

Proteas look to Ivy



AFP, Auckland

A South Pacific tropical cyclone is likely to save South Africa Saturday from the ignominy, for now, of its first one-day cricket series loss with New Zealand.

The fifth game in the six game series is due at Eden Park Saturday with New Zealand leading 3-1 but civil defence authorities over much of New Zealand's North Island were warning of heavy rain thanks to a double hit from a Tasman Sea depression and cyclone Ivy from the Pacific.

Popular all-rounder Chris Harris was a beaming addition to the New Zealand squad as coach John Bracewell eyes him as a trump card for another likely slow, low drop-in pitch.

Bracewell said there was "a very good chance" Harris would play, leaving the dilemma of which two pacemen to leave out from Daryl Tuffey, Kyle Mills and Michael Mason, assuming the all round qualities of Chris Cairns and Jacob Oram are deemed indispensable.

A stung South Africa had the day

off training Thursday but Bracewell had his entire bowling attack on Eden Park's outer oval for a workout to start their loading for the first Test starting in Hamilton on March 10.

Bracewell said no one had been ruled out yet for Saturday and Tuffey was just getting into his bowling workloads again, although he appeared a likely candidate to rest his knee problem for another match.

"With the slowness of the pitch last time they tended to struggle with the changes of pace and we're hoping that'll be the case this time," Bracewell said of Harris' likely inclusion to partner the in-form Daniel Vettori.

Harris, 34, was as excited to be playing as he was at debut 14 years ago.

"I've obviously had some great memories here and this is a good place as any to make a comeback," he said.

New Zealand's confidence took a further boost from their six-wicket win in Dunedin, their third straight which gave them a 3-1 lead in the six-match series.

Having strived for consistency among his charges, Bracewell now finds himself trying to calm them down with a series win in their minds.

"That was probably our best all-round team performance in terms of our bowling and fielding gelling together and I thought it was an extremely professional batting performance.

"As long as we stay in our own game and not worry about what everyone else is saying we'll be fine.

"That's the hardest thing when you have a bit of success, you start to listen to what's said even more than when you're having a bad trot.

"It's as difficult to deal with as the bad times."

TEAMS

NEW ZEALAND (from): Stephen Fleming (captain), Michael Papps, Hamish Marshall, Scott Styris, Craig McMillan, Chris Cairns, Jacob Oram, Chris Harris, Brendon McCullum, Daniel Vettori, Kyle Mills, Daryl Tuffey, Michael Mason.

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

Sachin's boredom

FROM PAGE 13 During the last Test series between the arch-rivals in 1999, Pakistan won the first Test at Madras by 12 runs after Tendulkar was dismissed 17 runs short of the target after making 136.

Then in the Calcutta Test, he was clean-bowled first ball by a vicious Shoab Akhtar yorker that set up another 46-run victory for Pakistan.

Bulawayo Test

FROM PAGE 13 Saturday, but that will depend largely on overnight weather conditions.

TEAMS

ZIMBABWE: Heath Streak (captain), Tatenda Taibu, Trevor Gripper, Dion Ebrahim, Stuart Carlisle, Grant Flower, Sean Ervine, Travis Friend, Ray Price, Douglas hondo, Blessing Mawhere, 12th man Gavin Ewing.

BANGLADESH: Habibul Bashar (captain), Hannan Sarker, Shahriar Hossain, Rajin Saleh, Mohammad Ashraful, Mushfiqur Rahman, Manjural Islam, Khaled Mashud, Tapash Baishya, Mohammad Rafique, Alamgir Kabir. 12th man Alok Kapali.

Umpires: David Orchard (Australia) and Neil Mallender (England).

Italians pegged back

Barca, Liverpool halfway there



REUTERS, London

AS Roma and Serie A rivals Parma suffered shock defeats by unheralded Turkish opponents as Italy endured a bad night in the UEFA Cup on Thursday.

Roma left out their big names for the third round, first leg match against Gaziantepspor and lost 1-0 in southern Turkey while financially-troubled Parma slumped by a similar scoreline at home to Genclerbirligi.

Three-times UEFA winners Inter Milan, despatched to this competition after finishing third in their Champions League group, restored a modicum of pride but having twice led in France against Sochaux, Alberto Zaccheroni's side were pegged back for a 2-2 draw.

Former European champions Barcelona will be confident of progressing after Ronaldinho's goal earned a 1-0 win in Denmark over Brondby, while Liverpool, winners in 2001, eased the pressure on under-fire coach Gerard Houllier by defeating Levski Sofia 2-0 at Anfield.

A 19th-minute goal from on-loan midfielder Yusuf Simsek handed Gaziantepspor, sixth in their domestic league and easy winners over French side RC Lens in the previous round, a narrow advantage to take to the Olympic Stadium against Roma.

Roma coach Fabio Capello left the likes of Francesco Totti, Antonio Cassano and Vincenzo Montello at home and the Turkish side took full advantage. Roma's cause might have been made harder in the second leg but Ghanaian Samuel Johnson struck the crossbar late on.

Parma, the 1995 UEFA Cup winners who face an uncertain future after their owners Parmalat were forced into insolvency in December, fell behind to a goal on



PHOTO: AFP

Barcelona's Brazilian superstar Ronaldinho (L) leads his side's celebrations with Giovanni van Bronckhorst (C) and Thiago Motta after scoring against Brondby in Copenhagen. On February 26

the hour from Genclerbirligi midfielder Josp Skoko and wasted chances to equalise.

Inter Milan striker Christian Vieri shrugged off Tuesday's fire bomb attack on a restaurant he co-owns by netting after just eight minutes against high-flying Ligue 1 side Sochaux.

Inter led again in the second half but two goals from striker Pierre-Alain Frau gave Sochaux hope for the return leg.

There was no fairytale victory for Brondby coach Michael Laudrup as his former side Barcelona produced a professional performance in the Danish capital.

Laudrup won four titles and the European Cup with Barca in the early 90s but the Danish league leaders face a tough return at the Nou Camp because Ronaldinho fired home on 63 minutes after his own free kick had rattled the cross-

bar.

A goal four minutes into stoppage time by David Navarro gave Valencia, among the competition favourites, a 3-2 win over Turkish league leaders Besiktas, who had threatened to cause a shock at the Mestalla.

Daniel Pancu twice fired Besiktas ahead but goals from Mohamed Sissoko and Fabian Canobbio put the Spanish team level before Navarro's late winner.

Liverpool's poor domestic form has led to calls for Houllier's resignation but the Frenchman was smiling after second-half goals from Steven Gerrard and Harry Kewell broke down resilient Levski.

Celtic began their quest to reach back-to-back UEFA Cup finals by cruising to a 3-0 home win over Czech minnows Teplice.

Two goals from Henrik Larsson

and another from Chris Sutton gave the unbeaten Scottish premier league leaders, who lost last year's final 3-2 to Porto, a comfortable advantage.

Former European champions Marseille needed a freak penalty, scored by Didier Drogba, to edge out Ukraine's Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk 1-0.

Drogba slipped on the wet Velodrome pitch before kicking the ball and kept just enough balance to send it into the net.

Real Mallorca romped to an impressive 3-0 win at Spartak Moscow while fellow Spaniards Villarreal, rocked by the resignation of coach Benito Floro on Monday, stormed into a 2-0 lead in Istanbul against 2000 winners Galatasaray before eventually having to settle for a 2-2 draw.

Hosts confirm easier semi

FROMPAGE 13 fours and a six.

New Zealand never looked in contention and only a brisk 44 (35 balls, four fours, three sixes) from last man Te Ahu Davis took them to 180.

Stanley Marisa and Sean Williams took three wickets each.

PLATE GROUP 2

Bangladesh v Ireland: The sides had already qualified for the semis but the race was on to win the group and avoid meeting Australia in the last four.

Ireland opted to bat first but were undone by the left-arm spin of Nadif Chowdhury and were all out for 141 in the 47th over. Nadif ran through the middle order with figures of four for 14 from 7.4 overs.

Bangladesh's batting had sent all the wrong messages throughout the competition but this time they came good. Key opener Nafis Iqbal hit an unbeaten 86 as victory was achieved in the 30th over for the loss of two wickets.

It was the local lad's second half-century in the World Cup. Bangladesh now have the easier prospect of meeting Scotland in the second Plate semifinal on March 1 at the Divisional Stadium.

Ireland have to deal with the wounded Aussies, still smarting from their shock ouster from the main competition in the first semifinal at the MA Aziz Stadium on February 29.

Uganda v Canada: Canada batted first and reached 231 before they lost their last wicket in the final ball of the 50th over. There were important contributions Trevin Bastiampillai (40), Karun Jethi (43) and Shaheed Keshvani (65).

Anything over 200 has proved tough to chase in this World Cup but Uganda did it in style. Martin Ondeko and Hamza Saleh put on a decisive 121 for the third wicket. Saleh was run out for 50, but Ondeko saw the Africans home home with five wickets in hand and three overs to spare. The only sore point for Ondeko was that he missed a richly deserved hundred by just one run.

SCOREBOARD

Scorecards of the four ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup matches at different venues yesterday:

SUPER LEAGUE

Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

ZIMBABWE

Taylor b McKay 127
Williams c Flynn b Frauenstein 8
Chigumbura c de Boorder b Devcich 20
Mawoyo c & b McKay 38
Ervine b Davis 34
Mufambisi not out 45
De Grandhomme b Davis 8
Marisa run out (Findlay) 2
Panyangara run out 1
Ruswa not out 1

Extras: (b-5, lb-1, w-9, nb-3) 18
Total: (For 8 wks in 50 overs) 272
Did not bat: E Rainsford.
Fall of wks: 1-12, 2-98, 3-128, 4-197, 5-218, 6-238, 7-253, 8-254.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Davis	10	0	74	2
Frauenstein	6	0	41	1
Devcich	10	1	37	1
Findlay	9	1	52	0
McKay	10	1	32	2
Eathorne	5	0	30	0

NEW ZEALAND

Carey run out (de Grand-homme) 10
Watling c Taylor b Rainsford 0
Flynn c Ervine b Chigumbura 15
Wilson st Taylor b Williams 20
Eathorne b Marisa 18
McKay b Marisa 0
Devcich b Williams 13
Findlay b Williams 1
De Boorder not out 28
Frauenstein c Ruswa b Marisa 4
Davis b Panyangara 44
Extras: (lb-6, w-21) 27
Total: (All out in 42 overs) 180
Fall of wks: 1-7, 2-15, 3-50, 4-81, 5-81, 6-86, 7-92, 8-101, 9-108, 10-180.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Rainsford	10	2	32	1
Panyangara	6	0	23	1
Chigumbura	4	0	30	1
Williams	10	1	24	3
Marisa	10	1	36	3
Ruswa	2	0	29	0

Result: Zimbabwe won by 92 runs.
Man-of-the-match: B Taylor.
Toss: Zimbabwe.

England vs Pakistan

Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium, Dhaka

ENGLAND

Cook lbw b Afridi 87
Bopara lbw b Afridi 0
Davies b Imran 53
Patel b Mahmood 11
Hildreth c & b Amjad 7
Harrison b Afridi 5
Bresnan b Afridi 11
Plunkett b Imran 3
Harrison b Imran 2
Stiff b Afridi 1
Lawson not out 1
Extras: (b-1, lb-6, w6) 13
Total: (All out in 50 overs) 196
Fall of wks: 1-7, 2-131, 3-156, 4-167, 5-167, 6-186, 7-189, 8-191, 9-195, 10-196.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Afridi	10	0	42	5
Imran	10	0	45	3
Qadir	10	0	46	0
Amjad	10	0	21	1
Mahmood	10	0	35	1

PAKISTAN

Latif lbw b Bresnan 19
Ali c Davies b Plunkett 5
Zaheer lbw b Bresnan 0
Mirza c Davies b Harrison 20
Qadir c Plunkett b Lawson 37
Fawad c Harrison b Lawson 20
Mahmood c Bresnan b Harrison 3
Afridi b Harrison 1
Haider c Davies b Patel 44
Amjad b Bresnan 21
Imran not out 2
Extras: (b-2, lb-7, w-10) 19

Total: (All out in 47.4 overs) 191
Fall of wks: 1-7, 2-27, 3-34, 4-56, 5-108, 6-117, 7-118, 8-118, 9-185, 10-191.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Bresnan	9	0	33	3
Plunkett	10	1	37	1
Harrison	8	2	24	3
Stiff	7	2	28	0
Patel	6.4	0	27	1
Lawson	7	0	33	2

Result: England won by 5 runs.
Man-of-the-match: A Cook.
Toss: Pakistan

PLATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Bangladesh vs Ireland

Venue: Chittagong Divisional Stadium

IRELAND

Porterfield c Rubaiyat b Enamul Jr 34
Wilson b Rubaiyat 18
Morgan b Rubaiyat 14
O'Brien b Rubaiyat 17
Wells c Nazimuddin b Naeem 3
Blakeney lbw b Naeem 10
Rankin c Aftab b Naeem 17
Rankin b Nadif 1
Kidd b Nadif 0
Thompson b Nadif 0
Coulter not out 43
Extras: (b-5, lb-6, w-13, nb-3) 27
Total: (All out in 46.4 overs) 141

Bowler	O	M	R
Nazmul	8	2	23
Rubaiyat	8	3	32
Abashar	5	0	22
Naeem	10	0	21
Enamul Jr	8	2	18
Nadif	7.4	1	14

BANGLADESH
Naeem c Wilson b Kidd 13
Nafis not out 86
Aftab c Wilson b Thompson 15
Ashiquar not out 13
Extras: (lb-3, w-11, nb-2) 16
Total: (For 2 wks in 30 overs) 19

143
Did not bat: Nazimuddin, Dhiman Ghosh, Abul Bashar, Nadif Chowdhury, Rubaiyat Huq, Nazmul Hossain, Enamul Haque Jr.

Fall of wks: 1-54, 2-92.

Bowler	O	M
R Morgan	3	0
Rankin	2	0
O'Brien	0	0
Coulter	2	0
Kidd	10	1
Thompson	10	2

Result: Bangladesh won by 8 wickets.
Man-of-the-match: Nafis Iqbal
Toss: Ireland.

Canada vs Uganda

Venue: MA Aziz Stadium, Chittagong

CANADA

G Bastiampillai run out (Almuzzahim) 11
Lall c Almuzzahim b Ochan 1
Keshvani lbw b Ochan 4
Bastiampillai c & b Almuzzahim 40
Jethi c Ochan b Almuzzahim 43
Keshvani c & b Ochan 65
Anjaria b Ochan 14
Bhatti run out (Okello) 2

Result: Canada won by 8 wickets.
Man-of-the-match: Nafis Iqbal
Toss: Ireland.

Canada vs Uganda
Venue: MA Aziz Stadium, Chittagong

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Primera Liga preview

Already dreaming treble



AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid coach Carlos Queiroz turns his attention to domestic matters with the visit of Celta Vigo on Sunday, and he is starting to believe that his team can achieve a historic triple set of titles.

Not even in the 1950's heyday of the club's honorary president Alfredo Di Stefano, when Real won five consecutive European Cups, did the team also notch up the Spanish league and cup double.

However, Real are currently five points clear at the top of the Spanish first division, are Spanish Cup finalists, and their 1-1 draw at Bayern Munich in the Champions League last 16 first leg on Tuesday took them one small step nearer a record 10th European crown.

"We've been dreaming about this from the start of the season but we are now a little closer to it becoming reality," beamed Queiroz on Thursday.

"The final tests are getting nearer and, when we have to take them, we have to be ready for them."

"It will require a lot of energy and a lot of effort, but we are not going to give up because if the dream disappears then the frustration will be immense," added Queiroz.

Queiroz acknowledged that his players have already spent a lot of energy and effort to get where they are at the moment.

He hinted that for the first time this season, in contrast to many

other Spanish first division coaches, he may rotate his players and give several a rest against Celta.

Prime candidates for a break are Spanish internationals Michel Salgado and Raul Gonzalez, who have both played in 24 of Real's 25 league games this season.

Celta have been struggling on the home front this season, despite their progress in the Champions League, and are just two places above the relegation zone - but the Galicians are coming to the Spanish capital full of fight.

They lost 3-2 at home to Arsenal in the Champions League on Tuesday but were beaten rather than bowed.

"The game against Madrid will be very similar to the one against Arsenal," said Celta striker Edu, a scorer against the English Premiership leaders.

"It has been a long time since Real have lost in front of their home fans but if we play the way that we did on Tuesday then we can do a lot of damage to them," add the Brazilian.

Celta will face the reigning Spanish champions, who are unbeaten in their Santiago Bernabeu citadel this season, with Jose Manuel Pinto between the posts after their number one keeper Pablo Cavallero broke his nose against Arsenal.

Sergio Fernandez will also be missing for Celta, banned for one match after being sent off in last Sunday's 2-0 home loss to Malaga.

Real's nearest rivals in the championship race are Valencia,

whose coach Rafa Benitez will wait until the dust has settled from Thursday's UEFA Cup clash with Turkish club Besiktas before naming his side to face struggling Espanyol on Sunday.