

Crawley eyes third Test

INTERNET, Adelaide

Batsman John Crawley is hopeful of a return to the England side for next week's third Test after he was ruled out on the morning of the Adelaide match on Thursday.

Crawley failed a morning fitness Test on a badly bruised right hip and was replaced by Kent youngster Robert Key.

He was struck by a delivery by paceman Brad Williams against Australia in Hobart last Sunday and has not responded to subsequent treatment.

A team spokesman said Crawley had an ultra-sound scan on Wednesday which revealed a small muscle tear at the top of the thigh in addition to bruising.

England play back-to-back Tests, with the third match of the series beginning in Perth on 29 November.

"It's really frustrating for me as I was desperate to play in this Test match and wanted to give myself as much time as possible to get fit," Crawley said in a statement.

"Unfortunately, it hasn't worked out but the tear is only a small one and I'm hopeful for the next Test because I've still got a week to get myself fit."

There was also a worry over Michael Vaughan when he tweaked his right knee during the warm-ups but the opener retained his place after having the injury strapped.

Kafelnikov to have surgery

AFP, Monaco

Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov will have surgery for a leg injury after the upcoming Davis Cup final against France, his entourage said here Wednesday.

The 28-year-old is desperate to lead Russia to their first ever Davis title after two final flops he was involved in and says he may retire if his countrymen win the November 29-December 1 showdown.

He will have the operation in Zurich on December 2.

"The day after the final Yevgeny will go to Zurich where he will have a vein in one of his legs operated on," said close associate Michael Commandeur.

"If the operation goes off correctly and he is okay he will take care and come back in good time," Commandeur added.

"There is a good chance he will continue playing tennis," he added. Kafelnikov is a double Grand Slam champion having lifted the French Open at Roland Garros in 1996 and the Australian Open in 1999.

Indians can

FROM PAGE 13

discussions hinted that some progress has been made in the ongoing meetings. "It was more than a start," he said, declining to be identified.

Speed said his meeting with the BCCI was a follow-up to talks held prior to the September Champions Trophy in Sri Lanka, which was almost boycotted by leading players over the contract.

The 12-team event in Colombo was preceded by a major row after players from several Test countries refused to sign the participation contract over the player terms before most of them, barring the Indian players, agreed to sign up.

The ICC settled the issue by relaxing some of the conditions to ensure the participation of leading Indian players like Sachin Tendulkar and captain Sourav Ganguly.

"It isn't an easy issue," Speed said on Wednesday.

Dalmiya said both the ICC and the Indian board would place details of their discussions before their respective committees.

"We have explained BCCI's viewpoint and Speed gave us the ICC's. It is an administrative discussion and will continue," he said.

Michael stands his ground

Cricket

AFP, Adelaide

English opener Michael Vaughan was adamant he should not have walked after a controversial catch ruling went his way against Australia on Thursday.

The Yorkshire right-hander stubbornly stood his ground when, on 19, the Australians celebrated what they thought was a diving catch by Justin Langer in the covers off Andy Bichel.

The verdict went to third umpire Steve Davis who, after repeated viewings of replays, gave Vaughan the benefit of the doubt.

Vaughan was finally out three balls before scheduled stumps when he edged Bichel to Shane Warne for 177. He batted for 371 minutes, faced 306 balls and hit 22 fours and three sixes.

"At first I thought I was gone," Vaughan said of the disputed catch. "But there was a suspicion in my mind that the ball had touched the ground, that's why I stood my ground."

"The umpire asked for the replays and they suggested the ball had touched the ground."

"I'm in my right to do that. I didn't make the rules that you can call for the replays, but now they've done that I think a lot of batsmen will do exactly what I did today."

Vaughan described his knock, which was the highest by an Englishman in Australia since Mike Denness scored 188 in the final Test in Melbourne in 1974-1975, as the best of his career.

"That's probably the best century," said Vaughan. "The Australians are always asking questions, they have a fantastic attack... to score a hundred against Australia in Australia has to be the pinnacle."

His ton was the lynchpin behind England scoring 295 for four on the first day's play.

Vaughan's refusal to walk has re-focused the debate on the issue of technology in the use of appeals -- and Australia coach John Buchanan said players are suffering.

"Justin honestly believes he took

the catch and that's good enough for me," Buchanan said. "Some replays actually showed he did, others were inconclusive."

Buchanan said responsibility for the dismissals had to be referred back to players, rather than relying on inconclusive video technology.

"There's probably confusion in the minds of everyone because while the ICC (International Cricket Council) rule is invoked, that is

being able to refer catches to the third umpire, then there will be an element of 'if we wait then technology may rule in our favour'," he said.

"My view is that we should use technology provided that is reliable and valid."

Buchanan said in his discussions with teams around the world he has found that there is a belief that the technology is not providing the answers that it was designed to.



PHOTO: AFP

England centurion Michael Vaughan sets off for a single after seeing the ball going past Andy Bichel of Australia on the opening day of the second Ashes Test at Adelaide yesterday.

Aussie coach against tech

AFP, Adelaide

Players are confused over the reliability of technology in the adjudication of cricket dismissals, Australian team coach John Buchanan said here on Thursday.

Buchanan was addressing the controversy over England opener Michael Vaughan's refusal to walk when Australian fielder Justin Langer claimed a catch during the opening day of the second Ashes Test at Adelaide Oval.

"Justin honestly believes he took the catch and that's good enough for me," Buchanan said after Thursday's play.

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Kirtley awarded another chance

AFP, London

Pace bowler James Kirtley was given another opportunity to prove he's good enough for England's cricket World Cup squad next year by being called up for the one-day squad for the triangular series with Australia and Sri Lanka in December and January.

The Sussex star has seen his international career stall three times in the past year, being ejected from the series with Zimbabwe for a questionable bowling action, which he was later cleared of.

He then broke his hand while practising for the one day series this summer in England and was called up for the Champions Trophy series in Sri Lanka after Darren Gough pulled out through injury but didn't play a match.

Gough's early return from the Australian tour has handed him the chance again and despite getting married only three weeks ago Kirtley is delighted to get another opportunity.

"This will be my first playing tour of Australia and I am delighted to be a part of the squad. It really is a dream come true," Kirtley said.

"It gives me the opportunity to play against some of the best players in the world on some of the best pitches in the world, so it is the ultimate test for me."

"It is said that Goughie is unfit but it gives me a chance to show what I can do."

"I got married three weeks ago and I had planned a quiet winter at home, having been away for the last four winters. But this has now changed, it's been a great surprise."

He will join one-day specialists Ian Blackwell, Paul Collingwood, Ronnie Irani, Nick Knight, Owais Shah and Jeremy Snape as the additions for the limited overs series.

Yorkshire's Craig White, who was named as a one-day player, has since joined up with the Test squad to cover for injuries.

The remainder of the 16-man squad will be made up of Test players, who will be selected closer to the start of the series on December 13.

Tyson returns to ring in February

INTERNET, London

Mike Tyson will return to the ring on February 22 when he takes on Clifford Etienne.

It will be his first fight since losing to Lennox Lewis in June.

The clash will take place at the Pyramid Arena in Memphis, where Tyson was stopped in the eighth round by the British world champion.

Tyson's manager, Shelly Finkel, said a press conference would be held on Tuesday in Memphis to formally announce the fight.

Tyson has not fought since losing to Lewis in a fight that drew a crowd of 15,327 and is considered the biggest sporting event in Memphis history.

He is likely to have more success against Etienne, who has been knocked down twice and only managed a draw in his last fight against Francois Botha in July.

Tyson has a rematch clause in his contract for the meeting with Lewis, though both boxers were allowed to take a fight before clashing again.

Lewis is expected to return to the ring in the spring to defend his WBC heavyweight title against number one contender Vitaly Klitschko.

Surprised Srichapan

Tennis

AFP, Bangkok

Paradorn Srichapan, who has become the rising star of world tennis after shooting to 18th ranking this year, is more surprised than anyone else about his spectacular ascent to the top of the game.

Paradorn, an immensely likeable and unassuming 23-year-old from Thailand's impoverished northeast, says all he ever wanted to do was keep up with his big brothers who have also played tennis for their country.

"I was this boy who wanted to play, and wanted to go to the tournaments, wanted to be like my brothers. That was my inspiration," says Asia's newest sporting hero.

"When I was young, I followed them to the tournaments, and they were my idols. I wanted to be like my brothers," he says in his fluent English before heading into a training session with one of the brothers, Narathorn.

"I didn't expect to become a top player... I didn't expect that at all. I just want to be one guy on the tour, a nice guy."

The sporting family owes much to its patriarch Chanachai, who worked as a bank clerk and at a preserved fruit factory in Thailand's rural northeast before shooting to fame himself as Paradorn's father-coach.

A tennis addict with an entrepreneurial spirit, he decided to teach the game to his three sons -- Thanakorn, now 34, Narathorn, 30, and the baby of the family, Paradorn, who was nicknamed "Ball".

Nearly 20 years ago Chanachai decided to move to the capital Bangkok with his oldest son to pursue his tennis career, leaving the rest of the family behind with their mother until the other boys were old enough to follow.

Paradorn arrived in Bangkok when he was six years old.

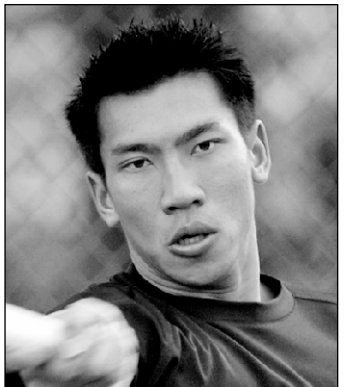
At home, it was "tennis, tennis, tennis", Paradorn recalls. "Even

when I was still in my mother's stomach, she went to see my brother's matches, and it's still in here," he says, putting his hand on his heart. "It's in the blood."

The three brothers went on to carve out careers with their rackets. Thanakorn teaches tennis in the family's home town of Khon Kaen and Narathorn is a former national champion who still plays for Thailand but never made it past 761 on the world rankings.

Their little brother, meanwhile, surged from a lowly 126th ranking in January, along the way claiming the scalps of the world's top two players, Lleyton Hewitt and Andre Agassi.

Paradorn was a model child,



PARADORN SRICHAPAN

according to his former school-teacher Sisuda Yimyuan. "He was very polite, and respectful to everyone," she says.

Years on the international tennis tour have done nothing to change that good nature, and as his teacher stepped up on an impromptu visit to a Bangkok training session Paradorn stopped immediately to greet her with a "wai".

The traditional gesture of respect, made by placing the palms together in front of the face, has become a trademark on the tennis circuit after Paradorn began acknowledging the crowds in that way at the end of a match.

After posing for a photograph with Sisuda, Paradorn turns his

attention to a gaggle of uniformed high-school girls who ask timidly for an autograph from their new hero.

Paradorn confides later that all the attention can be overwhelming, and he sometimes feels he has lost the ability to have a private life.

"When people come up to me a lot, asking for autographs, sometimes I feel like -- oh, again, again. But what can I do? I smile to show them I'm happy to do it. To make them feel good, because they make me feel good too."

Paradorn's private life has not been fodder for Thailand's excitable tabloid press. At the moment he does not have an official girlfriend, and as for marriage: "I'm not thinking about that yet. I'm 23, I'd say when I reach 30 I'll think about it."

"Sometimes I think to myself that I want to have my own house, live alone. But at the moment I can't do that," he says. "In Thai culture, you have to get married first, and then you move out to live with your new family."

It is doubtless that strong culture which has helped maintain his bonds with his father, despite constant speculation that with the top-ten beckoning it is now time to find a professional coach.

"He's not a businessman trying to take something from me. I trust him," Paradorn says of Chanachai.

His biggest confidant though is his mother Ubol. "My father is stricter than her -- she's the one I talk to about everything, even now," he says.

Although he is now assured of becoming a multi-millionaire, Paradorn says the frugal values he learned during a relatively modest childhood will stay with him.

"Even with a lot of money, if you don't know how to manage it, it's going to go one day. So, we will really be careful," he says.

Although tennis's newest star is unlikely to let fame go to head, he can be excused a few extravagances. Paradorn has a weakness for cars and according to press reports, a new bronzed Mercedes C-class now sits proudly in the Srichapan family driveway.

Davis Cup

Russia plot French fall

Tennis

AFP, Monaco

With the countdown to the November 29 to December 1 Davis Cup final having begun in earnest, Russian skipper Shamil Tarpishev said Wednesday his players must seize a unique chance to land their country a first ever title at the expense of hosts France.

"Mentally we will be very strong - the players will be ready," insisted Tarpishev, set to head for Paris with his players at the weekend.

"We want to see the Bercy Stadium throbb like a football venue - that will boost (Yevgeny) Kafelnikov, who is our most important player. He is speaking a lot with Marat (Safin). They know that the two of them can pull it off."

"The two of them want to defend the colours of Russia who have never won the trophy."

"Everyone is conscious of having a unique chance to pull it off -- it is a chance which may not come round again for years. Today tennis is the number two sport behind football whereas it was nothing 20 years ago," Tarpishev explained.

Russia lost the 1994 and 1995 Davis Cup finals on board and in this time the squad are determined to make it third time lucky.

But their preparations have been hit with the news that Kafelnikov is not fully fit while Monaco-based Safin is just back from playing the Masters Cup in Shanghai -- or rather he was only back as far as Moscow after requesting permission to show a day later than planned on Thursday at team headquarters.

Tarpishev is not worried about the late get-together despite the fact that the French have been training in their Atlantic coast base since Monday.

"The thing that worries me the

most is not how far apart the players are in their physical condition. (Mikhail) Youzhny still has back problems and is working on a tailored programme with (national coach Sergey) Leonuk in Moscow."

"Our preparations are certainly totally different from those of the French. But we are working in parallel with the players and their coaches. The players are at a different stage physically -- so their respective programmes are adapted accordingly."

Asked why he had chosen Monaco as the warm-up venue Tarpishev said it was more relaxing -- and more anonymous.

"We could have gone to Dusseldorf (Germany), Monaco or stay in Moscow."

"But there are very few indoor clay courts in Moscow -- and it's currently very cold there. In Monaco, the climatic conditions are ideal and the players totally anonymous. There's no pressure."

India draw level

FROM PAGE 13

Drakes (3-38), Collymore (2-42) and Pedro Collins (2-38) kept the West Indies' hopes alive of defending a modest total despite half-centuries from Dravid (58) and Yuvraj Singh (54).

Drakes did the early damage when he removed hard-hitting openers Dinesh Mongia and Virender Sehwag in his impressive opening spell, while Collymore dismissed Yuvraj and Reetinder Sodhi to put his team back into the game.

Dravid and Yuvraj applied themselves well on a low, slow wicket where the ball did not come on to the bat. They put on 99 for the fourth wicket after the hosts had been reduced to 48-3.

Bowlers made merry for the first time in the series as Kartik played a key role in reversing the trend of high-scoring matches with a disciplined spell. He was well-supported by seamers Ajit Agarkar (3-24) and Bangar (2-39).

Shivnarine Chanderpaul scored a fighting 58 and Hooper a 29-ball 38, but their team's total was still the lowest in six matches. Their previous lowest in the series was 280-3 in the second match at Nagpur.

Kartik began it when he dismissed in-form opener Chris Gayle, Samuels and Ramnaresh Sarwan in his first six overs to send the tourists reeling at 74-4.

Chanderpaul and Powell (29) shared a 61-run stand for the fifth wicket, but their efforts were just not enough to set India a stiff target.

SCOREBOARD

Full scoreboard of the sixth one-day international between India and the West Indies at the Barkatullah Khan Stadium on Thursday:

WEST INDIES
Gayle lbw b Kartik 27
Hinds c Mongia b Agarkar 1
Samuels b Kartik 3

Sarwan b Kartik 14
Chanderpaul c Dravid b Agarkar 58
Powell lbw b Sehwag 29
Hooper c and b Bangar 38
Jacobs run out 9
Drakes b Bangar 0
Collins c Bangar b Agarkar 2
Collymore not out 2
Extras: (b-1, lb-8, w-7, nb-2) 18
Total: (All out in 46.3 overs) 201
Fall of wickets: 1-34, 2-42, 3-47, 4-74, 5-135, 6-183, 7-193, 8-193, 9-197

Bowler O M R W
Srinath 8.3 1 28 0
Agarkar 9 1 24 3
Bangar 10 2 39 2
Kartik 10 1 36 3
Mongia 3 0 24 0
Sehwag 6 0 41 1

INDIA
Mongia c Jacobs b Drakes 5
Sehwag c Samuels b Drakes 18
Laxman c Gayle b Collins 7
Dravid c Powell b Drakes 58
Yuvraj c Powell b Collymore 54
Kaif c Powell b Collins 15
Sodhi c Jacobs b Collymore 1
Bangar not out 32
Agarkar not out 6
Extras: (w-2, nb-4) 6
Total: (For 7 wickets in 46.2) 202
Fall of wickets: 1-19, 2-26, 3-48, 4-147, 5-147, 6-148, 7-187

Bowler O M R W
Collins 10 1 38 2
Drakes 10 0 38 3
Collymore 9.2 0 42 2
Hooper 4 0 19 0
Gayle 4 0 28 0
Samuels 9 0 37 0

Result: India won by three wickets, level series 3-3.

Man-of-the-match: Ajit Agarkar.

Umpires: Asoka de Silva and K Hariharan.

Final match: November 24, Vijayawada.

Paradorn studs Indian Open

AFP, New Delhi

Asian tennis sensation Paradorn Srichapan will be the star attraction at next month's 400,000-dollar ATP Indian Open in Madras, organisers said on Thursday.

"The Thai, who leapt to world number 16 this year, will strive to win the season opener after losing to Guillermo Canas of Argentina in the final last year."

Canas, ranked 15th in the world, returns to defend his crown at the December 30-January 5 event from a 32-man field that also features Australian Mark Philippoussis and Dutchman Sjeng Schalken.

"With the lowest out-of-tournament history, it is an extremely strong field, which will make for exciting action," said tournament director Fernando Soler.

Gillette launches quiz contest

UNB, Dhaka

Gillette-Bangladesh yesterday officially launched a campaign for the World Cup Cricket 2003 by arranging a quiz contest, "Gillette Fly to The Final Contest", among the users of its products.

Gillette in association with Bangladesh Sports Journalists Association (BSJA) will select 11 lucky winners who will get the tickets for the next World Cup final to be held in South Africa.

Details of the contest were disclosed at a press conference organised on the occasion of

the launching ceremony at the NSC conference room.

State Minister for Youth and Sports M Fazlur Rahman was present at the function as chief guest.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

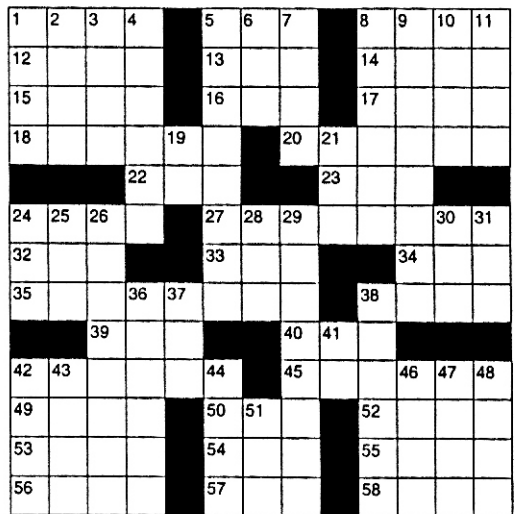
ACROSS
1 Vagrant
5 Jungfrau, for one
8 Paddock parent
12 Fanzine topic
13 Witness
14 PC operator
15 Richard of "Spin City"
16 Actress Carrere
17 Unescorted
18 Captivate
20 Prepares to propose
22 Bush spokesman
23 "Miss Brooks"
24 Rivers or Baez
27 Not quite a collision
32 Pacino and Roker
33 Antacid target
34 Seek reparations
35 Unwilling to speak

DOWN
1 Scouts' journey
2 Valhalla
3 Fidei
4 Hemingway's
5 Adenoid neighbor
6 Others (Lat.)
7 Word ignored in indexes
8 Floral adornment
9 Pinnacle according to Arp?
10 Egg house?
11 One container
12 Zilch stars of frame
13 Partner
14 Longing
15 Actress Irving
16 Dregs
19 One conjunction...
20 ... and another
21 Pickle holder
25 Bullring cheer
26 Dazzle
28 Resembling (Suff.)
29 With cleverness
30 Genes preceder
31 Collection
32 Composite
37 Animation frame

38 Summer shoe
41 "What do I care?"
42 Miracle site
43 A Baldwin brother
44 Sicilian spouter
46 Post-Christmas event
47 Cleeve companion
48 Places
51 That guy

Solution time: 28 mins.

STEP LEG ALBA
URIAL EMU NOEL
SURIAN LIST GYRO
SIRIENSE SILLAGE
SOFIA AMOR TIRA
ANI AMPERO SOS
MEN HOUR ETCH
APE PREY
LILLOME YENUS
RAT VOGLTIT
MISIS ERIA ELISE
ARTE RED TIERM



CRYPTOQUIP

C E L V G E Z V Y U C C U
S E H H C X Z U D Q X E Y J
M G Z V V Y B U U Z M . J U D ' B Z O M L
M C Z E O Y O Y Q J U D Z M V H S .
Yesterday's Cryptiquip: IF A PERSON FROM WARSAW IS ANGLING ON A LAKE, THAT MAKES HIM A FISHING POLE.
Today's Cryptiquip Clue: It equals L
The Cryptiquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Butcher not out 22
Extras: (lb-6, nb-7) 13
Total: (For 4 wickets in 89.3 overs) 295
Fall of wickets: 1-88, 2-106, 3-246, 4-295
To bat: Alec Stewart, Craig White, Richard Dawson, Andrew Caddick, Matthew