

Injury again dashes Nash

REUTERS, Brisbane New Zealand all-rounder Dion Nash has been ruled out of the remainder of his team's tour of Australia with a recurring injury.

Nash, who played a leading role as New Zealand almost stole an unlikely win in Monday's drawn first Test, will return home on Tuesday after tearing an abdominal muscle that has troubled him in the past.

"It's disappointing to leave another tour, especially this one," said Nash, whose unbeaten 25 helped New Zealand avoid the follow-on and set up a thrilling finish.

"It's the one I really wanted to be on. I probably wanted it too much in the end."

Nash has been plagued by back injuries in recent seasons and said this was the fourth time he had been sent home from an overseas tour.

He tore the muscle playing in a lead-up game and aggravated it while fielding in the Test.

"It's a shame to go home, but the good thing to come from it is that my back's been great, it's giving me no trouble and I'm feeling stronger and stronger every time I bowl," he said.

Proteas call up

FROM PAGE 13 "He thoroughly deserves it," he said. "Even though he's so young he's had to wait because there was no place for him at the top of the order."

"But he can bat anywhere in the middle order as well. He has an incredibly strong mind."

South Africa won the first match of the three-Test series by nine wickets.

SQUAD Gary Kirsten, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Neil McKenzie, Boeta Dippenaar, Lance Klusener, Shaun Pollock (captain), Mark Boucher, Nicky Boje, Mornantau Hayward, Makhya Niini, Jacques Rudolph.

Indian bowls

FROM PAGE 13 Indian pacer Michael Holding to work on Akhtar's action.

The ICC Wednesday confirmed that umpires had reported Akhtar's action as "suspect" following the Champions' Trophy tournament in Sharjah which Pakistan won last week.

"Akhtar has an unusual bowling arm and it has been shown on television all over the world. The hyper-extension of his arm gives an illusion of chucking," Imran argued.

Akhtar, regarded as the fastest bowler in the world alongside Brett Lee of Australia, hit the limelight in the 1999 World Cup held in England.

His action was first reported in Australia in 1999 but Akhtar was cleared in March 2000 through a special ICC ruling. New Zealand's umpires reported his action again in March 2001.

But a high-tech study at the Western Australian University cleared him in April this year, concluding that his bowling arm was naturally kinked at birth and did not fully straighten during delivery.

Courageous

FROM PAGE 13 Brett Lee came on for the penultimate over and with his second ball dismissed Cairns, who skied to Ricky Ponting just a few metres inside the boundary rope to be out for 43 off 38 balls.

"They definitely had their chances and I guess if that ball went for six they probably would have won the game so it was a fine line," said Waugh.

The teams head for the second Test in Hobart on Thursday week, with New Zealand resigned to being without paceman Dion Nash.

He will return home Tuesday with an abdominal muscle injury, but he braved the pain Monday to guide New Zealand past the follow-on target with an invaluable 25 not out.

England arrive tomorrow

India plan maximum security

Cricket

REUTERS, Bombay

A tight security ring will be thrown around the England cricket squad when it arrives for a Test tour of India where its safety will be as much in focus as its performances.

The 16-member squad, due in Bombay early Wednesday for its first full tour of India in eight years, will be escorted from the airport to the team hotel, an Indian cricket official said.

The measures have been put in place after the tour was thrown into doubt after several players raised safety concerns because of the current situation in the subcontinent due to the US-led strikes in Afghanistan.

England are scheduled to play three Tests in December and a five-match one-day international series in the New Year after a Christmas break back home.

Nasser Hussain's side agreed to travel after being assured by government and cricket officials of both countries, though fast bowler Andrew Caddick and off-spinner Robert Croft chose to stay home.

Officials on Friday reviewed security in Bombay, where England will stay for the first six days and play their first warm-up

game, a two-day fixture against Bombay from November 18.

Officials from the British Deputy High Commission, Bombay police and the Bombay Cricket Association (MCA) held discussions and British officials visited the Wankhede Stadium, where the side will train and play the opener.

"Security will be tighter than usual for the England team because of the scenario the world over," Mayank Khandwala, joint secretary of the MCA, who attended the meeting, told Reuters.

Visiting teams always receive elaborate security in India, mainly to stop overzealous cricket fans from mobbing them.

"We are very happy with the arrangements and the co-operation we have been getting from Indian officials at every level," a British Deputy High Commission spokesman said.

That will include guards outside hotel rooms and players will be required to inform security officers before going out of the hotel, to get a security escort if they want, Khandwala said.

At the Wankhede Stadium, mobile phones, bottles, handbags, transistors, cigarettes and lighters will not be permitted and fans can carry food inside only in transparent packets, he said.

The ECB has said it is happy with the security planning and has also arranged for a security officer to travel with the players throughout the tour.

England's will play two more warm-up games in the southern Hyderabad city and in Jaipur in northern India before arriving in Mohali, in the northern Punjab state bordering Pakistan, for the first Test starting on December 3.

A Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) official said security would be tight at Mohali, where a dry moat runs around the ground as an additional barrier besides fencing.

"The first secretary from the consulate in New Delhi, (Peter) Holland, came and saw everything last week and he was fully satisfied. The police have made elaborate arrangements," PCA secretary MP Pandove told Reuters by phone from Chandigarh.

A similar drill has been put in place for the second Test starting on December 11 in the western city of Ahmedabad.

The city has in the past witnessed communal trouble involving Muslims and Hindus. There have been no major problems of late, but Muslims have taken to the streets, burnt the British flag and called for a boycott of U.S.-made goods to protest against the strikes in Afghanistan.

Germany clinch Champions Trophy

AFP, Rotterdam

Germany beat Australia 2-1 with two goals from Florian Kunz in the final of the Champions Trophy here Sunday to win the competition featuring the world's top hockey nations for a record eighth time.

Meanwhile, England took fifth place at the Champions Trophy tournament here on Sunday after three low saves by Nick Taylor in a penalty stroke shoot-out saw off Olympic silver medallists South Korea.

The fifth-place playoff ended 3-3 and after 15 minutes of goalless extra time, England took the penalty competition 3-2.

They had beaten Korea 4-3 when the two teams met on the first day of the competition, which features the world's top six hockey nations.

Korea led three times in the match on Sunday but England, who were unsound defensively, managed to score two open play goals in the last six minutes to save the game.

Korea's scorers were Jung-soon Lee from a penalty corner, Jong-hyun Hwang and Seung-tae Song while Danny Hall converted a penalty for England whose other scorers were Jerome Goudie and Mark Pearn.

Hall had his shot saved from the first stroke of the shoot-out but England converted their next three through David Mathews, Jon Wyatt and Tom Bertram while Korea suffered from Taylor's brilliant anticipation in goal.

Schnyder's seventh

AFP, Pattaya

Switzerland's Patty Schnyder captured her seventh career singles title by winning the 110,000-dollar WTA event here on Sunday with a 6-0, 6-4 win against second seed Henrieta Nagyova of Slovakia.

It was seventh-seeded Schnyder's first title since clinching the Gold Coast tournament in January 1999.

After breaking down in tears after her semi-final win on Saturday because of the death of her cat, the 22-year-old Swiss girl went on to dedicate the win to the animal on Sunday.

"My cat Rudi died two days ago, so I'm pleased to present today's win to him. It was very hard to concentrate on the match after hearing the news."

"I realise my last title on the Tour was three years ago. I know I have to concentrate more and play consistently, but I am enjoying the Tour right now."

Hewitt, Agassi victors

Tennis

AFP, Sydney

Lleyton Hewitt and Andre Agassi both scored victories in the opening session of the Tennis Masters Cup on Monday night, each keeping alive his hopes of ending the year as the world's top-ranked player.

Australian Hewitt recovered from a sluggish start to beat Sebastian Grosjean 3-6, 6-2, 6-3 in his first round-robin match at the Sydney SuperDome, while American veteran Agassi breezed to a 6-2, 6-4 win over Hewitt's compatriot Pat Rafter.

from the sport at the end of the year, took a 2-0 lead over Agassi in the opening set before the American moved into top gear.

Newly married to Steffi Graf and a recent father, Agassi reeled off six straight games to take the first set in just 27 mins.

He broke for 2-1 in the second and the contest seemed over but two-time US Open champion Rafter lifted his game and had points for a 4-2 lead before Agassi steadied himself.

From 4-4, Agassi broke Rafter's serve to 15 and then served out for the match in just 73 minutes.

Agassi now has a 10-5 career record against Rafter.

Kuerten, aiming to be number

saps his strength but he fought back to take the second set 6-2 as he began to move better and errors began to creep into Grosjean's game. The Frenchman began to struggle on serve as fatigue set in.

Hewitt, seeking his sixth title of the year, broke for 2-0 in the deciding set as he took complete control pulling Grosjean all over the court as he dictated terms.

"I didn't feel great out there, but I got through it," said Hewitt, who won 11 of the last 15 games of the match.

Australia face France in the Davis Cup final in Melbourne from November 30 and Hewitt's win over Grosjean will give him a psychological edge.

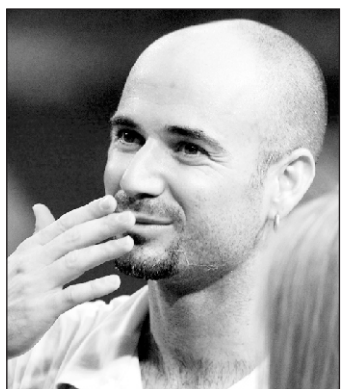
It was Hewitt's fourth win in six career meetings with the Frenchman.

The winner of the Tennis Masters Cup will earn at least 700,000 dollars while the total prize-money for the week is 3.7 million US dollars. Any player going through the tournament undefeated could earn as much as 1.52 million dollars.

Despite the presence of two Australians in the event, the 17,800-seat venue in the Sydney Olympic Games complex was less than half full on Monday night.



LLEYTON HEWITT



ANDRE AGASSI

US Open champion Hewitt, 20, and Australian Open champion Agassi, 31, are both chasing Brazilian Gustavo Kuerten in the race to be year-end world number one. The final rankings will depend on results this week.

Frenchman Grosjean was the last qualifier for the event, sealing his spot with a victory in the Tennis Masters Series event in Paris eight days ago, but he found himself worn down by the relentless Hewitt.

US Open champion Hewitt took 1hr 50mins to overcome Grosjean in the John Newcombe Group of the eight-man event.

"I started a bit shaky, a few nerves I think, but I got better and better as the match went on," Hewitt said. "I was able to get onto his serve a bit better in the second and third sets and I think that made the difference."

Rafter, who plans a sabbatical

one for the second straight year, plays his opening match in the Ken Rosewall final on Tuesday against Goran Ivanisevic while Spaniard Juan Carlos Ferrero will play Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov.

The top two players from each group will advance to the semifinals with the title and possibly the top-ranking being decided on Sunday.

Grosjean, winner of two titles this year, breezed through the first set against Hewitt.

Serving at 5-3, the Frenchman came up with three aces to seal the set in 36 minutes.

Grosjean was able to find the angles to negate Hewitt's dogged retrieving game early on and the Australian made several uncharacteristic errors in the face of Grosjean's baseline aggression.

Hewitt has been troubled intermittently over the past year by an undiagnosed ailment that

Drawn Test

FROM PAGE 13

Mark Richardson, who needed a runner after straining a right hamstring, batted positively as the Kiwis initially chased after victory.

The 30-year-old left-hander, who only made his Test debut just over a year ago, raised his seventh Test half-century before he was trawped lbw for 57 attempting to sweep Warne.

Mathew Sinclair became Warne's second victim when he was stumped by Gilchrist for 23, leaving New Zealand at 90 for two.

The weather-hit Test, which had looked consigned to a draw, was resurrected into a contest with two imaginative declarations by Waugh and Fleming on the final day.

Fleming set things in motion by declaring New Zealand's first innings at lunch as soon as his team passed the follow-on mark of 286.

That left the New Zealanders 199 runs behind Australia with 59 overs left including 15 in the last hour.

The extended morning session was a triumph for express bowler Brett Lee, who finished with 5-67 off 23 overs and claim five wickets in an innings for the fourth time in Tests.

Astle (66), Cairns (61) and Adam Parore (11) all fell to Lee, who captured 3-22 in a 10-over spell.

Parore's exit for 11 left the Kiwis needing 16 runs to avoid the follow-on, but Nash got his team past the target with some lusty late hitting in his unbeaten 25 in his 83-minute stay.

Waugh accepted the challenge and declared his team's second innings at 84 for two -- 283 runs ahead with a minimum of 57 overs to play.

Gilchrist, promoted to opener, hit a lively 20 off 16 balls and Matthew Hayden was run out for 13 in going for a third run. The

throw from the deep by substitute Lou Vincent just beat Hayden home at the bowler's end.

Ricky Ponting was not out 32 off 29 balls and Justin Langer was unbeaten on 18.

The second Test of the series is in Hobart on November 22.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard after the fifth and final day of the first Test between Australia and New Zealand at the Gabba Monday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings 486 for 9 declared (M Hayden 136, A Gilchrist 118, J Langer 104; C Cairns 5-146)

NEW ZEALAND: First innings

(186 for 5 overnight) Richardson lbw b Gillespie 26 Bell c Ponting b Gillespie 6 Sinclair c Ponting b Lee 3 Fleming c Gilchrist b Gillespie 0

Astle c Gilchrist b Lee 6 McMillan c Warne b Lee 45 Cairns c S Waugh b Lee 61 Parore c S Waugh b Lee 11 Nash not out 25

Vettori not out 3 Extras: (lb-15, nb-26) 41 Total: (For 8 wkts declared) 287

Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-51, 3-51, 4-55, 5-147, 6-242, 7-243, 8-271

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Includes rows for McGrath, Gillespie, Lee, Warne, Ponting, and Australia's second innings.

Australia: Second innings Hayden run out sub (Vincent) 13 Gilchrist b Cairns 20 Ponting not out 32 Langer not out 18 Extras: (nb-1) 1 Total: (For 2 wkts declared) 84

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for ACROSS and DOWN. Includes clues like '1 Eggs on 6 Gear', '11 Lorelei', '39 Prove untrue', etc.

Cryptogram puzzle with a grid and the clue: 'Yesterday's Cryptogquip: WHEN THE PARTY PINATA WAS READY, ONE KID SCREAMED "TIME TO HIT THE SACK"!'. Includes a solution key.