Youngs plot oldies' fall

AFP, *Paris*

This season there has been a lot of talk from the younger breed of how they are ready to take over centre stage from their elders the World Championships will force them to prove it was not so much hot air.

Athletics greats such as Haile Gebrselassie, Allen Johnson, Jonathan Edwards and Gail Devers face vibrant challengers that do not threaten to be just one-championship wonders but to take over their champion mantle permanently.

Moroccan master Hicham El Guerrouj may have been humbled by Noah Ngeny in the Sydney 1500m Olympic final but has since proved that was a one-off and with his young pretender Kenyan William Chirchir out through injury he looks set fair for another world crown.

That is however if his flirtation with the 5000m which he will also try to win in Paris has not blunted his finishing speed as Gebrselassie fears has happened to him after trying out the marathon.

"That is logical that going up in distance will have an effect on your finishing burst it is harder going back in distance than it is in going the other direction," the 30-year-old two-time 10,000m Olympic champion said.

As he tries to regain the world crown after finishing third in Edmonton two years ago, his stablemate and compatriot Kenisa Bekele has taken the event by storm this campaign.

The 21-year-old even had the temerity to beat Gebrselassie in the Hengelo event, organised by their manager Jos Hermens, something which his older team-mate says he was not angered by.

"No he obviously felt he could win the race and didn't want to share the burden of setting the pace with me," said the ever smiling Gebrselassie.

Make or break

FROM PAGE 13

from the squad that toured Australia. Batsman Rajin Saleh replaced Al Shahriar and pacer Alamgir Kabir came in place of Tareq Aziz.

SQUAD

Khaled Mahmud (captain), Habibul Bashar (vice-captain), Javed Omar, Hannan Sarker, Sanwar Hossain, Rajin Saleh Alam, Mohammad Ashraful, Alok Kapali, Khaled Mashud, Mohammad Rafique, Monjurul Islam, Tapas Baishya, Alamgir Kabir, Anwar Hossain Munir and Mashrafee-bin-Mortuza.

Stand-by: Tushar Imran, Hasibul Hossain and Mushfiqur Rahman.

Dav Whatmore (coach), Lt. Col. (retd) MA Latif, John Gloster (physio), Dean Woodford (fitness advisor) and Nasir Ahmed (computer analyst).

SCHEDULE

Aug 20-24: 1st Test, Karachi
Aug 27-31: 2nd Test, Peshawar
Sept 3-7: 3rd Test, Multan
Sept 9: 1st ODI, Multan
Sept 12: 2nd ODI, Faisalabad
Sept 15: 3rd ODI, Lahore
Sept 18: 4th ODI, Rawalpindi
Sept 21: 5th ODI, Karachi

Pakistan held

FROM PAGE 13

minutes and a quick free hit by Brent Livermore to Michael McCann caught Pakistan napping when Dean Butler slipped a pass into the net three minutes later.

Troy Elder's drag flick rebounded to Schubert and be hit into goal from the right for his second goal to save the day for Australia.

Smith blasts Trent Bridge

Cricket

AFP, *Trent Bridge*

South Africa skipper Graeme Smith hit out at the state of the Trent Bridge wicket here on Friday as his side battled to save the third Test against England.

The tourists were 84-2 at close on the second day in reply to England's 445 all out, but Smith was angry that the pitch for Trent Bridge's 50th Test was beginning to have a telling effect on the outcome of the game with batsmen in both sides having to cope with wickedly variable bounce.

"The wicket is very difficult and being so up and down is not good for Test cricket in this sort of condition," Smith said.

"We all want to play on good wickets and it's sad when it's like this. You have to concentrate on every ball because you know the next one might keep very low."

Earlier Friday, former England captain Nasser Hussain, who made 116, was hit on the helmet after ducking into a Makhaya Ntini short ball that did not get up.

A succession of batsmen saw low deliveries just go past their stumps and later England quick Stephen Harmison made the odd ball fly through.

Left-handed opener Smith, who made 35, was dismissed in bizarre fashion when he stepped back onto his stumps and dislodged the bails as he tried to fend off an Andrew Flintoff delivery.

"It was not a nice way to get out. I would have liked to have still been there on Saturday morning," admitted Smith who had already smashed two double centuries in the series.

But the 22-year-old Western Province batsman, South Africa's youngest-ever captain, insisted his team were still in the match.

"We have spent a lot of time in the field but the guys have been very disciplined and shown great character. We just need one good partnership and that will get us back into the game.

"We are certainly not playing for a draw," Smith added.

Andrew Hall, who took three wickets in the England innings, agreed that South Africa were having the worst of the conditions.

"The wicket being like this on the second day is a real concern for us and we have spoken about it," said Hall.

"Now we will have to bat through it. It will be hard work for us if the last hour today was anything to go by."

England wicketkeeper Alec Stewart joked that Smith's dismissal had not been planned.

"We spoke about hitting the top off, not treading on it," he said.

Stewart, England's most capped player now in his 131st Test, earlier weighed in with a useful 72 that helped take the team past 400.

"I timed the ball well today," said the 40-year-old Surrey veteran, who admitted the unpredictable surface had made life tough for himself and opposing gloveman Mark Boucher.

"It's hard to keep on, it's getting lower and lower. For day two of a Test match it's playing a few too many tricks."

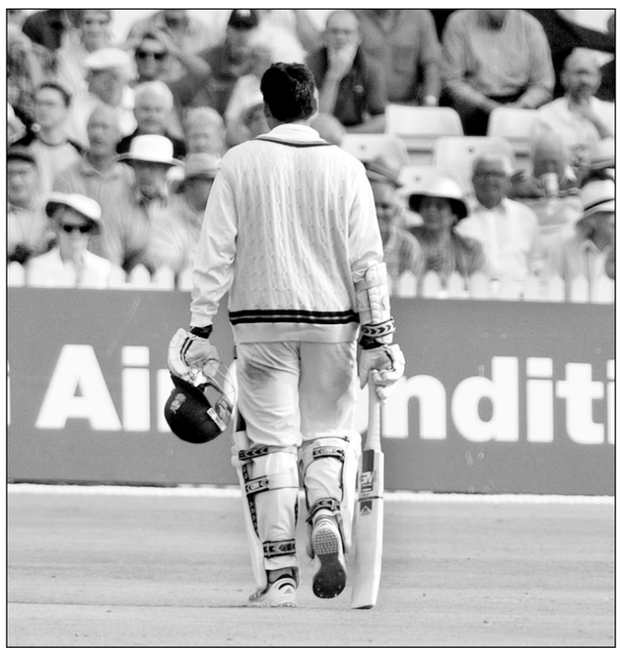


PHOTO: AFP

IT'S A LONG WALK BACK: South Africa captain Graeme Smith trudges off the field after being dismissed in an unusual fashion, hit wicket, on the second day of the Trent Bridge Test on Friday.

Mirnyi crushes Coria

Tennis

AFP, *Cincinnati*

Max "The Beast" Mirnyi and seventh seed Andy Roddick dispatched a pair of Argentine opponents on Friday in the quarterfinals of the Tennis Masters Series-Cincinnati.

Sixth-seeded Guillermo Coria had few answers for the brutal power of the world No 26 Mirnyi, who won in straight sets 6-2, 7-5.

American Roddick whipped the world No 30 Mariano Zabaleta 6-1, 6-2 in 59 minutes.

"I feel good and I have been playing well since the French Open," Roddick said. "I just want to keep it going."

The semifinal pits Roddick against Mirnyi for the first time in their career.

"It's an exciting situation for me," Mirnyi said of the semifinal.

The other semifinal will feature Australian Open finalist Rainer Schuettler against Mardy Fish.

Roddick knows that to prevent Mirnyi from chipping and charging successfully he's going to have to play a precision match.

"I'm just going to have to handle (his aggressive play)," Roddick said. "I'll have to return well and make a few good volleys."

Roddick is closing in on a possible third title of the summer, having already won the Indianapolis and Tennis Masters Series-Montreal tournaments.

Roddick's has won 28 of his last 30 matches since he captured his second tournament of the year at the Queen's Club event in early June.

Roddick won 12 of 16 points at the net and posted 19 winners and only seven unforced errors.

Roddick never faced a break point against his serve and took advantage of four of six opportunities to break Zabaleta's serve.

After reaching consecutive quarter-finals at the Washington and Tennis Masters Series-Montreal tournaments, Mirnyi returned after a two hour, 23 minute rain delay to win the final two games and move into his first semi-final of the hard court season.

En route to the Montreal quarterfinals, Mirnyi posted impressive upsets over world No 5 Lleyton Hewitt of Australia and world No 9 Paradorn Srichaphan of Thailand.

Mirnyi had to endure two rain delays. The first lasted 28 minutes.

Coria won three consecutive clay court events at Stuttgart, Kitzbuhel and Sopot last month.

"He's been playing very consistently over the last two or three months, and he's beaten many players that aren't playing like myself," Mirnyi said.

"If I make my game work today, then it was going to be a tough match for him so luckily it did work."

Discounting the rain delays, it took Mirnyi only 67 minutes to send Coria packing.

Mirnyi served up seven aces, won 31 of 35 points played on his first serve and never offered Coria a chance to break his serve.

Coria had his serve broken on three occasions - in the second and eighth games of the first set and the 12th game of the second set.

The eighth-seeded Schuettler will be competing in his third Tennis Masters Series semi-final of the year, but is still waiting to work his way into a Masters Series final.

Schuettler broke 43rd-ranked Robby Ginepri's serve on all four occasions presented in the quarterfinals to win a quick 6-2, 6-3 match.

The German was somewhat surprised that he is playing so well considering the fact he's been playing injured.

PHOTO: AP

Max Mirnyi of Belarus plays a backhand against Guillermo Coria of Argentina at the Cincinnati Tennis Masters Series on Friday.

Radcliffe out of worlds

AFP, *London*

Britain's Paula Radcliffe announced Friday that she was withdrawing from the world athletics championships in Paris later this month.

Radcliffe, who for the past year has taken the marathon world by storm and is the fastest woman ever over the distance, had only made herself available for selection for both the 5000m and 10,000m in Paris on Monday, but will now not compete in either event.

The 29-year-old, who suffered a shin injury in June and then struggled with bronchitis in July, hasn't run competively since the London Marathon in April.

At the time of her selection Radcliffe had made it clear that although her training had progressed well, she would only compete if she felt that she could win in Paris.

"I am very, very disappointed because Paris was my main aim for the year," said Radcliffe.

"I have had my preparations interrupted this year which has left me short of time and training. I have come very close, but this week has shown me that I am not quite at the level that I hoped I would be. I have to be realistic and think of the bigger picture and I now have to move on and forward."

Radcliffe will now return to her training base of Font Romeu in the French Pyrenees and reassess her plans for the rest of the year.

"I probably could have coped with one or other of the problems, but both things left me with too much time to catch up," she added.

UK Athletics Performance Director Max Jones said that the news was a blow for the team.

"This is a blow for the Great Britain team for Paris because at the start of the year, Paula was a clear favourite to win gold. However, I am fully behind her decision to withdraw because I would not want her to compete if she is not 100 percent.

"Paula is still the number one female long distance runner in the world and now has goals to aim for this winter and in Athens next year.

"It is obviously a huge disappointment for her but the memory of this year's London Marathon is still there and that run made her one of the all-time greats."

Hailing Anwar

FROM PAGE 13

achievements and records will never be forgotten," said Sohail, now Pakistan's chief selector.

Anwar was one of eight players axed after Pakistan's first round exit from the World Cup earlier this year and with selectors opting for young talent Anwar chose to hang up his boots.

"We never wrote him (Anwar) off but were trying new options," said Sohail.

Former Pakistan captain Intikhab Alam said Anwar deserved a better farewell.

"Anwar was a wonderful player and deserved a better farewell and not the way he was forced to call it a day," said Alam.

"He lacked consistency, otherwise he would have achieved better results than Tendulkar and Lara."

Pakistan's current captain Rashid Latif called Anwar the "Viv Richards of the era."

"After West Indian Richards I never saw a better, aggressive one-day player than Anwar," Latif said.

"I played street cricket, club cricket and international cricket with Anwar and knew that he was destined for greatness and I wish him all the best," said the Pakistan captain.

Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Lieutenant General Tauqir Zia said his Board would pay Anwar the richest of tributes.

"Players like Anwar are born once in a lifetime. He served Pakistan cricket to the best of his abilities and we will give him a befitting farewell," Gen Zia said.

Win, hit jackpot

Athletics

AFP, *Zurich*

World and Olympic champion Maria Mutola is just one race away from collecting a million dollar jackpot after she majestically won the 800 metres at the Weltklasse Golden League meeting here on Friday.

After recording her 16th successive win over the distance the Mozambican now only needs to win at the final Golden League meeting in Brussels on September 5 to collect the cash windfall awarded to athletes who win their event at all six meetings on this circuit.

Mutola was tracked by her Austrian rival Stephanie Graf before unleashing her familiar kick finish 50 metres from the line to secure a valuable victory in 1min 59.93sec.

"The hardest race of my career awaits me in Brussels," said Mutola.

Kenyan-born steeplechaser Stephen Cherono ran and won his first race for his adopted country of Qatar under his new name of Saif Saeed Shaheen.

Shaheen, who will compete for the oil-rich Gulf state in the World Championships in Paris later this month after controversially switching nationality this week, held off his former Kenyan teammate Ezekiel Kemboi in a thrilling finish to the 3,000m steeplechase.

With two laps to go, Shaheen was joined at the front by Kemboi and the pair sprinted side-by-side to the line with the new Qatari prevailing by just one hundredth of a second in 8min 02.48sec, the fastest time in the world this year although well short of the world record he had hoped to set.

Shaheen, 20, who says he will receive 1,000 dollars a month to compete for Qatar, will start clear favourite for the world title.

"It's a special situation for me, and only last week I was really thinking what it means to compete for another country," said Shaheen.

"I was surprised to see that somebody was with me going into the last lap and it was a tough fight at the end."

Another highlight in the 75th anniversary Zurich meeting came from Turkish sensation Sureyya Ayhan who dominated the women's 1,500 metres to record the fastest time in the world for six years.

Ayhan, who made a massive improvement to win the European title last year, was timed in 3min 55.60sec to send an ominous warning to her World Championship rivals.

The Turk, who was awarded 450 gold coins by her government after winning the European title, said more was on offer for a world title.

"The government promised that I will get 700 gold coins if I win in Paris," she said.

World champion and world record holder Hicham El Guerrouj showed no signs of a back injury that forced him out of last week's London Grand Prix when he ran a brilliantly controlled 1,500m in a world-leading 3:29.13.

The Moroccan intends to attempt an audacious 1,500m/5,000m double at the World Championships.

The men's 100 metres produced a remarkable second dead heat in consecutive Golden League meetings when Americans John Capel and Justin Gatlin could not be separated after both finished in 9.97sec.

Capel was in exactly the same situation in the Berlin meeting last Sunday, when Frankie Fredericks tied with him.

Despite running the third fastest time in the world this year neither Capel nor Gatlin will compete in the 100m in Paris, and neither will Mickey Grimes who won the B race in 9.99sec.

In the women's sprint, Chryste Gaines defeated Chandra Sturrup in a blistering 10.89sec, but she too will not run the event at the World Championships after an injury hampered her at the US trials.

PHOTO: AFP

Maria Mutola of Mosambique on way to winning the 800m race in the IAAF Golden League meeting in Zurich on Friday.

Man United

FROM PAGE 13

Community Shield, was shown the red card for fouling Thomas Gravesen when he was the last defender.

Even with 10 men -- a seemingly common situation for Arsenal -- the Gunners were too good for Everton, with last season's Footballer of the Year Thierry Henry putting away an easy 35th-minute penalty after Alan Stubbs' handball.

Everton then fell further behind to French midfielder Robert Pires's goal after 53 minutes.

Despite manager David Moyes throwing on 17-year-old England striker Wayne Rooney as a second-half substitute they were unable to come back beyond Tomasz Radzinski's late consolation strike.

Everton also ended with 10 players after Chinese international Li Tie picked up a late second booking.

Elsewhere, the Premiership debutantes had a mixed time, with Portsmouth wildly celebrating after their first top-flight game for 15 years but Wolverhampton Wanderers and Leicester suffering a torrid time.

Portsmouth defeated Aston Villa 2-1. In contrast, Wolves looked like candidates for an instant return to Division One after a humiliating 5-1 loss to Blackburn Rovers.

Leicester's day went from joy to horror after Paul Dickov and new boy Les Ferdinand initially put them 2-0 up inside 10 minutes at home to Southampton.

But on 76 minutes new Southampton signing Kevin Phillips scored with an astonishing 25-yard piledriver and James Beattie equalised just four minutes later.

In a thriller at Craven Cottage, Fulham gave young manager Chris Coleman a welcome win with a 3-2 win over Middlesbrough.

Another new signing sealed the points for Birmingham, as record signing David Dunn scored the first goal of the new season as the Blues opened their campaign with a 1-0 defeat of Tottenham.

Elena stuns Amelie

Tennis

AFP, *Toronto*

There were more upsets at the Toronto WTA event on Friday as Elena Dementieva stunned defending champion Amelie Mauresmo to reach the semi-finals.

Dementieva, the 21-year-old Russian who is seeded No 9, banished the memory of a 6-0, 6-0 defeat at the hands of the French woman the last time they met in the semi-finals indoors in Paris earlier this year, winning 3-6, 6-4, 6-2 in two hours, eight minutes.

"The last time I played her I lost very badly, so I'm very happy," said Dementieva, who had lost all three of her previous meetings against Mauresmo.

Dementieva, the world No 9 who captured her first WTA Tour title in Amelia Island in 2003 with a victory over Lindsay Davenport in the final, broke Mauresmo six times during the match.

Mauresmo needed an injury time-out at 1-4 in the second set, but still had her chances to win the match, leading 2-1 in the final set and having break points for a 3-1 lead.

But the Russian held her nerve, breaking to lead 3-2 and, at 5-2, saved three more break points to book her place in the semi-finals against No 2 seed Justine Henin-Hardenne, who beat Elena Bovina 6-2, 6-4 in their quarter-final.

Dementieva, who saved a match point against Henin-Hardenne en route to the title in Amelia Island, added: "I've got nothing to lose against her. She's a great player, so it will be an interesting match for me and a great experience."

The other semi will see 27-year-old Argentine Paola Suarez square off against Lina Krasnoroutskaya, of Russia.

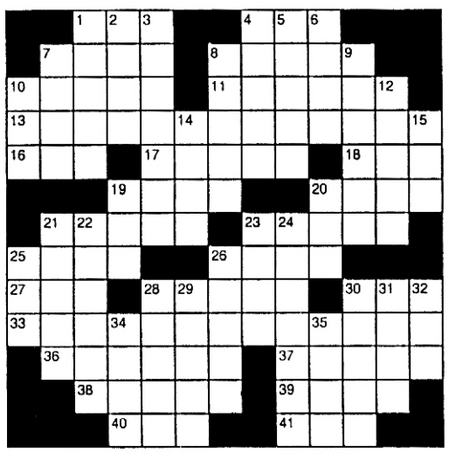
CROSSWORD *By Eugene Sheffer*

ACROSS
1 Round Table address
4 Meadow
7 Lose color
8 Puppeteer Bil
10 — a sudden
11 Fishes
13 Poker variation
16 Pop
17 Do the "spring forward, fall back" thing
18 Scoundrel
19 "Ask — questions, ..."
20 Erstwhile elvers
21 Evidence a pinprick
23 "Driving Miss Daisy" star
25 Seethe
26 McNally partner
27 Branch
28 Culpability
30 Abbr. on some puzzle clues
33 Take-it-or-leave-it situation
36 "South Pacific" heroine
37 Black board?
38 Health-hazard gas
39 Cindy Crawford trademark
40 Chap
41 Large amount

DOWN
1 Dieter's lunch
2 "American —"
3 Ump
4 Jouster's need
5 Two by four?
6 Woody's son
7 Word with market or circus
8 Low-note hitter
9 Cleared the windshield
10 Continue talking
12 Flaky
14 Tear apart
15 Mag. staffers
19 Gibson or Tillis
20 Remnant
21 The fifth element
22 Supple
23 Post-bath application
24 Country music?
25 "Phooey!"
26 Up
28 Name in Israel's history
29 1865 victors
30 String quartet member
31 Dermatology subject
32 Monterrey monarch
34 Bridge coup
35 Reed instrument

Solution time: 21 mins.

D	E	A	L		E	L	M		B	I	T	E
E	C	H	O		L	O	O		A	M	O	K
B	R	A	N		B	O	O	B	T	U	B	E
T	U	B	E	T	O	P		L	O	S	E	S
			L	E	W		F	I	N			
A	L	L	Y	E		T	O	P	S	I	D	E
S	E	A			F	A	X			V	I	A
S	I	D	E	C	A	R		F	R	Y	E	R
		V	A	N		W	O	E				
A	C	M	E	S		C	A	R	P	O	O	L
P	O	O	L	H	A	L	L		E	N	V	Y
S	O	N	Y		G	A	L		A	L	A	N
E	L	A	N		A	M	Y		L	Y	L	E



CRYPTOQUIP

P V D Y A P E L Z B Y L B Y W J V B A E Y A V D A D T D O V E Y D, L W A V B A B O D Z W L B Y - A E - O D Z W L B Y J B T T ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AT THE CAR PRODUCTION FACTORY, THE SHARP-EYED BOSS FIRED A GUY FOR TAKING A BRAKE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals T

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.

Neil, Mark steady SA

FROM PAGE 13

the follow-on target of 246.

The 27-year-old McKenzie, playing his first match of the series in place of the injured Gary Kirsten, was in sight of his third Test century in his 31st match.

Kirtley was the most successful bowler with figures of two for 67 from 25 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the third day of the third Test between England and South Africa at Trent Bridge on Saturday:

ENGLAND: First innings 445 (N Hussain 116, M Butcher 106, A Stewart 72, E Smith 64; A Hall 3-88)

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings (overnight 84-2)

Smith hit wicket b Flintoff	35
Gibbs b Harmison	19
Rudolph c Stewart b Kirtley	15
Kallis b Anderson	27
Dippenaar lbw b Kirtley	0
McKenzie not out	84
Boucher not out	44
Extras: (b-4, lb-13, w-2, nb-8)	27
Total: (For 5 wkts in 89 overs)	251

Fall of wickets: 1-56, 2-66, 3-88, 4-88, 5-132

To bat: Pollock, Hall, Adams, Ntini

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Anderson	15	4	52	1
Kirtley	25	6	67	2
Flintoff	23	6	56	1
Harmison	17	3	42	1
Giles	8	3	17	0
Vaughan	1	1	0	0

Toss: England.

Umpires: Darrell Hair (Australia) and Daryl Harper (Australia).

Seles skips US Open

AFP, *New York*

Former US Open champion Monica Seles has pulled out of this year's Grand Slam tournament due to an injury.

Seles has been sidelined most of the year with a stress fracture on her left foot.

The American lost in the first round of the 2003 French Open and has not played since.

Seles has won the US Open twice and has nine Grand Slam titles on her resume. Her last US Open win was in 1992. She also won in 1991.

The US Open begins on August 25 in New York.