

Div I cricket Orient lift title

SPORTS REPORTER

Orient Sporting Club emerged champions in the First Division Cricket League with an easy eight-wicket win over powerful side Jatrabari Krira Chakra in their last match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

The victory was made possible by a brilliant all-round show from Arsek Hossain Jewel.

Jewel captured four wickets for 29 runs to help his side bowl out Jatrabari for only 166 in 48.5 overs. He then smashed an unbeaten 67 to guide his side home in 33.1 overs with eight wickets to spare.

Jewel smote two sixes and five boundaries in his 77-ball innings. Opener Masumuddin, who was not out on 65 off 92 balls, gave him a good support.

Together, they put on 115 runs in their unbeaten third wicket partnership.

It was Orient's eleventh win in 15 matches that helped them finish the 16-team league atop the table with highest 22 points.

Two teams Jatrabari and Indira Road Krira Chakra are now jointly in second position with 18 points each.

India Road, however, have a bright chance to join Orient in the Premier Division next season as runners-up if then can beat Gopibagh Friends Association in their last match today.

PWD Sports Club and Uttara Friends Club have already been relegated to the Second Division as the finished at the bottom of the table.

ACB scolds Gilchrist

REUTERS, Melbourne

Australia vice-captain Adam Gilchrist has been formally reprimanded by the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) after suggesting Sri Lankan Muttiah Muralitharan's bowling action was suspect.

The ACB had charged Gilchrist, the world's top-ranked batsman, with making public comment detrimental to the interests of cricket.

Gilchrist attended a three-and-a-half-hour hearing in Sydney on Thursday. The wicketkeeper-batsman said the ACB code of conduct forbade him from commenting.

Gilchrist, speaking at an Australian Rules football pre-match function in Melbourne on May 26, had been quoted in The Age newspaper as saying the off-spinner's action was "not quite within" the rules.

Gilchrist, who has scored 2,160 runs in 44 Tests at an average of 60.00, was also quoted as saying other bowlers in the history of the sport were guilty of throwing.



PHOTO: STAR

Action from the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League match between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Sonali Bank yesterday.

India go up in style



AFP, Bridgetown

Dinesh Mongia slammed an attractive 74 to help India break the Kensington Oval jinx with a seven-wicket victory over the West Indies in the third one-day international here on Wednesday.

India faced no difficulty in surpassing a modest West Indian total of 186 for their first success at this venue after losing seven of their eight Tests and both of their one-day internationals before this match.

India owed their win to debutant fast bowler Tino Yohannan and left-hander Mervyn Dillon, both starved of a big match for nearly two months after failing to find a place in squads for a recent five-Test series against the hosts.

Yohannan, 23, exploited the early freshness in the wicket to finish with 3-33 off 10 disciplined overs to judge a Mongia skier off Hooper at mid-off when the batsman was on 17 in a total of 65.

Mongia, 25, went on to play his shots and reached his second half-century in 16 one-dayers in style, lofting Hooper for a straight four. He hit nine boundaries in his 104-ball knock.

Sachin Tendulkar then completed a formality with an unbeaten 34 in a match reduced to 49-overs-a-side due to rain. Rahul Dravid made nine not out.

The fall of free-stroking Virender Sehwag (21) hardly affected India as Mongia put on 68 for the second wicket with skipper Sourav Ganguly (41), who was caught by Hooper in the covers off spinner Chris Gayle.

Earlier, Hooper smashed two sixes and six fours in his 29th half-century, but his effort was not enough to help his team reach a challenging total after being put in to bat.

India never relaxed their grip on the match after Yohannan had captured two wickets in his lively seven-over opening spell as they bowled and fielded well to contain the hosts.

SCOREBOARD
Complete scoreboard of the third one-day international between India and the West Indies at the Kensington Oval here on Wednesday:
WEST INDIES

There was no pressure on India as man-of-the-match Mongia played his shots with freedom to help his team win with 5.1 overs to spare for a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

The first two one-dayers in Jamaica were rained off without a ball being bowled.

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The first two one-dayers in

Gayle c Mongia b Yohannan	16			
W Hinds b Yohannan	15			
Sarwan b Sehwag	44			
Lara c Kaif b Harbhajan	5			
Hooper not out	76			
Chanderpaul run out	5			
R Hinds c Dravid b Sehwag	3			
Jacobs c Dravid b Yohannan	0			
Dillon b Agarkar	2			
Collymore lbw b Agarkar	1			
Cuffy b Agarkar	0			
Extras: (nb-3, w-13, lb-5)	19			
Total: (All out in 44.5 overs)	186			
Fall of wickets: 1-38, 2-45, 3-53, 4-140, 5-155, 6-162, 7-164, 8-182, 9-186				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Yohannan	10	1	33	3
Zaheer	8	2	31	0
Agarkar	8.5	1	36	3
Harbhajan	7	0	22	1
Ganguly	3	0	20	0
Mongia	2	0	16	0
Sehwag	6	1	23	2

Gayle	41			
Hooper b Gayle	21			
Sehwag c Sarwan b Dillon	74			
Mongia c Chanderpaul b Hinds	34			
Tendulkar not out	9			
Dravid not out	8			
Extras: (nb-3, w-3, lb-2)	8			
Total: (For 3 wks in 43.5 overs)	187			
Fall of wickets: 1-41, 2-109, 3-166				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Dillon	10	0	30	1
Cuffy	7	0	34	0
Collymore	6	0	28	0
Hooper	7	0	25	0
Gayle	8	0	34	1
Hinds	5.5	0	34	1

Result: India win by seven wickets.
Man-of-the-match: Dinesh Mongia.
Next match: Port-of Spain, June 1.

WEST INDIES

Green Delta Hockey Rafiq fires MSC up

SPORTS REPORTER

A magnificent hatrick by ace forward Rafiqul Islam Kamal propelled helped defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club maintain their solo lead in the Green Delta Premier Hockey League with a comprehensive 6-0 win over Sonali Bank in one of the two return leg clashes held at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

Second-placed Mariner Youngs Club kept pace with the leaders after recording a 4-0 thrashing of Wari Club.

Kamal, the discarded national forward who joined the black and whites this season after spending most of his career with Usha Kirra Chakra, scored three goals in a row in the 58th, 60th and 62nd minutes to complete a second half Mohammedan rally after the black and whites had a tough time against the bankers in the first session when they could score only one goal.

Kamal apart, Shahidullah Tito, Moududur Rahman Shuvo and Pakistani Mohammad Shafiq added one each to the winners' account who maintained their three-point lead over second placed Mariner.

It was Mohammedan's 11th win against a draw that kept them atop the table with highest 34 points.

On the other hand, the defeat pushed Sonali Bank into the relegation zone with their previous eight points.

In the other match of the day, midfielder Yasin Mia struck twice to help Mariner register their tenth win in 12 matches.

Kutubuddin Yen and Moksed scored the other two goals for the winners who raised their tally to 31 points from 12 matches.

Sri Lanka collapse

AFP, Birmingham

Sri Lanka collapsed to 108 for six at tea on the first day of the Second Test here at Edgbaston on Thursday after losing the toss.

In the last over before the break Russel Arnold (one) edged Andrew Caddick to Andrew Flintoff with Hashan Tillekeratne seven not out.

After rain had washed out the morning session it meant Sri Lanka's top order had subsided in just 32.1 overs, Caddick claiming three for 23.

Mahela Jayawardene (47) did his best to steady the ship before receiving a superb ball from Caddick he could do little about.

Sri Lanka lost both their openers in the space of four balls before wicket-keeper Kumar Sangakkara and Jayawardene repaired the early damage with a 53-run partnership for the third wicket.

But Sangakkara (16) then went for an extravagant shot against a wide half volley from Andrew Flintoff and was caught behind by wicket-keeper Alec Stewart to leave Sri Lanka 76 for three.

England bowling with greater purpose than in the opening Test, albeit there was more life in the pitch, then struck again.

Matthew Hoggard's comeback over had seen the dangerous Aravinda de Silva strike him for two fours.

However, a backfoot forcing shot, against a ball that moved a fraction, saw de Silva (10) caught in the gully by Marcus Trescothick.

Sri Lanka's 96 for four was then transformed into 100 for five when Caddick produced a magnificent delivery that Jayawardene could only edge to Flintoff at second slip.

Jayawardene's 47 had come from 60 balls including seven fours but Sri Lanka needed their batsmen to stick around rather than score quickly.

Only one side has won batting first in an Edgbaston Test in the last 20 years and England captain Nasser Hussain saw his decision to field rewarded early on when Jayawardene's fellow First Test centurion Marvan Atapattu (13) edged Hoggard to Stewart.

And four balls later 23 for one became 23 for two, England really cashing on what was only Hussain's fourth successful toss in 23 Tests.

Sri Lanka captain Sanath Jayasuriya, who had earlier taken a painful blow on the hand from Caddick, nicked the Somerset quick and Stewart claimed a fine diving catch.

Capriati shines



INTERNET, Paris

Jennifer Capriati was finally allowed her day in the sun.

Capriati began defence of her French Open crown with a straight-sets victory Wednesday at a busy Roland Garros after rain suspended play on Tuesday.

The first match as defending champion is a special one at a

second seed Venus Williams of the United States crushed Wynne Prakusya of Indonesia, 6-0, 6-1, in 39 minutes.

Three-time champion Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, the 15th seed, suffered a dismal, 6-0, 6-1 defeat to fellow Spaniard Marta Marrero. Sanchez-Vicario had reached the quarterfinal or better here every year from 1987-2000. She was a second-round loser here last season.

On the men's side, second seed

returned to the site of one of his greatest achievements, cruising past French qualifier Eric Prudon, 6-3, 6-3, 6-1.

Agassi won the title here in 1999 to become only the fifth male to complete the career Grand Slam.

"Certainly the anticipation of playing here is at a pretty high level," said Agassi, who played in his first Grand Slam match since the U.S. Open quarterfinals after missing the Australian Open with a wrist injury.

"To be delayed with the weather and to play late today, I felt like I just needed to go out there and settle down. It took me a little bit to do that. But then I felt real comfortable with my game."

But No. 13 Andy Roddick fell, 4-6, 7-6, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, to Australian Wayne Arthurs in a battle of hard servers.

Top-seeded Hewitt, the U.S. Open champion, appeared on his way out, as well, against qualifier Andrei Stoliarov, who jumped to a one-set lead and was up 5-0 in the second.

Turning to some inspiration from "Rocky IV," and yelling "Come on Rocky," Hewitt kicked it up a notch, won 14 of the next 15 games plus a tiebreaker and went on to a 4-6, 7-6, 6-0, 7-5 win.

Defending champion Gustavo Kuerten won his second-round match Wednesday and then took a lap around the court, slapping high-fives with fans who had cheered him as he pulled out another emotional victory at the French Open.

Kuerten, the three-time champion, had hip surgery in February and did not have big expectations for his favorite tournament.

But after a three-hour second-round victory over Davide Sanguinetti, Kuerten thought his game, so suited for clay courts, was coming around in a place where he has won 16 matches in a row.

"It was a match where I just had to find a way," he said after rallying for a 6-7 (0), 6-2, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 win that prompted him to jog around the court in celebration.

No. 5 Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Australian Open champion Thomas Johansson however bowed out.

Kafelnikov, the 1996 champion at Roland Garros, was eliminated 7-6, 2-6, 6-4, 7-6 by Mariano Zabala. No. 9 Johansson was knocked out by Frenchman Arnaud Clement 7-6, 6-1, 6-3.



YEVGENY KAFELNIKOV

Grand Slam, but persistent rain through the first two days of the event had Capriati making her first appearance here Tuesday since a historic 2001 women's final.

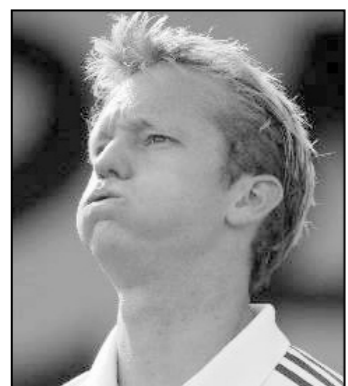
After the top-seeded American's match against her countrywoman Marissa Irwin was suspended with Capriati leading in the opening set, 4-2, the battle resumed Wednesday under bright, sunny skies and Capriati completed a sloppy, 6-3, 6-4 victory.

"I think I've been getting better with each tournament," she said.

"Obviously, I've been gearing up for this. I wanted to play my best tennis here, hopefully it will come through and I'll be able to peak here like I've been planning to. I'm not real nervous coming in here. I just know it's a tough tournament and there's a lot of potential winners. I'm not putting too much pressure on myself. I just want to do well and take it match by match."

Rain and finally darkness left several first-round matches unfinished on Tuesday, creating a hectic third day around Roland Garros.

In a second-round encounter,



THOMAS JOHANSSON

7-6, 6-4, in a first-round battle.

Safin was forced to retire from his final match at the World Tennis Cup in Dusseldorf on Sunday because of a pinched nerve in his back.

He had been playing well before the injury, with his best result on clay this year a runner-up finish at the Tennis Masters Series event in Hamburg. Fourth seed Andre Agassi

Home sweet home



REUTERS, Paris

Mary Pierce returned to the scene of her finest hour when she won her first match at Roland Garros since her triumph there two years ago.

The Frenchwoman, plagued by injuries since her 2000 victory, struggled to beat Kazakh Irina Seluytina 7-5, 7-5 on a court Suzanne Lenglen packed with screaming schoolchildren.

But despite an up-and-down match, she was at least content to play after one of a long series of various injuries prevented her from defending her title last year.

"I love playing here. It's really something special," the Canadian-born Pierce said.

"It was really unbelievable to be back in front of my crowd, in front of my fans. I had been waiting for this for two years."

Her second grand slam victory after the Australian Open crown she seized in 1995 had been the highlight of her career, but also the beginning of a long downfall.

She hardly played in 2001, suffering from tendinitis to both ankles, a chronic spinal inflammation as well as shoulder and stomach pains.

She returned to tennis action this season with mixed results, slumping

"I'm simply happy to be here, in good health and able to play," she said.

It was far from a great performance against the 108th player in the world, as she was twice broken early on, but she fought back to take the first set with the crowd's enthusiastic support.

"They helped me through this match and it was a fantastic sensation," she said.

Pierce led 4-1 in the second set but suddenly faltered and Seluytina levelled at 4-4. But the crowd, especially loud on "kid's day" at Roland Garros again helped her out of trouble.

After clinching victory she stayed on court for more than 10 minutes to sign autographs for shrieking children.

"It was fun and I would have liked to sign for everybody," she said.

Fans have not forgotten her and she has not forgotten Paris either.

"Winning here was something extraordinary, impossible to put into words. "It would really like to live a thing like this one more time," she said.



MARY PIERCE

to her first ever 6-0, 6-0 defeat, against Jennifer Capriati earlier this month in Rome.

Given her current WTA ranking of 128th, she needed a wild card to play in Paris this year.

Going Guga



AP, Paris

Tough matches bring out the creative side of Gustavo Kuerten.

The three-time French Open champion's latest burst of inspiration: treating front-row fans to a palm-slapping victory lap around the court.

It was a follow-up to his astrility of 2001 when he used his racket to etch a giant heart in the clay after a grueling final. Then he collapsed on his back, inside the heart, arms spread in jubilation.

On Wednesday, Kuerten rallied to beat Italy's Davide Sanguinetti -- ranked No. 50 -- in five sets in the second round. Guga, as Kuerten is affectionately known, was in real trouble. But as he always seems to do at Roland Garros, he gutted it out and won 6-7, 6-2, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

"I was hanging in there, fighting a lot like every year here," the seventh-seeded Kuerten said between bites of banana and doughnut at a news conference. "It's good to survive like this."

Where did he get the idea to run a lap after 2 hours, 10 minutes of tennis?

"I felt a lot of energy coming up," he said. "Every set was more fun and more interesting, so I felt much better at the end of the game than at the beginning."

much of the match, while Sanguinetti played like a man with nothing to lose, full of energy and impressive shots. At the worst of it, Kuerten was down two sets to one, trailing the next set 0-2, 0-40 on his serve.

"It's a shame because I was playing well," Sanguinetti said. "I thought I was going to win today, and I think he was thinking the same thing."

But, for this year at least, Sanguinetti will have to comfort himself with having come close to beating Kuerten. The Brazilian has won 16 straight matches at Roland Garros.

"It