

Klusener back

FROM PAGE 13
overs matches against the West Indies. The series starts at Newlands, Cape Town, Sunday.

Klusener, 32, one of the hardest-hitting batsmen in the world game and player of the tournament in the 1999 World Cup in England, sued the United Cricket Board for unfair dismissal after he was left out of the side for a tour of England last year and was dropped from the board's list of contracted players.

Klusener claimed he had been told by the selectors that he was being rested from a tour of Bangladesh which preceded the England trip and had been led to believe he would be picked for England.

The case was settled out of court recently and Klusener was given a short-term contract from January to April 2004.

He backed up his claim for selection with consistent performances for KwaZulu-Natal in domestic cricket and his chances received a further boost when rival all-rounder Andrew Hall was put of action with a back injury in the fourth Test against the West Indies which ended at Centurion Tuesday.

Smith, who was appointed after the country's 2003 World Cup failure, criticised Klusener at a public function last year, saying Klusener was a disruptive influence, while Klusener said in a newspaper interview after he was dropped that he had not agreed with the tactics and preparation methods of coach Eric Simons during the World Cup.

Smith said: "Lance has come a long way since then. He's got an opportunity to fit back in. He's definitely got the ability but as an all-rounder he's got to be able to bowl 10 overs.

"He's got an opportunity to fit into the structures and cultures that have developed. Eric (Simons) has a saying that the bus is waiting, who wants to get on? He's got that chance now to get back on the bus."

SOUTH AFRICA: Graeme Smith (captain), Mark Boucher (vice-captain), Boeta Dippenaar, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Lance Klusener, Albie Morkel, Andre Nel, Makhaya Ntini, Robin Peterson, Shaun Pollock, Ashwell Prince, Jacques Rudolph, Morne van Wyk.

SOUTH AFRICA A: Neil McKenzie (captain), Martin van Jaarsveld, Loots Bosman, Hashim Amla, Justin Ontong, Justin Kemp, Nicky Boje, Thami Tsolekile, Garnett Kruger, Mfune Ngam, Roger Telemachus.

Selectors believe

FROM PAGE 13
some of our plans to some of their players haven't been as good as they can be.

"But I don't think it's going to be too far away before you see us take a few early wickets and put them under pressure. So far, right through the summer, that hasn't happened but it's bound to happen very soon."

India will be boosted by the return of new-ball bowler Ajit Agarkar but the opening pair Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag remain under an injury cloud.

India's coach John Wright said Tendulkar, who has a sore ankle and Sehwag, who is carrying a shoulder strain, would be assessed just before play started on Thursday.

"We obviously want to put out our strongest team tomorrow and we would like both of them to be in it but we have to assess that in the morning," he said.

TEAMS

AUSTRALIA: Ricky Ponting (captain), Adam Gilchrist, Simon Katich, Damien Martyn, Michael Bevan, Michael Clarke, Andrew Symonds, Ian Harvey, Andy Bichel, Brett Lee, Jason Gillespie, Brad Williams (12th man to be named).

INDIA (from): Sourav Ganguly (captain), Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag, Rahul Dravid, VVS Laxman, Yuvraj Singh, Parthiv Patel, Hemang Badani, Rohan Gavaskar, Ajit Agarkar, Anil Kumble, Irfan Pathan, Lakshmi Prasad Balaji. (Two to be omitted).



American Andre Agassi reacts during his match against Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic at the Australian Open yesterday.

American collision nears



AFP, Melbourne

Andy Roddick and Andre Agassi bounced two Czechs out of the Australia Open Wednesday as the Americans headed towards a semifinal clash of generations at the season's first Grand Slam.

World number one Andy Roddick, aiming to become the first man in 15 majors to win consecutive Grand Slam titles after taking the US Open in September, blasted aside 205-ranked Bohdan Ulihrach 6-2, 6-2, 6-3 in 73 minutes.

Roddick, at 21 the youngest end-of-season number one in tennis history, broke Ulihrach's serve five times and served 20 aces with his service on song.

Asked what difference being number has made, Roddick said it all boiled down to confidence.

"I think the biggest difference is when I don't feel like I'm playing that well, I still have an underlying confidence, whereas before maybe I would have panicked a little bit more," he said.

He now faces 22-year-old American Taylor Dent in round three and has few serious rivals standing between him and a likely semifinal match-up with Agassi.

Seeded fourth and at 33 the oldest man in the tournament, Agassi gave one of the Open's youngest competitors, 18-year-old qualifier Tomas Berdych, a 6-0, 6-2, 6-4 tutorial.

Agassi romped through the first eight games against Berdych, but encountered stiffer opposition in the final set when the Czech held break point on Agassi's service in the fourth game.

"I like his game a lot. He has a lot of potential. He's going to be a real good player," Agassi said of Berdych.

In round three, Agassi will face the experienced Swede Thomas Enqvist but is expected to run into little trouble in the run-up to the semifinal.

On the women's side, top seed and world number one Justine Henin-Hardenne overcame a stomach ailment to pursue her campaign to win back-to-back Grand Slams by blowing away Camille Pin of France 6-1, 6-1.

"I haven't felt well for two or three days and I was feeling a little bit tired and out of energy," Henin-Hardenne said after the match.

"I need some rest for sure," added the reigning French and US Open champion, adding that she expected to be fit for her third-round tie against Russian 30th seed Svetlana Kuznetsova on Friday.

Several players have complained of a stomach bug during the tournament so far, with Britain's Greg Rusedski revealing on Tuesday that he and a group of other players and officials had been affected.

Fourth-seeded Frenchwoman Amelie Mauresmo was in rude health, powering her way into the third round with a 6-0, 6-2 win over Czech Ludmila Cervanova.

Mauresmo, 23, looked every bit a credible challenger to Henin-Hardenne and third seed Venus Williams after losing just three games in her first two matches at Melbourne Park.

Fifth seed Lindsay Davenport also advanced by beating Emilie Loit of France 6-3, 3-6, 6-0. Williams and second seed Kim Clijsters easily won their first round matches on Tuesday.

Former world number one Gustavo Kuerten reached the third round for the first time, ending a miserable run at Melbourne Park.

Until Wednesday's 7-5, 6-7, 6-4, 6-3 victory over Ivan Ljubicic, the Brazilian had endured five second-round losses and two defeats in the first round here.

Marat Safin, runner-up in 2002, conquered his emotions to beat Finland's Jarkko Nieminen 7-6, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 in a pulsating encounter at Melbourne Park.

India to build stadium in Guyana

AFP, New Delhi

India has agreed to finance and construct a brand new cricket stadium in Guyana that could host matches during the 2007 World Cup in the Caribbean, it was announced on Wednesday.

The 26-million-dollar stadium will be built in the small town of Providence, 11 kilometres (seven miles) south of Guyana's capital city Georgetown and is scheduled to be completed by 2006, according to a Guyanese government release received here.

The Indian government will release a grant of six million dollars and low-interest loans of 20 million dollars towards the construction of the stadium, it said.

The funding of the new facility was negotiated with the Indian government by Guyanese President Bharrat Jagdeo during an official visit to India earlier this month.

"I came back with the assurance from the prime minister and president of India that the cricket stadium will be built," Jagdeo, who has Indian origins, was quoted as saying.

Guyana is among the Caribbean nations bidding to host matches at the first ever cricket World Cup in the region. The sport's world ruling body has urged these nations to upgrade existing facilities.

Work on the new stadium is expected to begin later this year. Indian engineers recently visited Guyana to conduct soil tests and other studies.

Cricket is one of the most popular sports among Guyana's 700,000 residents, half of whom are of East Indian descent.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) awarded the 2007 World Cup to the Caribbean despite criticism the region did not have the required infrastructure to host the sport's showpiece event.

India, with millions of cricket-crazy television audiences, is widely regarded as cricket's financial superpower.

Love ton

AFP, Hobart

Fringe Australian Test batsman Martin Love smashed an even century here on Wednesday to help Queensland tally 289 for six at stumps on the first day of its Sheffield Shield cricket match against Tasmania.

Love knocked up his second century of the season but was bowled by Tasmanian paceman Gerard Denton without adding to his even 100.

Former Test batsman Stuart Law, who has not made a century in Sheffield Shield cricket since March, 2001, came agonisingly close to breaking the drought before being caught at mid-off by Michael Di Venuto off left-arm finger spinner Xavier Doherty.

His partnership with Love added 190 runs to the Queensland tally.

Tasmania won the toss and sent Queensland into bat, taking 31 for four in the final session with two wickets to paceman Damien Wrigh who finished the day with 3-65 off 22 overs.

At stumps Wade Secombe was unbeaten on 11 and Ashley Noffke was not out 19.

Premier Div

FROM PAGE 13

"Apart from the financial loss, this is hampering other aspects also. We have a programme and according to that we conduct our training sessions. Now if we don't know when we will play, it becomes quite tough to motivate the boys in practice. That's a bigger price to pay than any monetary loss," said Muktiyodha coach and former national footballer Shafiqul Islam Manik.

Brother Union vice-president Anwar Hossain Uzzal blasted DMFLC for not being able to handle the situation.

"All the clubs are suffering from this delay because they will need extra money now to run the teams," Uzzal said.

Abahani manager Monem Munna also echoed Uzzal's observation saying that they needed around six to eight thousand Taka everyday to feed the players only and each day's inaction becomes an added financial burden.

TEN Sports, a satellite sports channel owned by the Dubai-based Taj Television, was one of five companies that had bid for rights. PCN Sports, Sony Max and TWI had pulled out of the bid process after an initial expression of interest while TEN Sport's offer was preferred to one made by WSG Nimbus.

SLC had initially planned to sell the broadcasting and sponsorship rights for a three-year term but the low bids tabled prompted the board to sell only for the Australia tour. SLC will now try to confirm two triangular tournaments involving India in 2005 and 2006 to make their rights more attractive to potential broadcasters.

TEN Sports, who also own all rights for CBFS managed tournaments in Sharjah and Morocco as well as all matches played in Pakistan, had been clear frontrunners in the bid process after negotiating a deal last September that gave them important country-specific rights for the Australia tour.

Strong SA batting, poor WI bowling



AFP, Centurion

South Africa grabbed the initiative early in every Test, West Indian captain Brian Lara admitted after South Africa wrapped up a 3-0 series win with a ten-wicket victory on the fifth day of the fourth and final Test at Centurion Park Tuesday.

"We had to play catch-up from Day One," said Lara. "It is a fact that the opposition seemed to grab the opportunity on the first day every time."

South African skipper Graeme Smith said it was no accident.

"We put big importance on the first session of every Test and we want to win Day One every time."

Smith praised what he described as "a great culture in the squad".

He said the batsmen were no longer satisfied with making one century in a series, while the bowlers had been "fantastic" on pitches which were so good for batting that 20 centuries were scored by the two teams in four matches, only one short of the world record for hundreds in a five-match series.

Lara was not despondent about the series result and said it had been a much better team performance than when the West Indies lost all five Tests in 1998-99.

"I must congratulate the South African team, who played very good cricket, but we can take a lot

of positives from the series," said Lara. "The batting performance, in terms of runs and application, was maybe the best of my entire career by a West Indies team away from home."

Lara acknowledged that the bowling and fielding had not matched the batting. "The South Africans were scoring too quickly and that is why they won the series 3-0. If you don't bowl in the right areas to players like Smith and (Herschelle) Gibbs they are going to get off to a flier."

The West Indian captain called for the West Indies board to introduce a system of central contracts, which have become the norm in most leading cricket nations.

"You can't play international sport if you don't do anything for four months. I would like the board to contract these guys to make sure they stay fit and keep going to the nets."

Lara said his team had been hit hard by injuries and he expected a much better performance when England tour the Caribbean later this year. He also expected the West Indies would be more competitive in a five-match one-day series against South Africa which starts at Newlands in Cape Town Sunday.

Almost four hours of play was lost because of rain Tuesday but South Africa were able to claim the last seven West Indies wickets for 85 runs before, with more rain threatening, they knocked off the 46 runs they needed in just 21 minutes off 3.4 overs.

Shaun Pollock took four wickets

and bowled unchanged through three brief periods of play.

After claiming only one wicket in 64 overs Monday, when rain and bad light cut play, South Africa's hopes of completing the series with a win were re-ignited when they took three wickets in 22 balls before lunch. Two more wickets after lunch left the tourists precariously placed before the rain returned.

Finally, with a nominal 24 overs remaining, the players returned after tea and South Africa were able to wrap up the innings, although they had some anxious moments as Corey Collymore and Fidel Edwards put on 26 runs in 29 minutes for the last wicket, with an ever-increasing likelihood that bad light might stop play.

The floodlights were on throughout the day and were used on each of the five days of the match.

Play started 100 minutes late but man of the series Makhaya Ntini, armed with the second new ball, gave South Africa an ideal start when he had Chris Gayle (107) caught at gully with the last ball of the fifth over.

Gayle and Ramnaresh Sarwan put on a record 174 for the fourth wicket. Shaun Pollock trapped Sarwan leg before wicket in the next over for 119 before Ntini bowled Dwayne Smith for nought. Smith was Ntini's 29th victim of the series, equalling Pollock's record for most wickets in a series against the West Indies, set in a five-Test contest in 1998-99.

A hero after one over



REUTERS, Melbourne

David Hookes, who died on Monday after suffering head injuries in an assault, became an instant celebrity when he struck England captain Tony Greig for five successive boundaries in the 1977 Centenary Test.

The blond left-hander had forced his way into a strong Australia side, taking 29 runs from an over by Victoria leg-spinner Colin Thwaites during his maiden century for South Australia.

Hookes, 21, his bat held together by scraps of white tape, showed no sign of nerves in posting a half-century despite a verbal baiting from the towering England captain.

"When a youngster comes into a big match like the Centenary Test, obviously everybody's looking to see how the captain of the opposition will try to put him off," Greig commented on Monday.

"But I can tell you that Hookes handled himself very well."

Greig, who is now a television commentator based in Sydney, said Australians reminded him every day of the way the 21-year-old Hookes had brought spectators at the Melbourne Cricket Ground to their feet.

Hookes was an automatic signing for Kerry Packer's rebel World Series Cricket circuit which

split the international game in 1977-78.

But his career was badly affected when West Indies fast bowler Andy Robert broke his jaw with a vicious bouncer and he never fulfilled at Test level the potential he had shown in his



DAVID HOOKES

maiden Test.

After World Series Cricket was dissolved, Hookes played 23 Tests for Australia, averaging a modest 34.36. His last Test against India in December, 1986, was Steve Waugh's first. The Australia captain retired his month after the fourth Test against India.

The fifth-highest run-scorer in the Australia interstate four-day competition with 9,364 runs in 120 matches including a highest score

of 306 not out, Hookes retired from first class interstate cricket in 1991-92 with an average of 47.78.

He holds the record for the fastest century in Australia interstate four-day cricket, taking 34 balls to reach his hundred for South Australia against Victoria in 1982-83.

He capitalised on the short boundaries square at South Australia's Adelaide Oval and relied heavily on his hand-eye co-ordination rather than precise footwork which may explain his relatively unimpressive Test average.

Hookes went on to become a lively radio commentator and Victoria state coach, complaining that the national selectors were favouring Waugh's home state, New South Wales.

"When they give out the baggy blue cap in New South Wales, they give you a baggy green in a brown paper bag as well to save making two presentations," Hookes said.

A forward thinker to the end, one of 48-year-old Hookes' last acts in the game was to appoint 20-year-old leg spinner Cameron White as Victoria's one-day team captain.

The Hookes-coached Victoria side led the four-day competition and will need no extra motivation to win the state's first domestic four-day title since 1990-91.

Alamgir shines

FROM PAGE 13
opponents' 159 at the Uttara Police Lines ground.

Dr Mohammed Shahidullah Adarsha High School were also shot out for a poor total, 75, in reply to Sultan Mulla's huge 221 to taste a massive 146 runs defeat at the Uttara Friends Club ground.

MDC Model wrapped up Nahar Academy for 137 runs after making 223 all out to score for an 86-run victory at the Mirpur Outer stadium.

At the Kalindi ground, Laboratory Public School beat Shantibagh High School by six wickets.

Laboratory Public reached the target of 136 runs for 4 with one ball to spare. Earlier, Shantibagh had scored 135 for 8 in a curtailed 20-over match.

SCORES IN BRIEF

MIRPUR RESIDENTIAL: 229 for 7 wickets in 35 overs (Alamgir 83, Shakil 35, Prince 32, 2-42)

SOURAV SMRITI: 158 all out in 26.5 overs (Ishak 35, Rubel 23, Shakil 3-34, Rajesh 3-34)

MIRPUR LAB: 159 all out in 27.1 overs (Anwar 65, Rokon 18, Sajib 3-28, Sumon 2-18)

MIRPUR ADARSHA: 72 all out in 26 overs (Tuhin 19, Anwar 14, Nanntu 3-3, Anwar 2-3, Zaman 2-17)

SULTAN MULLA: 221 for 9 wickets in 35 overs (Faruque 32, Rakib 47, Zakir 24, Mukles 22, Zakir 2-21, Rubel 2-27, Russell 2-46)

DR SHAHIDULLAH: 75 all out in 25.5 overs (Parvez 16, Zakir 2-0, Sohag 2-16, Aziz 2-17)

MDC MODEL: 223 all out in 32.4 overs (Raisul 55, Mizanur 46, Mohim 32, Billal 3-30, Asif 2-26, Atiqur 2-35, Saiful 2-38)

NAHAR ACADEMY: 137 all out in 24.4 overs (Ibrahim 46, Rony 3-22, Adil 2-32)

SHANTIBAGH HIGH SCHOOL: 135 for 8 wickets in 20 overs (Atiq 67, Kalam 3-18)

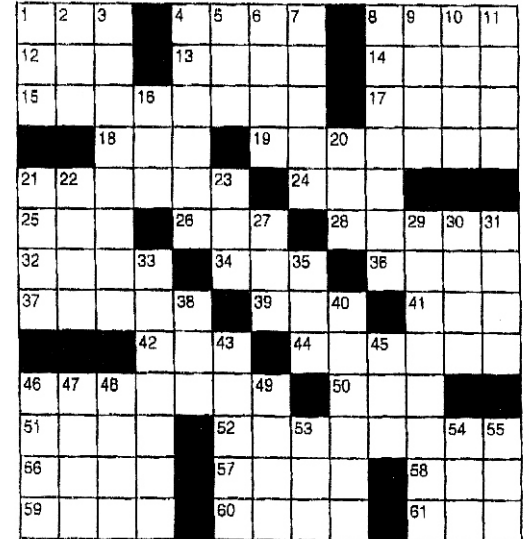
LABORATORY PUBLIC SCHOOL: 136 for 4 wickets in 19.5 overs (Saidur 63, Monir 32)

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 37 Imus' medium 61 Caustic chemical 16 Light (Lat.) 20 Heavy fine-grain wood 4 Continues 41 Cartesian conclusion 1 First O? 2 Computer language 3 Wouldn't shut up 4 Result of an iron deficiency 5 M.A., for ex. 6 Pharmacy topic 7 Russian launch vehicle 8 Fudgy treat 9 Ms. Anderson 10 — friendly 11 Comfort Solution time: 25 mins.

DOWN 1 Mahal precursor 39 8 pts. 4 Continues talking 8 Despondent 42 Clear the tables 44 Sappho's island 46 Bug 50 "Simpsons" store-keeper 51 Stench 52 Savlon 53 Glove's specialty 54 Jim Carrey character 56 podrida 57 Stud fee 58 Love boat? 59 Sense 60 In the neighborhood 62 Between assignments 48 Additioner's hope 49 Glazier's sheet 53 Bake-sale org. 54 Exclaim 55 Scratch (out)

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 56 57 58 59 60 61



CRYPTOQUIP
Z A Y X U D X B T C D S C U D X
D Z L A S U S Y D X C U Z
D T V E T B X , D X V S T C
" E X X J J L X J S L X C ! "
Yesterday's Cryptogram: I REMEMBERED THE MINISTER'S NAME, BUT I WONDERED, WOULD HIS FAITH BE FAMILIAR?
Today's Cryptogram Clue: X equals E
The Cryptogram 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.

Aussies' SL tour on TEN Sports

CRICINFO, undated

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) have signed a television broadcasting agreement with TEN Sports for the forthcoming Australia tour of Sri Lanka. Australia are due to play five ODIs and three Tests in February and March.

TEN Sports, a satellite sports channel owned by the Dubai-based Taj Television, was one of five companies that had bid for rights. PCN Sports, Sony Max and TWI had pulled out of the bid process after an initial expression of interest while TEN Sport's offer was preferred to one made by WSG Nimbus.

SLC had initially planned to sell the broadcasting and sponsorship rights for a three-year term but the low bids tabled prompted the board to sell only for the Australia tour. SLC will now try to confirm two triangular tournaments involving India in 2005 and 2006 to make their rights more attractive to potential broadcasters.

TEN Sports, who also own all rights for CBFS managed tournaments in Sharjah and Morocco as well as all matches played in Pakistan, had been clear frontrunners in the bid process after negotiating a deal last September that gave them important country-specific rights for the Australia tour.