

Kuersten sails,  
Safin fails

INTERNET, Rome

Gustavo Kuerten appears ready to defend his French Open title later this month. Marat Safin continues to struggle as the Grand Slam event nears.

Kuerten rebounded from a tough first-round win with a convincing 6-1, 6-1 victory over American Michael Chang on Wednesday at the Tennis Masters Series.

Safin, the second seed, still showed signs of rust after suffering a back injury in March as Switzerland's Roger Federer pulled out a 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7-5) win over the second-seeded Russian.

Kuerten rallied for a three-set win over Croatian qualifier Ivan Ljubicic on Tuesday, but had no such problems against Chang, the 1989 French Open champion.

The 23-year-old Brazilian won the Tennis Masters Series event in Monte Carlo three weeks ago and two other claycourt tournaments at Buenos Aires and Acapulco. He won 26 straight matches on the surface earlier this year, a streak that ended with a loss to Australia's Lleyton Hewitt in a Davis Cup encounter in his hometown of Florianopolis two weeks ago.

Kuerten was runner-up here last year and a semifinalist in 1998. He will face No. 15 Franco Squillari on Thursday in a third-round encounter. Squillari dumped Frenchman Fabrice Santoro, 6-4, 6-0.

## Gibbs

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Kallis, who missed the fourth international because of injury, was South Africa's most successful bowler, taking four for 22. Fellow fast bowlers Allan Donald and Makhaya Ntini took three for 41 and two for 47 respectively.

Two outstanding pieces of fielding by Gibbs stopped two promising partnerships. A direct hit from mid-wicket ran out Shivnarine Chanderpaul after he and Lara put on 43 for the fifth wicket.

Then Gibbs held a sensational diving catch at full stretch to his right off a scorching drive by Ridley Jacobs after a sixth wicket stand of 61.

It was only during the Lara-Jacobs stand that runs flowed freely, with 35 runs scored off 23 balls before Jacobs' dismissal, which came in the same over that Jacobs pulled a six off Ntini which landed on the roof of the Hall-Griffith stand at long-on.

The last five wickets tumbled for 22 runs.

Gibbs then thrashed the West Indian bowling, although he was dropped by wicketkeeper Ridley Jacobs off Cameron Cuffy when he had 11 and was lucky to survive an appeal for a catch behind off West Indian captain and off-spinner Carl Hooper when he had 72.

Gibbs went on to make 107 off 132 balls with 11 fours and three sixes before he went down the wicket and drove leg-spinner Dinanath Ramnarine to Hooper at extra cover when only 18 were needed to win.

Boeta Dippenaar, in only his second international innings of the tour, followed an unbeaten 62 in the fourth match with 42 not out.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the fifth one-day international between West Indies and South Africa at the Kensington Oval on Wednesday:

## WEST INDIES

Ganga c and b Kallis	15
Gayle c Boucher b Kallis	6
Lara b Kallis	92
Hooper b Ntini	21
Samuels c Boucher b Donald	1
Chanderpaul run out	24
Jacobs c Gibbs b Ntini	22
Dillon c Boucher b Donald	2
Ramnarine c Rhodes b Donald	5
Jeremy c Ntini b Kallis	5
Cuffy not out	0
Extras (lb-3, w-6, nb-2)	11
Total: (All out in 49.2 overs)	199

Fall of wickets: 1-20, 2-24, 3-68, 4-73, 5-116, 6-177, 7-180, 8-187, 9-199

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Pollock	10	2	23	0
Kallis	6.2	1	22	4
Ntini	10	1	48	2
Donald	10	0	41	3
Ontong	8	0	38	0
Kemp	5	0	24	0

## SOUTH AFRICA

Kirsten c Lara b Samuels	18
Gibbs c Hooper b Ramnarine	107
Kallis run out	18
Dippenaar not out	42
Rhodes not out	10
Extras (b-1, w-4, nb-2)	7
Total: (For 3 wks in 41.4 overs)	202

Fall of wickets: 1-54, 2-103, 3-182

Did not bat: M Boucher, S Pollock, J Kemp, J Ontong, M Ntini, A Donald

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Cuffy	7.4	1	44	0
Dillon	3	0	18	0
Hooper	8	0	35	0
Samuels	10	1	37	1
Ramnarine	10	0	48	1
Gayle	3	0	19	0

Result: South Africa won by seven wickets and took an unsailable 4-1 lead in the 7-match series.

Man-of-the-match: Herschelle Gibbs.

Next match: Trinidad, May 12.

## Sanath says no comment

Cricket

INTERNET, Bangalore

Sri Lankan skipper Sanath Jayasuriya declined to comment on the allegation that Australian fast bowler Glenn McGrath had racially abused him in the World Series Cup finals in 1995/96.

Former Sri Lankan batsman Roshan Mahanama's biography 'Retired Hurt' accused McGrath of calling Jayasuriya a 'black monkey' during one of the most acrimonious tours in memory.

When contacted Jayasuriya said that he would not confirm or deny the allegations until he receives a copy of the book. McGrath has vehemently denied the allegation and is reported to be considering legal action.

The ACB has stated that the situation does not warrant an investigation at this stage. None of the fielders and the umpires have confirmed Mahanama's version of events. Mahanama did not play in the match. McGrath and Jayasuriya had a mid-pitch exchange of words after he had hit two rasping boundaries.

This was just one of many controversies in this rain-reduced

match in January 1996.

Sri Lankan fast bowler Ravindra Pushpakumara was denied two wickets by umpire Steve Randall, after replays showed that the batsmen were caught behind.



SANATH JAYASURIYA

When Sri Lanka chased a rain-reduced target of 167, several decisions went against them. The more glaring was when Ruwan Kalpage was given out caught to a bouncer from McDermott that was over his shoulder. Later on, umpire Randall and Australian captain Mark Taylor denied the

use of a runner for Arjuna Ranatunga.

Things deteriorated further with Ian Healy and Ranatunga engaging in a fracas, with Ian Healy making his famous 'okay, Porky' remark.

The visitors capitulated to 159 for eight in the stipulated 25 overs. The Sri Lankans so aggrieved with the sequence of events that they departed from the game's etiquette, by declining to shake hands with the Australians.

This whole controversy has put the spotlight on the persistent problem of racial abuse in cricket. The issue is charged with emotion, as many of the coloured cricketers feel that the ICC has been apathetic on the matter.

There have been several accusations of racism over the years. In the April 1988 Sharjah tournament India's Mohinder Amarnath complained of racist abuse from the New Zealand wicket-keeper Ian Smith.

During the 1989-90 tour down under, Arjuna Ranatunga stated that the Australians were frequently resorting to racist taunts. South African Craig MacMillan is said to have racially abused an Indian origin player in a Currie Cup match in the late 1990s.

## Warne's toughest Ashes

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

For the best part of eight years Shane Warne has tormented England's batsmen but nagging fitness worries may make the tormentor the tormented in this year's Ashes series.

Statistics back the claim that Warne is the greatest leg-spinner in the history of Test cricket.

In 87 Tests he has been Australia's highest wicket-taker with 376 at an average of 26.62. But his figures against England underline his supremacy.

In 18 matches he has snared 87 wickets at 24.28, including one ten-wicket match haul and four five-wickets in an innings.

But a series of shoulder and spinning finger injuries appear to have taken their toll on the brash blond wrist-spinner, who coaxes controversy, like a moth to a flame.

Warne has been far less successful in Test cricket since his shoulder operation in 1998. His bowling average in this period is over 35.

He was flogged by VVS Laxman and company in the three-Test series against India earlier this year — going for 10-505 off 152.1 overs at an expensive 50.50.

At times Warne looked impotent against the free-scoring Indians, particularly in the series-turning second Calcutta Test, even prompting team coach John Buchanan to publicly question his place in the team for the deciding Chennai Test.

Warne admitted it was torrid going on the subcontinent, but was upbeat when he returned home from India.

"I'm not reading too much into it... we'll have to get the Poms," he said.

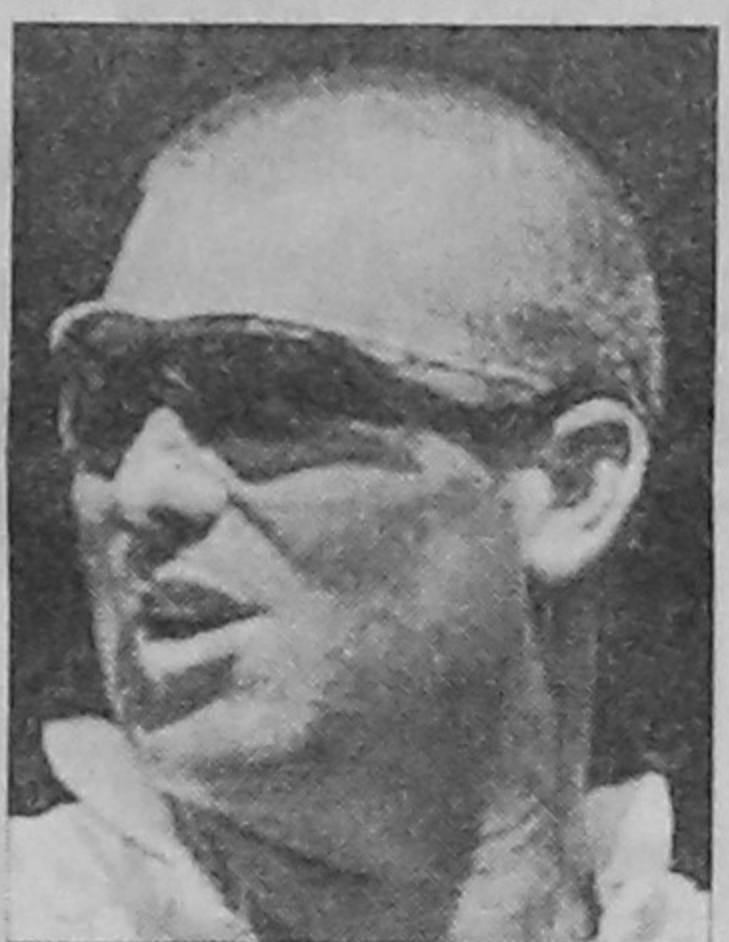
But doubts persist about Warne's ability to cut it like he used to with match-winning regularity in the past.

This will be his third Ashes tour to England, and at 32 in September, probably his last.

On his first trip to England in 1993 he dismissed Mike Gatting with an unbelievable leg-break on his first delivery and went on to claim 31 wickets for the series.

Four years later he was a match-winner again, capturing 24. That's 58 in two Ashes series — no wonder England hold him in some trepidation.

His mentor, former Test leg-spinner Terry Jenner, knows Warne better than most and is



SHANE WARNE

confident he can again be a dominant performer in the July-August series.

"I know he's not as good as he was in 1997, but he's still good," says Jenner.

Some believe Warne was fortunate to be included in the Ashes squad. Not Jenner.

"Steve Waugh always used to say about Shane, form is temporary, class is permanent. He's the greatest leg-spinner ever in the game," he said.

"He resurrected Test cricket when it was on the wane. That ball against Mike Gatting meant that all kids wanted to be like him, but he bowled so much that the wear and tear took its toll."

## Lancs wrest initiative

Cricket

AFP, London

Glen Chapple led Lancashire's charge for points against Leicestershire until bad light stopped play on day one of the latest round of English County Championship Division One matches on Wednesday.

Chapple returned figures of five for 40 and Muttiah Muralitharan chipped in with two victims as the home side were bowled out for 240.

Lancashire's reply was led by opener Michael Atherton (18 not out) and an unbeaten 23 by Mark Chilton as the visitors reached 45 without loss by the close.

Vince Wells and Darren Maddy had put on 70 for the first Leicestershire wicket but the home side then lost three wickets for the next 26 runs, including two while on 96, and the wind was taken out of their sails.

Opener Russell Hussey and Jeffrey Cook put Northamptonshire well in charge against champions Surrey at Northampton.

After losing opener Mal Loye with the total on eight, Hussey and Cook put on 172 for the second wicket.

Russell Warren went for a duck, but Alec Swann (64no) and Tony Penberthy (62no) guided the home side to 320 for four.

Yorkshire's Ryan Sidebottom claimed the wicket of England's Marcus Trescothick but Somerset fought back to reach 257 all out at Headingley.

Mark Lathwell was the most informed Somerset batsman, scoring

65 before Craig White claimed his wicket, but Robert Turner (38) and Jamie Cox (35) also made useful contributions. Yorkshire made two without loss in reply.

An unbeaten 92 from Kim Barnett held the Gloucestershire innings together as Middlesex tried to push the advantage of early wickets at Bristol.

Gloucestershire looked in trouble when they lost both Matthew Windows and captain Mark Alleyne for ducks, but Barnett made sure there was no total collapse in this Division Two fixture.

Ian Harvey's 41 was also important in helping the home side reach a respectable 247 for seven when bad light stopped play for the day.

Alamgir Sheriary led Worcestershire's assault on Hampshire at West End as he took three of the wickets to fall. Stuart Lampitt claiming two, as the home side were restricted to 267 for eight.

Dimitri Mascarenhas (104) fell shortly after scoring his century which included 17 fours.

## Seles skips

## Italian Open

REUTERS, Rome

World number five Monica Seles and Russia's Elena Dementieva pulled out of next week's WTA Italian Open on Wednesday with injuries.

American Seles is still suffering from the right foot injury which has kept her out of tournaments in Miami, Amelia Island and Charleston since March.

But Jenner believes that a few weeks' rest, and the spur of winning another Ashes series may be enough to rekindle Warne's best form.

"Maybe three or four weeks off can inspire him. The gift that God gave him is special. He loves playing for his country and the one thing he will want to do is beat England," he said.

"If Shane Warne is fit then he doesn't believe he has any peer — and if he's not fit, then he comes back to the field."

Waugh, on his fourth tour to England, is a great believer in Warne's capabilities and says he can play another significant role against Nasser Hussain's team.

"He's a great bowler and I think England have got a problem against him," says Waugh.

Some commentators believe the Australian selectors erred in not taking Stuart MacGill as a leg-spinning backup on the Ashes tour, especially with his record against England.

To many, MacGill, who has taken 75 wickets in 16 Tests at 25.02, is no longer considered Australia's shadow leg-spinner to Warne.

On his last appearance against England bowling on the spin-friendly Sydney Cricket Ground pitch in January 1999, he captured 12 wickets after taking seven in the previous Test in Melbourne.

So the pressure is on Warne. Some believe this Ashes series may signal Warne's immediate Test future — whether he goes on and plays a few more seasons, or he is forced to realise that he no longer has it.

If Warne cannot reproduce the form on pitches where he has ruled the roost in the past, then the writing will be on the wall. That's England's hopeful line of thinking, but then again Warne, their scourge for almost a decade, may have other ideas.

'Cash won't get  
us hang around'

REUTERS, Melbourne

The prospect of becoming a millionaire under the new four-year Australian Cricket Board (ACB) salary deal will not lead to older Test cricketers playing on just for the cash, Australia captain Steve Waugh said on Thursday.

"Money shouldn't influence how long you play and I think that will show through," Waugh told reporters in Melbourne. "If someone is playing for money, their performances won't be up to scratch."

"And if I'm not good enough, I don't want to be there," he added.

The ACB said on Wednesday that they expected Australia would have its first millionaire cricketer within the four-year lifetime of the new salary deal.

Waugh and twin brother Mark will turn 36 next month on the Ashes tour of England and both have kept their options open for Australia's World Cup defence in South Africa in 2003.

The ACB announced a list of 25 contracted players for the 2001-02 season on May 1. The players will now be ranked from one to 25, and the top player could earn 1 million dollars (520,000 American) over the four years of the agreement.

ACB public affairs manager Brendan McClements said on Wednesday that players who postponed retirement to chase the big salaries would still have to produce results on the field to meet rankings requirements as set down by selectors.

Waugh said the players were happy with the deal, which was negotiated on their behalf by the Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA) chief executive Tim May.

"It's something we've been working on for a while and I think it's obviously fair because the cricket board have agreed with the ACA," Waugh said.

Speculation as to which player will benefit most from the new deal has centred on vice-captain Adam Gilchrist, batsman Ricky Ponting and fast bowler Brett Lee.

"There's guys who are doing pretty well, but Brett Lee would have to be at pretty short odds I think," Waugh said.

"Good luck to them whoever it is. You never know, it might be Steve Waugh," he added.

## Intikhab

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Intikhab, who took 125 Test wickets between 1959 and 1977, said: "We have a good chance if our main batsmen get runs."

"We have enough depth in our bowling, but our batsmen have to get runs on the board first."

He claimed that Pakistan "should not have lost" the Test in Karachi which sealed England's series triumph last November.

"But England did their homework properly. They batted, bowled and fielded well, and then went on to win their series in Sri Lanka."

"I think they face a real challenge against Australia (for the Ashes) later this summer, but first they must face us."

Intikhab added: "We might not see turning wickets so early in season, but that doesn't matter with the type of spinners we have, in Saqlain and Mustaq."

"But it doesn't matter how good your bowling is, you only really struggle when your batsmen are not making runs."

## Azhar

FROM PAGE 13

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of second day's play of the three-day tour match between Derbyshire and Pakistan at Derby Wednesday:

DERBYSHIRE: First innings 166 (M Dhowman 36, D Cook 27, I Sutton 26; S Mushtaq 6/34, S Akhtar 2/31)

PAKISTAN: First innings (overnight 4/0) M Wasim b Smith 15 Farhat c Bassano b Dumelow 46 Iqbal c Cook b Smith 65 Youhana c Stubblings b Dumelow 5 Inzamam c b Dumelow 13 Razaq b Dumelow 0 Latif b Smith 1 Mahmood not out 80 Waqar c Stubblings b Lungley 7 Saqlain lbw b Lungley 0 Akhtar c Cook b Lungley 16 Extras (lb-3, w-7, nb-4) 14 Total: (All out in 22 overs) 262

Fall of wickets: 1-28, 2-101, 3-113, 4-142, 5-142, 6-153, 7-154, 8-172, 9-182

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Cook	16	4	34	0
Smith	16	3	50	3
Wharton	9	2	36	0
Lungley	15.3	1	58	3
Dumelow	22	4	81	4

DERBYSHIRE: Second innings Stubblings run out 15 Sutton not out 25 Titchard b Waqar 0 Downman not out 15 Extras (b-1, lb-7, nb-3) 11 Total: (For 2 wks in 22 overs) 66

Fall of wickets: 1-25, 2-25

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Waqar	7	1	20	1
Akhtar	6	2	13	0
Saqlain	5	0	12	0
Mahmood	4	1	13	0



American Jennifer Capriati plays backhand against Jelena Dokic of Yugoslavia during their German Open engagement on Wednesday.

PHOTO AFP

## Venus, Capriati cruise

Tennis

INTERNET, Berlin

American Venus Williams continues to play like she wants the No. 1 ranking in women's tennis.

Williams, who could overtake Switzerland's Martina Hingis for the No. 1 ranking next month, began her bid for a second straight title in Germany by cruising into the third round Wednesday at the \$1.185 million German Open tennis event.

Fresh off a dominating run to the title last week in Hamburg, Williams extended her winning streak to 11 matches with a 6-3, 6-3 win over Slovakian qualifier Karina Habsudova.

Australian Open champion Jennifer Capriati, seeded third behind Williams, had a tougher time in her second-round encounter with Jelena Dokic before dismissing the Yugoslavian teenager, 7-5, 3-6, 6-4.

Hingis has held the No. 1

ranking since May 22, 2000, but Williams has won back-to-back titles, including last month's Ericsson Open, to pull within 691 points of the top spot. Williams could overtake Martina Hingis at the French Open, which begins May 28.

Williams will face No. 13 Justine Henin of Belgium on Thursday for a spot in the quarterfinals. Henin, a winner of two titles this year, defeated Germany's Jana Kandarr, 6-1, 7-6 (8-6).

Capriati, a winner at the claycourt event in South Carolina two weeks ago, will take on No. 14 Sandrine Testud of France in the third round.

Testud ended Angeles Montolio's 11-match winning streak with a 6-2, 4-6, 6-3 victory over the Spaniard. Montolio had captured a back-to-back claycourt titles at Estoril, Portugal and Bol, Croatia.

In other second-round action, fourth seed Amelie Mauresmo of France, a winner of three titles this season, dumped former French

Open champion Iva Majoli of Croatia, 6-3, 6-1.

Also, fifth seed Amanda Coetzer of South Africa got past Spain's Gala Leon Garcia, 7-5, 1-6, 6-1; defending champion Conchita Martinez of Spain, seeded sixth, saved two match points to outlast Germany's Martina Muller, 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (9-7); and No. 17 Meghann Shaughnessy of the United States advanced when Spain's Marta Marrero retired in the second set with a left thigh strain trailing, 0-6, 0-3.

Four seeds failed to reach the third round. German wild card Miriam Schnitzer upended seventh seed Nathalie Tauziat of France, 4-6, 7-5, 7-5; Paola Suarez of Argentina eliminated ninth seed Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria, 6-4, 6-2; Nathalie Dechy set up a back-to-back meeting with Hingis by ousting No. 15 Magui Serna of Spain, 7-6 (7-5), 6-2; and Patty Schnyder of Switzerland upset No. 16 Barbara Schett of Austria, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4.

## Goals attained

Cricket

REUTERS, Bridgetown

South African captain Shaun Pollock wore an expression of extreme contentment after his side clinched the one-day series against the West Indies on Wednesday.

South Africa's seven-wicket victory in the fifth one-day international gave the tourists an unsailable 4-1 lead in the seven-match series, with two matches remaining in Trinidad and St Vincent.

"There were two goals for us when we