

Captains

FROM PAGE 13 match. We could have been better, but as I said, you can't be at your peak every day."

Waugh, whose match-saving innings lasted almost four hours, said he had enjoyed the fiery atmosphere of the final day's play.

"I thought it was played fairly hard. There were some words said out in the middle," he said.

"Call that sledging, gamesmanship, whatever you like. It just proves that it can be a part of the game, it doesn't have to always be written up as a nasty part of the game. It's a part of Test match cricket."

Waugh said Australia had dominated the first two Tests, which were both rain-affected draws, even though New Zealand went within 10 runs of a victory in the first Test in Brisbane last month.

"Here we probably didn't play as well as we could have but New Zealand played very good in this Test match. They are a good Test match side," Waugh said.

Fleming added: "There were times in this series when we've had the wood on them, particularly here, and that's important to me. It shows how far this team has come."

Australia have not lost a series to New Zealand for 16 years.

Nail-biting

FROM PAGE 13 Number eight batsman Shane Warne, fresh from his 99 in the first innings, was run out at the bowler's end for 10 at 355 for seven as Australia continued to chase victory and the leg-spinner had a mix-up with Gilchrist mid-pitch.

With an hour's play remaining and 15 overs, Australia were 317 for five with Steve Waugh on 60 and Gilchrist on 40, requiring another 123 runs at a minimum of 8.2 per over.

Gilchrist charged Vettori to hit 6-4-4 off successive balls in the 16th-last over, the final one before drinks in the final session.

The world record in Test cricket for a fourth-innings run chase is 406 for four by India in the third Test against West Indies at Port of Spain in 1975-76.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard of the third and deciding cricket Test between Australia and New Zealand at the WACA Ground in Perth Tuesday:

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 534 for nine declared (N Astle 156 not out, A Parore 110, S Fleming 105, L Vincent 104; B Lee 4-125, J Gillespie 3-112)

AUSTRALIA: First innings 351 (S Warne 99, J Langer 75, D Martyn 60, M Waugh 42, R Ponting 31; D Vettori 6-87, C Cairns 2-86)

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings 256 for nine declared (L Vincent 54, C Cairns 42, N Astle 40, M Richardson 30; B Lee 4-56, J Gillespie 2-55)

AUSTRALIA: Second innings (overnight 69-2)

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Bond	21	3	80	1
Martin	12	0	51	0
Vettori	45	11	142	2
Cairns	15	2	72	1
Astle	12	5	18	0
McMillan	5	2	15	1

Result: Match drawn and series levelled at 0-0.

Man-of-the-match: Daniel Vettori.

Man-of-the-series: Justin Langer.

Umpires: Ian Robinson (Zimbabwe) and Daryll Harper (Australia).



Ethiopian distance runner Haile Gebrselassie runs past Tower Bridge while inspecting the course for the London Marathon on December 3. The London Marathon will be held on April 14.

Haile looks to London



REUTERS, London

Looming out of the London fog like the villain in a Victorian melodrama, Haile Gebrselassie rehearsed for photographers this week the steps he will take next spring in his marathon debut.

The little Ethiopian, acknowledged by his peers as the finest distance runner ever on the track, has targeted London's ancient streets for his first race over 42.195 kms.

Capturing Gebrselassie's signature for the April 14 race is a coup for race organiser David Bedford.

The former world 10,000 metres record holder could himself play a villain in the Christmas pantomime season these days with his long, curling grey hair and luxuriant moustache.

Instead he chose to play the part of the benevolent uncle at a news conference to introduce Gebrselassie and publicise the race.

"This is not a precise science," Bedford said as he reflected on his successful efforts to attract runners to the world's best big-city marathon. "This year has been very fortunate for us."

News conference compere Tim Hutching was having none of

Bedford's modesty. "The longer this event goes on the luckier Dave gets," he said.

Appearance money must have played its part in attracting Gebrselassie to London. A news release, somewhat coyly, posed the hypothetical questions: "How does he feel about making the most eagerly awaited marathon debut in the history of running? And does he think he is worth the biggest pay cheque in athletics history?"

In accordance with accepted practice, officials refused to comment on the widely-quoted figure of 500,000 dollars appearance money, neither confirming nor denying Gebrselassie would receive half a million to take part.

His Dutch manager Jos Hermens told reporters Gebrselassie had chosen London because of the quality of the opposition.

"He doesn't mind the money, he would run for free," Hermens said, adding quickly: "Don't tell David." Stepping up to the marathon was always part of the greater plan for Gebrselassie after 15 world track records, including the current 5,000 and 10,000 metres marks, plan two Olympic and two world 10,000 metres titles.

He will follow figuratively in the footsteps of Abebe Bikila, who padded barefoot through the streets of Rome to win the 1960 Olympic gold medal. Four years later, now in

running shoes, he retained the title in Tokyo by more than four minutes.

Bikila was to die tragically young in 1973 as the result of injuries sustained in a car accident. A tomb stands to his memory in Addis Ababa with an inscription in four languages.

After losing the Edmonton 10,000 metres world title race to Kenyan Charles Kamanthi in August, Gebrselassie signalled his intentions for the London race by winning the world half-marathon title in Bristol, England, last month.

He will now put in four solid months of training at home for London, where he will come up again against his great Kenyan rival Paul Tergal. The five-times world cross country champion finished second behind Gebrselassie in two Olympic and two world 10,000 metres finals.

Understandably speculation about a possible world record, even a mark under two hours five seconds, will dominate the build-up to the 2002 race. The current world mark of two hours five minutes 42 seconds is held by Moroccan-born American Khalid Khannouchi.

Khannouchi is quoted at 6-1 behind Gebrselassie and this year's champion Abdelkader El Mouaziz, who are joint 2-1 favourites. Serena Momberg, a spokeswoman for English bookmakers William Hill, said betting was now open on next year's race because of the intense

interest in Gebrselassie's debut.

Gebrselassie and Hermens are both cautious about the prospects of a world best in London, preferring to concentrate on winning the race.

"It's very difficult to say the time," said Gebrselassie. "It's more difficult when you move in a longer distance."

Hermens said he thought Gebrselassie could clock under 2:05 eventually but cautioned that it was unlikely to come in next year's London race.

He said Gebrselassie had already adjusted to the longer distance, running on the middle of his feet rather than on his toes, and now planned to bring his track prowess to the roads.

Lee punished monetarily

AFP, Perth

Fiery Australian fast bowler Brett Lee was Tuesday fined 8,250 dollars (4,290 US) for an on-field outburst during the third cricket Test against Australia here.

But the 25-year-old was not suspended from any games -- a huge relief for Australian cricket 10 days before the first Test against South Africa in a three-Test series to decide the unofficial world Test champions.

His bat says it all



AFP, Colombo

Batting genius Brian Lara's return to big-scoring ways augurs well for the struggling West Indies, his fans and the game in general, but not for the rivals.

The recent Test series against Sri Lanka was a personal triumph for the 32-year-old, who had been struggling to regain form and fitness after a long lay-off due to injury.

The left-hander aggregated 688 runs to emerge as the second-highest scorer in a three-Test series after Englishman Graham Gooch's 752 against India in 1990.

Lara's critics, who had begun to question his discipline, fitness and credentials as long-innings batsman, were left dumbfounded as he showed the appetite for runs was back.

"There has been a lot said in the Caribbean about Brian being past his best, but he is very important to this team," said West Indian captain Carl Hooper after his team was blanked 3-0 by the Sri Lankans.

"Lara was the difference between the Tests lasting five days rather than three. We hope his form continues," he said.

Lara had been out of international cricket for some time due to a hamstring injury, but took just one Test in Sri Lanka to prove that nothing was wrong with his form and fitness.

He hammered a brilliant 178 in the opening Test at Galle, but the best was yet to come.

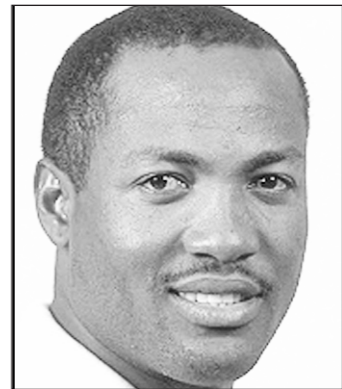
Lara cracked 221 and 130 in the third Test at Colombo to become only the fifth batsman to score a double-century and century in a

Test.

More important than the runs were the circumstances in which he made them. He was a genius in a fragile batting line-up, carrying the burden of the entire team on his shoulders.

The higher the challenge, the nobler was his response.

Lara succeeded in solving



BRIAN LARA

Muttiah Muralitharan's off-spin puzzle and mastered left-arm seamer Chaminda Vaas without sacrificing his flair.

Lara, world record-holder of the highest runs in an innings in both Tests (375) and first-class cricket (501 not out), said he owed his consistency to former West Indian great, Sir Garfield Sobers.

"You need to get your hands coming from behind the ball and stop chopping across the line," Lara said.

"This is what Sir Gary told me. I worked on that a lot and I think it has played a very big part in my batting."

"It has also added to my discipline. Knowing that my technique is improving, I don't need to take

chances. Now I don't have to worry about making shots. It has helped my patience."

Lara added Sobers' guidance had made him a better batsman and was the main reason of his success against Muralitharan, the most successful bowler of the series with 24 wickets.

"Compared to the first Test where I swept at everything, I am now actually looking at the ball coming out of Muralitharan's hand," said Lara.

"I try my best to read which way the ball is going. If you read him, you don't have to play cross-batted shots."

Hooper said the West Indies needed more than one Lara to re-establish themselves as a major force in international cricket.

"Lara alone scored heavily, but we needed some of other batters to chip in with three-figure scores," he said.

Borg set to tie the knot

AFP, Stockholm

Five-time Wimbledon champ Bjorn Borg is keen to have children now that he is set to marry his new love Patricia Ostfeldt in the Swedish archipelago on June 8, the Swedish tennis legend told the daily Expressen on Monday.

"Now we want to have kids. I'd make a great stay-at-home dad. I am unemployed after all," Borg told the paper.

Borg, 45, and Ostfeldt, a 31-year-old mother of two who works as a real estate agent, started dating last spring and hit it off immediately, he said.



An athlete lights the torch from the altar during the handing over ceremony of the Olympic flame for the 19th Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City at the Panathinaikon Stadium in Athens on December 3.

Ks say sparks will fly



AFP, Moscow

After a tame draw in their opening match, the world's top two chess players, Garry Kasparov and Vladimir Kramnik, got down and dirty in the follow-up and promised fireworks in the resumption of hostilities Tuesday over a 500,000-

dollar purse.

The Ks told journalists after the limp, 18-move draw that opened their four-game classic-play series that their disappointing performance had been due to a lack of practice in match conditions with the standard 40-moves-in-two-hours time control.

"I have to admit I'm rather rusty," Kramnik said. "My last serious game was last June."

Kasparov said he had not played

serious chess since May, when he competed in the Kazakh capital Astana.

Both apologised for the abrupt ending of the opening game and said it would not happen again.

True to their word, Kasparov and Kramnik engaged in a six-hour dogfight in the second game Sunday in which they whittled the pieces down to a rook-against-knight ending that Kramnik, with a razor-fine advantage, had to admit finally was not winnable and agreed to a draw.

The opening gave little hint of what was to follow, as the two grandmasters opted for slow, positional play without piece exchanges.

"This may not be to the liking of the general public, but we specialists can see all the subtleties of their underlying intentions," former world champion Boris Spassky commented.

At the time control however, with only a few seconds each in which to play their last eight moves, the "K"s exploded into action.

When the dust settled, it was clear that Kasparov, playing white, held the upper hand against a solidly entrenched Kramnik.

But with a 45th move which one Grand Master commentator described as "inhuman," Kramnik found a riposte that had the four-time world champion clinging on for grim life.

After black's 68th move, Kramnik "appeared certain to win, but Kasparov had prepared a last-ditch rescue plan," Grand Master Igor Zaitsev said.

The four-game standard-play match, in which the winner takes 60 percent of the purse, will be followed by a six-game rapid-play series for a 200,000-dollar purse on December 8 and 9 and, the following day, a series of 10 blitz games for a 50,000-dollar purse.

The clash between Kasparov and his former student, billed as a tournament in honour of grandmaster Mikhail Botvinnik, who dominated world chess in the post-war years, was originally intended to be a three-corner affair involving another former world champion, Anatoly Karpov.

South Africa to take time

AFP, Perth

South Africa are likely to delay naming their team for Wednesday's tour-opening match against an Australian Cricket Board Chairman's XI until shortly before the start.

"There is every chance we will wait until tomorrow," team manager Goolam Raja said Tuesday as the team took part in an intense four-hour practice session at the WACA Ground here.

The 50-overs match at Lilac Hill Park in wine-growing country outside Perth will give the tourists a chance to flex their muscles before the initial first-class encounter of their programme.

They meet Western Australia in a four-day game starting at the pace-friendly WACA Ground Friday.

South Africa appear unlikely to risk ace fast bowler Allan Donald at Lilac Hill Park.

Skipper Shaun Pollock indicated when the tourists arrived Sunday that Donald would probably have a workout in the four-day fixture.

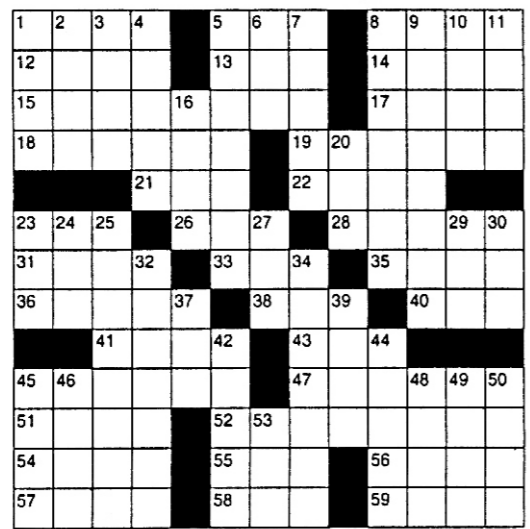
Donald, who is returning from injury, could be the key to South Africa's hopes in the three-Test series to decide the unofficial world Test championship, starting in Adelaide Friday week.

The 35-year-old, out of action for several months, has 325 Test wickets at an average of 21.6, with 48 at 27.8 against Australia.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
 1 Warmonger
 5 Train component
 8 Gilpin of "Frasier"
 12 "Gatcha"
 13 Waste not a moment
 14 Earth's turning point
 15 Relic of the psychedellic '60s
 17 Ledge
 18 First game
 19 Baby toy
 21 Eg. and Syr. once
 22 Stench
 23 Smash
 25 City in Morocco
 28 Soap opera, usually
 31 Reverbate
 33 3 on the phone
 35 Urban coverup?
 36 "Come Back, Little —"
 38 Just out

DOWN
 1 Hawaiian city
 2 PDQ
 43 "Erie Canal"
 45 Briely
 47 Ceasefires
 51 Carpot style
 52 USMA training area
 54 Apple or pear
 55 Jima preceder
 56 "La Douce"
 57 Enervates
 58 Perfect raling
 59 Campus bigwig
 24 Pronoun for JFK
 25 1931 Wallace Beery movie
 27 Buddhist sect
 29 Cattle call?
 30 Census datum
 32 Causes indebtedness
 34 Decorative strand
 37 Time Warner merger initials
 39 Imperfection
 42 It's left to your accountant
 44 Clear
 45 Venomous vipers
 46 Reinpuller's cry
 48 Meticulousness
 49 Address
 50 Bridge
 53 Leave unpaid



CRYPTOQUIP

F Y D I W Y M C U H O X M A Y

D H W R M F H M Y M A Y M C F N Y

I D E H O H O X R U Y N Y M I O R

R C H E , " F I O Y C Z Y M H M ! "

Yesterday's Cryptiquip: LIBRARIES MUST BE VERY TALL STRUCTURES. SINCE THEY HAVE SO MANY STORIES.

Today's Cryptiquip Clue: M equals T

The Cryptiquip 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.