

Green Delta hockey Mariner owe Yen one

SPORTS REPORTER

A 52nd minute strike by Yen gave Mariner Young's Club a hard-fought 1-0 win against Ajax Sporting Club in a return-leg match of the Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

The second-half goal from a hard working Yen kept Mariner's slim chances alive to win the coveted title.

Meanwhile, Wari blanked Farashganj Sporting Club 2-0 in the other match of the day.

Aravinda and Zaman scored for the winners.

Double delight for Elina

BSS, Dhaka

Elina Begum of Bangladesh clinched the double crown in JVC Bangladesh Asian Satellite Badminton Championship winning the women's doubles title with Kanika Adhikari at Suhrawardy Indoor Stadium yesterday.

The Bangladeshi duo defeated Sri Lankan Rena Chandrika and Thilini Jayasingha 1-15, 15-11 and 15-4 in the final on the final day of the five-day meet.

Renu Chandrika of Sri Lanka lifted the women's singles title defeating Elina 11-2, 11-1 while Aravinda Bhatt of India won the men's singles title beating his compatriot JBS Vidyadhar 15-11, 8-15 and 15-6 in the final.

India's Jaseel Ismail and Jaison Xavier became champions in the men's doubles defeating JBS Vidyadhar and B Nagaraj 15-6, 15-7 in the all-Indian final.

Irani reminds Eng selectors

AFP, London

Essex captain Ronnie Irani advanced his case for a recall to England's one-day side with an impressive all-round performance Thursday that left his side on the brink of the Benson and Hedges Cup final.

His 56 from 57 balls took Essex to 262 for nine against Worcestershire at Chelmsford.

He then gave the home supporters even more to cheer about by hitting three for 19 with his medium-pacers as Worcestershire collapsed to 26 for four before bad light stopped play.

It was a different story for South Africa fast bowler Allan Donald, a familiar figure in English cricket from his time as Warwickshire's overseas player.



PHOTO: STAR

INSTANT WINNER: Professor M Shafiqur Rahman, Vice-Chancellor of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, handing over a prize to a winner of the raffle draw of The Daily Star RangsToshiba World Cup Quiz Competition Round 4 at the Sylhet District Auditorium yesterday.

Sister against sister

Tennis

AFP, Paris

Serena Williams wants to win her second Grand Slam title and not even love for her older sister Venus will stand in her way on the Philippe Chatrier Centre Court on Saturday.

The Americans are set for the first all-sister clash in Roland Garros history following their fight for the US Open title last year.

On that occasion elder sister Venus successfully defended her title, but Serena, who at 15 months the junior was the first to win a Grand Slam title at the US Open in 1999 now has some catching up to do.

Venus has won back-to-back titles at Wimbledon and the US Open, with 20-year-old Serena's best Grand Slam performance in the last three years a final at the US Open and a semifinal two years ago at Wimbledon.

"Right now I really want to win the French Open," admitted Serena, seeded third here. "I really want to win a Grand Slam more than anything."

"But I'm sure she does too. I just have to go out there and fight. She's playing very well."

"I think in the beginning maybe for me it was a bit tougher because being the younger sister."

"I think at the US Open I was too caught up with being getting back to the final and now I'm just caught up with my next match."

And she proved her hunger to take the title coming from a set down to topple top seed Jennifer Capriati in Thursday's semifinals.

Venus, the second seed, has not dropped a set en route to the final, while Serena has dropped two -- one to Capriati and another to Russian qualifier Vera Zvonareva in the fourth round.

But apart from three-time champion Monica Seles the elder Williams has had an easier run spending just under two hours less on court during their six ties than Serena.

As the sisters have taken the habit of playing in different tournaments they rarely meet apart from Grand Slam events but when they have met over the past five years Venus leads 5-3, winning their last tie on clay in the quarterfinals in Rome in 1998.

None of Venus' four titles this year have been on clay, but she was runner-up in Hamburg.

Serena however geared up for her appearance on the slow red clay of Roland Garros by winning for the first time on the surface in Rome just over two weeks ago.

She clinched victory with a 7-6, 6-4 win over Justine Henin of Belgium who had denied the American a debut triumph in Berlin just a week earlier, and has won three titles this year.

The 20-year-old Serena clearly likes her chances as she approaches the Roland Garros final with 28 wins in 30 matches this year. But she refused to give any

indication of what tactic she would be employing against her sister.

"I'm going to go out there and show up. That's all I'm going to say. I don't need Venus reading my interview," she joked.

But both sisters are keen to get their first win in their favourite city where they had previously never managed to get past the quarterfinals.

Venus, who suffered her worst Grand Slam upset since 1997 when she knocked out in the first round last year, said she wants to end her jinx.

"We just want to do well for the French Open because we hadn't always done our best here."

"I was starting to think that I had maybe a jinx at this tournament. There's always some tournaments where you always seem to lose. I didn't want this tournament to become one of those."

"Also the Australian Open, so I'm still crossing my fingers on that one."

And of taking on her sister? "She's been playing well, intensity level, running well. She definitely had a tough match against Jennifer. I had a tough match against Monica," added Venus.

Dad Richard, however, who has in the past been accused of dictating who should win the matches and whose prediction that they would be 1-2 in the world will become a reality on Monday following Serena's semifinal result here, will not be at the final.

"He gets too nervous," said Serena.

FRENCH FRIES

Tennis

AFP, Paris

Clarisa Fernandez may have been unceremoniously eliminated 6-1, 6-4 by Venus Williams in their semi-final tie Thursday, but the Argentine will jump 53 places in the WTA rankings because of her dream run at Roland Garros.

Fernandez moves up from 87th to 34th after defeating fourth seeded Belgian Kim Clijsters and Russian Elena Dementieva, the 13th seed, on her way to her first ever semi-final. Not bad for someone who began playing five years ago and was not in the top 100 at the beginning of the year.

Clijsters, last year's runner-up and compatriot Justine Henin, the number five seed, who went out in the first round, drop to fifth and seventh place respectively in the WTA rankings to be published Monday.

IT'S BEYOND HER DREAM!

Despite jumping to No. 2 in the world behind sister Venus, Serena Williams admitted that although it was something her father Richard had always predicted she was not rejoicing.

"This is the highest I've ever been, so obviously I'm very happy right now. Honestly, I have nothing to complain about."

"But when you're young, you always dream of winning Slams and being No. 1. I never really dreamed of being No. 2," said the 20-year-old who will be confirmed in the spot Monday as a result of reaching the semi-finals here.

AGASSI A PAVEL ADMIRER

As a new dad, Andre Agassi said he was full of admiration for the odyssey of Romanian Andrei Pavel who made a 1400km round trip to Germany to be with his wife for the birth of his son.

Pavel drove through the night, grabbed two hours sleep and then spent just 12 fruitless minutes on court at Roland Garros to complete his match against Alex Corretja

which had been spread over three days.

"He didn't come back and play a match; he came back and played three games," said Agassi. "But credit to him for valuing that more than he does the French Open."

NO FUN WITHOUT MARTINA, LINDSAY

Although she has not dropped a set en route to the French Open final, Venus Williams said she missed having former number ones Lindsay Davenport and Martina Hingis as sparring partners.

"I miss playing Hingis. But I also miss playing Lindsay," said Venus who will become the new world No. 1 Monday largely thanks to the absence of Davenport and Hingis through injury.

"We get out there, we just hit the ball. And it is just great tennis. It's different without them. It makes it more interesting when they're in the mix," said Venus.

Lemerre's last straw

FROM PAGE 13 goalkeeper Fabian Carini and a number of timely tackles before being substituted for 20-year-old Djibril Cisse with nine minutes remaining.

Trezeguet said he had wanted to be allowed to complete the job.

"I suppose I can see why the coach did it but I don't really understand," he said.

"We're sick not to have won. Now we've got to think about Denmark. It's not going to be easy but it's in our hands."

Midfielder Patrick Vieira said: "When you look at the match you can see that we created lots of opportunities and we deserved to win."

"Even with 10 men we were trying to win the match while they were playing for a draw."

"It's a good result because we're not eliminated, we're still in the hunt."

of spirit that we had in 1998 and 2000," he said.

The World Cup win on home soil in 1998 and the European crown two years later now seem a long time ago.

But the French players were all looking to the man who inspired both victories, midfielder Zinedine Zidane, to return from injury to lead the charge against the Danes.

The midfield inspiration known as 'Zizou' is yet to kick a ball in this World Cup after tearing a thigh muscle in a warmup match against World Cup co-hosts South Korea.

Petit said: "I hope we'll have Zizou back," and defender Vincent Candela said he thought Zidane "will be on the pitch".

But Zidane has only appeared on the training ground wearing heavy strapping and the medical staff have given no indication that the Real Madrid star is ready to play.

The French squad were spending Friday with their wives and girlfriends while veteran defender Frank Leboeuf was undergoing tests on the groin injury which forced him out of the Uruguay match after 15 minutes

No Hingis at Wimbledon

AFP, London

Martina Hingis withdrew from the forthcoming Wimbledon Tennis Championships on Thursday because of a long standing foot problem.

"The Swiss miss', Hingis, Wimbledon champion in 1997, pulled out of the French Open because of the injury."

Wimbledon referee Alan Mills said: "We have received official notification that Martina Hingis is withdrawing from Wimbledon due to her left foot injury and subsequent surgery."

First day of MCC, SL tie rained off

REUTERS, Chesterfield

The first day's play in the three-day tour match between Sri Lanka and the MCC was washed out by steady rain on Thursday.

The match, now reduced to two days, will start on Friday.

The Daily Star Rangs Toshiba World Cup Quiz Rd-4 winners

- First Prize**
Debabrata Barman
Saidpur, Niphamari
- Second Prize**
S M Alangir
Indira Road, Dhaka
- Third Prize**
Jamaluddin
Maniknagar, Dhaka
- Fourth Prize**
Mohammad Ashfaqur Rahman
Tejkunipara, Dhaka
- Fifth Prize**
Mohammad Kamal
Golapbagh, Dhaka

CORRECT ANSWERS

- qualifiers for the World Cup of Ans: 1986
- Pele's debut World Cup was in Ans: 1958
 - France won 1998 World Cup under the captaincy of Ans: Deschamps
 - Which player scored most goals in a World Cup Ans: Fontaine
 - Who is this? Ans: Beckham

Pakistan focus on cricket

REUTERS, Sydney

Pakistan's players are trying to put their country's military stand-off with India out of their minds as they prepare for the one-day series against Australia next week, captain Waqar Younis has said.

"We're not really worried at all," Waqar told reporters in Brisbane. "We're here to play cricket and we're just focused on cricket."

Fears of a war between Pakistan and India have grown in recent weeks with both country's massing troops across a tense frontier in Kashmir.

New Zealand cut short their tour of Pakistan in May after a suicide bombing outside the team's hotel in Karachi killed 14 people and Australia are still to decide whether to go ahead with a similar tour later in the year.

Australia officials are pursuing the possibility of shifting the series in Pakistan to a neutral venue such as Morocco or Sharjah in September and October.

The one-day series next week will be a head-to-head between fast bowlers Shoaib Akhtar and Brett Lee.

Unofficial timings showed Akhtar broke the 100-mph speed barrier against New Zealand in the recent one-day series. Lee has said he wants to do the same against Pakistan.

"I think both are bowling very well," Waqar said.

"I'm not really worried about pace, I'm more worried about how good he's (Akhtar) bowling."

The first two games of the three-match series will be played indoors at the Docklands Stadium in Melbourne on June 12 and 15, with the third game in Brisbane on June 19.

Whizz Kid-171 winner



Tazrian Huda (Viqarunnisa Noon Girls High School, Dhanmondi Branch, Dhaka)

Whizz Kid-172 winner

Shawkat Hossain (Dhanmondi Boys High School) Please produce your ID card and an attested passport size photograph while collecting the winner's prize from the Sports Desk of The Daily Star at 7:30 pm on June 13.

Whizz Kid-172 correct answers

- Serena Williams lifted the Rome Masters Series title defeating: Ans: Henin
- What was the result of the World Cup warm-up match between England and South Korea: Ans: 1-1
- West Indies won the fifth and final Test against India by: Ans: 155 runs
- Name the Irish football captain who was sent home from the World Cup: Ans: Keane
- BKSP won the CityCell national youth cricket title beating: Ans: Comilla

Rumble in Memphis

Boxing

AFP, Memphis

Mike Tyson and Lennox Lewis hit so hard and punch so fast that both camps expect Saturday's heavy-weight title fight to end quickly.

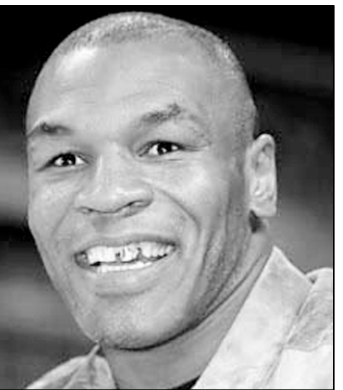
Britain's Lewis, 39-2 with one draw and 30 knockouts, defends his World Boxing Council and

"What makes the fight stand out is the explosive punching power of both fighters," Lewis trainer Emanuel Steward said. "It's like dynamite is all over the place and I'm nervous somebody is going to throw a match up there."

"Either one of them could land a big punch in the first 20 or 30 seconds at that would be the end of the fight. I would really look to see the fight end in two rounds. I think there



LENNOX LEWIS



MIKE TYSON

International Boxing Federation titles against ex-champion Tyson, 49-3 with 43 knockouts. Tyson's best chance figures to be with an early knockout.

"I'm going to probably knock him out in less than three rounds," Tyson said Thursday. "He has got to go down."

Lewis plans to use an attacking jab to keep Tyson at bay and set up his powerful right hand. The smaller Tyson must attack to have a chance and Lewis plans to take advantage.

"He has never seen a jab like mine. It leads my arsenal," Lewis said. "I catch him as he is coming in because he has got only one thing to do and that's come in. If he gets past the jab, he will run into a right hand or an uppercut."

Emanuel Steward, Lewis' trainer, knows both men have the skill to end the fight with a single swipe of their fist.

is a good chance it will."

Lewis accepts the notion that he might have to get hurt to beat Tyson.

"There's a possibility he might get hurt in this fight," Steward said. "We have discussed it. You don't take Mike Tyson lightly. To beat Mike Tyson, you have got to be prepared to get hit some."

"Normally Lennox is cautious. But when he is under threats, he is different. Once reality sets in, Tyson is going to realize he's in a fight with a big, powerful man who is not afraid of him. His mindset is going to get all crazy."

Lewis is also ready for any repeat of dirty tricks Tyson has used in the past, such as trying to break a rival's arm or ear-biting.

"I'm no punk in the ring. I will definitely respond the same way," Lewis said.

Tyson assistant trainer Stacey McKinley predicts a Tyson knockout

Boss bars business break

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

India's powerful cricket chief Jagmohan Dalmiya has scuttled a move by top players to shoot commercials in South Africa during the short break between the West Indies and England tours.

The Indian team, which returned from the West Indies on Wednesday after a two-month tour, is due to fly out to England on June 18 for another 11 weeks of hectic cricket.

Six top players, including vice-captain Rahul Dravid and leading spinner Anil Kumble, planned to use the 12-day break to travel to South Africa to film advertisements for a South Korean electronics giant.

But Dalmiya reportedly threatened to drop the players from the England tour if they went for the shoot, saying he wanted them to rest at home between the two tours.

The players had agreed to heed Dalmiya's warning and cancelled the trip.

"We advised them not to go ahead with their program as the gap between the two series in West Indies and England was too short,"

Dalmiya, a former president of the International Cricket Council, told reporters.

"The English tour is likely to be tough. So, the players need to stay focussed on the game."

Dalmiya said he would not have



JAGMOHAN DALMIYA

objected to the shoot if the gap between the two tours had been bigger or if the filming had taken place in India for a couple of days.

Besides Dravid and Kumble, the other players involved were recently retired seamer Jagavaj Srinath, spinner Harbhajan Singh, batsman Virender Sehwag and new wicket-

keeper Ajay Ratna.

The Calcutta-based Telegraph newspaper said the cricket board was irked that the players complained about too much cricket, but when the opportunity arose, they did not think twice about tiring themselves shooting commercials.

The players are bound by contracts only when they play for India and face no restrictions in their spare time, but the threat of being dropped from the side proved too great to ignore.

The concerned players refused to speak on the matter.

The national selectors are due to meet in Dalmiya's home city of Calcutta on Saturday to pick the squad for the limited-overs tri-series against England and Sri Lanka.

The meeting was originally scheduled to be held in Bombay, but Dalmiya had it shifted to his home base to keep an eye on the selections.

India are also due to play four Test matches in England after the tri-series ends.

The Indian cricketers are in the midst of a gruelling schedule that involves non-stop cricket till after the World Cup in South Africa next February and March.

Mark in hot water

REUTERS/AFP, London

Mark Butcher is to appeal against a 1,000-pound fine for criticising the bowling action of Sri Lanka seamer Ruchira Perera.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said on Friday a hearing would be held towards the end of the month.

"His appeal will be dealt with at a disciplinary hearing in about two weeks time," an ECB spokesman told Reuters on Friday.

ECB has labelled his comments as a breach of the International Cricket Council's (ICC) code of conduct and its discipline and standing committee is currently investigating the remarks.

Butcher's comments -- he said Perera clearly threw his shorter deliveries -- were made in his column for the Croydon Advertiser, a local newspaper. He later said that "no malice" had been intended.

Butcher added: "It's not so bad when the ball is pitched up but when he bowls short, he just runs up and throws it at you -- I can't believe someone gets away with it!"

Under the Laws of Cricket bowlers are not permitted to do this in the final movement of their delivery action.

Left-armed Perera was reported for having a suspect action following the first Test at Lord's. He was not selected for the second Test.

Butcher told Friday's Daily Telegraph newspaper: "I wasn't happy with the fine and if a player doesn't agree with any punishment then a hearing is automatically called."

The ECB originally imposed a fine on Butcher, believed to be around 1,500 pounds.

However, Butcher has chosen not to pay up.

fine of 2,000 pounds or a suspension of up to five playing days.

Questioned about his remarks in the build-up to England's second Test win at Edgbaston, where Perera was replaced by Muttiah Muralitharan, Butcher admitted: "It was a bit silly of me really."

"It was in a conversational-type form in a column I have ghosted for me and I said it without really thinking--there was no malice involved in it."



MARK BUTCHER

"There's obviously going to be offence caused, but there's no bad feeling from my part or from the team towards the Sri Lankans."

"I've probably landed myself in a bit of hot water in certain quarters and I just hope they'll be gentle with me."

Australia wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist was recently reprimanded by his own board for saying then a hearing is automatically called."

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However, Butcher has chosen not to pay up.

Still beautiful

FROM PAGE 13

had been during his first spell and then-manager Bryan Robson decided not to take up the option of a permanent signing.

He spent two seasons at Vasco de Gama, putting in some outstanding displays, helping them claim the championship and winning back his place in the Brazilian league.

He was in the starting line-up for Brazil's first Group C game against Turkey and was a stand out in an otherwise ordinary performance. His running, chasing and harriving was coupled with some delightful weaving runs at the defence.

China in Seogwipo on Saturday is the next stop on the comeback trail.

"Our preparations are going well. We won the first game which was the most important but we have to keep our confidence against China," he said.

"The manager has been reviewing tactics after the Turkey game. We are his students and it is he who will decide how we play."

"But I'm happy with the performance of the whole Brazilian team