

Lankan Tests

FROM PAGE 13 ment on Saturday. "Cricket Australia is delighted that after that hard work that has gone into preparing both venues for cricket this year, they will both host another international fixture in 2004."

Under normal programming arrangements, Cricket Australia would have hosted a Test series against Sri Lanka last season. However, a commitment to have both sides in South Africa for the 2003 ICC Cricket World Cup meant the series had to be moved to the mutually-agreed month of July 2004, the statement said.

"The weather is perfect to play cricket at this time of year and we are thrilled with the response we've had from the locals to this week's Test match," Sutherland said.

Sutherland said winter cricket was important because it helped eased international cricket's congested playing schedule.

"The future tours program now is such that it is quite congested for us to fit everything in during our summer," he said.

"We have additional teams and additional commitments that we need to meet. We need to broaden the seasons."

Tests against the major crowd-pulling teams, such as England, the West Indies, South Africa and India, will be played in the more populated southern cities during the Australian summer, but the opportunity exists to play Tests in Australia's winter in the tropical cities of Darwin and Cairns.

Cricket enthusiasts have been delighted with the facilities at Darwin's Marrara Oval with the Northern Territory government upgrading the ground and a drop-in pitch installed for a consistent-playing wicket.

Thorpe targets treble



REUTERS, Barcelona

Ian Thorpe aims for an unprecedented third successive world title in the 400 metres freestyle on the opening day of pool action at the world swimming championships on Sunday but the idea of a historic win does not inspire him.

Thorpe has achieved an array of milestone performances since he became the youngest-ever men's world champion in winning the 400 freestyle in Perth in 1998 at the age of 15.

He retained the 400 title in Fukuoka in 2001 on the way to becoming the first swimmer to win six gold medals in a single world championships and lowered the world record for the long course 400 for the fifth time as he swept to a further six gold medals at the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester.

"Being the first athlete (to win three consecutive individual world swimming titles) isn't important to me. I don't get any satisfaction whatsoever out of those achievements," Thorpe said at the Australian team's news conference at their Barcelona hotel.

"My achievements come from the self-satisfaction I gain from knowing I put in as much as I possibly could in the race."

Thorpe won the Olympic 400 freestyle at the 2000 Games in his native Sydney by a fantastic margin of nearly three seconds and defeat

in the Palau Sant Jordi indoor pool on Sunday would be a massive upset.

Thorpe, who switched coaches last year, picked up four titles at the Australian national championships in Sydney in March -- a record sixth consecutive win in the 400, a time which disappointed him in the 200 freestyle, a shared victory with Ashley Callus in the 100 freestyle and a Commonwealth



IAN THORPE

record in the 200 individual medley.

He could have a battle on his hands on Sunday with teammate Grant Hackett, who chased Thorpe home in the nationals and touched less than a second behind the master.

"I definitely think I'm in a position where I can possibly take big chunks off my time from what I've seen of my preparation," Hackett, hot favourite to complete a world

treble of his own in the 1500 freestyle on the last day of the championships, said at Friday's team news conference.

"But at the same time for me on the first day it's all about blowing the cobwebs out, so I'm just going to see how my body reacts to getting up and racing that distance.

"I'm not going to put any pressure on myself. Ian has won it the last two times in a row and he's world record holder so I'm just looking forward to getting in there and giving a good run for my money. If I do a PB (personal best) I'll be really happy."

Hackett took the silver behind Thorpe at the last two world championships -- an all too familiar occurrence for the Queenslander -- but this time he said he would be worrying about all the finalists, "not just myself and Ian".

"We've seen in the past that people can be jack-in-a-box and give a surprise to the rest of us ... I'll just cross my fingers it is going to be an Australian one-two -- and convincingly would be nice," Hackett said.

The chances look overwhelmingly good for the two Australians, with nobody within five seconds of their times this year.

Emiliano Brembilla took the bronze medal behind Thorpe and Hackett at the 2001 worlds, fellow Italian Massimiliano Rosolino took the silver behind Thorpe at the 2000 Olympics and American Klete Keller, the Olympic bronze medalist, should also be in the frame. But bronze looks the best they can hope for.

Eng name squad for 1st SA Test

AFP, London

England squad announced Friday for the first Test against South Africa starting at Edgbaston on July 24:

Nasser Hussain (captain), James Anderson, Mark Butcher, Andrew Flintoff, Ashley Giles, Darren Gough, Stephen Harmison, James Kirtley, Anthony McGrath, Alec Stewart, Marcus Trescothick, Michael Vaughan.

Ronaldinho

FROM PAGE 13 five-year contract but without giving precise details on the transfer fee.

"I have spoken with the player and he really wants to come to Barcelona," said club vice-president Sandro Rossell.

Earlier on Saturday, Assis met Barcelona president Joan Laporta and the two men agreed on the terms of the transfer, probably a five-year contract, according to the same source.

PSG president Francis Graille had not hidden the fact that Barcelona had always done well to contact PSG and not the player directly, according to FIFA rules.

A final meeting on Thursday night between PSG and United, when Manchester only offered 28 million euros, triggered the move to Barcelona.

The actual contract is set to be signed on Monday.

Mukti off with

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at the top of Group B with full three points. Abahani Krira Chakra, who are leading the group, stumbled to a 1-1 draw against Bangladesh Army in the opening match at Chittagong.

It was Sirajganj Mohammedan's first defeat after their 1-1 drawn encounter with Chittagong Mohammedan at the MA Aziz Stadium last week.

Earlier, Forest and Environment Minister Shahjahan Siraj formally inaugurated second leg at Sylhet Stadium.

Yellow card: Rakib (Muktijoddha)

TEAMS

MUKTIJODDHA SANGSAD KC: Aminul Haque, Hasan-Al-Mamun, Pradip Kumar Poddar, Sujon, Pavel Masud, Rajanai Kanta Barman, Motiur Rahman, Arman Miah, Alfaz Ahmed, Saifur Rahman Moni and Charles Ghansa.

SIRAJGANJ MOHAMMEDAN: Anwarul Islam, Jahirul Islam (Jahir), Maleque Akanda, Mohiuddin Ibnul Siraji, Ujjal, Selim Reza, Hasan Shafique Kollol, Inam Ahmed (Ratan), Shafiqul Islam, Fazlul Haque (Mantri) and Saiful Islam Muktar.

Referee: Tajul Islam

Nat'l sports

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Chowdhury Shanta (hockey), Abdul Jalil (kabadi), Kismat-UI-Hakim and Manwarul Alam Babul (badminton), Alhaj Mohammad Solaiman (swimming), ARM Mosaddequl Haq Rochi (table tennis), Omar Khaled Rumi (cricket), Sheikh Dalut-uz-Zaman (cricket-posthumously), and Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury and Begum Hosne Ara Khan (organizer).

The recipients for 2002 are: Major General (ret'd) Khandakar Nurun Nabi and Khairul Anwar Pearu (football), Minhazul Abedin Nannu and Nasir Ahmed Nasu (cricket), Azizullah Haider Jamal (hockey), Mosahrraf Hossain Shamim and Majibur Rahman Mallick (athletics), Mohammad Asif Hossain (shooting), Shahabuddin Ahmed (swimming), Nk M Badsha Miah (kabadi), Begum Kamrun Nahar Hiru (judo), Rezaul bin Sattar (chess), Golam Aziz Jilani (badminton), and KZ Islam and Kutubuddin Ahmed (organizer).

Waugh impressed

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"They're very inexperienced...but we've found out that they can play."

"Mortuza bowled well, as did Tapas (Baisya).

"They're playing a pretty good side with a lot of experience, and Test cricket half of the time is the amount of experience you have on your side and at the moment they haven't a lot they're going in the right direction," said the Australian skipper.

Darren Lehmann, one of the three victims of Mashrafe-bin-Mortuza, also scored a century but was full of praise for the Bangladesh bowlers.

"Obviously they haven't got a lot of quick bowlers but what they did was bowl in the right areas and make it tough to score runs," said Lehmann, whose 110 was his first century on home soil.

"They bowled with discipline, they don't try and fire you out, they really try and work on their patience and that's a good game plan for them."

"We had to work really hard for our runs."

"That Mortuza played really well, they all bowled really well. They were energetic all day and I was impressed with that," he said.

With age he 'improves'

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ful and respected figures in the game, having led Australia to a world-record streak of 16 consecutive Test wins and guided Australia to World Cup victory in 1999.

He made his Test debut in December 1985, aged 20, and has been captain since 1999.

Prior to this week's Test against Bangladesh, Waugh had led Australia 49 times for 36 victories, a strike-rate unmatched by players who have captained in 15 or more matches.

He is currently tied with West Indian Clive Lloyd for most Test wins as captain. Lloyd's tally came from 74 matches.

Waugh has scored 31 centuries, equal second with Sachin Tendulkar and behind only Sunil Gavaskar (34).

Waugh is already the most capped player in Test cricket history with 161 appearances and is the second highest run-scorer of all time behind Australia's Allan Border (11,174).

Waugh has featured in many high-scoring partnerships including an unbroken 464 with his brother Mark for New South Wales in Perth in 1990-91 and another of 385 with Greg Blewett against South Africa in 1996-97.

Waugh also played 325 limited-overs internationals for Australia but lost his place in the team in February 2002.

Under pressure to retain his place in the Test side after a moderate run of form last year, Waugh has silenced his critics by scoring centuries in each of Australia's last three series.

MOST TEST TONS

The scorers of most centuries in Test cricket after Australian captain Steve Waugh's unbeaten 100 against Bangladesh in Darwin on Saturday:

Batsman	Country	100s
Sunil Gavaskar	India	34
Sachin Tendulkar	India	31
Steve Waugh	Australia	31

Don Bradman	Australia	29
Allan Border	Australia	29
Gary Sobers	West Indies	26
Viv Richards	West Indies	24
Greg Chappell	Australia	24
Javed Miandad	Pakistan	23
Geoff Boycott	England	22

STEVE'S TONS

Breakdown of Australian captain Steve Waugh's centuries against all nine Test-playing cricket nations (under countries, Tests, 100s):

England	46	10
New Zealand	23	2
West Indies	32	7
Sri Lanka	8	3
Pakistan	20	3
India	14	2
South Africa	16	2
Zimbabwe	1	1
Bangladesh	1	1



PHOTO: STAR

Scene from the schools kabadi match between Ansar VDP High School and Shaheed Nabi High School at the outer stadium yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 "QNT" for stance 4 Sleeping, possibly 8 Bound singer 12 Suffer DiFranco 13 Sound of contentment 14 Powers foe, Dr. — 15 Carpe diem? 17 Sense 18 Sand trap, e.g. 19 Id counterpart 21 Unfriendly 22 Smart alecks? 26 Heck of a mess 29 Amethyst, e.g. 30 Vanna's cohort 31 "Damn Yankees" vamp 32 Cap 33 Rabbit 34 Pismire 35 ... kerchief, and — my cap

DOWN 1 "Goldberg Variations" composer 2 Bygones Poruvian 3 Airhead 4 Insight 5 Pai 6 Tide rival 7 Tearless 8 Consume product 9 "Hail, Caesar!" 10 Commit perjury 11 Blueprint add-on 12 Soapport in Israel 20 P.E. 21 Litigant 22 Fairytale 23 Fairy tale 24 Masculine side 25 Eyed problem 26 Robuff a mashor 27 Admonition to Nanette 28 Choir member 29 Beef-eater's 30 Scotch and soda, e.g. 31 Antilean 32 Antilean 33 Mensa stats 34 Heavy jacket 35 Andean beast 36 Glistened 37 Imperfection 43 Modern-day coinage 44 Stench 45 Conditions 46 Female kangaroo 47 Show fallibility 48 Debtor's letters

Solution time: 25 mins

PASS ORAL DIME OVAL AIDE ODIE DOGEATTOG GEL SWEEPERS ALBATRAIT DELEVE PADS TOR ARGO EGO EGG ROO POGO AMO MYTH KOALA MAM SERIAL ALMT DORGEADDDLE LIG ERIP ELAN ETH SEIND RENT

CRYPTOQUIP

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 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

DEF G M U G B Q H W A V U D E F A X U H G X F G F B U O Q H U B D F E D O X D H G D H O G M U Q G M U E B D F S V Q B X H S Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN BOTANISTS NEED TO DISTRIBUTE ADS, I WONDER IF THEY ALWAYS USE LEAFLETS. Today's Cryptquip Clue: F equals S

The Cryptquip 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.



PHOTO: AFP

Argentina's Guillermo Coria celebrates after beating Mikhail Youzhny of Russia at the Mercedes Cup in Stuttgart on Friday.

Coria stuns Youzhny



AFP, Stuttgart

Argentina's pint-sized Guillermo Coria tore through title holder Mikhail Youzhny 6-0, 6-0 on Friday, leaving the holder wondering what hit him in the quarterfinals of the 765,000-euros ATP tournament.

Coria, the 1.75-metre Roland Garros semifinalist and champion at the Hamburg Masters on German clay two months ago, also approached an ATP speed record with his rout.

It took him just 41 minutes, four more than the year's fastest effort set last week in at the Swiss Open.

The only other runaway result on this scale was Sjeng Schalken's nil-nil over Christophe Rochus a month ago on grass in the Netherlands.

Second seed Coria neared perfection, winning 12 of the last 13 points, committing just six unforced errors and coming good on 24 of 26 first-serve points.

"I'm very content with this

match," said the 21-year-old, now 26-5 on clay this season. "I was very solid mentally and used all of my advantages."

"I played very solid and took all of my chances. I stayed strong mentally and was very pleased with how I played."

Youzhny was still reeling after his hammering.

"Something like this can happen. I didn't have enough power. It doesn't matter if I lost 6-0, 6-0, or 6-0, 6-1 - I would have had to play unbelievable to beat him."

Coria will Saturday face a tough customer in left-handed Spaniard Feliciano "Happy" Lopez, who put out third-seeded Rainer Schuettler 6-2, 6-4.

The Weissenhof club has not been fertile ground for home hopes, with journeyman Tomas Behrend crashing to earth 6-3, 7-5 at the hands of sixth-seeded Chilean Fernando Gonzalez.

Gonzalez insured that the 28-year-old didn't repeat any of his earlier upset scenarios, when he defeated top seed Carlos Moya and followed up with a win over number 13 Max Mirnyi.

"It was an important win for me

today, a match to get through," Gonzalez said after stopping the world number 98. "I was a bit tired since my match finished late last night and was glad to get through in two sets."

Spain's Tommy Robredo doubled up on Filippo Volandri as he hammered the Italian for the second straight week, winning 6-4, 6-2.

Robredo, who began 2003 with four consecutive first-round defeats, has now booked into back-to-back semis following his win in Bastad at the Swedish Open - where Volandri also lost to his rival in the quarters.

The world number 20 defeated the 21-year-old Italian in exactly one hour as Volandri began to lose confidence with mistakes creeping into his game.

"I was confident and played well today," said the Spanish winner. "I hope things continue for me like this. I'm in another semifinal and would love to continue. It would be great to reach my first final of the year."

School soccer

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Banasree managed a 1-0 win over Wills Little Flowers School while Khilgaon High beat Motijheel Government Boys High School, also by the same margin.

Zilani scored for Banasree in the 29th minute while Omar Sharif netted the match-winner for the Khilgaon in the 39th minute.

Bryant in hot water

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Hurlbert announced at a news conference.

"After much deliberation, charges were filed against Kobe Bean Bryant," Hurlbert said, announcing the much-anticipated decision to prosecute Bryant.

"As in any sex assault case this did not come easily," Hurlbert said, adding that the decision to push ahead with charges against Bryant was made after a detailed examination of evidence and testimony from witnesses.

"Then and only then did I make my decision," Hurlbert said, stressing that Bryant's case would not receive special treatment.

"The rules are the same in this case as in any other case."

News of the charge sent shockwaves through the American sports world as Bryant's clean-cut image has made him the darling of fans and led to endorsement deals with corporate giants like Nike worth 10 million dollars a year.

Hurlbert said the charges -- brought in Eagle County, Colorado, near the ski resort of Vail -- were serious and included use of physical force.

"Basically it is alleged that he had sexual penetration or intrusion, and he caused submission of the victim through actual physical force," Hurlbert said.

Bryant could face a jail term of between four years to life imprisonment or probation of between 20 years and life if convicted, said Hurlbert. The fine could range from 3,000 dollars to 750,000 dollars.

Bryant was arrested on July 4 on suspicion of sexual assault against the woman who worked at the resort where he was staying. He turning himself in to authorities.

The woman told police she was assaulted and held against her will in a room at the Lodge and Spa at Cordillera near the resort of Vail on the night of June 30.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the first Test between Australia and Bangladesh at Marrara Oval in Darwin on Saturday:

BANGLADESH: First innings 97 (M Ashraf 23, K Mahmud 21; G

Bowler	O	M	R	W
McGrath	4	0	9	1
Gillespie	5	1	20	0
Lee	4	1	26	0
MacGill	2	0	10	0
Umpires: Rudi Koertzen (South Africa) and David Shepherd (England)				
Toss: Australia				