

## Waugh wary

**FROM PAGE 13**  
bowler Shoab Akhtar for special praise after his five-wicket burst on the third day.

"It was one of the great spells of fast bowling. When a bowler comes at you at 150kph and reverse swings the ball, there is bound to be trouble," added Waugh, who was out second ball.

Australia will travel to Sharjah with a doubt over the fitness of Gillespie, who suffered a calf injury.

The selectors may decide to send for an extra player to provide cover, but they have a ready-made replacement already with the squad in Andy Bichel.

## Another frontier

**FROM PAGE 13**  
have come at home.

When batsmen take the attack to him, as India especially have tended to do, he has appeared to be without a suitable comeback.

And the fact that Australia rarely make Test trips to Asia cannot have helped - Warne has toured India twice, but Pakistan and Sri Lanka only once each.

He had some success on that tour of Pakistan in 1994-95, but even then he came up just short.

In the first Test at Karachi, Warne took match figures of eight for 150.

But it was his delivery, a possible stumping of Inzamamul Haq missed by wicketkeeper Ian Healy to run for four byes, which brought Pakistan a single-wicket victory.

Salim Malik got the measure of the leg-spinner during a double-century in the second match of the series, padding away anything that pitched outside leg and attacking everything else.

And another trip into three figures by the Pakistan veteran ensured a draw in Lahore, despite Warne's match figures of nine for 240.

This time around, though, Warne appears to have the extra resilience that comes with maturity.

And a new fitness regime that has seen him lose an estimated 22 pounds in weight means he is physically able to bounce back.

"I'm finally beginning to understand my bowling a lot more, how to get batsmen out rather than just bowl big, turning leg-breaks," he said in a newspaper interview in July.

On Day Two in Colombo, Warne's first 15 overs were launched for a total of 56 runs, with Faisal Iqbal striking four boundaries in a single over.

But this time Warne was not cowed, returning next day to take five wickets in the space of 60 runs.

Speaking at the end of the day Warne said simply: "It was coming out well for me."

But it appears that, even at the age of 33, this old dog is learning some new tricks.

## By far

**FROM PAGE 13**  
embarrassingly high margins. What we should aim at for the next two years is to occupy the crease as much as possible when batting, and to contain the runs as far as possible when bowling.

In Test matches, our objective should be to take the game into the fifth day by batting and blocking the ball most of the time and score from loose deliveries. And try to make at least 250 runs in each innings, even if it takes two days.

As for bowling, we should avoid anything ambitious but just plug away with line and length and spin, as the case may be. They must be serious when fielding.

In the one-dayers, we must learn to bat out the full 50 overs and try to score as much as possible with a definite target of 200 runs. The bowling likewise must be defensive to keep the opponent below 250 runs.

Hopefully in the near future, we can build our confidence and become better players, because we certainly have ample talent. --- Sayeed Chaudhury, via e-mail

# Hooper's toughest Test



INTERNET, undated

West Indies captain Carl Hooper leads his side in the cauldron of India facing the toughest, and potentially the most rewarding, challenge of his career.

India is widely acknowledged to be the hardest place for a touring side to get a result, as the all-conquering Australians found to their cost 18 months ago.

Since losing to South Africa in 1999-2000 India have won their last four home series.

And the Windies, without talisman Brian Lara, seem to face an uphill battle to stay in contention during the three Test series that starts in Bombay on Wednesday.

If the tourists fail, Hooper faces the ignominy of being only the second West Indies captain to lose a series in India.

The first was Alvin Kallicharran who led a side stripped of its stars by the World Series circus in 1978-9, and lost 1-0.

It would be real feather in Hooper's cap if he could join the likes of Sir Garfield Sobers and Clive Lloyd as a triumphant captain in the sub-continent.

The West Indies have the best record of any side touring India, winning 14 of their 37 Tests and losing only five.

John Goddard first led a touring Caribbean side in 1948-49, winning the five-match series 1-0.

Gerry Alexander and Sobers repeated Goddard's success in 1958-59 and 1966-67 respectively before Lloyd took over as captain during the West Indies' golden period.

Lloyd masterminded a 3-2 series victory in 1974-75 and returned to the helm after his foray into the Packer series to lead the Windies to a comprehensive 3-0 triumph in 1983-84.

Kallicharran's losing side included Herbert Chang, playing his first and only Test, Sewdatt Shivnarine and Nobert Phillip replacing the likes of Lloyd, Gordon Greenidge, Desmond Haynes and Viv Richards.

Surprisingly, Richards failed to beat India in their own backyard when he captained a powerful side,

containing Greenidge, Haynes, Richie Richardson and Courtney Walsh, in 1987-88.

Walsh also had to settle for a 1-1 series draw in 1994-95, the last time the West Indies toured India.

This time the odds look stacked against the Windies despite Hooper having plenty of experience against India, making his debut under Richards on the 1987-88 tour.

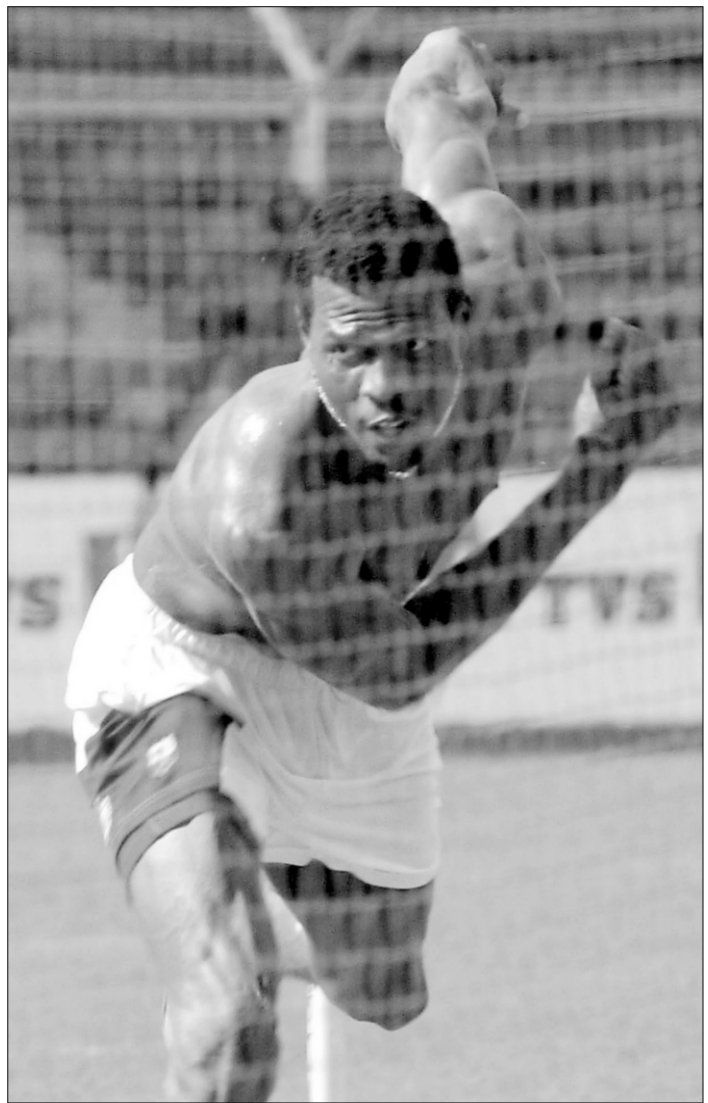
Hooper captained his side to a series win against India earlier this year in the Caribbean, scoring 579

runs at an average of 82.71, including a career-best 233.

But many sides have found to their cost that India are a different prospect on home soil, and the West Indies lost their last two series on the sub-continent against Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

Like Kallicharran, Hooper leads a side bereft of stars - in this case either injured or recently-retired.

And, like Kallicharran, Hooper will be hard-pressed to extend the Windies' winning record in India.



West Indies fast bowler Mervyn Dillon bowls in the nets at the Wankhede Stadium in Bombay yesterday. The first Test between the tourists and India begin tomorrow.

# Haunted by Hansie



INTERNET, Pietermaritzburg

Everyone and his Aunt Nellie has a theory as to why South Africa offered their flabby underbelly to India during their ICC Champions Trophy semifinal loss. National coach Eric Simons may have come as close as any when he pondered whether the capitulation could be put down to factors 'other than cricketing reasons'.

Which is not to suggest that the South Africans tanked it. Even so, as any number of sub-continental players, administrators and journalists have noted, if India or Pakistan had folded so meekly, Lord Condon and his super sleuths would have been sniffing around their dressing rooms before the post-match rituals had been completed.

In simple terms, South Africa choked horribly. The team hates being labelled chokers. They tend to sulk whenever it is thrown at them, but in this instance, unfortunately, there is no hiding from it.

More to the point, though, is to discover exactly what has happened to the white-knuckled bravado that Kepler Wessels brought to the side in the early post-readmission years.

Most signs point to Edgbaston in 1999 as the moment when the stomach began to be torn out of the South African team. Less than a year later, Hansie Cronje confessed

to his involvement with the darker side of the game, and it might be fair to say that these two separate, but related, episodes left a far deeper scar on the team than is readily appreciated.

In particular, the circumstances of Cronje's fall from grace and the tragedy of his subsequent death in June this year seem now to weigh more heavily than ever on Shaun Pollock and his teammates.

Cronje, of course, was a massively influential figure for many of devastated by his death.

But the question that needs to be asked is how much influence does the memory of Cronje have on the team collectively? And the answer seems to be too much for their own good. Almost out of habit now, it appears, this match or that innings is dedicated to the former captain - to the point where it has become unclear for whom or for what purpose the side is playing.

Pollock's qualities of leadership have been tested and found wanting over the past year. But if he allows his own authority to be undermined out of respect for a dead friend, he takes upon himself a far weightier burden than is bearable.

If there has been a fault with the management of the team over the past few years, it is that Goolam Rajah has allowed the players to creep in on themselves. They peer suspiciously at the outside world from within a protective bubble.

They cannot see clearly, though, how they are perceived.

At best Cronje's legacy is ambivalent. Like most, he was a person of mixed impulses and actions and, sadly, his darkest secrets were exposed to the harshest of spotlights.

For their own sakes, the South African side has to put Cronje behind them.

They are clearly entitled to mourn him privately, but there comes a point when the past has to be left behind. Like it or not, life goes on.

If South Africa are to make any impression on next year's World Cup, they have to understand that they play for their country, for their thousands, if not millions, of supporters, but most of all for themselves.

They have to leave Cronje behind. Otherwise, ironically, they may end up dedicating weakness and failure to the memory of a man they obviously still hold in the utmost regard.

Gibbs' innings made him the most prolific one-day batsman in the world this year, with 1,019 runs.

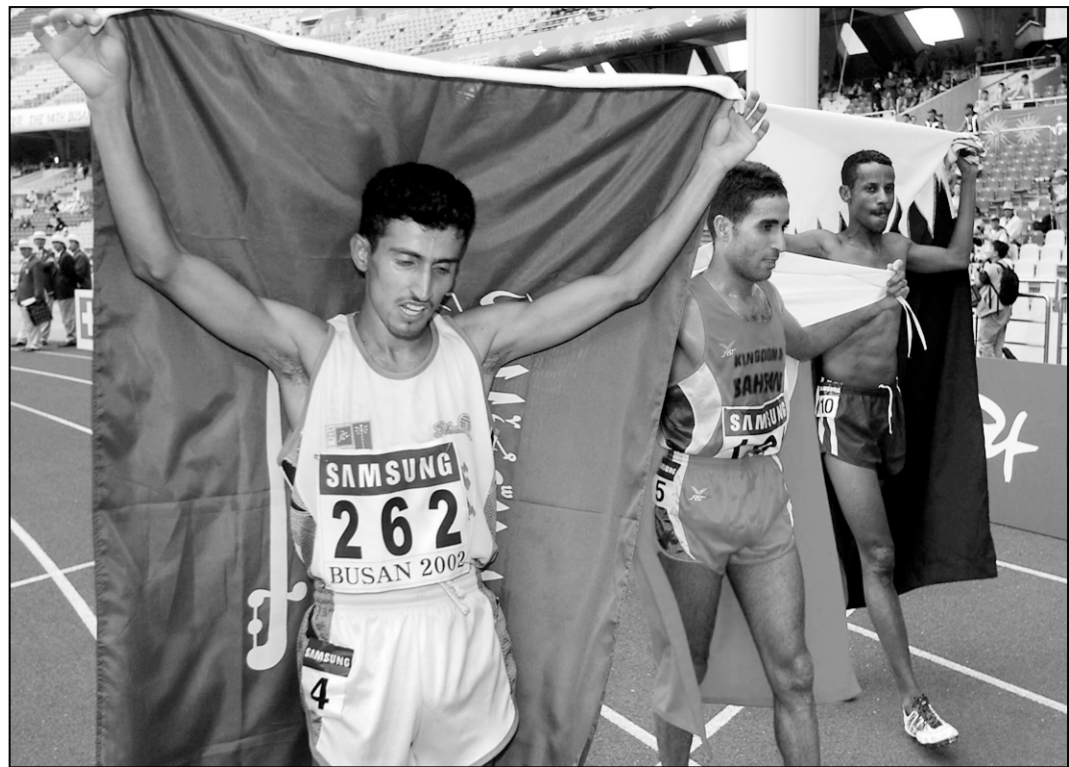
Sanath Jayasuriya of Sri Lanka is in second place with 947 - although he has had three fewer innings - with another South African, Jacques Kallis, third on 932.

## ASIAN GAMES MEDAL TABLE

AFP, Busan

Medal table after Day 9 of the 14th Asian Games on Monday (gold, silver, bronze, total):

China	97	45	37	179
South Korea	47	47	52	146
Japan	31	46	39	116
Kazakhstan	10	9	15	34
North Korea	7	9	10	26
Uzbekistan	7	6	8	21
Taiwan	5	8	18	31
Thailand	5	8	3	16
India	4	3	3	10
Singapore		4	2	3
Hong Kong	3	3	6	12
Malaysia	2	4	3	9
Philippines	2	3	6	11
Vietnam	2	2	3	7
Iran	1	6	10	17
Indonesia	1	5	5	11
Turkmenistan	1	2	1	4
Bahrain	1	1	2	4
Lebanon	1	0	1	2
Saudi Arabia	1	0	0	1
Myanmar	0	3	5	8
Kyrgyzstan	0	2	2	4
UAE	0	2	1	3
Mongolia	0	1	10	11
Pakistan	0	1	5	6
Tajikistan	0	1	1	2
Qatar	0	1	1	2
Bangladesh	0	1	0	1
Sri Lanka	0	1	0	1
Kuwait	0	0	1	1
Syria	0	0	1	1



Saudi Arabian Makhid Al Otaibi (L) holds a flag of his country after winning the 10,000m gold at the Asian Games in Busan yesterday.

# Al-Otaibi makes Saudis proud

AFP, Busan

Little-fancied Saudi Arabian Makhid Al-Otaibi rewrote the form book Monday with a devastating sprint finish to win the men's 10,000 metres and claim Saudi Arabia's first ever athletic gold at the Asian Games.

The father of the 33-year-old veteran has fallen seriously ill at his Tehran home and the striker has decided to leave South Korea as soon as possible to fly home to be with his family.

However, Mohamad Dadkam, acting president of the Iran Football Federation, said on Monday that there is not an available flight until Wednesday.

"Ali cannot leave until Wednesday but whether or not he plays in the match against Kuwait depends on his frame of mind," said Dadkam.

"This is the most beautiful success in my career," the 22-year-old Al-Otaibi said as he was mobbed by Saudi well-wishers.

"What's more important is that there were three Arabs in the first three places which means we have stamped our authority on the long distances."

Veteran Qatari Ahmed Ibrahim, who won at the Asian championships in August, found his 31-year-old legs could not match the youngster when it counted and he was left with the silver medal.

Bronze went to Abdul Hak Zakaria of Bahrain who lived to regret that he led the break with seven laps to go and said he was

spent in the final sprint.

Other medals on the opening day on the first day of athletics competition went to Valery Borissov from Kazakhstan and Wang Gqing of China in the men's and women's 20km walk, Anju George from India in the women's long jump and South Korea's Lee Young-Sun in the women's javelin.

In the heats of the blue-riband men's 100m, Nobuhara Asahara opened his bid to be the first Asian to break the 10sec barrier with a modest 10.40sec in blustery conditions.

He was slow out of the blocks but rapidly gathered the field to easily cruise into the Tuesday's semifinals.

"I feel okay. The stadium is good and the track is good, but the wind is a bit strange," the Texas-based Asahara said.

With a 10.05sec under his belt already this season, Asahara arrived in Busan saying he could feel the record "within my grasp" and despite the blustery conditions he remained confident, saying: "I still hope to do it."

Saudi Arabia's reigning Asian champion Jamal al-Safaar, who won heat two, and Gennady Chernoval from Kazakhstan will be hard pressed to match the in-form Japanese.

However the Saudis lined up two more gold prospects in the heats of the men's 400m and 400m hurdles.

In the flat race, Hamdan al-Bishi was the quickest qualifier with a 45.26sec, just shading Fawzi al-

Shammari of Kuwait.

Over the sticks an equally mouthwatering final loomed between Olympic silver medallist Hadi al-Somali and Asian champion Mubarak Al-Nobi from Qatar.

Drawn in the same heat, Al-Nobi narrowly took the honours in 48.76, breaking an eight-year-old Asian Games record, but Al-Somali remained confident of turning the tables in the final.

"The race was very fast and strong, but I'm ready for the gold," said the Saudi who also went under the old Games record.

"Mubarak is strong and very fast, but this is very important for me." An injury-plagued Lee Young-Sun successfully defended her Asian Games javelin title then promptly announced her retirement, saying a persistent left ankle strain had convinced her it was time to call it quits.

Chinese pair Liang Li (58.77m) and Ha Xiaoyan (58.29) couldn't match Lee's opening throw of 58.87m which won her the competition.

"After that first throw I just prayed to the gods," said Lee. "I asked for help and it worked. I really didn't expect too much here because of the injury."

Despite winning the long jump, her first international gold, India's Anju Bobby George wasn't entirely happy.

"This wasn't a great performance," she said of her 6.53m, aiming for a more spectacular effort in the triple jump later in the week.

## Daei's difficult choice

AFP, Busan

Iran skipper Ali Daei faces an agonising decision over whether or not to lead his team into their Asian Games quarterfinal clash against Kuwait here on Tuesday.

The father of the 33-year-old veteran has fallen seriously ill at his Tehran home and the striker has decided to leave South Korea as soon as possible to fly home to be with his family.

However, Mohamad Dadkam, acting president of the Iran Football Federation, said on Monday that there is not an available flight until Wednesday.

"Ali cannot leave until Wednesday but whether or not he plays in the match against Kuwait depends on his frame of mind," said Dadkam.

## Dramatic Aussie

FROM PAGE 13  
Australia struck in the next over as Misbah played a wild shot off Warne and only managed to top-edge a skier to Steve Waugh in the covers.

Mark Waugh, who had dropped Imran Nazir on Sunday, let his team down again when he spilled a regulation chest-high catch after Iqbal edged Gillespie.

Waugh, battling to retain his Test place after being axed from the one-day team, is regarded as one of the best slip fielders in the game with 173 catches from 125 previous Tests.

Amidst the unusual butterfingering display, he still managed to hold three catches in this match where he scored 55 and 0 with the bat.

Younis Khan, the most experienced top-order batsman in the Pakistan side with 21 Tests, defied the Aussies for three hours to score his second half-century of the match.

Having just reached 51, Younis attempted to sweep a flipper from Warne and was given out leg-before by West Indian umpire Steve Bucknor even though replays showed the ball hitting the pad outside the line of the off-stump.

The Pakistanis, however, have themselves to blame for handing the Test back to Australia with their reckless strokeplay.

**SCOREBOARD**  
Final scorecard on the fifth day of the first cricket Test between Australia and Pakistan at the Tamil Union ground on Monday:

**AUSTRALIA:** First innings 467 (J Langer 72, R Ponting 141, M Waugh 55, D Martyn 67, A Gilchrist 66; S Akhtar 3-51, S Mushtaq 4-136)

**PAKISTAN:** First innings 279 (Younis Khan 58, F Iqbal 83, R Latif 66; S Warne 7-94)

**AUSTRALIA:** Second innings 127 (M Hayden 34; S Akhtar 5-21, S Mushtaq 4-46)

**PAKISTAN:** Second innings (over-night 179-3)  
Nazir c McGrath b Warne 40  
Umar c M Waugh b Lee 88  
Razaq lbw b Warne 4  
Gillespie 23.3 8 62 2  
Lee 14 1 63 1  
Warne 30.3 3 94 4  
M Waugh 2 1 8 0  
(Gillespie was injured after bowling three balls of his 24th over. Warne completed the over.)

**Result: Australia won by 41 runs.**  
**Man-of-the-match: Shane Warne.**  
**Second Test: Oct 11-15, at Sharjah.**

## Women's hockey

# Japan stun China



AFP, Busan

Favourites China were shocked 2-1 by title-aspirants Japan, while South Korea consolidated their position with a 5-0 victory over India in Asian Games women's hockey here on Monday.

It was the second consecutive win for defending champions South Korea, their earlier one coming against Japan.

Meanwhile, Champions Trophy champions India's chances of qualifying for the final of the four-nation tournament took a blow as they slumped to their second successive defeat.

For 1998 bronze medallists Japan, Yuka Ogura and Sakae Morimoto slammed the crucial goals, while Tang Chun Ling kept China in the game with a second-half strike.

China, winners of the prestigious Champions Trophy tournament at Macau earlier this year, were stung by a team that increased the pace of the game as the match progressed.

China's domination was restricted to the first 25 minutes of play, in which they earned six penalty-corners.

Japan slowly took control of the midfield with Sachimi Iwao playing pivot and opened the scoring with Ogura, who flicked in off a pass from Morimoto in the 33rd minute.

China restored parity in the second-half when Tang scored off a pass from Li Shuang on the left in the 42nd minute.

Their joy was shortlived as Japan went ahead again in the 44th minute with Morimoto putting the ball in off a pass from Kaori Chiba.

"We are delighted at the win, but it's not that it has come as a big surprise for us," said Japan coach Zenryo Yasuda. "We knew we could beat China if we played to our potential."

Yasuda felt the Chinese did not play well up front.

"They did not convert their attacks into goals. I also felt our blocking their long passes proved crucial."

China's South Korean coach Kim Changback took the blame on himself.

"I thought the girls played well, but we failed in our game plan," he said.

South Korea called the shots in their match except for a brief spell after the break.

The hosts forced six penalty-corners in the first session and improved their attacks later in the match as forward Kim Eun Jin struck twice late in the game.

South Korean coach Lim Heung-Sin said his team had aimed to score a number of goals in the match.

"We aimed to score the maximum number of goals in preparation for the final," he said. "Our aim has been the gold and after today's win, we're confident of winning it again."

He said India played too slowly in the match.

"When you have the ball possession, you need to move really fast in modern hockey. The Indians could not do that," he said.

The field in the tournament is still open as China and Japan have one win each from two matches.

# Mathieu shocks Schalken



REUTERS, Moscow

French qualifier Paul-Henri Mathieu has upset Dutch seventh seed Sjeng Schalken 4-6, 6-2, 6-0 in the Kremlin Cup men's final to win his first major title.

Twenty-year-old Mathieu, who knocked out top seed Marat Safin in the semifinals, crushed his 26-year-old opponent in the final set to earn the 133,000 dollars prize.

"Coming to Moscow I had never dreamed of reaching the final, never mind winning it," said Mathieu, the first qualifier to win an ATP title this year.

"I was just hoping to make the main draw here but I started playing better and better."

The Frenchman, who had never reached a semifinal before, said losing the first set had shaken his

confidence.

"Of course I was nervous, it was my first final but I was able to calm myself down. After all, I lost the

opening set six times here but still managed to win in the end."

Mathieu said his win in Moscow improved his chances of being included in the French team for the Davis Cup final against Russia later this year.

"Well, I think I have a better chance now but still it's an outside chance they will pick me to play the tie," he said.

Schalken said Mathieu kept a tight hold on the match despite losing the first set.

"Even in winning the first set I was a step behind all the time," said the Dutchman, who beat second seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the semifinals to end the Russian's 28-match Kremlin Cup winning streak.