

10-year-old

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Married with three children and nicknamed "Hollywood" because of his dyed blond hair.

Made his Test debut v India in Sydney, January 1992, when he took 1-150 followed by 0-78 in his second Test. Was dropped from the side but reclaimed his place and has been a permanent part of the Australian Test team ever since expect for one occasion when he was dropped after coming back from shoulder surgery.

Has almost single-handedly revitalised the art of leg-spin, tormenting batsmen the world over with his clever variations.

Bowled Mike Gatting with his first ball in Ashes cricket in 1993 with "Ball of the Century." Almost a third of his wickets have been Englishmen.

Had career-threatening shoulder operation in 1998. Similar surgery often carried out on javelin throwers. Also has had finger surgery. Relunched his career at 1999 World Cup with 20 wickets and man-of-the-match award in both semi-final against South Africa and final against Pakistan.

Involved in two major controversies when claimed he was offered a bribe by Salim Malik to throw a Test match in Pakistan 1994. Later admitted receiving money from a bookmaker in Sri Lanka but said it was a gift, not a bribe. Fined and reprimanded by the Australian Cricket Board over the incident.

Nazar's claim

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rankings he would put Pakistan and South Africa level in the world rankings.

He said anything less than a clean sweep against Test newcomers Bangladesh, the bottom of the rankings following thrashings by Zimbabwe and New Zealand in consecutive series, would be disastrous.

Pakistan play two Tests and three one-day internationals on their first tour of Bangladesh beginning on Tuesday.

"The tour to Bangladesh should be easy, but the memories of our World Cup defeat to them are still not erased from people's minds so we have prepared for this tour as we would any normal tour," he said.

Part of Pakistan's slide down the world rankings is the result of playing only one Test since last July, an innings win over Bangladesh inside three days.

The Pakistan schedule has been thrown into disarray because of the conflict in neighbouring Afghanistan and the reluctance of foreign teams to visit.

Pakistan-Bangladesh fixtures can also be tense. Bangladesh was known as East Pakistan until 1971, when it broke away following a bloody war.

Nakata eying Premiership



AFP, Tokyo

Japanese star midfielder Hidetoshi Nakata, whose uninspiring months at Italy's crisis-hit club Parma have led to speculation about his transfer, says the English Premiership is on his mind.

"I don't know when but I want to go there at one time before I quit soccer," the 24-year-old icon of Asian football told foreign journalists during a visit here last week for the wedding of his business associate.

"London is all right," he smiled, when asked which team he likes to follow. But he insisted he was talking about a place where he likes to be.

Nakata, whose broad vision and probing passwork made him the Asian Player of the Year twice and Japan's best export in football, may be aware of reports Chelsea are seeking to sign him up to boost their midfield attack.

Another London club Arsenal alongside world-renowned Manchester United appear to have

an interest in him as an embargo on transfer deals is to be lifted on Wednesday.

He has yet to make an impact at Parma where his rocky ties with Japan's national coach Philippe Troussier and the media have made for a bumpy ride ahead of the



HIDETOSHI NAKATA

World Cup finals to be co-hosted by Japan and South Korea in June.

He moved to Parma in a 26 million-dollar deal last July after helping AS Roma win Italy's championship with important performances in the title run-in.

But he admitted: "My team and myself are not doing so well right now."

When Parma, struggling near at the bottom of the Serie-A table, won their last match of the year at home on December 23 -- 2-0 against Fiorentina -- Nakata was kept on the bench all throughout for the third time this season.

The team had to call in former national coach Arrigo Sacchi as technical director to back Gedeone Carmignani who replaced Argentine Daniel Passarella as coach a week earlier.

Nakata, who launched his overseas career in 1998 with Serie-A Perugia after Japan made their winless World Cup finals debut in France, said his move from the Eternal City's 'dolce vita' had nothing to do with his play.

"Basically, I prefer to stay home which ever town I live in," said the former high school mathematics whiz kid who likes designer clothes and sports dyed hair.

"But, at times when I happen to feel like going out, I feel there is something missing about Parma. But, still, it is not far from Milan."

Yevgeny survives a scare



AFP, Doha

Top-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov overcame a sluggish start before coasting past the Czech Republic's Daniel Vacek in the first round of the one million dollar Qatar Open here on Monday.

Kafelnikov was given a serious workout in the first set by the lowly-ranked Vacek, but the Russian then dug deep into his tremendous reserves of energy to unleash a series of crisp groundstrokes to close out the match 7-6, 6-4.

The Russian, who won more than three million dollars on the circuit last season, acknowledged he was nervous at first.

"It was the first tournament after a six week lay-off and I was nervous. It certainly wasn't easy," said Kafelnikov, who took 81min for his victory.

Kafelnikov broke Vacek in the fifth game, but the Czech returned the favour in the sixth and went ahead by breaking serve again in the eighth to take a 5-3 lead.

However, the Russian world No 4 clawed back with a break of his own, forcing the tiebreak in which Vacek was left stranded.

Kafelnikov had two breaks against Vacek's one in the second set, but by this time the chasm between the two players was obvious even though the Russian said he was not fully tuned in for the match.

"You can't give 100 percent when you are playing your first match, but I am happy with the way I picked up my game," he said.

Kafelnikov added the victory has put him in a better frame of mind for the rest of the tournament which he is desperate to win.

"I have never done too well in Doha, but now I am all the more confident. It was a good victory."

Fifth-seeded Bohdan Ulihrach of the Czech Republic took advantage of the Gulf's sunny weather to outclass Italy's Galo Blanco in another match.

Ulihrach, the runner up here at last year's event, won 6-2, 6-2 in 58min and said he was surprised how easy his first round outing turned out to be.

"It was so easy...I was surprised. I didn't expect it," Ulihrach said.

Ulihrach broke Blanco in the third and fifth games to win the first set in 21min.

Ulihrach was pleased to be in sunny Doha, a far cry from the bleak

winter of the Czech Republic.

"I am coming from Prague, where the winter is very severe with most of the roads there covered in snow.

"It's nice to be playing in the conditions here, where the weather is good." The weather is not the only reason why Ulihrach was happy.

Last year he narrowly qualified for the main draw and survived several tough matches to enter the final which he lost to Chilean Marcelo Rios.

Meanwhile, French veteran Cedric Pioline's New Year's eve party was spoiled by Moroccan Younes El-Aynaoui, who carved out a 7-6, 6-4 victory.

Pioline, the oldest player in the draw at 32, made the mistake of rushing the net once too often, losing several vital points in the process and handing the advantage to the Moroccan, runner-up to Petr Korda here in 1996.

The match was briefly stopped during the tie-break when El-Aynaoui, serving at 3-1, blasted an ace that knocked a ball boy unconscious.

Reigning Wimbledon champion Goran Ivanisevic, the second seed here, will open his campaign against Stefan Koubek of Austria on Tuesday.

Pakistan to play indoor cricket down under

REUTERS/AFP, Karachi

Pakistan and world champions Australia will play a series of three one-day internationals in the indoor stadium in Melbourne in June, Pakistan captain Waqar Younis said Tuesday.

"Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has received a proposal from their Australian counterparts to play a series of indoor one-day games in June this year and it would be very exciting as both teams are quality one-day types," he said.

Australia introduced the indoor cricket stadium with a retractable roof when they played South Africa in 2000.

"Pakistan challenges Australia as the best team in the world and both were the finalists in the 1999 World Cup," Younis said.

"The PCB has received this proposal from the Australians and our team has agreed to play the matches in Australia," Pakistan manager Yawar Saad told a news conference.

"It is basically, I think, the Australian cricket board's way of giving us a helping hand in view of the lack of international cricket that has faced our team since last July," said Saad on Tuesday.

"This series should help our boys prepare for next year's World Cup and also make up somewhat for the loss of international cricket they have faced in the last six months," he added.

Waugh takes it that way

REUTERS, Sydney

Australian cricket captain Steve Waugh said his team's comprehensive series win over South Africa would count for nothing if they did not beat the Proteas on their home turf later this year.

"We see this as the best of a six-match series not three," Waugh said on the eve of the third and final Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

"We've won this series out here but overall we're going to be judged on six Tests not three."

Waugh said the nature of the split series had provided his players with extra motivation and helped eliminate any thoughts of complacency.

"There's a lot of things to play for. Our goal at the start of the year was to win three Test matches against South Africa," Waugh said.

"We've played as close to as well as we could in the last Test match, there was nothing much we didn't dominate in there, and we'd love to back that up here in Sydney."

Billed as cricket's first official World Test Championship, the three match series has quickly turned into a fizzer after the Australians crushed the South Africans in the first two Tests, winning by 246 runs in Adelaide and nine wickets in Melbourne.

Waugh said he was slightly surprised by South Africa's capitulation but said it was a sign their team was still developing.

"Once you lose one Test match you tend get a few doubts with inexperienced players," Waugh said.

"The first Test was crucial and we won that pretty well. That put South Africa on the back foot so they're probably missing those experienced, tough, season campaigners."

Zulu back home

REUTERS, Sydney

All-rounder Lance Klusener has been sent home from South Africa's tour of Australia to visit his pregnant wife in the hope of regaining his confidence before the forthcoming limited-overs series.

South African captain Shaun Pollock told a media conference on the eve of the third and final Test starting in Sydney that Klusener had been given the choice of going home for a week after being dropped from the Test side.

"It was a management decision and when we put it to him he agreed it was best to go home," Pollock said on Tuesday.

"It's a difficult time for him, his wife is due to give birth in less than a month and we believed that to get the best out of Lance Klusener we had to send him home."

The big-hitting all-rounder known as Zulu flew out of Sydney on New Year's Eve but Pollock said he would return in a week's time for the triangular one-day series including New Zealand.

"He wasn't going to play in this Test so this is the best thing for him. He's still an integral part of the one-day side," Pollock said.

Klusener scored just 47 runs in the first two Tests and speculation about his position intensified when left arm spinner Nicky Boje was added to the squad at late notice.

Australian captain Steve Waugh said he applauded Klusener's decision to take a break when he was so obviously out of form.

"There are probably two ways you can look at it. He's either taken the easy option or he's taken a courageous decision," Waugh said on Tuesday.

"I think it's a courageous decision. Not many players have taken this option in the past so it's a brave move."

Belgium baffle Italy



AFP, Perth

Belgian pair Kim Clijsters and Xavier Malisse won the crucial mixed doubles to snatch victory over a gallant Italy in a Hopman Cup mixed teams tennis tournament tie at Burswood Dome here Tuesday.

The fourth-seeded Belgians won

the doubles, beating Francesca Schiavone and Davide Sanguinetti 6-3, 6-4 to clinch the tie 2-1 after being given an early fright.

Eighteen-year-old Clijsters -- ranked 5th in the world -- crashed to defeat by 31st-ranked Schiavone, 21, in the women's singles as Italy took a 1-0 lead.

In the biggest upset in this year's eight-nation contest, Schiavone won 6-4, 6-4 in 83 minutes.

But Malisse revived Belgium's hopes on the third day of the million-

dollar (500,000-US) mixed teams tournament.

Ranked 35th, the 21-year-old beat Italy's 86th-ranked Sanguinetti, 29, in straight sets, 6-4, 7-5 in 84 minutes in the men's singles to make it all square.

In the deciding doubles, Clijsters and Malisse teamed up well to take the honours decisively.

The Belgians are the fourth seeds in the eight-nation contest, while the unseeded Schiavone and Sanguinetti were forced into a play-off with Greece to reach the main draw.

Malisse said: "It is nice to start the year with a win like this -- I was happy with the way we won."

"I felt a little extra pressure on myself in the singles after Kim had lost."

"But these first matches of the year are very tough."

"My aim now is to work on the mental and physical sides of my game."

"I admit I have a tendency to lose my head a bit. When that happens, I might as well pack my bags and go home."

Malisse won the opening set with relative ease, but needed all his tenacity in the second to take the honours after slipping to 2-3.

Sanguinetti conceded the better player had won the men's singles.

"He played a little bit better than me today," he said.

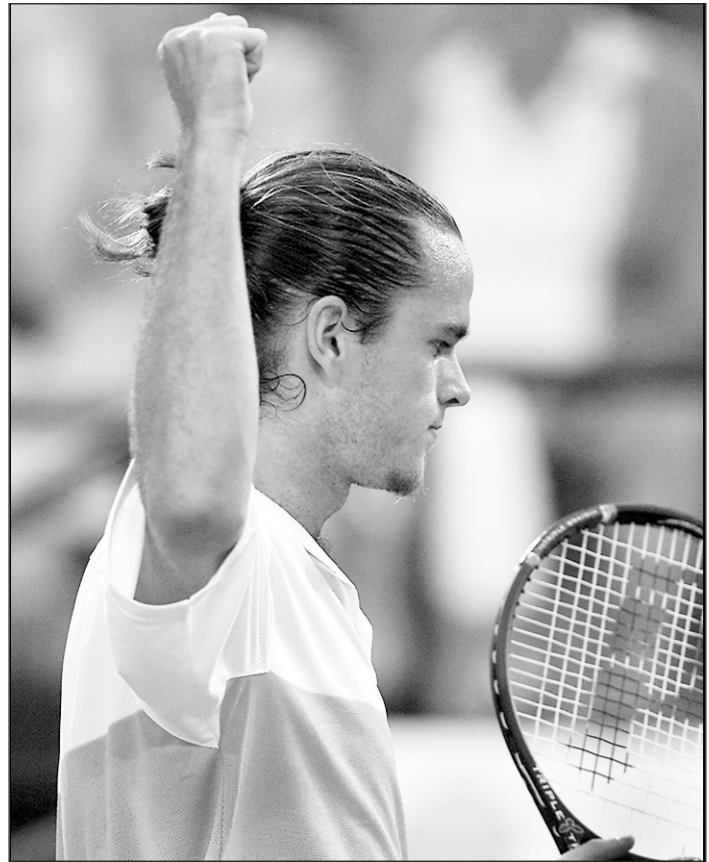
Clijsters said she was not surprised Schiavone had played so well in the singles.

"I have played her before, so I already knew she is a great competitor. She runs everything down."

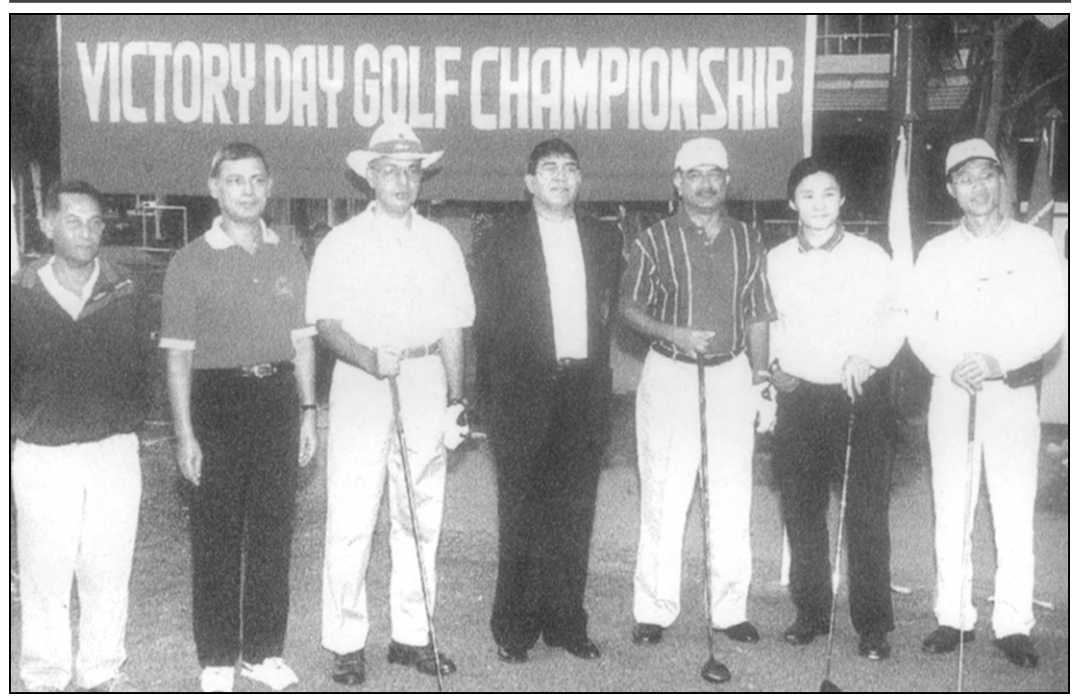
An elated Schiavone declared: "That was definitely the best win of my career."

"It was a great match for me -- a marvelous way to start the new year."

"It was important that I had already had a match here" against Greece's Eleni Daniilidou in the tournament qualifying clash last Saturday.



Belgian Xavier Malisse pumps his fist after beating Davide Sanguinetti of Italy at the Hopman Cup in Perth on Tuesday.



Participants and guests of the Victory Day Golf Championship which was held at the Kurmitola Golf Club from December 20 to 21. The meet was jointly sponsored by Motorola and Skyways Techno Services Limited.

Spaniards on course

AFP, Perth

Former world No.1 Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario and 19-year-old partner Tommy Robredo ran hot as they thrust Spain closer to the final of the million-dollar (500,000-US) Hopman Cup tennis final here Tuesday night.

Sanchez-Vicario, now an 18th-ranked 30-year-old, crushed Switzerland's Miroslava Vavrinec, 23, ranked 116th, in straight sets, 6-2, 6-0 in 51 minutes in the women's singles.

Then Robredo (30th) gave one of the most dazzling performances of his career to beat 13th-ranked 20-year-old Roger Federer in straight sets in the men's singles at Burswood Dome.

Robredo won 7-6, 6-2 in 73 minutes, completing the demolition of the Swiss, who won the title last year.

The two singles wins guided Spain to their second win in three days in the eight-nation mixed teams contest, leaving them with an excellent chance of a place in Saturday's showdown.

The mixed doubles about to take place will have no bearing on the result.

Henman halts Fromberg

AFP, Adelaide

British top seed Tim Henman overcame storm interruptions to knock Australian Richard Fromberg out of the Australian men's hardcourt tennis championship here Tuesday. The British No.1 prevailed 6-3, 6-7, 6-0 to win the opening round match.

Henman, who captured his first professional title in Sydney in 1997, overcame a lapse in concentration during the second set to oust Fromberg.

The match was interrupted several times because of storms before Henman raced away with the deciding set.

Henman was joined in the second round by Denmark's Kenneth Carlsen, who eliminated Zimbabwe's Wayne Black, 7-6, 6-7, 6-0.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 39 "Krazy —" 3 Provider 22 God with a magic hammer  
1 Boisterous dance party 41 Sewing kit item veritas? 4 Inull purchase  
5 "I — Camera" 46 Linguistics shade 25 Have a bug  
8 First victim 50 Like two peas in — 7 Picnic invaders  
12 Egyptian fertility goddess 51 Bread-and-butter note 8 Home run champ  
13 Trinity member 54 Mature 9 1994  
14 "M'A'S'H" star 55 Intention 9 Damon  
15 Pool play 57 Mrs. Dick Waysans  
17 Cleaning cloths 58 Agl. 10 Advantage  
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CRYPTOQUIP  
M X T S W E X L Q L Q F ' B T C S T H  
B P X M N N H E K W T P S Z Z  
E X K X E B X C . L C X S Z Z V  
Y X F B Q N Y F L F P L E B N C V .  
Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN A MOTHER  
DUCK STARTS GROOMING HER CHICKS, DOES  
SHE GET DOWN IN THE MOUTH?  
Today's Cryptquip Clue: E equals S  
The Cryptquip 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.