### Gillespie fit to tour India

AFP, Sydney

Australian fast bowler Jason Gillespie was passed fit Wednesday to tour India next week.

Gillespie suffered a strained hamstring tendon a month ago in the fifth Test against the West Indies in Sydney and has been working since then on being fit to make the tour party.

But Gillespie, who has a history of niggling injuries, was given the green light by physiotherapist Errol Alcott and doctor Trefor James.

"It has come along well. I'm satisfied with his recovery," Alcott

It was good news for the Australian team, which had already been hit by the loss of speedster Brett Lee, who underwent an operation for an elbow injury on Tuesday.

Gillespie should now be named in the side on Thursday that will catch the flight to Bombay on February 13.

"I feel really good after two long bowling sessions," he said.

"I've been working hard on the maintenance programme I was given after I suffered the injury in Sydney and it has brought me back to full strength."

With Gillespie cleared to tour the debate still centred on who would fill Lee's place.

Those in contention include New South Wales pair Don Nash and Nathan Bracken, Queen-slanders Michael Kasprowicz and Andy Bichel and South Australian Paul Wilson.

#### Rude coach dismissed

AFP, Perth

The senior coach of one of Western Australia's top cricket clubs has been sacked for allegedly attacking an umpire and dragging him to the ground.

Coach Tony Weston was given his marching orders this week after the incident with umpire Peter Hewitt in a match last Saturday, the president of Scarborough Cricket Club, Peter Wearne, confirmed Wednesday.

The Scarborough club have among their players Test batsman Justin Langer and four other firstclass cricketers who take part in the Sheffield Shield competition.

"The actions of Weston were totally unacceptable to Scarborough and were dealt with accordingly in as swift a manner as possible," Wearne said.

"Scarborough offer sincere apologies to the umpire and hope no long-term effect will come of the incident."

The incident took place during a third-grade match between Scarborough and the University of Western Australia at Scarbor-

ough's home ground, Abbett Park. Witnesses said that Weston, who was playing in the game, had just completed an over and taken to have pulled it off." his cap when he swung a fist at the umpire, grabbed his tie, dragged him to the ground and jumped on

The Western Australian Cricket Association said Wednesday Weston had been charged by the association's disciplinary committee with dissent and assaulting an umpire.

The case was expected to be heard next week.

#### New faces in US Davis Cup squad

REUTERS, Florida

Teenager Andy Roddick has taken a bold step up the ladder of American tennis by being named to the US Davis Cup squad to face Switzerland this weekend.

18-year-old Roddick said before | change coach in the summer. leaving for Basle for the world group first-round tie.

Roddiek. "If I do get to play, I'm Roma's Fabio Capello to the Stacertainly going to try and take the | dio Delle Alpi but Ancelotti is still best advantage of that opportu- to sign a contract for next season

The American Davis Cup effort was hampered last year by the reluctance of the country's top two players, Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi. to commit themselves reportedly in objection to a clause regularly to the cause.

taking up where brother John left | year's Champions League. off, was eager to bring new blood into the team and picked Roddick. the junior world champion, to join that they want Fiorentina's Turk-Davis Cup stalwart Todd Martin, ish coach Fatih Terim should Zac-Jan-Michel Gambill and Justin Gimelstob.

Two other newcomers, James Blake and Robert Kendrick, are travelling with the squad but are four-man line-up.

"I wasn't quite expecting it at | turning that club around. all," said the big-serving Roddick. any time but I didn't expect this to name coach in the summer. be the time.



German tennis legend Boris Becker talking to his new girlfriend Sabrina Setlur, a rap singer, during a function at a restaurant in Le Puig, Valencia on February 6.

### Sandrine sent packing

Tennis

AFP. Paris

France's Sandrine Testud was the first seed to crash out of the 565,000-dollar Paris Indoor Open when she suffered a three-set defeat at the hands of unseeded American Meghann Shaughnessy on the opening day of the WTA event here Tuesday.

The 28-year-old number five seed: runner-up in Canberra last month and ranked 15 in the world, lost the first round battle with the 21-year-old Arizonan who came away with a 6-6 (7/4), 4-6, 6-3 win on her debut here.

World number 30 Shaughnessy, who won her first WTA single's title at Shanghai last October, rushed to an early lead breaking Testud's first serve, before the Frenchwoman rallied to force a tiebreak in the opening set.

Testud came back to take the second, but her American opponent broke serve at 2-2 in the final set before breaking again to take

"I had chances in this match and didn't take them. I don't have much success in this tournament," said Testud, who has been unsuccessful in her six appear- 26-year-old.

to play in Paris and am very happy Hingis.

champion Venus Williams, said that her improved play was due to a new-found maturity.

"Over the year's I've got physically stronger and matured a lot later than the other girls, but I'm coming along and want to go all the way here," added Shaughnessy, who defeated top seed and world number five Conchita Martinez en route to the semifinals at Gold Coast in January.

Shaughnessy next meets Denisa Chladkova after the Czech player defeated fellow qualifier Ana Isabel Medina Garrigues of Spain 6-2, 6-3 to book her place in the second round.

Meanwhile sixth-seeded Anke Huber, making her return to competition after sustaining a wrist injury during the US Open last September, advanced to the second round after downing Canada's Sonya Jeyaseelan 6-1, 6-3 in 58 minutes.

After a rusty performance during which she missed several easy shots Huber said that she was happy just to come away with a win after four months out and felt comfortable playing indoors.

"It wasn't perfect. I think if I can have a few more matches it will be better. But I'm just happy to have won this match," said the

This is the sixth Paris Indoors Shaughnessy admitted after for Huber, ranked 17 in the world, the 2hr 14min battle: "I knew I was and who was defeated in the 1997 going to have it tough. But I love final here by Switzerland's Martina

Huber next meets Romania's Shaughnessy, who had her best Ruxandra Dragomir, who had little Grand Slam result at the US Open difficulty scoring her fifth straight last year, reaching the third round win over Kveta Hrdlickova of the before being defeated by eventual Czech Republic with a 6-2, 6-1

The 28-year-old Dragomir, ranked 39 in the world, needed just 55 minutes to see off her 25year-old opponent Hrdlickova, ranked 55 and playing in her first tournament this year.

"I've started the season well and am very glad to have won my first match here because it's always difficult to come from playing outdoors to indoors and I always play better on clay," said Dragomir.

Meanwhile title favourite Mary Pierce played her first match a home in France since her French Open win last June when she and partner Elena Likhovtseva of Russia won their opening doubles tie. The duo, seeded number two,

defeated American Amy Frazier and Dutch teammate Caroline Viz 7-6 (7/5), 5-7, 6-3, The 26-year-old Pierce only returned to the circuit in Canberra

last month after a four-month absence with a shoulder injury. "I feel a little sore all over, but it felt ok," said world number eight Pierce after the match. "The emo-

tions and feelings out there were

super. I'm very happy, it's good to sports - cricket, tennis and golf return to France." Pierce, who received a first round bye, plays her first singles match Wednesday against Luxembourg's Anne Kremer, who

rallied to win her opening tie against German qualifier Andrea on Tuesday it planned to introtwo encounters, took the first set, 35, came back to take the second | tural events by tobacco firms.

and rushed to an early lead in the third for a final score of 4-6, 6-4, 6-

#### ACA's call to make safer boundaries

AFP, Sydney

SPORT

The Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA) has called for a prompt review of boundary safety after West Indies fieldsman Ri cardo Powell was hurt by concrete guttering at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Wednesday.

Powell was not seriously injured in the first one-day final against Australia.

almost a year after Australian batsman Ricky Ponting damaged his ankle crashing into a fence at the SCG, forcing him to miss the ensuing New Zealand tour. ACA president Tim May said

cricket authorities had been too slow in responding to safety concerns and he would raise the matter in a meeting with the International Cricket Council in Melbourne on Friday.

May, a former Test spinner, said he was not surprised players were still being hurt and the ICC and Australian Cricket Board needed to act before the next injury occurred.

"They've been slow to do it, he said Wednesday. "Ideally you'd like to be proactive."

The ACA president, who is also joint chief executive of the Federation of International Cricketers Associations, said all grounds should be roped off a safe distance from the fence and gutter.

"It is a concern that I've raised before," he said. "It's certainly one of the points we're bringing up (with the ICC)."

May called for a uniform policy on a safe distance between the rope and the fence, even though smaller grounds such as Adelaide Oval and the SCG could present difficulties.

He said he would ask the ICC to "consider that adequate safety procedures are taken and there are some minimum standards and minimum requirements of grounds.

"Just because some grounds present a problem it shouldn't mean that nothing happens."

#### India bans tobacco ads

AFP. New Delhi

Indian sport faces a stifling cash crunch in the wake of the government's decision to ban sponsorship of sporting events by tobacco companies, observers said on Wednesday.

receive the lion's share of their sponsorship from tobacco companies, who set aside millions of dollars each year to finance and promote events. The government announced

Glass, winner of their previous | session of parliament seeking a ban on smoking in public and but 25-year-old Kremer, ranked | sponsorship of sporting and cul-Officials of the All India Tennis Association (AITA), whose two

major international events are financed by tobacco giant ITC Ltd, were already looking at other op-"We will have to have a rethink

on the World Doubles Championships and the ATP Indian Open, both of which are sponsored by ITC," said AITA secretary Anil Khanna. "The government is seeing only

the health aspect of it, sporting events are going to be hit badly." The ITC, formerly the Indian Tobacco Company, pumps in more than a million dollars a year for both tournaments. Cricket, India's number one

sport, also faces testing times, although officials said the game's popularity will help it tide over the The national cricket team re-

ceives 70 per cent of its match fees - nearly two million dollars a year - from ITC for wearing the 'Wills Sport' logo during international Zaccheroni's departure from matches. The ITC also sponsors the

country's main limited-overs tournament, the Wills Trophy, Last month he met Inter presi- although Tests and one-day internationals get their title sponsorship from soft drink giants Pepsi. "I read about the proposed

legislation in today's newspapers. said Kishore Rungta, treasurer of the Board of Control for Cricket in "If it becomes law, we will have

no option but to look for other sources. "I think cricket is too well entrenched in an Indian's life to create any problem. If the need arose,

we will get other sponsors," he

Organisers of the Indian professional golf tour, which is also sponsored by ITC, hope that certain forms of surrogate advertising could see it out of any trouble.

Almost all of ITC's sponsorship in sports comes through its subsidiary, Wills Sport, or Gold Flake Only Dino Zoff of Lazio, who Expressions greeting cards. "Wills Sport is a brand name

on its own, we are not promoting a cigarette," said Digraj Singh, one of the organisers of the golf circuit.

### Omar points at a Perth man

Cricket

AP, Sydney

Former Pakistan Test cricketer Qasim Omar has named a prominent Perth businessman as a bookmaker who induced him to "throw" his batting in Australian matches during the 1980s, the Sydney Morning Herald reported Wednesday.

Omar told the newspaper that the bookmaker told him the rewards were "unlimited" if he con-However the accident came tinued to "perform" when they

> match of Pakistan's 1984 tour. The Perth bookmaker, whose name cannot be published for legal reasons, later put his agents in contact with Omar in Sydney and Brisbane, where Omar said he agreed to "throw away" his wicket at certain points of Test matches with Australia in return for cash payments of about 500 American

> > dollars each time.

The newspaper quoted Omar as saying that the bookmaking ring also provided a supply of women for the visiting players, in some cases prostitutes, and might have used these sexual partners to persuade players to cooperate with match-fixing.

His allegations suggest that an Australia-wide bookmaking and match-fixing syndicate was wellestablished by the mid-1980s, operating under the noses of cricket authorities.

Omar said he gave a detailed report on his allegations last October, including the names of 23 women, to the International Cricket Council special investigation team led by former Scotland Yard chief Sir Paul Condon. He was later telephoned by an ICC

met in Perth before the first Test

**QASIM OMAR** 

investigator. Alan Peacock, to confirm he was the author of the

The ICC will take up the allegations at its meeting in Melbourne this week, when it will also interview Australian batsman

Mark Waugh about Indian bookmaker Mukesh Gupta's allegation that Waugh accepted a 20,000 dollar payment from him in about 1992-93 for information about the pitch, weather and the team.

Waugh has denied the allegation, although he has admitted he was paid 4,000 dollars by a bookmaker called "John" in Sri Lanka in 1994 for pitch and weather information. Once a leading batsman, Omar has been a wild card in the Paki-

stan cricket scene since he was

dropped from the national team in

1987 and banned from playing for

seven years after accusing colleagues of drug taking. In recent years he has helped expose match-fixing, with claims that he paid 15 leading international players to underperform in

matches. Omar, who turns 44 on Friday, described the bookmaker as a well-dressed businessman who seemed to have easy access to the dressing room of the Pakistani players. He initially showered the young Pakistani batting ace with simple souvenirs, some bearing the logo of his business.

"That was how it started," Omar said. "He used to treat me very nicely. He always called me 'son' and used to give me lots of gifts, even a gold watch.

"Then he said, 'Such and such a thing will happen. Are you willing to throw your wicket away? You will be financially rewarded"

### Furore over bouncer

Cricket

INTERNET, Johannesburg

The bouncer from Easterns strike bowler Andre Nel that floored Allan Donald in Benoni last week has ended up in an official inquiry to be conducted by the United Cricket Board (UCB) at its Johannesburg headquarters on Thurs-"On the basis of complaint, the

UCB has convened an inquiry into events which took place during the SuperSport Series Super Eight match between Easterns and Free State at Willowmoore Park from February I to 4," said UCB communications manager Bronwyn Jennings said in a live interview on Wilkinson on Wednesday.

Donald was hit by a rising ball has slowed down by a metre or bowled by Nel. The inquiry has two and shows fear at the crease been convened to establish the facts surrounding the incident.

Donald was twice struck by 23- ment...

CROSSWORD

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18 Brassard

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30 "Hail!"

31 Actress

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14 Seed

piece

Easterns coach Ray Jennings as onto the pitch to check up on South Africa right now."

Benoni hospital. Allegations followed that Jennings had placed "a he was not to hold back with his price" on the head of South Africa's record-breaking strike bowler who was batting at the tail end of Free State's innings last Friday.

that Nel was part of an incentive scheme in which he receives R1 000 for every wicket he takes and that allegations of "a reward for a hit on Donald" were nonsense.

at international level for years, Radio 702 on Wednesday morn-"During the match, Free State's ing. "When a player of his calibre against a fellow fast-bowler, perhaps it's time to think of retire-

Jennings said that he walked arguably the quickest bowler in Donald after he was felled by Nel's "first" delivery that hit him on the Donald spent the weekend in a head. "When Allan was ready to continue, I instructed Andre that following delivery.

"Andre has always hero-

worshipped Allan and he had tears in his eyes after hurting his idol. But it's my job to build a winning Jennings said on Wednesday team and to toughen the youngster up for the game at the highest level. I told him to follow up with a bouncer..." Jennings said that he was felled

by a Donald bouncer while playing "Allan has been dishing it out for Transvaal a decade ago. "I got up and got on with the game without complaint," he said.

"When Allan was 19, I was the wicketkeeper for South Africa against Mike Gatting's English team and I told him continually to 'bowl the heads off a number of their batsmen," said Jennings.



PHOTO STAR

Geoffrey Boycott (R), who took over as Pakistan's special coach this week, gives instructions to Pakistan opener Shahid Afridi at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore yesterday. Boycott was hired by the Pakistan Cricket Board for only 15 days at a cost of 30,000 pounds.

By Eugene Sheffer

23 Dave's

rival

25 Apiece

28 Harrison

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Solution time: 27 mins.

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CRYPTOQUIP

VOO BVCUHPRHCX XTBBHXXDTQ

WTMOG EP RLHMC CHUTRVRMEPX

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I HAD A CHANCE TO PLAY TRUMPET IN AN ORCHESTRA, BUT I SIMPLY WENT AND BLEW IT. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals R

The Cryptoquip 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 apostrophel give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

## Serie A coaches' tale

Football

AFP, Milan

The position of coach to an Italian First Division team is about as hot as hotseats get.

But even by Serie A standards the jockeying for position for possible imminent coaching vacancies is reaching fever pitch. With the Italian First Division

season at its halfway point club

presidents are now beginning to

"It's extremely exciting," the turn their minds to whether to On Tuesday Juventus coach Carlo Ancelotti laughed off reports "This is really awesome," said that his club wanted to lure AS while Capello - also linked with INTERNET, Colombo Spanish giants Barcelona - is also

still to put pen to paper. Alberto Zaccheroni is likewise refusing to sign with AC Milan that the deal would not be binding New captain Patrick McEnroe, if Milan fail to qualify for next

The Rossoneri, meanwhile, have made no secret of the fact cheroni depart. Terim has already said he will leave Florence in the summer

Zaccheroni, meanwhile, had been linked with a possible crossnot expected to be in the final city move to Inter Milan although Marco Tardelli now appears to be

And Parma, who last week ap-"When Pat was named Davis Cup | pointed Renzo Ulivieri to replace captain he called me and asked if Arrigo Sacchi who had quit after he ever needed me in the future, three weeks because of stress, are would I be available. I told him I thought to be contemplating a big Ancelotti and Capello are

Scudetto (title) with Lazio and Capello currently has the edge over Ancelotti with a six-point It is an ironic state of affairs as

Ancelotti was a player in the last

locked in a three-way battle for the

Roma side to win the title in 1982-3 and Capello spent his best playing days at Juve. But Capello still has good relations with the Agnelli family that

run the Turin outfit and that has fuelled the rumour mill. But Ancelotti laughed that off, tory, saying: "Capello would cost a for-

Gough cursing

Lankan sun

Darren Gough is feeling the heat in Sri Lanka - and that is before he poised to cross the San Siro divide. bowls a ball in anger in the forth-

coming Test series. XI in Moratuwa with the energysapping sun taking its toll on Nasser Hussain's team.

Gough admitted: "This was my one target first experience of playing in the Sri Lankan heat and it can be but the club has done little to rereally hot and humid. After a full day in the field I am exhausted.

"Playing in this heat and humidity can really take it out of you, despite all the training we did before we arrived. "The heat has also been affecting us in other ways - not one

night's sleep yet. We keep waking

up in the middle of the night

drenched in sweat."

Regarding his own contract situation he said: "Juventus have several times shown their good

Roma president Franco Sensi all but admitted that Capello had the upper hand in negotiations.

"It probably depends on his charactar, the same that made him a great coach," said Sensi in reference to the coach who won everything with At. Milan and also led | crisis. Real Madrid to Primera Liga vic-

"I don't know if Barcelona are behind all this. But I insist he is free to go where he wants."

Milan is being depicted as a question of when rather than if in the Italian press. dent Moratti in a restaurant - the meeting was supposedly acciden-

But now Inter are slowly turning the corner and Tardelli may The England fast bowler played now be given his head by Moratti India (BCCI). in Tuesday's draw against a Colt's . who has hired and fired nine coaches in his five-year reign.

Terim was first linked with Mi-

tal - fuelling speculation 'Zac' was

eral Ariedo Braida was quoted as And in his column on Teletext, saying the Turk was their number Braida subsequently denied it

lan when the club's director gen-

The names of out-of-work Marcello Lippi, former Chelsea boss Gianluca Vialli and Czech coach Zdenek Zeman, sacked by Napoli in November, are also regularly bandied around.

butt the speculation since.

of us has been able to get a good has won every game since replacing England coach Sven Goran Eriksson last month, has so far escaped the rumour mill.

# Three of India's most popular duce legislation in the coming