

No Davenport at Wimbledon

AFP, London

Former world number one Lindsay Davenport will miss her third successive Grand Slam after pulling out of Wimbledon due to slower-than-hoped recovery from knee surgery.

The 26-year-old American informed organisers at the All England Club on Wednesday that she will not appear.

"I'm extremely disappointed not to be able to play on the grass at Wimbledon this year," Davenport said in a statement.

"I really hoped I could make it back from my surgery earlier than expected and be able to play at Eastbourne and Wimbledon but it is just not possible yet.

She had been due to return to the courts next week at Eastbourne on the English south coast.

Davenport added: "Doctors say I am not ready to compete at the highest level yet. I'm totally optimistic that I will be ready for the summer hardcourt season in July."

Davenport underwent an operation on her right knee in January just a few weeks before the Australian Open and has not played since.

With a protected computer ranking, she now stands sixth on the WTA Tour list.

Sampras makes struggling start

AFP, Halle

American Pete Sampras got his Wimbledon build-up off to a winning start when he struggled through to the second round of the 800,000-dollar Halle tournament with a 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 win over Russian Andrei Stoliarov.

Sampras, without a tournament win since clinching his seventh Wimbledon title in July 2000, snubbed the more favoured Queen's tournament in London to hone his skills here in Germany.

Pua quits

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Jan Wegereef for his handling of their final match.

There were two controversial penalty decisions - one for each side - and the over-officious referee issued 12 yellows - a record for a World Cup match.

"We should have had a bit more luck," said Pua.

"The first Senegal goal wasn't a penalty and our players were very disappointed with their performance in the first half.

However, the Uruguay coach did not put the sole blame for his side's exit on poor refereeing decisions.

He added: "I was proud of their efforts in the second half, unfortunately they couldn't win."

"We played against three very strong teams here and we will learn a lot from the experience we gained here."

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Repeat at 10:00 am
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- Bangladesh A beat USA by how many wickets in the Malaysia Cricket Challenge final?
5-wkts 7-wkts 3-wkts
- Who clinched the Open FIDE Rating chess title?
Arunind Rajib Reekat
- Who won the First Division cricket title?

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Class..... Roll No.....
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Phone: (If any).....

Andy, Adam crush Pakistan

Cricket
AFP, Melbourne

Adam Gilchrist's quickfire 56 sparked Australia to a seven-wicket victory over Pakistan in the first of three one-day cricket internationals played indoors and under floodlights at Colonial Stadium on Wednesday.

Pakistan made just 176 for eight wickets from their 50 overs, a target Australia reached with over 17 overs to spare, making 177 for three.

Gilchrist led the way, bringing up his 50 from just 42 deliveries.

The Australian left-handed openers, Gilchrist and Matthew Hayden, saw off Pakistan spearheads Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis and then went on the attack, reaching their century partnership in just the 16th over.

Young bowlers Mohammad Sami and Azhar Mahmood found their deliveries despatched to all points of the ground.

Gilchrist eventually fell for 56, scored off just 47 balls and including nine fours, when caught by Inzamam-ul-Haq off the third over of Sami - who had already conceded 25 runs.

Hayden, unbeaten on 37, was joined by Australian skipper Ricky Ponting but the run rate fell back as Sami found his line and length.

Hayden was caught at square leg by Shoaib Malik for 45 and then the introduction of Shahid Afridi into the attack saw Ponting depart for 13, caught behind by Rashid Latif.

The Australians had slipped to 127 for three but it was too little, too late from the visitors.

Darren Lehmann finished unbeaten on 28 with Damien Martyn on 18.

Ponting won the toss and elected to field and some tight bowling limited the scoring opportunities for the visitors, who showed a lack of urgency running between the wickets.

Opener Imran Nazir, who retired hurt with a forearm injury when struck by a Glenn McGrath delivery when he was on five, returned to top score for the visitors with 39 from 53 balls.

He hit a series of meaty drives late in the innings while Haq contributed 33.

Paceman Andy Bichel was the most effective of the Australian bowlers, finishing with three for 30 from his 10 overs.

Wicketkeeper Gilchrist took four catches and claimed a stumping.

Although the match was being played indoors, the sound of thunder and the pelting of rain on the stadium roof meant the crowd was restricted to 11,861.

This series has been billed as the pace showdown between Australia's Brett Lee and Pakistan speedster Shoaib Akhtar but neither played Wednesday's match.

Green Delta hockey BSC blow Wari up

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Sporting Club and Dhaka Railway won their respective Green Delta Premier Division Hockey League matches at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

Three goals from Indian Anil guided Sporting Club to a massive 7-2 win over lowly Wari Club in their penultimate return leg match.

Taleb struck twice while Zahid Biswas and Christopher added one each.

On the other hand, Rahman and Sarwar reduced the margin for Wari with a goal apiece.

With that win, Sporting Club remained fifth in the ten-team league table with 19 points from 17 matches.

While, the defeat left Wari in a precarious position.

They are now languishing second from the bottom with 12 points from 16 matches and if they fail to get some better results in the remaining two matches, they face the prospect of relegation to the First Division along with Farashganj Sporting Club.

In the other match of the day, Mobassher Salam scored twice in the second half to help Dhaka Railway pull off a 2-0 win over Ajax Sporting Club.

Railway's points tally rose to 18 points 17 matches while Ajax remained seventh in the table with 13 points from 16 outings.

Bucknor set to fly over Bird

AFP, London

Steve Bucknor is set to become the most experienced Test cricket umpire of all time.

On Thursday the West Indian is due to officiate in his 67th Test when he stands in the third Test between England and Sri Lanka at Old Trafford.

Bucknor is currently level on Test appearances with Dickie Bird. He would have moved past the retired English umpire's record of 66 Tests had not the second Test between Pakistan and New Zealand in Lahore been abandoned after a bomb exploded near the tourists' hotel.

"Steve is an outstanding umpire who has the respect of international cricketers throughout the world," said Dave Richardson, the International Cricket Council's (ICC) general manager.

Bucknor, 55, made his Test match debut during the 1988-89 series in the Caribbean between the West Indies and India.

The Jamaican is also the only official to have taken part in both cricket and football World Cups, having refereed a World Cup football international between El Salvador and the Netherlands.

Roots forgotten!

FROM PAGE 13

Germany, when you look carefully they have players who are 20 years old as well as 27 years old, a mixture of youth and experience" added the Colombian.

"They have prepared not just for 2002 and 2006 but they are already prepared for 2010 and 2014. There is a long-term approach."

The problem for the Latin countries is that as soon as a player shows potential he is plucked out of the domestic game by the giants of European football and moulded to a European-style approach that can often squeeze out all the flair.

Argentina's exciting 20-year-old forward Javier Savioia, left out of the World Cup squad, says he was surprised by the physical nature of European football in his first season with Barcelona.

"I wouldn't have imagined just how much physical contact there is in the European game," said Savioia.

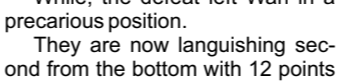
Deciding Test from today

Cricket
AFP, London

On Tuesday Dav Whatmore, Sri Lanka's coach, said: "Murali is not 100 per cent but he will play."

Meanwhile, another bowler who could feature at Old Trafford is controversial seamer Ruchira Perera.

The left-arm paceman has his suspect action reported to the International Cricket Council (ICC) following the drawn first Test at



HUSSAIN ... England captain

ing to the ground where he took 35 wickets in just four first-class matches as Lancashire's overseas player, is still struggling with a shoulder injury.

But despite that his return to cricket earlier this month in the second Test at Edgbaston saw the 30-year-old Muralitharan, the youngest and fastest in cricket history to 400 Test wickets, bowl a marathon 64 overs for a return of five for 143.

However, Sri Lanka still lost the match by an innings and 111 runs.

But needing a win to level the series at 1-1, even a half-fit Muralitharan represents the best chance Sri Lanka have of taking the 20 wickets they need for victory.



JAYASURIYA ... Sri Lanka captain

He did not play at Edgbaston but returned to action in last week's match against MCC at Chesterfield and, under ICC rules, is eligible to play at Old Trafford.

"Ruchira did some work before Chesterfield," said Whatmore.

"He is fit and available for selection like everybody else and I think he has every chance."

Before this series began, Sri Lanka had won nine successive Tests.

But their top-order failed to come up with the runs at Edgbaston.

"It is pretty hard to win a Test match in a session, but you can go a long way to losing one," said former

Mark scuds

AFP, London

Mark Philippoussis is back in his element on grass and the Australian showed how happy he was with a serve-driven victory over Greg Rusedski to reach the third round of the 800,000-dollar Queen's tournament here on Tuesday.

With predicted rain never materialising, play was continuous for a change at the west London club.

With no bad weather to slow things down Philippoussis showed his own speed, raining down 24 aces in a 7-6, 6-7, 7-6 trip into the third round.

The 25-year-old Aussie has not played on grass since 2000, when he reached the Wimbledon quarterfinals, losing to Andre Agassi.

But the Scud, now healed and fast improving after his spring 2001 knee surgery, showed fire in his game as he beat Rusedski.

American seeds Todd Martin and

Jan-Michael Gambill both advanced, with 1994 champion Martin, 32, twice a semi-finalist at Wimbledon, beating Ramon Delgado of Paraguay 6-2, 6-7, 6-6.

Gambill ousted fading veteran Michael Chang 7-5, 6-3.

It was grim for France on a day when the defending champion went shockingly out of the World Cup in Asia in the first round through a loss to Denmark.

Six out of six Frenchmen took losses in London, including 15-year-old French Open junior champion Richard Gasquet, who lost to South African Neville Godwin 7-6, 5-7, 6-3.

It was the teenager's first-ever match on the surface after a game learned on European clay.

Also going out, former Wimbledon finalist Cedric Pioline, beaten by American Mike Bryan 6-4, 6-4. Other losers were Nicolas Couteler, Michael Llodra, Gregory Carraz, and Jean-Francois Bachelot.

consecutive one-day internationals.

"We can chop and change the personnel but the bottom line is that the guys have to do it better and longer," he added.

Fleming also said he was thinking about changing his strategy

about batting first, which New Zealand have done three times out of three so far in the Caribbean.

Fleming hinted there might be room for medium-fast bowler Jacob Oram as New Zealand search for a victory over a West Indies team that is growing in confidence following a Test series victory over India and a close one-day series and the increasing strength of their batting order.

Left-handed batsman Brian Lara was the latest to show flashes of

NZ to try changed combo

Cricket
AFP, Port-of-Spain

New Zealand, angry and frustrated at consecutive losses to the West Indies and poor training conditions, plan to make several changes to their team for Wednesday's fourth one-day international, captain Stephen Fleming said.

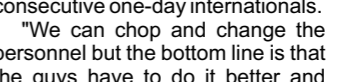
Fleming, who has only been able to hold one full net practice since arriving in the Caribbean almost two weeks ago, told reporters pace bowler Shane Bond and left-arm spinner Daniel Vettori would return to the side.

New Zealand are 2-0 down in the five-match series after the first match in Jamaica was rained off. They lost back-to-back matches in St Lucia at the weekend and now need to win the last two games to avoid defeat against a resurgent West Indies.

"We need all the practice we can get. It's frustrating but there's nothing we can do about it," Fleming said after his team was banished from the outdoor nets at the Queen's Park Oval following heavy overnight rain.

New Zealand and West Indies players trained in small indoor nets where bowlers could only use a short-run-up.

But Fleming said it was up to his players to correct the faults that have cost them losses in eight



FLEMING ... unhappy at team's performance

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Left-handed batsman Brian Lara was the latest to show flashes of

brilliance on Sunday when he won the match with an unbeaten 59.

Lara will be hoping to confirm his return to form in front of his hometown fans on Wednesday after being out of action for several months with a broken elbow.

Lewis-Tyson best-seller

AFP, New York

Lennox Lewis' knockout of Mike Tyson attracted 1.8 million purchases in the United States and generated 103 million dollars, making it the highest revenue generating pay-per-view event in history.

The only fight bought by more people than the British champion's title defense against the controversial former champion was Tyson's 1997 fight against Evander Holyfield, the infamous "Bite Fight" where Tyson bit Holyfield's ears.

The Tyson-Holyfield fight generated less total revenue because its price tag was less than the 55 dollars for Lewis-Tyson.

HBO and Showtime officials announced the totals here Tuesday, three days after the heavyweight championship showdown between Lewis and Tyson at the Pyramid arena in Memphis, Tennessee. Lewis knocked out Tyson in the eighth round.

HBO has telecast rights to Lewis fights and Showtime has rights to Tyson fights. The two rivals negotiated a complex deal that allowed them a temporary peace in order to match the two fighters against each other for the first time.

"It was a pay-per-view masterpiece that lifted the sport and gave boxing fans a night to remember," HBO vice president Mark Taffet said. "We are thrilled that Lennox Lewis gave a performance for the ages on a night in which a new pay-per-view revenue record was set."

No fight had attracted more than one million buys in three years. The US total included 600,000 satellite purchases and twice that number of buys from cable television subscribers.

"We are proud to have presented this historic sporting event to the world," said Showtime vice president Donovan Gordon. "Lewis-Tyson exceeded our expectations on many different levels."



Australia's Damien Martyn square-drives one against Pakistan in the first one-day international in Melbourne yesterday.

PAKISTAN		Total: (For 3 wkts in 32.5 overs) 177					
Nazir not out	39	Fall of wickets:	1-101,	2-121,	3-127		
Afridi c McGrath	1	Bowler	O	M	R	W	
Youhana c Gilchrist b Warner	19	Akram	6	1	24	0	
Inzamam c Gilchrist b Bichel	33	Waqar	5	0	31	0	
Younis c Gilchrist b Bichel	16	Sami	5	0	32	2	
Mahmood c Martyn b Bichel	1	Mahmood	5	0	29	0	
Malik st Gilchrist b Lehmann	27	Afridi	5.5	0	20	1	
Latif c Gilchrist b Lehmann	11	Malik	2	0	16	0	
Akram c Hayden b Watson	13	Result: Australia won by seven wickets and take 1-0 lead.					
Waqar not out	9	Man-of-the-match: Adam Gilchrist.					
Extras: (lb-2, w-4, nb-1)	7						
Total: (For 8 wkts in 50 overs) 176							
Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-55, 3-71, 4-75, 5-78, 6-104, 7-124, 8-153							
Bowler	O	M	R	W			

In depths of despair

FROM PAGE 13

the final half hour against Sweden, helping his side to come back from one goal down and press for a late elusive winner.

Diego Simeone, captain when Argentina reached the quarter-finals under Daniel Passarella in France four years ago, had planned to quit the national team if they won the crown.

"I don't want to talk about the future in the heat of the moment," said Simeone, who increased his Argentine caps record to 106 in the tournament although he remained on the bench against Sweden.

"Argentina played more football than England, Sweden and Nigeria and went out," he added.

Javier Zanetti said: "We did everything to win, we didn't spare anything, we practically played in our opponents' half and we're left with nothing."

Bielsa said he thought his team had played better against Sweden than in the 1-0 defeat by England.

"Today our build-up was very superior to that against England. Each chance we created we had plenty of players on the end of it."

Speaking mostly in short sentences, Bielsa gave no clues about whether he would remain as coach of Argentina.

"My contract finishes at the end of the month," he said. "For now I have nothing to say. If I have to talk about it, at the time I will do so."

However, he disagreed there was any comparison between their exit and that of France - the two joint favourites going into the finals.

Sweden's star player Freddie Ljungberg didn't get onto the pitch because of an inflamed left leg but said he had been left stunned by the end result in the group.

"Really, I thought the Argentines were streets ahead and that it was a fight for second place and I am really surprised that almost all three of their adversaries got results from them. Maybe it was over confidence, only they know," he said.

Goal hero Anders Svensson said he had been trying out his freekicks with Celtic's Henrik Larsson, even undergoing extra training to get them right.

"What a day and what a match to get it right on the button.

"I knew as soon as I connected that it was going to hit the target and, boy, do I feel on a high to score a goal like that against the pre-tournament favourites."

Batistuta also spoke of his pain at letting down the embattled people of the South American nation.

The 33-year-old record goal-scorer, knew his international career was drawing to an end and there would be no crowning glory of lifting the World Cup trophy.

As the final whistle blew he fell to the ground, his head in his hands and for the last time walked onto the pitch to shake hands with his opponents and console his teammates.

"It's over and the pain is double," he said. "I had dreamed of a different ending."

"We were looking forward to winning. We felt for the people of Argentina. It was very close and being unable to pay the debt to them makes us feel bad."

He said the players knew they should have qualified - instead Sweden and England go through from the so-called 'Group of Death'.

Instead, the result only deepened the gloom.