

No 1-dayers

FROM PAGE 13
That's why we have decided to stop all one-day cricket for the under-17 age group and below.

India boasted the famous quartet of off-spinner Erapalli Prasanna, leg-break bowler Bhagwat Chandrasekhar, off-break bowler Srinivas Venkataraghavan and left-arm Bishan Singh Bedi in the 1960s and 70s but the art of spin has been on the decline.

Leg-spinner Anil Kumble, who kept alive the spin tradition almost single-handedly over the last decade, is in the twilight of his career and there is no obvious understudy to off-spinner Harbhajan Singh due to the absence of a regular pool of quality spinners.

India, scheduled to host the under-17 Asia Cup one-day tournament later this year, will however go ahead with the event despite the new policy.

"We don't want to upset the international calendar so this time we will host the event and participate in it," Dalmiya said. "But we will recommend to the Asian Cricket Council to hold under-17 matches on a two-day format in future."

Roddick, Federer

FROM PAGE 13
With only Federer seeded higher than he is, the way now appears open for Roddick to begin fulfilling his massive promise.

Long hailed as the future of American tennis, Roddick has won only five minor titles to date.

At Wimbledon, where his powerful serve and quick feet are well suited to the speed of grass play, in two previous visits the US youngster had got no further than the third round.

Kiwis arrive

FROM PAGE 13
TRIANGULAR SERIES

- Oct 23: India v New Zealand, Madras (D/N)
Oct 26: India v Australia, Gwalior (D/N)
Oct 29: Australia v New Zealand, Faridabad
Nov 1: India v Australia, Bombay (D/N)
Nov 3: Australia v New Zealand, Pune
Nov 6: India v New Zealand, Cuttack (D/N)
Nov 9: Australia v New Zealand, Guwahati
Nov 12: India v Australia, Bangalore (D/N)
Nov 15: India v New Zealand, Hyderabad (D/N)
Nov 18: Final, Calcutta

ICC welcomes

FROM PAGE 13
to be hosted by the country in the same period.

"We welcome India's participation in the event as the first step towards resuming cricketing ties but want the event to be rescheduled from September to November this year," PCB chief Lieutenant General Tauqir Zia said.

Pakistan is due to host senior teams from Bangladesh, South Africa and New Zealand in a hectic home season from August to November this year.

Academy challenge

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Rows: Ashraf, Kapali, Rafique, Samwar, Mashrafe, Anwar, Mahmud, Rafique, Kapali, Ashraf, Samwar.

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Rows: Magoffin, Duval, Nye, Worthington.

Caddick vows to return



AFP, London

Andrew Caddick has insisted he will resume his England career even though a back injury has ruled him out for the rest of the season.

"I know what some people's reaction will be to the news that I am out for the summer," fast bowler Caddick wrote in Wednesday's Daily Express. "At 34 they will presume I am finished as a Test cricketer."

"Well I'm not. I still believe I am the best bowler in this country and I intend to prove it in an England sweater again," the New Zealand-born quick added.

Somerset pacesman Caddick, who announced his retirement from one-day international cricket after England's first round exit at the World Cup with the aim of prolonging his Test career, has a prolapsed disc in his back.

On Tuesday he was ruled out of England's forthcoming five Test home series against South Africa.

He explained that his back

problem had been aggravated by the stress fracture he'd suffered in his right foot.

"I now have a prolapsed disc in



ANDREW CADDICK

my back which the medics think may have been caused by walking around with a cast on my right foot.

"While that has helped sort out my stress fracture, the imbalance caused by walking around with one leg an inch higher than the other has not helped my back."

Caddick added that he had

faced a career-threatening injury before when shin splints forced him out for a season. "But I came out the other side and fully intend to do the same again this time."

"Somerset and England have not seen the last of Andy Caddick yet."

Caddick also said that he was encouraged by the example of his England new-ball partner Darren Gough, who has returned from several knee operations to become an ever present in the six one-day internationals played by England so far this season.

Yorkshire fast bowler Gough, 32, said of Caddick: "He's been a great partner for me with the ball and I've been a great partner for him."

"I hope he gets back," Gough also told the Express. "I've always admired the way he has bounced throughout his career. He has tremendous talent."

Caddick has played 62 Tests for England, taking 234 wickets at 29.91.

But this season he has only played one county championship match and a single limited-overs game for Somerset because of injury.

Dung Dung's plight



AFP, New Delhi

A field hockey player from India has fallen on such hard times that he wants to pawn off his Olympic gold medal to make ends meet.

Sylvanus Dung Dung, a full-back who helped India win the last of its eight Olympic hockey gold medals at the 1980 Moscow Games, says he is struggling in a country that has no time for sportsmen other than cricketers.

A sports ministry monthly pension of 2,500 rupees (55 dollars) is not enough to support the 55-year-old and his family of five who live in a small home in the eastern city of Ranchi.

"What good is an Olympic gold medal if it can't help me live a life of dignity. I may as well sell it off," Dung Dung said.

"I have asked the government and the Indian Hockey Federation (IHF) to utilise my knowledge of the game in any way they like. I can coach, but no one has responded to my pleas."

Dung Dung's plight illustrates the lack of support for hockey, still regarded as India's national sport despite the country's obsession with cricket.

While cricket boasts of vast corporate sponsorship and millionaire stars like Sachin Tendulkar and Sourav Ganguly enjoy demi-

god status, few care for the hockey players.

The national hockey team does not even have a sponsor after oil major Castrol withdrew its support in May as a cost-cutting measure.

This when Indian hockey is finally beginning to look up again after winning two back-to-back titles in Australia and Germany last month.

Dhanraj Pillay's men first beat Australia and Pakistan in Sydney before taking the Hamburg Masters title against a field that included world champions Germany, Spain and Argentina.

Critics believe India are strong contenders to win the elite six-nation Champions Trophy in the Netherlands next month and the Olympic qualifying tournament in Spain in March.

IHF officials are confident they will find a sponsor for the national team before the Champions Trophy, but the general apathy pervading the sport stands out starkly.

India's innumerable television channels that cover cricket extensively -- even second-grade English county matches -- showed no interest in telecasting the hockey tournaments in Australia and Germany.

"We wanted to show the matches, especially the ones featuring India and Pakistan, but no sponsor was willing to bear the expenses," a TV executive said.

Unlike victorious Indian cricket

teams which are feted on their return, the hockey players were made to fend for themselves after finding their luggage missing on the return flight from Hamburg on Monday night.

"No one bothered to help us out. We were stranded at the airport for three hours trying to find someone to register our complaint," said former captain Dilip Tirkey, a veteran of over 300 internationals.

"I felt humiliated, frustrated and hurt at the way we were treated after having brought honour to the country."

"No wonder few parents want their children to become hockey players."

In these days of professional sport, hockey players do not earn fees for representing India and get a meagre daily allowance of 20 dollars when they tour abroad.

In comparison, Indian cricketers receive fees of 2,800 dollars for a single one-day international, besides five-star hotel accommodation and an out-of-pocket allowance of 60 dollars a day.

This is besides the multi-million dollar endorsement deals the likes of Tendulkar and Ganguly enjoy.

The only hockey player who appears in advertisements is Pillay, 34, a veteran of three Olympic games and the best-known face of Indian hockey.

Pillay, however, does not have what Dung Dung does: an Olympic gold medal.

Lewis seeks a rematch



AFP, New York

British heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis wants a rematch with Vitali Klitschko before fighting rival champion Roy Jones.

"But he wants a doctor to ensure a deep gash over the Ukrainian's left eye has healed.

World Boxing Council champion Lewis beat Klitschko last month when a doctor stopped their fight after six rounds and has opened talks for a rematch, most likely on December 6, rather than fight World Boxing Association king Jones.

"I'm opting for the rematch," Lewis said. "I enjoyed that fight. We just went at it. Obviously you have to play dollars and cents in, but I'm opting more for the rematch."

Lewis predicted a fifth-round knockout in the rematch, which

would depend on the findings of an independent doctor, provided Klitschko's camp agrees to such a check-up. Lewis said his people were in the process of asking permission.

"We definitely want our own doctor to check him out. We're discussing that with them. There should be no problem with that," Lewis said.

"We want an independent doctor to check him out. I don't want to go through any training and then find out his eye won't hold up. We want to go in, check it out and go from there."

If Klitschko's eye has not healed sufficiently, Lewis said his likeliest choices would be retirement or a "big man-little man" showdown with Jones, the first former middleweight in more than a century to wear a heavyweight crown.

"We will have to look at other options," he said. "One is Roy Jones, or calling it a day or see what else is out there, but I don't see

anything else that is out there."

Lewis, two months shy of his 38th birthday, said he has spoken with Jones and believed he would take less money than Lewis if the two fought.

"Me and Roy have talked on the phone. We're leaving our options open," Lewis said. "We wanted to get a sense of the numbers involved. I haven't found he's a hard guy to negotiate with, though."

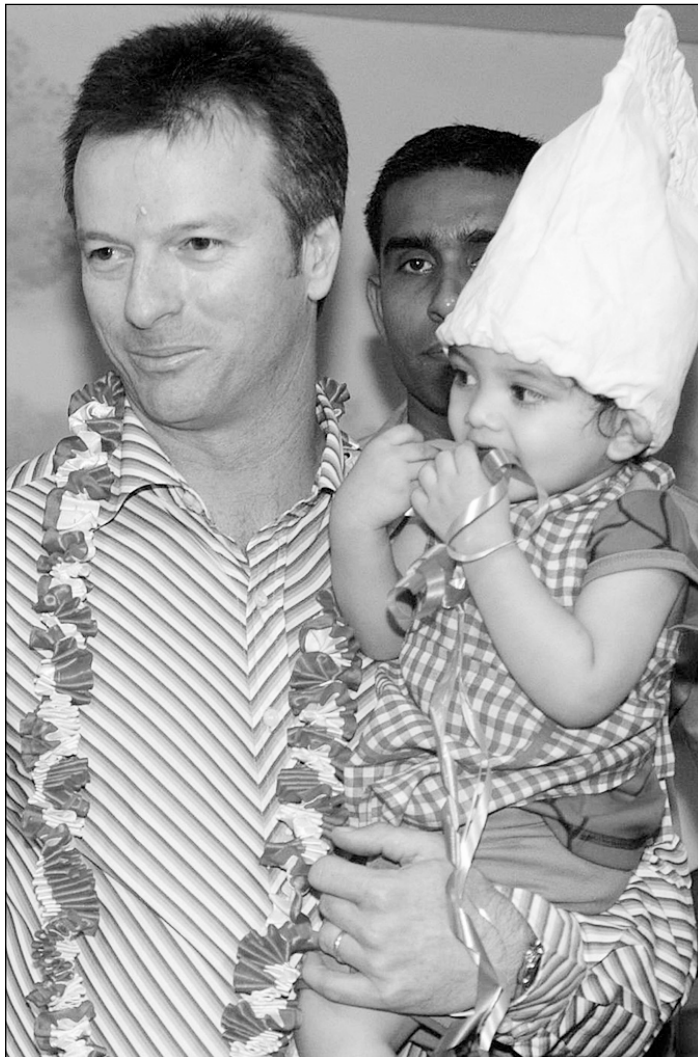


PHOTO AFP

CARING CAPTAIN: Australia Test captain Steve Waugh holds a baby while visiting a children's school in Calcutta yesterday. Waugh is currently in the eastern Indian city for his regular visit to Udayan, a home for leprosy-afflicted children.

STRAWBERRIES AND CREAM

AFP, London

After Greg Rusedski now Tim Henman has turned the air blue at Wimbledon.

Furious that a line judge had not seen a serve from Sebastian Grosjean which landed out a furious Henman angrily vented his frustration.

"Get a grip," was the only printable comment he launched in the direction of umpire Carlos Ramos. The 10th seed also used some choice vocabulary which last week landed Rusedski a fine as he crashed out to Andy Roddick.

Unlike Rusedski, Henman's comments were not picked up by television microphones.

ROOF STILL HOTTOPIC

The rain at Wimbledon is a hot topic once again after Wednesday's three disruptions - as is the long-mooted idea of a roof on centre court to allow some play to continue and avoid a backlog.

But All England Club chairman Tim Phillips warns there are many considerations, and not just cost.

"It is essential that the micro climate created within the court by a roof does not adversely affect the safety of players," says Phillips.

THAT'S YOUR LOT

Fans who had tickets for Tim Henman's quarterfinal against Sebastian Grosjean will not be able to ask for a refund after rain curtailed play to leave the Frenchman heading for victory at two sets to one.

The 14,000 fans are not entitled to a refund as All England Club rules do not provide for one if there is more than two hours play.

"TIGER" BURNS BRIGHT

While Tim Henman was struggling in his quarter-final he at least received support from one intrepid tabloid reporter, who smuggled in a Tiger suit which he donned in the crowd.

The "tiger" ended up getting drenched, however, after forgetting his umbrella.

Serena avenges

FROM PAGE 13

4-3 and putting the contest back on serve to the clear approval of Henin-Hardenne's husband Pierre-Yves and coach Carlos Rodriguez.

But Serena broke for 5-3 and screamed out her joy before taking the set after 38min when her rival swept a forehand long.

It was the first set the 21-year-old from Liege had dropped in the entire event.

A double fault handed Serena a break at the start of the second set and Henin-Hardenne, once again playing with her left hand heavily stressed following a fall in the Rosmalen final where she withdrew to hand Clijsters the title two weeks ago, again found herself chasing the match.

Serena's huge reach to pick up a scooped effort from Henin-Hardenne allowed her to hold for 2-0 and the American, who by now had hit top gear with a vengeance, held again.

A high return long from Henin-Hardenne brought a break for 5-2 and the titleholder served out with aplomb.



PHOTO AFP

Tim Henman attempts a shot at the net against Sebastian Grosjean of France during their quarterfinal on July 2.

Henman hanging by a thread



AFP, London

Tim Henman's bid to reach his fifth Wimbledon semi-final in six years was hanging by the finest of threads on Wednesday when rain forced play to be suspended for the night after a frustrating day for fans and players alike.

The notoriously fickle British summer weather had largely spared the tournament during the first eight days. But it struck back with a vengeance on Wednesday by playing havoc with the men's quarterfinals.

Showers forced the players involved in the first matches on the two main showcourts back to their locker-room three times before referee Alan Mills finally called a halt at just after 7.20pm (1820 GMT).

On Centre Court Henman's opponent Sebastian Grosjean was leading by two sets to one and due to serve at 1-2 in the fourth set when a light drizzle forced them off to the boos of frustrated spectators.

"It is frustrating but its a bit slippery out there and it is dangerous for the players," Mills said.

Over on court number one, Mark Philippoussis was 30-0 up on his serve at 2-2 in the fifth after overturning a two-set deficit against Alexander Popp.

The German had returned Philippoussis's serve superbly to claim the first two sets 6-4, 6-4 and put himself in sight of what would be a major upset.

But Philippoussis rallied to take the next two sets 6-3, 6-3 and was looking the more likely winner when play was suspended.

Both matches had been under-way for barely a quarter of an hour before the players were forced to spend an hour and three minutes kicking their heels in the locker room.

Philippoussis and Popp had not even completed their warm-up when the second interruption came.

Henman and Grosjean managed to play for just two minutes -- long enough for the Frenchman to break the home favourite for the second time and give himself a chance to serve for the set.

"There's a huge screen up on "Henman hill", which shows British television's Wimbledon coverage.

Serena Williams and Justine Henin-Hardenne were just warming up on centre court for their semi-final grudge match when the energetic ground staff rushed out to cover the grass with a tarp and stop play.

So fans were given a TV treat instead -- a rerun of the acrimonious third set of their French Open semi-final, when Henin's supporter-jeered Williams to tears.

Spotting the famous TV presenter helps others pass the time.

From the brick walkway behind centre court, you can just about see through the tinted windows into the broadcast studios.

"I'm sure that's Boris!" called out one woman, spotting former champion Becker in the spotlight. "I can tell by the hair."

The more nostalgic can study the long history of the event.

You could always watch TV.

There are beautiful photos of champions from Wimbledon's past 117 years. Remember Billie Jean King's glasses? Was Andre Agassi better looking with hair?

How on earth did those women in the nineteenth century manage to play tennis in long skirts, shoes, belts, straw hats and ties?

There is always the gossip about the women.

Has Venus got her hunger back? Will Serena get revenge? And the most troubling question of all, which of the Russian teenage stars is the cutest, and how do you pronounce her name?

But many local fans have the energy for just one activity -- worrying about Tim.

Britain's annual hope, Henman was in the process of losing his bid for a fifth semi-final perch in six years when rain cut short play on Wednesday. Could he pull off a comeback against Sebastian Grosjean, who looked fantastic on grass?

When it rains at All England



REUTERS, London

There wasn't any tennis at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club for much of Thursday afternoon -- or any croquet either -- but for Wimbledon punters forced to wait out rain delays, there were still things to do.

You've already shelled out for a ticket and for permission to stroll the grounds during the Wimbledon tennis championships.

So why not try a glass of Pimms? Britain's national summer drink -- essentially a salad floating in a jar of Seven-Up with the addition of a mysterious syrup -- is actually quite refreshing on a sunny day on the lawn.

But that doesn't quite explain why punters were lining up for a chance to pay 7.50 pounds (12.46 dollars) for the stuff.

You could always watch TV.

Greene going for speed



AFP, Paris

Olympic champion Maurice Greene is seeking the speed that will take him to a fourth straight world title when he runs here on Friday on the track where the World Championships begin in seven weeks' time.

Greene came out this year vowing to amend for a dreadful 2002, but the 28-year-old has been upstaged by unheralded sprinters such as Nigeria's Deji Aliu, who beat him into third in rainy Lausanne on Tuesday and is back to haunt the American here in the second Golden League meeting of the season.

Aliu is knocking on the door of a magical sub-10 second time, having run 10 flat in Greece last month.

Haile Gebrselassie knows his heir apparent, Kenenisa Bekele, has been installed as favourite for the 10,000 metres title after two breathtaking performances over 5,000 metres in the space of five days.

Bekele is due to meet the old Ethiopian master in next week's

looking for a second Golden League win and European champion Dwain Chambers could have finally got his season under way after victory over world record holder Tim Montgomery in Glasgow last Sunday.

Montgomery meanwhile has scratched from the meeting after returning home to the United States after his partner, Olympic champion Marion Jones, gave birth to their son.

At just 17, Allyson Felix has been compared to Jones and Europe gets its first look at the fastest woman in the 200 metres this year when she clashes with European champion and home heroine Muriel Hurtis.

Athletes like Felix will be having a foretaste of the Stade de France that is the focus for their entire season - the World Championships which take place on August 23-31.

The Cuban is divorcing her British husband after he was jailed for 15 years for his part in a massive drugs ring, and that could delay her application for British citizenship.

"I left my country in very sad circumstances and now I have no other option. I am still waiting for an answer from Britain but I would be more than happy to take citizenship in any other country who would be interested," said Aldama.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes solution time: 24 mins.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with clues and solution: SATURDAY'S CRYPTOQUIP: BEFORE BECOMING LICENSED, I ASSUME RAILROAD CONDUCTORS MUST READ TRAINING MANUALS.