

## Rain hampers Kenway progress

AFP, London

Hampshire's Derek Kenway was left marooned on an unbeaten century when heavy rain washed out the second day of his side's second division county championship clash with Gloucestershire on Thursday.

The 22-year-old local boy stood on 124 not out in a Hampshire total of 244 for two when the storm broke at Southampton.

It was an impressive display by a young man with a point to prove to his employers.

Kenway, hailed as one of Hampshire's brightest prospects in recent years, was disappointed to have been left off a pre-season training tour to South Africa.

He was deemed short of the necessary fitness to make the trip and was left to work with the club's second XI players in England.

But with skipper Robin Smith at the other end, Kenway was in sparkling form before the weather intervened.

He completed his hundred off 206 balls with 17 fours and he had added another three to be 13 runs short of a career best when the elements took over.

Smith was unbeaten with 55 at the premature close, with the pair's second-wicket partnership yielding 136 runs in 47 overs.

## Indians

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The left-hander, who only made 106 runs in six innings at an average of 17.66 during the series against Australia, said he was not too worried about his own batting form.

"That was the first time I had not scored runs for India in the last five years."

Ganguly said he had sought advice from India coach John Wright, the former New Zealand left-handed opener, but did not plan to change his basic style.

"I have asked John and a couple of guys but, at the end of the day, it's what I feel suits me is what I'll do on the cricket field because everybody has his own technique," he said.

## BCCI

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months ago, has received no payment from the board other than costs for his surgery in South Africa.

Smith suffered a similar fate when an overdose of international cricket saw him break down midway during a series in 1997.

Shetty said leg-spinner Kumble would represent the players in further discussions with the board and get feedback from his teammates during the Test tour of Zimbabwe, starting later this month.

The board will also study its legal aspects before finalising the contract system because some of the players also have separate jobs, he said.

"The players felt that, apart from India and Pakistan, all other teams were on contract."

## Pull yourself

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Comments from Gibbs' father, Herman, made the front page in the Johannesburg Sunday Times.

"Herschelle frowned on smoking and never even wanted me to smoke," Herman Gibbs was quoted as saying. "I am very disappointed. All I can think is that a few players celebrated by smoking dagga (cannabis) and he joined in the fun."

Few could find fault with Gibbs' performance on the field in the West Indies. He scored 464 runs at an average of 51.55 with four half-centuries in the Test series, and in the seven one-day internationals he scored two centuries on his way to an aggregate of 294 runs at 42.00.

However, the cannabis incident is Gibbs' third run-in with authority in less than a year.

He was fined 15,000 rand (1,885 dollars) and suspended for three matches after he was discovered in a night club in the early hours of April 14 last year, the day of a one-day international against Australia.

Of that sentence, 10,000 and the three-match ban were suspended, and the United Cricket Board (UCB) of South Africa will decide at the weekend whether the sentence will be enforced.

In June, came the shock revelation of Gibbs' planned collusion with Cronje, who was later banned from the game for life for his role in the match-fixing scandal.

Gibbs lied about his involvement several times before confessing to the King commission. He was banned from international cricket for six months and fined 60,000 rand.

The mood among some of Gibbs fans was summed up in an editorial in national daily the Citizen.

"... Gibbs ... must pull himself together," the paper said. "Even if he did perform heroically after the (cannabis) incident, he is a senior player with a suspension hanging over him for another late-night indiscretion."

"The UCB must act firmly."

## Hunger thy name is Steve

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Ten years ago Steve Waugh's Test cricket career appeared to be dying when he was replaced by his swashbuckling twin brother Mark. Waugh confronted his limitations and got down to work.

He is now the most respected player in the world. Tough, competitive and highly skilled - as well as ruthless out on the field - Waugh is the very essence of Australian cricket.

As a firm believer in uncompromising hard work to solve problems, it is unsurprising that current coach John Buchanan's swipe at leg-spinner Shane Warne would win him any brownie points.

Buchanan effectively said Warne was fat and out of condition on the recent tour of India.

Waugh probably agreed in private. In public it was a different matter.

"Warne is a bit down. There were probably some comments in the paper which we probably didn't want to see," he said then. "We can't learn by our mistakes. I am sure John will learn from the experience."

Buchanan's lesson was a painful one. Last week the selectors, who include Waugh, demoted him for the upcoming Ashes tour. Buchanan can coach, but he cannot pick the team.

In Steve Waugh's teams you get going when the going gets tough. And you keep your mouth shut.

An incident involving Warne two years ago confirms Waugh's way of doing things.

When he replaced Mark Taylor as captain in 1999, former captain Ian Chappell said he was too single-minded to make a great captain.

But when a tough decision was called for, he made it. That involved staring down Warne at a team meeting and dropping the world's best spinner for the decisive third Test in the West Indies to save the Frank Worrell Trophy.

Australia had won under Taylor in 1995.

A World Cup one-day title and an extraordinary streak of 16 consecutive Test wins stand as powerful testaments to his ability as a leader.

He has moulded his team in his own image - no regrets, never satisfied.

Waugh made his Test debut at a time when Australia were struggling. He was 20 and in only his second season of first-class cricket - and he failed in both innings at the Melbourne Cricket Ground against India in 1985, with scores of 13 and 5.

Two experiences helped forge his character.

The first was the way the senior players ignored him. The second was seeing captain Allan Border make 163 of Australia's 308 in an innings of enormous intensity.



STEVE WAUGH

Ten years later he matched Border's utter determination with an innings of 200 in Kingston when he resisted pacemen Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh in a 425-ball marathon that won Australia the deciding Test, ending the West Indies' 15-year reign of world cricket.

And he makes sure all newcomers are warmly welcomed into the fold.

Throughout the last decade,

Waugh has distinguished himself with his ability to produce telling innings when Australia has needed them most.

But while his twin Mark is a superb stroke-maker, Steve prefers to be safe rather than sorry.

Instead of looking for the boundary, he minimises risk and digs in for long stints.

So his five-hour slog in Calcutta in March when he scored his 25th Test century in the second Test confirmed his credentials as the most successful contemporary batsman.

But Waugh dismissed any personal satisfaction from that innings because India won the Test and went on to claim the series in the third Test in Madras, where Waugh notched up another milestone when he became only the sixth cricketer to be out for handling the ball.

When Waugh was first drafted into international cricket, he was chosen for his aggressive medium pace bowling and run scoring in the middle order. And it was in the role as an attacking all-rounder that he became a major force behind Australia's World Cup win of 1987.

But as back trouble limited his appearances at the bowling crease so his tenacious batting became the biggest factor behind his success.

His memorable performances with the bat include that 200 against West Indies at Sabina Park in 1995, his twin centuries against England at Old Trafford in 1997 and his daring 120 against South Africa in a must-win match at the 1999 World Cup.

Born on 2 June, 1965 in the Sydney suburb of Canterbury, he has played for New South Wales, Somerset, Ireland and Australia.

He was Wisden Cricketer of the Year 1989, played for Ireland in 1998 as a guest player and has been Australian captain since February, 1999.

His Test average is 50.93 from 215 innings and he has taken 89 wickets at 35.74 runs in 309 matches.

## What it is & how it works

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

After more than 120 years and 1,500 matches, Test cricket enters a new era this week with the official launch of the International Cricket Council Test Championship (ICCCTC).

England's opening Test against Pakistan at Lord's from Thursday will be the curtain raiser to the first Championship of Test cricket.

Australia top the provisional table drawn up by the ICC that will run on a rolling league basis.

The system used for calculating positions will be based on the results of the most recent series (a minimum of two Test series applies), home, and away, between each of the teams.

The outcome of the forthcoming England series against Pakistan and Australia cannot affect the leadership so Australia will be presented with the world championship trophy at the start of the Ashes series in June.

The ICC has modelled the Championship on the Wisden system, which has been running in the Almanac since 1996. The only significant difference between the two is that the ICC table is based on the results of previous series of two Test matches or more, while Wisden recognises one off Tests as a series.

At present, an average score

per series (number of points won divided by number of series played) has been allocated to determine the top side, because not all teams have played each other home and away.

This transitional arrangement will change to a straight points system when all teams have played each other home and away, in 2005.

"Test match cricket is the purest form of the game and com-

CHAMPIONSHIP TABLE									
	P	W	L	D	Pts	Avg			
Australia	13	10	2	1	21	1.62			
S Africa	15	9	4	2	20	1.33			
England	14	7	6	1	15	1.07			
S Lanka	13	5	5	3	13	1.00			
N Zealand	15	6	7	2	14	0.93			
W Indies	12	5	6	1	11	0.92			
India	12	4	5	3	11	0.92			
Pakistan	15	4	7	4	12	0.80			
Zimbabwe	12	2	9	1	5	0.42			
Bangladesh	1	0	1	0	0	—			

(Two points are allocated for winning a series and one for a drawn rubber.)

mands the following of millions of fans around the world," ICC president Malcolm Gray said in a statement.

"An ongoing Test Championship, that tracks the fortunes of each side and provides a talking point for enthusiasts is one way of rekindling interest and adding context to all future Test series."

Bangladesh, Test cricket's newest member, will be allocated

points but no average score until they have completed nine Test series (half of the full schedule of 18). This position is due to be reached in April 2003 when Bangladesh host South Africa.

If Pakistan win the England series they will stay 8th in the Championship, with an average of 0.80, as the win will directly replace the winning series in England in 1996.

If England win the series their average will climb from 1.07 to 1.21, confirming a clear third position in the Championship.

If the series is drawn, Pakistan's average will fall from 0.80 to 0.73 maintaining 8th position.

A draw will improve England's average to 1.14, maintaining third position.

If Australia win the Ashes series their first place and average (1.62) remain unchanged.

A drawn series would reduce Australia's average to 1.54, but maintain their first place.

A loss to England will not affect Australia's position but their average would fall to 1.46, narrowing the lead over South Africa (1.33).

If England win both the Pakistan and Australia series they would improve their average to 1.36 and leapfrog South Africa into second place.

If England lose both series they would stay third as these results would mirror those of 1996 and 1997.

## Lanka announce side for tri-series

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka Thursday named a 22-member squad led by skipper Sanath Jayasuriya for the home tri-nation tournament with India and New Zealand in July.

The Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL) said the selectors retained the former deputy skipper Aravinda de Silva in the national squad for the tri-nation as well as a Test series against India here.

### SQUAD

Sanath Jayasuriya (captain), Marvan Atapattu (vice-captain), Romesh Kaluwitharana, Mahela Jayawardene, Kumar Sangakkara, Russel Arnold, Muttiah Muralitharan, Kumar Dharmasena, Tilakaratne Dilshan, Chaminda Vaas, Indika de Saram, Thilan Samaraweera, Akalanka Gangana, Nuwan Zoysa, Dilhara Fernando, Aravinda de Silva, Hashan Tillakaratne, Dulip Liyanage, Suresh Perera, Dinuk Hettiarachi, Sanjeewa Weerakoon, Niroshan Bandaratilleke.

## BCCI

### retreats

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's cricket board has withdrawn its threat to boycott major events such as the World Cup and is ready to host next year's ICC Knockout tournament, the board's president said on Thursday.

"We are very keen to organise the ICC Knockout tournament in India," BCCI president AC Muthiah told by phone from the southern town of Ooty.

The ICC had offered the tournament to India in March, but doubts had risen after the BCCI last month threatened to boycott major tournaments until the government clarified playing guidelines on venues and opponents.

The threat came after the board received a letter from the government saying the team could not play in "non-regional" venues such as Sharjah and Singapore for the next three years.

The government had announced that the cricket team could not play bilateral matches with Pakistan until the political climate between the two neighbours improved.

The Indian government cancelled the team's proposed Test tour of Pakistan and denied them permission to play in a one-day series in Sharjah last month involving Pakistan.

Muthiah said differences had been resolved after the government clarified its position on playing Pakistan.

"The government has now clarified we can play multilateral tournaments against Pakistan, even in that country," he said.

He said the BCCI was now waiting for a tax exemption from the government before finalising its decision to host the ICC Knockout tournament scheduled for September next year.

"The only issue is tax exemption. The ICC is also helping us on this. We will also keep in touch with the sports ministry."

"We will finalise the details (of the tournament) with ICC in London at a meeting on June 15. There is no problem."

## Imran

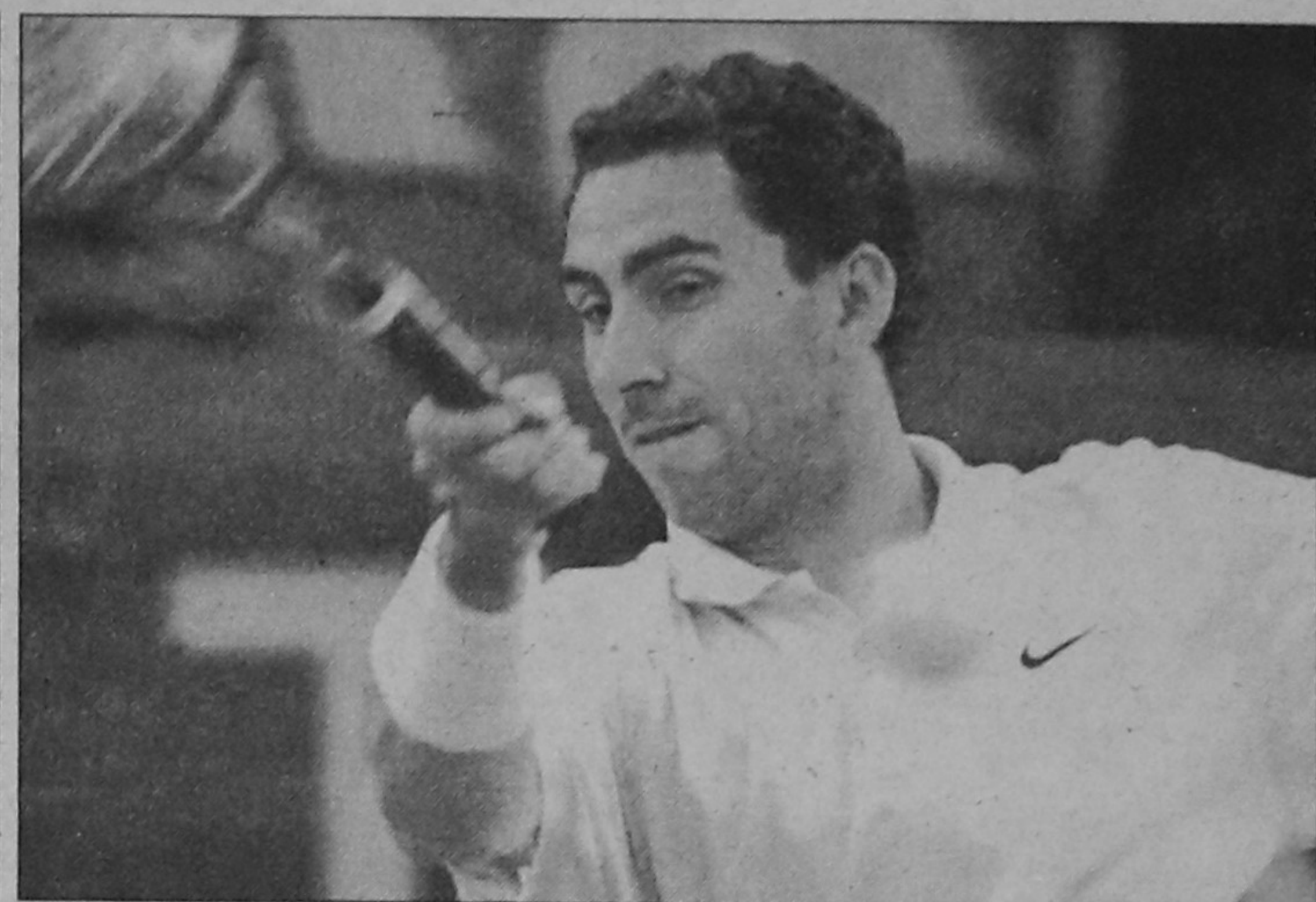
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said the Australians will run away with it are wrong."

England host Australia over five Ashes Tests at the end of the Pakistan series.

The first day of the first Test on Thursday was washed out by rain.

Imran, who started a political party in Pakistan at the end of his cricket career, is in England as a commentator for English television broadcaster Channel 4.



Spaniard Albert Costa plays a forehand return against Fabrice Santoro of France during their Masters Series tennis tournament quarterfinal encounter in Hamburg on May 18.

## Costa ends Santoro's run

Tennis

AFP, Hamburg

Albert Costa of Spain streaked into the semifinals of the Hamburg Masters Series on Friday, a brilliant performance producing a 6-1, 6-2 blitzing of Frenchman Fabrice Santoro.

Santoro had ousted Andre Agassi in the second round but here he was made to look almost amateurish as Costa hit reams of winners from all around the court.

Costa's wife has recently had twins - and the double dose of joy has clearly allowed his game to blossom quite spectacularly as he played an almost faultless match here.

By the midway point of the second set, Santoro, already in a hole, didn't help himself as he kept on digging, answering each textbook claycourt action by his

opponent with numerous simple errors.

Santoro bit his lip and looked heavenwards at 0-5 down in the second as he searched for inspiration which never came - save for one break which was only destined to prove the briefest of stays of execution as the Tahiti-born Frenchman saved two match points in the seventh game.

But Costa, who beat Santoro in the same round here on the way to the 1998 title, was unfazed at allowing his prey two straight games.

And the 25-year-old from Lerida allowed himself a broad smile as he immediately started finding the lines again and broke to love as Santoro netted at the last to bow out.

"If I can keep playing as well as today I can go a long way," said Costa, who said the twins had made him deliriously happy - if a

little short on sleep.

"I'm really happy. My wife has more to do than me of course - but I have more housework!"

Australian seventh seed Lleyton Hewitt and Spanish eighth seed Juan Carlos Ferrero helped patch up the form book on Thursday as they both reached the quarterfinals.

Hewitt overcame a mid-match lapse to see off compatriot Andrew Gledhill 6-2, 7-6 (7/2) having twice unsuccessfully served for the match and missed four match points prior to a tiebreak during which he regained his form.

The Australian will now play Argentina's Franco Squillari, a 6-4, 6-3 winner over fellow Argentinian Gaston Gaudio.

Ferrero, bidding for his fifth title of the year, cantered into the last eight after beating Nicolas Pietrangeli of Ecuador 6-4, 6-3 for his 14th straight victory.

## Mauresmo on course

Tennis

AFP, Rome

Amelie Mauresmo of France beat Argentina's Paola Suarez 6-4, 7-5 here Friday to reach the semifinals of the 1.2 million-dollar WTA Tennis Masters Series tournament.

Mauresmo, seeded four, got off to a dismal start losing the first four games against Suarez, who was given a 17th seed ranking by organisers after 11th-seeded Justine Henin of Belgium withdrew on the eve of the tournament.

But the 21-year-old Frenchwoman, who had looked jaded in earlier rounds after her exertions in winning last week's German Open, got her game together and took the next six games and the set.

The second set followed a similar pattern. Suarez, 24, stopped the rot by winning the first two games of the second set and she broke Mauresmo again in the seventh game to take a 5-2 lead.

The South American wilted again as she served for the set losing the game to love and she was also negligent when serving at 5-4, allowing Mauresmo to take that game to 15 and then Mauresmo broke her opponent again to seal victory, winning on the fifth match point.

Her victory lines up a semifinal meeting with the victor of the last-eight match between Switzerland's top seed Martina Hingis and seventh-ranked Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain.

Hingis beat Russian Elena Likhovtseva 6-4, 6-3 here Thursday to book a quarterfinal spot.

Apart from a lapse in concentration at the start of the second set when her service was broken and she trailed 3-0, Swiss star Hingis was a deserving winner, sealing victory on her second match point.

"I was happy to win the six straight games," said Hingis. "After all she was 3-0 in the second."

The world number one revealed that, inspired by Ridley Scott's Oscar-winning film 'Gladiator', she had visited Rome's Colosseum to prepare for the charged atmosphere at tournaments.

"After seeing the movie it was very impressive to go inside - I keep thinking of that line 'get the crowd on your side'," said Hingis in reference to the advice offered to the film's hero Maximus by a former gladiator played by the late Oliver Reed.

Regarding her next opponent she said: "She's a great claycourt player, very small and clever." But she added that she had once beaten the Spaniard 14 times in a row. Hingis was doing herself a disservice. In fact it was 15.

Seventh-ranked Sanchez-Vicario had recorded 6-1, 6-2 scoreline against Russian Lina Krasnoroutskaya, keeping her on course for a rare title to elude her on her preferred surface.

But the most impressive win-

ner of the day was Spain's former Wimbledon champion Conchita Martinez - another clay specialist - who won this tournament four times in a row between 1993 and 1996.

She was ruthless against Denisa Chladkova of the Czech Republic, winning 6-0, 6-1 and next meets Italy's Francesca Schiavone.

Schiavone delighted the home crowd and the organisers by beating Russia's Nadia Petrova 7-5, 6-4 during the night match to take her berth in the quarterfinals.

But Amelie Mauresmo of France earlier had to battle for her place in the last eight, eventually outshining Slovakian teenager Daniela Hantuchova 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 on the red clay at the Foro Italico.

Fourth seed Mauresmo looked jaded but struggled through.

"In the third set I put my game together to win it," she said.

Asked about the form that has made her one of the favourites for the French Open later this month she said: "It's just spirit, a way of thinking. Today I am really focused on my tennis and do my best in practice and this is why I am getting good results."

In the quarter-finals Mauresmo plays Argentina's Paola Suarez, given a 17th seed rating after 11th-ranked Belgian Justine Henin pulled out on the eve of the tournament with an ankle injury.

Suarez progressed by beating Switzerland's Emmanuelle Gagliardi 6-4, 6-2 in her third-round match.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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