

## Veterans' song

AFP, Perth

Veteran England wicketkeeper-batsman Alec Stewart, six months short of his 40th birthday, sprang to the defence of the "old men" of world sport Sunday, offering special encouragement to besieged England goalkeeper David Seaman.

Padding up for his seventh Ashes cricket series, Stewart also came out strongly in favor of Australia's ageing Waugh twins, Steve and Mark, being retained for the five-Test scrap starting in less than three weeks.

Seaman, 39 last month, has been pilloried mercilessly by the British press after conceding a goal directly from a corner in England's embarrassing 2-2 draw with Macedonia in a Euro 2004 football qualifier in Southampton last week.

Seaman's latest miss came after his misjudgement allowed an amazing goal by Brazilian star Ronaldinho in a World Cup quarterfinal contest in June.

Stewart, a veteran of 122 Tests over 12 years, said: "Seaman has coped a bit of flak, but he has been a fantastic performer for England for a number of years."

"A 39-year-old made a mistake -- so it's been highlighted. If he had made the same error 10 years ago, it would have been just a mistake. "The age thing is just an easy line for the media. If a 31-year-old makes a mistake, it's not '31-year-old Jo Blogs dropped a catch, or let a goal in', but once you get to 35 or so and you do something wrong, then the age comes in."

"But I suppose you have to accept some of that, because, say, 37 -- as the Waugh's are -- or 39 is above average age for cricket."

"So you know you have to perform. But you have to perform if you are 39 or 22 to stay in the side."

Stewart said it seemed fashionable to question the Waugh's abilities.

## New draw

FROM PAGE 13

nent general, said BFF assistant secretary Badal Roy.

When asked why the first four teams were not drawn, Badal could not come up with a satisfactory answer.

Chaired by acting BFF general secretary Sirajul Islam Bachchu, three former national footballers Abdul Hossain, Kaiser Hamid and Rumman-bin-Wali Sabir picked up the names of the twelve clubs in the draw.

Speaking to the media, Bachchu revealed that they have set up a new BFF calendar for the next 15 months, during which time two federation cups will be held.

The organisers informed that they would prepare the fixture by today. They however disclosed that Mohammedan will take on Bangladesh Air Force in the inaugural match on Wednesday at 4 pm.

## FIRST ROUND DRAW

**Group A:** Mohammedan SC, Badda Jagarani, Rahmatganj Muslim Friends Society and Bangladesh Air Force.

**Group B:** Abahani KC, Victoria SC, Dhaka Wanderers Club and Bangladesh Rifles.

**Group C:** Muktijoddha Sangsad KC, Brothers Union, Farashganj SC, Bangladesh Navy.

**Group D:** Arambagh KS, Dhanmondi Club, Sheikh Russell KC and Bangladesh Army.

## TV watch

FROM PAGE 13

Cricket Talk Show Repeat at 8:30 am

Football Asia Repeat at 10:00 am

**Pakistan vs Australia** Third Test, Day Four

**Live at 11:55 am**

Sportline Tonight Sport News

**Live at 8:00 pm**

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS  
1 It does the hole job  
4 "Got —?"  
8 Hotel furniture  
12 Floral necklace  
13 Rival of Jimmy and Bjorn  
14 Taj Mahal city  
15 Cause of royal insomnia  
16 Extreme degree, idiomatically  
18 Ms. Winfrey  
20 Muppet eagle  
21 Bird of prey  
24 Piquant flavors  
28 Adams sitcom  
32 A tide  
33 Gorilla  
34 CLXVII times IX  
36 Coach Parseghian  
37 Prejudice

## A team effort



AFP, Madras

India skipper Saurav Ganguly said Sunday the presence of more than one match-winner was the key to his team's recent successes in Tests and one-day internationals.

"Harbhajan (Singh) is not the only match-winner in the side. There are quite a few in the team now and that's the key to our success," said Ganguly after India's eight-wicket win over the West Indies in the second Test here.

The hosts wrapped up a three-match series with the win, having already thrashed the tourists by an innings and 112 runs in the opening match at Bombay.

Off-spinner Harbhajan played a big role in both the victories, claiming eight wickets in the first Test and seven in the second to become the first bowler to claim 50 Test victims this calendar year.

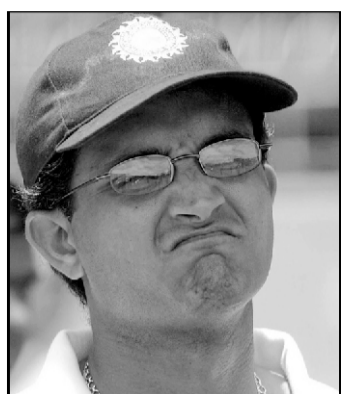
"There is more than one player in the team capable of winning the match for us, like Yuvraj Singh and Mohammad Kaif. That's the strength of our side," said Ganguly.

India, under Ganguly's captaincy, won a one-day series in the West Indies in June, the NatWest Trophy at Lord's the following month and then drew a tough four-Test series 1-1 against England.

Yuvraj and Kaif both slammed

half-centuries under pressure to help India win a tall-scoring final of the NatWest Trophy one-day series against Nasser Hussain's Englishmen.

"Everyone played a part in the victory here. The team's form has been very good. We batted and bowled very well in this game," said Ganguly.



SAURAV GANGULY

Ganguly also said more technology should be used in Test cricket to avoid umpiring mistakes.

"With so much of crowd and noise around, the umpires cannot always be correct," said Ganguly, who fell to debatable leg-before decisions in both of his innings against the tourists.

"We have got to make more use of the technology. It was used on a

trial basis during the Champions Trophy at Colombo. I hope it also comes to Test cricket."

The International Cricket Council allowed on-field umpires to consult the TV umpire before giving decisions on leg-before and close catches at Colombo, saying the trial would be discontinued if it slowed down the game.

His West Indian counterpart Carl Hooper, however, lashed out at his team.

"It's a shame that we've come to this level," said Hooper, whose side also lost the three-match series following this defeat.

The tourists lost the opening Test by an innings and 112 runs at Bombay.

"There are no excuses. We're just not playing good cricket. There was no problem with the pitch because we've played on much more difficult wickets in India," said Hooper.

The West Indies have yet to win a Test under Hooper's captaincy in the sub-continent, having lost 2-0 to Pakistan at Sharjah and 3-0 in Sri Lanka last year before losing both the Tests against India.

Hooper blamed his team's batting and fielding for the second successive defeat against the hosts.

"We dropped at least 12 catches in two Tests and you're always going to struggle after conceding a 150-run lead," said Hooper.

## Nice to be back



AFP, Sharjah

Australia's captain Steve Waugh said on Sunday he was delighted to return to form with his 28th Test century and hoped to continue in the same vein.

Waugh silenced his detractors with a spectacular 103 not out, his first three-figure knock after 16 barren innings, on the second day of the final Test against Pakistan here.

"I have played better knocks before, but when this one came after such a long time it was pretty satisfying," the 37-year-old said.

Waugh, under pressure to retain the captaincy for the upcoming Ashes series against old foe England, struck

timely form to hit 13 boundaries and two sixes.

Stranded on 82 when last man McGrath joined him, the 37-year-old smashed leg-spinner Danish Kaneria for 20 runs in one over - 4,4,0,0,6,6 - to race to his hundred.

"To get a century with a six and with the baggy green cap on the head is pretty special. It does not get better than this," Waugh said.

"It is nice to get runs, nice to be captain and score a century for the team."

"I am pleased and hope to consolidate and continue making runs."

Waugh admitted he was under a lot of pressure before this Test.

"It was pretty strong pressure, but that has not happened only now," he said. "I have had pressure around me for a long time."

"You are expected to score runs at the international level. I had faith in my ability and backed my instincts."

Waugh would not take victory for granted in the final Test despite reducing Pakistan to 163-6 in reply to Australia's 444.

Pakistan still need 82 runs to avoid the follow-on, but Waugh said he was not sure of enforcing it after Australia's disastrous experience against India at Calcutta last season.

India, made to follow-on 274 runs behind, build a huge second innings total and then shot Australia out to record a memorable victory.

"After Calcutta, I am more careful. It is still quite open," he said.

"We had hoped to bowl out Pakistan quickly today but the later order batsmen hung on."

## Vintage Steve show

FROM PAGE 13

and Sachin Tendulkar (30) and Australian legend Don Bradman (29).

The aggressive onslaught paid off as McGrath, who made three in a last-wicket stand of 26 with Waugh, was dismissed soon after by Pakistani captain Waqar Younis.

Pakistan, who were shot out for record lows of 59 and 53 in the second Test, once again faltered against the spot-on Australian attack.

McGrath removed opener Taufiq Umar and Younis Khan on either side of tea to give his team a perfect start.

Waugh then trapped Imran Farhat leg-before and had Faisal Iqbal caught behind as Pakistan's top order slumped to 76-5.

Australia, who began the day at 298-3, slipped to 308-5 before fighting back through their captain to go past the 400-run mark.

Waugh, who claimed the second new ball soon after the start, removed Ricky Ponting and Damien Martyn off successive deliveries.

Ponting added just eight to his overnight score of 142 when he was clean bowled by a superb delivery that cut back after pitching.

Next ball, Martyn was wrapped on the pads by a fast yorker and declared leg-before by Indian umpire Srinivas Venkataraghvan.

Ponting batted for more than six

hours under the hot sun to compile 150 that included 14 boundaries and a six.

Adam Gilchrist, who denied Waqar a hat-trick, hammered 34 in a sixth-wicket stand of 55 with Waugh before he was caught behind trying to cut Kaneria.

Australia lost three wickets for 15 runs after lunch as Kaneria picked up Waugh and Andrew Bichel while Brett Lee was run out.

Younis finished with four for 55, while Kaneria had three for 128 from 36 overs.

Off-spinner Saqlain's two wickets in 45 overs cost 159 runs.

Australia won the first Test in Sri Lanka by 41 runs and the second here by an innings inside two days.

## SCOREBOARD

Team	Bowler	O	M	R	W
Australia	Q. Richardson	20	1	112	2
Pakistan	S. Waugh	30	1	103	1
Australia	S. Waugh	30	1	103	1
Pakistan	S. Waugh	30	1	103	1

Team	Bowler	O	M	R	W
Australia	S. Waugh	30	1	103	1
Pakistan	S. Waugh	30	1	103	1

Team	Bowler	O	M	R	W
Australia	S. Waugh	30	1	103	1
Pakistan	S. Waugh	30	1	103	1

Team	Bowler	O	M	R	W
Australia	S. Waugh	30	1	103	1
Pakistan	S. Waugh	30	1	103	1

Team	Bowler	O	M	R	W
Australia	S. Waugh	30	1	103	1
Pakistan	S. Waugh	30	1	103	1

Team	Bowler	O	M	R	W
Australia	S. Waugh	30	1	103	1
Pakistan	S. Waugh	30	1	103	1

Team	Bowler	O	M	R	W
Australia	S. Waugh	30	1	103	1
Pakistan	S. Waugh	30	1	103	1

Team	Bowler	O	M	R	W
Australia	S. Waugh	30	1	103	1
Pakistan	S. Waugh	30	1	103	1

Match referee: Clive Lloyd (WIs).

## Davenport thru

AFP, Zurich

Lindsay Davenport hobbled to a 7-6, 7-6 victory over fourth-seeded Belgian Justine Henin to reach the final of the Swisscom Challenge and keep on track to defend her title.

The veteran American won the chance to face Switzerland's Patty Schnyder, who defeated Spanish veteran Conchita Martinez 6-0, 6-3.

Davenport showed remarkable grit in overcoming Henin after receiving treatment for tendinitis in her right ankle at the end of the first set. She could barely move, often pulled up when forced to run, and she appeared as if she would retire at any moment.

A bitter Henin however accused her opponent of gamesmanship by exaggerating her injury.

"I have a sore shoulder but I wouldn't make a big circus of it like she did," she said. "How can she hit four winners like that if she's injured?"

But Davenport hung in to retain the chance of winning her fourth Zurich title in five years, and at the same time guaranteed her place in the season-ending WTA Championships in her home city of Los Angeles.

That also is an astonishing achievement, as the second-seeded American did not play a tournament until August after undergoing knee surgery.

Davenport's heavy hitting earned her an early break for 2-1, but she failed to serve out the set at 5-4 before sweeping through the tiebreak. In the second set, Henin broke twice to establish a 4-1 lead, but she failed to exploit Davenport's lack of movement.

Point by point, Davenport worked her way back, and although she was broken again to leave Henin serving for the set at 6-5, Davenport went for broke and took the set to a second tiebreak.

## Lleyton's Swedish gamble

AFP, Stockholm

With a revitalised Andre Agassi suddenly breathing down his neck in the late chase for world number 1, Lleyton Hewitt has prudently opted to try to amass points in the 650,000-dollar Stockholm Open starting Monday.

A year ago, the Australian pulled out just hours before his first match, infuriating Swedish organisers who have been counting on his presence. They all but vowed never to bother with him again.

This year, after skipping this week's Masters in Madrid with what he said was a virus, the 21-year-old Hewitt had to seek out a wild card entry - which had conveniently been held aside and he enters the tournament as top seed.

If he wins in Madrid on Sunday, Agassi would pull to within 43 points of Hewitt with only the concluding Masters at Paris Bercy to play starting October 28.

Hewitt, who spent this week recuperating while watching girlfriend Kim Clijsters compete at the women's event in Zurich, will open at the Kungliga hallen tennis arena against home hero Thomas Enqvist, a two-time champion whose stock has sunk this season.

Sweden's Thomas Johansson will be using the home crowd to try to move into position for a place in the eight-man field at the Masters Cup, to be held in Shanghai from November 11-17.

The Australian Open holder needs to pass French Open champion Albert Costa of Spain, as one reigning Grand Slam winner is allowed a spot in the event.

Costa, who pulled out of Madrid this week and could be doubtful for next week in Basel due to a back injury, has 393 points with Johansson on 330.

The fourth-seeded Swede begins his chance with a match against Spain's Tommy Robredo.

## Agassi clinches Madrid title



AFP, Madrid

Andre Agassi moved closer to overhauling world number one Lleyton Hewitt when he won the 2.95-million-dollar Masters Series here Sunday without hitting a shot on court.

The 32-year-old American was awarded the title when Jiri Novak withdrew before the best-of-five-set contest citing a groin strain picked up in his semifinals Saturday over Fabrice Santoro.

The Czech was to have played in his second final in as many weeks after losing in Vienna last Sunday.

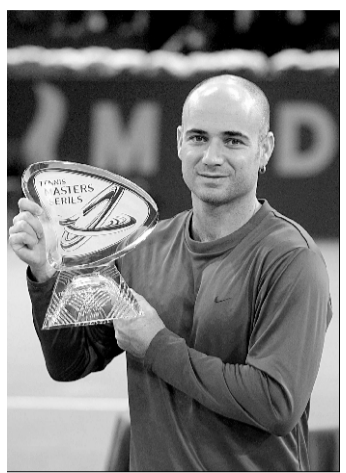
"We were discussing it yesterday, but we decided today that I could not play," he said. "I didn't know after the match that it would be this bad. I'm very disappointed, this was my first Masters final."

"Even if I could have taken the court, I would have just hurt it more by trying to play," said the 27-year-old.

Agassi's win gives him a record 15 Masters Series trophies, with only Monte Carlo and Hamburg missing from a matched set of all nine of the majors which rank just below the Grand Slams.

With tournaments to play in St Petersburg next week and the wrap-up Paris Masters due to start a week from Monday, the race between Hewitt on 697 points and Agassi on 654 will intensify.

Hewitt skipped the Masters with



ANDRE AGASSI

a virus, but eagerly grabbed a wild card on offer for next week's Stockholm Open, where he will be top seed after pulling out of the event a year ago at the last moment.

Agassi meanwhile heads the field in St Petersburg.

## Harbhajan baffles WI

FROM PAGE 13

The 22-year-old Harbhajan, the first bowler to claim 50 Test victims this calendar year, began the slide with three wickets off five balls in his ninth over of the morning session played under lights due to poor visibility.

He dismissed Ryan Hinds and Breesee off successive deliveries before trapping Mervyn Dillon leg-before.

Dillon denied Harbhajan a hat-trick with a defensive push and swung the next ball for a four before being adjudged leg-before by Sri Lankan umpire Asoka de Silva off a fuller-length delivery that appeared to have hit the bat.

Zaheer dashed the tourists' hopes of setting a challenging fourth-innings target with the prize wicket of Ramnaresh Sarwan in his opening over of the morning.

Sarwan added 16 to his overnight score of 62 before being trapped leg-before while trying to work the ball on the on-side.

He struck two sixes and four boundaries in his 218-ball 78, but again failed to convert his half-century into a three-figure mark in 26 Tests.

Sarwan has scored 14 half-centuries since making his Test debut against Pakistan at Bridgetown in 1999-2000, but is still looking for his maiden hundred.

The panic set in after Sarwan's dismissal as the lower-order batsmen tried to chance their arms and fell against the Harbhajan-Zaheer duo.

Man-of-the-match Harbhajan, who took seven wickets in the second innings at Bombay, began it when he had Hinds caught by Kumble in the covers.

Hinds went for a big heave but mistimed it to offer a simple catch after adding six to his overnight score of one.

Breesee made a forgettable Test debut as he was caught by Ganguly at backward short-leg off Harbhajan for no score. He had made five in the first innings.

Zaheer did not allow the West

Indies' tail to wag, having Ridley Jacobs (3) caught by wicket-keeper Parthiv Patel and then bowling last-man Jermaine Lawson for two with a yorker.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fourth day of the second Test between West Indies and India on Sunday:

West Indies	First innings	167 (A Kumble 5-30)
INDIA	First innings	316 (V Sehwag 61)

West Indies	Second innings	(overnight 186-4)
Gayle	c Kumble b Srinath	0
Hinds	c Ganguly b Harbhajan	61
R Sarwan	lbw b Khan	78
Chanderpaul	c Harbhajan b Srinath	3

India	First innings
Hooper	c Patel b Kumble
Hinds	c Kumble b Harbhajan
Jacobs	c Patel b Khan
Breesee	c Ganguly b Harbhajan
M Dillon	lbw b Harbhajan
Collins	not out
Lawson	b Khan
Extras: (b-12 lb-3 nb-3 w-1)	19

India	Second innings
Bangar	c Gayle b Hooper
Sehwag	c Jacobs b Hooper
Dravid	not out
Tendulkar	not out