

Martinez coasts at Gold Coast

GOLD COAST, Australia. Jan 2: Top-seeded Spaniard Conchita Martinez booked a quarterfinal berth with a hard-fought 6-4, 6-4 win over Italian Giulia Casati at the Australian Women's Hardcourt Tennis Championships here Tuesday.

The world No.5 five said she felt tense throughout the encounter as 22-year-old Casati pushed her repeatedly to break point.

"I was trying hard... my New Year's resolution is not to get too tense and to keep my head up all of the time," she said.

Defending champion and No.3 seed Silvia Talaja of Croatia set up a second round match with Spaniard Angeles Montolio with a 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 win over Sweden's Asa Carlsson.

Talaja said the win exceeded her expectations after she suffered stomach cramps in the first set.

"I have had a stomach bug three weeks ago and didn't expect much at all," she said.

In other matches, Belgian teen and eighth seed Justine Henin cruised into the second round after beating Virginie Razano of France 6-4, 6-2.

Arizona-based Meghann Shaughnessy won an all-US battle with a 6-4, 6-2 win over Sandra Cacic.

South African world No.59 Joanne Kruger ended the run of young Australian wild card Christina Wheeler 6-2, 2-6, 6-4.

MacGill mystifies

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with just 46 runs for five wickets up to stumps.

MacGill immeasurably improved his chances of a place on next month's tour to India and further enhanced his stature on the turning SCG wicket, where he took career best 7-50 against England two years ago on the way to match figures of 12-107.

MacGill was dropped for Bichel in the last Test after he took a hammering from Brian Lara in the third Adelaide Test, going for 0-118 as Lara hit 182 in the first innings.

"When you are in form you've got good bowling rhythm, but for me rhythm is something that just comes with bowling, so I felt better the longer I bowled today whereas in Adelaide I was bowling in small spurts," he said.

So it was with special significance that Lara was among MacGill's haul.

Lara had looked in ominous form, hitting four fours in his 35 off 73 balls, before he edged to Waugh — who clung onto the catch between two fingers.

"There was a little skip in the heart beat... you like to make sure that you pick up class batsmen when you have the opportunity, and fortunately Mark was very athletic and he managed to keep the ball off the deck," said MacGill.

In contrast to their chaotic starts throughout the series, Campbell and Hinds gave the tourists the ideal start.

Vice-captain Campbell's marvellous innings came to an end when he was deceived by a leg-spinner and was caught and bowled by MacGill for 79 — more than his other eight innings scores combined in the series.

The 30-year-old Barbados right-hander was at the crease for 185 minutes, faced 162 balls and hit nine boundaries. MacGill got some delight out of dismissing Rannanesh Sarwan for his third duck of the series with what he calls a "back-spinner", a delivery which comes out from the front of his hand, trapping the hapless youngster lbw.

Marlon Samuels, who made a huge impression in his first two Tests in Adelaide and Melbourne, became MacGill's fifth wicket, for 28.

The ball hit Samuels' pad, rebounded up and appeared to roll off his shoulder to Justin Langer, who was in the 19-year-old Jamaican's path.

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Zimbabwe zap Kiwis



TAUPO, New Zealand, Jan 2 (Reuters) — Zimbabwe, primed by a third-wicket partnership of 153 by Herb Flower and Stuart

Carlisle, beat New Zealand by 70 runs in the first one-day international here today.

The touring side, who batted, bowled and fielded better than the home side, built a score of 300 for seven before rain held up play.

New Zealand's innings was reduced to 43 overs, and their target to 281, but they batted

natively in the face of tight bowling and were dismissed for 210.

Only captain Stephen Fleming shone, but his 64 was not enough.

After a rollicking start from Alastair Campbell and Trevor

Madondo, Zimbabwe lost two wickets in quick succession to bring Flower and Carlisle to the crease.

Flower reached his 40th one-day half-century off only 64

balls and looked set for a century when he was run out by

Chris Cairns by a direct throw from the boundary for 80.

Carlisle reached his fifth one-day half-century and carried on to 75 before he was

caught by Fleming off Craig McMillan.

Flower and Carlisle fell within minutes of each other and the Zimbabwe innings ran

out of steam until Guy Rennie (23) and Doug Marillier (24) pushed up the run rate again.

Zimbabwe captain Heath

Streak (30 not out) attacked Scott Styris in the innings' final

over, hitting 20 to take Zimbabwe to 300.

New Zealand's James

Franklin enjoyed a fine debut, finishing with two for 28. He

took a wicket with his fifth ball, ran out Rennie when he was

sent back by Marillier and then had Marillier caught on the

boundary by Martin.

Chris Cairns, in his first

game back from a serious knee injury, bowled only three overs

before retiring from the crease in some pain.

New Zealand were rarely in

the chase, losing wickets too regularly to mount a serious

challenge. There was a brief flurry at the end by tail-ender

James Franklin (25 from 27 deliveries), a one-day debutant,

and Chris Harris hit a cheeky 37.

Streak finished with two for

26, medium-pace Guy Whittall

2-27, leg-spinner Brian Murphy

2-32 and off-spinner Doug

Marillier 3-23.

The second of three one-day

internationals is in Wellington

on Thursday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the first one-day international between Zimbabwe and New Zealand at Taupo on Tuesday.

ZIMBABWE

Madondo c Sinclair b Styris 12

Campbell c Sinclair b Franklin 28

Carlisle c Fleming b McMillan 75

A Flower run out 80

Rennie run out 23

Whittall lbw b McMillan 2

Marillier c Martin b Franklin 24

Streak not out 30

Friend not out 7

Total (For 7 wks in 50 overs) 300

Fall of wickets: 1-47, 2-48, 3-203, 4-211, 5-217, 6-262, 7-262

Bowler O M R W

Cairns 3 0 24 0

Martin 7 0 53 0

Styris 10 0 60 1

Franklin 5 0 28 2

Harris 5 0 41 0

Astle 10 2 39 0

McMillan 10 0 41 2

NEW ZEALAND

Sinclair c Campbell b Streak 1

Astle lbw b Streak 10

Fleming c Madondo b Murphy 64

Twose c Strang b Friend 27

Cairns b Whittall 25

McMillan c Marillier b Whittall 18

Harris c Carlisle b Murphy 37

Parore c Murphy b Marillier 18

Styris c Strang b Marillier 4

Franklin not out 25

Martin c Whittall b Marillier 3

Extras: (lb-3, w-4, nb-1) 8

Total (All out in 40 overs) 210

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-24, 3-72, 4-88, 5-118, 6-151, 7-164, 8-180, 9-182

Bowler O M R W

Streak 6 1 26 2

Strang 6 0 37 0

Friend 8 0 62 1

Whittall 7 0 27 2

Murphy 9 0 32 2

Marillier 4 0 23 3

Result: Zimbabwe won by 70 runs and take 1-0 lead in three-match series.

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