

Adams' fate to be decided next month

JAMAICA, Jan 27 (Internet report): West Indies Cricket Board president Pat Rousseau says a decision will be made next month on the team's captaincy for the forthcoming home series against South Africa.

Current captain Jimmy Adams is under pressure after heavy series losses in England and Australia, but Rousseau said there is no rush to make a decision on the captaincy and that normal procedures will be followed.

He said the matter is not an item at a WICB meeting in Grenada next Monday and would not be addressed before the board received reports from the management team on the current tour to Australia.

"We will wait until the reports from the manager (Ricky Skerritt) and coaches (Roger Harper and Jeff Dujon) are in, and I expect the board to make an announcement on the captain in the middle of February," Rousseau said.

"After we get the recommendation from the selectors, we will have conference calls with the chief executive officer, getting in touch with all the directors. We wouldn't necessarily have a meeting for that one item."

"I think there is plenty of time to deal with it, so we don't propose to take it on at our meeting in Grenada because it's not on the agenda," Rousseau revealed.

Interest in the appointment of the captain has heightened with the team's failures in Australia.

Reports this week quoted Adams as saying he would be willing to step down if the decision-makers want him replaced.

"If that is a change of captaincy is seen by the powers that be as the way to go, then my support would be there, 100 per cent," Adams told reporters.

Dutch Cup

Ajax bow out

AMSTERDAM, Jan 27: Vitesse Arnhem beat Ajax Amsterdam 2-1 in the third round of the Dutch Cup on Friday thanks to a golden goal from Belgian striker Gert Claessens on his debut, reports Reuters.

"I'd like to be a Tendulkar or someone like that, someone who can go out to the middle and keep scoring. If he doesn't get a hundred he gets 30, 40," Lara told ABC radio yesterday. "But I'm also happy to be the player that I am."

"Scoring 500 runs in a game or 375 runs in a game is something special and I've got to be able to take the good with the bad, and I'm quite happy with it. (But) as a top-flight player you want to be considered not only as someone who could turn on great performances, but someone who's been consistent over the years, and I haven't been able to measure up to that as yet."

"But hopefully in the last part of my career I'll be able to do that."

On Friday, Lara made his third first-ball duck on what has been a disappointing tour for a player of talent, but he said the troughs no longer ate away at him as they once did.

They were saved though and Hingis volleyed to pull it back to 4-5.

Capriati held firm and served out to take the set.

Capriati started the second set with the same determination she showed in the first, chasing down every ball. A delicate lob saved a Hingis game point before the Swiss star held.

She levelled 1-1 as Hingis played some lacklustre shots. The top seed's frustration boiled over when she missed a powerful Capriati serve and threw her racquet in disgust.

A disputed line call followed as the Hingis nerves frayed. Capriati had a chance for a break point in the third but netted a drop shot after the rally of the match. A series of long rallies followed before Hingis snatched the game for a 2-1 lead.

To jeers from the crowd Hingis lost her cool again over a linecall as she struggled to hold her serve while 2-2. A double fault gave Capriati the crucial break she was looking for.

Capriati held for 4-2. Hingis also held for 4-3.

Hingis was being hammered from the baseline and changed tactics, trying drop shots but they were either short of Capriati reached them.

Capriati's serve was unstoppable as she moved to within one game of the championship. A backhand winner ended her Grand Slam drought.

Capriati reached them.

Capriati's serve was unstoppable as she moved to within one game of the championship. A backhand winner ended her Grand Slam drought.

Capriati's serve was unstoppable as she moved to within one game of the championship. A backhand winner ended her Grand Slam drought.

Capriati's serve was unstoppable as she moved to within one game of the championship. A backhand winner ended her Grand Slam drought.

Capriati's serve was unstoppable as she moved to within one game of the championship. A backhand winner ended her Grand Slam drought.

Capriati's serve was unstoppable as she moved to within one game of the championship. A backhand winner ended her Grand Slam drought.

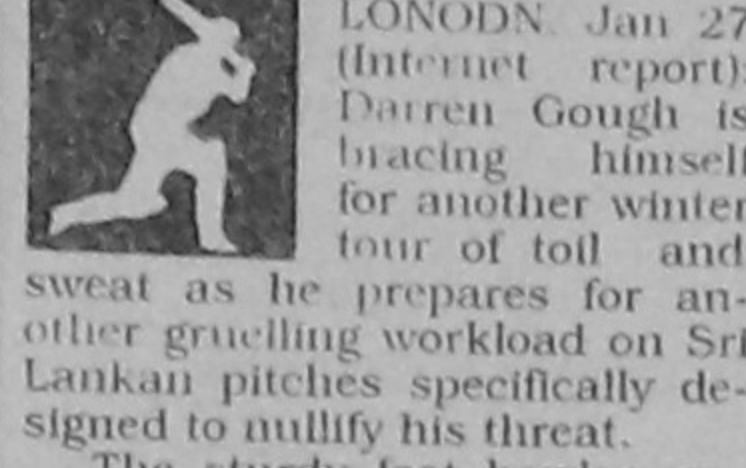
Capriati's serve was unstoppable as she moved to within one game of the championship. A backhand winner ended her Grand Slam drought.

Capriati's serve was unstoppable as she moved to within one game of the championship. A backhand winner ended her Grand Slam drought.

Capriati's serve was unstoppable as she moved to within one game of the championship. A backhand winner ended her Grand Slam drought.

Capriati's serve was unstoppable as she moved to within one game of the championship. A backhand winner ended her Grand Slam drought.

Gough all geared up



DARREN GOUGH

LONDON, Jan 27 (Internet report): Darren Gough is bracing himself for another winter tour of toil and sweat as he prepares for another gruelling workload on Sri Lanka pitches specifically designed to nullify his threat.

The sturdy fast bowler was pictured looking upwards for divine intervention more than once during England's triumphant tour of Pakistan before Christmas with the wickets becoming increasingly slow and unresponsive to his efforts.

He still managed to claim 10 wickets, more victims than any other seamer during the series, and re-established himself as England's premier strike bowler after an inconsistent tour to South Africa the previous winter.

After a well-earned rest during the intervening six weeks, however, Gough is packing up again to set out with the rest of the England squad next Tuesday for another eight weeks in Sri Lanka for three Tests and three one-day internationals.

"It's going to be very tough out there," he conceded. "They don't have the same seam attack as Pakistan so I suppose the wickets will be even slower and turn more than they did out there."

"It's the only place I've never been to on the cricket circuit

and people tell me the heat and humidity are incredible so maybe I will have to be used in shorter spells as a strike bowler.

"I imagine myself and Craig White will be used like that and Andrew Caddick will get the lion's share of the bowling, but we may not even play three seamers which will be a big change for England in recent

than conserve energy with a longer spell.

It has been a long-running battle between England's management and Gough to try and prevent him burning out too soon, but after being successful with his approach for most of the last decade, he is unlikely to change his ways now.

"I've been told I shouldn't come in full pelt all the time but I believe it's my job to take wickets," stressed Gough.

"That's the way I play my cricket and that's what I'll try and do in Sri Lanka."

"I've been told I should be more defensive at times, but I'm not Glenn McGrath or Shaun Pollock. I'm Darren Gough and what you get is what you see."

"This tour is a far bigger challenge than we had in Pakistan. We've got to contend with the humid conditions, which everyone says it's the worst place in the world to play because of the heat."

"They are a totally different side at home to the one that's been playing recently in South Africa, where they are playing on fast and bouncy wickets."

"When we get to Sri Lanka, I can't see the ball carrying very far and it will be hard work for all the seamers."

"We're going to get flat pitches and have players like Sanath Jayasuriya and Aravinda de Silva coming at us and if we get it wrong it's not going to be much fun."

Craving for Sachin consistency

SYDNEY, Jan 26 (Internet report): Brian Lara may be the world's most exciting batsman, but the West Indies star aims to draw inspiration from the consistency of Indian champion Sachin Tendulkar to elevate his status in the final phase of his career.

Lara, who holds the Test-record score of 375 and a first-class-record score of 501, said that although he is comfortable that the nature of his batting often means he makes very few runs or plenty, he needs to do more to be considered among the game's elite.

"I'd like to be a Tendulkar or someone like that, someone who can go out to the middle and keep scoring. If he doesn't get a hundred he gets 30, 40," Lara told ABC radio yesterday.

"But I'm also happy to be the player that I am."

"Scoring 500 runs in a game or 375 runs in a game is something special and I've got to be able to take the good with the bad, and I'm quite happy with it. (But) as a top-flight player you want to be considered not only as someone who could turn on great performances, but someone who's been consistent over the years, and I haven't been able to measure up to that as yet."

"But hopefully in the last part of my career I'll be able to do that."

On Friday, Lara made his third first-ball duck on what has been a disappointing tour for a player of talent, but he said the troughs no longer ate away at him as they once did.

"It's not the ideal situation to be not performing, but I think mentally I am definitely a much better person and much more equipped to deal with what's happening," he said.

Lara said he was enjoying his cricket more now than he had for years, having surrendered the burden of the captaincy to Jimmy Adams, adding that he did not plan to retire until he had played a part in rescuing the West Indies from the despair of recent tours.

"I'm only 31, a few personal records are coming up as I get older, and I'd like to achieve these things," he said.

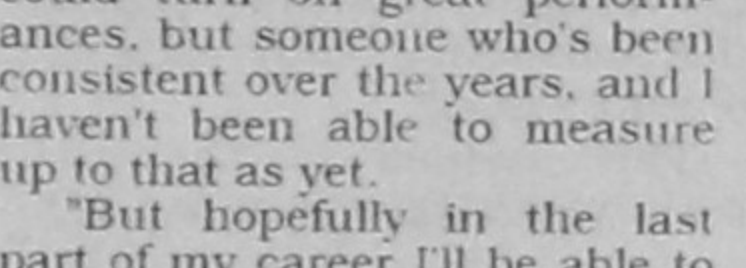
But the Trinidadian said the players had to help themselves first. Here, he cited the other great batsman of the past decade - aside from himself and Tendulkar - as the example to follow.

"You need to be rock-solid mentally, you need to be a Steve Waugh," Lara said.

"(Waugh's) not the greatest-looking batter in the world but he's rock-solid mentally. And you know, you can never get him out, and you wonder why sometimes. He's still in there and you wonder why."

As usual, off-field controversy and the public spotlight has followed Lara on this tour of Australia, but the gifted left-hander is becoming more comfortable with the demands of his fame.

"These things hurt, but I suppose that's the price you've got to pay if you're going to be playing at this level, and people expect certain things from you," he said.



BRIAN LARA

"But most importantly, I would have to leave West Indies cricket in the state it is in. We're got a lot of future, and I'd like to be a part of that rebuilding stage. I wouldn't like to



EDWIN KING

was present - even if there wasn't sufficient evidence to warrant a finalisation."

Batohi sought comfort in the fact the International Cricket Council (ICC) was still investigating the worldwide match-fixing and betting racket and was "making much more progress."

"We (the commission) can't do much now. It's up to the ICC

King Inquiry to sit in Feb

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 27 (Internet report): The King Commission of Inquiry into cricket corruption planned to resume its public hearing on match-fixing on Monday, 19 February, provided the various legal teams were available, it said on Wednesday.

Retired judge Edwin King had planned to resume on Thursday, but was prevented from doing so after former South African cricket captain Hansie Cronje successfully argued in the Cape High Court that both his lawyers had to be present.

Malcolm Wallis SC and Leslie Sackstein were not available until the week of 19 February because of previous commitments.

Shanilla Batohi, who was leading evidence on behalf of the commission, told she expected the upcoming session to be the commission's last.

She said King would afterwards prepare a final report based on whatever evidence

investigators now to clear up the game as they have a wider pool of resources with no restrictions," she revealed.

She said she had been hindered in gathering evidence and returned from India empty-handed because local police there refused to give her copies of tapes that implicated Cronje in match-fixing.

They had asked for samples of Cronje's voice in return for handing over the tapes, which she had been unable to deliver.

"There are still no developments," Batohi said.

"We're still battling to get evidence from the Indians, and if they haven't succumbed to our requests - which were put through the right legal channels - by now, I don't think we will get anything from them."

Nevertheless, the commission still had other evidence to salvage the inquiry, said Batohi, adding that a forensic audit trail into the accounts of cricket administrators and top players would be presented to the commission at the next hearing.



Jonas Bjorkman (L) of Sweden and Australian Todd Woodbridge pose with their trophies after the Australian Open men's doubles final yesterday.

Todd-Jonas lift doubles crown

MELBOURNE, Jan 27: Australian Todd Woodbridge won his 12th Grand Slam title when he teamed with new Swedish partner Jonas Bjorkman to win the Australian Open men's doubles final here Saturday, reports AFP.

Fourth seeds Bjorkman and Woodbridge beat No.14 seeds Byron Black of Zimbabwe and David Prinosil of Germany to win 6-1, 5-7, 6-4, 6-4 in two hours 52 minutes.

It was the first time Woodbridge had linked with Bjorkman at a Grand Slam since the retirement of his long-time Australian doubles partner Mark Woodforde after the Sydney Olympics.

"I hadn't thought of retiring with Mark because I'm still only 29 and I still feel like I have majors in me, like one today, and I feel I have some more, so that was the driving force of not going with Mark," said Woodbridge.

"Jonas is bringing me out of my shell a bit. He makes me dance on the court, occasionally I put my hat on backwards and I let my shirt out, all the stuff I didn't do before."

"He's a lot of fun and I enjoy playing with him because he gives 110 percent and that was one of the things that was important to me."

Bjorkman, who has now won three Australian Open doubles titles, the others with Dutchman Jacco Eltingh and Australian Pat Rafter, said it was a great opportunity to partner Woodbridge.

"Unfortunately, Mark finally took the step to retire, but for me it's gets me to another point in my doubles career as well, that I get the feeling of winning the big ones more often and not only in Melbourne," Bjorkman said.

"I believe it, but then I can't believe it at the same time," Capriati beamed after her 6-4, 6-3 victory over top seeded

return winner to take the championship.

"I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for him. I don't know if I could have done with any other coach. He's helped me in my game so much."

"Today he was looking on more as my dad than as my coach."

Stefano basked in his daughter's great sporting achievement after all that had

dark years of drugs and behavioural problems to claim her first Grand Slam and crown one of the great comebacks in tennis.

For 24-year-old Capriati it is a career born again after her much heralded foray into the pro circuit as a 13-year-old.

"I believe it, but then I can't believe it at the same time," Capriati beamed after her 6-4, 6-3 victory over top seeded

return winner to take the championship.

"I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for him. I don't know if I could have done with any other coach. He's helped me in my game so much."

"Today he was looking on more as my dad than as my coach."

Stefano basked in his daughter's great sporting achievement after all that had

dark years of drugs and behavioural problems to claim her first Grand Slam and crown one of the great comebacks in tennis.

For 24-year-old Capriati it is a career born again after her much heralded foray into the pro circuit as a 13-year-old.

"I believe it, but then I can't believe it at the same time," Capriati beamed after her 6-4, 6-3 victory over top seeded

return winner to take the championship.

"I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for him. I don't know if I could have done with any other coach. He's helped me in my game so much."

"Today he was looking on more as my dad than as my coach."

Stefano basked in his daughter's great sporting achievement after all that had

dark years of drugs and behavioural problems to claim her first Grand Slam and crown one of the great comebacks in tennis.

For 24-year-old Capriati it is a career born again after her much heralded foray into the pro circuit as a 13-year-old.

"I believe it, but then I can't believe it at the same time," Capriati beamed after her 6-4, 6-3 victory over top seeded

return winner to take the championship.

"I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for him. I don't know if I could have done with any other coach. He's helped me in my game so much."

"Today he was looking on more as my dad than as my coach."

Stefano basked in his daughter's great sporting achievement after all that had

dark years of drugs and behavioural problems to claim her first Grand Slam and crown one of the great comebacks in tennis.

For 24-year-old Capriati it is a career born again after her much heralded foray into the pro circuit as a 13-year-old.

"I believe it, but then I can't believe it at the same time," Capriati beamed after her 6-4, 6-3 victory over top seeded

return winner to take the championship.

"I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for him. I don't know if I could have done with any other coach. He's helped me in my game so much."

"Today he was looking on more as my dad than as my coach."

Stefano basked in his daughter's great sporting achievement after all that had

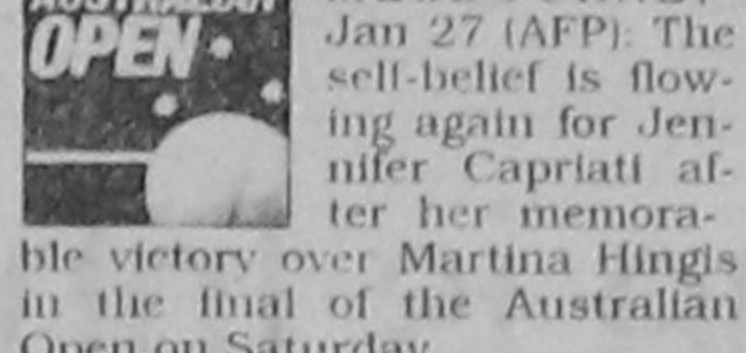
dark years of drugs and behavioural problems to claim her first Grand Slam and crown one of the great comebacks in tennis.

For 24-year-old Capriati it is a career born again after her much heralded foray into the pro circuit as a 13-year-old.

"I believe it, but then I can't believe it at the same time," Capriati beamed after her 6-4, 6-3 victory over top seeded

return winner to take the championship.

She can smile at last



JENNIFER CAPRIATI

MELBOURNE, Jan 27 (AFP): The self-belled is flowing again for Jennifer Capriati after her memorable victory over Martina Hingis in the final of the Australian Open on Saturday.

Capriati, one of sport's most high-profile cases of teenage disillusionment and burn-out, capped a recovery from her

Hingis. "From here on I will always have the belief in myself that I can do anything and won't be afraid in any match that I go in."

The triumph also cemented a reunion with her father-coach Stefano after periods of estrangement.

Capriati ran to hug her father to share her special moment after firing a backhand

gone in the past.

"It's this question of desire and will and she has all this," he said.

"It came back to her. She lost it for a while, but it's now back in her and I hope it will last for a long time. She has worked real hard for this."

Capriati beat world No.1 Hingis and No.2 Lindsay Davenport in the semifinal to earn a win that lifts her back into the top 10 for the first time since January 1994.

She recalled her emotions on match point.

"It was a winner down the line, but it was the slowest winner. It just kept going. As soon as I saw that, it was clean, I done it, the reality just hit me then. I just jumped for joy."

"I just couldn't believe it. I felt the chills. I just thought 'wow, the moment has really come and I can really enjoy it and now I know it's real, it really happened.'"

Capriati also shared the moment with her brother Steven in a mobile phone call from her court-side chair just before the trophy presentation. Her mother Denise and brother did not make the trip to Australia.

She said it was her fitness and experience which fortified her when Hingis began applying the pressure late in the first set and throughout the second.

"She was moving the ball around so well and she takes the ball so early that you don't have a lot of time to recover with her and you are moving so much more," Capriati said.

"I was gasping for breath at times and I got tired in the first set later on when she started coming back, but I got a second wind."

"It had a lot to do with fitness. Maybe before if I wasn't feeling that well physically I would have fallen out there by the second set."

"I've had good starts against her before and then I just fell out, but this time I knew I was playing in a Grand Slam final and I wasn't going to let my lead go."

Capriati won the Olympic gold medal in Barcelona in 1992 and has rated it as her greatest achievement.

Did the Australian Open triumph now supplant that? But I think it's just too far apart.

"That (gold medal) actually seems like another life. So this is a new life, a different life. It's actually winning something for the first time again."



TURNING FULL CIRCLE: Jennifer Capriati displays the Australian Open women's trophy. This was the American's maiden Grand Slam title.

dark years of drugs and behavioural problems to claim her first Grand Slam and crown one of the great comebacks in tennis.

For 24-year-old Capriati it is a career born again after her much heralded foray into the pro circuit as a 13-year-old.

"I believe it, but then I can't believe it at the same time," Capriati beamed after her 6-4, 6-3 victory over top seeded

return winner to take the championship.

"I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for him. I don't know if I could have done with any other coach. He's helped me in my game so much."

"Today he was looking on more as my dad than as my coach."

Stefano basked in his daughter's great sporting achievement after all that had

dark years of drugs and behavioural problems to claim her first Grand Slam and crown one of the great comebacks in tennis.

For 24-year-old Capriati it is a career born again after her much heralded foray into the pro circuit as a 13-year-old.

"I believe it, but then I can't believe it at the same time," Capriati beamed after her 6-4, 6-3 victory over top seeded

return winner to take the championship.

"I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for him. I don't know if I could have done with any other coach. He's helped me in my game so much."

"Today he was looking on more as my dad than as my coach."

Stefano basked in his daughter's great sporting achievement after all that had

dark years of drugs and behavioural problems to claim her first Grand Slam and crown one of the great comebacks in tennis.

For 24-year-old Capriati it is a career born again after her much heralded foray into the pro circuit as a 13-year-old.

"I believe it, but then I can't believe it at the same time," Capriati beamed after her 6-4, 6-3 victory over top seeded

return winner to take the championship.

"I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for him. I don't know if I could have done with any other coach. He's helped me in my game so much."

"Today he was looking on more as my dad than as my coach."

Stefano basked in his daughter's great sporting achievement after all that had

dark years of drugs and behavioural problems to claim her first Grand Slam and crown one of the great comebacks in tennis.

For 24-year-old Capriati it is a career born again after her much heralded foray into the pro circuit as a 13-year-old.

"I believe it, but then I can't believe it at the same time," Capriati beamed after her 6-4, 6-3 victory over top seeded

return winner to take the championship.

"I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for him. I don't know if I could have done with any other coach. He's helped me in my game so much."

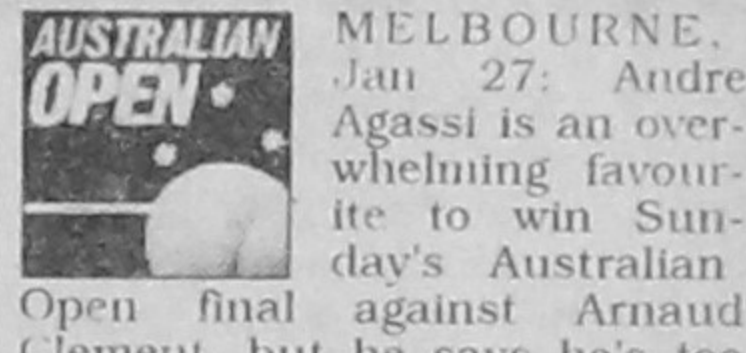
"Today he was looking on more as my dad than as my coach."

Stefano basked in his daughter's great sporting achievement after all that had

dark years of drugs and behavioural problems to claim her first Grand Slam and crown one of the great comebacks in tennis.

For 24-year-old Capriati it is a career born again after her much heralded foray into the pro circuit as a 13-year-old.

All bodes well for Andre



ANDRE AGASSI

MELBOURNE, Jan 27: Andre Agassi is an overwhelming favourite to win Sunday's Australian Open final against Arnaud Clement, but he says he's too practical and focused to take winning for granted, reports