

# Walsh wishes WI well

Cricket

INTERNET, undated

As the 1970s became the 1980s, Courtney Walsh looked on in awe at a West Indian side that ruled the cricket world.

An aspiring fast bowler, Walsh lionised probably the greatest ever battery of pacemen and wanted to be like them.

"When you looked at the likes of Malcolm Marshall, Michael Holding, Joel Garner and Colin Croft, it just made you want to be associated with them," Walsh told the British Broadcasting Corporation.

"Even if I didn't make the team, I just wanted to be around them. To actually play on the same team as them was a dream come true."

Time would reveal Walsh to be more successful than any of his idols, taking 519 wickets in a long and wonderful Test career.

But times have changed, and Walsh — along with his pace partner of the '90s Curtly Ambrose — has swapped whites for the easy life.

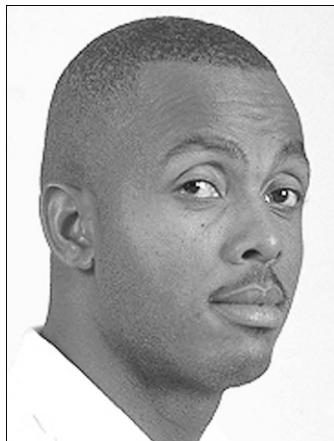
The last vestiges of bygone era, they left behind a West Indies side lacking a pace attack of true quality.

The Jamaica admits he benefited greatly from the experience of his seniors, but the current crop must do it on their own if West Indies are to rise again.

A tour of India offers a stern examination to any bowler, and Carl Hooper's side are widely tipped to struggle against their hosts in the forthcoming three-Test series.

But Walsh sees light at the end of

the tunnel. "It will be a real test for the West Indies fast bowlers because for some it will be their first tour of India," he said. "If they stick to their guns you could see a star or two being born. Pedro Collins came along in



COURTNEY WALSH

leaps and bounds in the last home series and I'm sure that with a bit of responsibility he could be a real leader.

"The two youngsters, Darren Powell and Jermaine Lawson, both have promise and I'm saying that not just because they're from Jamaica but because I know a little bit about them.

"Powell has the potential to be very explosive and I think long-term Lawson could prove to be a complete fast bowler."

Walsh captained the Windies to a 1-1 draw in India in 1994-95, taking five wickets in the third Test at

Mohali to help force a stalemate. "It was a fun tour for me because it was my first tour away from home as captain and I just wanted to enjoy it.

"You're always going to be under pressure in India with the conditions and the cricket-loving fans they have over there."

But Walsh feels quicks do not have to be at a disadvantage on the dry, slow wickets they invariably face in India.

"I had quite good tours of India and Pakistan so I know if you put a lot in you can get a lot out.

"A lot is made of the pitches in India but often the biggest thing for touring sides to overcome is the support; the fans are passionate and if you can silence them you can get to India."

The Windies have struggled since Walsh's retirement last year, winning just three of 14 Tests, but the decline started before then.

Just what went wrong — and why — has puzzled many of the game's thinkers. Closer to the truth than most, Walsh has his ideas.

"Every team goes through a cycle. You see Australia doing now what we were doing back then," Walsh argued.

"But what went wrong with us is we didn't pay special attention to what we had at the time, and took it for granted that it would always be like that.

"When you're winning it is easy to rest on your laurels and sit back and enjoy it and that is what we did and we paid for it.

"Now we are rebuilding and trying to catch up all the ground that we lost."

# Gough's fitness worry

Cricket

REUTERS/AFP, London

England strike bowler Darren Gough, who has not played in a Test for the past year because of injury, has set his sights on a return in the first Test against Australia next month.

Gough, 32, has endured a series of operations on an injured knee and has not been fit to take the field in a Test although he has played for the national one-day side.

The Yorkshire fast bowler, England's leading wicket taker with 228 victims, told BBC Radio Five Live he hoped he would be ready for the first Ashes Test in Brisbane on November 7.

"From what I've been told it's not a case of me being fit from the start of the tour," he said. "It's a case of going out and doing the work. We'll see how it's going after two or three weeks.

"If I miss the first two Tests but am there for the rest of the winter then I'll be happy with that."

However, doubts over his fitness have led to the England selectors including six fast bowlers in their squad, but none of the others have

his experience of Ashes matches down under.

A confident Gough said: "They have obviously missed me. I know that when I'm bowling well I'm the best bowler in the country."

Gough has spent the last month training at the National Sports Centre at Lilleshall, Staffordshire.

He said that he did not expect to have to prove his fitness to bowl before the England party leave for Australia.

"I would like to be going to Melbourne not having lost the series — it's something we haven't managed to do the last two times we have been there."

Despite his fitness problems, Gough is still regarded as England's premier fast bowler. In 56 Tests he has taken 228 wickets at an average of 27.57.

Australia have won the last seven Ashes series, England not victorious since Mike Gatting's tour of 1986-87.

Meanwhile, Gough's county, Yorkshire, insisted Monday they wanted the bowler to stay at Headingley although they admitted his fitness record was a concern.

Yorkshire-born Gough's current county contract expires during the close season.

Injuries and international

matches have restricted his Yorkshire appearances in recent seasons.

And with Yorkshire facing severe financial problems, some of their followers have asked if Gough is an expensive luxury the club can ill-afford.

Yorkshire's financial problems have been caused by a near 3.2-million dollar overspend on the 11-million redevelopment of their Headingley headquarters in Leeds.

Before this season the police investigated the club's shop and merchandise operation after its declared income had fallen from just over 320,000 pounds to 460,000.

For his part Gough, 32, has also accused some of the county's members in indulging in a "whispering campaign" against him.

But the club said they did not want to lose Gough. "We want Darren to play for Yorkshire and Darren wants to play for us," explained newly appointed Yorkshire chief executive Colin Graves.

"Clearly though there is an issue about his fitness, so we will continue to discuss the matter over the coming weeks."

# Special Test

FROM PAGE 13 current bowler with 333 wickets, and Harbhajan had two five-wicket hauls each while bowling together as India beat England 1-0 last year.

West Indies leg-spinner Mahendra Nagamootoo will be hoping to get some purchase from pitches prepared to suit the Indians but the visiting side's main bowling thrust will come from seasoned paceman Mervyn Dillon and left-arm seamer Pedro Collins.

The match will be played on a freshly laid pitch at the Wankhede stadium where India have lost their last two matches to Australia and South Africa.

"It's a new wicket and we really don't know how it's going to

behave," said Ganguly. "Even the groundsman can't really make any real predictions.

"We had played badly against Australia and South Africa here and we lost. If we play well over the next five days we should win."

Ganguly said he was delighted paceman Javagal Srinath had returned from a brief Test retirement to partner left-arm speedster Zaheer Khan.

"Srinath is coming along very well in practice," he said. "I believe he's got a few years of cricket left in him and it's good to see him back in the Indian camp.

## SQUADS

INDIA (from): Saurav Ganguly (captain), Shiv Sundar Das, Sanjay

Bangar, Virender Sehwag, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, Vangipurappu Laxman, Parthiv Patel, Anil Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Javagal Srinath, Zaheer Khan, Ashish Nehra, Amit Mishra.

WEST INDIES (from): Carl Hooper (captain), Wavell Hinds, Chris Gayle, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Shivnarine Chandernepaul, Ryan Hinds, Marlon Samuels, Ridley Jacobs, Gareth Brees, Mahendra Nagamootoo, Mervyn Dillon, Cameron Cuffy, Pedro Collins, Jermaine Lawson, Daren Ganga, Darren Powell.

Umpires: David Shepherd (England) and Asoka de Silva (Sri Lanka).



Ling Zhong of China performs during the rhythmic gymnastics women's team finals at Sajik Gymnasium in Busan yesterday.

# China storm into semis

14th Asian Games BUSAN 2002

AFP, Busan

China's overpowering Asia men's basketball champions had their first less-than-spectacular half of the Asian Games and still led the Philippines by 17 points at half-time.

Tenacious defence and hot outside shooting led by veteran Hu Weidong helped China beat the Philippines 92-51 here Tuesday in a game to decide seedings for Saturday's semifinals.

Chinese coach Wang Fei was unhappy that his team could not overcome the shorter but speedy Filipino defence for more than a 38-21 half-time edge.

"At this stage the opponents are getting stronger so we must not take anybody for granted. We must play better and better," Wang said. "Our players were soft in the first half. We

# BSJA names awardees

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association (BSJA) yesterday announced its awards for sportsmen, coaches, organisers and sponsors for the years 2000 and 2001 in recognition to their contributions in the field of sports.

The awardees for the year 2000 are: Aminul Islam Bulbul and Naimur Rahman Durjoy (cricket), Rajani Kanta Barman (football), Russel Khan Bappi (hockey), Reefat-bin-Sattar (chess), Shailla Parveen Shikha (handball), Abu Yousuf (football coach), Sarwar Imran (cricket coach), Saber Hossain Chowdhury (organiser, cricket), Sajed AA Adel (organiser, hockey), Ashrafuddin Ahmed Chonnu (organiser, football), Chittagong Abahani Limited (organisation), Nitol-Tata Group, United Insurance Company and GrameenPhone (sponsor).

2001: Habibul Bashar Sumon and Mohammad Ashraf (cricket), Biplob Bhattacharya (football), Sheikh Ramizuddin (hockey), Karar Samedul Islam (swimming), Fouzia Huda Jui (athletics), Wahidul Ghani (cricket coach), Shamima Sattar Mim (athletics coach), Asaduzzaman Kohinor (organiser, handball), Rajshahi District Sports Association (organisation, cricket), Standard Chattered Bank and Transcom Beverage-Pepsi (sponsor).

Grand Master Ziur Rahman has been selected for the most coveted and newly introduced "BSJA President Award" (Rouful Hasan Trophy) for 2001. The BSJA introduced this trophy in 2001 and named it after late BSJA president Rouful Hasan.

cannot play like that." China won the quarterfinal round in Group One to book a Saturday semifinal date with the loser of Wednesday's game between Group Two qualifiers South Korea and Kazakhstan. The Philippines meets the winner of that game in the other semifinal.

The Filipinos double-teamed Yao Ming and Menke Batere, China's National Basketball Association centres, but were undone by effective outside shooting from Liu, with a game-high 20 points. Liu Wei and Li Nan each added 11 points.

"They did a tremendous job with Yao and Batere," the Philippines coach Joseph Uichico said. "It's the outside shots where we lost. If we didn't double-team Yao and Batere, they dominate. Do you give them a 2-footer or a 20-footer?"

Cold-shooting Philippines connected on only 8-of-34 shots in the first half, missing all 12 3-point attempts, and hit only 20-of-67 for the game, missing on 21-of-23 3-pointers.

"We were defending very well but we just couldn't score and it catches up with you during the game. You lose confidence and they gain confidence," said Uichico.

"We came here knowing China is the dominant team. No illusions. We believe we can (win) but they are the best team in Asia. We had to shoot extremely well to beat China and we didn't shoot at all."

Give China credit on defense. Their quick, tenacious guards refused to concede an outside shot and big man Yao swatted away seven shots to go with nine points and five rebounds.

"Our defence was very important," Wang said. Gong Ziaobin scored five points in a 15-4 run over five minutes late in the first half that staked China to a 19-8 edge. The Philippines was a pitiful 4-0-21 from the field in the first quarter, 0-2-9 from 3-point range.

"They defended us very well," Uichico said. "It's hard to get a good look at the basket. They are too big and they are fast."

"The boys showed tremendous effort. They gave what they could give. They followed the game plan to the letter. China was just too good."

Defence kept the Filipinos within 36-21 at half-time, but China broke the game open with a 33-12 scoring edge in the third quarter. Hu scored 13 points in the period, sinking 5-of-6 shots to end Filipino hopes.

# A body blow

14th Asian Games BUSAN 2002

AFP, Busan

A doping controversy and allegations of biased judging on bodybuilding's Asian Games debut have jolted the sport's hopes of one day making it into the Olympics.

The much-mocked sport was recoiling in shame here Tuesday after suffering the indignity of seeing 90kg bronze medalist Youssef El Zein being stripped of his bronze medal.

El Zein, from Lebanon, had refused to take a dope test and was relieved of his medal late Monday, in the first drugs controversy involving a medalist at the Asian Games.

For a sport which has had long-running problems with drugs and is dreaming of one day gaining admission to the Olympics, the El Zein affair comes as a severe setback.

"I feel hurt, very upset and sad," said Paul Chua, secretary-general of the Asian Bodybuilding Federation and vice-president of the International Federation of Bodybuilders.

"We've been working hard for 25 years, lobbying for our sport and trying to get recognition. Now because of one bad apple in the barrel, all the good apples are harmed," Chua said speaking from Singapore.

Chua said great efforts had been

made to stamp out drugs in bodybuilding, and insisted the sport was making progress.

"We are serious about drugs. We use testing procedures laid down by the International Olympic Committee and we are carrying out anti-doping checks at all competitions," he said.

Chua was reluctant to blame Lebanese officials for El Zein's case. "Things like this happen in every sport," he said.

"If an athlete refuses to take a dope test there is not a lot anyone can do about it. But it is bad for a sport like us because we are making our debut."

Despite the best efforts of authorities, drugs are still a problem. Iran is serving a one-year ban from the sport and were barred from competing in Busan.

Three Yemenis meanwhile were sent home for failing to submit a report detailing the results of tests taken prior to the competition.

The bodybuilding competition in Busan was also embroiled in a judging controversy which saw a Japanese referee kicked out.

Katsunori Masaeda was axed from the panel of referees after fellow judges complained of irregularities in his scoring on the opening day of competition.

He was accused of favouring Japanese entrants in the men's 80kg event and replaced.

# Susanthika, Jamal

FROM PAGE 13

to his pre-Asian Games hype to run away with the men's 400 metres hurdles gold medal in an Asiad record time.

"This was my big goal for the season to win here, it was very important for my country, and me" said the Olympic silver medalist who skipped the recent Asian Championships in Colombo because it did not fit his Games preparation.

His new Games record time of 48.42 seconds broke the day-old mark of Mubarak al-Nobi set in the heats Monday, and made a mockery of the predicted threat from the Qatari runner who was down the track in second place.

Star of the field events was the genial Japanese giant with the excellent sports pedigree Koji Murofushi who had double reason to celebrate when he broke his own record on his 28th birthday.

"Tonight, I'm going to go out to celebrate my win and my birthday," said the son of Shigenobu, a five times Games hammer throw champion. His mother was a Romanian

Olympic javelin thrower and sister Yuka is competing in the women's discus and hammer in Busan.

The only Asian to be top-ranked in the world this year had hoped to go close to his season best of 83.47m but conditions were against him.

"I was maybe a little disappointed I couldn't throw 80m, but as it was early morning and really cold I couldn't. But I broke my own Games record and I have to be satisfied," he said.

If Murofushi is part of a family dynasty in the hammer throw, India's shot put gold medalist Bahadur Singh set something of a name dynasty.

Bahadur Singh who won the event at the 1982 Asiad now trains him.

Other gold medalists Tuesday were China's Sun Yingjie, who set a Games record of 30:28.26secs in the women's 10,000m, and Shen Shengfeng who won the heptathlon, while pole vaulter Grigory Yegorov and women's 400m hurdler Netyala Torshina both won gold for Kazakhstan.

# Paradorn starts in style

AFP, Busan

After beating world number one Lleyton Hewitt to reach a career-best 26th in the ATP rankings, Thailand's Paradorn Srichaphan finds himself the man to beat at the Asian Games.

Top seed Paradorn beat Kyrgyzstan's Eduard Kolifman 6-0, 6-1, in his Asian Games singles opener here Tuesday, losing only 12 points in dispatching Kolifman after 42 minutes.

"What can I say? The first couple of rounds are going to be easy matches for me," Paradorn said. "But from the quarterfinals, they are going to be tough matches for me."

South Korea's Lee Hyung-Taik and Japan's Takao Suzuki, who both advanced with ease Tuesday, are possible finals foes. The top-rated rival in Paradorn's half of the draw is fourth seed Oleg Ogorodov of Uzbekistan, ranked 134th.

Paradorn had never heard of Kolifman. Nor has he heard of Tajikistan's Sergei Makashin, his third-round opponent Wednesday. But he is wary of possible upsets since he has pulled off his share this year. "Everyone is going to want to beat the best," Paradorn said. "I just can't go out there and not try my hardest."

Iran, ROK reach

FROM PAGE 13 his side's finishing would have to improve for the game against Iran.

"We can try to work more on our shooting, but finishing is not a skill that can be improved overnight."

In Masan, Japan won with an opportunistic goal by striker Satoshi Nakayama to reach their first Asian Games semifinal in 32 years.

China dominated the ball throughout but the break came in the 60th minute when Gamba Osaka forward Nakayama latched onto a cross from Hikaru Mita and volleyed it off Chinese keeper Yang Jun's left hand into the net.

Thailand were worth their win over North Korea to set up a meeting with Japan after a defensive blunder by Ri Man-Chol.

Manit Novyach scored the decisive goal in the 52nd minute after Ri had dithered over a clearance inside his penalty area.

"We adopted a new system of counter attack and it worked really well," said Thailand's English coach Peter Withe.

"We knew that the North Koreans are very strong but I told our players to use their skill and speed to counter that and it worked well."

# Blame the BFF

FROM PAGE 13 any misappropriation of the fund. What kind of preparation is our BFF going to take for the forthcoming SAFF championship? Other day they are saying they will bring Korean Hyundai Club and a J-league team as part of their build-up.

They also told last year that top European clubs such as Liverpool and Arsenal will play exhibition matches in Bangladesh. Did anybody watch that match? It is just the eye wash by our so called BFF leaders. They do not have the faintest idea about how to improve our football.

Does our football have a yearly calendar? Do we have any real age group soccer team? Do our national team play 10-15 practice matches in a year? Could we introduce professional league as yet? Is politics out of football federation? Improvement of our football lies in the answers to the questions above.

— Kamruzzaman Abul B, Los Angeles, USA, via e-mail

# Sharjah hotter

FROM PAGE 13 ping three catches in Pakistan's second innings.

"We'll talk about it for about 10 seconds, I reckon," Steve said. "We had a bit of an off-day and we dropped a few catches. It probably goes to show how well we've caught over the years, that when we do drop some people notice it."

Mark dropped opener Imran Nazir at second slip off paceman Jason Gillespie on Sunday before Pakistan had opened their second innings account.

On Monday he dropped Younis Khan from the same position off Glenn McGrath, and then grassed a chance from Faisal Iqbal in Gillespie's first over.

"He's allowed to miss a couple every now and then," said leg-spinner Shane Warne, adding Mark Waugh was one of the "best ever" slippers.

For Steve, Sharjah will be his 150th Test match, the most played by anyone but fellow-Australian Allan Border.

"I haven't really thought too much about it, to be truthful, but yeah, it's a nice milestone to have," he said.

"Longevity isn't easy in sport at the top level. I never thought I'd play 150 Tests, so it'll be a nice moment, but I won't dwell on it too much. I want to get out there and score some runs and have a good performance."

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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