

Smith's dream debut

Cricket

AFP, Cape Town

Dwayne Smith, plucked from relative obscurity by West Indian selection convenor Viv Richards, hit a spectacular century on his debut as the West Indies earned a draw in the third Test against South Africa at Newlands Tuesday.

It was the first time in eight Tests over two tours of South Africa that the West Indies had avoided defeat, although the draw clinched a series win for South Africa, who lead the four-match series 2-0.

Smith, six days short of his 21st birthday, slammed 15 fours and two sixes as he reached his hundred off 93 balls. He finished with 105 not out in a West Indian total of 354 for five. They had been set an improbable 441 to win off 105 overs.

"I was in a bit of pain," admitted Smith, who dislocated the little finger on his right hand while fielding in the first innings, "but pain doesn't worry me when I'm playing for the West Indies."

Smith said he did not feel nervous at the crease. "I stick to what I have to do, work hard and try my best," said the quiet-spoken player from Barbados.

Smith's remarkable innings came after captain Brian Lara had decided a win was not possible.

"It was the innocence of youth," said Lara. "He played the way he knows."

Lara praised his new young star. "It's nice to see young guys coming through and having a passion for the game. His work ethic is great and he's a very positive individual."

Lara (86) and vice-captain Ramnaresh Sarwan (69) laid the foundation for the West Indies' best performance on tour with a third wicket stand of 156. During the partnership, Lara said, a win was a possibility.

"I said to Sarwan, if we get to tea, we can assess the situation."

Just before tea, though, with 238 runs needed at just over five an over, Lara was caught behind by wicketkeeper Mark Boucher off a bottom edge when he tried to pull Andre Nel.

Sarwan went 10 overs later, caught at gully off Makhaya Ntini.

Thoughts that the West Indies would settle for playing out time were dispelled by Smith, who played a dazzling array of strokes. He drove, hooked and pulled his way to a half-century off 52 balls, reaching the mark with a straight six off left-arm spinner Paul Adams.

Smith dominated a stand of 72

with Wavell Hinds and was on 60 when Hinds was bowled by Shaun Pollock in the second over with the new ball.

There were still 22 overs to be negotiated but Smith continued to attack, hitting a straight four and an astonishing front-foot cover drive for six off Makhaya Ntini in the next over. He reached his century with a flurry of three fours in four balls from Andre Nel.

Smith was a surprise choice as a replacement after Marlon Samuels returned home with a knee injury. He had played only 14 first-class matches for Barbados and had a modest career average of 22.80, which included a single century and no half-centuries.

But convenor Richards was watching when the unheralded Smith hit nine sixes in an unbeaten 92 for Barbados against Guyana in a one-day match and decided the youngster had enough potential to play international cricket.

He got his chance to make his Test debut when Shivnarine Chanderpaul pulled out of the Newlands Test with a thigh injury.

Lara, who vowed after the second Test that there would be no repeat of the whitewash defeat his side suffered in South Africa in 1998/99, played his second crucial innings of the match after making 115 in the first innings. He faced 138 balls and hit 14 fours in his 86.

He said the team needed to

work on their bowling and fielding and would simulate match situations in their preparation for the fourth Test starting at Centurion on January 16.

South African captain Graeme Smith said he was "really happy" with the series win and said his players had stuck to their task well on a pitch which stayed excellent for batting throughout the match.

Dwayne Smith's century was the seventh in the match, four by South Africa and three by the West Indies, the most in a Test involving South Africa.

The previous high of six was set when South Africa and England hit three hundreds each in the drawn "timeless" Test in Durban in 1938/39 which was played over 10 days, with play on nine.

Boucher took two catches, which took him into third position on the all-time list of Test wicketkeepers with 271 victims in 70 matches, ahead of West Indian Jeff Dujon (270) and Alan Knott of England on 269. The only wicketkeepers ahead of him are Australia's Ian Healy (395) and Rodney Marsh (355).

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the third Test between South Africa and the West Indies at Newlands on Tuesday:

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 532 (Boucher 122 not out, Rudolph 101, McKenzie 76, Kallis 73; Sanford 4-132, Edwards 3-132)

WEST INDIES: First innings 427 (Gayle 116, Lara 115; Nel 5-87)

SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings 335 for 3 declared (Gibbs 142, Kallis 130; Drakes 1-68)

WEST INDIES: Second innings

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Includes entries for Gayle c Gibbs b Ntini, Ganga c Boucher b Ntini, Sarwan c Gibbs b Ntini, Lara c Boucher b Nel, Hinds b Pollock, Smith not out, Jacobs not out, Extras: (b-2, lb-7, nb-7, w-2) 18. Total: (For 5 wks in 100 overs) 354.

Fall of wickets: 1-28, 2-47, 3-203, 4-224, 5-296

Result: Match drawn and South Africa lead the 4-Test series 2-0. Man-of-the-match: Jacques Kallis.



DASHING DWAYNE: West Indies debutant Dwayne Smith raises his bat to the Newlands crowd on reaching his maiden century on the final day of the third Test against South Africa on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

Azlan Shah Cup hockey starts today

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Germany will be looking to add the prestigious Sultan Azlan Shah Cup to their world and European titles when the 13th edition of the hockey showpiece gets underway here Thursday.

The tournament is being used by Germany and several other teams as a warm-up to this year's Olympics, with all sides apart from India sending full-strength squads for the event.

The Germans lead a star-studded field which includes 2002 Asian Games champions South Korea, Asia Cup winners India, Oceania champions and World Cup runners-up Australia and defending champions Pakistan. Spain and Malaysia complete the field.

D'mondi blot

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For Dhanmondi it was only their second point in the league.

Red card: Bakhtiar (Mohammedan).

Yellow cards: Aminul and Ratan Ali (Dhanmondi).

TEAMS

Mohammedan SC: Bikash Malla, Olinga, Jewel Rana, Shuvro, Faisal, Amin Rana, Kaiser (Rashed Pappu), Etigo, Afala, Bakhtiar and Farhad.

Dhanmondi Club: Ratan Ali, Sohel Rana, Azizi, Mishu, Maruf Ahmed, Donald, Kennedy, Bipul (Pons), Wasim, Aminul (Angur) and Palash.

Referee: Maruf Sikder.

Cute handball

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Rifles and Narinda Progoti Boys Club maintained their winning spree in the Cute Metro-polis Premier Division Handball League beating their respective rivals at the Outer Stadium handball court yesterday.

In the day's first match, Narinda Progoti Boys Club beat Dhanmondi Club 29-17 goals after dominating the first half by 14-11.

Akram, Zahid and Reefat scored six goals each and Swapan five for the winners while Faruk netted six, Ripon five and Topu four for the losers.

In the day's second match, Bangladesh Rifles defeated Dhaka Mariner Youngs Club 27-15 goals after leading the first session by 18-8.

Jahangir contributed nine, Saiduzzaman six for the winners while Didar made five, Faruk and Mamun scored three each for the losers.

The Steve legacy

FROM PAGE 13

barrier was breached 50 years ago, all countries now strive, often successfully, to match the Australians.

"For most of the past 126 years, Test cricket was conducted at a leisurely pace," noted last year's Wisden almanac.

"The occasional burst of frenzied activity only emphasised that the standard tempo was sedate. Nowadays, the longest form of the game of any game rattles along like a good television drama...Test cricket may be more entertaining now than it has ever been."

Waugh has now gone but his legacy will endure.

Waugh ended his career with: - more Tests (168) than anyone; - more Test runs (10,927) than anyone except Allan Border; - more victories as a captain (41) than anyone;

- as many centuries (32) as anyone except Sunil Gavaskar.

He could lay claim to some unofficial records as well: - eight more farewells than anyone except Nellie Melba; - more True Grit than anyone except John Wayne;

- and, like Sinatra, he did it his way.

- Waugh's final innings like his career, was a monument to achievement.

- The end dictated the means.

- It was not always pretty, but it was pretty effective.

- Waugh's sporting epitaph, you fancy, will read not so much "Steve Waugh, cricketer" as "Steve Waugh, competitor".

Venus ready to roll

AFP, Hong Kong

Venus Williams leapt to the defence of tennis as an Olympic sport here Wednesday, saying she planned to defend her 2000 crown in this summer's Athens Games.

Two-time Wimbledon and US Open winner Williams, who hits the comeback trail in Hong Kong this week after nearly six months off the courts, said striking gold in Sydney four years ago was a career highlight.

"I love the Olympics, personally," Williams said. "I had a wonderful experience in Sydney. I definitely count it as the most treasured moment of my career. And if I have the opportunity I will be in Athens."

Rani, Nipa share lead

SPORTS REPORTER

International Women's Master Rani Hamid and reigning champion Shabana Parveen Nipa jointly led the table with maximum 3 points each after the end of the third round games of the final phase of the 25th National Women's Chess Championship at the NSC conference room yesterday.

Shamiha Sharmin Shimmi and Nazrana Khan Eva were in the second position with 2.5 points each.

In this round Rani Hamid beat Zakia Sultana, Nipa beat Kishwara Shajirin Evana, Shimmi beat Arifa Khatun Moni, Eva beat Dilara Jahan Nurpur, Masuda Begum beat Afroza Khanam Bably while Tanima Parveen drew with shamia Akter Liza.



International Women's Master Rani Hamid makes a move against Zakia Sultana during their third round games of the final phase of the 25th National Women's Chess Championship at the NSC conference room yesterday.



CHAIN REACTION? Belgian Kim Clijsters (L) receives physiotherapist Anthony McEvoy's attention on the courtside while her fiance Lleyton Hewitt gets his left ankle bandaged during their respective games of the Hopman Cup in Perth yesterday.

Is This Love!

Tennis

AFP, Perth

Love turned to pain for Belgian tennis ace Kim Clijsters when she was forced out of the Hopman Cup mixed teams international tennis tournament with an ankle injury here Wednesday.

The world number two women's player had to retire in the third set of her women's singles match against Australian Alicia Molik after failing to respond to court-side treatment.

Tournament organisers said later the injury was an acute soreness of the ankle and Clijsters had been taken for a precautionary scan to assess the damage.

Shortly after, her new fiance Hewitt suffered a similar fate, rolling his ankle in the sixth game of the third set of his match against Xavier Malisse and also requiring court-side treatment.

But the Australian managed to play on and appeared comfortable playing with strapping and an ankle guard to win the men's singles 3-6, 6-1, 6-2 against Xavier

Malisse.

Belgium then forfeited the mixed doubles giving Australia a 3-0 win in the tie.

The doubles encounter had drawn widespread attention and a crowd of more than 8,500 to the Burswood Dome with the promise of a head-to-head love-match between Clijsters and Hewitt.

The injury also left a cloud over Clijsters' immediate playing commitments in Australia.

The Belgian, who is chasing her first grand slam singles title, is scheduled to play in a tournament in Sydney starting Monday next week before heading to Melbourne for the Australian Open from January 19.

Hewitt said Clijsters had been deeply upset by the injury and it was not clear yet if she would make the Australian Open.

"I went and saw her and she was obviously pretty distressed at the time," Hewitt said.

"We're not sure how bad it was but it was obviously pretty disappointing to happen a few weeks before a grand slam. Touch wood, hopefully it's not as bad as it looked."

Of his own injury, Hewitt said he was lucky he had been wearing an ankle brace while playing.

"I was lucky I was wearing my ankle brace otherwise I would have been out of the whole Australian summer," Hewitt said.

"I felt it twist pretty badly and the ankle brace actually controlled me before I fell over which is a good thing. It just felt week afterwards when I started putting pressure in it."

"So I made sure I got it taped and hopefully I'll be right."

Hewitt also required treatment after the match but was expected to have played in the mixed singles match which did not eventuate.

Clijsters had shown impressive form in her first match of the tournament defeating Slovakian Daniela Hantuchova 6-1, 6-2.

She and Molik shared a set apiece when Clijsters blew four match points in the second set tiebreak with the final score 3-6, 7-6, 2-3 when Clijsters retired.

Top seed and reigning champion the United States was scheduled to meet France later Wednesday.

Ian foresees great rivalry

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

Former Australian captain Ian Chappell on Wednesday praised the Indian cricket team for a spirited effort in their Test series against Australia and predicted a great rivalry between the two teams.

"The fact that India is now competitive in Australia confirms my feelings that this could well be the next great rivalry in Test cricket," Chappell wrote in his column in Hindustan Times.

India drew the four-Test series against Australia, acclaimed as the best team in the world and one of the best ever.

"The big improvement in this Indian side from previous touring teams to these parts is the batting on bouncer pitches, their attitude and ability to swing the ball in Australian conditions," he wrote.

India retained the Gavaskar-Border Trophy for Tests between

the two countries after the fourth and final match at the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) was drawn for a 1-1 end to the series.

India kept the trophy as they had won 2-1 in the previous Test series at home in 2001.

"The fact that India is extremely competitive to the point where they were the better team in the series; if they hadn't gone to sleep for a session at the MCG and had got the nod on two of the close lbw decisions on the final day, it could easily have been three-nil," Chappell wrote.

India had got off to a sound start in the third Test at Melbourne with opener Virender Sehwag slamming 195, but still scored only 366 runs in the first innings to lose the initiative and the match.

In the final Test at Sydney, they set a huge target of 443 in just over a day for Australia, who scored 357-6.

Legendary Indian opener Sunil Gavaskar too praised the Indian team in his column in the same newspaper but felt they did not press hard on the last day of

the series.

"By any stretch of imagination it was a highly successful tour from the Indian point of view for there were not many who gave them a chance to draw the series," he wrote.

"The plan should have been to choke the runs up so that there was simply no chance of Australia getting anywhere near the target and then have more men breathing down the batsmen's throat," he wrote.

Bangladeshi side

FROM PAGE 13

Chasing Sri Lanka's 141 in the 36-over a side game, the Bangladeshis reached 142 in 34 overs with four wickets in hand. Habib topscored with 47.

Batting first, Sri Lanka were all out in 32 overs with Mahubb taking three wickets for 20 runs.

Earlier Bangladesh had beaten India in their inaugural match and then lost to South Africa in their second fixture.

Eng keep door open on Jones

Cricket

AFP, London

England kept a place open for fast bowler Simon Jones when they named their Test squad for their tour of the West Indies here Wednesday.

Jones has not played first-class cricket for 14 months after suffering a cruciate knee ligament injury during the first Ashes Test in Brisbane.

But instead of naming him outright in the squad the selectors, who delayed their decision by 24 hours for further consultation on the health of several bowlers, want Jones to prove his fitness on next month's short A tour of Malaysia and India before including him in the Test squad.

"The reports we have had from the National Academy indicate that Simon Jones is making good progress in his recovery from a knee injury," England's chairman of selectors David Graveney said Wednesday.

"As Simon has been out of First Class cricket for more than a year, we will be closely monitoring his form and fitness on the A team's tour of India with a view to adding him to the Test squad in the Caribbean."

England, who have not won a Test series in the West Indies since 1968, are due to play four Tests and seven one-day internationals on this trip. The squad leaves for the Caribbean on February 25 with the

Sunny

FROM PAGE 13

between Dhaka and Khulna played at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday:

DHAKA: First innings 224 all out in 86 overs (Al-Shahriar 92, Mehrab 56, Sajjad 29, Russell 7-55, Razzak 3-73)

KHULNA: First innings 67 all out in 39 overs (Bashir 13, Salauddin 21 n.o.; Neeeyamur 2-14, Ashraf 5-6, Naimur 2-19, Sunny 1-14)

KHULNA: Second innings 311 all out 107.5 overs (Sajjadul 15, Raju 25, Salauddin 55, Hasibul 12, Asadullah 33, Bashir 76 n.o., Razzak 34, Al Amin 22; Neeeyamur 1-49, Ashraf 1-58, Mahubb 1-35, Sunny 1-59, Naimur 4-86)

DHAKA: Second innings (over-11) 38 for 3 wks in 14 overs) Al-Shahriar b Russell 22

Mehrab b Russell 0

Sunny not out 54

Jahangir c Hasibul b Russell 3

Sanwar b Russell 2

Sajjad b Shahriar 34

Naimur 32 not out 32

Extras: (lb-7, nb-1) 8

Total: (For 5 wks in 55 overs) 155

Fall of wks: 1-1, 2-22, 3-26, 4-38, 5-93

Bowler O M R W

Russell 19 5 154 4

Al-Amin 7 2 20 0

Razzak 17 4 39 0

Bashir 6 1 23 0

Shahriar 6 2 12 1

Result: Dhaka won by five wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Syed Russell (Khulna).

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid and clues. Across: 1 Song-writer Jacques 'Fairies' midwife; 5 'Fairies' midwife; 8 All aflutter; 12 Hawk-eyes' home; 13 Flamenco cheer; 14 Oliver Twist's request; 15 Hurry; 17 From a distance; 18 Prosper; 19 New Orleans university; 21 Put into words; 22 Hecklers' missiles; 23 D followers; 26 Super-man foe; 28 Despised; 31 Second in command; 33 Meaning; 35 Note to the staff. Down: 1 'Bei Mir' - du Schon'; 2 'Portnoy's' score; 3 Given to brooding; 4 Jamaican export; 4 Like a lamb; 4 Painters' garb; 5 Writer; 7 Wiesel; 8 Proclivity; 9 Erstwhile; 9 Combina-tion; 9 Hurry; 9 Cranberry; 11 'Pretty Woman' star; 16 Elliptical; 20 'That tastes awful!'; 23 Space-walk; 24 Shiner's chapeau; 25 Hurry; 27 Deleted accessory; 29 Ostrich's kin; 30 Adams or Johnson; 32 Air rifle; 34 Desert; 37 ---de-rival sac; 39 Hanks role; 42 '...you'll be a Man, --'; 44 'Psycho' setting; 45 'MacArthur Park' composer; 46 Bread spread; 48 Pop choice; 49 Lip service; 50 Dele undero; 53 Aye opposite.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with letters G, S, X, H, C, M, I, E, T, I, V, Z, S, G, M, E, G, M, W, B, T, G, M, W, O, G, M, B, T, I, E, F, Q, J, O, T, H, C, V, E, X, H, C.

CRYPTOQUIP G S X H C M I E T I V Z S G M E G M W B T G M W O G M B T I E F Q J O T H C V E X H C Yesterday's Cryptoquip: COUNT DRACULA CALLED IN SICK TO WORK LAST WEEK BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN A-COFFIN. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals E. 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.