

## Leander, Mahesh break up again

AFP, Calcutta

The ace Indian tennis doubles pair of Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi on Monday split for the second time in three years following a recent lean run.

Lender's father Dr. Vaes Paes made the announcement here, after the former world number one pair went out of the top 10 in the ATP Doubles Champions Race with a string of losses.

"Leander and Mahesh will not be playing together as they had not been doing too well in recent weeks," Dr. Paes said. "It was Mahesh who decided to opt for a separate partner."

Popularly known as the "Indian Express," the duo of Leander and Mahesh had parted ways in 1999 before coming together a little before the Sydney Olympics the following year.

At home, the feeling was that by splitting in 1999 and not getting enough time to play together before the Olympics, Leander and Mahesh denied themselves and the nation a medal at Sydney.

"Let us hope whatever decisions they take are the best for them as well as the country. The decision seems to have been taken in a mature way," said Dr. Paes, a former India hockey player.

The doubles combination has won 23 ATP Tour titles, including three grand slams, but hit a bad patch this year after winning the Tata Open in Madras in January.

They even failed to qualify for the semifinals of the ATP Tour World Doubles Challenge Cup held in February in the southern Indian city of Bangalore, Mahesh's hometown.

Following the decision to part wapartnerSouthAfrican John Laffrie de Jager while Bhupathi will play with Jan Michael Gambill of the United States.

## Smith qualifies



REUTERS, Cape Town

Twenty-year-old debutant Graeme Smith could barely hide his delight at scoring a half century that helped revive South Africa's fortunes on Day Three of the second Test of the second Test against Australia at Newlands.

"It was wonderful to get out there and score some runs," Smith said after making just three in the first innings. "Everything was a new experience and I've learned more in this Test match than in two years of first class cricket."

South Africa were 307 for four in their second innings to lead by 164 runs, with the not out batsmen Neil McKenzie on 28 and Ashwell Prince five.

Smith contributed 68 runs to the total on Sunday and was unlucky to be given out when umpire Steve Bucknor decided he had edged a delivery from Shane Warne through to Adam Gilchrist. Replays suggested the ball struck his pads rather than the bat.

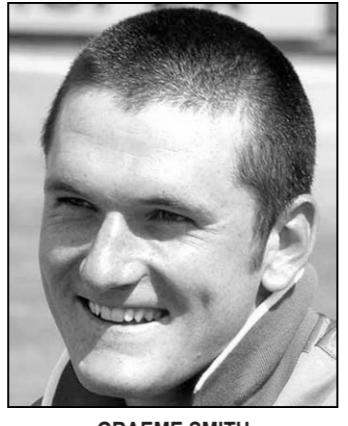
"We want to get to at least 400 and then have a look from there. It's a very good batting track but it is starting to take some turn and get a bit up and down so it's not going to be easy to bat on the last day. If we can keep them in the field a bit longer (we can then) create a bit of pressure with our bowling."

Dressing room spirits are high at the moment. We know we've got a long way to go but we're looking forward to each day rather than not," added Smith.

The young left-hander said the attitude of the young newcomers to

the South African side had played a significant part in raising spirits, although he humorously admitted it may have had as much to do with their naivete as ability.

"I think it makes a big difference



GRAEME SMITH

in the sense that we haven't been involved in all the defeats. Even though as South Africans we suffer with the team, we come in with a positive attitude and it's been a fresh start which has rubbed off on some of the other guys. We've brought a bit of youth, a bit of enthusiasm – and maybe a bit of ignorance too!"

Smith was singled out for top honours from a young age and said cricket was simply a game he loved playing.

Representing his country had been one of his aspirations since South Africa were first readmitted to the international fold with a one-off Test against West Indies in Barbados in 1991.

"I think ever since I saw South Africa walk onto the field for the first Test after readmission I've wanted

to play Test cricket for my country. I was pretty young at the time and remember more about the 1992 World Cup.

## BD A crushed

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batsman out in the morning period, caught by Samuels off left-arm spinner Ryan Cunningham for 10.

## SCOREBOARD

Final scorecard of the Busta Cup seventh round match between Bangladesh A and Jamaica at the Chedwin Park in Spanish Town on Sunday:

**JAMAICA:** First innings 368 (R Powell 86, W Hinds 78, G Breese 72D Powell 38; T Aziz 4-70, A Kabir 3-76)

**BANGLADESH A:** First innings 166 (H Sarker 55, Akram Khan 46; R Cunningham 3-39, D Powell 3-39)

**BANGLADESH A:** Second innings (overnight 15-1)

Hannan c Samuels b Lawson 37

Ehsanul b D Powell 7

Mazharul b D Powell 8

Imran handled the ball 0

Akram c Lawson b Breese 34

Mushfiq c Samuels b C'gham 10

Naimur D Powell 16

Anwar b Lawson 0

Mosaddek not out 16

Aziz Ibw b D Powell 12

Kabir D Powell 0

Extras: (lb-2) 2

Total: (All out in 52.2 overs) 142

Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-43, 3-43, 4-

57, 5-73, 6-102, 7-103, 8-124, 9-142

**Bowler** O M R W

D Powell 12.2 2 37 5

Lawson 11 4 28 2

Bernard 8 2 30 0

Breese 13 2 34 1

C'gham 8 3 11 1

**Result:** Jamaica won by an

innings and 60 runs.

**Man-of-the-match:** Darren Powell.

## Mongia lauded

REUTERS, Mohali

India coach John Wright has praised Dinesh Mongia's contribution with bat and ball after the 64 run win over Zimbabwe in the second one-day international.

India amassed 319 for six batting first and then bowled out Zimbabwe for 255 to level the five-game series after losing Thursday's opener by one wicket with two balls to spare.

Mongia hit a strokeful 45 in a century opening stand with his captain Sourav Ganguly and then took three wickets with his slow-left-arm spin.

"He is a thinking cricketer," Wright said of the 25-year-old.

"Mongia has a hundred in him. It is good to see players like him contributing to the team."

Mongia has also proved an effective opener after being drafted in to replace Sachin Tendulkar, absent from the series with knee trouble.

Ganguly, whose top-score of 86 on Sunday despite a knee injury won him the man of the match award, said his side will now look to dominate the remainder of the series.

"We have to keep a steady head and look to win the next three games," he said.

Zimbabwe shook India by pulling off a one-wicket victory in the first Faridabad one-day after Douglas Marillier's 24-ball 56 not out lifted them from the brink of defeat.

But Ganguly said he was confident there would be no repeat of such heroics.

"We lost to a freak knock in Faridabad and that doesn't happen every day," he said.

Zimbabwe skipper Stuart Carlisle blamed his bowlers for sending down 25 wides.

"It was hard after we gave away

too many extras and it was a good pitch to bat on," he said.

"We got to a good start, but lost

wickets regularly."

## Sourav steers India



AFP, Mohali

Thursday.

Friend struck one six and seven fours in his maiden 59-ball half-century and Campbell eight boundaries in his 75-ball knock, but none of the remaining batsmen could capitalise on their brilliant efforts.

Their stand was the highest against India, the previous best for the second wicket being 125 between Campbell and Murray Goodwin at Bulawayo in 1998.

Mongia then got the prize wicket of Andy Flower, who chopped a delivery on to his stumps after contributing 29.

Douglas Marillier, who improvised superbly to make an unbeaten 56 in his team's win in the last match, could not repeat his magic as he fell to a running catch by wicket-keeper Ajay Ratra while trying to sweep Mongia.

Earlier, India went on a run-spree against an erratic Zimbabwean seam bowling attack, surpassing their previous highest total against the visitors of 306-5 at Ahmedabad in 2000.

Ganguly put his team on the right course, hitting three sixes and eight fours in his fourth successive half-century, much to the delight of nearly 40,000 spectators. He put on 109 for the opening wicket with Mongia (45) and 79 for the second with Venkatesh Lakshman (52).

Zimbabwean seamers Heath Streak, Friend and Gary Brent erred in line and length, giving

enough width to Ganguly and Mongia to cut and drive.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard from the second one-day international between India and Zimbabwe at the Punjab Cricket Association Stadium on Sunday:

**INDIA:** 319 for 6 (S Ganguly 86, R Dravid 66, V Laxman 52, Di Mongia: G Brent 2-60)

## ZIMBABWE

Campbell lbw b Harbhajan 62

Ebrahim c Laxman b Agarkar 1

Friend st Ratra b Harbhajan 63

A Flower b Mongia 29

G Flower run out 9

Carlisle c Ratra b Agarkar 25

Wishart b Mongia 14

Streak c Bangar b Kumble 2

Taibu not out 14

Brent lbw b Harbhajan 7

Extras: (lb-17, w-5, nb-1) 23

Total: (All out in 43.3 overs) 255

Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-138, 3-

143, 4-166, 5-204, 6-212, 7-219, 8-

229, 9-245

Bowler O M R W

Zaheer 7 0 42 0

Agarkar 8 0 44 2

Bangar 4 0 32 0

Kumble 10 0 49 1

Harbhajan 8.3 0 40 3

Mongia 6 0 31 3

**Result:** India won by 64 runs.

**Man-of-the-match:** Sourav Ganguly.

**Next match:** March 13, Cochin.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Moist 35 Omegas' precursors

5 Venetian blind part 37 Some statuary

9 Shade provider 38 Parking attendant

12 A-line creator 40 Four Corners

14 1960s jacket 42 Ivy Leaguer

15 Imposed a trade ban on 43 White-collar criminal

17 Crib 48 Petrol

18 Eye movement 49 Starlet's desire

19 Practical joke 50 Stromboli spillage

21 Good, in Guadalu-jara 51 Blond shade

24 Ingress 52 Went too fast

25 24/7 cashiers 53 Endorse a check

26 Kids 54 Take a gander

30 Apprehend 55 Noshed 8 Polliwog

31 "April Love" singer 56 Humiliate 9 Set down

32 Pink-slip 57 Brothel 10 Set down

33 Lab workers 58 Capone 11 Brother

20 Staff 59 Marumagal 12 Carnival setting

21 Solution time: 25 mins. 20 Staff 60 Swab 13 Angostura, e.g.

22 French bench 21 Endorse a check

23 Beehive State 22 Pick a target

24 Cacophonies 23 Adorn

26 Expenditure 24 Capone

27 Stolen 25 Egress

28 Egress 26 Capone

29 Capone 27 Stolen

30 Set down 28 Egress