent

RAISHAHI, Dec 11: Mirer Chalk Sporting Club and Simla Sporting Club won their respective matches of the sixth Bishreshita Captain Mohamud Jahangir Smith Gold Cup cricket tournament today at Railway ground.

In the final match, Mirer Chalk defeated Housing Estate Sabuj by 40 runs.

The winners batted first and made 182 for six wickets in stipulated 25 overs.

In reply, Housing Estate all out for 142 in 20 overs.

In the second match, Simla Sporting Club beat Nowdapara Sporting Club by 76 runs.

Winning the toss, Simla collected 180 for five in stipulated 25 overs.

In reply, Nowdapara were shot out for 104 in 22.2 overs.

Dhaka Metro

From page 13

Table with 5 columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Lists bowlers like Nahid c Shaheen b Sopu, Alok c Neeayamur b Mukul, etc.

DHAKA METROPOLIS

Table with 5 columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Lists bowlers like Ashraf c Emon b Hasibul, Mehrob c Rafique b Taposh, etc.

England's

From page 13

SCOREBOARD

Table with 5 columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Lists bowlers like Gough, Caddick, Saqlain, etc.

Sonn laughs at Cronje

JOHANNESBURG, Dec 11: The president of the United Cricket Board (UCB) poured scorn today on Hansie Cronje's legal challenge to a life ban the board has slapped on the former South African captain, reports Reuters.

Cronje's lawyers filed court papers on Friday looking to overturn the UCB's resolution to ban Cronje following an inquiry into alleged match-fixing. Cronje has admitted taking 100,000 dollars from bookmakers but has denied actually throwing a game.

His lawyer Les Sackstein said Cronje would prefer to "negotiate rather than litigate" in attempting to return to the game.

But UCB president Percy Sonn told Reuters: "That kind of comment belongs in a comic strip."

Sonn, an advocate, advised Sackstein to remain focused on defending his client.

If he wants to talk to me give me a call," Sonn said. "You've got my number, give it to him."

Man-of-the-match: Michael Atherton.

Man-of-the-series: Yousuf Youhana.

Saurav shuts Zimbabwe out

KANPUR, India, Dec 11: Skipper Saurav Ganguly claimed a career-best 5-35 and then hit an unbeaten 71 off 68 balls as India dumped Zimbabwe by nine wickets here on Monday to win the one-day series, reports AFP.

Ganguly's star turn with his slow medium-pace bowling shot Zimbabwe out for 165, a target India cruised past with half the allotted 50 overs to spare at the Green Park.

Sachin Tendulkar scored 62 in a first-wicket stand of 157 with Ganguly, the 12th three-figure partnership between the duo that left them just three short of the record tally of 15 between Desmond Haynes and Gordon Greenidge of the West Indies.

The win gave India a decisive 3-1 lead in the five-match rubber and reduced Thursday's final game at Rajkot to an academic exercise.

The Indians have not lost a home one-day series, excluding the World Cup, since 1987 when Inran Khan's Pakistan swept to a 5-1 win.

"I was really upset when we lost the third match at Jodhpur," Ganguly said. "So this win is particularly satisfying. I had been looking for a 5-0 margin, but 4-1 will not be bad."

The Indians also won the two-Test series 1-0 during Zimbabwe's six-week tour.

Nothing went right for the tourists after captain Heath Streak won the toss and elected to bat in the slow, dry wicket that hampered shot making.

The innings fell apart despite an opening stand of 60 between Alistair Campbell and Trevor Madondo.

Seamer Ajit Agarkar, who finished with four for 25, began the rout by removing both Campbell and Madondo in the space of eight deliveries.

Ganguly did not look back after having Andy Flower caught on the mid-wicket fence by Agarkar for 19 in his second over.

He bowled Grant Flower and Stuart Carlisle with deliveries that kept low, had his counterpart Streak caught behind and then trapped Travis Friend leg-before.

Tempers flared on the field when Guy Whittall complained to match referee Barry Jarman through the stump microphone about excessive appealing from Ganguly.

Indian vice-captain Rahul Dravid exchanged words with Whittall, who was separated from the fielders and spoken to by the umpires.

The fracas did not help Whittall as he was run out next ball by wicket-keeper Vijay Dahiya attempting a risky single.

When India batted, Tendulkar stroked his way to his 50th one-day half-century, adding to his record tally of 27 hundreds.

SCOREBOARD

Full scoreboard of the fourth one-day international between India and Zimbabwe on Monday.

ZIMBABWE

Table with 5 columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Lists bowlers like Campbell b Agarkar, Madondo lbw b Agarkar, etc.

Result: India won by nine wickets

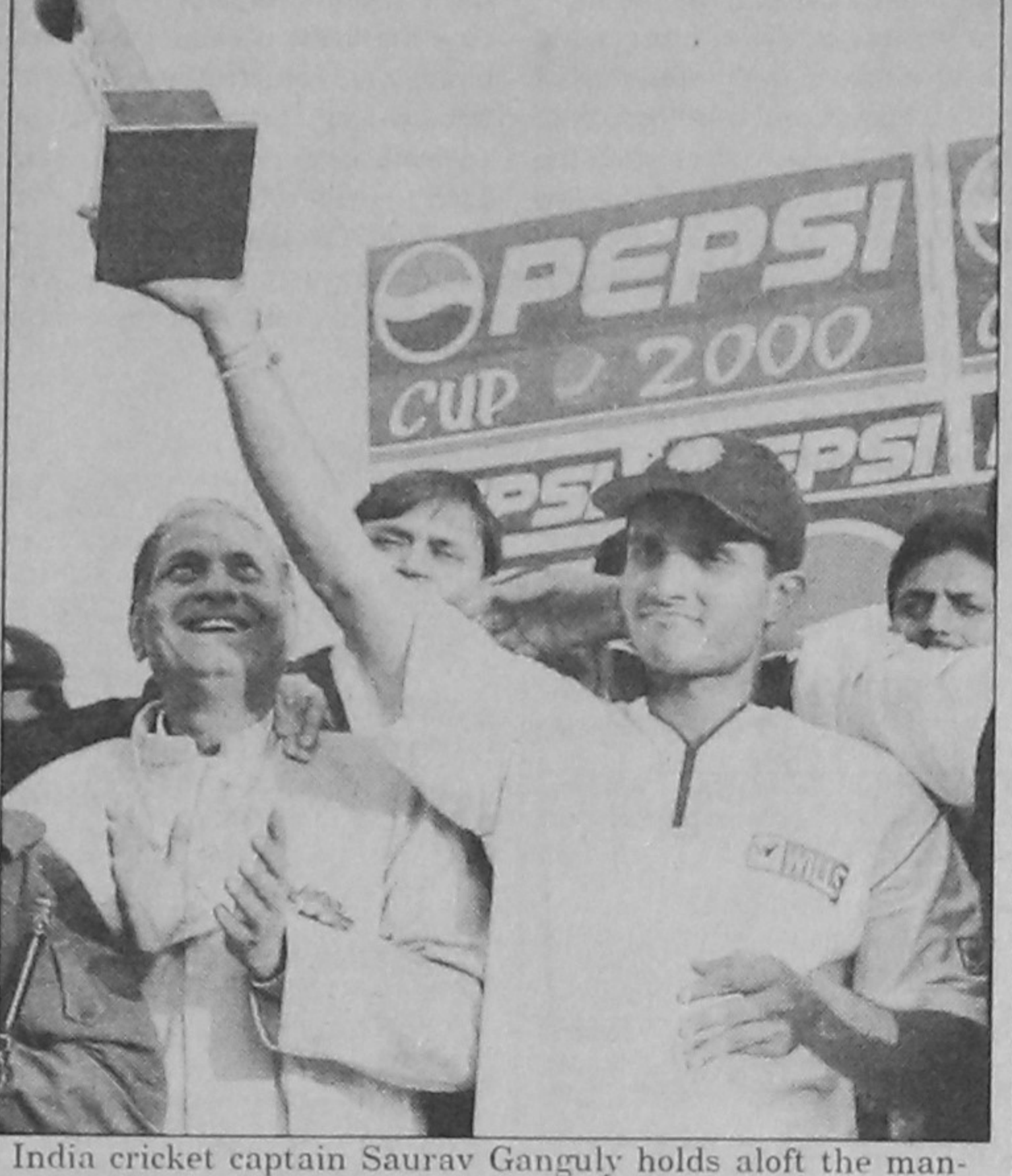
Extras: (b-6, lb-11, w-10, nb-1) 28 Total: (All out in 45.4 overs) 165 Fall of wickets: 1-60, 2-71, 3-91, 4-106, 5-134, 6-141, 7-142, 8-159, 9-159

INDIA

Ganguly not out 71 Tendulkar lbw b Friend 62 Sriram not out 1

Extras: (b-9, lb-9, w-9, nb-5) 32 Total: (For 1 wkt in 25 overs) 166 Fall of wicket: 1-157

Result: India won by nine wickets



India cricket captain Saurav Ganguly holds aloft the man-of-the-match trophy after his team's win over Zimbabwe yesterday.

Man-of-the-match: Saurav Ganguly.

Next match: December 14, Chennai.

Soggy outfield costs 4th day

JOHANNESBURG, Dec 11: Play on the fourth day of the third and final Test between South Africa and New Zealand at the Wanderers was called off early Monday afternoon because of a waterlogged outfield, without a ball being bowled, reports AFP.

This was the third full day to have been lost to bad weather after Friday and Sunday were rained out.

World Chess results

NEW DELHI, Dec 11 (Reuters): Russian world champion Alexander Khalifman drew his second game against Indian Grand Master Viswanathan Anand on Sunday, stretching their World Chess Championship quarterfinal match into the tie-breaker, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

PTI said the World No. 2 Anand, who was forced to split the point in the first game on Saturday, offered a truce treaty on the 17th move.

SL brush EP aside

PORT ELIZABETH, South Africa, Dec 11: Sri Lanka made short work of Eastern Province Sunday beating them by eight wickets on the second day of a three-day tour match at St George's Park in Port Elizabeth, reports AFP.

The visitors started the day on 253-9 after bowling the home side out for 92. They quickly took their score to 266 all out, which gave them a first innings lead of 174.

Eastern Province put up more resistance in their second innings, scoring 214 all out, leaving Sri Lanka needing to make just 41 for victory.

Dexter did it decades back

LONDON, Dec 11 (Reuters): At least three leading England players found alternative attractions to touring Pakistan, India and Ceylon for three gruelling months back in 1961-62.

Yet Ted Dexter's weakened side was the last England side to win a Test series in Pakistan before Nasser Hussain's men grabbed a thrilling six-wicket victory on Monday.

Dexter was given the captaincy when Colin Cowdrey decided he would not tour, along with opening bowler Fred Trueman and Brian Statham who felt the English wicket was preferable to unforgiving pitches in an unfriendly environment.

England won the first Test in Pakistan, defeating the home side by five wickets in Lahore after an unbeaten 139 by Ken Barrington, a prolific scorer on overseas pitches took England within seven runs of Pakistan's first innings 387.

Pakistan collapsed to 200 all out in their second innings against the off-spin of David Allen and Bob Barber's under-used leg spin.

Dexter, driving imperiously, hit 66 not out as England swept to victory.

Vodafone shows its appreciation

KARACHI, Dec 11: English cricket sponsors Vodafone Monday announced a five-year extension of their contract with additional bonuses for each win, reports AFP.

The mobile phone manufacturer will continue to sponsor the England team until the end of the 2005 English season, the company said in a statement released on the last day of England's tour here.

The new contract from Vodafone, which has sponsored English cricket since 1996, is worth 12 million pounds (17 million dollars) not including bonuses, and will come into effect from October 1, 2001.

The deal covers Tests and one-day internationals, the England "A" and women's team, as well as various promotional programmes.

Barisal exact

From page 13

Table with 5 columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Lists bowlers like Al-Amin run out, Shahadat not out, Extras: (lb-3, nb-2, w-11) 16, etc.

Result: Barisal won by 96 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Shahadat Hossain (Barisal).



Spanish players (L-R) Albert Costa, Alex Corretja, Joan Balcells and Juan Carlos Ferrero pose with the Davis Cup Trophy after defeating Australia in the final in Barcelona on December 10. — AFP photo

Spain's Davis Cup glory

BARCELONA, Dec 11: Juan Carlos Ferrero made tennis history on Sunday when he ousted Lleyton Hewitt in four sets to hand Spain their first ever Davis Cup victory, reports AFP.

Ferrero's 6-2, 7-6, 4-6, 6-4 victory in 3hr 36min secured the Spanish an unbeatable 3-1 lead and sparked scenes of total bedlam in Barcelona's Palau Sant Jordi.

It was hard on Hewitt, who had fought every inch of the way and who had also won his opening tie in five sets against Albert Costa on Friday.

But Ferrero, who failed to serve out for the match before winning with a brilliant double-fisted backhand, finally toughed it out to win their battle of nerves and take the tie -- and the Cup on his fourth match point.

Spain's maiden victory in the competition was witnessed by another Juan Carlos -- King Juan Carlos, who looked on enraptured from the VIP box and then warmly shook hands with Ferrero, who was engulfed at the end by his teammates and sprayed with champagne.

Ferrero said afterwards: "It means a lot to me to win the first Davis Cup title for Spain but I want to make clear it's a victory of the team, not only mine."

After riding the shockwave of leaving Corretja out of the opening day's singles, Duarte saw that gamble pay off handsomely.

Hewitt had won the pair's only previous encounter on hardcourt at Scottsdale earlier this year, but that was not in such a high-pressure situation and with 90 percent of the crowd rabidly against him.

Ferrero, looking to take his Davis Cup record to 5-0 having already seen off a cramping Pat Rafter here last Friday, began in style with a break but Hewitt, 9-3 in previous Davis Cup play, broke back to love and then held.

Both men's nerves were showing but Hewitt in particular was looking below par and he dropped serve again in the fifth and seventh games as Ferrero wrapped up the opening set in 35min.

Things became a lot harder for Ferrero in the second set, where Hewitt showed huge tenacity to force a tiebreak.

It seemed the 19-year-old Adelaide's nerves frayed as he dropped serve to 1-2 but he broke back in the eighth game for 4-4 as the Spaniard netted a forehand.

Hewitt then staved off a break point in the 11th game to force a tiebreak.

The Aussie seemed to move up a gear as he streaked to a 4-0 lead but 20-year-old Ferrero fought fiercely to ensure the pendulum swung back his way.

Hewitt hit long to see his lead cut to 4-1 and then hit a smash out as Ferrero drew level on the Aussie serve.

Hewitt suffered an attack of nerves as he fatally dropped serve after first going for and missing an ace. He then netted

to concede a 76min set and out came a sea of Spanish flags.

In the third set Hewitt, often ready to storm the net impressively, waited for his moment before breaking for a 4-3 lead as Ferrero sent an over-ambitious lob long and then netted an attempted dropshot.

Suddenly the Aussie was summoning up hidden reserves of energy and hitting winners at will as Ferrero began to feel the mounting pressure having moved to the brink of a win awaited by an entire nation for decades.

Despite needing treatment to an injured finger on his right hand the Aussie anxious to play the fullest part in a second straight Australian win after last year losing his singles rubbers against France, had managed the crucial break and Ferrero then bludgeoned a return as long to concede the set.

Hewitt showed nerves of steel as he staved off triple break point in the fourth game of the fourth set with an ace and a net cord which barely plopped over.

But Ferrero held for 3-2 and broke for 5-3.

It looked all over -- but it wasn't as Hewitt, prodding the crowd with several disputed line calls, broke back.

Ferrero netted on his first two match points and then sank to his knees as he fired wide on his third.

But the fourth one was the one which counted as a blazing backhand to the back court landed good to finish the contest.

Waugh wonder-struck

SYDNEY, Dec 11 (Internet report): Brian Lara baffles Steve Waugh as much as everybody else.

The West Indian enigma recovered from two disastrous Tests to crack 230 off 261 balls against Australia A in Hobart, including 39 fours and two sixes during a 365-run partnership with wicketkeeper Ridley Jacobs.

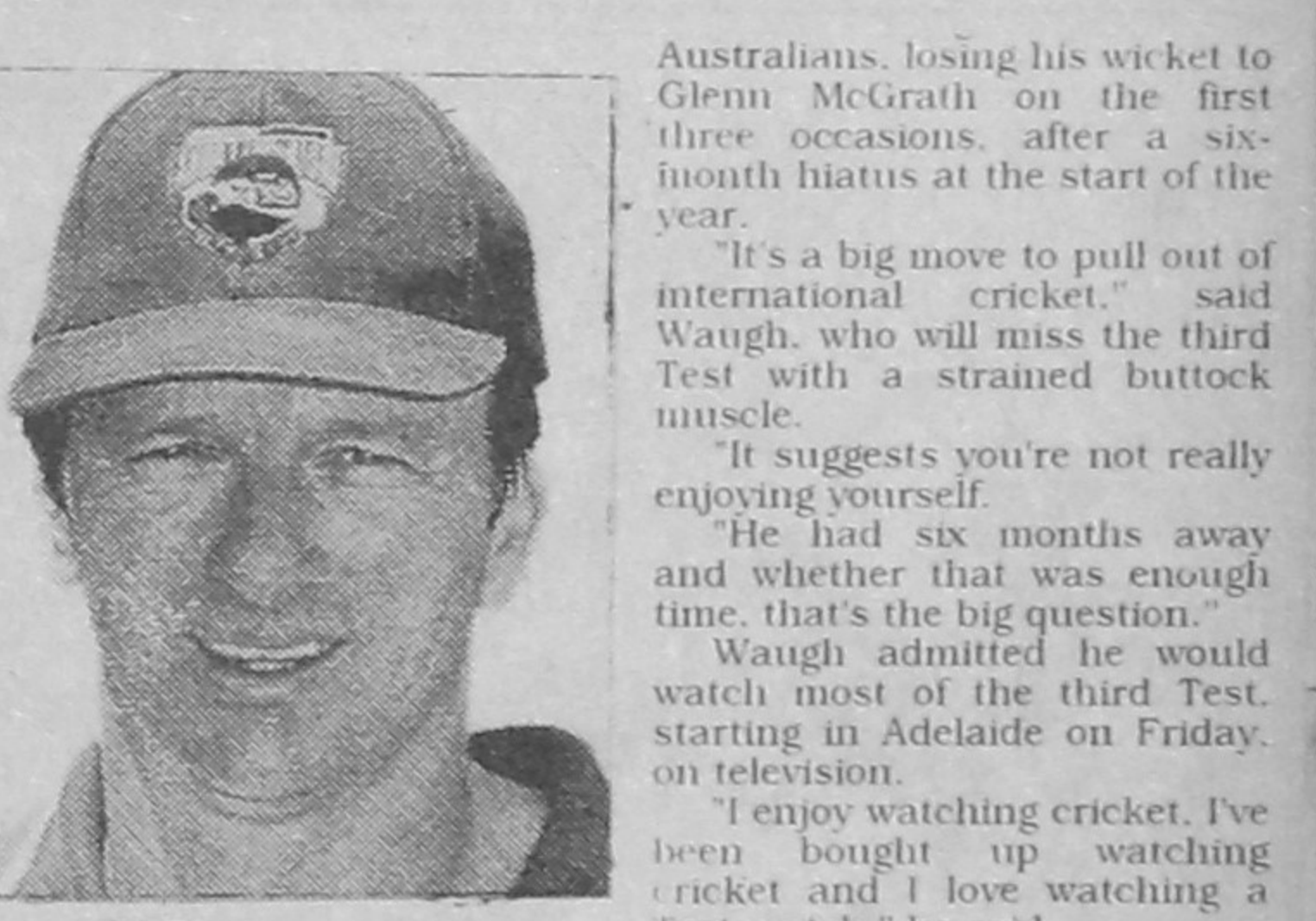
Lara belted Australian paceman Andy Bichel for six boundaries in one over to illustrate what a spectacularly dominant player he can be.

"He's a mystery that you guys have got to work out, we don't have to work it out because we're playing against him," Waugh told reporters after an autograph session for his new book, Never Satisfied.

"He's a little bit up and down in what he does, he could get 375 one day and then not look like he's the next day."

That's just the type of player he is, I guess you'd describe him as a genius when he's playing well.

But when he's not he comes



Steve Waugh

Australians, losing his wicket to Glenn McGrath on the first three occasions after a six-month hiatus at the start of the year.

"It's a big move to pull out of international cricket," said Waugh, who will miss the third Test with a strained buttock muscle.

"It suggests you're not really enjoying yourself."

"He had six months away and whether that was enough time, that's the big question."

Waugh admitted he would watch most of the third Test, starting in Adelaide on Friday, on television.

"I enjoy watching cricket. I've been bought up watching cricket and I love watching a Test match," he said.

"I love it that much that I've even been watching England versus Pakistan, and that's been pretty boring."

"I enjoy watching a Test match because I like seeing the tactics involved and how it's going to unfold."

"But it's always harder when you wish you were there."

Waugh expected to be fit for the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

Cryptogram puzzle grid with letters M, K, F, T, D, T, N, K, T, F, D, K, L, B, D, Z, N, T, U, S, M, T, E, Z, K, D, S, M, T, Z, I, S, T, U, F, T, D, Z, S, W, I, L, M, K, L, B, T, D, W, E, U, L, Y.

CRYPTOQUIP

Solution time: 25 mins.

Man-of-the-match: Shahadat Hossain (Barisal).

Man-of-the-series: Yousuf Youhana.

The Cryptogram is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.