

### Cronje thinks poorly of Lee, Gillespie

REUTERS, Perth  
Australia's Jason Gillespie and Brett Lee are nothing special as bowlers, disgraced former South Africa captain Hansie Cronje said ahead of next week's first Test.

"The Australians have only two bowlers -- Shane Warne (413 Test wickets) and Glenn McGrath (363)," Cronje was quoted as saying on the news.com.au website.

"If we can see them off without much damage being done there is no reason why we cannot handle the others. Lee and Gillespie are nothing special."

Pace bowlers Lee (14 wickets at an average of 25.14) and Gillespie (11 at 28.72) took 25 wickets between them in the rain-interrupted three-Test series against New Zealand which finished in a 0-0 draw earlier this week.

Gillespie bowled what Australia captain Steve Waugh described as one of the best spells in Test cricket during the second Test in Hobart last month.

Waugh also regards Lee, one of the fastest bowlers in world cricket with a top speed of 156 kph, as a rare talent.

Cronje told South Africa captain Shaun Pollock that containment was vital to beating the world's number one team.

"They like to score at four an over," Cronje said.

"If we can apply enough pressure to prevent that, we will create tension and it will be interesting to see how they cope."

"I don't see any reason why we should not give them a good run. We are playing good cricket at the moment and I think we now have the batting to cope."

Cronje, whose role in a match-fixing scandal rocked cricket last year, failed to overturn a life ban from the sport in October.

Meanwhile, Australia are expected to name their squad on Sunday for the first Test in Adelaide which starts on December 14.

### Eriksson's accolade

AFP, London  
England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson was presented Thursday with the UK Coach of the Year award.

Eriksson was one of two coaches selected for the award after guiding England through to the World Cup finals.

He received his award alongside Alex Stanton, coach to world cross country and half marathon champion Paula Radcliffe.

Eriksson told thefa.com: "It is a special honour for me to be recognised in this way, especially as this is my first year in England."

"However, this award is not just for me, it is for all of the coaching staff who have worked so well with the England team - Tord Grip, Steve McClaren, Sammy Lee, Dave Sexton, Ray Clemence and Peter Taylor - and of course the players."

### Voller to coach Germany till 2006

AFP, Frankfurt  
Germany coach Rudi Voller received a resounding vote of confidence on Friday after being handed an extension to his contract that will see him remain in his post through to the 2006 World Cup.

Voller, who had come under fire during his side's patchy qualification campaign for the 2002 tournament, will now be saddled with the task of mastering home hopes at the 2006 event, which is hosted by Germany.

Voller's new contract was announced by the German Football Federation here Friday.

### CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
42 TV revenue source  
1 Fuzzy fruits  
6 "West Side Story" gang  
12 Steiff's opponent  
13 Capital of the Treasure State  
14 Crooked Use  
15 Labyrinth  
17 Take out of context?  
19 Tummy muscles  
20 Rebuff a masher  
22 Kibosh  
24 Snapshot  
27 Bedouin  
29 Tragic  
32 Bonhomme  
33 Richard skipper  
35 Foolproof  
36 Col. Mustard's game  
37 Bush league  
38 Mrs. McKinley  
40 Tackles team-mates

**DOWN**  
2 Don Juan's mother  
3 Spouses  
4 Lemieux millieu  
5 Hardwood cypress  
6 Writer Silverstein  
7 Muscle Beach showoffs  
8 Mountain brown  
9 Taking it easy  
10 Bally  
11 Utters "Song"  
12 Spherical bloom  
18 Shoulder target  
19 50th state  
21 Once coffee blend  
23 Wedding words  
24 Party outfits, sometimes times  
25 Chit notation  
26 Baptize  
28 Frankfest  
30 Speedwagon letters  
31 Kreskin's claim  
33 Nancy Drew's beau  
34 Stampett patriarch  
39 Tall target  
41 Locations  
42 Utah ski resort  
43 Bruce or Laura  
45 Puts to work  
47 Author Sarah Jewett  
48 Wish for  
49 Simile center  
51 Where, to Caesar  
53 "Sun King" Louis

**Solution time: 27 mins.**

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## Waugh counts on spin

Cricket  
REUTERS, Sydney

Australia's spin options will give them an advantage over South Africa in their battle for the title of the world's best Test side, according to skipper Steve Waugh.

"That's where we hold the difference. We have Shane Warne and Stuart MacGill, as well as some other good back-up," Waugh told this news agency.

"The Adelaide pitch for the first Test will turn and that could be our trump card."

Australia need to beat the South Africans over three Tests to retain their top place in the World Test Championship. The Adelaide Test starts next Friday.

Warne, the most successful slow bowler of all time, has 413 Test wickets while MacGill, a fellow leg-spinner, has taken 75 wickets in 16 Tests.

South Africa, in contrast, have been forced to replace injured slow left-arter Nicky Boje, their leading spinner, with the inexperienced

Claude Henderson, who has been capped just twice.

Waugh, however, still expects



STEVE WAUGH  
the series to be close.

"They're a quality side, with players like Shaun Pollock, Jacques Kallis, Allan Donald and Herschelle Gibbs," he said.

"Their pace attack of Pollock and Donald stack up against any-

one and they have a lot of all-rounders. They're always digging in," he said. "And Mark Boucher looks like breaking all the wicketkeeping records."

Speaking on the phone from his Sydney home, he added: "We feel we're marginally ahead of South Africa but they'll feel they're as good as us. We've always had some very close battles."

"Generally, you know where you are in the world pecking order but it's nice to have the evidence. It's nice to be number one in the Test Championship."

The International Cricket Council's (ICC) table, launched in May, is based on a rolling series of home-and-away series results.

The upcoming series will replace the teams' last contest in Australia in 1997/98, won 1-0 by the home side. South Africa, just behind Waugh's side, thus only need to draw to claim the top spot for the first time.

Australia's Championship lead was cut when they drew their home series against New Zealand. South Africa beat India 1-0 last month.

## Red Devil's list revised

Football  
AFP, London

The guessing game over who will take command at Manchester United next season when Sir Alex Ferguson retires took another twist when Arsenal's Arsene Wenger became the latest to rule himself out of contention on Thursday.

Wenger, who has been persistently touted as a possible successor to Ferguson, ended months of speculation by putting pen to paper on a new contract that will keep him in north London until 2005.

The Frenchman is one of a number of top-level coaches who have been linked with one of the plum jobs in world club football, including Bayern Munich manager Ottmar Hitzfeld, England coach Sven Goran Eriksson and Leeds boss David O'Leary.

Wenger's decision to stay with United's English Premiership rivals has shortened the list of candidates ready to take over the Old Trafford hot seat when Ferguson retires at the end of the current season in May next year.

Hitzfeld, believed to be United chief executive Peter Kenyon's first choice to succeed Ferguson, insisted in July that he will honour his contract with European champions Bayern which ends in three years time.

"I have been aware of speculation this summer that Manchester United are thinking of me as their future manager," he said.

"It is a great honour that my name is being discussed, but there is no question about this for me."

"I have a contract with Bayern Munich until 2004 and I intend to honour it. I have never broken a contract in my career," said Hitzfeld.

With England's 2002 World Cup campaign uppermost in his mind, Eriksson has understandably distanced himself from speculation over his future, but much will depend on his team's fortunes in Japan and South Korea.

O'Leary, meanwhile, who raised his profile by steering Leeds to the Champions League semi-finals last season, has played down talk that he is interested in filling Ferguson's shoes by stating he is happy to continue at Elland Road.

It has been suggested that Ferguson's continuing presence at the club will put off potential successors.

His five-year ambassadorial role has raised the question over how much influence Ferguson will have behind the scenes once he steps down.

But Kenyon has refuted claims that Ferguson would have any say on team affairs when he retires as manager.

Kenyon has already denied a short-list has already been drawn up, but says he already knows which coach would get his vote.

"There is probably one name in my head - but I am not going to share that," he said.

"There has been much talk about a short-list. That has come out because there isn't going to be a long list. But there is not a list in the

safe at Old Trafford anywhere.

"The whole process (of finding a new manager) won't really start until after Christmas."

Celtic manager Martin O'Neill has also been touted as a contender but his bulk purchase of the Glasgow club's shares suggests he may stay at Parkhead.

Ferguson's former assistant Steve McClaren, who replaced Bryan Robson as Middlesbrough boss earlier this year, is also in the frame, but his lack of managerial experience will probably work against him.

Robson's perennial battle to avoid the drop while he was in charge at Middlesbrough is likely to rule him out of a return to the club where he established himself as an England international.

Another long shot is Roma coach Fabio Capello whose side won the Italian championship last season and are one of the favourites to be crowned European champions in Glasgow in May.

However, Capello last week said that although he was flattered to be linked with the United post, he wanted to extend his contract with Roma.

But however well-qualified the new United manager is, he will be taking a risk with his reputation by having his efforts compared with Ferguson's, arguably the most successful manager in British football history.

Then again, the upside is that he will be in charge of one of world football's powerhouses.

## Kenya draw with Zim A

Cricket  
AFP, Nairobi

The second three-day cricket match between Kenya and Zimbabwe A ended in a draw at the Simba Union Club on Thursday, despite Gavin Rennie's unbeaten ton for the visitors.

The tie was declared a draw after the hosts realised they would not clear all the Zimbabwean wickets while the touring side would not reach the target of 461.

Kenya had resumed their second innings with an overnight lead of 146 and declared on 314, setting Zimbabwe a total of 460.

The Kenya second innings featured an unbeaten partnership of 125 runs for the fifth wicket between Steve Tikolo and Hitesh Modi. Tikolo faced 100 balls and struck 20 fours and three sixes with Modi contribut-

ing 61.

Spinner Raymond Price bowled Kennedy Otieno and Thomas Odoyo for 68 and three to finish with match fixtures of two for 73 off 18 overs in a well controlled bowling spell by the tourists.

In reply, Zimbabwe made 199 for a loss of one wicket in 42.3 overs.

Unbeaten Rennie became the first Zimbabwe player to reach a century in the series, his 111 coming from 127 balls. His opening partner Mark Vermuelen also made a good impression in scoring 79.

**SCOREBOARD**  
Final scoreboard on the third and last day of the three-day match between Kenya and Zimbabwe A on Thursday:

**KENYA:** First innings 424 (M Odumbe 178; B Watambwa 4-112, D Mutendera 3-95)  
**ZIMBABWE A:** First innings 278 (M Vermuelen 84, G Whittall 58; C Omondi 5-97)  
**KENYA:** Second innings

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Watambwa	20	4	112	1
Mutendera	5	0	46	0
Price	18	5	73	2
Whittall	3	1	6	0
Viljoen	10	1	44	1
Mazakadza	2.4	0	30	0

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Angara	5	3	5	0
Shah	5	0	31	0
Obuya	11	0	69	0
Laxman	8	2	23	0
Modi	5	0	29	0
Tikolo	6.3	0	26	1
Odoyo	2	0	8	0

**Result: Match drawn.**

## Australia's Pak

Cricket  
FROM PAGE 13

whether safety concerns are legitimate.

"We've agreed to go and nothing has changed in that regard," said a spokesman for the Australian Cricket Board Friday.

"Any speculation to the contrary is wrong."

Zia said in a statement: "As far as I'm concerned the West Indies tour is already on, they haven't said no, they said 'we are coming.'"

"There is no problem and I'm going to insist to the International Cricket Council that Pakistan is all right and that people should come and play here."

## Jordan lifts Wizards

AFP, Houston

Michael Jordan looked injured for the first 36 minutes and looked unstoppable for the final 12.

Jordan returned from a knee injury and collected 10 points and three assists in the fourth quarter to lift the Washington Wizards to an 85-82 victory over the Houston Rockets Thursday in the National Basketball Association.

Jordan missed his first game of the season Tuesday after having fluid drained from his swollen right knee. His decision to return seemed premature after he made just 4-of-15 shots through three quarters.

But Jordan displayed his usual flair for the dramatic in the final period. He returned with 9:34 remaining and Washington immediately went on an 8-3 run to take a 72-65 lead with 5:11 left.

**WESTERN AUSTRALIA:** First innings  
Hussey not out 2  
Mulleman not out 0  
Total: (For no loss in 1 over) 2  
**Bowler** O M R W  
Donald 1 0 2 0

## Winner Arjuna's party losers

AFP, Colombo

Former Sri Lankan cricket captain Arjuna Ranatunga has won a seat in parliament but his party suffered a humiliating defeat.

Ranatunga, 37, contested Wednesday's parliamentary elections as a member of President Chandrika Kumaratunga's ruling party and wanted to be the exception among Asian sportsmen who have failed in politics.

"I am going to be the first one to be successful (in politics)," Ranatunga told reporters last month when asked about his chances of success in an environment in which the likes of Pakistan's Imran Khan have failed to thrive.

Ranatunga won entry to parliament, but will have to sit in the opposition as his People's Alliance was crushed despite hopes among party members that he would pull in young voters.

After retiring from international cricket in August, Ranatunga said he felt that he owed "something to the nation" and wanted to improve not only cricket and athletics, but other sports as well.

Ranatunga became a hero in Sri Lanka after leading his team to victory in the 1996 cricket World Cup, but immediately thereafter he was embroiled in several controversies.

His failure to defend the World Cup in 1999 saw him come under severe criticism amid allegations of match-fixing. He was later cleared of those charges.

However, he was overlooked for several matches and eventually Sanath Jayasuriya was appointed to replace him in a major shakeup.

Ranatunga's team went from World Cup tops in 1996 to World Cup flops in 1999 with fans directing their anger against his performance and blaming him for not quitting earlier with honour and dignity.

## Hewitt parts with coach

AFP, Sydney

World No.1 Lleyton Hewitt announced Friday he has split with coach Darren Cahill.

He said another former Australian Davis Cup tennis player, Jason Stoltenberg, would replace Cahill.

Stoltenberg, a former Wimbledon semi-finalist, would assume primary coaching duties ahead of next month's Australian Open before travelling with 20-year-old Hewitt throughout the year.

Cahill, Hewitt's coach for the past few years, had advised him of his decision not to continue upon the completion of his annual agreement this month.

"Obviously, it has been a very rewarding three years for Lleyton and myself," said Cahill.

"But I am confident with Jason's support, Lleyton will not skip a beat." Stoltenberg will be joined periodically by Andrea Bisaz, the physical therapist with the Australian Davis Cup team.

"Lleyton and I will be together in Adelaide immediately after Christmas to begin preparations for the Hopman Cup in Perth and the rest of the Australian summer season," said Stoltenberg.

"Darren has done a wonderful job with him, but I look forward to helping Lleyton evolve his game further."

US Open and Masters Cup champion Hewitt said: "Darren was one of the few people who really believed in me early on and I am extremely grateful for all of his guidance these past few years."

"However, Jason will provide me with invaluable experience and dedication moving forward which I am quite enthusiastic about."

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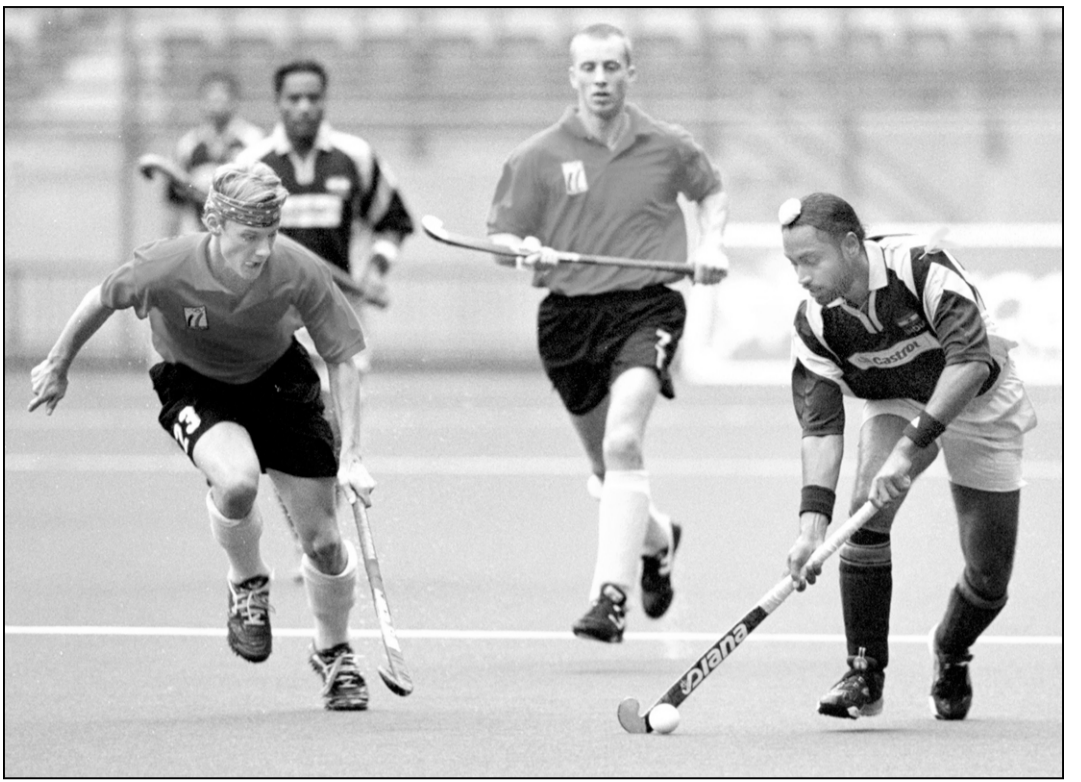
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## Mark butchers

FROM PAGE 13

Swan	13	2	64	1
Oldroyd	13	1	71	0
Hogg	10	2	21	0
North	4	0	19	0

**WESTERN AUSTRALIA:** First innings  
Hussey not out 2  
Mulleman not out 0  
Total: (For no loss in 1 over) 2  
**Bowler** O M R W  
Donald 1 0 2 0



India's Baljit Singh Dillon is in control against Phillipe Goldberg (L) of Belgium during their Champions' Challenge hockey tournament encounter in Kuala Lumpur on Friday.

## SA, India post wins

Hockey  
AFP, Kuala Lumpur

South Africa created an upset when they defeated favourites Argentina 3-2 in the opening game at the inaugural Champions Challenge here on Friday.

Two goals in the closing minutes of the match gave the South Africans a win they richly deserved.

India meanwhile laboured to a 1-0 win over Belgium with the solitary goal scored by Dhanraj Pillay in the 47th minute.

Jorge Lombi opened the scoring for Argentina when he scored off their first penalty corner in the 11th minute with a flick into the roof of the

net, giving South African goalkeeper Chris Hibbert no chance.

But South Africa rallied back and equalised through Justin King five minutes later, also off a penalty corner.

Although Mario Almada gave the Argentinians a 2-1 lead in the 57th minute the South Africans never gave up.

And their efforts were rewarded when Craig Jackson picked up a rebound to send a reverse stick hit past a bewildered Palo Moreira in the Argentinian goal in the 69th minute.

In what proved to be the last attack of the match Mike Cullen picked up a through ball to score with a hefty hit to give the South Africans all three points.

India muffed several scoring opportunities and were lucky to come off with the three points as Belgium launched relentless raids on their defence.

The decision by Indian coach Cedric d'Souza not to play Deepak Thakur proved to be a costly affair as veterans Dhanraj and Sabu Varkey looked out of sorts.

"We have to improve our finishing. It was obvious that the forwards could not deliver the killer blow," said d'Souza.

"But then again this is our first match and therefore we cannot read too much into the performance today," he added.

## Ks draw, Anand on course

Chess  
AFP, Moscow

While the world's top chess players Garry Kasparov and Vladimir Kramnik rested after their well paid exertions in four drawn games Thursday, India's Viswanathan Anand, rated third in the world, took a big step to retaining his official FIDE champion's title.

Anand beat Spain's Alexei Shirov in the first of two quarterfinal games, while his other rivals all drew.

He needs only to draw in the return Friday to secure a semifinal berth.

Meanwhile the two "K"s completed their four-game series of classic-play chess late Wednesday with a fourth successive draw and an equal share of a 250,000 dollar (281,434 euro) purse.

At the distinct risk of disappointing their fans, they agreed yet another short draw, this time in 19 moves.

After their opening game on Saturday, in which they agreed a "Grand Master draw" after 18 moves in less than two hours, Kasparov and Kramnik told reporters they were short of long-play practice in competition conditions,

and said they would not do it again.

In the following game Sunday they got to grips in an exciting six-hour match that was drawn after 72 moves.

But after Monday's rest day they relapsed with a tame draw in 21 moves (one observer said Kasparov seemed more interested in getting away to see a soccer game), and their latest draw means they tie their series at 2.0 points each.

The two will meet again on Friday and Saturday with a series of six rapid-play games in which they will contest a 200,000 dollar purse, and on Sunday when they wrap up their "Mikhail Botvinnik Memorial Tournament", named in honour of the postwar world champion, with a 10-game blitz match for a purse of 50,000 dollars.

The apparent unwillingness of the grandmasters to take each other on seriously was probably due to there being little at stake.

Even the 60-40 divide of the purse meant that winning, tying or losing made little difference to the players, both of them well-to-do after their years at the top.

Meanwhile the FIDE (World Chess Federation) world championship in the State Kremlin Palace has begun producing fireworks of its own, with the second-favourite, Michael Adams of England, going down to Russia's Peter Svidler in a

blitz tie-break in the fourth round and failing to make the quarter-finals.

Another surprise was the qualification of France's unfancied Joel Lautier, who defeated Predrag Nikolic of Bulgaria, having beaten the Russian Alexander Khalifman in the previous round.

The last eight competing to become the two players who will play off in an eight-game final in Moscow next month are: Anand, Svidler, Vasily Ivanchuk of Ukraine, Yevgeny Bareev of Russia, Lautier, Ruslan Ponomarev of Ukraine, Boris Gelfand of Israel and Alexei Shirov of Spain.

The Gelfand-Svidler, Ponomarev-Bareev and Lautier-Ivanchuk games all ended in draws, the first-named playing white. The return games are played Friday.

The semifinals, starting on Saturday, will be over four games each.

The women's world championship entered the semi-final stage Thursday, with two Chinese players among the last four.

Competing for the two play-off places were Alexandra Kostenuk of Russia, Maya Chiburdanidze of Russia, and Yuhua Xu and Chen Zhu, both of China.