

Barnes becomes Protea A coach

REUTERS, Johannesburg

South Africa's cricket administrators have continued their wide-ranging reorganisation with the appointment of Vincent Barnes as coach of the national 'A' and under-19 teams.

Barnes takes over from former international batsman Hylton Ackerman, who performed the role on a less formal basis but whose contract expires in August and has not been renewed.

Barnes's appointment, which takes effect on September 1, follows the replacement of four of the five national selectors, the head coach and the physiotherapist.

"The General Council of the UCB (United Cricket Board) decided to elevate this position to ensure that the person who holds it will work very closely with the coaches in the national squad," UCB chief executive Gerald Majola said in a statement.

"It will be Vincent's responsibility to ensure that players are constantly coming through the ranks and ready to take up places in the national squad."

"The UCB has embarked on a drive to keep the SA A team highly active and for this team to be a solid stepping stone into the national squad with as narrow a gap as possible between the two sides."

"Hylton has made himself available to assist with our young players and I am happy to keep his expertise in South African cricket."

Barnes, 42, has coached in the Western Province system since 1995 when he started as a youth coach at the province. He coached the provincial 'A' side with Eric Simons for two years until Simons was appointed national coach six weeks ago.

Barnes represented the coloured Western Province Cricket Board as a right-arm swing bowler between 1977 and unity in 1991 and then played for the unified Western Province Cricket Association until his retirement in 1994.

"I have spoken to Eric and will continue to work closely with him in building a strategy and level of cricket to make sure the players are ready at all times to make the step up to international cricket," Barnes said.

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Fletcher joined

FROM PAGE 13
Speed said the consensus among the captains present at Lord's was that the volume of cricket played had "gone about as far as it can go".

"The captains asked the ICC to look at whether there can be a break in the scheduling and we're happy to take their concerns on board," said Speed.

"When we look at the scheduling over the next five years, if we could limit it so that each country, say, played no more than 14 Test matches and something like 25 or 26 one-day internationals, that might be achievable."

The implementation of anti-corruption measures was also discussed, with Anti-Corruption head Paul Condon outlining the progress made in the last year.

Fleming said the captains - who also included England's Nasser Hussain, India's Sourav Ganguly, Pakistan's Waqar Younis and South Africa's Shaun Pollock - were pleased with Condon's 'positive spin'.

"We're very happy with what's been put in place. We have felt the force of that in the last couple of series we have played," Fleming said.

"I believe the direction the game is going, we all know that it was at crisis point (but) in the last 12 months there has been a definite shift in the positive."

"As players we have been pleased by that because there had been a lot of slurring of performances and that affected us in many ways."

Edward sets new mark

Athletics

INTERNET, London

British triple jumper Jonathan Edwards outjumped local hero Christian Olsson to record a world's best this year of 17.78 metres at the IAAF Grand Prix in Stockholm.

The world record holder edged out Sweden's Olsson by 39 centimetres as he made amends for Friday's Golden League defeat by America's Walter Davis in Rome.

Belarus jumper Aleksandr Glavatskiy was third with a leap of 17.09m.

"Tonight was great, the best I've jumped for a year," Edwards said.

"It was solid, good footwork, I could have had an 18-plus metres tonight if I had needed it."

In the men's 100m, America's Tim Montgomery was awarded first place after finishing in the same time, of 10.08 seconds, as Kim Collins of St Kitts.

America's Bernard Williams was third in 10.14.

Neither Maurice Greene or Britain's Dwain Chambers - who beat the world and Olympic champion twice in a weekend recently - were at the Stockholm event.

In the javelin, European champion Steve Backley, back from injury, finished sixth behind Sergey Makarov.

The Russian threw 87.83m to beat Boris Henry (84.89m) as Backley could only manage 80.55m.

Meanwhile, America's Olympic silver medalist Alvin Harrison took the 400m in 44.57 seconds from team-mate Leonard Byrd.

Devers won the women's 100m hurdles.

Edmonton world champion Avarid Moncur, of the Bahamas, finished third in 45.01.

Elsewhere, American veteran Gail Devers beat Jamaican Bridgette Foster to win the 100m hurdles in 12.42 seconds.

"I was happy with the race," Devers said.

"But it was not the best for me, I felt kind of up and down. I knew it was going to be a great competition."

"It was about getting out front and staying in front. They keep me on my toes, these young girls."

Meanwhile, in the women's pole vault, one of the non-Grand Prix events, Russia's Svetlana Feofanova set a European record of 4.78 metres.

She beat German Annika Becker's old record set 10 days ago by one centimetre.

Kipketer won the 3000m steeplechase.

Jolanda Ceplak of Slovenia was third in 1:56.63.

The 3000m steeplechase was equally as close with former world record holder Wilson Boit Kipketer winning in a world leading time for the year of 8:00.56.

The men's 110m hurdles was won by Olympic champion Anier Garcia (13.13), who beat three-



JONATHAN EDWARDS

In the women's 800m, newcomer Nicole Teter won in one minute 58.13secs, edging out Olympic champion Maria Mutola, of Mozambique by 0.10 seconds.

World indoor record holder

times world champion Allen Johnson (13.17).

In the women's 100m, Zhanna Pitusevic-Block, the fastest runner this year, scorched to another win in 10.91secs.

Umpires lbw-ed!

AFP, London

Cricket's governing body the International Cricket Council (ICC) revealed here Monday umpires would be able to use TV replays over leg before wicket decisions at September's Champions' Trophy in Sri Lanka.

ICC cricket manager Dave Richardson said lbw provoked most errors among umpires and needed to be addressed.

"Lbw will be one of the areas where umpires can consult, but only in certain areas such as whether the ball pitched outside leg-stump or took the inside edge," the former South Africa wicketkeeper said.

"Lbw is one of those areas where umpires are making mistakes time and time again," he added.

TV replays have up to now been used for run outs and catches.

Boldon to miss Games

INTERNET, London

Commonwealth Games 100m champion Ato Boldon will not defend his title in Manchester due to a lack of preparation.

The Trinidad and Tobago sprinter has decided not to compete again this season after a run of poor form in recent months.

"I am not in the kind of shape that I would like to be in at this point of the year," said Boldon.

Boldon finished last in the Golden Gala meeting in Rome on Friday, despite running his best time this year at 10.23 seconds.

The 28-year-old's best result of the season was a fourth place finish in the 100m in Fort-de-France, Martinique, and he has suffered recurrent back problems and leg pain.

His coach John Smith believes he spent too little time preparing for the season and would benefit from a short break and ahead of the 2003 season.

Boldon will now focus on the Paris world outdoor championships next year.

Maurice closes in on Hicham

AFP, Monte Carlo

World and Olympic Champion Maurice Greene of the United States closed the gap further on overall leader Hicham El Guerrouj in the IAAF world rankings released here on Tuesday.

Greene's blistering 9.89sec in Rome last Friday extended his lead at the head of the 100m ranking, but also edges him closer to Morocco's 1500m world record holder El Guerrouj.

The win earned Greene 1425 points in performance scores, leaving him only 24 points behind the Moroccan distance runner.

Namibian sprint legend Frankie Fredericks is also improving on his rankings despite a disappointing fifth in the 100m in Tuesday night's IAAF meet in Stockholm where he clocked 10.16sec behind winner Tim Montgomery of the USA in 10.08sec.

After threatening the world with retirement last year, the 34-year-old ran 19.99 at the Roma Golden Gala to win the event and jump to 8th in the 200m Event Ranking.

Fredericks' win allowed him to enter the Overall top 100 in 99th place.

Australian World Champion pole-vaulter Dmitry Markov was unable to repeat his performance from last year and lost only 16 points in the rankings but also his event leading position to American Jeff Hartwig.

Canas moves on

AFP, Stuttgart

Two huge downpours and near-steady drizzle kept play to a minimum Tuesday at the 500,000-dollar Mercedes Cup, with third seed Guillermo Canas managing a rain-interrupted win into the second round.

The third-seeded Argentine, who lost last year's final to Brazilian Gustavo Kuerten on the Weissenhof club clay, defeated Sargis Sargsian of Armenia 6-3, 6-4.

Julien Boutter won an all-French clash as he defeated Julien Varlet, a qualifier 6-3, 6-1.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 — de deux
4 Huck
Finn's transport
8 Blueprint
12 Calendar
13 Exchange
premium
14 Gardener's need
15 Mullet
17 Davenport's place
18 Fix the sound-track
19 Really good-looking sort
21 Restrain
24 Minded-over matter
25 Kanga's kid
26 Wapiti
32 Grad
34 Newton
36 Call a halt to
37 Flat-topped hills

DOWN
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2 Piece of legislation
3 Willing to learn
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5 Past mixtures
6 Ever-greens for short
7 Scout master?
8 Barnum's first name
9 Daffy one
10 ".... mercy on such —"
11 Approach
16 Start to grow
20 Internet info
21 Author
22 Portrayal
23 North Pole employoo
27 Josh
28 Caviar supplier
30 Mediocre clients
31 Admitting
33 Demonstrated, maybe
35 Hiatus
38 Attack dog's command
40 Prattle on and on
43 Fencing equipment
45 Spigot
46 Thunk
47 Number
48 Racket wielders' org.
49 Without delay, in the OR
53 AP counterpart
54 Regret
55 "Sprechen — Deutsch?"

WITTI
MARE
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BRASH
CLOID
CUTS
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AIFA
ESTO
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RTING
HALLO
CUTS
YODIEL
RIEUP
BOA
SALAD
SIHQW
TICUTS
UPIA
KIIRI
TETUTU
NET
LDOES
SEIGIA
AXIE

Solution time: 27 mins.

CRYPTOQUIP
CRYPTOQUIP is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an aptrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

CRYPTOQUIP
LWIBEC F CFPZ, LYE'H NBH
B E H G Z X A Z F V G Z I N .
Y I I G Z I S B N Z R Y W I V A Y H G Z N
P F R X Z V Y P Z S G B H Z .
Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF A COLORFUL BIRD LEAPT OUT OF AN AIRPLANE, COULD IT BE CALLED A PARROT-TROOPER?
Today's Cryptquip Clue: B equals I

It means so much to 'em

AFP, Manchester

Only in the most peculiar of circumstances would athletes from the outposts of Nauru and Niue expect to mix it up with the sporting giants of England and Australia.

But the Commonwealth Games, bringing together superstars and wannabes from the remnants of the old empire, have given some of the sleepy corners of the world a chance to wake up in the spotlight.

And sometimes, they have only been too happy to seize their opportunity.

Take weightlifter Marcus Stephen.

The man from the tiny island of Nauru in the South Pacific Ocean, which boasts a population of just 12,000, could only manage a modest eighth place at the Sydney Olympics where the big men of Europe dominated.

But in the smaller confines of the Commonwealth Games, he is untouchable winning three golds in the 62 kg class in Kuala Lumpur in 1998 to add to the three he won in Canada in 1994.

Not a bad performance for a man from an island whose previous claims to fame had been its phosphate deposits and the fact that when it achieved independence in 1968, it became the smallest independent republic in the world.

Stephen's story could be an inspiration for the countless other unknowns who will descend upon Manchester.

From Anguilla in the Caribbean, Charlie Bryan, brother Ronnie and Kris Pradel have all been working full-time in order to pay for their cycling equipment as they represent their country for the first time.

Their reward — a chance to test their skills against the likes of Scotland's David Millar, a Tour de

France stage winner, in the Games' road race on August 3.

Pradel goes by the nickname of Vanish.

"I have the power, stamina, level of fitness and hunger to put me right in there with the big boys. I am determined to put myself and Anguilla on the cycling map," he said.

On the world map, Anguilla is a speck of a place and a British dependency lying midway between Antigua and the British Virgin Islands.

Africa supplies the bulk of the 72 competing nations — the controversial Zimbabwe taking part alongside heavyweights South Africa and tourist idylls Seychelles and Mauritius.

Asia can boast India and Pakistan while, in Europe, the likes of Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and even the Isle of Man have the opportunity to step out of their traditional Team UK mode and Gibraltar will be keen to show their allegiances.

In Oceania, representatives from Australia and New Zealand will be determined to cast their giant shadows over Vanuatu, the Norfolk Islands and Kiribati.

From the America zone, the Falklands will hope to snatch a little of the regional glory from superpower Canada.

The Falklands first entered the Games in 1982 in Brisbane with a team of just two — now they have six for Manchester, five of them in the shooting competition.

For islands whose geography has posed numerous difficulties in recent decades, there is irony in that the Games shooting competition is being staged 300 miles south of Manchester, in leafy Surrey!

The smallest nation taking part is Niue, an elevated atoll in the south Pacific, which has a population of just 1750 and covers 259 square kilometres.

However, the size of the island

has caused a big problem and a major row.

Two of Niue's lawn bowlers have been barred from taking part because the island does not have a bowling green.

Niue can still put their faith in the rest of the team of six weight-lifters, six clay shooters, five athletes, one boxer and 12 officials.

John Kaulima, Niue consul general in Auckland who was in charge of raising 55,000 dollars for the team's trip, said of the bowlers: "I felt for them. They are disappointed."

If the Games shines its spotlight on the array of island dreamers, it also gives some sports the opportunity to make headlines rather than being hidden away in the small print.

Squash has consistently lobbied for inclusion in the Olympics without success but that hasn't dimmed the ambitions of the likes of Sarah Fitz-Gerald who leads Australia's challenge in Manchester where the team hopes for three golds.

World number one Fitz-Gerald will hope to improve on her silver medal from the 1998 Kuala Lumpur Games while coach Geoff Hunt is hopeful of victory in the doubles event.

"I'm confident because I know we've got the experience and the players," Hunt said.

Lawn bowls too will hope that Manchester will help in its endless quest for a more seip image and global appeal — it was a sport which started with impressive credentials.

When England formed the first association in 1903 they enlisted the help of legendary cricketer WG Grace to be their first president.

Ironically, as bowls continues to form part of the 19 sport programme having featured for the first time at Hamilton in 1930, cricket has disappeared from the Manchester schedule despite its presence last time out in Malaysia.

Costa survives a scare

Tennis

AFP, Amsterdam

Newly-crowned French Open champion Albert Costa narrowly avoided a first round exit at the 381,000-dollar ATP tournament here Tuesday to unheralded qualifier Oleg Ogorodov of Uzbekistan.

Costa, who won his first Grand Slam title last month, was determined to prevent a repeat of last week's first round crash in Gstaad to French qualifier Paul-Henri Mathieu.

Top seed Costa was a set down and trailing 0-2 in the second when he stopped the rot by saving three break points to avoid a double break in the claycourt tournament at Amersfoort, 50km outside Amsterdam.



Spaniard Albert Costa plays a forehand against Uzbekistan's Oleg Ogorodov at the Energis Open in Amsterdam on July 16.

Spaniards plot Lance fall

AFP, France

Lance Armstrong watch out - the Spanish ONCE team who currently hold the Tour de France yellow jersey are hatching plans to keep the three-time winner's chances at bay as they head for the mountains.

The race's 11th stage on Thursday is the first of two consecutive rides in the Pyrenees which, over two days, features seven punishing climbs.

Armstrong, the 30-year-old leader of the US Postal team who surprised by not winning the yellow jersey back after he came second on Monday's individual time trial, is expected to attack early - an expectation supported by his former team-mate Tyler Hamilton.

"I think it will be like the last few years," Hamilton said at a team press conference. "Teams will race very hard to put the pressure on, but I think Lance will attack sooner rather than later in the Pyrenees."

However the Texan's plans to take the race lead in the mountains which separate France and Spain could be rustled by race leader Igor Gonzalez de Galdeano, and Joseba Beloki, who is not yet in yellow but considered the natural team leader.

Gonzalez de Galdeano, who will spend his seventh day in yellow when the race restarts on Wednesday's 10th, mainly flat, stage from Bazas to Pau after Tuesday's rest day, said: "The key to our offensive is that we all think of each other's needs at all times during the race."

"That can only give us an advantage. Joseba is the best climber, so if he manages to follow Armstrong,

"I'll be right behind him."

Beloki, who has shown promise by finishing third overall on the Tour the past two years, ruled out a fight with his own team-mate for the right to wear yellow.

"It's stupid to talk about who among us is going for the yellow jersey. Igor is in yellow so as a consequence my aim is, for the moment, a stage win. But you have to know how to manage and keep your strength," said the Spaniard.

Beloki believes Armstrong's setback on Monday, when he failed - some believe intentionally - to win yellow and take control of the race, will be brushed under the carpet.

The American is usually unstoppable in the mountains so is likely to leave his talking until then.

"Armstrong isn't preoccupied with Monday," added Beloki. "Undoubtedly, he is a bit worried but he knows it's nothing to be freaked about because he can usually make the difference more in the mountains than in time trials."

"But I expect the race to be much more chaotic in the Pyrenees than it was last year," added Beloki.

Gonzalez de Galdeano, however, said it would be difficult for teams to unify with each other in a bid to oust the American and his US Postal team.

"It will be difficult to unify because everybody has their own ambitions and want to win as well."

"We're happy with the first half of the race, but our aim is to make the podium, and on the highest step possible."

Manolo Saiz, the outspoken ONCE team manager who was once famously banned from the

Tour, said talk of what would be Armstrong's fourth consecutive Tour triumph is simply reassuring.

Asked why he was the favourite, Saiz said: "It's simply because it is safe to say so all the time. But believe me, every day when we go up to our bedrooms, we do so thinking about overall victory."

"Why shouldn't we?"

Pratt skips Fed Cup

AFP, Sydney

Australian No. 1 Nicole Pratt is out of this weekend's Fed Cup tennis tie against the Netherlands in Wollongong, south of here.

Pratt, enjoying a career-high world ranking of 36, is suffering from a chronic foot injury that has hampered her for the past nine months.

The injury flared up at Wimbledon last month and team captain Evonne Goolagong-Cawley on Wednesday confirmed Pratt's withdrawal.

Goolagong-Cawley promoted the 177th-ranked Christina Wheeler to join world No. 71 Alicia Molik, world No. 107 Evie Dominikovic and doubles specialist Rennae Stubbs in the Australian squad.

Australia and the Netherlands are playing off to stay in the 16-team World Group next year.

The draw will be held on Friday.



PHOTO: COURTESY

State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman (2nd from left) handing over the Lifebuoy-Community football tournament trophy to the captain of The Independent at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.