

Martin, Styris lift NZ
Pollock breaks SA record

Cricket

AFP, Auckland

Devastating bowling by Chris Martin and an century from the bat of teammate Scott Styris put New Zealand in a commanding position at stumps on the second day of the second Test against South Africa here on Friday.

Returning after a two-year absence from the New Zealand side, medium-pace Martin tore through the South African batting order to take six wickets for a career-best 76.

Martin's sterling efforts with the ball were followed by a stylish century from Scott Styris to give New Zealand the upper hand at stumps.

Styris was 118 not out off just 138 balls as New Zealand ended the second day on 201 for three in reply to the tourists' first innings of 296.

Shaun Pollock however became South Africa's highest Test wicket taker, beating Allan Donald's record of 330 Test wickets when he removed Michael Pappas for naught. Pollock reached the mark in his 82nd test, 10 more than it took Donald to reach reach the record before his retirement in 2002.

South Africa had started the day on 231 for two, with Jacques Kallis hoping to equal Australian great Don Bradman's record of scoring centuries in six consecutive Test matches.

South Africa however lost their

last eight wickets to add just 61 runs thanks to Martin who took a career-best six wickets for 76 after returning to the New Zealand side he last played for in May 2002.

Opener Styris then went on the offensive to haul New Zealand up from 12 for two to reach his third century in 11 Tests. It was also his highest score in 10 Test innings at home.

New Zealand coach John Bracewell hailed Styris' effort with the game well poised and the new ball playing some tricks on the drop-in-pitch.

"In terms of strategy it was outstanding. He took the game by the scruff of the neck, and turned what was a delicate situation into an offensive and dominating one," Bracewell said.

"It takes a bit of balls to do that, it takes confidence, and confidence in your team to allow you to do that."

In the morning the visitors found themselves facing a cloudy humid day and New Zealand pacemen bowling a firm line. New Zealand collected five wickets before lunch, including that of Kallis for 40.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the second Test between New Zealand and South Africa at Eden Park on Friday.

Table with columns: SOUTH AFRICA: First innings, Smith lbw b Martin, Gibbs b Cairns, Rudolph c Pappas b Martin, Kallis c McCullum b Martin.

Table with columns: O M R W, Tuffey, Martin, Oram, Cairns, Styris, Vettori, NEW ZEALAND: First innings, Richardson c Gibbs b Kallis, Pappas c Boje b Pollock, Fleming c Kallis b Ntini, Styris not out, McMillan not out, Extras: (lb-1, nb-2), Total: (For three wks in 54 overs) 201, Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-12, 3-137.

Table with columns: O M R W, Pollock, Ntini, Terbrugge, Kallis, Boje, Toss: New Zealand, Umpires: Asoka de Silva (SRI), Aleem Dar (PAK).



South African all-rounder Shaun Pollock celebrates dismissing New Zealand batsman Matthew Pappas to break the South African record for Test wickets with 331 wickets at Eden Park yesterday.

Ferdinand loses

Football

AFP, London

Manchester United and England defender Rio Ferdinand said Friday he was "absolutely devastated" at losing his appeal against an eight-month ban for missing a drugs test.

The ban was upheld by a three-man panel after a brief appeal hearing on Thursday, meaning Ferdinand will be suspended until September 20, leaving him out of contention for the Euro 2004 finals which begin in Portugal on June 12.

The 25-year-old will also miss the start of the 2004-05 English Premiership season.

"I'm absolutely devastated at this verdict," Ferdinand told Friday's edition of the Sun newspaper.

"The main thing keeping me going throughout this has been the possibility of playing again this season. This verdict has taken that hope away from me," he said.

"I won't feel happy until I am back in competitive football. At the end of the day I am a footballer and I want to play football for a living," Ferdinand said. "Thanking Manchester United and his lawyers for their support."

"Now I have to sit down and come to terms with what has happened."

The panel, chaired by independent lawyer Ian Mill and including Football Association (FA) chairman Geoff Thompson

and FA councillor Roger Burden rejected the defender's appeal.

However it also turned down an FA submission that Ferdinand's ban should be increased to 12 months, a punishment in line with world soccer governing body FIFA's regulations.

The panel also said they did not believe that Ferdinand's reason for missing the test was drugs-related, a point that was particularly important to the player who repeatedly stressed he had never taken drugs.

"The panel have said that I am not a drug taker," Ferdinand told the Sun.

Panel spokesman Nick Barron, reading a prepared statement, said Ferdinand's appeal was against a decision in December that he had failed or refused to submit to drug testing as required by a competent official, contrary to the FA's Doping Control Regulations.

"He also appealed against the suspension of eight months with effect from 20th January 2004, which the commission imposed as a sanction for that offence."

"The FA responded to Mr Ferdinand's appeal with the contention that the period of suspension should be increased to a minimum of 12 months."

"Having considered the matter very fully, the appeal board has today (Thursday) dismissed Mr Ferdinand's appeal, both against conviction and against sanction."

"It has also rejected The FA's contention that the period of suspension should be increased."

"In reaching its conclusions, the

appeal board discounted the possibility that Mr Ferdinand's reasons for not taking the test were drug-related.

"Accordingly, Mr Ferdinand remains on suspension until 20th September 2004."

Ferdinand's appeal had been scheduled for two days but the panel made its decision after sitting for four hours on Thursday before considering their verdict.

Before Ferdinand began his suspension on January 20, United had the best defensive record in the Premiership.

In his absence, they have fallen 12 points behind Arsenal in the race for the English Premiership title and have been eliminated from the Champions League.

Ferdinand began serving the ban on January 20 after failing to attend a drugs test at United's training ground on September 23, 2003.

Ferdinand's case was reported to have included the results of a test carried out on his hair.

Hair tests can rule out the use of recreational drugs but are inconclusive in the case of performance-enhancing drugs.

However, as the panel's verdict made clear, this was not the central issue at stake with doping chiefs regarding a missed test as a serious offence in itself and their stance is supported by FIFA.

Ferdinand still has the option of appealing to the Swiss-based Court of Arbitration for Sport against his ongoing ban.

American Cup golf held

SPORTS REPORTER

Brig Gen Shahidul Islam Mondal clinched the men's title while Mrs Luna Sarker won the women's crown in the American Cup golf tournament at the Kurmitola Golf Club yesterday.

A total of 392 golfers including 25 ladies took part in the meet.

Chief of Army Staff and president of Kurmitola Golf Club Lt General Hasan Mashud Chowdhury inaugurated the two-day tournament and distributed prizes as chief guest.

OTHER RESULTS

Senior winner: A Quddus; Junior winner: Master Intesar; Best Gross: Jong Pil Kim; Ladies Best Gross: Mrs C D Hwang; 2nd Best Gross: Shawkat-uz-Zaman; Runner-up: Maj Gen Abdul Wadud; 2nd Runner-up: Col Adem Kayan; Nearest to Pin: Col Eric Rozario; Longest Drive: Sadiq Quddus; Best Gross: Denis Bissmeyer; 2nd Best Gross: Marsh; Monster Putt: A Quddus; Talent Hunt winner: Mohd Panna; Talent Hunt runner-up: Mohd Nuruzzaman; Talent Hunt 2nd runner-up: Mohd Sobhan.

Tribal U-14 hockey

BSS, Dhaka

Dinajpur thrashed Khagrachhari 3-0 in the first Tribal U-14 hockey tournament at Rangamati Cantonment hockey ground yesterday.

Chandan Biswas opened the scoring for Dinajpur in the sixth minute while Rana Kisku struck in the 32nd minute to give the winners a 2-0 lead at the breather.

Shadhan Marandi completed the rout a minute from the long whistle.

Rangamati defeated Bandarban district 1-0 in the day's other match.

Meghna cricket Nazrul Smriti's

BSS, Dhaka

Nazrul Smriti Sangha emerged champions in the Meghna Life Insurance cricket league defeating Ekota Sangha by six wickets at the Bhola stadium on Wednesday.

State Minister for Youth and Sports M Fazlur Rahman distributed prizes among the winners. State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharref Hossain Shahjahan was present on the occasion.

Mini handball

SPORTS REPORTER

Hosts Sunnydale struggled before posting a 4-2 win over Dhanmondi Tutorial in the second mini handball tournament at the Dhanmondi Women's Sports Complex yesterday.

Earlier Dhanmondi Tutorial defeated Rahmatullah High School 7-2 in the day's first match.

Rahmatullah High School scored a 4-1 win over Radiant International who also suffered a 3-1 defeat at the hands of Hope International.

Bangladesh International School had the most impressive results. They overwhelmed The British School 7-1 before thrashing St Judes 15-1.

Klusener slapped with a suspension

CRICINFO, undated

Both players were barred from playing a SuperSport Series Super Six match between KwaZulu-Natal and Border which begins on March 19, after they were found guilty of dissent during a recent game between Western Province and KwaZulu-Natal.

Odumbe a victim?

CRICINFO, undated

A newspaper article in Kenya is claiming that there is more than meets the eye to the International Cricket Council's decision to investigate Maurice Odumbe for alleged match-fixing.

The report, in the Nairobi-based East African Standard, says that Odumbe is the victim of the anger of two women -- one his estranged wife, the other a former girlfriend -- and an unnamed official of the Kenyan Cricket Association, who almost came to blows with Odumbe during last year's World Cup.

Quite how the trio have influenced the ICC is not made clear, but there is a clear implication that they have played their part in getting Odumbe into the spotlight. They have at various times accused him of "all sorts of weird things, from dealing with bookies to drug peddling". And that, the report surmises, is where the ICC's interest began.

The bookmaker that Odumbe is alleged to have had a friendship with is an Indian who had helped him with some personal matters but was, it is claimed, not known by Odumbe to be a bookie. If this is true, then the various telephone conversations between the two would have a less sinister undertone that might at first seem to be the case.

Men in the middle

FROM PAGE 13

In these high-pressure games would be multiplied ten-fold.

"I've made several close calls in the two games already," Taufel smiled.

"Maybe you think that you might start World War III if you get something wrong but, on the whole, I feel very comfortable to keep calling it as I see it."

WI 110-3

FROM PAGE 13

After winning the toss, Windies captain Brian Lara opted to bat and opens Chris Gayle and Devon Smith gave the perfect start putting on exactly 100 before Gayle edged to wicketkeeper Chris Read off Harrison for a stroke-filled 65. Smith departed ten runs later as Harrison had him lbw. Three balls later disaster struck as Lara fended a short ball to gully without opening his account.

INDIA-PAKISTAN SCOREBOARD

FROM PAGE 13

Mohammad Sami, Shabbir Ahmed

Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-29, 3-55, 4-65, 5-156, 6-173.

Table with columns: O M R W, Balaji, Zaheer, Ganguly, Powar, Tendulkar, Yuvraj, Result: Pakistan won by four wickets. Man-of-the-match: Yasir Hameed. Toss: Pakistan. Umpires: David Shepherd (ENG), Nadeem Ghauri (PAK). Tvumpire: Asad Rauf (PAK). Match referee: Ranjan Madugalle (SRI). Remaining matches: March 21 and March 24 (both at Lahore).

Pakistan keep

FROM PAGE 13

Bari, however, said Pakistan still needed to sort out some weak areas if the series was to be won.

"We concede too many wides and no-balls," he said.

"The bowlers also must improve their line and length and the lower order batsmen have to score runs."

Pakistan sent down 23 wides and four no-balls on Friday.

SQUAD

Inzamamul Haq (capt), Yousof Youhana, Yasir Hameed, Shahid Afridi, Taufeeq Umar, Imran Farhat, Younis Khan, Shoaib Malik, Moin Khan, Abdul Razaq, Shoaib Akhtar, Mohammad Sami, Shabbir Ahmed, Rana Naveedul Hassan, Saqlain Mushtaq.

Premiership preview

Bolton in Gunners' way

Football

AFP, London

Jay-Jay Okocha's luck must turn soon but Arsenal fans will be praying it does not happen when Bolton visit Highbury on Saturday.

Bidding to extend their unbeaten start to the season to a record-equaling 29 matches, Arsenal will kick off as odds on favourites to overcome Sam Allardyce's faltering side and move another step closer to reclaiming the Premiership title.

But Gunners boss Arsene Wenger, a long-time admirer of Bolton's captain and playmaker, knows Okocha is more than capable of throwing a spanner in the works.

The Nigerian is certainly due a bit of a break. Despite a staggering 105 shots on goal, Okocha has yet to find the back of the net in a league match this season -- a statistic which has manager Sam Allardyce scratching his head in disbelief.

"I can't understand why this guy

hasn't got a goal this season," Allardyce admitted. "I'd like to see him get off the mark because a few more goals often follow."

Bolton's French midfielder Youri Djorkaeff will miss out on a reunion with the contingent of his compatriots at Arsenal as a result of the hamstring injury that has kept him sidelined for two weeks.

Now 12 points adrift of Arsenal, Manchester United have virtually conceded defeat in the title race. But with Tottenham the visitors to Old Trafford on Saturday, manager Alex Ferguson will demand a reaction to last weekend's 4-1 humiliation by local rivals Manchester City.

United desperately need to find some form ahead of next month's FA Cup semi-final showdown with Arsenal.

Ferguson's men must also start picking up points if they are not to allow Chelsea, who entertain Fulham on Saturday, a clear run for second place and an automatic spot in the Champions League group stage.

Liverpool will be hoping for more of the same from Michael Owen when they entertain strug-

gling Wolves at Anfield. The England striker bounced back from a recent run of poor form -- and penalty misses -- with a double in the midweek 3-0 win over Portsmouth.

Liverpool's main rivals for the coveted Champions League spot, Newcastle and Charlton, face each other at St James' Park in a clash that Shola Ameobi has dubbed a must-win encounter for the Magpies.

Leicester captain Paul Dickov could return to the squad for the first time since being released on bail from a Spanish jail, where he and team-mates Keith Gillespie and Frank Sinclair were held for a week on sexual assault charges.

FIXTURES

(1500 GMT unless stated) Saturday: Arsenal v Bolton, Aston Villa v Blackburn, Chelsea v Fulham, Leicester v Everton, Liverpool v Wolves, Manchester United v Tottenham, Middlesbrough v Birmingham, Newcastle v Charlton (1730 GMT) Sunday: Portsmouth v Southampton (1605 GMT) Monday: Leeds v Manchester City

Primera Liga preview

Prepare for Real backlash

Football

AFP, Madrid

Real Madrid coach Carlos Queiroz has warned Athletic Bilbao that they will pay the price on Saturday for his side's surprise defeat in the Spanish Cup final this week.

A winning goal in extra time from Real Zaragoza's Argentinian midfielder Luciano Galletti ended Real's bid for the treble of Cup, league and Champions League honours.

Queiroz is feeling the pressure from a club who must match the millions of euros spent on bringing in players such as England captain David Beckham with winning trophies.

Madrid cannot afford to lose their four-point lead at the top over Valencia, so Queiroz was talking tough on Thursday, the

day after his plans for a treble were ruined in Barcelona by Zaragoza's 3-2 victory.

"Someone has to pay for what happened to us against Zaragoza and in Bilbao we have to show that it was just an accident," the Portuguese coach said.

"We have to concentrate and think about the responsibility we have on Saturday. I don't think a team like Madrid loses two matches in a row."

"I take all the responsibility for what happened."

Ronaldo watched the Cup final defeat from the stands and the torn muscle in his thigh will keep him out of action until the end of the month, so Real must hope Raul rediscovers the scoring touch that has deserted him recently.

Bilbao are fighting for a place in the UEFA Cup next season so they will not just roll over and let 'los galacticos' take revenge.

Valencia will already know how their bitter rivals fared by the time they host Real Mallorca on Sunday as they seek to keep up the pressure on Madrid.

Led by Brazilian playmaker Ronaldinho, Barcelona are motoring towards a place in the Champions League after moving into third place with last weekend's victory over bottom club Murcia. They face last season's league runners-up Real Sociedad at the Nou Camp looking for a ninth consecutive victory.

FIXTURES

Saturday: Athletic Bilbao v Real Madrid, Deportivo La Coruna v Murcia, Atletico Madrid v Real Betis Sunday: Albacete v Valladolid, Sevilla v Malaga, Real Zaragoza v Espanyol, Racing Santander v Celta Vigo, Osasuna v Villarreal, Valencia v Real Mallorca, Barcelona v Real Sociedad

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Clues include: 1 Darnon or Dillon, 5 Tin Man's need, 8 Family, 12 San-dusky's lake, 13 Cruise port, 14 Showgirl 'At the Copa', 15 Script, 17 On, 18 Bush, 19 Networks, 21 Bring up, 24 IRS, 25 Ready for action, 28 Long cut, 30 Uncultured, 33 Carte lead-in, 34 Sound portion, 35 Actress Lupino, 36 Come together, 37 Emulate Columbus, 38 Apollo's destination, 39 Cistern.

Cryptic crossword puzzle grid with clues: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 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.

CRYPTOQUIP XR ZLT KLJ ZLTY OLDVZ G DVMFWGMV, X JOXDF ZLT'Q QVRXDXJVWZ KJV G MOGX D YVGMJXLD. Yesterday's Cryptiquip: DO YOU THINK THAT A PERSON SELLING REFRIGERATORS MUST MAKE PLENTY OF COLD CALLS? Today's Cryptiquip Clue: D equals N. The Cryptiquip 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.

Kandy Test nicely poised

FROM PAGE 13

inspired opening spells from Gillespie and Kasprowicz before Jayasuriya came to their rescue.

Gillespie trapped Marvan Atapattu (eight) leg-before and then Kasprowicz accounted for Avishka Gunawardene (nine) in a similar fashion.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the second Test between Australia and Sri Lanka at the Asgiriya Stadium in Kandy on Friday.

AUSTRALIA: First innings 120 (Hayden 54; Muralitharan 4-48, Zoysa 4-54). SRI LANKA: First innings 211 (Vaas 68 not out, Muralitharan 43; Warne 5-65, Kasprowicz 4-83).

AUSTRALIA: Second innings (overnight 320-5) Langer c Sangakkara b Zoysa 9, Hayden c and b Vaas 5, Gilchrist lbw b Muralitharan 144.

Martyns Sangakkara b Muralitharan 161, Lehmann lbw b Vaas 21, Ponting c Sangakkara b Vaas 27, Symonds lbw b Muralitharan 23, Warne c Zoysa b Muralitharan 6, Kasprowicz c Jayawardene b Zoysa 11, MacGill not out 17.

Extras: (b-2, lb-7, nb-1) 10. Total: (All out in 134.3 overs) 442.

Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-26, 3-226, 4-255, 5-304, 6-360, 7-376, 8-393, 9-408.

Table with columns: O M R W, Vaas, Muralitharan, Zoysa, Lokuarachchi, Jayasuriya, Dilshan, SRI LANKA: Second innings, Atapattu lbw b Gillespie, Mazharul c Gilchrist b Gillespie, Gunawardene lbw b Kasprowicz, Sangakkara c and b Warne, Jayawardene c Gilchrist b Gillespie, Dilshan b Warne, Tillakaratne c Ponting b Warne, Vaas not out, Lokuarachchi not out, Enamul not out, Extras: (b-4, lb-13, nb-1) 18.

Total: (For seven wickets in 67 overs) 301.

Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-36, 3-98, 4-174, 5-218, 6-239, 7-274.

Table with columns: O M R W, Kasprowicz, Gillespie, Warne, Symonds, MacGill, Toss: Australia, Umpires: Steve Bucknor (WIS) and Dave Orchard (RSA), TV umpire: Tyrone Wijewardene (SRI), Match-referee: Chris Broad (ENG).