

McGrath has surgery

AFP, Sydney

Australian pace bowler Glenn McGrath was due to undergo surgery Friday to remove a piece of bone from his chronically injured left ankle, doctors said.

McGrath flew to Sydney on Thursday after the injury acted up during Australia's 2-0 Test series win against visiting Bangladesh in the northern city of Darwin.

An examination by specialists here led to the decision to operate. The injury knocked McGrath out of a three-match one-day series against Bangladesh beginning Saturday.

"Glenn's ankle has been a problem area for a period of time, but over the years we have been able to monitor and control the injury without the need for surgery," said Cricket Australia medical officer Trevor James.

"It was... felt that this was the most opportune time to perform the procedure, given that the team is approaching a two-month interval in the international schedule," James said.

McGrath was expected to be released from hospital Saturday and would have two months for rehabilitation before Australia's next international competition against Zimbabwe in early October.

Second to The Don



REUTERS, Melbourne

Test cricket's second leading run-scorer Steve Waugh is the best player Australia has produced apart from Don Bradman, Zimbabwe coach Geoff Marsh said on Friday.

"I think he has to be rated as one of the best, if not the (best)," Marsh told reporters in Perth.

"Obviously Bradman stands alone, but I reckon his record speaks for itself," Marsh said of his former teammate Waugh.

"His captaincy record is outstanding and his performance with the bat speaks for itself.

"All Stephen's hundreds in test cricket, they are all under pressure." The late Australian great Bradman, widely regarded as the best batsman to play the game, hit 29 centuries and averaged an unrivalled 99.94 in 52 Tests. He died aged 92 in February 2001.

Waugh is Test cricket's most capped player. The right-hander has hit 10,521 runs in 162 Tests at an average of 51.07 including 32 centuries, second only to former India captain Sunil Gavaskar's 34.

Waugh trails his former captain Allan Border by 653 runs as the game's leading run-scorer. Waugh is also the game's most successful captain with 38 victories from 51 matches.

Marsh, 44, and Waugh, 38, both



STEVE WAUGH

made their test debuts in Australia's 1985-86 series against India.

A tough opening batsman, Marsh made 2,854 runs in 50 Tests at an average of 33.18 with four centuries. He also played 117 one-day internationals and enjoyed World Cup triumph with Australia as a

player in 1987 and as coach 12 years later.

Marsh said Waugh's dramatic last-ball century in the fifth Ashes Test in Sydney this year was one of the best hundreds he had seen.

"The other one was his hundred in the World Cup in 1999 in Headingley, when we had to beat South Africa to get into the semifinals. Great knocks, inspirational, great for the game," Marsh said.

The Western Australian will coach Zimbabwe in October in a two-Test series against Australia.

"Our guys are so keen to get over here and to play against Steve, because he wasn't at the World Cup," Marsh said.

"They want to play a Test match against him ... and after the game, have a chat to him. No-one knows the game better than Steve does."

Australia named a "dream team" of the 20th century in January 2000, with Bradman as captain and Border as 12th man while Waugh was overlooked.

The Times of India newspaper reacted at the time with a headline "No S.Waugh in Aussie dream team."

Vaas allowed to play for Hants

AFP, Colombo

The Sri Lankan Cricket Board said Thursday it had cleared fast bowler Chaminda Vaas to appear for the English county side Hampshire.

Vaas, a left-arm bowler and Sri Lanka's main pace weapon, will be the second Sri Lankan to play in the English county championship after spin wizard Muttiah Muralitharan.

"The management committee decided to clear Vaas but with a ceiling on the number of games he could play," cricket board secretary Mohan De Silva said.

Vaas will only be allowed to play in eight one-day matches for Hampshire.

De Silva said the board was concerned about the amount of work that Vaas will have to put in for Hampshire, particularly in view of the England Test tour of Sri Lanka later this year.

Sri Lanka has no international engagements until England arrives in the island in mid November for a three Test and three one-day series.

Vaas, 29, who has taken 216 wickets in 68 Tests is Sri Lanka's most successful fast bowler.

Muralitharan made his first appearance Wednesday for his county Kent.

The pair have emulated the present selector Aravinda De Silva who appeared for Kent with distinction in 1995.

Seeds sail

AFP, Los Angeles

Wimbledon runner-up Mark Philippoussis beat Michael Chang 6-2, 6-4 at the 380,000 dollar Los Angeles ATP event on Thursday to set up a clash with Brazilian hero Gustavo Kuerten.

Fifth seed Philippoussis needed just 30 minutes to win the first set then jumped out to a 3-1 lead in the second before the 16-year tour veteran Chang fought back to tie it at 3-3.

"I was a little frustrated at 3-3 but I wasn't too worried because I knew I was still up by a set," said Philippoussis.

"I felt confident on his service games. I knew I could always find a way to return his serve."

Philippoussis advances to the quarterfinals to face three-time Roland Garros champion Kuerten who beat American Eric Taino on Thursday 6-3, 7-6 (7/5).

All four seeded players in action on Thursday won their matches. Second seed Sebastian Grosjean, fourth seed Kuerten and seventh seed Wayne Ferreira all advanced.

Philippoussis now holds a 5-4 career edge over Chang, having won the last five-straight matches after Chang dominated him at the beginning.

No room

FROM PAGE 13

In the three games between the two countries, Australia have always bowled first and have never batted for more than 26 overs in successfully chasing small totals.

The Australians play Bangladesh in the second match here on Sunday and in Darwin on August 6.

SQUADS

AUSTRALIA (from): Ricky Ponting (captain), Adam Gilchrist, Matthew Hayden, Damien Martyn, Michael Bevan, Darren Lehmann, Ian Harvey, Brett Lee, Brad Hogg, Andy Bichel, Jason Gillespie, Andrew Symonds, Brad Williams.

BANGLADESH (from): Khaled Mahmud (captain), Hannan Sarker, Habibul Bashar, Javed Omar, Al-Shahariar, Mohammad Ashraf, Tushar Imran, Sanwar Hossain, Khaled Mashud, Mohammad Rafique, Mashrafe-Bin-Mortaza, Alok Kapali, Tapas Baisha, Anwar Hossain, Hosibul Hossain, Manjural Islam, Tareq Aziz.

Umpires: David Shepherd (Eng), Simon Toufel (Aus).

BFF looks

FROM PAGE 13

The federation has also formed a 12-member coaching panel headed by former national winger Golam Sarwar Tipu as a chief coordinator of the age-group programme.

Mariner-Sporting

FROM PAGE 13

Rajib Hossain, Nurullah Riad and Wahid Murad shared the goals for the old-town club while captain Rubel and Mohammed Rubel netted once each for Bangladesh Sporting.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Abahani KC vs Ajax SC (2:15pm)
Mohammedn SC vs Sonali Bank (4:15pm)

Hussain

FROM PAGE 13

Believes Nasser will not feel any more relaxed now he has relinquished the captaincy.

"He has never been very good waiting to bat," he explained.

"Getting runs in the middle brings the same pressure as captaincy."

A career as a television summariser beckons for Nasser, who made his debut behind the microphone during last month's Twenty20 Cup.

The Lord's prayer



AFP, London

South Africa fast bowler Makhaya Ntini grew up playing cricket for the Mdingi Cricket Club in the foothills of the Amatola mountains, fifty miles from East London.

On Thursday at the home of the more famous, London-based MCC (Marylebone Cricket Club) Ntini took five for 75 as South Africa bowled out England for just 173 on the first day of the second Test at Lord's.

"It was better to take five wickets at Lord's than to play at my own Lord's," joked Ntini after South Africa finished the first day well placed at 151 for one – just 22 behind.

"It was one of my dreams, one of my ambitions. This is my first Test at Lord's and I wanted to leave a mark for the new generation and for the black community."

Ntini, 26, playing his 33rd Test, was one of the first black cricketers to breakthrough following South Africa's re-admission to Test cricket in 1992.

But the Border quick added that his success here was for the whole

country.

"I represent everyone in South Africa. Everyone in South Africa is behind the South African cricket team."

"The people back home can see there is no colour issue. It's about how talented you are," Ntini insisted. Ntini's haul means his name will



MAKHAYA NTINI

join a host of cricket legends on the Lord's honours board inside the pavilion where players who take five or more wickets and/or score a hundred in a Test match have their names inscribed for eternity.

"Corrie van Zyl (South Africa's bowling coach) is putting the name

Not quite the script



AFP, London

Michael Vaughan admitted his first day as England Test captain had not gone to plan at Lord's here Thursday.

At stumps, on the first day of the second Test, South Africa were 151 for one in reply to England's first innings 173 – a deficit of just 22.

South Africa captain Graeme Smith, who hammered England for 362 runs in the drawn first Test at Edgbaston, was 80 not out.

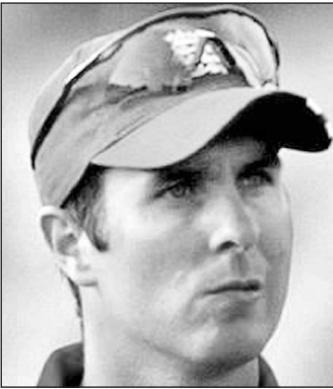
"There are no excuses – we just weren't good enough," said Vaughan, thrust into the Test captaincy after Nasser Hussain's shock resignation at Edgbaston.

Vaughan, 28, must have known it was not going to be his day when he lost the toss.

"But we were going to bat anyway," said Vaughan who became

England's one-day skipper after Hussain retired from the shorter international game following the World Cup.

"There was some cloud cover



MICHAEL VAUGHAN

and the ball did a bit," added Vaughan, England's second top scorer with 33 behind number nine Darren Gough's 34.

of one of his boys up there," Ntini said.

"This is one of the greatest tours to come on."

Ntini added that new-ball partner Shaun Pollock's help had been vital after his first six overs cost 41 runs on Thursday.

"To have a bowler of the talent of Shaun Pollock at the other end is great. He just said to me this has got to stop."

He also said that the wickets of England openers Marcus Trescothick and new Test captain Michael Vaughan had given him most pleasure.

"Trescothick and Vaughan are dangerous players. It was good to get them early on."

Both Vaughan and Andrew Flintoff fell into a hooking trap set by Ntini.

"I was not really surprised. We had our plans," said the fast bowler.

He also made light of the fact that England's last wicket pair of Darren Gough and James Anderson put on 55, the best stand of the innings.

"It was good to see that. It shows the pitch is getting slower and that should be an advantage to our batters."

Super fast

FROM PAGE 13

14 - Vinod Kambli (IND) v ENG, Calcutta 1992-93, v WIS, Bombay 1994-95.

16 - Len Hutton (ENG) v NZL, Lord's 1937, v WIS, Lord's 1939.

16 - Frank Worrell (WIS) v ENG, P-of-Spain 1973-74.

17 - George Headley (WIS) v ENG, Bridgetown 1929-30, v AUS, SCG 1930-31.

17 - Sidney Barnes (AUS) v ENG, The Oval 1938, v ENG, Lord's 1948.

17 - Graeme Smith (RSA) v AUS, Cape Town 2002, v ENG, Lord's 2003.

PREVIOUS BESTS BY SOUTH AFRICANS

21 - Eddie Barlow (RSA) v NZL, Durban 1961-62, v NZL, Wellington 1963-64

22 - Graeme Pollock (RSA) v AUS, Brisbane 1963-64, v ENG, Trent Bridge 1965

WHIZZ KID-196 correct answers

1. Who clinched the Premier Division Kabadi League title?

Ans: BDR

2. Who became Confederation Cup champions?

Ans: France

3. Who won the Wimbledon women's singles crown?

Ans: Serena

4. Which country will host the Asia Youth Cup cricket tournament?

Ans: Pakistan

5. Who won the Open Rating chess title?

Ans: Rakib

WHIZZ KID-195 winner



Rifat Jamil

(Rajuk Uttara Model School)

Lillee sledges Gavaskar!



REUTERS, Melbourne

Dennis Lillee has mocked his former Indian rival Sunil Gavaskar for accusing Australia of tainting the image of cricket with sledging tactics.

Gavaskar, 54, called on Tuesday for "verbal bouncers" to be stopped to prevent damage to the game.

"Sledging has gone on since W.G. Grace and it will go on as long as any sport is played, not just cricket," former Australia paceman Lillee, 54, was quoted as saying by Melbourne newspaper The Age on Friday.

"If they think it's too bad, the authorities are there to stop it."

"I think it's funny coming from someone who took his bat and went home when an umpire's decision went against him," added Lillee.

Gavaskar protested after being

given out lbw for 70 off Lillee's bowling during the Melbourne Test in February 1981.

The India captain led his batting partner Chetan Chauhan off the ground. They were met at the gate by a team official and Chauhan was sent back out.

"There are perhaps not even 15 (in test cricket) who indulge in this



DENNIS LILLEE

verbal abuse and intimidation," Gavaskar said while giving the Colin Cowdrey lecture for 2003 at Lord's on Tuesday.

"But unfortunately most of these belong to a champion side (Australia) and it makes others believe that it's the only way to play winning cricket," added the former opener, who holds the world record for Test centuries with 34.

"Unless something is done quickly about it, the good name of the game that we all know will be mud," cricket's third highest run-scorer said.

"Just look at any school games anywhere in the world and we will see bowlers having a go at the batsmen. They see it on TV from their heroes and believe that it is a part of the game, and so indulge in it."

Lillee, who took 355 wickets in 70 Tests, said: "I don't know how much junior cricket he (Gavaskar) has watched in Australia! That's not right."

Agassi, Roddick in qtrs



AFP, Washington

World number one Andre Agassi and second-seeded Andy Roddick cruised into the ATP Washington Classic quarterfinals here Thursday as "friend versus friend" became a theme at the 600,000-dollar event.

Agassi ousted Armenian buddy Sargis Sagsian 6-3, 6-2, while Roddick won for the 22nd time in his past 24 matches by ousting Britain's Greg Rusedski 6-3, 7-6 (7/4) to book quarterfinal date Friday with his boyhood pal Mardy Fish.

"It's always a little weird, but you always have a job to do," Roddick said. "It's not like I'm going to miss a forehead or not play as well because I'm playing a friend."

Agassi, seeking his sixth title here but first since 1999, dominated the opening set and won the first eight points of the second to seize command on his way to winning in 58 minutes for a 6-0 lifetime lead on his friend and foe.

"It's never easy, but I felt pretty comfortable. I took care of my serve early and settled into my game nicely," Agassi said. "I don't take him too lightly. You don't take much for granted. I still have to go out and execute."

The 33-year-old American will face defending champion James Blake on Friday for a semifinal berth at the 600,000-dollar hardcourt event, a US Open tuneup. Blake, an American seeded sixth, beat Germany's Lars Burgsmuller 3-6, 7-5, 6-4.

Other quarterfinals send Britain's Tim Henman against Thai third seed Paradorn Srichaphan and fourth seed Fernando Gonzalez of Chile against seventh seed Max Mirnyi of Belarus.

Paradorn, who lost to Blake in last year's final here, ousted 80th-ranked American Brian Vahaly 7-6 (7/3), 6-4. Henman beat Russian eighth seed Nikolay Davydenko 6-3, 6-4. Henman has won four of five career meetings with Paradorn.

"I take confidence from the record," Henman said. "Since those first three matches, he has come such a long way. On these type of courts he's very competitive."

Hot Roddick, unbroken in his past 40 service games, seeks his fourth title in six events and second title here in three years. Roddick won at St. Poelten, Queen's and last week at Indianapolis, downing Paradorn in the final.

"He's probably the hottest player on the tour right now," Rusedski

said.

Roddick took the only service break of the match off Rusedski in the second game of the opening set, then won the only service point lost by the server in the tie-breaker to claim the battle of 149-mph servers.

"It was one point either way in that breaker. I was just lucky enough to his a backhand passing shot to the winner," Roddick said. "I couldn't hit a backhand into the ocean last year. I feel a lot better about it this year."

That's in part due to new coach Brad Gilbert, Agassi's former coach who took over when Roddick fired Frenchman Tarik Benhabiles.

"Brad is getting him to get a little air under the ball, not to go for as much, make as many errors, change up his serves a little bit," Rusedski said.

The American also beat Rusedski at Queen's and Wimbledon, although the British basher only returned at the French Open from left foot surgery last October.

"I've still got room for improvement, but not much. Little things, more sharpness. I'm getting close to getting that last five percent, the hardest part. If I get that I will be in good shape."

Pakistan

FROM PAGE 13

Also been asked to get an early release from Surrey and be available for the Bangladesh series.

"Saqlain has confirmed he would be returning home later this month before the test series," Hasan added.

The first of three Tests starts in Karachi on August 20.

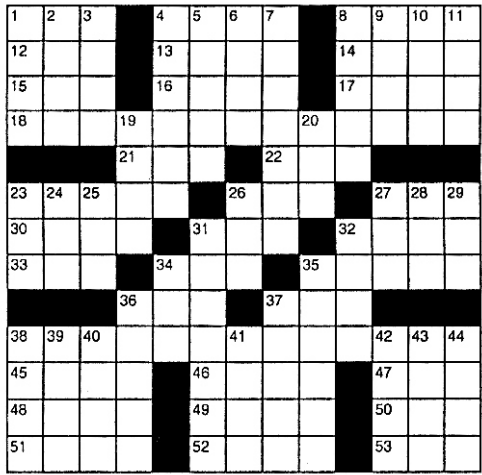
Gilchrist

FROM PAGE 13

Tended to change the perspective of players and while he still enjoyed his cricket, he was juggling around in his mind what he wants to do in the future.

Gilchrist said that the usual time to think about such decisions - at the end of a tour, when "you're tired and worn out" -- was not the right time. But he did see that the option would be used more and more in the future.

"There's no hiding the fact that people are thinking that way and that's going to be part and parcel of it. There's some demand coming from somewhere for more and more cricket, so if that's the way cricket decides to go, that's going to be a spin-off effect."



CRYPTIQUIP

D R T A C C O V T P V T X Q H A A X

C W T P F J D W M O V T L Q A K W

D H O V T Q D Q S ' W F S V J

M V J W V K T Q R A D W

Yesterday's Cryptiquip: WHEN LAUNDROMAT OWNERS HOLD BIG MEETINGS, MY GUESS IS THAT THEY SIT ON BLEACHERS.

Today's Cryptiquip Clue: Q equals D

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.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

| | | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| ACROSS | 34 Dad | 53 Rope- | 24 Congre- |
| 1 Go n/irr | 35 Sill | n-tlopn | gationalists' |
| an apple | 36 Tuckor's | specialist | placo |
| 4 Com- | partnor | | 25 — Arbor, |
| motions | 37 Kitten's | | MI |
| 8 "Critique | call | 1 — | 26 Pinnacle |
| of Pure | | California | 27 Single no |
| Reason" | 38 Comedic | 2 Fuel cartel | more |
| writer | movie | 3 Alpha | 28 Early |
| 12 Gorilla | series | 4 follow | bird |
| 13 Money | 45 Hire | 5 beginning | 29 Piroquette |
| problem | 46 Oilfield | 5 Considers | pivot |
| 14 Sheltered | equip- | 6 Do as | 31 1935 |
| 15 Lustrous | ment | 7 you're told | Astaire/ |
| black | 47 Wye | 7 Left the | Rogers |
| 16 Sverve | follower | 8 it takes a | musical |
| 17 Crocheting | 48 Dam's | 8 left herds | 32 Obscene |
| need | 49 Genea- | 9 padding | 34 Snapshot |
| 18 Show-biz | mate | 9 Banned | 35 Rents |
| event | logy | 10 spray | 36 Human, |
| 21 Office- | chart | 10 Dweeb | e.g. |
| holders | 50 Snitch | 11 Decades | 37 Old radio |
| 22 Tie up the | 51 Natterjack | 19 Gossip | character |
| phone | 52 Favorable | 20 Become | Fibber — |
| 23 Here and | votes | 23 Past | 38 "Hey, |
| there? | | | you!" |
| 26 Cowhand's | | | 39 Louis- |
| nicknamo | | | villo's river |
| 27 Drenched | | | 40 Pre-euro |
| 30 Follow | | | fountain |
| 31 Serling or | | | test |
| Steiger | | | 41 Melodic |
| 32 Building | | | 42 Book |
| block | | | before |
| name | | | Nehemiah |
| 33 Hold | | | 43 Repeat |
| the deed | | | 44 Bigfoot/ |
| | | | cousin |