

India, Pakistan to meet in hockey

AFP, New Delhi

Hockey arch-rivals India and Pakistan are likely to play each other in a four-nation tournament starting in the Netherlands from June 25, a hockey federation official said Saturday.

Pakistan has confirmed that it would play in the tournament, while the Indian hockey team said it expected the official government nod to participate in the contest next week, maybe as early as Monday.

"We have received an invite, and we are interested in playing in the tournament because it is expected to be a high quality one," said K Jothikumar, honorary secretary of the Indian Hockey Federation (IHF).

With Germany and hosts Netherlands the other two squads in the tournament, India views the competition as an opportunity to fine tune its national team before the World Cup qualifiers in Edinburgh from July 17 to 29.

"It is a good chance to get the team together and we are hoping the tour will be cleared," added Jothikumar.

The top seven teams from the world cup qualifiers will make it to the 2002 World Cup in Kuala Lumpur.

Although the Indian government had earlier denied permission to the cricket team to play in a triangular series involving Pakistan at last month, the two neighbouring countries have played together in hockey tournaments recently.

The last time India and Pakistan met on a hockey field was in the finals of the Prime Minister's Gold Cup tournament at Dhaka in March, when India beat Pakistan in a penalty shoot-out.

WI's best

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Herschelle Gibbs (1), who has scored two centuries in the series, fell in the third over when he played across the line at a quick delivery from Cuffy which cut back sharply and hit the stumps.

Cuffy struck again in the 13th over, a similar delivery trapping Boeta Dippenaar (seven from 37 balls) on the back foot, leg-before.

South Africa made four changes to the team which took an unassailable 4-1 lead in the seven match series in Barbados on Wednesday and have included five players recently fined for smoking marijuana.

Fast bowler Andre Nel makes his debut in place of the rested Allan Donald while spinner Paul Adams plays his first match of the series. Both were fined along with Herschelle Gibbs, Roger Telemachus and Justin Kemp.

West Indies made two changes to the team thrashed by seven wickets at the Kensington Oval dropping opening batsman Chris Gayle and fast bowler Mervyn Dillon and replacing them with all rounder Ricardo Powell and paceman Collymore.

TEAMS
WEST INDIES: Darren Ganga, Ridley Jacobs, Brian Lara, Carl Hooper, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Marlon Samuels, Ricardo Powell, Dinanath Ramnarine, Kerry Jermy, Corey Collymore, Cameron Cuffy.

SOUTH AFRICA: Herschelle Gibbs, Boeta Dippenaar, Jacques Kallis, Jonty Rhodes, Neil McKenzie, Mark Boucher, Shaun Pollock, Justin Kemp, Roger Telemachus, Paul Adams, Andre Nel.

ECB rebukes

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over Shoaib's lightning-quick deliveries in February, he has worked on it under the guidance of Dennis Lillee and former Kent coach Daryl Foster at the University of Western Australia (UWA).

Bowling and biomechanics experts at the UWA in Perth last month declared that his action was legal, even though he had "abnormal" arm movement.

They suggested he modify his action to help reduce the risk of injury.

Shoaib, dubbed the "Rawalpindi Express", is part of a 17-man squad in England for two Tests and a triangular one-day series that also includes Australia. The first Test starts at Lord's on May 17.

Pakistan's greater concern at present, though, is whether to risk putting their quickest bowler into next week's opening Test after a disappointing display at Derby as he is trying to regain his pace he attained in the past.

"He's not bowled for a long time and it's hard for a guy to fly straight in and run in and bowl in this cold weather," stressed captain Waqar Younis. "He needs more time to get back into his rhythm."

"It's very hard to say if he has enough time to do that before the Test and at the moment we are not really sure about him."

Cannabis could ban Gibbs

Cricket

AFP, Johannesburg

Herschelle Gibbs, the star South African batsman of the tour to the West Indies and five of his teammates have been caught smoking cannabis in a hotel room, the country's cricket governing body said Friday.

Gibbs — who scored a match-winning century at the Kensington Oval in Barbados on Wednesday — and five other members of the tour party were fined 10,000 rand (1250 dollars) each and severely reprimanded, the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA) said in a statement.

Opener Gibbs also faces a three-match ban over the affair.

In the statement Friday, UCBSA said that it viewed the offence "in a most serious light".

But it accepted that the incident, which occurred in a hotel room when the players were celebrating the Test series victory over West Indies last month in Antigua on April 10, had been a "one-off".

Paul Adams, Roger Telemachus, Andre Nel, Justin Kemp and physiotherapist Craig Smith are the other five named in the affair and they admitted to smoking daga (cannabis) in a hotel room, the statement said. All were fined 10,000 rand (1,250 dollars).

The statement added: "The accused all admitted their guilt and expressed remorse, apologised and gave an assurance that this would not happen again."

Gibbs could be barred from selection for three internationals and fined a further 10,000 rand after being given a suspended ban and a fine following a reprimand for "unbecoming conduct" during a one-day series against Australia last year. This punishment however would have fallen by the wayside had he waited another five days.

The 29-year-old Gibbs has been in top form in the West Indies, making 456 runs in the five-Test series at an average of 51.55 as well as two one-day centuries, his 107 on Wednesday clinching the series.

But he has been dogged by disciplinary problems.

On April 11 last year, he was disciplined for partying until the early hours of the morning of a day-night match against Australia in Cape Town.

For that infringement, Gibbs was fined 10,000 rand (1,880 dollars) and banned for three matches, but 10,000 rand of the fine and the ban were suspended for one year.

"This (cannabis-smoking) amounts to a similar offence of which Gibbs has been found guilty within that period," UCBSA di-



HERSCHELLE GIBBS

rector of cricket operations Brian Basson was quoted as saying by South Africa's SAPA news agency.

"The suspended part of that sentence must now come into effect and he will be fined the additional 10,000 rand and face the three-match ban."

"I have referred the matter to the UCBSA chief executive officer Gerald Majola, who is in the West Indies and who has called for an urgent meeting with the team," Basson added.

The fine and ban, however, cannot be invoked by the team's on-tour misconduct committee, which means the opener will at least be able to play in Saturday's sixth one-day against the West Indies the UCBSA said.

"It (the suspension) was handed down by a Disciplinary Committee convened by the General Council of the UCBSA and thus the tour Misconduct Committee does not have the authority to invoke it," UCBSA spokeswoman Bronwyn Wilkinson said.

"The United Cricket Board will review the situation as soon it has had the opportunity to do so," UCBSA spokeswoman Bronwyn Wilkinson said.

South Africa on Wednesday clinched the series, taking a winning 4-1 lead with two matches still to be played, and became the first touring team to the West Indies to win both a Test and one-day series in the Caribbean.

Gibbs returned to international cricket on January 1 this year after a six-month ban and a 60,000 rand (7,932 dollars) fine for agreeing to an offer from sacked former captain Hansie Cronje to underperform in a one-day international against India last year.

Earlier on the tour of the West Indies he was reprimanded by match referee Mike Denness after showing dissent over his dismissal in the fourth Test.

South Africa won the Test series 2-1.

The UCBSA also revealed Friday that after a separate inquiry, Telemachus and Daryll Cullinan were each fined 2,000 rand following an altercation on the field during a warm-up match in Montego Bay.

"The Misconduct Committee recommended that Telemachus be fined 1,000 rand for verbally abusing another player and another 1,000 rand because it was his second offence on the tour."

"He also apologised to Cullinan."

"Daryll Cullinan was fined 2,000 rand for leaving the field of play during a match without the consent of the captain," the UCBSA said.

Ted Isaac, manager of the hotel involved, said on Friday: "They were the best behaved and most popular sports team we have ever had staying here."

"This is the first I have heard about the incident, if it was an 'incident', I can absolutely confirm that we never experienced a single problem with any of the South Africans and there were definitely no complaints from any other guests. I can confirm that."

"My staff were enchanted by their friendliness and generosity and the manner in which they conducted themselves. They are still talking about them a month after they left."

Marsh enough for Leics

Cricket

AFP, London

Australian all-rounder Daniel Marsh inspired Leicestershire to a six-run victory over County Championship Division One title contenders Lancashire at Grace Road on Friday.

Marsh snapped up two wickets and took two spectacular catches to stun John Crawley's side and that was after he top-scored in Leicestershire's second innings with an unbeaten 50.

Having bowled the hosts out for 169 in their second innings, Lancashire required 211 for victory and looked to be well on target when John Crawley (53) and Ryan Driver (35) steered their side to 113 for two.

But Lancashire then lost their next five wickets for 34 runs and with only Glen Chapple (44) offering any further resistance Leicestershire rattled through the visitors' card and had them all out for 204 in a dramatic turnaround.

Jon Dakin was the pick of the Leicestershire bowlers, taking three for 41 off 10.5 overs, while former England paceman Devon Malcolm, Darren Maddy and Marsh all took two wickets each.

Earlier Leicestershire had resumed on 72 for four only to find the going tough with Peter Martin (five for 52) and Sri Lankan spin wizard Muttiah Muralitharan (four for 56) ensuring Lancashire went into their second innings with victory in sight.

The outcome of Yorkshire's clash with Somerset at Headingley rests on an ongoing duel between Darren Lehmann and Andrew Caddick.

Yorkshire found themselves in need and in receipt of some Lehmann brilliance when they hit early trouble in pursuit of 354 to win after Somerset had turned 101 for one into 327 for eight declared.

David Byas' team suffered an unwelcome repeat of their first innings in descending to nine for

Secret behind

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are still playing at the highest level, they are obviously legends in the game and any knowledge that they can give us, you can't really put a price on that."

Gibbs said Haynes' advice was vital to his development when they played together for Western Province.

"I think Dessie can really be proud of all that knowledge and time that he gave to the Western Province youngsters when he was there," he said.

South Africa won the Test series 2-1 and lead the one-day series 4-1 with two to play. The sixth match takes place on Saturday in Trinidad.

two by the third over before a Lehmann-inspired recovery took them to 96 for three by stumps. Australian Lehmann remained on 53 not out — passing his 50 from only 38 balls — with skipper Byas undefeated on 26.

Somerset's second innings owed much to a century stand in the middle order with Piran Holloway (85) and Jamie Cox (80) keeping Yorkshire toiling, with Michael Burns (50) and Rob Turner (33) both making their second useful batting contributions of the match.

At Northampton Surrey and their hosts were involved in a real run feast with Adam Hoolioake's side closing on 547 for eight just 24 hours after Northants had been bowled out for 476.

COUNTY SCORES

English cricket scores on Friday (3rd day of 4):

Division One

At Grace Road: Leicestershire 240 (D Marsh 71; G Chapple 5-40) and 169 (D Marsh 50 not out; P Martin 5-52; M Muralitharan 4-56) vs Lancashire 199 (D Malcolm 5-78) and 204 (J Crawley 53)

Result: Leicestershire (16pts) beat Lancashire (3pts) by 6 runs

At Northampton: Northamptonshire 476 (A Swann 96; J Cook 80; A Penberthy 75; M Hussey 75; I

Salisbury 4-130) vs Surrey 547-8 (G Thorpe 148; A Brown 122; I Ward 79; A Hoolioake 50)

At Headingley: Somerset 257 (M Lathwell 65) and 327-8 declared (P Holloway 85; J Cox 80; M Burns 50; M Vaughan 4-47) vs Yorkshire 231 (M Vaughan 79; G Fellows 63; A Caddick 5-81) and 96-3 (D Lehmann 53 not out)

Division Two

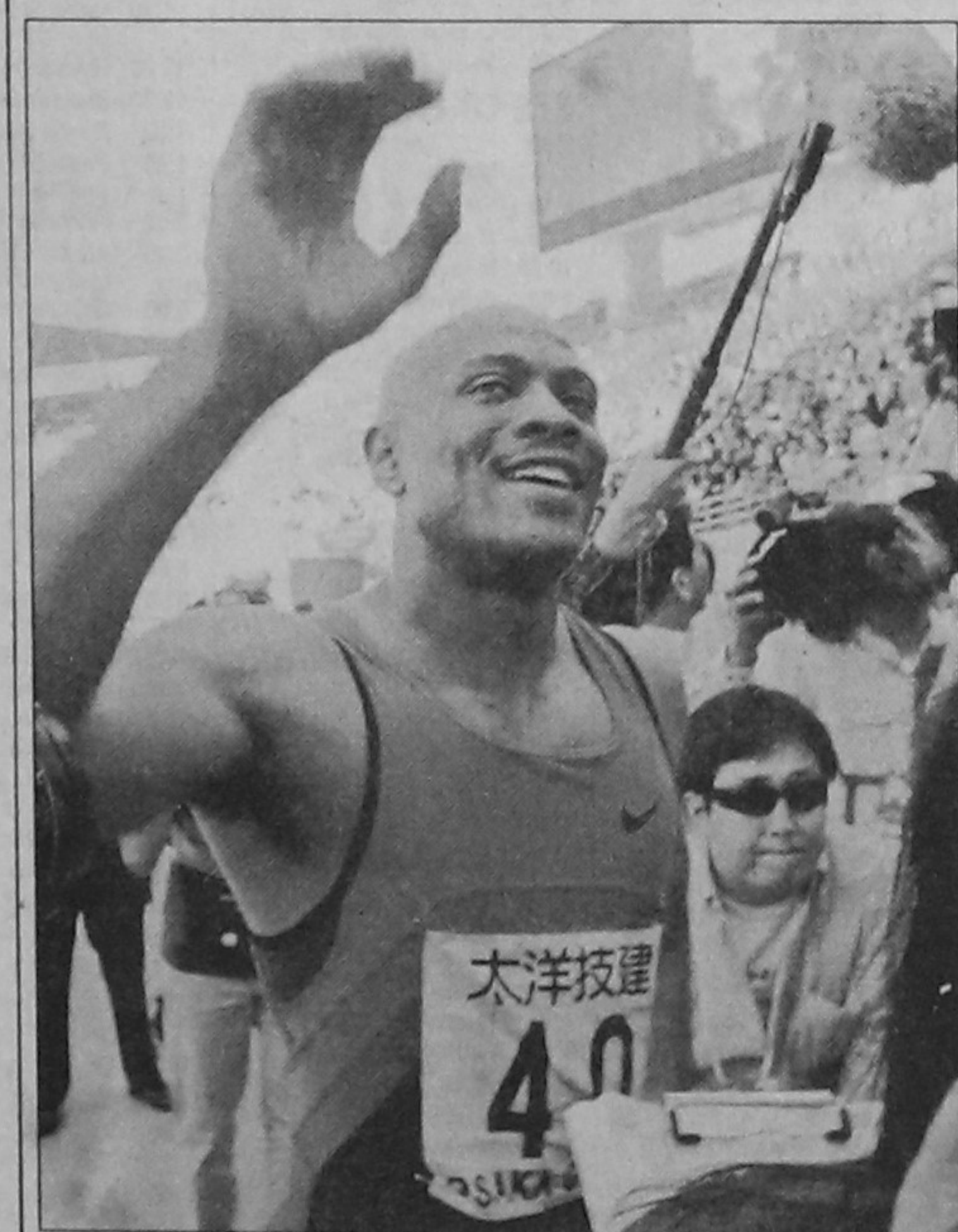
At Bristol: Gloucestershire 272 (K Barnett 99) and 208-4 (M Windows 88 not out) vs Middlesex 245 (S Fleming 52; D Nash 50 not out; I J Harvey 4-96)

At West End: Hampshire 309 (A Mascarenhas 104; J Stephenson 51; A Sheriary 4-85) and 159 (A Sheriary 4-30) vs Worcestershire 236 (G Hick 120; A Morris 4-39) and 108 (S Udal 4-32; A Morris 4-27)

Result: Hampshire (18pts) beat Worcestershire (4pts) by 124 runs

At Hove: Sussex 404 (B Zuiden 122; R Martin-Jenkins 55; G Smith 5-64) and 237-5 (M Yardy 68; R Montgomerie 66) vs Nottinghamshire 332 (K Pietersen 51; C Read 50; J Lewry 5-95)

At Edgbaston: Durham 329 (P Collingwood 153; A Pratt 52; A Richardson 4-61; V Drakes 4-83) and 102 (M Betts 5-22) vs Warwickshire 205 (I Hunter 4-55) and 176-2 (M Wagh 76 not out)



American sprinting star Maurice Greene waves to the crowd after he won the 100-metre at the IAAF Grand Prix in Osaka yesterday.

Gooch for WI treatment

INTERNET, London

Graham Gooch has urged England to adopt the tactics which proved so successful against West Indies last summer if they are to continue their winning run and overcome Pakistan in the forthcoming Test series.

England's selectors prepare to announce their first squad of the summer on Sunday for next week's opening Test at Lord's, knowing any errors of judgement could prove costly with little room for recovery in a two-Test series.

Although their main area of concern is the identity of a seventh batsman to shore up their line-up against Pakistan's multi-talented seam attack, former England captain and selector Gooch believes their best chance of success lies in the inexperience of the tourists' batting line-up in English conditions.

"If our bowlers bowl well in English conditions we could cause some of the Pakistan batsmen problems because the ball is likely to swing and seam around," said Gooch.

"Not many of their batsmen, if any, have played here regularly and that should be an advantage to us, just as it was last year against the West Indies."

"Unlike previous years with the West Indies, only a couple had any real experience of playing in English conditions and that showed during the series."

For everything that Pakistan's batsman lack in experience of England, though, their attack more than makes up for it with Wasim Akram having played for a decade with Lancashire while captain Waqar Younis has toured here twice and had a successful spell with Glamorgan.

"There is quite a contrast in Pakistan's line-up with a superbly experienced bowling attack in this country, but their batsmen are quite the opposite," said Gooch.

"If their bowlers click and are talking to each other, they could do a lot of damage and they also have two superb all-rounders in Abdul Razzaq and Azhar Mahmood."

"Pakistan have some extremely talented cricketers - they've not always played as a unit but when they do, they are more than capable of going out and beating any side in the world."

Gooch is also highly sceptical about reports of strife inside the Pakistan dressing room, with rumours that Waqar and Wasim's long-standing feud is already disrupting their preparations.

"They are noted for being unpredictable and they could still easily upset things," he added. "There are rumours of their demise but they are usually at their most dangerous when they are fighting among themselves."

England are expected to make a straight choice between Mark Ramprakash, discarded since an ill-fated attempt to transform him into an opener last summer, and newcomer Usman Afzaal for the extra batting place.

Robert Croft will replace Ashley Giles, who is resting in an attempt to cure his troublesome Achilles tendon, as the spin alternative and England are also seeking to find an extra seamer to provide back-up for Darren Gough, Andrew Caddick, Craig White and Dominic Cork.

Greene's second in a row

AFP, Osaka

American sprint star Maurice Greene proved his pedigree yet again Saturday, albeit against a relatively weak field, to take the 100 metres title at the Japan Grand Prix for the second year in a row.

The flamboyant speed king eased across the line at Nagai Stadium on the 9.96 second mark, comfortably ahead of fellow compatriot Bernard Williams who clocked 10.17 secs. Aziz Zakari-Abdul of Ghana came third, 0.02 secs further back.

While Greene lapped up the crowd's adoration, Sydney Olympic bronze medalist, Susanthika Jayasinghe of Sri Lanka went about her business in a more subdued fashion, making it an Osaka double with victory in the women's 100 and 200m.

However, Sydney gold medalist Stacy Dragila failed to continue her golden streak after setting a world record of 4.7m in the women's pole vault two weeks ago.

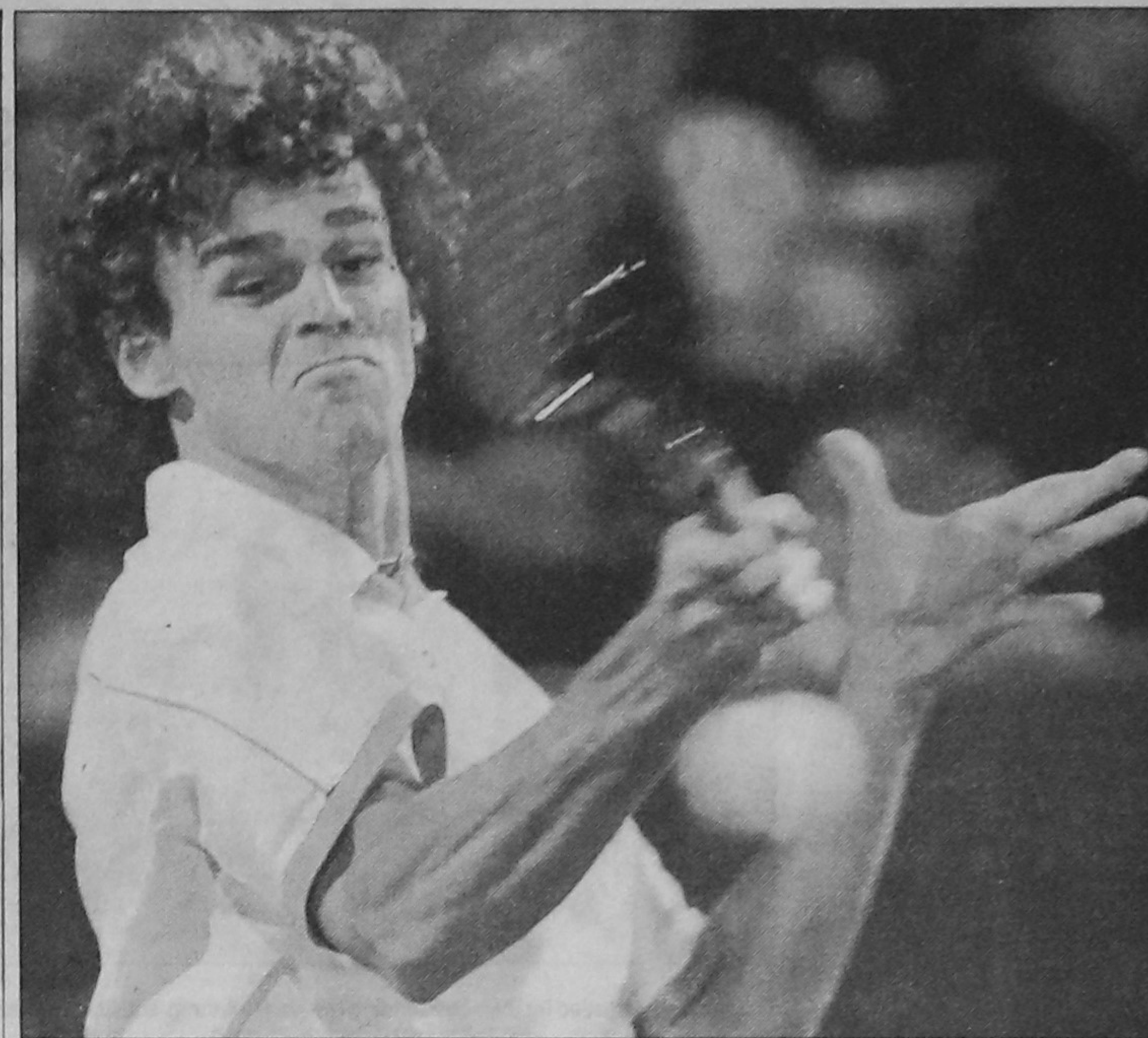
Despite some pre-race tough talking, Greene failed to make a dent on his world record time of 9.79 seconds.

Sami draws

FROM PAGE 13

Khan, B Trotter, Bowler O M R W W Akram 11 5 17 0 Sami 9 0 54 2 Razzaq 9 1 39 0 Mushtaq 2 0 2 0 Saqlain 1 0 2 0

PAKISTAN: Saeed Anwar, Saleem Elahi, Abdul Razzaq, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Younis Youhana, Faisal Iqbal, Wasim Akram, Rashid Latif, Saqlain Mushtaq, Mushtaq Ahmed, Mohammad Sami.



Brazilian star Gustavo Kuerten makes a forehand return against Alex Corretja of Spain during their Rome Masters Series quarterfinal encounter on Friday.

Kuerten, Ferrero fly into semis

Tennis

AFP, Rome

Brazil's top seed Gustavo Kuerten produced his second stunning performance in a day here Friday to book a place in the semifinals of the 2.45-million-dollar ATP Tennis Masters Series tournament at the Foro Italico.

Kuerten, always a tough opponent on clay, blasted out 10th-seeded Spaniard Alex Corretja 6-2, 6-3 in his quarterfinal Friday evening, having beaten 15th-seed Franco Squillari of Argentina 6-1, 6-2 earlier in the day in a third round match that had to be rescheduled after rain on Thursday.

"I think I played great all the match," said 'Guga' (Kuerten's nickname). "In fact both matches today."

Corretja, also a former champion in Rome, had also booked his spot in the next round earlier Friday by beating seventh-seeded Australian Lleyton Hewitt 7-6 (7/2), 6-4 but unlike Kuerten who began his third-round match from

scratch Friday the Spaniard had done the bulk of his work Thursday.

In the semifinals on Saturday Kuerten will meet unseeded Swede Andreas Vinciguerra who earlier claimed an unexpected spot in the last four by beating another surprise package Harel Levy of Israel 7-6 (9/7), 6-2 in his last eight match.

The other semi pits in-form eighth-seeded Spaniard Juan Carlos Ferrero against the unranked Nicolas Lapentti of Ecuador.

Ferrero was just as ruthless as Kuerten, dispatching unseeded South African Wayne Ferreira 6-0, 6-2 in the quarterfinals. Like Kuerten he had had an early start having to complete a 6-3, 6-2 win over France's Julien Boutter in another match interfered with by the rain on Thursday.

Ferrero continued in the same vein when he destroyed Johan-nesburg-born Ferreira in the opening set and although the second was less one-sided there was no stopping the eighth seed who was the second man to reach the

last four. Lapentti had a poor start against Spanish qualifier Jacobo Diaz in his last eight match but got his game together in the second set, eventually prevailing 3-6, 6-1, 6-2 in front of his large female following.

Earlier Vinciguerra became the first man to book a spot in the semifinals.

Vinciguerra, backed by the Italian crowd because his father Giuseppe is a pizza maker from Sicily, had to battle in the opening set, saving two set points against the unranked Israeli who conquered American legend Pete Sampras in round one.

But the second set was a much easier assignment for the man for Malmö although he can expect a sterner examination when he faces Kuerten at the penultimate hurdle.

Asked if he fancied a crack at year 2000 ATP Champions Race winner and French open champion Kuerten, Vinciguerra said he had played the Brazilian once before but added with a smile: "But I don't want to talk about that match."

Hingis, Capriati reach last four

Tennis

AFP, Berlin

Spanish eyes weren't smiling at the German Open here Friday as world number one Martina Hingis knocked out former champion Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario to reach the semifinals while US third seed Jennifer Capriati dumped out reigning champion Conchita Martinez.

Next up for Hingis is French fourth seed Amelie Mauresmo, who bounced out South African fifth seed Amanda Coetzer, last year's runner-up, 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 6-3.

Capriati, meanwhile, will take on Belgian teen Justine Henin, who having conquered US second seed Venus Williams in the previous round was this time a 6-4, 6-2 winner over German wildcard Miriam Schnitzer.

Hingis was palpably relieved that she had seen off rival Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario in straight sets, 6-3, 7-6 (7/4) after the Spaniard had

gone for broke, missing two set points and then forcing the tie-break after the Swiss had been 4-2 up in the second set.

"She had nothing to lose any more and I'm happy to have that one behind me. She never gives up," Hingis said of her battling opponent, who is her worst chased after every loss came.

Hingis had lost the pair's previous meeting in the quarters at Amelia Island but this time had resolved to turn the tables and duly took their career series to 16-2 in her favour.

"Last time she got ahead three or four love. That wasn't the case today," said Hingis, who immediately steadied the ship after losing her opening service game.

Capriati earlier won a fascinating two-hour battle with Martinez, champion in two of the past three years, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Martinez mixed up the pace to confuse Capriati in the opening set but the sixth seed gradually lost the initiative after letting slip a 2-0 lead in the decider, missing

out on a 3-0 advantage thanks to an untimely double fault.

"It was a very difficult match - I'm happy I got through it," said Capriati, the Australian Open champion.

"You've got to mix it up, rally and be patient," added the American, semifinalist here in 1991 and 1992.

Henin admitted after seeing off Schnitzer that she had felt under pressure to produce the sort of form which had sent Williams packing on Thursday.

"We were both nervous - but she had nothing to lose. I managed to relax once I got a set clear. I was under pressure and it was a tough match - but I'm a step further on," said Henin, who allowed her opponent to come back to 4-4 from 0-4 down before stepping through the gears to sweep the second set.

Mauresmo, a finalist here on her 1998 debut, was too strong for the diminutive Coetzer once she had shrugged off the loss of the opening set tiebreak.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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