

China lift ABC tourney

From A Correspondent
New Delhi, Dec 22: China once again proved that they are the best women's basketball team in Asia after their convincing 78-59 victory over arch-rivals Japan in the final of the 15th ABC Basketball Championship for junior women at the Talkatora Stadium this evening.

By virtue of this victory China along with Runners Up Japan qualified for the world Championship to be held in the Czech Republic in September 2001.

The third place went to South Korea when they defeated Chinese Taipei 67-64.

Anaith Kumar, India's Minister of Tourism and Culture was the Chief Guest and distributed prizes.

RESULT OF THE FINAL MATCH

China - 78; Japan - 59

Half Time Score : 44 - 35

ABC PROMOTION TROPHY

1. Most Valuable Player - Chen Nan (China)
2. Most Valuable Coach - Liu Qingsheng (China)
3. Top Scorer - Oga Yuko (Japan)
4. Top Playmaker - Oga Yuko (Japan)
5. Top Rebounder - Kiseleva Julia (Uzbekistan)
6. Top Three Point Shooter - Kim - (DPR Korea)

FINAL RANKING

- | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------|----------|-------|------------|---|-----------|----|-----------|-------|----|-----------|
| 1 | CHINA | 2 | JAPAN | 3 | | | | | | | |
| SOUTH KOREA | 4 | CHINESE | 5 | TAIPEI | 6 | DPR KOREA | | | | | |
| THAILAND | 7 | MALAYSIA | 8 | UZBEKISTAN | 9 | INDIA | 10 | HONG KONG | CHINA | 11 | SRI LANKA |

B'baria cricket

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Dec 22: Surja Tarun Cricket Club defeated Udayan Juba Samngha by 35 runs in the Shheed Raaj Ma Cup-2000 at the Shajadapur Junior High School playground today.

Winning the toss, Surja Tarun batted scored 132 for eight in stipulated 30 overs.

In reply, Udayan managed 97 runs losing all wickets.

Hanif was declared man-of-the-match.

In the other match, Durjoi Cricket Club defeated Agradut Cricket Club by 40 runs at the same venue here today.

Winning the toss, Durjoi made 12.5 runs losing all wickets.

In reply, Agradut scored 85 for all wickets in stipulated 30 overs.

Rajshahi cricket

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Dec 22: Lords Club and Katakali Cricket Training Centre won their respective matches of the Sixth Bir Shrestha Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir Surihi Gold Cup cricket tournament today at Railway ground.

Winning the toss, Friends Circle were shot out for 101 in 23.2 overs.

In reply, Lords reached the target of 102 losing one wicket.

In the other match, Katakali defeated Mirarchak Sporting Club by 84 runs.

Border bucks up Warne

BRISBANE, Dec 22: Test selector Allan Border said today Australia's greatest wicket-taker Shane Warne, who is battling a finger injury, had shown encouraging signs in his nine-over stint in Thursday's tribute match in Brisbane, reports Reuters.

Warne took 1-38, claiming the wicket of retired England great Graeme Gooch in the Ian Healy testimonial match.

"He is really happy with the way it feels," Border said in the Herald Sun newspaper.

"He just has to go through the techniques of bowling."

"But he has no pain, that's the main thing."

Victoria have named Warne in two 15-man squads for domestic matches against Western Australia (WA) next month.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer



ACROSS	43 Highway	3 Disco-	4 division	5 Style	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	Boxer	22 Breather?	23 Slowpoke,	24	13	14				
4	Tackle a	44 Swab	4 Canine	5	15	16	17			
8	Cry out	46 Rockies	scav-	25 Com-						
12	loud	50 Wall	engers	manded						
13	Who am	5 Dream	26 Language	26	18	19	20	21	22	23
14	— judge?	Team	of	27				22	23	24
15	Largest of	Initials	Pakistan	28	29	30	31	32	25	26
16	the seven	6 Russian	29	33	34	35	36		27	28
17	Cruising	space-	30	37	38	39	40		28	29
18	Cribbage	craft	31	41	42	43			30	31
19	score-	32	33	44	45	46	47	48	49	32
20	keeper	34	35							33
21	Floor	35 Teetotaler,	36	50	51	52	53	54	55	34
22	cover	37	38	56	57	58				35
23	Comical	39	40	59	60	61	62	63	64	36
24	sorts	41	42	62	63	64	65	66	67	37
25	Picture	43	44	68	69	70	71	72	73	38
26	puzzle	45	46	71	72	73	74	75	76	39
27	Wall	47	48	75	76	77	78	79	80	40
28	cover	49	50	78	79	80	81	82	83	41
29	Exception-	51	52	81	82	83	84	85	86	42
30	Wish	53	54	84	85	86	87	88	89	43
31	otherwise	55	56	87	88	89	90	91	92	44
32	Dispatched	57	58	90	91	92	93	94	95	45
33	White	59	60	93	94	95	96	97	98	46
34	House	61	62	96	97	98	99	100	101	47
35	mono-	63	64	98	99	100	101	102	103	48
36	gram	65	66	100	101	102	103	104	105	49
37	I smell	67	68	102	103	104	105	106	107	50
38	—"	69	70	104	105	106	107	108	109	51
39	Floor	71	72	106	107	108	109	110	111	52
40	cover	73	74	108	109	110	111	112	113	53
41	Defeated,	75	76	110	111	112	113	114	115	54
42	a la	77	78	112	113	114	115	116	117	55
43	Karpov	79	80	114	115	116	117	118	119	56

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Year 2000 = Match-fixing

LONDON, Dec 22 (AFP): The year of the fix is how 2000 will be remembered in cricket history. A series of revelations that began with Hansie Cronje's forced admission that he had taken money from bookmakers and culminated earlier this month with Mohammad Azharuddin's life ban for match-fixing inflicted major damage to the international game's credibility.

In England a series of spectacular batting collapses — 54 at Lord's, for example meant the West Indies bowlers never had a chance, although Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh kept going magnificently.

At Headingley, England's fourth Test win was completed before the weekend. It was the first time a Test had been won inside two days since Australia beat New Zealand at Wellington in 1945/46.

As the game struggled to absorb the constant drip of successive revelations Australia confirmed their position of recent years as the world's best team.

Steve Waugh's side broke the West Indies 16-year-old record of 11 consecutive Test cricket wins with victory by an innings and 27 runs in the second Test over the West Indies at Perth earlier this month.

Waugh is a shrewd captain as well as arguably the most resilient batsman of his generation while his team's all-round ability in the field has turned the excellent into the routine.

However, claims that they were the best Test team ever were hotly disputed, although the way fast bowler Glenn McGrath's 300th Test wicket came as part of a hat-trick spoke volumes about Australia's current dominance.

Meanwhile England under captain Nasser Hussain, with shrewd advice from Zimbabwean coach Duncan Fletcher, started to show they were a team worth beating.

'Pressure' is the most overused word in sport but the turbulent domestic situation back home meant the Zimbabweans really were suffering as they lost 1-0 in England.

Then all-rounder Neil Johnson and batsman Murray Goodwin, two key Zimbabwe players announced their retirement from Test cricket in order to pursue more lucrative domestic careers in South Africa and Australia respectively.

England, however, went on to win their first Test series against the West Indies for 31 years, by the time Australia

made it 13 wins in a row at Adelaide, the West Indies had lost 17 of their last 19 overseas Tests.

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Marion tops Reuters' poll

LONDON, Dec 22 (Reuters): US sprinter Marion Jones, who won three gold medals at the Sydney Olympics but failed in her quest to secure five, is the Reuters sportswoman of the year.

Gold medalists from the Olympic Games swept the top three places in the poll with Jones scoring 171 points out of a possible 250, ahead of Australian athlete Cathy Freeman on 120 and Dutch swimmer Inge de Brujin who took third place with 103.

Wimbledon, US Open and Olympic champion Venus Williams came fourth with 97 points and Australian golfer Karrie Webb took fifth place with 31.

"Jones was the dominant figure at the biggest sports event of the year," said Joseph Romanos at the New Zealand Listener magazine.

Jones made an ambitious bid for five golds in Sydney but finished with victories in the 100 metres, 200 metres and 4x100 metres relay.

"Marion Jones may have failed in her quest for five gold medals in Sydney but she is the supreme sprinter of the modern era," said Clive Ellis at the Daily Telegraph in London.

India's Lala Amarnath, their first Test centurion, died aged 80 and West Indies left-hander Roy Fredericks (57), whose astonishing 165 against the might of Dennis Lillee and Jeff Thomson at Perth in 1975 was undoubtedly one of the great Test innings.

Meanwhile, Brian Lara seemed to spend more time with psychologists than in the middle and innings such as his