

Rangpur cricket

United Cricket Club made a good start in the local Pepsi Cup First Division Cricket League beating Shishir Cricket Club by 36 runs in the opening match at the Cricket Garden here yesterday.

Batting first, United Club were all out for 153 in the stipulated 40 overs with Shaful and Erfan scoring 25 runs each. In reply, the Shishir Club were bundled out for 117 runs in 38.2 overs. Erfan grabbed two wickets for 18 runs. He was adjudged man-of-the-match.

Nothing good for Goodwin

Former star Zimbabwe batsman Murray Goodwin has been axed from the Western Australian state side after hitting the worst form slump of his first-class career.

Goodwin, 28, who played in 19 Tests and 64 one-day internationals for his native Zimbabwe before returning to Western Australia at the start of the current season, has been left out of the team for the state's final Sheffield Shield match of the summer.

In seven Shield appearances this season, Goodwin has averaged a mere 11.15, totalling only 145 runs from 13 innings, with just one score above 50 and nine below 10.

Fleming

"I thought our best way of winning was by bowling first," Fleming said. "That way we would have been batting on the two best days for batting as far as the pitch was concerned, but it obviously didn't work out like that."

"We had them four for 138 on that first day, but we didn't kick on and from then on we were behind the eight-ball."

Fleming questioned the use of a portable pitch without first having tested it.

"It's a bit rough going into a home match and not knowing how the pitch will play," he said.

"It is a risky business testing it out in a Test match. A portable pitch is the right step when you have a cross-over of winter and summer sports, but it shouldn't have been used in this match."

Scots shook

Scotland came back afresh after the lemon break and played brilliantly to take the lead in the 46th minute, thanks to a faulty clearance by defender Shahidullah Khokon, who deflected the ball into his own net while thwarting a powerful cross by JA Buens from the right.

Khokon however received some consolation from Scotland's German coach Mathias Ahrens. He claimed after the match that one of his boys was behind Khokon who could have very well netted that ball.

"I will still say that Bangladesh played better than us but they could not score," said the Hamburg-based coach, who took over the Scottish national team last August.

His compatriot and Bangladesh coach York Schumacher blamed his side's inexperience for the defeat.

"We played better than the Scots but after taking the lead we failed to vary our tactics according to the demand of the situation, and that is where we lost the match," he said. "I don't think we are good enough to beat India in our last match on Wednesday."

China 2 Ireland 1

Earlier in the day's first match, China registered their first victory when they beat Ireland 2-1 in their second Pool B match.

The winners led the first half 2-0.

Forward Sung Yi put China ahead from a short corner in the 19th minute while Ren Baobe doubled the margin with a field goal after ten minutes.

Ireland's D Smyth pulled one back from a short corner in the 40th minute.

Captains to

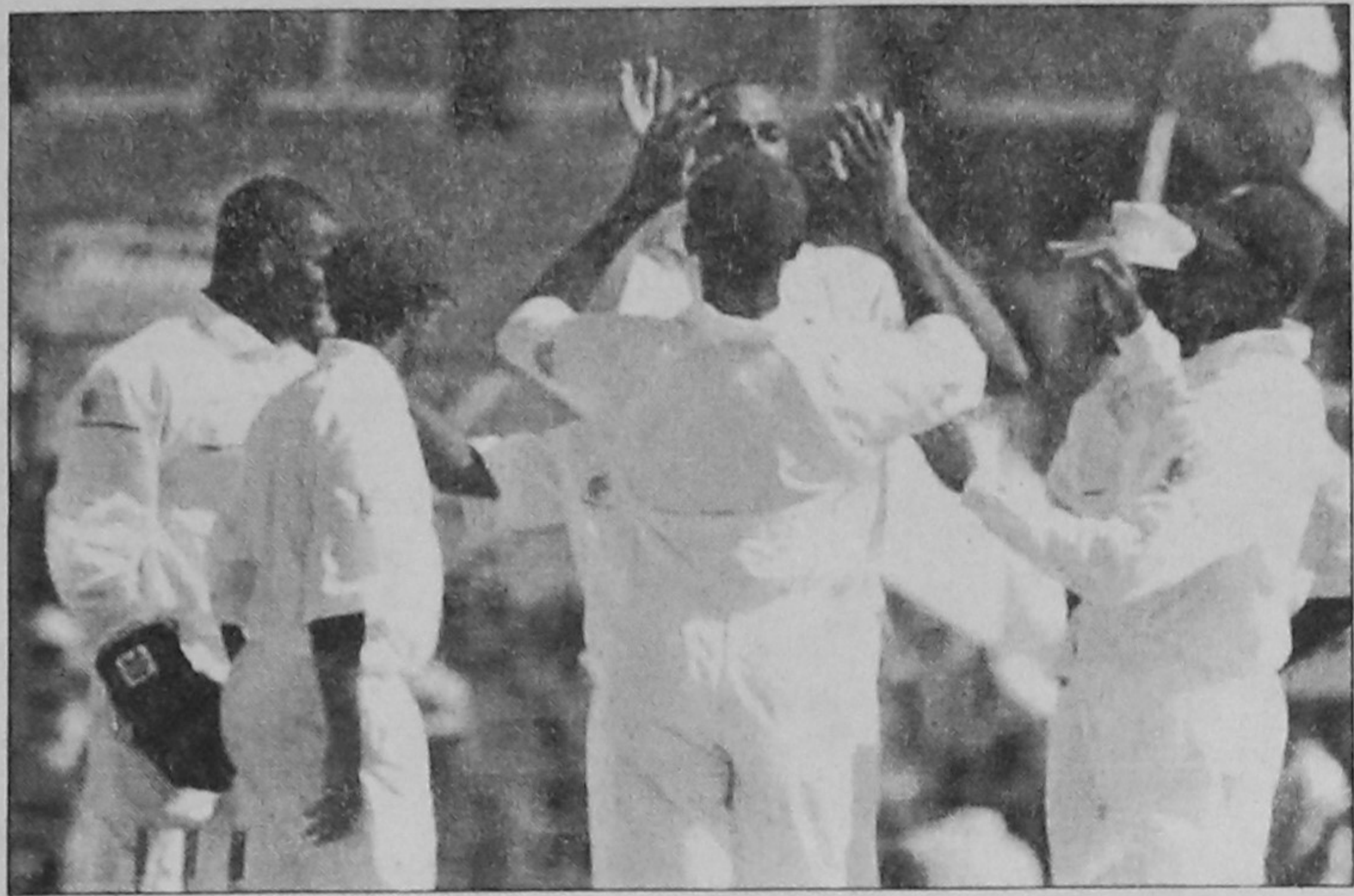
apologised for his behaviour. "I got suspended and I regret what I did. As a captain, I shouldn't have," he said.

Jayasuriya lost his temper after being given out, caught in the slips off Andrew Caddick, off what appeared to be a bumped ball.

He stormed off, waving his gloves and his bat before throwing his helmet to the floor in fury.

The Hussain-Jayasuriya meeting will take place before Thursday, when the third and final Test starts in Colombo.

"The idea is to have a face to face chat and decide on how best to wrap up such problems in the bud itself," said a Sri Lankan cricket official, who asked not to be named.



Courtney Walsh of the West Indies celebrates with his teammates after taking the wicket of South Africa opener Gary Kirsten at the Bourda Cricket Ground Sunday.

Windies claw back

Cricket

AFP, Georgetown

Gary Kirsten made 150 and steered South Africa to a 28-run first innings lead but the third day of the first Test at the Bourda ground Sunday belonged largely to the West Indies.

West Indies wiped out the deficit and were 50 for no wicket at the close, an overall lead of 22.

South Africa seemed poised for a big total when they reached 171 for one in reply to the West Indian first innings total of 304.

But a dubious leg before wicket decision against Jacques Kallis started a slide in which the tourists lost nine wickets for 151 runs.

Kallis was given out by English umpire John Hampshire although television replays showed clearly that he got a thick edge to a ball from Nixon McLean before it hit his pad.

Kirsten and Kallis (50) put on a record 146 for the second wicket and neither looked troubled after resuming at the overnight total of 130 for one.

South African then quickly lost Daryll Cullinan and Neil McKenzie, who both fell to the legspinner, Dhanraj Raminarine.

Kirsten and Mark Boucher (52) put on 76 for the fifth wicket, with Boucher striking the ball crisply and reaching his fifty off 89 balls, the fastest half-century of a match in which batsman have had difficulty scoring quickly on a slow pitch.

Kirsten's dismissal shortly before tea, when he played a tired-looking cut against Courtney Walsh and was caught by wicket-keeper Ridley Jacobs, started another collapse, with the last six wickets adding only 58 runs.

It was the 12th Test century by Kirsten, 33, who equalled the South African record for most centuries held by teammate Daryll Cullinan.

The left-handed opening batsman said: "The ball was keeping low and it was difficult to score quickly. In terms of the conditions it was one of my better innings."

Fast bowler Mervyn Dillon bowled steadily to take three for 64, while Raminarine took three for 105 and troubled most of the batsmen.

Walsh, the world record-holder, moved within four wickets of the unprecedented 500 mark when he followed up the dismissal

LATEST

STAR SPORT MONITOR

West Indies were 94 for two at lunch on the fourth day of the first Test against South Africa on Monday.

Batsmen out were both the openers - Wavell Hinds, 14, and Chris Gayle, 44. Brian Lara and Marlon Samuels were at the crease with 12 and 10 respectively.

of Kirsten by having Boucher lbw to a ball which cut sharply.

Wicketkeeper Jacobs claimed his 100th dismissal in his 27th Test when he caught Kirsten.

West Indies, under new captain Carl Hooper, opted for strangulation tactics and were able to

Saurav hits back at Chappell

INTERNET, Kolkata

Saurav Ganguly has responded angrily to comments made about him in the press by former Australian captain, and now commentator, Ian Chappell.

Ganguly acknowledges that Chappell has a right to comment on his batting and captaincy, but draws a line when it comes to the way he interacts with his fellow players.

Writing in The Telegraph, Ganguly said: "I object to his observation that I am arrogant towards fellow players and that I don't treat them with enough respect. How does Chappell know what goes on in the dressing room? Also, what does he know of my relationship with teammates? Frankly, either Chappell is himself ignorant, or has made the observations at the behest of somebody else. This isn't cricket."

Chappell, in his article, had suggested that Ganguly's position as captain is in jeopardy, because of the team's performances, his patchy achievements with the bat, and his objectionable manner in dealing with teammates.

launch a successful containing action on a slow and lifeless pitch under a hot sun. Only 65 runs were scored before lunch.

Kirsten, who hit nine fours and a six in reaching a fluent 80 overnight, was able to add only four more boundaries in almost four hours of batting Sunday.

His innings lasted for 446 minutes and he faced 338 balls.

The second wicket stand beat the previous record against the West Indies of 125 set by Kirsten's brother Peter and Kepler Wessels in the inaugural Test match in Bridgetown, Barbados in 1991/92.

Chris Gayle, who top-scored for the West Indies with 81 in the first innings, started aggressively in the second innings, pounding five offside boundaries in two overs from South African captain Shaun Pollock.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play on the third day of the first Test between the West Indies and South Africa at the Bourda ground Sunday:

WEST INDIES: First innings 304 (C. Gayle 81, B. Lara 47, C. Hooper 69)

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings (overnight 130-1) Kirsten c Jacobs b Walsh 150 Gibbs b Dillon 38 Kallis lbw b McLean 50 Cullinan c Jacobs b Raminarine 7 McKenzie b Raminarine 4 Boucher lbw b Walsh 52 Klusener lbw b McLean 15 Boje c Hinds b Dillon 17 Pollock not out 12 Donald c Lara b Raminarine 2 Ntini c Jacobs b Dillon 11 Extras: (b-4, lb-5, nb-2) 11 Total: (All out in 127 overs) 332

Fall of wickets: 1-25, 2-171, 3-186, 4-198, 5-274, 6-285, 7-287, 8-310, 9-315

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Lists bowling figures for Walsh, Dillon, McLean, Raminarine, Hooper, Samuels, Hinds, Gayle, Extras, Total, Donald, Ntini, Pollock, Kallis, Boje.

WEST INDIES: Second innings Hinds not out 13 Gayle not out 26 Extras: (b-5, lb-1, nb-5) 11 Total: (For no loss in 15 overs) 50

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Lists bowling figures for Donald, Pollock, Kallis, Boje.

Weird day for India

FROM PAGE 13

wickets for 76 runs following a hat-trick from Harbhajan Singh.

Waugh downplayed his achievement, saying he would not have got there had Gillespie not stayed around long enough.

"I grew in confidence as Jason settled in," he said. "It's always very satisfying to come out of a tight situation."

"It is now upto the bowlers to see us through this game."

Harbhajan removed both Gillespie and Waugh to finish with 7-123 as Australia's first innings ended an hour after lunch.

Gillespie, whose previous best was 41 against Sri Lanka at Kandy in 1999, was however fortunate to cross 11 when umpire Shyam Bansal negated an appeal for a catch at the wicket off seamer Venkatesh Prasad.

The Indians had reason to feel disappointed as television replays showed the ball take the edge and carry to wicketkeeper Nayan Mongia.

But the hosts had only themselves to blame when their turn came to bat as wickets tumbled at regular intervals against the fiery Australians.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the second cricket Test between India and Australia at the Eden Gardens on Monday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings (overnight 291-8) Slater c Mongia b Zaheer 42 Hayden c sub (Badani) b Harbhajan 97

Langer c Mongia b Zaheer 58 M Waugh c Mongia b Harbhajan 22 S Waugh lbw b Harbhajan 110 Ponting lbw b Harbhajan 6 Gilchrist lbw b Harbhajan 0 Tendulkar lbw b McGrath 10 Warne c Ramesh b Harbhajan 0 Kasprovic lbw b Ganguly 7 Gillespie c Ramesh b Harbhajan 46 McGrath not out 21 Extras: (b-19, lb-10, nb-7) 36 Total: (All out in 131.5 overs) 445

Fall of wickets: 1-103, 2-193, 3-219, 4-236, 5-252, 6-252, 7-252, 8-269, 9-402

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Lists bowling figures for Zaheer, Prasad, Ganguly, Raju, Harbhajan, Tendulkar.

INDIA: First innings Das c Gilchrist b McGrath 20 Ramesh c Ponting b Gillespie 0 Dravid b Warne 25 Tendulkar lbw b McGrath 10 Ganguly c S Waugh b Kasprovic 23 Laxman not out 26 Mongia c Gilchrist b Kasprovic 27 Harbhajan c Ponting b Gillespie 4 Zaheer b McGrath 3 Raju not out 3 Extras: (lb-2, nb-10) 12 Total: (For 8 wickets 46 overs) 128

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Lists bowling figures for McGrath, Gillespie, Kasprovic, Warne.

Following is a list of the leading century-makers in Test cricket after Australia's captain Steve Waugh scored his 25th hundred yesterday in the second Test against India.

Table with columns: Player, Country, Tests, 100s, Hs. Lists Steve Waugh, Don Bradman, Allan Border, Gary Sobers, Steve Waugh, Sachin Tendulkar, Greg Chappell, Viv Richards, Javed Miandad, Mohammad Azharuddin, Geoff Boycott, Colin Cowdrey, Wally Hammond.

Top 'tonners'

Table with columns: Tests, 100s, Hs. Lists Steve Waugh, Don Bradman, Allan Border, Gary Sobers, Steve Waugh, Sachin Tendulkar, Greg Chappell, Viv Richards, Javed Miandad, Mohammad Azharuddin, Geoff Boycott, Colin Cowdrey, Wally Hammond.

Umpire Cooray not dumped yet

REUTERS, Colombo

Sri Lankan umpire BC Cooray, who was at the centre of controversy in the second Test between Sri Lanka and England, has not been removed as television umpire for the third and deciding match.

"There is no truth in reports that Cooray has been removed as TV umpire," KI Francis, director of umpiring with the Sri Lankan Cricket Board said.

Local media reported on Sunday that Cooray had been pulled out of the third and final Test starting in Colombo on Thursday after his dubious decisions caused acrimony during the second Test in Kandy.

"We will not interfere until the captains' reports come in," said Francis.

"We don't want to undermine an umpire. He may have just had a bad match," he said.

The on-field umpires for the third Test are David Orchard of South Africa and Asoka de Silva of Sri Lanka.

Cooray had a police escort off the field in Kandy, where England won by three wickets to level the series 1-1.

A group of spectators held up a banner on Saturday's fourth day accusing Cooray of having sold the match to secure a visa to Britain.

Kiwis axe three

INTERNET, UnDATED

Three players have been axed from the New Zealand team that lost the first Test against Pakistan in Auckland by 299 runs Monday.

Out for the second Test in Christchurch starting on Thursday are off-spinner Paul

Wiseman, left-arm seamer James Franklin and the 12th man for the match, leg-spinner Brooke Walker.

In the team are all-rounder Jacob Oram, who played well in the one-day series, fast-medium Chris Drum, who got eight wickets for New Zealand A in the Lincoln victory by an innings, and first Test discard Grant Bradburn, the off-spinning all-rounder who last played a test in Sri Lanka in 1992.

Convener of the New Zealand selectors, Sir

Richard Hadlee, said the inclusion of Oram and Bradburn was to strengthen the batting.

He said the dropping of spinner Wiseman was rough, but he was too expensive.

Hadlee rated Bradburn as a tighter bowler who could bowl more maidens.

Hadlee said the Jade Stadium pitch had a history, unlike the portable pitch at Eden Park, but he was not prepared to go into the likely scenario for the match with regard to the pitch.

Left-arm spinner Daniel Vettori, who made a comeback after back troubles and played in the one-day series against both Sri Lanka and Pakistan, is not available for the next Test.

Sisters roll on

AFP, Indian Wells

Third-seed Venus Williams and seventh-seeded Serena Williams stayed on course for a sisterly showdown in the Tennis Masters Series tournament here Sunday with third-round victories.

Venus Williams pulled herself together after an indifferent second set to defeat Zimbabwe's Cara Black 6-4, 3-6, 6-0, while Serena Williams downed Spain's Gala Leon Garcia 6-3, 6-1 to reach the round of 16.

Venus, the reigning Wimbledon and US Open champion, blamed her inability to finish off Black in two sets on a failure to execute her game plan.

"I'm hitting really well," Williams said. "Once I got away from what I know how to do, what I had planned on doing, then I didn't have a plan at all. I was just out there hitting the ball."

Clavet's maiden hardcourt title

AP, Scottsdale

Francisco Clavet's patient style of play probably would never win a title at Wimbledon or the French Open. He sure took care of three of the world's best at the Templeton Classic, though.

The 32-year-old Spaniard defeated a weary, third-seeded Magnus Norman 6-4, 6-2 Sunday to win his first hardcourt title in 13 years of professional tennis.

Gambill's first

AFP, Delray Beach

It was a little easier for American Jan-Michael Gambill on Sunday as he captured the Citrix Tennis Championships for his first ATP title of the year.

Gambill, who had to save three match points in both the quarter-finals and semi-finals just to get to the final, defeated Xavier Malisse of Belgium 7-5, 6-4.

'Karachi Kid' arrives

Cricket

AP, Auckland

One of the unsolved mysteries of Pakistan cricket is its reserve of quality fast bowlers.

Emerging in the shadows of the evergreen Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis is 20-year-old Mohammad Sami, a slightly built and baby-faced introvert from Karachi.

Sami took eight wickets on his international debut to destroy New Zealand in the series-opening cricket Test at Eden Park, where Pakistan clinched victory Monday by 299 runs.

Less than two weeks after paceman Shaoh Akhtar returned home to work on his suspect bowling action and Wasim was sidelined with an abdominal strain, Sami has become the talking point in New Zealand.

Nicknamed the "Karachi Kid," Sami needed just five balls to announce himself on the Test stage, hurling a perfect yorker through the defences of Mark Richardson.

Ironically, he wouldn't have played the series had Akhtar remained on the tour.

"I was mentally prepared for this Test," Sami said. "I had the backing of the seniors who told me that I would play the first test. So I bowled like I would have done in any first-class match."

Sami is one of the three players in the current lineup that came through the ranks of Pakistan's under-19 squad that toured Sri Lanka last year for the junior World Cup. The other two were opener Imran Farhat and middle-order batsman Faisal Iqbal, who also made impressive full international debuts here.

"I was very nervous when I started because this is my first Test," Sami said. "Thanks to his Almighty, it was a dream debut."

Sami said he had learned the art of reverse swing watching the senior players. His expert use of the bowling technique confounded the Kiwi batsman.

"Waqar asked me to just bowl a good line and said the ball will handle the rest. That's all I did," Sami said of his performance.

Coming into bowl with the ball 46 overs old, Sami was devastating in his brief 41-ball spell as he took five wickets and conceded seven runs to rip through the New Zealand batting. He finished the match with a haul of 8-107.

"My main goal is to play for Pakistan as long as possible and the only way I can do that is to keep fit," he said.

Sami was picked for his first senior tour after two successful seasons for Karachi and Customs in Pakistan's two domestic first-class competitions.

"Sami is a great find for Pakistan," veteran paceman Waqar told The Associated Press. "He has it in him to serve Pakistan cricket for a long time."

After watching him in Test cricket for the first time here, Waqar thinks that Sami will be a handful in the second Test on a Christchurch's portable surface that's notorious for assisting side ways movement.

"If he can do what he's done here, just imagine the damage he can do," in Christchurch, Waqar said.

"I never expected him to bowl dream spell," skipper Moin Khan said of Pakistan's latest fast bowling find. "I knew he was going to be a key figure for us on the last day but I didn't expect him to do what he did."

Wasim's denial

Cricket

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan's celebrated paceman Wasim Akram on Sunday quashed reports he feigned injury and hit out at detractors saying he doesn't have to prove his loyalty to his country and the team.

"I have played my cricket with loyalty and sincerity and I have no need to prove this to anyone. I have injury and that ruled out my chances of playing against New Zealand," Akram told this news agency.

Akram, who returned home Saturday, had a side strain of lower rib cage muscle that ruled him out of the on-going Test series against New Zealand.

"This is the same injury that occurred before the quarterfinal of the 1996 World Cup and I feel pain when I sneeze and cough. It will take another three weeks to heal," Akram did not play in the

quarterfinal of the 1996 World Cup when Pakistan lost to arch-rivals India. After the match, fans pelted stones at his house levelling allegations he feigned injury.

"Before I left for home I went to young players and told them to work hard and cement their places in the team, why would I do that if I had any problems," he said.

"I missed the last Test against England in December last year and now these three Tests against New Zealand due to injury and have missed out on some crucial wickets," said Akram, who has taken 409 Test and 440 one-day wickets.

He said he would leave for England on Wednesday to have treatment and training.

"I will do my best to get fit for the Sharjah tri-series and then for the England tour."

Pakistan are due to play a tri-series alongside India and Sri Lanka in Sharjah, pending Indian government clearance, and then travel to England for a two-Test series in May.



WASIM AKRAM

MacLaurin for clean-up

Cricket

AFP, London

England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) chairman Lord MacLaurin on Monday called on the International Cricket Council (ICC) to clean up the game following the farcical events that have unfolded in Sri Lanka.

Nasser Hussain's England levelled the three-Test series at 1-1 in Kandy on Sunday but despite some thrilling cricket the first two Tests have been overshadowed by incessant appealing and a catalogue of poor umpiring decisions.

ECB chief MacLaurin flies out to Colombo on Wednesday ahead of the deciding Test and he will be holding talks with chairman of selectors David Graveney, England coach Duncan Fletcher and skipper Hussain to discuss the best way forward.

Following last summer's damaging revelations about corruption within the game - most notably South Africa captain Hansie Cronje was found guilty of receiving money from bookmakers in exchange for information - MacLaurin insists now is the time for world cricket chiefs to put their house in order.

"I have no doubts at all about that," MacLaurin told BBC Radio 5 Live. "We've had the corruption

situation this year, we've now had the unsavoury situation that transpired in Kandy.

"But I'm delighted that both captains said at the end of the game that certain things happened here that we regret and we've got to get our act together

because if the players say that they have a certain share of the responsibility,"

MacLaurin said that the ICC have already put in motion moves to ensure that eight professional

umpires would be contracted the council and that no home umpires would stand in future Test matches.

"That is something that the chief executive of the ICC Tim Lamb and myself will be urging the ICC to bring forward on the agenda because I think this should happen sooner rather than later."

"We should also look and see how we can use technology sensibly - we don't want to slow the game down - but we have to get our decisions better."

MacLaurin conceded that there is no formal training for umpires, but defended the quality of match officials in this country.

"We probably in this country have the best umpires in the world because our umpires stand in the professional county cricket for five months of the year."

"We get them from past players basically, but not always, some people can come through the ranks, but most of our umpires are ex-first class players."

MacLaurin confirmed that he will be contacting ICC president Malcolm Gray and ICC chief executive David Richards today "to see how we can train our umpires better and educate them better so we get a much more professional operation than we quite clearly have at the moment."



LORD MACLAURIN

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution time of 24 mins.

Cryptquip puzzle grid with letters and numbers.

CRYPTOQUIP S D C A U R D C L Q B K