

Ice-fit Flintoff

 Cricket

AFP, Manchester

Ice-baths are among the treatments England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff is using in order to maintain his fitness and ensure he remains a regular member of the side.

Lancashire pace bowler and hard-hitting batsman Flintoff has been identified as England's number five for one-day matches and played in that pivotal position during the two wicket defeat by Pakistan at Old Trafford, his home ground, in the day-night opening match of a three-game series here Tuesday.

Encouragingly for England the 25-year-old also completed his full quota of 10 overs after a shoulder injury, which prevented him from bowling, saw him miss both Tests in the 2-0 series victory over Zimbabwe earlier this month.

Unlike Lancashire, who played him as a batsman only in county matches, England were unwilling to have Flintoff in their side unless he could bowl.

But having turned his arm over in a domestic trophy one-day quarter-final win over Middlesex, as well as England's one-day warm-up victory

over Wales, he was included at Old Trafford.

And Flintoff repaid the selectors' faith with an economical 10 over spell, which cost just 23 runs.

He was also England's top scorer with 39 and showed plenty of discipline with the bat before his lone rash stroke brought about his dismissal.



ANDREW FLINTOFF

dismissal.

Afterwards Flintoff, who has been working with England fitness advisor Nigel Stockhill, admitted his bowling stint had taken a lot out of him.

"I was very tired after the

Pakistan game," he said.

"It's the first time I've really given it a good crack, I really ran in well and I felt physically and mentally tired - it was a very tough day.

"I'm going to have to bowl again in another three days and it's quite a demanding schedule and you do have to look after your body at times like this.

"We have Nigel with us to make sure we're doing the right things and we have ice baths after every game.

"We do that after every game now and we also have pool sessions to loosen off and maintenance stuff just to keep us going during busy periods like this.

"It's a lot of cricket, but there is time for rest in-between and time to get right for the next game."

England's one-day series against Pakistan continues at The Oval on Friday and concludes at Lord's on Sunday.

They are then involved in a triangular one-day series with South Africa and Zimbabwe which could see them playing as many as seven matches if they reach next month's Lord's final.

After that England take on South Africa in a five Test series before their domestic season finishes in September.

Krajicek calls it a day

 Cricket

BBC ONLINE, London

Richard Krajicek has decided to call time on his tennis career. The 1996 Wimbledon champion, 31, pulled out of this year's championships earlier this week because of a long-standing elbow injury.

"I want to have the feeling that I can win," he said, holding back tears.

"But if my arm starts to hurt after a few service games, that's not realistic.

"That's why I've decided to stop. "I achieved more and reached higher in the in the world ranks than I had ever dreamed as a child," he said.

Krajicek, who reached the Wimbledon quarterfinals last year after a 20-month spell out of the game, made his announcement at the Ordina Open where he lost in the first round on Tuesday.

He had been sidelined for more than a year following surgery on the same elbow in March 2001 and missed another four months with a

foot injury at the end of last year.

But he looked to be returning to form after beating Mark Philippoussis on grass at Queen's



RICHARD KRAJICEK

Club earlier this month.

He had planned to retire at the end of this year, but had hoped to play at Wimbledon one last time.

"Tennis is all I ever wanted to do," he added.

Going great-runs!

 Cricket

REUTERS, Gros Islet

Opposing skippers Brian Lara and Hashan Tillekeratne should have vivid memories of the last test series between Sri Lanka and West Indies.

Lara stroked 688 runs at an average of 114.67 in late 2000 in Sri Lanka to set the second-highest aggregate ever in a three-test series. His total also amounted to 42.34 percent of West Indies' total runs, a record for the proportion of runs scored by an individual in a three-match series.

Lara's efforts were for nothing though as West Indies suffered a 3-0 whitewash with two of the Tests being decided by 10 wicket margins.

In comparison Tillekeratne was the forgotten man. Then 34, he had just been recalled by the selectors after being ditched as too old after the 1999 World Cup. The former wicketkeeper responded to his recall by accumulating 403 runs in the series while being dismissed only once.

"I was upset, but the selectors reasoned that they wanted to groom youngsters," the left-hander said of the decision to drop him.

"I just didn't want to quit then. Firstly because I was still scoring

runs and secondly because I still had the desire."

While both Lara and Tillakararne are vastly experienced players, they are relatively new in their respective captaincy roles.

Lara has just been restored to the captaincy and is in charge of a team of youngsters, who, despite b e i n g



HASHAN TILLEKERATNE

outplayed by the all-conquering Australians in April, managed to avoid a first Caribbean whitewash when they scored a world record fourth innings total of 418 to win the fourth Test in Antigua.

The 34-year-old said the victory

had given his side the belief they would move than match Sri Lanka.

"Sri Lanka are not as strong as Australia," Lara said earlier this month. "Although they have a couple of match winners...if we don't drop our standards we are going to get more success against teams of lesser ability than Australia.

"We've proved that we can be competitive, but we have to maintain it. Now we know where we stand."

Tillekeratne, meanwhile, was appointed after former skipper Sanath Jayasuriya resigned following the country's World Cup semi-final exit in March.

He inherited a strong side with proven batting talent in Marvan Atapattu, Jayasuriya and Mahela Jayawardene, backed up by all rounder Thilan Samaraweera, who has averaged 83 in his 10 Tests so far.

He also has match winners in off spinner Muttiah Muralitharan, who took 24 wickets at 22.33 in Sri Lanka in 2000, and left arm pacer Chaminda Vaas, who outdid his colleague with 26 wickets at 15.42.

While the Caribbean normally produces hard, fast pitches, Muralitharan is relishing facing Lara.

The first Test begins in St Lucia on Friday, while the second starts in Jamaica on June 27.

Oval ready for invaders

 Cricket

AFP, London

One of the biggest security operations ever seen at an English cricket ground has been arranged for Friday's second one-day international between England and Pakistan at The Oval.

Surrey officials are determined to avoid any repeat of the mass pitch invasion by Pakistan fans at the end of the opening match of the series at Old Trafford on Tuesday night.

The increased security will involve stewards being placed around the perimeter of the ground well before the finish rather than, as is customary, just a few minutes before the end.

"We'll be forced to have a fairly obtrusive presence of stewards who will form a complete ring round the perimeter for at least 15 minutes before the end of the game," explained Surrey chief executive Paul Sheldon.

"In that way a very clear mes-

sage is sent to the crowd at an early stage.

"Since the regulations about pitch invasions changed, we have succeeded in stopping any spectator coming on to the field by using this policy - we're very resolute and determined to ensure maximum safety for the players, officials and spectators."

Lancashire have meanwhile ordered an inquiry into Tuesday's pitch invasion following criticism that they had failed to provide adequate security in the face of a known threat.

Two years ago British-based Pakistan supporters staged pitch invasions at Edgbaston, Headingley and Trent Bridge.

Tuesday night's scenes at Old Trafford, which saw stewards utterly overwhelmed by jubilant Pakistan supporters celebrating a two-wicket win, had led to fears of an official reprimand and longer term concerns over Old Trafford's status as an international ground.

But Lancashire chief executive Jim Cumbes was confident English

cricket chiefs would treat the county sympathetically.

"I don't think the other night will affect our status as an international venue," said Cumbes on Thursday. "We've worked hard on the way we organise our matches and believe we have made progress in that."

The series concludes at Lord's on Sunday.

Less tours

FROM PAGE 13 Bangladesh, is also facing a challenging time. The performance of Bangladesh at the international level has been disappointing."

Mani, in a speech to an ICC forum, said the world governing body would help with new training and development programmes in Bangladesh but added: "Over the next two years there may be a reduction in the amount of international cricket Bangladesh is playing, particularly outside Bangladesh."

Bangladesh have yet to win a Test and have not won a match of any kind against top-flight opposition since the 1999 World Cup, losing to Canada at this year's tournament in South Africa.

Akhtar wary

FROM PAGE 13 arose they all enjoyed it."

But Vaughan admitted his team faced a tough challenge in squaring the series.

"They have got a few exciting batters and in Shoaib Malik, an off-spinner who can turn it the other way. They have always got unorthodox talents.

"But we put them under huge pressure and they nearly faltered."

Pitches at The Oval tend to favour fast bowlers and Vaughan said Durham quick Stephen Harmison, who was not in the team at Old Trafford, could play on Friday.

"The pitches here tend to have a bit more bounce and that helps the fast bowlers. But top-class batsmen like it when the ball is coming on to them.

"The pitch at Old Trafford suited their style of bowling. Steve will definitely come in to it here. We have not decided our team yet, but its good to have the choice."

Asked if Tuesday night's narrow defeat, which saw jubilant Pakistan fans stage a mass pitch invasion, at the close, had been a good experience for his new-look side, Vaughan replied: "It would have been if we had won."

Penalty relief for hosts

FROM PAGE 13 Pires for Olivier Kapo to add some much-needed flair up front on the hour mark.

Pires was seen to good effect almost immediately as he made a side rule pass into the area for Wiltord, but his Arsenal team-mate was too slow to react and allowed Nantes defender Mario Yepes to tackle him and put it away for a corner.

However the rest of the team failed to raise themselves and Wiltord was booed by the frustrated crowd as he yet again failed to produce the killer pass for Henry - who flapped his hands in disgust.

Djibril Cisse rarely showed promise and was replaced with 15 minutes remaining by local hero Sidney Govou.

Coupet saved Lizarazu's blushes with seven minutes remaining as he blocked Becerra's scintillating run into the area.

Becerra exposed Lizarazu again a minute later as he tore him apart for pace and his cross from the far side of the penalty area was barely headed away to safety by Lilian Thuram.

It was all Colombia and Gerardo Bedoya's excellent long pass found Desailly wanting again as Aristizabal

latched onto it but his shot took a deflection off Coupet's hand and away from the goal.

With two minutes remaining Velazquez again exposed Lizarazu sneaking in behind but his shot hit the bar and rebounded to safety while Coupet then produced another fine save to deny another Colombian attack.

The first half had been a turgid affair with France creating only one worthwhile chance on target in time added on as former Leeds midfielder Dacourt's fierce shot from inside the penalty area hit the post and cannonned away to safety.

Both Cisse and Henry should have done better with free headers, Cisse in particular did not look a ready-made replacement for England striker Emile Heskey at Liverpool as unmarked and five yards out he put his effort well over the bar.

Colombia themselves seemed more interested in hacking down their opponents and their sole effort which came near to getting them on the scoresheet was a header from France skipper Desailly which sailed just over the bar - but as with the penalty the hosts got the referee's approval and no corner was given.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Primary field of study

6 Ancient

9 One of the kin

12 Adult insect

13 Quilters' get-together

14 Space-walk acronym

15 Cuts into cubes

16 Big prize in Vegas

18 Guardian

20 Hibernia

21 Scale members

23 Command to an attack

24 Entreats

25 Incite

27 Blot

29 Tomorrow, in Tijuana

31 Someone who's radio-active?

35 Ray type

37 Weak, as an excuse

38 Pass along

41 Call a halt to

43 Cornfield call

44 Remark

45 Pkarks

49 Pkarks prize

54 See

55 Cock and bull?

56 Boom times

57 Moved along

Solution time: 25 mins.

DISC NAM SNAP

ALTO ELI NEMO

MEN WAS OWEN

PETROL CLOWNS

ARMY AZO

BENIO WANDERER

AGE ETE TEA

ROWDY DOW DOLLY

SEA SON

PAPAWS WHALES

REED AYE FIDIO

ORAL ROE TICES

POINT AVUK XENA

DOWN

1 Central

2 Chartres chum

3 A state capital

4 Curved moiding

5 Kentucky Derby

6 Thing really mad

7 king of literature

8 Calendar abbr.

9 Old photo tone

10 Off-white

11 "Psycho" psycho

17 Nut

19 Galileo, by birth

21 Phonograph abbr.

22 Geological period

24 Popular dessert

26 Lustrous fabric

28 Hersey's ball town

30 Unfavorable vote

32 Lame-brain

33 Doc's org.

34 Archery-bow

45 On

46 Sutherland solo

48 Ostrich's cousin

50 Dead heat

51 Schedule

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12							13		14	
15							16		17	
21	22			23			24		20	
25			26		27	28				
29			30		31			32	33	34
35			36		37					
38	39	40			41	42		43		
44					45		46			
47				48			49		50	51
52				53			54			
55				56			57			

CRYPTOQUIP

HR UDG PVXI V WEDB DR

M G J V E A P V A M F D H L J

X I E U B D D E S U U D G F

B E D C V C S U E V H M I W V L I

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU BOUGHT SOMETHING FROM A KNIGHT, DO YOU RECKON THERE'D BE A SIR CHARGE?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals P

The Cryptoquip 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.

Old foes on brand new

FROM PAGE 13 since taking over the captaincy from Carl Hooper after the World Cup.

He was the top run-getter against Steve Waugh's Australians with 533 in a four-Test home series and appeared to be continuing in the same vein against the Sri Lankans.

Muralitharan said he was looking forward to bowling against Lara and keen to win the duel.

"It's a challenge to bowl to him because he reads the spin better than any other batsman and he's willing to play strokes. He's a great batsman, but I want to win the battle," he said.

Lara denied that the West Indies were a one-batsman team, saying they had talented players in Ramnaresh Sarwan, Vavell Hinds and Marlon Samuels.

"I think the West Indies batting relying on me alone is not true," said Lara.

"The situation where I alone carry the batting does not exist now because the competition in the team is very healthy."

Lara expected consistency from his young team in a bid to clinch the first Test series during his second stint as captain.

The West Indies lost the first three Tests against Australia, but did the incredible by successfully

chasing the highest-ever total of 418 in the fourth and final match in Antigua.

They were plagued by inconsistency in the one-day series against Sri Lanka as they failed to chase 201 in the first match and then could not defend 312 in the second.

The West Indies' bowling lacks experience. Mervyn Dillon is the only veteran in the pace attack picked for the match. Vassbert Drakes has played just six Tests, Corey Collymore one and Jerome Taylor none.

TEAMS
WEST INDIES (from): Brian Lara (capt), Ramnaresh Sarwan, Omari Banks, Carlton Baugh, Corey Collymore, Mervyn Dillon, Vassbert Drakes, Daren Ganga, Chris Gayle, Vavell Hinds, Ridley Jacobs, Marlon Samuels, Devon Smith, Jerome Taylor.
SRI LANKA (from): Hashan Tillekeratne (capt), Marvan Atapattu, Mahela Jayawardena, Sanath Jayasuriya, Romesh Kaluwitharana, Kumar Sangakkara, Tillekeratne Dilshan, Chaminda Vaas, Muttiah Muralitharan, Thilan Samaraweera, Kaushal Lokurachchi, Kumar Dharmasena, Prabath Nissanka, Darshana Gamage, Dinu-sha Fernando, Thilan Thushara.

reclaimed the world number one ranking to become the oldest player to hold the top spot.

"It's tough when you're 16 years old trying to make it in a professional world, you're trying to figure things out and find it challenging but you're tortured by it at the same time," said Agassi, who keeps his trophies in his Las Vegas gym as a reminder of why he continues to push himself to the limit.

"The same thing happens when you're 33, it's just that the challenges are different.

"For me, I still have more to pull out of myself...the desire is still there.

"Some days are easier than others. Those are my challenges as when you've played over a thousand matches, you've seen it all.

"You know how things unfold when certain things happen and you have to find a way to change that and make something better happen for yourself. That gets tougher and tougher and yet it's more rewarding if you can find a way to do that.

"It's like what I experienced this year in Australia. I'd stay on another five years to have one day like that."

With no Pete Sampras or Pat Rafter in the draw, this could well turn out be Agassi's year.

"Wimbledon has it's own magic and it's own rightful place...and it will be incredible to win it again. It feels like it was yesterday yet it feels like a lifetime has happened."