

S'pore Open Top seed tumbles

AFP, Singapore

Top seed Camilla Martin, who had expressed uncertainty about facing Chinese players in the Singapore Open, had her fears realised in the second round Thursday as she was dumped out by Xie Xingfang.

The Danish star came unstuck against the first Chinese player she faced in the 170,000 dollar tournament with Xie charging to an 11-7, 13-10 win to book a quarterfinal berth.

Xie, the world number 13, was on a roll after defeating Singapore's recently crowned Commonwealth Games champion Li Li in the first round, said she outsmarted Martin in the second round.

Fletcher

FROM PAGE 13
role. He showed a lot of guts."

But he added: "Six or seven wickets down would have been par for the course today, on a good day it could have been all out."

Referring to Andrew Caddick and Alex Tudor, he said: "Maybe the excessive bounce confused the bowlers over the length they should bowl."

Dravid, though, added: "I thought they bowled quite well initially. My fingers took a beating but you forget that after scoring a hundred. It was quite a challenging wicket."

Dravid, though, added: "I thought they bowled quite well initially. My fingers took a beating but you forget that after scoring a hundred. It was quite a challenging wicket."

Dravid, though, added: "I thought they bowled quite well initially. My fingers took a beating but you forget that after scoring a hundred. It was quite a challenging wicket."

No headway

FROM PAGE 13
another huge outlay for the Inter striker.

"We made very big strategic investments to bring Figo and Zidane to the club, but the market has now changed and we do not intend to pay a similar amount again," he said.

He confirmed that Real's idea was to sign Ronaldo in a players-plus-cash deal.

Spanish internationals Fernando Morientes and Pedro Munitis, Argentine winger Santiago Solari and Brazilian midfielder Flavio Conceicao have all been linked with the deal in the past week.

Inter boss Moratti had vowed to hang on to the player for another year if Real fail to match his asking price. "Ronaldo will play one more year for us, against his will, and then he will leave whether we win something or not. Just watch."

Nevertheless, if Ronaldo is kept against his will then he is reportedly ready to begin a one-man strike.

Reinaldo Pitta, Ronaldo's Brazilian agent, told Marcao Thursday: "If Moratti makes him stay he will do so, but one thing is for sure: he won't play for Inter. We want to go to Madrid. We have already reached an agreement with them and we could sort a transfer out in a few minutes. We're optimistic and we hope that in the next few hours the situation will be resolved."

It seems more than likely that Ronaldo has played his last game for the San Siro side, but whether he ends up at the Bernabeu or on a picket line has yet to be resolved.

Ronaldo joined Inter from Barcelona before the 1997-98 season but has spent most of the last three seasons on the sidelines following a serious knee injury. His contract runs until 2006.

Reinaldo Pitta, Ronaldo's Brazilian agent, told Marcao Thursday: "If Moratti makes him stay he will do so, but one thing is for sure: he won't play for Inter. We want to go to Madrid. We have already reached an agreement with them and we could sort a transfer out in a few minutes. We're optimistic and we hope that in the next few hours the situation will be resolved."

It seems more than likely that Ronaldo has played his last game for the San Siro side, but whether he ends up at the Bernabeu or on a picket line has yet to be resolved.

Ronaldo joined Inter from Barcelona before the 1997-98 season but has spent most of the last three seasons on the sidelines following a serious knee injury. His contract runs until 2006.

Ronaldo joined Inter from Barcelona before the 1997-98 season but has spent most of the last three seasons on the sidelines following a serious knee injury. His contract runs until 2006.

Hayden

FROM PAGE 13
Meanwhile, the ACB is expected to announce the squad to prepare for the postponed Test series against Pakistan in October within the next few days. The venue of the series is yet to be confirmed with Sri Lanka and Sharjah the most likely alternatives.

Most interest in the Test squad will centre on whether national selectors retain Australian Test captain Steve Waugh and twin brother Mark, who were dumped from the one-day squad earlier this year.

Meanwhile, the ACB is expected to announce the squad to prepare for the postponed Test series against Pakistan in October within the next few days. The venue of the series is yet to be confirmed with Sri Lanka and Sharjah the most likely alternatives.

Most interest in the Test squad will centre on whether national selectors retain Australian Test captain Steve Waugh and twin brother Mark, who were dumped from the one-day squad earlier this year.

Swimming

Reuters, Yokohama

Australia and the US are set to resume one of the fiercest rivalries in sport when the Pan Pacific swimming championships get under way in Yokohama on Saturday.

The mind games began early at a press conference on Thursday when Ian Thorpe dismissed his chances of breaking world records while his Australian team mate Grant Hackett complained of fatigue and a lack of motivation.

Sitting next to Thorpe, American Anthony Ervin countered that there was no extra incentive to beat Australia, but it was clear that nobody was being fooled.

The US want revenge after Australia won 13 gold medals to their nine at last year's world championships in Fukuoka. The Australians will be desperate to hang on to their title of the world's top swimming nation.

Thorpe, who won a record six gold medals in Fukuoka, could set the tone for the competition and break his own world record in the 400 freestyle for the second time inside a month on the opening day.

Thorpe not so sure

of the biennial Pan Pacific championships.

The 19-year-old clocked a new world best of three minutes, 40.08 seconds to win the first of his six gold medals at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester. He also holds the world record in the 200 and 800 metres freestyle.

Thorpe, scheduled to enter the 100, 200 and 400 metres plus three relays in Yokohama, has broken the 400 metre world record at every major competition since the 1999 Pan Pacific championships.

But Thorpe, who enjoys celebrity status in Japan, said a "hectic schedule" could put a stop to that remarkable sequence, although significantly he added that he would still swim "really fast" in Yokohama.

While it would be foolish to bet against Thorpe adding to his 17 world records, Ervin and teenager Michael Phelps are just two members among a formidable American squad who could conceivably outshine Thorpe in Yokohama.

Ervin, world champion in the 50 and 100 metres freestyle, will be a slight favourite to put one over on Thorpe in the 100 metres.

Phelps, the closest thing America has to Thorpe, is on a high after establishing a new world mark

Cricket

INTERNET, Johannesburg

Dr Ali Bacher, managing director of the Cricket World Cup steering committee, said on Wednesday that the threatening crisis around clashing sponsorships in world cricket would in no way affect next year's World Cup in South Africa.

"The controlling bodies of all the participating countries have already signed contracts to ensure their best possible teams would take part in the World Cup. I have no doubt that the current crisis would be resolved by then."

"What is happening now must raise concern for cricket as a whole, but I definitely do not see it as an insurmountable problem. I can give you the assurance that the World Cup would not be under threat," Bacher said.

However, the same cannot be

Bacher says CWC safe



said of next month's mini-World Cup, the International Cricket Council's Championship Tournament in Colombo, Sri Lanka. With world cricket staggering



DR. ALI BACHER from one crisis to the next, that tournament risks to become a second rate affair.

On their own



AFP, Bombay

Indian cricketers were increasingly isolated Friday in a major sponsorship row as key teams Australia, South Africa and England appeared ready to sign the players' contract with the International Cricket Council (ICC).

Australia said Thursday the 14 players selected for the Champions Trophy in Sri Lanka next month had agreed to sign the participating nations agreement, thus allowing it to send a full strength team.

England and South Africa also appeared ready to sign the ICC contract, while the three other teams -- New Zealand, Zimbabwe and Pakistan -- have already signed on the dotted line.

"It's a question of either being in the vanguard or in the doghouse," said Ayaz Memon, cricket writer for the Times of India.

"It's a well known fact that Indian cricketers, especially the big three or four, are the biggest brand endorsers in the game of cricket. They are either the biggest gainers or the losers from this whole issue."

Wadekar said it seemed the BCCI had been aware of the ICC agreement since last year.

"Why did it not tell the players about this. Say a player like (Virendra) Sehwag who signed a Coca-Cola contract around four months back would not have done it had he known about the ambush marketing clause," Wadekar said.

Wadekar blamed the BCCI for the current crisis, but he said he expected the body to climb down from its "stubborn" stance of sending a second-string team to the Champions Trophy.

"It's always been the case. They (board members) never tell the players anything. They take them for granted," said Wadekar.

"Even when I captained the team during the West Indies and English tours in the early 70s there were many legal and technical issues which the board did not feel important to tell me."

The Indian players asked Thursday for a dialogue with the BCCI over the contract clauses, while the Times of India Friday reported that the BCCI had called for an emergency meeting of the ICC's executive board in Dubai to discuss the controversial clauses.

Cricket

INTERNET, London

England all-rounder Ronnie Irani faces a race against time to be fit for the ICC Champions Trophy after undergoing an operation on his knee on Thursday.

The Essex captain had keyhole surgery in Cambridge after injuring his right knee in Essex's recent tour match against India at Chelmsford.

During the procedure floating debris was removed which should enable him to return in time for Essex's game against fellow promotion-chasers Middlesex at Chelmsford on September 4.

But with the ICC Champions Trophy due to begin on September 12, Irani would have little time to prove his fitness in time for the tournament in Sri Lanka.

India pile

FROM PAGE 13
Together with Tendulkar he put on 150 for the third wicket in 39 overs to leave India 335 for three.

In the morning India resumed on 236 for two with Dravid 110 not out and Tendulkar 18 not out after rain delayed the start of play by 55 minutes.

And, unlike Thursday's cautious start India were soon into their stride with 41 runs coming off the first 10 overs.

England lead the four-match series 1-0 and India must win here to keep alive their hopes of winning a first Test campaign outside the sub-continent in 16 years.

Scoreboard

Scoreboard at tea on the second day of the third Test between England and India at Headingley on Friday:

INDIA: First innings (overnight 236-2)

Bangar c Stewart b Flintoff	68
Sehwag c Flintoff b Hoggard	8
Dravid st Stewart b Giles	148
Tendulkar not out	113
Ganguly not out	45
Extras: (b-13, lb-12, nb-14)	39
Total: (For 3 wkts in 141 overs) 421	
Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-185, 3-335	
To bat: V. Laxman, A. Agarkar, P. Patel, A. Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Hoggard	32	11	80	1
Caddick	29	5	84	0
Tudor	31	10	102	0
Flintoff	20	4	52	1
Giles	27	3	77	1
Butcher	1	1	0	0
Vaughan	1	0	1	0

ENGLAND: Michael Vaughan, Robert Key, Mark Butcher, Nasser Hussain (capt), John Crawley, Alec Stewart (wkt), Andrew Flintoff, Alex Tudor, Ashley Giles, Andrew Caddick, Matthew Hoggard

Toss: India

Umpires: Asoka de Silva (Sri), David Orchard (Rsa)

Third umpire: Peter Willey (Eng)

Match referee: Clive Lloyd (Wls)

Cricket

INTERNET, London

England all-rounder Ronnie Irani faces a race against time to be fit for the ICC Champions Trophy after undergoing an operation on his knee on Thursday.

The Essex captain had keyhole surgery in Cambridge after injuring his right knee in Essex's recent tour match against India at Chelmsford.

During the procedure floating debris was removed which should enable him to return in time for Essex's game against fellow promotion-chasers Middlesex at Chelmsford on September 4.

But with the ICC Champions Trophy due to begin on September 12, Irani would have little time to prove his fitness in time for the tournament in Sri Lanka.

India pile

FROM PAGE 13
Together with Tendulkar he put on 150 for the third wicket in 39 overs to leave India 335 for three.

In the morning India resumed on 236 for two with Dravid 110 not out and Tendulkar 18 not out after rain delayed the start of play by 55 minutes.

And, unlike Thursday's cautious start India were soon into their stride with 41 runs coming off the first 10 overs.

England lead the four-match series 1-0 and India must win here to keep alive their hopes of winning a first Test campaign outside the sub-continent in 16 years.

Scoreboard

Scoreboard at tea on the second day of the third Test between England and India at Headingley on Friday:

INDIA: First innings (overnight 236-2)

Bangar c Stewart b Flintoff	68
Sehwag c Flintoff b Hoggard	8
Dravid st Stewart b Giles	148
Tendulkar not out	113
Ganguly not out	45
Extras: (b-13, lb-12, nb-14)	39
Total: (For 3 wkts in 141 overs) 421	
Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-185, 3-335	
To bat: V. Laxman, A. Agarkar, P. Patel, A. Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Hoggard	32	11	80	1
Caddick	29	5	84	0
Tudor	31	10	102	0
Flintoff	20	4	52	1
Giles	27	3	77	1
Butcher	1	1	0	0
Vaughan	1	0	1	0

ENGLAND: Michael Vaughan, Robert Key, Mark Butcher, Nasser Hussain (capt), John Crawley, Alec Stewart (wkt), Andrew Flintoff, Alex Tudor, Ashley Giles, Andrew Caddick, Matthew Hoggard

Toss: India

Umpires: Asoka de Silva (Sri), David Orchard (Rsa)

Third umpire: Peter Willey (Eng)

Match referee: Clive Lloyd (Wls)

Iranian has knee op

INTERNET, London

England all-rounder Ronnie Irani faces a race against time to be fit for the ICC Champions Trophy after undergoing an operation on his knee on Thursday.

The Essex captain had keyhole surgery in Cambridge after injuring his right knee in Essex's recent tour match against India at Chelmsford.

During the procedure floating debris was removed which should enable him to return in time for Essex's game against fellow promotion-chasers Middlesex at Chelmsford on September 4.

But with the ICC Champions Trophy due to begin on September 12, Irani would have little time to prove his fitness in time for the tournament in Sri Lanka.

India pile

FROM PAGE 13
Together with Tendulkar he put on 150 for the third wicket in 39 overs to leave India 335 for three.

In the morning India resumed on 236 for two with Dravid 110 not out and Tendulkar 18 not out after rain delayed the start of play by 55 minutes.

And, unlike Thursday's cautious start India were soon into their stride with 41 runs coming off the first 10 overs.

England lead the four-match series 1-0 and India must win here to keep alive their hopes of winning a first Test campaign outside the sub-continent in 16 years.

Scoreboard

Scoreboard at tea on the second day of the third Test between England and India at Headingley on Friday:

INDIA: First innings (overnight 236-2)

Bangar c Stewart b Flintoff	68
Sehwag c Flintoff b Hoggard	8
Dravid st Stewart b Giles	148
Tendulkar not out	113
Ganguly not out	45
Extras: (b-13, lb-12, nb-14)	39
Total: (For 3 wkts in 141 overs) 421	
Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-185, 3-335	
To bat: V. Laxman, A. Agarkar, P. Patel, A. Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Hoggard	32	11	80	1
Caddick	29	5	84	0
Tudor	31	10	102	0
Flintoff	20	4	52	1
Giles	27	3	77	1
Butcher	1	1	0	0
Vaughan	1	0	1	0

ENGLAND: Michael Vaughan, Robert Key, Mark Butcher, Nasser Hussain (capt), John Crawley, Alec Stewart (wkt), Andrew Flintoff, Alex Tudor, Ashley Giles, Andrew Caddick, Matthew Hoggard

Toss: India

Umpires: Asoka de Silva (Sri), David Orchard (Rsa)

Third umpire: Peter Willey (Eng)

Match referee: Clive Lloyd (Wls)

Cricket

INTERNET, London

England all-rounder Ronnie Irani faces a race against time to be fit for the ICC Champions Trophy after undergoing an operation on his knee on Thursday.

The Essex captain had keyhole surgery in Cambridge after injuring his right knee in Essex's recent tour match against India at Chelmsford.

During the procedure floating debris was removed which should enable him to return in time for Essex's game against fellow promotion-chasers Middlesex at Chelmsford on September 4.

But with the ICC Champions Trophy due to begin on September 12, Irani would have little time to prove his fitness in time for the tournament in Sri Lanka.

India pile

FROM PAGE 13
Together with Tendulkar he put on 150 for the third wicket in 39 overs to leave India 335 for three.

In the morning India resumed on 236 for two with Dravid 110 not out and Tendulkar 18 not out after rain delayed the start of play by 55 minutes.

And, unlike Thursday's cautious start India were soon into their stride with 41 runs coming off the first 10 overs.

England lead the four-match series 1-0 and India must win here to keep alive their hopes of winning a first Test campaign outside the sub-continent in 16 years.

Scoreboard

Scoreboard at tea on the second day of the third Test between England and India at Headingley on Friday:

INDIA: First innings (overnight 236-2)

Bangar c Stewart b Flintoff	68
Sehwag c Flintoff b Hoggard	8
Dravid st Stewart b Giles	148
Tendulkar not out	113
Ganguly not out	45
Extras: (b-13, lb-12, nb-14)	39
Total: (For 3 wkts in 141 overs) 421	
Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-185, 3-335	
To bat: V. Laxman, A. Agarkar, P. Patel, A. Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Hoggard	32	11	80	1
Caddick	29	5	84	0
Tudor	31	10	102	0
Flintoff	20	4	52	1
Giles	27	3	77	1
Butcher	1	1	0	0
Vaughan	1	0	1	0

ENGLAND: Michael Vaughan, Robert Key, Mark Butcher, Nasser Hussain (capt), John Crawley, Alec Stewart (wkt), Andrew Flintoff, Alex Tudor, Ashley Giles, Andrew Caddick, Matthew Hoggard

Toss: India

Umpires: Asoka de Silva (Sri), David Orchard (Rsa)

Third umpire: Peter Willey (Eng)

Match referee: Clive Lloyd (Wls)

Cricket

INTERNET, London

England all-rounder Ronnie Irani faces a race against time to be fit for the ICC Champions Trophy after undergoing an operation on his knee on Thursday.

The Essex captain had keyhole surgery in Cambridge after injuring his right knee in Essex's recent tour match against India at Chelmsford.

During the procedure floating debris was removed which should enable him to return in time for Essex's game against fellow promotion-chasers Middlesex at Chelmsford on September 4.

But with the ICC Champions Trophy due to begin on September 12, Irani would have little time to prove his fitness in time for the tournament in Sri Lanka.

India pile

FROM PAGE 13
Together with Tendulkar he put on 150 for the third wicket in 39 overs to leave India 335 for three.

In the morning India resumed on 236 for two with Dravid 110 not out and Tendulkar 18 not out after rain delayed the start of play by 55 minutes.

And, unlike Thursday's cautious start India were soon into their stride with 41 runs coming off the first 10 overs.

England lead the four-match series 1-0 and India must win here to keep alive their hopes of winning a first Test campaign outside the sub-continent in 16 years.

Scoreboard

Scoreboard at tea on the second day of the third Test between England and India at Headingley on Friday:

INDIA: First innings (overnight 236-2)

Bangar c Stewart b Flintoff	68
Sehwag c Flintoff b Hoggard	8
Dravid st Stewart b Giles	148
Tendulkar not out	113
Ganguly not out	45
Extras: (b-13, lb-12, nb-14)	39
Total: (For 3 wkts in 141 overs) 421	
Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-185, 3-335	
To bat: V. Laxman, A. Agarkar, P. Patel, A. Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Zaheer Khan	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Hoggard	32	11	80	1
Caddick	29	5	84	0
Tudor	31	10	102	0
Flintoff	20	4	52	1
Giles	27	3	77	1
Butcher	1	1	0	0
Vaughan	1	0	1	0

ENGLAND: Michael Vaughan, Robert Key, Mark Butcher, Nasser Hussain (capt), John Crawley, Alec Stewart (wkt), Andrew Flintoff, Alex Tudor, Ashley Giles, Andrew Caddick, Matthew Hoggard

Toss: India

Umpires: Asoka de Silva (Sri), David Orchard (Rsa)

Third umpire: Peter Willey (Eng)

Match referee: Clive Lloyd (Wls)

Myskina stuns Hingis

REUTERS, New Haven

The Russian then levelled at 4-4 and broke Hingis again, before serving out for the set.

A deflated Hingis failed to win a game in the deciding set and in her final two service games, Myskina added five aces to her stronger groundstrokes and persistence to claim a well-earned victory.

Hingis took some consolation in

Tennis

her around."

The Russian now faces Davenport for a place in the final.

Granville has been making her mark this summer, winning 24 of her last 31 matches. She beat Mary Pierce on her way to the fourth round at Wimbledon, and just last week she qualified and reached the third round of the Canadian Open.

She broke Williams in the opening game, but that was virtually the end of her challenge.

She immediately lost her own serve and double-faulted three times in her next service game as Williams gained control. In the second set, the top seed won 11 of the last 12 points.

"This was her chance to make it happen and make a name, and I have no trouble getting ready for these kind of matches," Williams said.

Davenport surrendered a bundle of chances before securing the first set from Mauresmo, and took the second on just a single break of serve in a tightly contested battle.

The American led 40-0 on Mauresmo's serve in the opening game, and finally broke to lead 3-2 on her fifth break point. Then, serving at 5-4, Davenport dropped her serve and then faced two set points in the tiebreak before claiming it with a forehand winner.

In the second set, Davenport went ahead on her fourth break point, and then had to hold off a break point as she served out at 5-3.

"I played well to win the first set tiebreaker and it was a pretty close match all the way through," said Davenport.

"It was a very tough competitive match, and anyone that's come off winning a tournament is always going to be tough to beat because they carry a little bit of extra confidence."

Mauresmo, who won the Canadian Open last week, was playing with both her thighs heavily strapped, and admitted her success and run of matches was taking a toll on her body.

"I am getting a little bit tired, and my legs are getting very tight," Mauresmo said. "The left leg it's the abductor, the other side it's the quad muscle."

The Frenchwoman later withdrew from doubles with a left thigh strain.

Schnyder was lucky not to be defaulted when she fired a ball in anger midway through the second set and skimmed a spectator who dodged out of the way. If the ball had made contact, she would have received an automatic default.

"She was playing great tennis and I felt I could do nothing," said Schnyder, explaining her outburst.

Hantuchova could not have been happier as she heads into a semi-final showdown with Williams.

"I was really happy with the way I played. I felt I could do anything on the court and felt very confident from the first point," she said. "If I play like I did today I think I have got a good chance against Venus."

Tennis

AFP, Commack

Germany's top-seeded Tommy Haas moved into the quarterfinals of the 480,000-dollar ATP TD Waterhouse Cup tennis tournament here on Thursday, the final men's tune-up for next week's US Open.

The 24-year-old defending champion defeated Agustin Calleri of Argentina 4-6, 6-2, 6-1 in 1hr 34 min.

But Haas had to wait to learn his

Tennis

quarterfinal opponent when the night's final match between eleventh-seeded Jarkko Nieminen of Finland and Brazil's Flavio Saretta was halted by rain with Saretta leading 3-1.

"He is a solid player. He hits the ball hard. It was a tight match," Haas said of Calleri. "I did some different things in the second set, served and volleyed. That kind of stuff helped me."

Calleri, ranked 45th in the world, broke Haas in the ninth game with a forehand winner and closed out the set one game later on an ace. But the third-ranked German kept his

Tennis

focus and turned the tables.

He made a decisive break in the sixth game of the second set to even the match.

It was all Haas after that. The German, who reached the semifinals of his last two tournaments, broke the Argentinian twice again in the decisive set to secure the match on a service winner.

In other matches Thursday, Thailand's Parodom Srichaphan, cruised into the last eight with a 6-4, 6-1 dismantling of Bohdan U