

Jones unhappy with time

REUTERS, Princeton

Five-times Olympic medalist Marion Jones ran a disappointing time of 11.12 seconds on Saturday in her first 100-metre race of the season, notably slower than her marks during the last few years.

"Sure I'm disappointed with the time," she said in an interview after the race at the Golden Spike Tour Open. "I would have liked to run faster than that."

Jones holds a personal best time of 10.65, which she ran in 1998 - still the fastest in nearly 13 years. The last time someone ran faster was in 1988 when Florence Griffith-Joyner set the world record at 10.49.

Despite the slow time, Jones won the race over a strong field and said she was happy overall. "I wanted to get the first 100 out of the way," she said. "I'm excited that the race went well, and now I can go home and iron out some of the kinks."

LaTasha Jenkins, who opened her season with an 11.02 last weekend, was second in a time of 11.36. Sevetheda Fynes of the Bahamas was third in 11.37.

Jones said her goal for the season was to run consistently at 10.6 and 10.7, adding that she was looking forward to competing at this year's world championships in Edmonton from August 3-12. She said she and her coach had not yet decided which events she would run at the championships.

Also at the meeting, Leonard Mchuru of Kenya set a season best in the mile with a time of three minutes, 53.64 seconds.

Pole vaulter Lawrence Jonson, who bruised his hip during a warm-up earlier in the day, took his event in 5.85 metres and narrowly missed an American record attempt at 6.04 metres, knocking down the bar with his forearms on his final leap.

Olympic gold medallist hurdler Angelo Taylor won the men's 100 metres in 11.68 while Cheri Kenah won the women's mile in 4:31.10. Olympic bronze medallist Melissa Morrison, who was heavily favoured to win the women's 100-metre hurdles, false-started twice and was disqualified.

Rios arrested

AFP, Rome

Chilean tennis star Marcelo Rios, arrested by Roman police in the early hours of Thursday morning after an alleged fracas with a taxi driver and police officers, has always enjoyed a somewhat maverick reputation on the men's ATP tour.

The 25-year-old from Santiago, dubbed 'El Chino', is a regular winner of the lemon award offered by tennis journalists to the least co-operative interviewee and has been known to refuse handshakes from opponents after the match.

"Tennis bores me enormously," he once said. "Even my own."

He is also reluctant to sign autographs and one occasion reportedly snatched the pen from a boy's hand and broke it when asked to sign on.

In the Sydney Olympics he angered many in his homeland when at the last minute he refused to carry his country's flag at the Opening Ceremony when the Chilean Olympic Committee could not find extra tickets for his family.

His Davis Cup teammate Nicolas Massu stood in at the last minute.

But even his detractors would not dispute that Rios has a huge talent. In 1998 he made history when he became the first Latin American to top the world rankings when he beat Andre Agassi at Key Biscayne although he only stayed at the summit for six weeks.

Key hundred

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but clearly needs to work on his run-up.

Though engineering the tourists' two early breakthroughs, he sent down no less than 14 no balls in his 14 overs, two thirds of the bonus runs and deliveries handed to Kent.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close on the first day of a three-day tour match between Kent and Pakistan on Saturday:

KENT: First innings
Fulton c Elahi b Sami 3
Key c Inzamam b Wasim 119
Smith b Sami 0
Walker b Saqlain 98
Hockley c Latif b Saqlain 0
Nixon not out 42
Golding not out 21
Extras: (lb-4, w-4, nb-22) 30
Total: (5 wickets declared, 85 overs) 313
Did not bat: MJ McCague, MM Patel, A Khan, BJ Trott.
Fall of wickets: 1-9; 2-9; 3-216; 4-217; 5-250

Bowling: O M R W
Wasim 18 5 34 1
Sami 14 0 74 2
Razzaq 14 2 59 0
Mshraq 18 1 74 0
Saqlain 21 2 68 2
Pakistan: First innings 41/0
To bat: Abdur Razzaq, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Youssif Youhana, Faisal Iqbal, Wasim Akram, Rashid Latif, Saqlain Mushtaq, Mushtaq Ahmed, Mohammed Sami.

Caddick fired up

REUTERS, Cricket

AFP, London

England paceman Andrew Caddick warmed up for the first Test with Pakistan next week taking 10 wickets in Somerset's convincing 161-run win over Yorkshire in their County Championship clash at Headingly on Saturday.

The New Zealand-born speedster got the all-important wicket of Australian Darren Lehmann (77) to dash Yorkshire hopes as he took five wickets to add to his five in the first.

While the hugely-talented Aussie left-hander remained at the crease, the home side could not be entirely discounted.

Caddick's pace partner Steffan Jones also shone with four for 91 on the final day of this Division One match helped bowl the Yorkshiremen out for 192 shortly before lunch despite some late resistance from Gary Fellows in a vain pursuit of 354 to win.

On a good day for Kiwi past and present New Zealand skipper Stephen Fleming inspired Middlesex to a five-wicket victory against Division Two rivals Gloucestershire at Bristol.

Fleming remained undefeated on 121 as Middlesex reached their second-innings target aided by both Owais Shah (57) and South African Ben Hutton (59).

Openers Andrew Strauss (seven) and Mike Roseberry (10) both went with the score on 22, but when Kiwi Fleming teamed up first with Shah and then Hutton, Middlesex were well on their way, finally reaching 293 for five to take 16 points.

Gloucestershire's Australian all-rounder Ian Harvey did all he could to prevent the inevitable once Fleming and Hutton - who put on 129 for the fourth wicket - put Middlesex in the driving seat, but his haul of four for 83 came to nothing.

Irishman Mal Lioy hit his first County Championship century for two years as Northamptonshire comfortably saved their high-scoring Division One contest with champions Surrey at Wantage Road.

The 28-year-old, who has struggled for consistency since enjoying a prolific season in 1998, stilled the visitors' faint hopes of forcing a victory with an unbeaten 167 which steered Northants to 304 for one at the close.

James Kirtley and Jason Lewry both claimed four wickets to send Sussex to their first victory of the season in Division Two.

Nottinghamshire, set a target of 371 in 80 overs on an excellent batting wicket, were dismissed for a disappointing 208 shortly after a go down by 163 runs.

The experienced Paul Johnson, with a defiant unbeaten 88, was

the only Notts batsman to sparkle, although he was let off the hook when dropped on 26.

Notts fought a desperate rear-guard action after losing their first six wickets for only 67, Johnson later put on 52 for the last wicket with Greg Smith (20) before Sussex's inevitable win.

SCORES IN BRIEFS

English cricket scores on Saturday:

Somerset (17pts) bt Yorkshire (4pts) by 161 runs

Division Two

Gloucestershire 272 (K Barnett 99) and 265-4 dec (M Windows 106 no) v Middlesex 245 (S Fleming 52, D Nash 50 no, I Harvey 4-96) and 293-5 (S Fleming 121 no, B Hutton 59, O Shah 57, I Harvey 4-83)

Middlesex (16pts) bt Gloucester

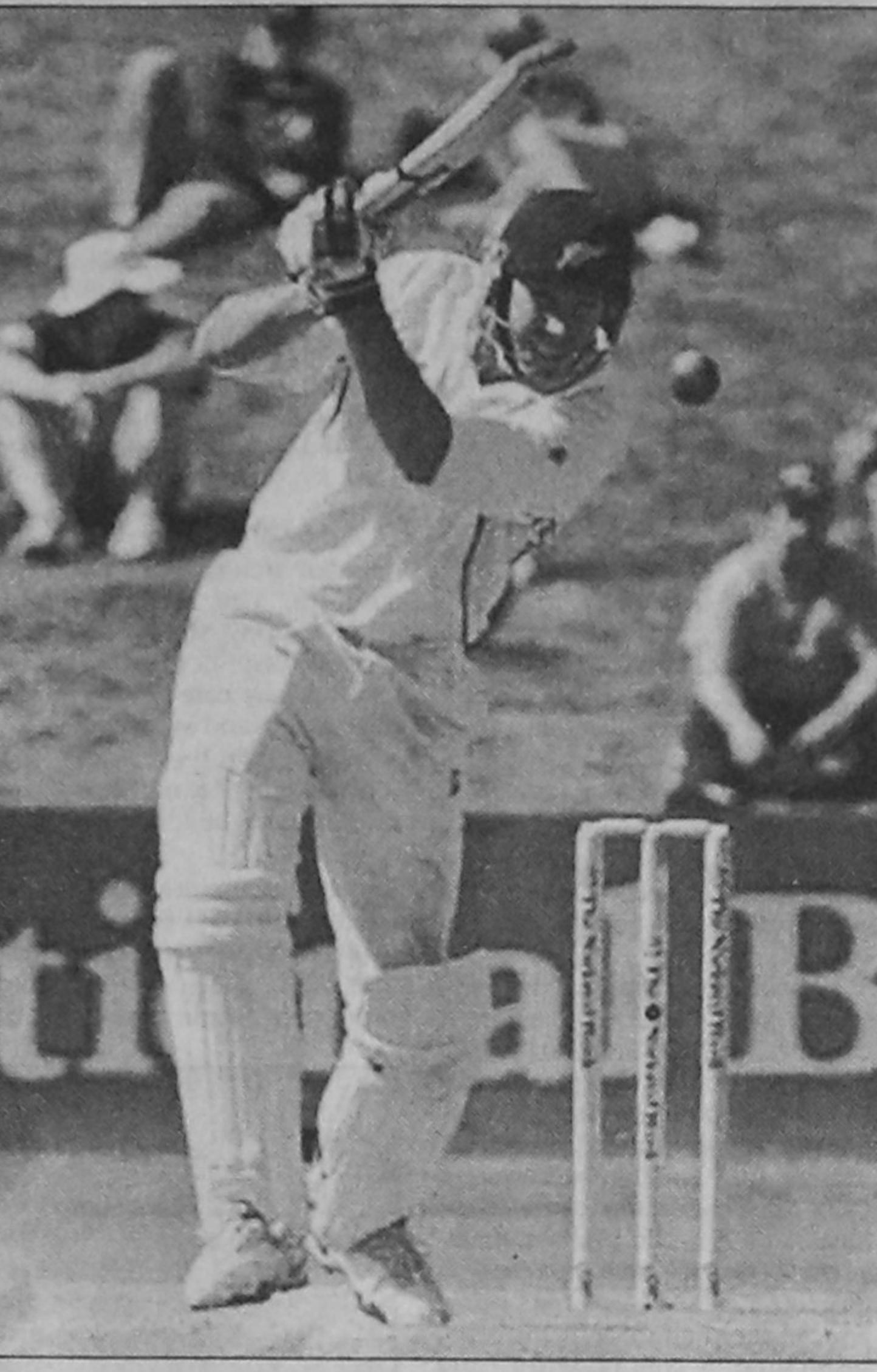


PHOTO: INTERNET

Middlesex's New Zealand star batsman Stephen Fleming executes a flowing drive during hundred against Gloucestershire on Saturday.

Division One

At Northampton

* Northamptonshire 476 (A Swann 96, J Cook 80, A Penberthy 75, M Hussey 75, I Salisbury 4-130) and 304-1 (M Lioy 167 no, M Hussey 67, J Cook 52 no) v Surrey 607 (G Thorpe 148, A Brown 122, I Ward 79, M Bicknell 56, A Hoyle 50, A Penberthy 4-66)

Northamptonshire (11pts) drew with Surrey (11pts)

At Headingly

Somerset 257 (M Lathwell 65) and 327-8 dec (P Holloway 85, J Cox 80, M Burns 50, M Vaughan 4-47) v Yorkshire 231 (M Vaughan 79, G Fellows 63, A Caddick 5-81) and 192 (D Lehmann 77, A Caddick 5-92, P Jones 4-91)

Northamptonshire (11pts) drew with Surrey (11pts)

At Edgbaston

Durham 329 (P Collingwood 153, A Pratt 52, A Richardson 4-61, V Drakes 4-83) and 102 (M Betts 5-22) v Warwickshire 205 (I Hunter 4-55) and 227-3 (M Wagh 104)

Warwickshire (16pts) bt Durham (6pts) by 7 wkt

tershire (5pts) by 5 wkt

At Hove

Sussex 404 (B Zuiderent 122, R Martin-Jenkins 55, G Smith 5-64) and 298-8 dec (M Yardy 68, R Montgomerie 66, G Smith 5-37) v Nottinghamshire 332 (K Pietersen 51, C Read 50, J Lewry 5-95) and 208 (G Thorpe 88 no, R Kirtley 50, J Lewry 4-65)

Sussex (19pts) bt Nottinghamshire (5pts) by 162 runs

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