

Lazio coach linked to Spurs

REUTERS, London

Lazio coach Roberto Mancini has talked to Premier League club Tottenham Hotspur about their vacant manager's position and wants to coach an English club, he has told Eurosport.

Asked if he had talked to Spurs, Mancini said: "These are the kind of things that one doesn't ever say but, yes, maybe it did happen. You know, sometimes we talk just to get to know each other. Just to test the water, type of thing."

"Yes, it might sound strange but Spurs are a great team and an important club. But these things were talked up a lot before and nothing happened. We'll see later on."

Tottenham have still not appointed a manager after sacking Glenn Hoddle in September following a disappointing start to the season. The club's director of football David Pleat has since been handling first-team affairs as acting manager.

Just a week ago the 39-year-old Mancini, whose contract with Lazio expires in 2008, told Italian television program Uno Mattina: "I intend to stay at Lazio. I've lived in Rome for seven years and I'd like to remain here long-term."

But in his Eurosport interview he said: "I have a long contract with Lazio, but you never know. I have always said that I would like to train an English club as the football there is so enjoyable."

Aus hold

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looked at cricket," he said.

"You never know when somebody stands up and delivers and that's the way this game goes."

Both sides will be finalised on Friday, with Kasprowicz a strong chance to play after outstanding domestic form.

Australia experienced a brief injury scare today when all-rounder Andrew Symonds was struck on the foot while batting in the nets.

He limped off the ground but was later declared a certain starter.

India will wait to confirm if legspinner Anil Kumble has fully overcome the shoulder injury which has kept him out of the past two matches but he is expected to be fit.

TEAMS

AUSTRALIA (from): Ricky Ponting (captain), Adam Gilchrist, Matthew Hayden, Damien Martyn, Michael Clarke, Andrew Symonds, Simon Katich, Ian Harvey, Brad Hogg, Brett Lee, Michael Kasprowicz, Jason Gillespie, Brad Williams.

INDIA (from): Saurav Ganguly, Virender Sehwag, Sachin Tendulkar, VVS Laxman, Rahul Dravid, Yuvraj Singh, Rohan Gavaskar, Hemant Badani, Parthiv Patel, Sanjay Bangar, Ajit Agarkar, Irfan Pathan, Anil Kumble, Murali Kartik, Ashish Nehra, Lakshmipathi Balaji, Amit Bhandari.

ICC idea

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hand here."

The ICC holds its next meeting in New Zealand next month when the plans could be finalised.

It was not immediately clear how the ICC would pick its World XI, with options being an international selection panel or using player rankings as a guide.

Using the current PricewaterhouseCoopers rankings the team would be Herschelle Gibbs (South Africa), Mark Richardson (New Zealand), Rahul Dravid (India), Brian Lara (West Indies), Inzamamul Haq (Pakistan), Jacques Kallis (South Africa), Sachin Tendulkar (India), Muttiah Muralitharan (Sri Lanka), Shoaib Akhtar (Pakistan), Shaun Pollock (South Africa) and Makhaya Ntini (South Africa).

Kallis again

Cricket

AFF, Johannesburg

Jacques Kallis slammed his sixth century against the West Indies as South Africa won a high-scoring fifth and final one-day international at the Wanderers Stadium Wednesday.

Kallis hit a career-best 139 as South Africa chased down a West Indian total of 304 for two, winning by four wickets with two balls to

but there were some anxious moments before the win was clinched to the delight of a noisy capacity crowd of 30,000.

Rudolph was caught on the boundary and Lance Klusener fell to a sensational diving catch at mid-wicket by West Indian captain Brian Lara. Then Kallis was caught on the deep cover boundary during an outstanding 49th over by 19-year-old Ravi Rampaul in which only one run was scored.

Kallis' dismissal left South Africa needing nine to win off eight balls but Shaun Pollock hit off-spinner

Chanderpaul for the West Indies in East London in 1998-99.

The opening stand bettered the West Indian record against South Africa set by Desmond Haynes and Lara, who put on an unbeaten 154 when the West Indies won by ten wickets in Port-of-Spain in 1991-92.

Gayle went to his century off 116 balls with ten fours and a six as he and Chanderpaul made batting look easy, although their stand used up all but 69 balls of the West Indian innings.

Skipper Lara moved up the batting order to number three but was out quickly before Ricardo Powell and Gayle stepped up the pace, adding an unbeaten 92 off only 51 balls in the closing overs. Powell's 49 not out was made off 24 deliveries with four fours and two sixes.

Gayle finished one run short of his career highest score, 153 not out against Zimbabwe in Bulawayo earlier this season.

Lara was glad his team did not have to chase a target under floodlights. Ironically, though, conditions for his fielders became tricky towards the end as dew settled on the ground.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard of the fifth and final one-day international between South Africa and the West Indies at the New Wanderers Stadium Wednesday:

WEST INDIES

Gayle not out	152
Chanderpaul Rudolph b Smith	85
Lara c Ntini b Klusener	11
Powell not out	49
Extras: (lb-1, nb-2, w-4)	7
Total: (For 2 wkt in 50 overs)	304
Fall of wickets: 1-193, 2-212	
Did not bat: Sarwan, Smith, Jacobs, Hurley, Dillon, Rampaul, Collymore	
Bowler	O M R W
Pollock	10 2 47 0
Ntini	7 1 41 0
Nel	10 0 60 0
Klusener	8 0 42 1
Peterson	3 0 22 0
Kallis	4 0 39 0
Smith	8 0 52 1

SOUTH AFRICA

Smith b Gayle	58
Gibbs c Sarwan b Collymore	15
Kallis c Paul b Rampaul	139
Dippenaar c Rampaul b Hurley	28
Rudolph c Paul b Rampaul	35
Klusener c Lara b Collymore	4
Boucher not out	7
Pollock not out	12
Extras: (lb-7, nb-2, w-3)	12
Total: (For 6 wkt in 49.4 overs)	310
Fall of wickets: 1-31, 2-133, 3-187, 4-277, 5-285, 6-296	
Did not bat: Peterson, Ntini, Nel	
Bowler	O M R W
Dillon	10 0 42 0
Hurley	9 0 56 1
Collymore	10 0 83 2
Rampaul	10 1 56 2
Gayle	9.4 0 61 1
Sarwan	1 0 5 0

Meanwhile, Russian Elena Dementieva's poor start to 2004 continued as she was beaten 7-6, 6-3 by compatriot Tatiana Panova.

Third seed Dementieva, who crashed out in the first round of the Australian Open after complaining of a fever, fell apart after losing the first-set tiebreak 7-5 and failed to push Panova in the second.

Panova next plays seventh seed Jelena Dokic, who overcame Slovakia's Janette Husarova 7-6 6-7 6-1.

Indian

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(BCCI) after the "ambush marketing" deadlock in 2002.

The BCCI, it is learnt, has been in touch with players over the last few weeks.

Captain Saurav Ganguly reportedly is keen to lead the side to Pakistan, provided he has the full-strength team at his disposal.

The victorious South African cricket team celebrate after clinching the final one-day international against West Indies in Johannesburg on Wednesday.

spare to secure a 3-1 series win.

The amazing Kallis trumped a magnificent 152 not out by West Indian opener Chris Gayle, who thrashed the South African bowling and shared a record opening partnership with Shivanarine Chanderpaul at the West Indies set an imposing target.

Kallis, who was named man-of-the-series, followed up his 718 runs at an average of 1.78 in the Test series with 361 runs in the one-day games at an average of 180.5.

He hit four centuries in four Test matches and two in the one-day games in addition to 95 not out in the fourth match at Centurion.

Kallis and Jacques Rudolph (35) set up the South African win with a fourth wicket stand of 90 off 65 balls

Gayle for four, two and six in the final over to wrap up the series.

Kallis came in after Herschelle Gibbs was out in the sixth over and made his runs off 142 balls and hit 11 fours and three sixes.

It was a cruel ending for Gayle, who made his 152 off 153 balls with three sixes and 12 fours. He and fellow left-hander Chanderpaul (85) put on 193 to set up a big total after the West Indies won the toss and made first use of a good batting pitch.

Gayle had made only 40 runs in the first four one-day internationals but was in superb form.

It was the highest individual score made by any batsman against South Africa in a one-day international, beating the 150 by

Kallis and Jacques Rudolph (35) set up the South African win with a fourth wicket stand of 90 off 65 balls

of a four-day match against

Queensland's second eleven and should he bowl well, will be almost certain to be included in Australia's squad for next month's Test series against Sri Lanka.

Australia could soon have the services of its two best bowlers once again, with both Shane Warne and Glenn McGrath champing at the bit to return to international cricket.

Warne's 12-month suspension for using a banned substance will expire on Tuesday, and he will be out to reclaim his spot in the national side immediately. He is due to play for Victorian state team's second eleven the following day.

He will also play the last three days of a four-day match against

is that he bowls as well as he can and doesn't put too much pressure on himself to perform," Ponting said.

"Shane's experienced, he's been around for a long time and I know he'll just get out there and give himself the best chance to bowl well and if he does that then who knows what might happen."

Ponting did not hesitate when asked if he would like Warne who has taken 491 wickets in 107 Tests to be second only to the West Indies' Courtney Walsh on the list of Test wicket-takers back for the Sri Lanka series.

"Why wouldn't you want someone like Shane?" he said.

"He's one of the all-time greats of

the game. If Shane does come up and bowl as well as he can, there's going to be some tough selections to be made."

Ponting said he was unlikely to watch Warne's match due to the time constraints of the tri-series one-day finals against India as well as Australia's departure for Sri Lanka on Friday week.

Australia's selectors have already said they would wait until Warne was eligible before naming the Test squad for the Sri Lanka series.

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