

Kallis redefined, rebuilt



Cricket

Jacques Kallis is a far cry from the sorrowful, soul-searching cricketer who struggled to live up to his own expectations in 2003.

Personal sadness and patchy form combined to make the year a trial for the all-rounder.

But now a phenomenal run of form against West Indies has earned Kallis the highest praise from Brian Lara and put him into the record books as the first South African to score hundreds in four consecutive Test matches.

The change in Kallis owes much to his work with Paddy Upton, who for five years in the 1990s was the South African national team biokineticist -- a specialist exercise therapist.

When Kallis found his form dipping, he turned not to the nets and a bowling machine but to Upton, who had recently completed a masters degree in sports psychology at an English university and was convinced he could help Kallis in a role he defined as 'executive coaching'.

"In coaching Jacques I neither instruct nor advise but rather allow him to find the answers for himself," said Upton.

"We scrutinised his (internal) value system and compared that to what he was doing out there'.

"Where there was compromise, things generally weren't working. With increased awareness he has more choice to make changes where he finds that he is selling himself short."

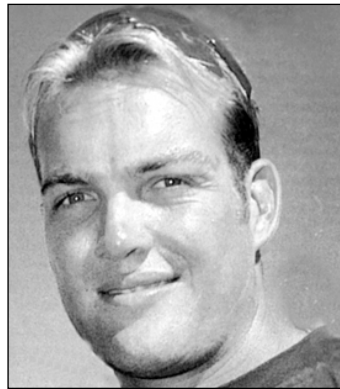
Both men are aware they risk being accused of new-age psycho-babble but no-one can argue with the results. Neither Kallis nor Upton are pretentious types, and the

player himself noticed a change as soon as he started working with his new advisor.

"Working with Paddy I think I found the missing something," says Kallis.

"As I have learned more about myself, I am able to make better choices more often. More importantly, I was able to more finely tune my ball-by-ball focus while batting. The results were immediate."

In four Tests against West Indies in December and January, Kallis scored a century in each game and amassed 712 runs at an average of 178 as South Africa won the series



JACQUES KALLIS

3-0.

Kallis then carried his form into the one-day game, in which he scored a career-best 139 at the Wanderers on Wednesday as South Africa successfully chased 305 to condemn the West Indians to a 3-1 series defeat.

This time he averaged 180.50 over five innings, with two centuries as well as an undefeated 95.

Last year's struggles included a gruelling tour of England. Kallis was already acclaimed as the finest all-rounder in the world, but his form was inconsistent and his private life

an even sterner challenge.

"2003 was a challenging year for me," Kallis said.

"I lost my father and broke up with a long-term girlfriend in a very short space of time, was trying to set up a home between travels and had gone some time without a hundred."

"I guess what I was looking for was to gain some balance between my personal and sporting lives."

At the time, Kallis dealt with the loss of his father with a very public gesture, choosing to wear the number 65 -- his father Henry's age - on his shirt during the one-day series in England.

Kallis was a supremely gifted cricketer before he turned to Upton but would often frustrate his team mates, his coach Eric Simons and his fans when an innings would drift to the point where bowlers regained their self belief.

That has changed. There can surely be no more dispirited bowling attack in cricket right now than the West Indies, whom Kallis often treated with murderous disdain through a spell of merry accumulation. With the addition of 712 runs and just four dismissals against his name, his Test average is now 53.26.

"He was awesome," West Indies captain Lara admitted.

"When he got out I went up to him and told him it was the greatest batting in a series I've ever experienced, for or against."

Observers have noticed a change in the burly Kallis. He was always well-mannered, with a smile and nod of acknowledgment to those who greeted him, but there is now a warmth in him that was previously glimpsed only occasionally.

At the age of 28, and with his best years probably ahead of him, Kallis, it seems, has come to accept that his talent still promises more.

Astle has to wait

AFP, Wellington

The return of champion New Zealand batsman Nathan Astle for this month's cricket series against South Africa was plunged into further doubt when he was a late withdrawal from the provincial one-day final.

New Zealand's highest one-day international run-scorer failed a fitness test on his injured right knee and was ruled out just before play in the final between Canterbury and Central Districts in Christchurch.

Astle, 32, was expected to play the final and Sunday's inter-island match to test his knee ahead of the first one-dayer against South Africa in Auckland next Friday.

He was diagnosed this week with cartilage damage in his right knee, and seems likely to miss the South Africa series unless he stages a dramatic recovery this weekend.

Astle was far from confident of playing the Proteas and appeared resigned to having more surgery.

"I think if the news isn't good on Monday, I'll opt for the surgery immediately," he said.

"It's too much of a deadline the other way. I really want to go to England (in May). I want to be completely fit, and the biggest thing for me is to return at 100 per cent."

Top two

FROM PAGE 13

Yellow cards: Iqbal and Victor (Brothers)

BROTHERS: Ali, Titoo (Jahangir), Parvez (Montu), Nazrul, Sujon, Iqbal, Monwar, Liton, Alfaz (Tapu), Victor and Constantine.

BADDA JAGARANI: Al-Amin, Chandan, Hafiz, Nazir, Nahid, Sumon (Sabur), Zahid, Belal, Moloy, Anwar (Milon) and Salahuddin (Arup).

Referee: Hannan Miron.

MUKTIJODDHA V WANDERERS

Muktijoddha, who will be leaving for Turkmenistan today to participate in the AFC (Asian Football Confederation) Cup competition, were assured full points when Kanchan headed home a right-flank cross from Librarian recruit Arcadia Toe in the 39th minute. The goal was the result of a counter-attack as the Muktis were found wanting in attack.

Wanderers (nine points from 11) however, should count themselves unlucky. Their young striker Yousuf muffed two easy chances. In the 34th minute, Yousuf sent the ball wide with Muktiyoddha custodian Aminul at his mercy. A minute later, he saw his effort being parried by Aminul.

Yellow cards: Matiur Munna (Muktijoddha), Dominic (Wanderers)

MUKTIJODDHA: Aminul, Hasan Al Mamun, Papel, Harry, Ghansa, Biddiut (Lajuk), Munna, Moni, Lulenti, Toe (Saif) and Kanchan.

WANDERERS: Sabbir, Yousuf Khan, Shahin, Dulal, Dominic, Selim, Masud, Ritul (Dalim), Monir (Ripon) and Yousuf. **Referee:** Abdul Rakib.

Beckham not amused



Football

AGENCIES, London

David Beckham has issued a strenuous denial on Wednesday after model Jordan hinted of an affair with the England captain.

Jordan, whose real name is Katie Price, seems to have made the allegation while appearing on the show I'm a Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here.

But Beckham's spokeswoman Caroline McAteer said: "It is a false allegation and will be dealt with by David's lawyers."

Speculation has been rife since Jordan whispered the name of a top player to fellow campers and promised to blow the lid on the affair in her book later this year.

It has also been claimed she will devote a chapter to the Real Madrid star and her feud with his wife.

But Becks joked: "It might buy her a few more votes on I'm A Celebrity but there is no truth to this."

Jordan, 25, also blamed Beckham's wife Victoria, a former Spice Girl, for ending her relationship with musician Dane Bowers during the show. But while Becks was in jovial mood in Madrid, an aide warned: "If there are untruths he'll sue."

One newspaper has named Frank Lampard as the player, but Jordan talked about the star's "wife hating me" - and the Chelsea

midfielder is single.

Sources close to Teddy Sheringham also rubbished claims

that it could be him. A friend said: "Jordan is not Teddy's type, and that's putting it politely."



JORDAN

Primera Liga preview

Ronaldo a concern



Football

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid, with one foot in the Spanish Cup final after their 2-0 semi-final first leg success over Sevilla, will bid to turn up the heat in the title race on challengers Valencia with another three points at home to lowly Malaga on Saturday.

Theoretically, Real could take to the field at the Bernabeu in second place as Valencia, two points adrift, host fourth-placed Atletico Madrid two hours earlier in what could be the match of the weekend.

Superstar and La Liga's top scorer this season Ronaldo is likely to miss the match with a bout of gastroenteritis, the club revealed on Thursday.

The Brazilian magician, whose two goals at Valladolid last week rescued Real from defeat and left them two points clear of Valencia at the top of the table, missed Wednesday's Spanish Cup semi-final first leg win over Sevilla with flu and will spend some days resting at home, club sources said.

"Ronaldo has gastroenteritis. His temperature came down a little but

he spent the morning in bed," revealed club doctor Carlos Hernandez.

"We will see if he can be ready for Saturday."

Portuguese midfielder Luis Figo remains in doubt after he went off before the break on Wednesday with a rib injury, but with Argentine midfielder star Santiago Solari buoyed by a superb goal against Sevilla Real appear to have plenty of options in a pack stacked with acres.

Real, Valencia and Atletico are the only top sides in action on Saturday with Sunday seeing the remainder of the programme.

Third-placed Deportivo La Coruna, six points behind Real, will have to stay on the shoulders of the leading pair with three points at an Albacete side hovering on the brink of the bottom three.

But four other sides are also dreaming of making it into the Champions League next season and all are hovering around the fourth place which would realise that fond hope, not least Barcelona, now fifth and level on points with Osasuna, their hosts Sunday evening.

Athletic Bilbao, eighth but only a point off Barcelona, host relegation-

haunted Murcia, coached by Welshman and former Real Madrid boss John Toshack.

Murcia remain five points from safety but Toshack coaxed them to only their second win of the season last week at home to Zaragoza.

Villarreal, level on points with Bilbao, will seek to bolster their own hopes of a top-four finish with three points at Celta Vigo, hovering just above the drop zone.

As of last month Celta are coached by Raddy Antic, who after a spell as a player with England's Luton Town, led Atletico Madrid to the league and Cup double in 1996.

Despite their poor league form which led to the sacking of Miguel Angel Lotina, Celta have reached the quarter-finals of the Champions League and face English giants

FIXTURES

(all times GMT)
Saturday: Valencia v Atletico Madrid (1830), Real Madrid v Malaga (2030)
Sunday: Sevilla v Mallorca (1600), Albacete v Deportivo La Coruna (1600), Racing Santander v Real Betis (1600), Celta Vigo v Villarreal (1600), Espanyol v Valladolid (1600), Athletic Bilbao v Murcia (1600), Osasuna v Barcelona (1800), Real Zaragoza v Real Sociedad (2000)

Ctg flying high

FROM PAGE 13

Salauddin b Mowla 62
Ehsanul not out 65
Anif not out 1
Extras: (b-3, lb-7, w-1) 11
Total: (For 2 wks in 46.1 overs) 220
Fall of wickets: 1-115, 2-205.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Samad	4	0	24	0
Nayeem	7	0	32	0
Sanjid	4.1	0	40	1
Nabil	10	3	24	0
Parvez	5	0	21	0
Mowla	4	0	15	1
Imtiaz	10	0	39	0
Ejaj	2	0	15	0

Result: Chittagong won by eight wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Masumuddinowla (Chittagong)

Barisal v Khulna
Venue: Barisal Stadium

BARISAL
Imran st Salim b Jamaluddin 64
Rabbi c Jamaluddin b Faizul 0
Nahidul run out 43
Nayan run out 11
Towhid c Jamaluddin b Tamim 32
Arafat not out 43
Mustadir c Salim b Russe 113
Sonnet not out 0
Extras: (b-1, lb-5, nb-5, w-9) 20
Total: (For 6 wks in 50 overs) 221
Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-102, 3-128, 4-155, 5-181, 6-210.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Russell	9	1	40	1
Faizul	10	1	51	1
Shaful	4	1	16	0
Razzak	10	1	37	0
Jamaluddin	8	0	50	1
Tamim	9	0	41	1

KHULNA
Shaful b Arman 58
Sanjay run out 9
Nizamuddin c b Anisur 15
Salauddin c Nayan b Tariq 8
Jamaluddin b Mustadir 19
Salim b Mustadir 22

Razzak b Mustadir 5
Niaz c Nayan b Mustadir 6
Tamim b Arman 5
Russell c Mustadir b Arman 7
Faizul not out 0
Extras: (b-3, nb-2, w-17) 22
Total: (All out in 40.1 overs) 171
Fall of wickets: 1-38, 2-52, 3-92, 4-112, 5-122, 6-128, 7-138, 8-152, 9-171.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Sonnet	9	3	31	0
Anis	7	0	26	1
Arafat	4	1	22	0
Tariq	5	0	20	0
Arman	9	0	39	3
Mustadir	6.1	0	30	4

Result: Barisal won by 50 runs.
Man-of-the-match: Imran Ahmed (Barisal)

Dhaka v Rajshahi
Venue: Cricket Garden, Rangpur.

DHAKA
Rashedul c Hasan b Aminul jr 7
Sajad c Zunayed b Shahzada 4
Moniruzzaman c b b Mahbub 21
Sanwar run out 5
Mehrab run out 3
Ilyas b Mahbub 5
K Mahmud st Mortuza b Mahbub 24
Neeyamur b Mahbub 4
Kadir not out 10
Fahim c Aminul jr b Saifullah 13
Arafat lbw b Saifullah 0
Extras: (lb-3, w-9) 12
Total: (All out in 41.4 overs) 108
Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-13, 3-25, 4-35, 5-47, 6-62, 7-79, 8-86, 9-108.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Russell	9	1	40	1
Faizul	10	1	51	1
Shaful	4	1	16	0
Razzak	10	1	37	0
Jamaluddin	8	0	50	1
Tamim	9	0	41	1

RAJSHAHI
Rafique c Kadir b K Mahmud 0
Zunayed st Kadir b Fahim 0
Mahbub lbw b K Mahmud 4
Hasan c Kadir b Neeyamur 2

Nuruzzaman c fahim b Neeyamur 0
Anisur c Fahim b Arafat 58
Riwan lbw b Fahim 4
Mortuza not out 30
Aminul jr c Neeyamur b Sanwar 1
Shahzada not out 1
Extras: (lb-1, w-8) 9
Total: (For 8 wks in 39 overs) 109
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-2, 3-8, 4-8, 5-13, 6-47, 7-98, 8-103.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Bolwer	8	2	19	2
K Mahmud	8	0	24	2
Ilyas	10	3	26	0
Fahim	7	0	24	2
Neeyamur	5	1	14	2
Arafat	8	1	17	1
Sanwar	1	0	8	0

Result: Rajshahi won by two wickets.

New Model

FROM PAGE 13

23 overs (c Hafiz 21, Kawsar 4-7, Akid 4-21)

NEW MODEL: 86/0 in 6.3 overs (Sohel Rana 43 n.o., Rajib 36 n.o.)

Result: New Model won by ten wickets.

SCHOLARS PREPARATORY: 168/6 in 20 overs (Tawhid 54, Saidur 30, Talha 22, Sujon 2-35, Raju 2-51)

AFTAB MEMORIAL: 150/7 in 20 overs (Apu 43, Shuvo 32, Tawhid 3-23, Rana 2-39)

Result: Scholars Preparatory won by 18 runs.

CITY LAB: 126/8 in 30overs (Mintu 42, Tuhin 15, Dulu 2-28, Apu 2-25, Ridhoy 2-39)

NEW PROVATI: 130/3 in 14 overs (Arman 48, Sunny 35, Apu 26).

Result: New Provati won by seven wickets.

Ponting savages India

FROM PAGE 13

half-hearted appeal that was referred to the third umpire Daryl Harper.

Ponting followed five runs later at 193 for three in the 34th over, caught behind off Balaji after hitting seven fours and two sixes.

Damien Martyn (20 not out off 37 balls) and Andrew Symonds (10 not out off 15 balls) added an unbeaten 31 for the fourth wicket.

Zimbabwe did not score a win in their eight matches in the triangular series and missed the finals.

A third final is scheduled for Brisbane on Tuesday if required.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the end of the first final of the triangular international one-day cricket series played between Australia and India at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Friday.

Waqar

FROM PAGE 13

emotional and it is now customary to hear and read about allegations of match-fixing if the team does not perform to expectations."

Waqar may feel that Pakistan lost a few close games in those tournaments, but a look at the records suggest otherwise. In Kenya, Pakistan suffered humiliating defeats against Australia -- by 224 runs and nine wickets -- while in Morocco, they lost to South Africa by 54 runs and to Sri Lanka by 39. Pakistan's only narrow loss was by eight runs to South Africa, a match they needed to win to qualify for the final.

Meanwhile, the report also stated that Waqar had confirmed his participation in the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy, Pakistan's domestic tournament, in a bid to win a place in the Test squad for the series against India.

"I have not given up hope of playing for Pakistan again that is for sure."

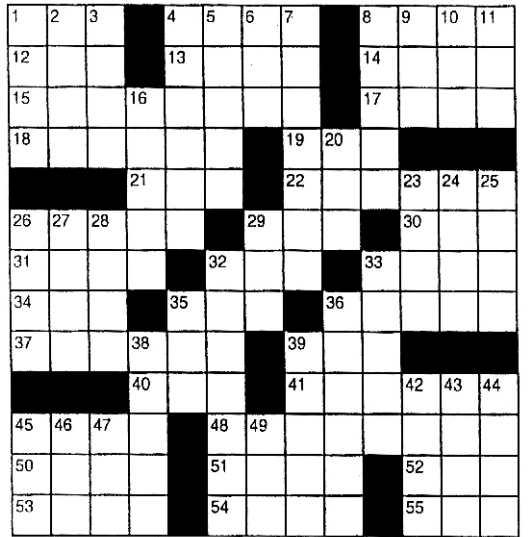
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 36 Carrot-top's secret? 37 Gridiron 2-pointer 39 Tech around garment 41 Off the boat 45 Spinning sound 48 Football infraction 50 Green acres 51 Yuletide refrain 52 Napoleon's title 53 Exemplar of redness 54 Basilica area 55 Sauce source 59 Moon-shiner's prop 60 Free (of) 61 Guy 62 First St. 63 Fleet's shocking word 64 LAX info 65 Beatnik's home

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Solution time: 25 mins.

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



CRYPTOKUIP

X C G B S V S F M G A J S O
N F S K C G K U B O J S B
U N G A G F M U O C U B Q S V V

C Y V V X I Y V I A F G S Q V J J K G !
Yesterday's Cryptokuip: IF A CRITIC GETS PAID WELL FOR HER NEGATIVE REVIEWS, IS SHE PANNING FOR GOLD?

Today's Cryptokuip Clue: V equals L
The Cryptokuip 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.

Premiership preview

Absentees' Gunners' worry

AFP, London

Premiership leaders Arsenal are set to be without record signing Jose Antonio Reyes when they play second-from-bottom Wolves at Molineux on Saturday.

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said the 17-million-pounds Spanish winger, formerly of Sevilla, was struggling after playing in Tuesday's League Cup semi-final defeat against Bolton despite suffering with an infection.

"I think it was very brave," Wenger told Arsenal Plus on Thursday of the 20-year-old forward.

"I did not think he was in a state where he was ready to play but he wanted to and you have to give him credit for that."

"But you could see he did not have that zip or sharpness. I think he will be short for Saturday," the Frenchman admitted. "I have given him time to collect his affairs in Seville and I'll see how he is tomorrow (Friday) morning."

"But he had to stay in bed all day Wednesday," added Wenger of Reyes who, trying to tackle back, put through his own net to score the goal that guaranteed Bolton their place in the League Cup final later this month.

Reyes' likely absence adds to Arsenal's injury problems up front. Sweden star Freddie Ljungberg (rib) is set to be out of action for at least "two or three weeks", according to Wenger. Sylvain Wiltord (ankle) needs "three more weeks" and Jeremie Alaire (knee) "two more weeks".

Meanwhile Kanu is still on African Nations Cup duty with Nigeria.

It all adds to the burden on star striker Thierry Henry as Arsenal look to preserve their status as the only unbeaten team in the league this season.

Meanwhile United travel to 14th-placed Everton, the Merseyside club just five points above the drop zone.

Off the field the legal row between United manager Sir Alex Ferguson and John Magnier, the club's major shareholder, over the stud rights to champion racehorse Rock of Gibraltar shows no sign of ending soon.