

Jones' injury setback

BBC, London

England fast bowler Simon Jones looks likely to miss the fourth Test against India after suffering a recurrence of a side strain.

The 23-year-old bowled just one over on the first day of Glamorgan's County Championship match with Nottinghamshire on Tuesday, but had expected to be fit to bowl on Wednesday.

Next Century

FROM PAGE 13 number three in one match and then at number six in another under the guidance of coach Ramakant Archrekar.

As a teenager he took school cricket by storm, once scoring 326 not out as he put on 664 with Vinod Kambli, also a future India Test player.

But for all his towering hits over the boundary, Tendulkar failed to pass his school-leaving examinations by just six marks.

But by then, it was really only cricket that mattered.

Already a well-known name for Bombay's cricket fans after his exploits in the domestic game, Tendulkar distinguished himself in his debut series against Pakistan and then struck his first test hundred against England at Old Trafford the following year.

Tendulkar, a father of two, pays a price for his god-like status.

He loves driving but can do it only late at night to avoid being mobbed. When he visits a temple in suburban Bombay, he has to go very early in the morning.

He is seen as India's gladiator, someone who has to bat on even when everyone else has failed, and anything less than a century from him is considered a failure.

"No other player suffers so much from pressure of expectation," former England captain Michael Atherton said last month.

There has been increasing criticism that Tendulkar, despite all his runs, has yet to produce a match-winning second innings knock to help India win a test single-handedly, like West Indian Brian Lara or Australia's Steve Waugh.

"I have been disappointed with myself...I have to learn to finish tests," Tendulkar said earlier this year.

He had two unsuccessful stints as captain, where the pressure of leading the side clearly affected his batting.

"I just want to bat," Tendulkar now says impassively.

"I want to go as far as I can. When I started playing cricket, I never thought of how far I was going to go."

Next week at The Oval, with India gunning for their first overseas Test series win in more than 16 years, ton-machine Tendulkar will achieve a different kind of century.

Deep inside, it could be his most cherished.

TEST LEADERS
Following is a list of players who have appeared in 100 more or Test matches:
Player Matches
Allan Border (Aus) 156
Steve Waugh (Aus) 148
Courtney Walsh (WI) 132
Kapil Dev (Ind) 131
Sunil Gavaskar (Ind) 125
Mark Waugh (Aus) 125
Javed Miandad (Pak) 124
Viv Richards (WI) 121
Alec Stewart (Eng) 121
Ian Healy (Aus) 119
Graham Gooch (Eng) 118
David Gower (Eng) 117
Desmond Haynes (WI) 116
Dillip Vengsarkar (Ind) 116
Michael Atherton (Eng) 115
Colin Cowdrey (Eng) 114
Clive Lloyd (WI) 110
Geoffrey Boycott (Eng) 108
Gordon Greenidge (WI) 108
David Boon (Aus) 107
Mark Taylor (Aus) 104
Wasim Akram (Pak) 104
Salim Malik (Pak) 103
Ian Botham (Eng) 102
Shane Warne (Aus) 101
Source: Cricinfo

Butcher Atherton's choice

Cricket

Former captain Michael Atherton has backed Mark Butcher to be the next man in charge of the England team.

Current skipper Nasser Hussain recently intimated that his expiry date would be breached by the end of next summer.

Opening pair Marcus Trescothick, the current vice-captain, and Michael Vaughan have been touted as the two front-runners for the job.

Atherton, though, believes that duo should concentrate on cementing England's finest first-wicket partnership for a generation while the new mature Butcher, 30 last week, takes the reins.

"It looks like it is out of those three and I think the bookies' favourite is Trescothick.

"My own personal choice would be Mark Butcher, I just think he has got a good cricket brain," said Atherton, who played one of his 115 Tests under Butcher's captaincy, during a series against New Zealand three years ago.

The Surrey left-hander, who has endured some turmoil off the field that led indirectly to his loss of form and subsequent axing after the tour to South Africa in 2000, returned to the international scene last summer to outstanding effect.

His match-winning 173 not out against Australia at Headingley is an innings unlikely to be forgotten by anyone who witnessed it.

Since straightening out his personal life, his reincarnation as a Test batsman has been a happy one, in which he averages 46.34.

"He's in prime form, old enough to have seen some of the vagaries of the game and experienced some of the ups and downs," Atherton added at a Sports Writers' Association lunch in central London.

"I would like Trescothick and Vaughan to flourish at the top of the order. They should be left to concentrate on that.

"Butch has been through a bad run of form and left out of the team, he's seen things outside of the game which have affected his life and he's come through."

England are still entrenched in an increasingly difficult series with India, whom they face at the Oval next week with the score 1-1.

Yet with an Ashes tour on the horizon, Atherton admits as a former England captain that thoughts are never far away from battle plans against the Australians.

That is why Andrew Flintoff is having surgery on his troublesome groin this week and why Darren Gough, who has not played a Test since the last Ashes, is to spend a month at Lilleshall in a desperate attempt to declare himself fit.

To compete with the undisputed kings of world cricket, England need every one of their top players available.

As it stands, the positions of premier batsman Graham Thorpe,



MICHAEL ATHERTON

who is still in self-imposed exile, and indeed Gough, whose troublesome knee will decide for him, are unclear.

Thorpe, 33, will not play again this season in an attempt to spend more time with his young children Henry and Amelia, following his divorce from wife Nicky.

The England management have given him the chance to notify them whether he intends to put his name forward for the winter Test programme, however.

"He is still the best player in the team and the one the Australians rate the most," said Atherton.

"They think of him as being our only world-class player.

"If he is fit and half-focused he is not right, I think you take him if he is fully focused.

"If Graham is fit he is an automatic pick for the selectors."

Of Gough, England's seventh-highest wicket-taker in Test history, Atherton said: "If he is anywhere near fit they can take him and rely on back-up from the academy.

"It will be good for him if he can get fully fit over the next month and I think the selectors will take a risk on him."

England lost 4-1 last summer when injuries undermined their challenge and Atherton led the team twice in Hussain's absence.

This summer, however, Hussain's team has competed competently with Sri Lanka and India with Gough, Thorpe, Trescothick and Andrew Caddick out of the reckoning.

A new batch of fast bowlers has emerged and Atherton believes England have a better chance of running the Australians close.

"I think we will do rather better than people expect, I've played under Duncan Fletcher and been very impressed by what he has



MARK BUTCHER

done as coach.

"The team is definitely moving in the right direction."

Laxman lashes Derby reserves

BBC, undated

Middle-order batsman VVS Laxman top-scored with 75 and Ajay Ratna scored his Test case on Wednesday in India's only tour match prior to the final Test against England.

Laxman hit a patient 75, including 15 fours, against a reserve Derbyshire attack as the tourists amassed a first innings 301 for five by stumps in the three-day match.

Ratra, passed over as wicketkeeper in favour of Parthiv Patel when he injured his toe prior to the second Test, was 50 not out, from 128 balls, at the close.

Rahul Dravid was 40 not out and Wasim Jaffer, dropped after failing in the first two Tests, managed 49 before edging Jason Kerr to wicketkeeper Chris Warn, making his first-class debut.

Be Warn-ed!

Cricket

scorer, is the team's interim coach for the triangular limited-overs series in Nairobi starting this week. Kenya and Pakistan are the other competing nations.

Warne, who took only six wickets at an average of 54 in the 2001-02 home triangular limited-overs series against New Zealand and South Africa.

"I just have a feeling in the gut he might surge again, just have a period where he goes berserk again, which would be fantastic," Border was quoted as saying in the Herald Sun newspaper.

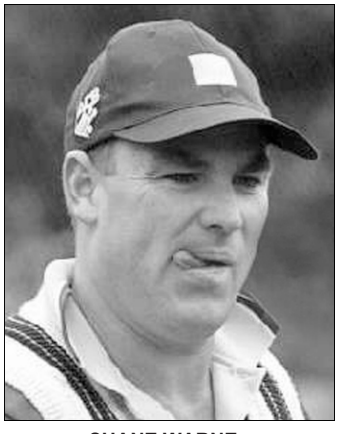
"That's what it looks like in his bowling, his attitude, just the whole body language, the whole thing is really positive."

Leg-spinner Warne, 33 next month, was named in 2000 as one of Wisden's five cricketers of the century.

He has shed more than 12 kilograms since January through a daily three-hour training programme which includes a strict diet and almost no alcohol, the newspaper said.

Warne boasts 450 wickets in 101 Tests and 278 victims in 181 one-day internationals including a man-of-the-match performance in Australia's 1999 World Cup final win over Pakistan.

Border, who captained Australia to victory in the 1987 World Cup final and is Test cricket's highest run-



SHANE WARNE

getting him back into perfect shape for it.

"But maybe the fact he's had tendon injuries in his finger, he mightn't be able to get the same purchase."

Warne is the fifth-leading wicket-taker in one-day cricket and trails only West India Courtney Walsh (519) in Test matches.

Australia's regular coach John Buchanan, who suffered a back injury last week, is expected to return to assist one-day captain Ricky Ponting for the ICC Champions Trophy in Sri Lanka, which starts on September 12.

Australia play hosts to England in a five-Test Ashes series starting in November and in a triangular limited-overs series which also includes Sri Lanka before the World Cup starts in South Africa in February.

Philippoussis' new blow

REUTERS, Melbourne

Mark Philippoussis will be sidelined for two months because of a knee injury, forcing him to miss Australia's Davis Cup squad for the play-off tie against India.

But the former U.S. Open finalist said in a statement on Thursday that he would not need surgery on the left knee, which has already undergone three operations since January 2000.

"My appeal to them is to find a solution," he said. "The players should not be forced to sign. Both sides have their own problems. They should solve it taking into mind each other's interests."

Verma, who replaced Uma Bharti in the sports ministry, clarified the government will not interfere in the matter.

Becker tops Hall of Fame nominees list

AP, Newport

Three-time Wimbledon champion Boris Becker leads the list of nominees for next year's induction into the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

The German-born Becker won six Grand Slam singles titles during his career, including the Australian Open in 1991 and 1996 and the 1989 US Open. He also held the world's No. 1 ranking for 109 weeks and finished his career with 49 singles and 15 doubles titles.

But he rejected concerns his career would be halted because of the incident, and said it would be up to the PCB to select him in future.

Yuhana played in all four of Pakistan's matches in the recent Morocco Cup, scoring 80 in one match, against Sri Lanka.

No replacement will be called to Kenya and batsman Misbah-ul-Haq looks likely to gain extra time in the line-up.

Serena, Sampras

FROM PAGE 13 Sampras said. "Week in and week out, I just don't think I can dominate. It takes a lot out of you to be number one."

"But I can still win a major. I have the game that can get hot. I still have that passion within me to win a major."

Russia's Elena Bovina ousted Yugoslavia's fifth-seeded Jelena Dokic 6-3, 6-2, to reach the third round, taking advantage of 29 unforced errors by Dokic to win the battle of 19-year-olds in only an hour.

Britain's Tim Henman, the fifth seed, and compatriot Greg Rusedski advanced to the second round on the men's side. Henman ousted Finland's Tuomas Ketola 6-1, 6-1, 6-1, with no ill effects on his injured shoulder.

"I can feel it now," Henman said. "I wouldn't say it's sore, but it will be interesting to see how things are tomorrow. I'm optimistic it will be OK."

Rusedski dispatched American Alex Kim 6-1, 4-6, 7-6, 6-3, and booked a date with Thailand's Paradorn Srichaphan, who beat American Prakash Amritraj 6-1, 6-3, 6-0.

Argentina's David Nalbandian, the surprise runner-up last month at Wimbledon, was ousted by Armenia's Sargis Sargsian 6-1, 6-4, 6-4.

BCCI on sticky

FROM PAGE 13 tion from the ICC's offices in London on India's refusal to meet the deadline.

The BCCI has picked 25 probabilities from outside the Test squad for the Champions Trophy in case Ganguly and company refused to play.

Meanwhile, India's newly-appointed sports minister, Vikram Verma, called on the players and the board to resolve the crisis quickly.

"My appeal to them is to find a solution," he said. "The players should not be forced to sign. Both sides have their own problems. They should solve it taking into mind each other's interests."

Verma, who replaced Uma Bharti in the sports ministry, clarified the government will not interfere in the matter.

Harmonious partnership

US OPEN 2002 US OPEN

AFP, New York

Israel's Amir Hadad and Pakistani Aisam-Ul-Haq Qureshi, doubles partners who overcame religious and cultural difference to form a winning combination, would like to see people around the world follow their lead.

Wild-card entrants Hadad and Qureshi, who reached the third round at Wimbledon, won their opening men's doubles match at the US Open here on Wednesday, defeating Argentina's Mariano Hood and Sebastian Prieto 6-4, 6-2 in 61

minutes.

Pakistani and Israeli spectators cheered together at the National Tennis Centre Grandstand, Muslim and Jewish religious differences and disputes becoming secondary to sport.

"I think it was a nice thing to watch," Hadad said. "Two people from different countries, different

cultures, can team up, play together. If you put in politics, maybe they can do the same thing."

"It's normal for us to see everybody together. We have been friends for a few years. Different religions have to fight about something. I think this is nice. I hope more people can learn from it."

Each needed a partner when they joined forces at Wimbledon and found surprising success.

Now Qureshi, whose first trip home since Wimbledon will be next month, has support in bringing glory to Pakistan with the help of a man whose homeland is often seen by Muslims as a political enemy.

"Everyone is sports loving. They take sports and sports," Qureshi said. "I hope nobody is going to politics or religion into sports."

Qureshi's homeland borders Afghanistan, where US troops remain after invading in the wake of the attacks in search of masterminds behind the terrorist plot.

"Whatever happened on September 11, I'm really, really sad about it," Qureshi said. "I feel sorry for all the Americans and other people. I hope it doesn't happen again. They have all my sympathies."

"If people get happy, take positive stuff out of us, I will definitely like it."

Pakistani tennis officials had been upset when they first heard about Qureshi's partnership, ordering him to split or be banished from Davis Cup. But he has been given permission to keep his partner and his spot in next month's Cup tie.

"They are cool about it," Qureshi said. "My family went back after Wimbledon and explained the circumstances, how you have to find partners and stuff. Everything is all right."

Global attention has been somewhat of a shock for the duo.

"It's really fun," Hadad said. "Everybody knows us now. Usually in doubles you don't get that much attention. Only Agassi and Sampras get that much attention."

Hadad has not heard from the Israeli government about the pairing.

"I don't even think they know I'm playing with him," Hadad said. "Nobody from the government talked to me. I guess everything is OK."



PHOTO: INTERNET

Amir Hadad (L) of Israel and his Pakistani partner Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi confer during their match against Argentina's Mariano Hood and Sebastian Prieto at the US Open on Wednesday.

Fashion ethics

US OPEN 2002 US OPEN

AFP, New York

Serena Williams can strut around in a skin-tight black "cat-suit" during US Open matches, but a sleeveless shirt on Germany's Tommy Haas was more than officials of the Grand Slam tournament could stand.

Haas was forced to switch shirts here Wednesday before the start of his first match at the hardcourt event, having not asked for permission from the US Tennis Association in advance to wear the unique attire.

"I don't think it's right. It's ridiculous," Haas said. "I don't think it's not appropriate to wear. I asked them what is appropriate. On the women's side you see Serena wearing all this tight stuff."

"It's interesting. It looks good. It brings something else to the game."

World number one Williams, whose little black dress leaves little to the imagination, was stunned at the crackdown.

"It's definitely not fair," Williams said. "You should be able to make statements. For the guys and the ladies, you should wear whatever you please. Someone can't tell me what to wear. I hate when people tell me what to wear."

looks good as well," Haas said. "It really helps me. The sleeves sometimes when they get really sweaty get in my way."

Haas was forced to switch shirts under Article Three, section c of the Grand Slam rule book that mandates "customarily acceptable tennis attire ... as determined by each respective Grand Slam."

"Sleeveless shirts for men are not considered 'customary' men's

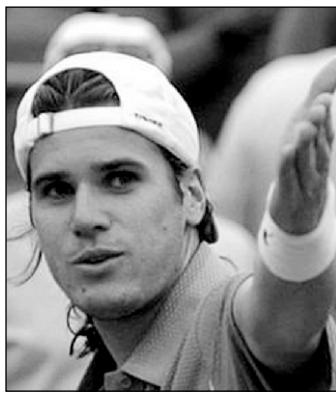
tennis attire and Mr. Haas did not submit the shirt for approval in advance of this match, therefore the tournament referee requested Mr. Haas change his shirt," a USTA statement said.

Pete Sampras saw the whole fashion flap as a publicity stunt for clothing manufacturer and Haas sponsor Nike, which would love nothing more than to create a new trend in tennis togs in a tough economic market.

"That could be more of Nike trying to make a statement more than the player," Sampras said.



SERENA WILLIAMS



TOMMY HAAS

USA reap rich

AFP, Yokohama

A world record by the United States in the men's 4x100m medley relay crowned a magnificent meet for the Stars and Stripes on the final night of the Pan Pacific Swimming Championships here on Thursday.

The US team of Aaron Peirsol, Brendan Hansen, Michael Phelps and Jason Lezak swam a new record of three minutes 33.48 seconds to shatter the previous 3:33.73 mark set at the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

It was a fitting way for the United States to round off their dominance in the pool over rivals Australia, who beat the US on the gold medal tally at last year's Fukuoka World Championships.

The United States ended the six-day Yokohama meet with 21 gold medals to Australia's 11, and won five of the closing night's seven finals.

Natalie Coughlin set an American record in the women's 100m freestyle, Michael Phelps took the 200m individual medley, Ian Crocker claimed the 100m butterfly and Margaret Hoelzer won the 200m backstroke.

The Australians had two successes on the last night with Grant Hackett posting the second-fastest 1,500m freestyle time in history, and the team coming from behind to overhaul their US rivals in the women's 4x100 medley relay.

But the sensational US men's medley relay record was a highlight.



PHOTO: AFP

American men's medley relay team members celebrate after winning the 4x100-metre gold at the Pan Pacific Swimming Championships in Yokohama yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid and clues. Includes a grid of letters and a list of words to be placed.