Waugh wants to go past 40

AFP, Sydney

Australian batting star Mark Waugh said Friday he intends to continue his prolific Test cricket career possibly until he is past the age of 40.

Cricket

Two years on and the Pakistan

surely herald the end of his career.

extraordinary talents as were cricket

gance and wide, disarming smile,

he strained to become the first

bowler through the 100mph mark

while batsmen ducked for dear life

Within months, however, the

'Rawalpindi Express' had been

derailed, umpires Peter Willey and

Darrell Hair reporting him for throw-

ing while he was playing Australia in

The man's bowling arm was clearly

Shoaib being reprieved after a

England can cause an upset in India

just as they did on their last trips to

Pakistan and Sri Lanka, according

to the tourists' all-rounder Craig

written us off already, so that's a

concentrate on what we have to do

and hopefully we might surprise a

few people." he added. "The media

wrote us off when we went to

Pakistan and Sri Lanka, so it was

nice to see a few of them eat their

first tour of India in eight years with a

weakened bowling attack which is

expected to struggle during next

White, a pace bowling all-

rounder, is expected to lead an

otherwise raw new-ball attack in the

absence of the experienced Darren

discourage you," White said. "It just

pumps you up a little more just to try

"The media's reaction doesn't

The Yorkshire player, however,

month's three-Test series.

Gough and Andy Caddick.

and prove them wrong."

England have arrived for their

"There is no pressure on us to do well." White said. "Everyone has

"We can just go out there and

Surely they had good cause?

Pakistan protests, though, led to

and World Cup crowds roared.

All flowing hair, puffed-up arro-

lovers the world over.

bending like a banana.

Cricket

REUTERS, Bombay

good thing.

own words.'

being declared counterfeit.

REUTERS, London

His 36-year-old twin brother and Test skipper, Steve Waugh, has already made his intentions known that he wants to play Test cricket for another four years and Mark said he held similar ambitions.

"If I happened to finish today I'd be very happy with what I've achieved, but having said that I'd like to play for another couple of years," Mark, who hasn't had the injury problems of his brother, said

"I've achieved a lot, played in a great era of Australian cricket and I look back on my career with pride.

"I'm just going to take one season at a time ... all being well and if I'm still enjoying the game, I'd like to play for another few years but beyond that I couldn't possibly tell

"Apart from a few finger injuries, I haven't had too many injuries so that won't be a problem, I don't think."

Both Waugh brothers have indicated they would like to tour India in 2005 and gain revenge for this year's stunning series loss

Mark has plenty of other incentive to continue his 117-Test career. He's 15th on the all-time list of Test batsmen with 7,511 runs -- just four runs behind Clive Lloyd, 14 behind Mark Taylor and 47 behind

Gordon Greenidge. Another 500 runs would move him into the prestigious top ten with Sir Garfield Sobers (8,032) not far

away.
"You don't play to break records or get past other people," he said.

"I just try to make as many runs as I can. If I happen to get past a few blokes, so be it but it's not in my mind at all.

"Hopefully I'll get past Mark Taylor, I'd like to think I would!

"We've (Steve) both worked harder in the last year on our fitness than ever before, so it might squeak a few extra years out of us.'

Guga may skip Aussie Open

REUTERS, Sydney

Gustavo Kuerten may be forced to miss next year's Australian Open because of complications with his injured groin. The Brazilian admitted he had

been suffering from a groin strain for the past six months and needed a long break from tennis. "I probably have a critical injury now. It's been more than six months,

Kuerten said on Friday after bowing out of the season-ending Masters Cup. "It's nothing new but I need to The three times French Open

champion said he would return to Brazil at the weekend and begin immediate rehabilitation in the hope of recovering for the first Grand Slam

He said he would play in the Australian Open from January 14-27 if he was fit but fears he may have to wait until the first round of the Davis Cup in early February.

Athlete-of-the-year

Szabo fails to get into **IAAF** list

AFP, Monaco

Gabriela Szabo's disappointing season was reflected here Thursday when she failed to make the list of 10 women nominated for the female athlete of the year award.

However two of her bitterest rivals Olga Yegorova and Violeta Sezekely did make it on to the top 10, the winner of which will be announced on November 25 at the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Athletics Gala.

Szabo, whose only bright spot in the indoor and outdoor season came when she won the 1500m world title in August, threatened to boycott the 5000m at the World Championships if Yegorova com-

Hashan gives

FROM PAGE 13
Total: (For 9 wkts decl in 202.4 overs) 590 Fall of wickets: 1-37, 2-146, 3-308 4-358, 5-395, 6-549, 7-562, 8-567, 9-

Did not bat: Charitha Buddika								
Bowler	0	M	R	W				
Dillon	51	11	121	2				
Stuart	37.4	7	139	2				
McGarrell	31	3	95	0				
Ramnarine	58	12	158	3				
Hooper	24	3	58	0				
Samuels	1	0	5	0				
WESTINDI	ES: Se	cond ii	nnings					
Ganga not c	3							
Gayle c Mur	1							
Sarwan not	5							
Total: (For 1	9							
Fall of wicket: 1-3								
Rowler	0	М	R	w				

Umpires: John Hampshire (Eng-

land) and Peter Manuel (Sri Lanka).

Vaas 0 B'tilleke

"I don't feel disap-

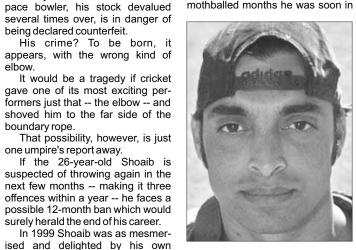
month's ban and the International Cricket Council (ICC) reviewing the

way it dealt with such cases.

Shoaib duly returned, as fast as ever, only to be cut down by injury after injury. Perhaps, in retrospect, At the last World Cup, Shoaib Akhtar that time out saved him from being was one of cricket's most bankable called again.

Once more & it's all over?

For when he returned from 10 mothballed months he was soon in



SHOAIB AKHTAR

hot water again, called in a onedayer in New Zealand in March.

Without further ado, the bowler was packed off to Perth, to be filmed from every conceivable angle by biomechanics experts at the University of Western Australia.

A major re-design seemed to be on the cards. Instead Shoaib was given the all-clear. A "hypermobile elbow joint", the experts ruled, gave the impression of a throw but "Mr Akhtar is unable to avoid hypermobility of his bowling action...and therefore should not be regarded as throwing due to his normal anatomical characteris-

White expects an upset

would be just to compete with India

stay in the game," he said. "Be the

decent competitive team we were in

"Our target is just to compete and

on turning wickets.

Staff at the Department of Human Movement and Exercise Science, however -- among them leading cricket coach Daryl Foster -did suggest some changes, to help Shoaib avoid further injury and prolong his career.

So that was that.

Except that it wasn't. Earlier this month Shoaib was called yet again while playing at the Sharjah Champions' Trophy and the bandwagon set off again, the player ordered to work on his action with former West Indies pace bowler Michael Holding.

The case echoes that of Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan, he of the doublejointed wrist and the wrong kind of

The unconventional Muralitharan was called on the 1995-96 tour of Australia before being cleared, his throw ruled an optical illusion because of his inability to straighten his arm.

In 1999, however, Australian umpire Ross Emerson called him again, sparking Sri Lankan outrage.

Since then, however, the umpires have kept their counsel and Muralitharan, fast approaching his 400th Test wicket, has been allowed to mind his own business while mounting a major challenge to Shane Warne's status of the world's best slow bowler.

Pakistan, equally outraged, will hope that the rubber-jointed Shoaib, with only 16 Tests and 46 wickets to his name, is granted the same latitude.

So will many cricket fans the world over. Opposing batsmen may beg to differ.

squad, none of whom have played a

Test in India, was adapting to the

cricket for a long time and have a lot

"Our bowlers have played county

Hewitt makes history

REUTERS, Sydney

Australia's Lleyton Hewitt became the youngest man in history to finish the year as world number one when he beat Patrick Rafter 7-5, 6-2 at the Masters Cup yesterday.

The US open champion overtook Brazilian Gustavo Kuerten in the rankings with his third straight win in the season-ending tournament to seal the top ranking at just 20 years and eight months old.

The youngest player before Hewitt to finish the season as No 1 was American Jimmy Connors, who was 22 years and three months when he achieved the feat in 1974.

"It's an unbelievable feeling," Hewitt said. "For me to do it at age 20 and to do it in Australia, you just couldn't have written a better

Only 20 players have reached the No 1 spot since the ranking system was introduced in 1973, with just 12 holding the honour at the end of a season. The only Australians to top the

rankings before Hewitt were John Newcombe and Rafter, though neither finished the year on top.

"He's the best Australia's seen for a long, long time," Rafter said.

Australia stick to same team

AFP, Sydney

Selectors had one of their briefest meetings Friday before announcing an unchanged Australian team for the second cricket Test against New Zealand in Hobart starting November 22.

Chairman of selectors Trevor Hohns said his panel saw no need for changes after the raininterrupted first Brisbane Test, which finished in a tense draw Monday after the Kiwis almost snatched victory on the final day. "It certainly didn't take us very

long at all," Hohns said.
"There was so much play that was lost in Brisbane and we thought it was not necessary to make any changes.

Queensland paceman Andy Bichel retained his place in the squad and looks likely to again be 12th man as the selectors resisted the temptation to include a second spinner. Hohns said the selectors did not

believe an extra spinner was needed on the Tasmanian capital's notoriously flat Bellerive wicket. "We might consider a second spinner later in the summer when

we go to places like Sydney and

Adelaide but not for Hobart," he Hohns said he was hoping for some overdue fine weather for the Australian side after the frustrations

of Brisbane. "They don't get the heavy rain in Hobart that we get in Brisbane, it's more like passing showers but generally it's a fairly dry place," he

"Without having seen the pitch it will probably have a little bit in it on the first day and then it usually flattens out into a nice batting

SQUAD Steve Waugh (captain), Matthew Hayden, Juštin Langér, Ricky Ponting, Mark Waugh, Damien Martyn, Adam Gilchrist, Brett Lee, Jason Gillespie, Shane Warne, Glenn McGrath, Andy Bichel (12th

Tuffey brightens his prospect

REUTERS, Adelaide

New Zealand seamer Darvl Tuffey took three wickets against South Australia to push his claims for a Test place as Greg Blewett made a century in the home team's 281 for

Tuffey completed figures of three for 71 from his 18 overs while leftarm spinner Daniel Vettori was also impressive on the opening day of the tour match at the Adelaide Oval, grabbing three for 60 from 30 overs. Vettori, who was rushed back into

the New Zealand side for last week's drawn first Test after recovering from an ankle injury, removed Darren Lehmann, South Australia's main threat, for a duck. Lehmann, fresh from a double

century against Tasmania last week, mis-timed a drive and was caught at mid-off by Shane Bond. New Zealand captain Stephen

Fleming, missing the South Australia match to rest, had challenged fringe squad members Tuffey, Chris Martin and Bond to grab their opportunities ahead of next week's second Test in Hobart. Neither seamer, however, claimed a wicket on the opening day. New Zealand, who also rested

Chris Cairns and Shayne O'Connor, have already sent fast bowler Dion Nash home because of injury and may also have to replace O'Connor for the second Test. Blewett, 30, a veteran of 46

Tests, the last of which was against New Zealand in March 2000, shared a second-wicket partnership of 112 with opener David Fitzgerald, who



Kumar thanks Mahela

Cricket

REUTERS, Galle

Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara, who batted flawlessly for 126 not out in the first Test against West Indies on Thursday, has paid tribute to the influence of his batting partner Mahela Jayawardene.

The pair shared in a record thirdwicket stand of 162 either side of lunch on the third day, paving the way for Sri Lanka's total of 343 for three when rain forced an early

"It was easy with Mahela batting

no pressure on me," said Sangakkara, after reaching his second century at Test level. "There were a few bad balls

middle, it's always quick runs because he just keeps on scoring off every bad ball. "All I had to do was to nudge the

bowled but, with Mahela in the

ball around and give him the strike and he did all the rest."

The two Sri Lankans produced the highest third-wicket partnership for either side in Tests between the two countries, surpassing the previous mark of 160 set by West Indies

he was run out by Marlon Samuels "It was very disappointing to see Mahela get out for 99," said

Stuart Williams at Antigua in 1996-

But Jayawardene, who had hit 13

fours in 133 balls, narrowly missed

out on his ninth Test hundred when

Sangakkara. "But that happens in cricket and all we have to do now is to go out there, do well tomorrow and try to win the game."

Sangakkara who had struck 15 fours after seven hours at the crease by the close of the third day, reached his maiden Test century at the same venue three months before, making an unbeaten 105 against India at the Galle International Stadium.

"This hundred was easier than the first one because I didn't have to bat through with the tailenders," he

"But it is equally special because hundreds rarely come often. I feel very good that I have managed to get a second one.

"Today, the idea was always to consolidate. I want to be consistent and I've always got runs at Galle."

Lewis-Rahman rematch today

AFP, Las Vegas

Lennox Lewis seeks more than the heavyweight world title when he challenges Hasim Rahman in a championship rematch Saturday, he seeks to regain the lustre he lost when Rahman knocked him out in

Lewis is favoured to extract revenge for the stunning fifth-round knockout in South Africa on April 22, when the 20-1 underdog Rahman sent him crashing to the canvas in a manner that recalled Lewis' only previous defeat, to Oliver McCall.

Nick Bogdanovich, oddsmaker at Mandalay Bay casino, opened Lewis as a 4-1 favourite and said the odds had been bet down to 3-1 by Wednesday.

However those backing Rahman can take comfort in the statistics that show that of the 14 deposed world heavyweight champions to face their conquerors in an immediate re-

match only four have regained their

XSSYFH

OUCIN

FSNAM JIG KUAESSG

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE POOR LEOPARD WAS NEVER VERY GOOD AT HIDING. IT WAS ALWAYS SPOTTED. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals O

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Tennis

REUTERS, Sydney

Juan Carlos Ferrero has snatched

the last place in the Masters Cup semifinals with a 7-6. 7-6 win over Goran Ivanisevic The Spanish world number four

won both tiebreakers to finish sec-

ond in his pool behind Yevgeny Kafelnikov and set up a semifinal meeting with Lleyton Hewitt. Kafelnikov was already assured of his place in the semis but left nothing to chance as he

beat an ailing Gustavo Kuerten 6-2, 4-6, 6-3 in an earlier match Kuerten's loss opened the door for Hewitt to finish the vear ranked number one in the world

by beating fellow Australian Patrick Rafter in the final round-robin match on Friday. But even if Hewitt loses to Rafter, the 20-

year-old still has another chance to finish No. 1 by beating Ferrero on Saturday. Kuerten, already out of the running to make the

ending event, needed to beat fifth-seed Kafelnikov to put any pressure on Hewitt's bid to become the youngest man in history to finish the year

But the Brazilian was unable to find a way past Kafelnikov, who continually frustrated him with his accurate groundstrokes and crisp

pointed, I had a great

The 31-year-old thinks England's warm-up games will be a kev indicator of how the 16-man

you never know what might hap-White, who has played 21 Tests



has come to India after a poor summer plagued by injuries.

CRAIG WHITE

Sri Lanka and Pakistan. And if you of experience playing cricket so stick in there right till the very end, they'll learn the wickets quickly in the tour matches. Personally, I hope to be ready and raring to go in the

unfamiliar conditions.

The first of three Tests starts in the northern city of Mohali on December 3. England begin their tour with a two-day game in Bombay on Sunday, and have three-day tour games at Hyderabad and Jaipur later this month

The tour was preceded by security fears because of India's proximity to war-struck Afghanistan, with Caddick and Robert Croft choosing not to travel

Captain Nasser Hussain, however, said England were more concerned about prolific India batsman Sachin Tendulkar than security issues, and White is looking forward to facing his former Yorkshire team mate.

"I know Sachin quite well, It'll be a great challenge to bowl to one of the greatest batsmen in the world. That's what you get to set your standard against.

still felt a realistic target for England Ferrero enters semis

Down on his confidence, Kuerten

was also having problems with his groin and needed medical treatment

with my leg and it was tough for me to play but I gave it my best." Kuerten began well, breaking Kafelnikov's opening service game, but proceeded to lose the next 17 points in a row as the Russian raced

"I was having a lot of problems

on two occasions in the second set.

through the first set in just 21 min-

"I did not expect Gustavo to play semifinals.



Spaniard Juan Carlos Ferrero is jubilant after beating

Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic at the Masters Cup in Sydney

man to be named). the injury must have had something to with that," Kafelnikov said. "But as the match went on he became looser and looser and he

interesting." Kuerten defied his obvious discomfort to break Kafelnikov's serve and hold his own to pinch the second set before Kafelnikov reasserted his control in the final set to clinch victory after an hour and 37

got some treatment so it got very

Kafelnikov, who won the gold medal at the Sydney Olympics just a short stroll from the SuperDome, faces Frenchman Sebastien Grosjean in Saturday's

> "The first stage is over but I think that is where the tournament starts," Kafelnikov said. "I have to approach the next match like nothing's happened in

"I believe I can play very well in the next two matches because I still have enough energy." Ferrero needed two

hours before finally

wearing down

Wimbledon champion

the previous three

Ivanisevic in an entertaining match that could have gone either way. Ivanisevic saved five match points in the 10th game of the second set to force another tiebreaker but the Spaniard

held his nerve on the big points to secure his place in the semis.

openers Sherwin Campbell and

Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara (R) being congratulated by teammate Mahela Jayawardene upon completing his century on the third day of the first Test against the West Indies in Galle on Thursday.

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