

Green Delta hockey MSC, Mariner share points

SPORTS REPORTER

Holder Mohammed Sporting Club remained on course to retain the Green Delta Premier Hockey League title after they drew 1-1 with Mariner Young's Club in their return leg clash at the Maulana Bhasani Stadium yesterday.

In a see-saw encounter, Kutubuddin Yen put Mariner ahead with a field goal in the 20th minute but Moududur Rahman Shuvo equalised with another field goal in the 42nd minute.

The draw kept Mohammedan atop the 10-team league table with 44 points from 16 matches.

On the other hand, Mariner slipped from second to third spot. They now have 41 points from 16 matches, a point less than Abahani Kirra Chakra.

Dokic dashes British hopes

AFP, Birmingham

World number eight Jelena Dokic struggled to beat young British hope Lucie Ahl at the 170,000-dollar WTA tournament at Edgbaston on Wednesday.

The Yugoslav star moved into the third round after an unconvincing 7-6, 6-4 victory over the British number two.

Dokic, the top seed for this year's event, admitted it had been a tough match against Ahl who was serving for the first set at 5-4.

Ahl's exit means Julie Pullin is the only British player to reach the third round.

Pullin secured her place in the third round with a straight sets victory over Spain's Magui Serna, the world's 41st ranked player.

Earlier, French Open semifinalist Clarisa Fernandez of Argentina beat 15th seed Adriana Serra Zanetti of Italy in three sets.

Fernandez beat Zanetti 6-3, 1-6, 6-4 to progress into the second round where she will face Mi-Ra Jeon of Korea, who defeated American Sarah Taylor in three sets.

Johansson and Kafelnikov on

AFP, Halle

Title-holder Thomas Johansson of Sweden and Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov eased through to the last eight in the 800,00-dollar Halle ATP tournament here on Wednesday.

Kafelnikov, the number one seed, brushed aside French qualifier Cyril Saulnier 6-3, 7-5, with Johansson dominating Croat Ivan Ljubicic 6-3, 6-4.

If successful in the next round the pair are on course to clash in the semifinals.



England opener Marcus Trescothick (R) and Michael Vaughan put on the runs at Old Trafford on the first day of the Third Test against Sri Lanka yesterday.

Marcus stabilises Eng



AFP, Manchester

Marcus Trescothick's unbeaten 53 guided England to an impressive lunch score of 105 for one against Sri Lanka on the first day of the third Test here at Old Trafford on Thursday.

Trescothick had faced 79 balls including 10 fours with Mark Butcher 10 not out.

England, without a series win in their last four attempts, lead this campaign 1-0 and maintained their advantage in the opening session. Trescothick and Michael Vaughan made brisk progress, scoring at more than four an over, after England captain Nasser Hussain had won the toss and elected to bat.

But in the 15th over, Vaughan was undone by a slower ball from paceman Dilhara Fernando, recalled after a stress fracture of the back, that he could only chip straight to Chaminda Vaas at mid-off. England were then 66 for one.

Vaughan's 36 had come off 44 balls including five fours but the Yorkshire batsman, not for the first time, failed to convert an attractive start into a substantial score.

Early on the Sri Lankan bowlers struggled. Medium-pacer Eric

Upashantha, the only other change from the team that lost the Second Test at Edgbaston by an innings and 111 runs, was selected for this match three years after making his debut.

Left-arm quick Nuwan Zoysa was suffering from a groin strain but Upashantha did not look to be a significant improvement on dropped medium-pacer Buddika Fernando.

Given the new ball by Sri Lanka captain Sanath Jayasuriya, Upashantha's first four overs went for 24 runs including five no-balls.

Even the introduction in the 10th over of off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan, on a ground where he took 35 wickets in four matches as Lancashire's overseas player, failed to check England's progress.

Murali, the youngest and quickest bowler to 400 Test wickets, saw his first ball confidently flicked by Vaughan through mid-wicket for four and a third-ball full toss on-driven to the boundary.

However Murali, who took five wickets in a marathon 64 overs on his return at Edgbaston while still carrying a shoulder injury, turned a couple of deliveries turned sharply past the outside-edge of left-hander Trescothick's bat.

Even so Muralitharan's initial three overs went for 22 runs but a lunch he had figures of 7-2-28-0.

And Fernando proved that not all the pace bowlers would be an easy touch when he surprised second Test centurion Trescothick with a short ball that hit the grille of the Somerset star's helmet.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard at lunch on the first day of the Third Test between England and Sri Lanka here at Old Trafford on Thursday:

ENGLAND: First innings
Trescothick not out 53
Vaughan c Vaas b Fernando 36
Butcher not out 10
Extras: (nb-6) 6
Total: (For 1wkt 25 overs) 105
Fall of wickets: 1-66

To bat: N Hussain, G Thorpe, A Stewart, A Flintoff, A Tudor, A Giles, A Caddick, M Hoggard

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Vaas	7	1	28	0
U'shantha	4	0	24	0
Fernando	6	1	21	1
M'tharan	7	2	28	0
De Silva	1	0	4	0

SRI LANKA: Marvan Atapattu, Russel Arnold, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene, Aravinda de Silva, Sanath Jayasuriya, Hashan Tillekeratne, Chaminda Vaas, Eric Upashantha, Dilhara Fernando, Muttiah Muralitharan

Umpires: Steve Bucknor (West Indies) and David Orchard (South Africa).

Lara wants six more months

REUTERS, Port of Spain

West Indies batsman Brian Lara says he needs another six more months to return to his best form following an elbow injury.

"I still don't get full extension (with the left arm)," he said. "I still need six more months to heal properly."

The left-hander, who made 59 not out as the West Indies beat New Zealand in a one-day international in St Lucia on Sunday, fractured his elbow when colliding with a Sri Lanka fielder in December.

Lara added: "At the moment, I would say I'm at 80 per cent and improving."

After a mediocre Test series against India, Lara was encouraged by his improving form.

"My contribution has been missing for a while so it was nice to get some runs, get some confidence and hopefully it will carry through for the rest of the one-dayers and into the Test series to come," he said.

Carl calls for DLM change

AFP, Port of Spain

West Indies captain Carl Hooper called on Wednesday for changes to the method of calculating run targets in one-day cricket following a nine-run defeat to New Zealand.

The method currently used, called the Duckworth-Lewis method (DLM) after its inventors, meant the target for the West Indies was very difficult to reach.

"It definitely needs fine-tuning but for now it's here to stay. It's cost us two games this summer," said Hooper.

Set more than six runs an over to win, the West Indies performed admirably, coming to within nine runs of the revised total, but they were unable to win.

"We're not the first team to be hard done by, but it definitely needs looking at," said Hooper.

The DLM, named after British statistician Frank Duckworth and Tony Lewis of the University of the West of England, was introduced to international cricket in 1999 in an experiment that will last until 2004.

It has often been accused of creating unfair targets for a team batting second in a rain-affected match.

Marion clocks year's fastest

AFP, Prague

Marion Jones was the star of the Ostrava Athletics meet on Wednesday, clocking the year's fastest 200m with a time of 22.32 seconds.

But the American multiple Olympic gold medalist fell some way short of the track record of 22.07s set by the former Czech champion Jarmila Kratochvilova which has stood since 1981.

History was made in the women's 3000m steeplechase with Belarusian Alesia Tourouva setting a new world record of 9min 21.72sec, beating the previous mark of 9min 22.29 set by Poland's Justyna Bak on June 5.

Coe to enter IAAF race

AFP, London

Double Olympic champion Sebastian Coe has agreed to stand for election as a council member for athletics' world governing body.

Coe, the former Olympic 1,500 metres champion in 1980 and 1984 has been nominated for the post with the International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) by UK Athletics, the sport's federation in Britain.

UK Athletics approached Coe to stand for election after Robert Stinton announced he will retire as IAAF honorary treasurer in August next year.

Coe said: "I am honoured that UK Athletics have nominated me to stand for election to the IAAF Council. The work will not only be enjoyable but also a challenge."

Brazil's backache

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improvement. "FIFA have always been clear that, if the striker makes an effort and the defender touches the ball, the striker usually gets the goal," he said, in an interpretation of the rules that could only have come from a centre forward.

Diego guilty?

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"During the match against Sweden I always had the same thought: 'why didn't you fly to Japan to support your team,'" he added. Maradona insisted he didn't want to go to Japan to hand out advice but as a fan.

Nonetheless he rounded on "mistakes" by Argentine coach Marcelo Bielsa, saying he would have played Gabriel Batistuta alongside substitute Hernan Crespo up front, and not pulled Juan Veron off the field.

"One day Argentina will be at the top again," he added.

Ricky protects his plan



AFP, Melbourne

Australia captain Ricky Ponting on Thursday defended his decision to drop fast bowler Brett Lee for Wednesday's seven-wicket one-day international win over Pakistan.

Only 11,000 fans turned up Wednesday and Australian Cricket Board chief executive James Sutherland admitted he was disappointed.

But he said it was up to the selectors to pick the team.

The match had been billed a confrontation between the world's two fastest bowlers -- Pakistan's Shoaib Akhtar and Lee.

But Lee was overlooked and Akhtar had a hip injury.

Lee and Shoaib were two of the key players in a promotion where a fan could win 25,000 dollars (14,000 US) from each game if someone scored 100 in 100 balls or bowled at 100 miles per hour.

"There's a reasonable assumption he's the most likely person to do that, but ... the promotion hasn't specifically mentioned Brett," Sutherland said.

"It would be rare in a series like



RICKY PONTING

this for all the fast bowlers to play in every game.

"Perhaps he will play in the last two, I don't know."

Pakistan captain Waqar Younis

was hopeful Shoaib would be fit for Saturday night's second game under the Colonial Stadium roof.

Ponting said Andy Bichel, who impressed with 3-30 from 10 overs Wednesday, was picked ahead of Lee because his playing stint in England gave him the edge in match fitness.

"There's no saying Brett won't play the next game, he's fully fit and up for selection," Ponting added.

Ponting said form and the makeup of the side were the only factors when the team was selected.

"We just picked our best side and unfortunately Brett wasn't in that," Ponting said. "But he's every chance to be in the next side."

"Shoaib and Brett were marketed to promote these games. But there's another 22 pretty handy cricketers that have taken the field."

The corresponding match of the first indoor cricket match at the same venue two years ago, between Australia and South Africa, attracted 25,785 fans.

Hewitt, Henman thru'



AFP, London

Last year's champion Lleyton Hewitt and runner-up Tim Henman got rough-draft ideas of their current grass-court form Wednesday with warm-up victories into the third round of the 800,000 Queen's club tournament.

World number one Hewitt, who made his Queen's debut five years ago as a qualifier, took a few games to get used to the quick turf before carving out a 7-5, 6-3 win over American qualifier Mardy Fish.

Home hero Henman beat South African Neville Godwin 6-4, 7-6 to nullify a slow start which began as he lost his serve to love in the opening game.

Hewitt is bidding for a hatrick of Queen's trophies after beating Pete Sampras in 2000 and Henman 12 months ago. But he knows his game still needs some polish, which he hopes to get here and next week in Holland at Rosmalen.

"It's nice to get that opening win under your belt," said the Australian, who received a bye into the second

round as did all eight leading seeds.

Hewitt broke Fish, 20, for 5-3 in the second set after taking the first and served out the win as the American put a forehand just past the corner.

The Aussie will Thursday face Olivier Rochus of Belgium for a quarterfinal spot.

Second-seed Henman, three times a Wimbledon semifinalist and the last Briton standing this week from five starters, dropped his opening game of the second-set match to love against Neville before picking up his pace.

"It was not my best start. I think in the first nine games, he played better than I did," he said. "These were my first sets on grass, I'm hoping to play better on Thursday (when he plays American Robby Ginepri, who beat Swiss Marc Rosset 4-6, 7-5, 6-4).

Henman has defeated world number 111 Godwin both times they've played. The Briton currently stands second in the Champions points race, after his January title and finals at Indian Wells and Rotterdam.

Two seeds fell on a grey but dry afternoon, with American Michael

Russell upsetting number three Swede Thomas Enqvist 6-3, 7-5 and Australian grass threat Wayne Arthurs accounting for Sergis Sargsian, the Number 16, 6-2, 6-3.

Fifth-seeded Dutchman Sjeng Schalken aced for three match points and then needed only one to oust Czech Jiri Vacek 6-4, 6-2. American Vince Spadea, putting his 21-match loss streak from 2000 well behind, moved ahead to his best showing of the year with an upset of seventh seed James Blake 6-3, 6-4.

The 1994 title-holder Todd Martin, the 31-year-old ninth seed, eliminated American compatriot Jeff Murrison 6-3, 6-3, while number 12 Jan-Michael Gambill stopped U.S. compatriot Mike Bryan 6-3, 6-4.

Korea's Hyung-Taik Lee defeated Japan's Gouchi Motomura in a mirror of the football World Cup host nation rivalry, winning into the last 16 by a comfortable score of 6-4, 6-0. It was the seventh win in the series for Lee out of eight encounters.

Former champion Wayne Ferreira, the 10th seed who took the 1992 trophy, beat Belgian Gilles Elseneer 6-4, 6-7.

Moment of truth

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not make it to become obsessed with Portugal's key players like Luis Figo and Rui Costa.

"We cannot mark world class players with two or three players," he said. "(But) we will defend (against) them, we have players who can do so."

South Korea's back line is anchored by captain Hong Myung-bo, a steady veteran in his fourth and probably last World Cup.

Up front, Ahn Jung-hwan is likely to be used more after coming on as a substitute to score the 78th-minute equaliser that salvaged a 1-1 draw against the U.S.

"I'm demanding a high pace and he's capable," Hiddink said. "He can play 45 minutes or maybe, if necessary, a little bit longer on a high level."

Speedy left winger Lee Young-pyo is back from a leg injury and could also figure in Hiddink's plans for more substitutes to keep fresh legs on the pitch.

"Some players because of little injuries cannot play full time so I have to keep some fresh players on the bench to go in the second half," Hiddink said.

Korea received a rock star reception from hundreds of screaming teenage girls when they arrived for their final training session here.

"It is going to be a difficult game

Korean striker Hwang Sun-Hong was reminded of the importance of the occasion when he walked on to the Incheon pitch for training on Thursday.

Large banners congratulating him on his 100th cap for Korea are already in place around the stadium along with slogans calling on Korea "to end European domination".

"I am confident we can use playing at home to our advantage," said Hwang, who scored his 50th goal for Korea against Poland last week.

"This will be my 100th appearance for Korea and it will be quite emotional for me. I want this match to shine with a victory."

Portugal, after the shock U.S. defeat, crushed Poland 4-0, with a hat-trick from striker Pauleta.

In their first finals in 16 years, the Portuguese hope Figo and other veterans from a team that won the 1991 FIFA World Youth Championship can repeat the feat at the World Cup.

World player of the year Luis Figo described Portugal's showdown with South Korea here as his team's World Cup final before the final.

"It is going to be the first final for both countries," said the Real Madrid star. "We are certainly approaching it like that."

"It is going to be a difficult game

for both sides but I hope we can win. There will be pressure on us but also on Korea. We are in the same position. We respect Korea but we are not afraid of them."

Portugal captain Fernando Couto added that Korea were particularly dangerous at free kicks and corners.

"Their attack is very strong and they are good in the air," he said. "We have been practising defending corners and free kicks."

"There is a good atmosphere in the squad - we are one step away from the knock-out stages of the World Cup and we do not want to slip up."

"I want to play better and better every game. I am feeling physically fit and when I feel okay I can play much better."

Coach Antonio Oliveira is likely to stick to the same tight formation he used against Poland, rather than the open team which left space for the United States to score three goals in 36 first-half minutes.

Oliveira used Joao Pinto to probe the Poland defence then brought playmaker Rui Costa on later. Right back Nuno Frechaut, doubtful after spraining an ankle, could be replaced by Abel Xavier who has recovered from a torn thigh muscle.

Carlos clone

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good for Roberto Carlos to know that he has a shadow," said Scolari at the time.

Roberto Carlos, who said before the game that he did not consider himself automatic first choice, said he was pleased by Junior's performance.

"It's nice to know that there is someone else who is at the same level, or better, than I am. I'm happy for him," he said.

Trailblazing Turks

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been assured after only nine minutes, when they surged into a two-goal lead to pile on the misery for China, already eliminated after two defeats.

Feeble Chinese defending after six minutes saw the Turks go 1-0 up, Galatasaray's elusive midfielder Hasan Sas seizing on a mistake by Li Weifeng to blast high into the net.

Soon afterwards China's captain and goalkeeper Jiang Jin was picking the ball out of his net again, Bulent's back-post header from a cross by Hasan Sas looping up and dipping under the bar.

The early blitz could have knocked the fight out of China but they responded to the setback well, moving forward confidently.

They almost pulled one back near the half-hour mark when Yang Chen saw a thunderous volley come

smashing back off an upright with Turkish keeper Rustu Recber well-beaten.

Indiscipline soured a good opening 45 minutes for Turkey, with Emre Asik and Emre Belozoglu both picking up yellow cards which will see them suspended for the next match if their side reach the last 16.

China also saw Yang Pu cautioned for diving inside the penalty area.

Turkey dominated proceedings after half-time but made heavy weather of breaking down the World Cup debutants defence.

Chinese attempts to staunch the Turkish onslaught were made more difficult on 58 minutes when second half substitute Shao Jiayi was sent off for a clumsy tackle on Emre Belozoglu after just 13 minutes on the pitch.

Parma striker Hakan Sukur almost gave Turkey a third midway through the second half but his header was palmed away with a fabulous reflex save by Jiang.

Finally the third Turkish goal came six minutes from time, Umit Davala drilling in a low right-foot volley which gave Jiang no chance.

TEAMS
TURKEY: Rustu (Omer 35), Asik, Korkmaz, Unsal, Akyel, Tugay (Tayfur 84), Basturk (Mansiz 70), Emre, Davala, Sukur, Sas.

CHINA: Jiang, Pu Yang, Wu (Shao 46), Weifeng Li, Du, Xu, Tie Li, Zhao, Xiaoping Li, Hao (Qu 73), Chen Yang (Yu 73).

Sent Off: Shao (59).
Booked: Pu Yang, Weifeng Li.
Referee: Oscar Ruiz (Colombia)



ESPN

Western Union World Football Taped Version at 10:30 am
World Cup Today
Repeat at 11:00 am
Sportscentre
Sports News
Live at 8:30 pm

STAR Sports

World Cup Today
Repeat at 10:00 am
England vs Sri Lanka
Third Test, Day Two
Live at 6:28 pm



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1. Bangladesh A beat USA by how many wickets in the Malaysia Cricket Challenge final.

5-wkts 7-wkts 3-wkts

2. Who clinched the Open FIDE Rating chess title?

Aminul Rajib Refaat

3. Who won the First Division cricket title?

Name ..