

Div II Soccer

SPORTS REPORTER

East End Club thrashed Malibagh Avijatrik 3-0 in a Second Division Football League match at the Abahani Club Ground.

The old-towners led the first half 1-0.

Mainuddin opened the floodgates in the 43rd minute. Ashraf added the second ten minutes after the break and Niaz completed the rout blasting home the third in the 73rd minute.

Purbachal Parishad, one of the two promotees, came from behind to pull off a stunning 2-1 victory against PWD SC in the first match at the Sher-e-Bangla Mirpur National Stadium.

Biplob gave the utility outfit a 13th minute lead but it lasted only two minutes.

Robi struck the equalizer for Purbachal. Nuruzzaman scored the winning goal fourteen minutes into the second half.

In the other match of the day, Dhaka Wanderers blanked Bashabo Tarun Sangha 2-0.

The giants of yesteryear confirmed rode on strikes from Mamun and Munir in the space of six minutes into the first half.

Nathan gives Kiwis a boost

REUTERS, Melbourne

Nathan Astle is set to join the New Zealand cricket squad for the triangular series with Australia and South Africa after recovering from injury.

The right-hand batsman missed New Zealand's opening four matches of the series after breaking his hand against Bangladesh last month.

Astle, who also bowls useful medium pace, is likely to rejoin the squad next weekend after making a successful comeback in a domestic one-day game on Sunday.

In a further boost to the New Zealanders, who top the standings after winning three of their four matches, one-day all-rounder Chris Harris is also expected back next weekend. He returned home last week to visit a sick relative.

Angel bowls WA to victory

AFP, Perth

Paceman Jo Angel took career-best figures to lead Western Australia to a 10-wicket victory over Victoria and second place on the Sheffield Shield cricket standings here Monday.

Angel (6-52) became the fourth-highest wicket taker in Australia's domestic four-day competition, passing New South Welshman Geoff Lawson (367 wickets), as he ripped through Victoria's lower order early on the final day.

He helped Western Australia (WA) bowl Victoria out for 185 in their second innings before WA Test batsman Justin Langer (44 not out) and Michael Hussey (22 not out) hit the 72 runs needed for victory in just 22.3 overs without losing a wicket.

Angel's demolition job moved him to 369 wickets and continued Victoria's wretched season.

Hayden left out Proteas in selection soup



AFP, Sydney

Matthew Hayden has been dropped from the Australian one-day cricket team as selectors Monday backed away from the team's criticised player rotation policy.

The squad was reduced to 13 players for its remaining triangular series matches with selectors' chairman Trevor Hohns saying Australia would return to "normal cricket with our normal opening pair" of Adam Gilchrist and Mark Waugh.

Hohns said once the decision had been made to cut the squad from 14 to 13, Hayden - who was Australia's player of the series in the Tests against South Africa - was the unlucky player.

"What we want to do now is get back to normal cricket with a normal opening pair," Hohns said Monday.

Australia have won just one out of four games in the triangular series and face a must-win game against South Africa at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Tuesday.

Hohns said Hayden, Australia's dominant Test batsman this summer, had been the unlucky player after a decision had been made to tighten the squad.

"Matthew Hayden had a couple of opportunities but didn't quite take them and has been cut from the squad."

Australia has used four different opening combinations in those four matches, each pair making a poor start.

Only earlier this month Australian captain Steve Waugh said Hayden was playing cricket as well as anyone who's gone before him, with the exception of Don Bradman.

The big Queensland left-handed opener was the unanimous choice as player of the series after hundreds in each of Australia's three massive Test wins over the South Africans in the series clean sweep.

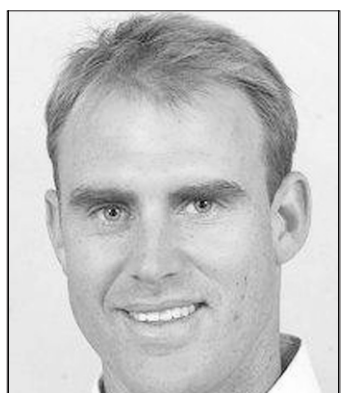
Hayden was the highest-scoring

batsman in Test cricket last year with 1,391 runs and has scored 726 runs this season, the most by an Australian since Greg Chappell's 702 in the 1975-76 season.

Hohns admitted the rotation system had caused some vexation for the public and media.

"There's no doubt about that and we want to cut the confusion," he said.

"We wanted to give a couple of fellows some opportunities - it may



MATTHEW HAYDEN

not have worked all that well and now we want to get back to winning - but there's no guarantee we'll do that."

There would still be room to rotate some of the fast bowlers, who occasionally need a rest, Hohns said.

But for the rest of the limited-overs series Australia would pick their best batting line-up.

Waugh has been a staunch advocate of the rotation system but Hohns said he was happy with the change in direction, as was coach John Buchanan.

"I've spoken to Stephen and to the coach and they're totally happy with it," said Hohns.

"Australia can't be expected to win every game. Every time Australia loses, commentators, the media and the public give somebody a smack.

"It's just not possible to win every

game. We had the rotation policy last year and it was a huge success, this year it's not been quite so successful.

"There's no need for an explanation - we've just had a rethink."

Meanwhile, South Africa is battling to come up with 11 fit players for Tuesday's key match.

The Proteas are facing their third game in four days and needing a win after losing both matches in a weekend double-header in Brisbane.

"It is very difficult to play three one-day internationals of such high quality in four days," said South African captain Shaun Pollock.

"It's a big ask for the guys, who are suffering. We have a few injury worries - and there's a good chance a few of our guys won't be able to play."

Fast bowler Makhaya Ntini needs a fitness test on a strained hamstring and Allan Donald was still bothered by an injured finger which kept him out of the weekend games.

All-rounder Jacques Kallis also hasn't fully recovered from an ankle strain which sidelined him against New Zealand in Hobart.

To add to the injury worries, Justin Kemp has also joined the injured list.

"We're just waiting to see how it all turns out," Pollock said.

However, Pollock could see the rationale for the series scheduling.

"It is hard work for us but I think you can understand the Australian Cricket Board - you can't be having Australia playing two games in the same place," he said.

"For them it's very difficult to have a double-header, they have to try to spread their games around Australia to give them (Australia) the most exposure around the country."

Australia: Stephen Waugh (captain), Adam Gilchrist, Michael Bevan, Andrew Bichel, Jason Gillespie, Ian Harvey, Brett Lee, Damien Martyn, Glenn McGrath, Ricky Ponting, Andrew Symonds, Shane Warne, Mark Waugh.

Sampras sent packing

AFP, Melbourne

Pete Sampras crashed out of the Australian Open Monday when the 13-times Grand Slam champion was beaten by Russian ninth seed Marat Safin in four pulsating sets.

Safin, who won the first four games after breaking the eighth seeded American twice, won a bad-tempered match 6-2, 6-4, 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (10/8) in three hours 33 minutes and plays South African Wayne Ferreira in Wednesday's quarterfinals.

Sampras saved one match point in the tie-breaker when Safin netted an easy forehand but Safin clinched victory with a spectacular passing shot.

"It was a great comeback from Pete. He put me under pressure, he had the crowd behind him and it was a little bit difficult," Safin said afterwards.

"I played a great tiebreak in the fourth set and I deserved to win."

He played down the run-ins he had with Portuguese umpire Jorge Dias.

"We discussed a few points but it's just the game. Everyone wants to win and everybody wants to play their best tennis. Pete discussed his points. I think it's normal," he said.

"All the time with Pete Sampras you have to make a great passing shot to beat him. We played a great match."

Safin, 22 on Sunday, had not dropped a set in his three previous matches and he is the only Grand Slam champion left in a tournament which has lost seven of its top eight seeds.

Seventh seed Tommy Haas of Germany, the world No 9, is the only top 10 player left in the championship. He plays Chile's Marcelo Rios in the other quarterfinal, the winner of which will take on Safin or Ferreira.

But Safin said at this stage all the opponents were dangerous.

"I'm happy to be in the quarter-finals. I have more experience than the other guys but all the opponents are tough," he said.

However, he felt like he was close to the form that won him the 2000 US Open.

"I'm close to the form I had in 2000," he said.

Sampras agreed.

"He played phenomenal in the first couple of sets. You have to give him a lot of credit tonight," he said.

"Tonight I thought I had it a couple of times, I fought back but I didn't get the breaks I needed and he came up with the big shots. I had my chances but I just didn't convert the points I needed," he said.

Sampras was flat and out-of-sorts for the first two sets dominated by Safin but his game picked up in the third set which he took with two service breaks in the tie-breaker only to lose a tense 18-point fourth set tiebreaker.

Safin had beaten Sampras in the 2000 US Open final but lost to him in a re-match in last year's semi-finals at Flushing Meadows.

The 30-year-old Sampras has not won an ATP tournament for 21 events, going back to his 2000 Wimbledon triumph, and there must now be doubts over whether the ageing great can win another Grand Slam.

The American was a pale shadow of the Sampras who once intimidated opponents and seemed to lack any punch after his punishing five-set battle with Frenchman Nicolas Escude which ended at two o'clock on Sunday morning.

Eng survive

FROM PAGE 13

Richards 3-70) Canada: 114 all out (40.2 overs) (U Bhatti 39; A Sharma 3-13, S Trivedi 3-28)

Result: India beat Canada by 242 runs

Group B (Christchurch) Zimbabwe: 71 all out (36.2 overs) M Bates 4-26, R Sherlock 2-12

New Zealand: 72-4 (J Ryder 41; W Mwayenga 3-34)

Result: New Zealand beat Zimbabwe by six wickets

Group C (Christchurch) England: 204 for six (50 overs) (G Mutchall 57, B Shafayat 45)

Nepal: 167 all out (49.2 overs) (S Regmi 35; P McMahon 5-25)

Result: England beat Nepal by 37 runs

Group D (Dunedin) West Indies: 402-3 (50 overs) (D Pagon 176, L Simmons 121, A Holder 56)

Scotland: 101 all out (28.3 overs) (Q Sheikh 37; N Deonarine 2-12, R Nurse 2-18, R Rampaul 2-28)

Result: West Indies beat Scotland by 301 runs

Hometown kid's

FROM PAGE 13

to dwell on Bashar's unavailability for the match.

"I don't agree with the idea that Bashar alone can change our fate because no other batsman is lending him support or playing with responsibility. Look at the second Test. We scored 148 in the first innings when Bashar did not contribute. Again when he scored a fifty in the second innings, we ended up with the same total."

"Unless all the batsmen make useful contributions to the team's score, it matters little who is playing and who is not," said Mashud.

Haas pulls through



AP, Melbourne

Tommy Haas saved a match point and survived a gripping five-set match against Roger Federer Monday to remain the highest-seeded player in the Australian Open men's draw.

Seventh-seeded Haas set up a quarterfinal showdown against former No 1 Marcelo Rios when he sealed a 7-6 (3), 4-6, 3-6, 6-4, 8-6 win in 3 hours, 35 minutes on an angled, backhand volley.

"In the fifth set, we were both tired and it came down to one or two points," Haas said. "That's one of

the biggest moments in my career, but the tournament isn't finished and it's not the time to be complacent."

No 11 Federer joined the exodus of seeded players, becoming the 27th seeded man to be eliminated from the season-opening major.

Federer put a forehand wide to lose the first-set tiebreaker, but he rallied to win the next two sets.

Haas broke in the fifth game of the fourth and equalized at two sets apiece. The deciding set went with serve until Federer, after missing a match point on Haas' serve at 5-6 and 30-40, produced five consecutive errors.

Haas, a semifinalist here in 1999, got the vital break in the 13th game and then closed out on serve.

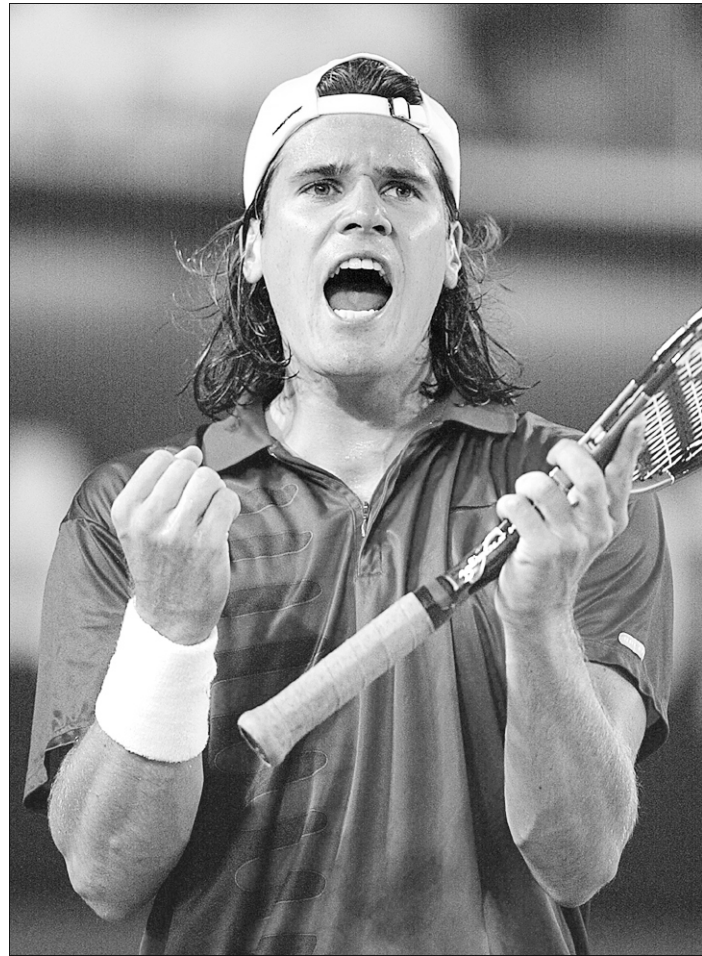


PHOTO: AFP

German Tommy Haas exults after beating Roger Federer of Switzerland at the Australian Open on January 21.

AUSSIE OPEN NOTES



AFP, Melbourne

Italy's Rita Grande isn't sure which is more nerve-racking -- facing a match point or defending one.

"This is a strange question," she said after saving four match points before being beaten by top seed Jennifer Capriati.

"Both you get nervous, that's for sure. Because if you do one you win and if you don't do the other you lose."

Right. DON'T MESS WITH ME

Jennifer Capriati is a big girl and you wouldn't want to mess with her -- particularly now she's a kick boxer.

The world No.1's trainer is a former world champion and has passed her self defence skills onto her charge.

"I like it because it's fun and keeps it different, and you know, with the music and everything it's just fun."

MUMMY'S GIRL

Jennifer Capriati usually travels the tour with just coach, dad Stefan. Occasionally mum comes too, and drags her daughter to the theatre.

"Sometimes my mum wants to go see some of these plays and all this kind of stuff, but I'm willing to do that," she said.

"It's just, you know, I have fun with my dad just being there but my mum, you know, she's really a friend also. It's like having a friend around - a buddy."

HENIN THE NEWS HOUND

Justine Henin is making her mark in the tennis world and learning fast how to return serve at press conferences.

Her jousting with the media might come in handy one day with the job of journalist in her sights when her tennis career ends.

Asked what she wanted to do later in life she said: "I think maybe I could be a journalist."

Told she should raise her sights, she said she was serious. "I thought a lot about this when I was younger. I love sport generally, so maybe after my tennis career. But right now I'm too happy being a tennis player."

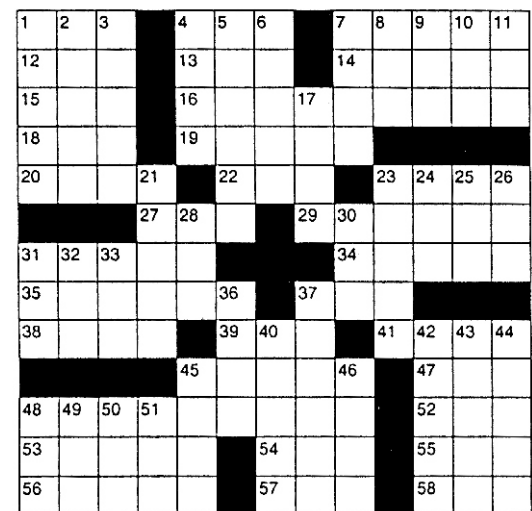
HINGIS ZIPS THROUGH

Martina Hingis has not dropped a set, played only one match that has taken longer than an hour and conceded just 10 games in her march to the women's singles quarter-finals. And she has spent 22 minutes less on court than it took Pete Sampras to beat France's Nicolas Escude. But she is not worried about lack of a real workout. "It's nice to have matches like that. Your confidence rises," she said.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 37 Predicament 1 Early hrs. 4 Med. person 7 Rocket stage 12 Pale 13 Show to a seal, slangily 14 Fjestive affairs 15 Square deka-meter 16 BBO entree 18 "Spechen - Deutsch?" 19 Gave it a whack 20 Medal earner 22 Mound stal 23 Support 27 Kid's common query 29 It's just one thing after another 31 A former Trump 34 Frown 35 Bikes' big brothers? DOWN 1 Submerged 2 One of the Osmonds 3 Villain's countenance 4 Do housework 5 Piscivorous bird 6 Run the meeting 7 On in years 8 Needlefish 9 41-Across student 10 Ensnare and Oscar 11 Pompous one 17 Harvest Solution time: 28 mins.

HAIS REIAM LEST IDIA ARTIA AGAR MOINETARY TAJARA DOTI ARB SOMEDIAY TIVIE SOMEDIAY ALIA STIC GASIPS HERIB GUN LOLA LOVAL PAD LAW ROD BEGTINS GRABIEDI SETI TOTIA MINLETARIM DIOIA GINEIS RUM EMMA NEAT YIEA



CRYPTOQUIP

TA XUH FLZA UMCM GHRSBF

GZ IMTRZ FCTBOV TXIMC

KNHKE, SX VMNN HRMC

TBO AXCLKE HBM.

Yesterday's Cryptogram: IF A VERY SEEDY BAR WAS FREQUENTED BY AQUATIC BIRDS, I'D CALL IT A SWAN DIVE.

Today's Cryptogram Clue: N equals L.

The Cryptogram 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.

Angel bowls WA to victory

AFP, Perth

Paceman Jo Angel took career-best figures to lead Western Australia to a 10-wicket victory over Victoria and second place on the Sheffield Shield cricket standings here Monday.

Angel (6-52) became the fourth-highest wicket taker in Australia's domestic four-day competition, passing New South Welshman Geoff Lawson (367 wickets), as he ripped through Victoria's lower order early on the final day.

He helped Western Australia (WA) bowl Victoria out for 185 in their second innings before WA Test batsman Justin Langer (44 not out) and Michael Hussey (22 not out) hit the 72 runs needed for victory in just 22.3 overs without losing a wicket.

Angel's demolition job moved him to 369 wickets and continued Victoria's wretched season.

Seeds on course



AFP, Melbourne

Jennifer Capriati and Amelie Mauresmo were given the type of workouts Monday they felt were essential fine-tuning for what both expect to be a demanding quarterfinal in the Australian Open.

The defending champion and top seed beat Italy's Rita Grande, seeded 20, 6-3, 7-6 (11/9) while Mauresmo, the seventh seed and 1999 finalist, had to dig deep when 3-4 down in the third set to overcome unseeded German Marlene Weingartner 6-0, 4-6, 7-5.

However, Belgian pair Justine Henin and Kim Clijsters, either of whom meet the winner in the semifinals, raced through their fourth round matches.

Henin, seeded six, beat 12th seeded Russian Elena Dementieva 6-0, 6-3 while fourth seeded Clijsters dropped only two games to unseeded Slovakian Janette Husarova, 6-0, 6-2.

Capriati was bubbling after overcoming a tenacious Grande who saved four match points in a tension-filled second set tiebreaker.

"I look at a match like this as a way to build my fitness even more in a tournament, not to tire me out,"

Capriati said. "It was good to pace myself. If I wasn't fit I probably wouldn't have



JENNIFER CAPRIATI

been able to pull this match off. I think this match has made me sharper."

She beat Mauresmo the last time they played, in the US Open quarterfinals, having previously lost to the French woman in the German Open final.

"It'll be another battle. I'm expecting her to be really eager and anx-

ious to come out and play well."

The 22-year-old Frenchwoman, who reached the final here in 1999 when she was unseeded, said she was fitter and stronger.

"That was tough but I feel the hard preparation I did in the end-of-year break is coming into play. I feel a lot stronger and ready to play three setters," she said after her one hour 35 minute match.

Mauresmo twice had to withdraw from tournaments through exhaustion last year and she admits she was not as fit as she would have liked to be.

"The longer you stay in a Grand Slam tournament the more confident you get and I feel if I don't let her get into her rhythm I can beat Jennifer."

Henin's effort in reaching the Wimbledon final last year, where she was beaten by American Venus Williams in three sets, has convinced her that she belongs among the women's elite players.

"I think I improved my game last year and I'm in the top 10 eight months."

Her next goal was a major, "maybe here or maybe in the next grand slams."

From a fourth round appearance at the start of the year in the Australian championships, she made the semifinals at Roland Garros, the Wimbledon final and the final 16 at the US Open.

Despite her petite build at 1.67m, Henin was not afraid of going to against players who tower over her, such as Capriati, Mauresmo or the Williams sisters.

"For sure they are strong players on the tour but I have many things in my game to oppose this kind of game. When I'm aggressive, when I go to the net I can play well and I can be strong also," she said.

And with Venus Williams and Martina Hingis in the opposite side of the draw, Henin is confident she can repeat her feat of last year and reach a Grand Slam final.

"I'm in good form for sure," she said. "I think I have an opportunity to go a long way."

Slow India to be fined

REUTERS, Cuttack

India will be fined for slow over-rate during their 22-run victory over England in the first one-day game on Saturday, match referee Denis Lindsay said.

The International Cricket Council official told reporters the size of the fine had yet to be fixed.

India, who scored 281, bowled out England for 259 in 44 overs in Calcutta but were about three or four overs behind the clock.

Teams are usually penalised five per cent of the match fees per over.

England were also penalised one over for poor over-rate during their defeat at Eden Gardens.