

Sourav, Ricky lick lips



AFP, Amstelveen

India captain Sourav Ganguly and his Australian counterpart Ricky Ponting have both said they cannot wait for the resumption of the cricket giants' Test match rivalry in October.

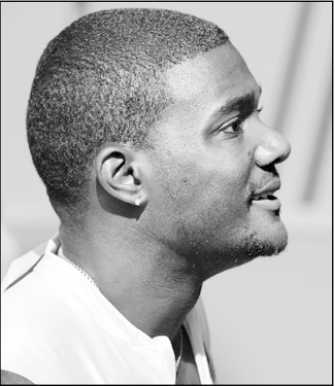
"It's going to probably be the biggest series of the year," said Ganguly. "We all know that. They will be definitely looking forward to coming to India and we will be looking forward to that series."

And Ponting, anticipating the four-match contest in India, said it would be a "huge" series.

The duo were speaking after rain forced Monday's triangular series match here at the VRA Ground to be abandoned as a no-result, an outcome that left India relying on a huge win by Pakistan against the one-day world champions Wednesday to qualify for Saturday's final.

But although Australia beat India by the crushing margin of 125 runs to win last year's World Cup Final in Johannesburg, it is their recent five-day encounters that have really gripped cricket fans.

In January this year India held Ponting's team, also regarded as the world's best current Test side, to a 1-1



Justin Gatlin
(Men's 100m Olympic champion)
"This is the reason I am here, to win the gold medal. This is the reason I train, this is the reason why I shovel snow off tracks in North Carolina."

Star WHIZZ KID
COMPETITION 216
Tick the correct answers, post to
The Daily Star
Win attractive prizes
Competition closes at 8 pm
Sept 10, 2004 and draw

1. Who won the first gold medal in the Athens Olympics?
Galkina Devers Du

2. Who became Asia Cup cricket champs?
India Pakistan Sri Lanka

3. Who clinched the Cincinnati Masters tennis title?
Federer Henman Agassi

4. Who lifted the 25th nat'l hockey crown?
Usha MSC Bangladesh Army

Name
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Class. Roll No.
School Address
.....
Phone: (If any)

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Tourney format
6 Bridge coups
11 Big shok
12 Fans' wall art
14 Chinese menu item
15 "Call of the Wild" author
16 In an env.
17 Myrrh, for one
19 Nanki- — ("Mikado" character)
20 On
22 Perched
23 Grain storage structure
24 "M*A*S*H" locale
26 Least exciting
28 L times
30 "U!alume" writer
31 Hybrid fuel
35 Million-nium fractions
39 Brooklyn-born actor Omar

DOWN
1 Without further ado
2 Ill will
3 Chic no more
4 Cupid's field
5 Barber's challenges
6 Go
7 Serengeti roamer
8 Agriculture
9 Backyard "dessert"
10 Seamstress' supply
11 Make adjustments
12 Beezer
13 Blue
21 Rio Grande feeder
23 Coleridge called it "a gentle thing"
25 Interfaken interjection
27 Powell co-star
29 Put one over on
31 Rock cavity
32 Cookwear
33 Moomch
34 Vietnam Memorial designer
36 Fit for farming
37 Flinch
38 Shell out
41 River of Rome
44 Venetian magistrate
45 Sauce source
48 Mandible
50 Sagebrush St.

CRYPTOQUIP

R S Z N M X R U R H G A
Z G D T R U O , X A M O R N D G
U Z X D T U Q Z P G A S Z

HAHQPAQDTG APNZHRVZGRAH.
Yesterday's Cryptquip: I SUPPOSE YOU MIGHT CALL A BULLET PRODUCTION COMPANY'S PRESIDENT A BIG SHOT.
Today's Cryptquip Clue: H equals N

The Cryptquip 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.

Champs Trophy Drug cheats take care

BBC ONLINE, undated

Players testing positive for drugs during September's ICC Champions Trophy face bans of up to two years and fines.

Two players from each team will be randomly selected for testing at each of the 15 ICC Champions Trophy matches.

"A minimum ban of two years could effectively spell the end of a player's career," said International Cricket Council (ICC) chief executive Malcolm Speed.

Australian Shane Warne was hit with a one-year ban after testing positive for a banned substance in the run-up to last year's World Cup.

Under plans drawn up with UK Sport, and using World Anti Doping Agency accredited laboratories, any player returning a positive test will be immediately suspended.

And the case will then be referred to the tournament drugs tribunal, made up of a senior legal practitioner, a medical specialist and a former cricketer or administrator.

A separate three-man panel, made up in similar fashion, will hear appeals from either the player concerned or the ICC.

The World Cup was the first time a worldwide testing programme was introduced.

Some individual countries, including England have had systems in place since 1998 but most positive tests have been for recreational drugs.

Speed pointed out that Warne's result came before the tournament, which passed off without a similar incident.

"International cricket has a good track record in steering clear of drug-related problems," he added.

"If however any individual decides to take a risk by using prohibited drugs, the anti doping code we have adopted provides powerful deterrents for proven offenders."

Greek tragedy

REUTERS, Athens

A Greek judoka, who 17 days ago jumped off a balcony after a row with her boyfriend hours before she was due to go into the athletes' Olympic village for the Athens Games, has died in hospital.

The tragic story of Eleni Ioannou, 20, and her boyfriend who jumped off the same balcony two days later after blaming himself for her leap that shocked the nation days before the Olympics.

"Ioannou died from her wounds suffered by the fall," said the Health Ministry in a statement on Thursday.

She had suffered multiple head and body injuries after falling from the third floor of her boyfriend's Athens apartment onto the concrete pavement.

Greek media dubbed the incident "Romeo and Juliet", after it was revealed the two had quarrelled at length over their relationship before Ioannou attempted to put an end to her life.

Relatives of Ioannou had said the three-time Greek champion had been under pressure for days before the start of the Games and her planned entry into the off-limits athletes' village for the duration of the Games had piled on additional pressure.

Zee threatens ESPN Star

REUTERS, Mumbai

A fierce bidding war for the lucrative rights to broadcast international cricket matches in India has pitted a deep-pocketed sports network against the country's biggest listed media firm.

Up for grabs are broadcast rights for all matches organised by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) over four years starting in October, a bigger share of the expanding TV advertising pie and more subscriptions in the world's third-largest cable TV market.

Zee Telefilms Ltd, India's third-ranked network, emerged as the surprise highest bidder with an offer of 260 million dollars. Its shares have gained more than 15 per cent since the bids were made public last week.

But ESPN-Star Sports, a joint venture of Walt Disney Inc. and News Corp. that offered 230 million dollars, has opposed Zee's bid on the grounds that the company did not have the required experience in broadcasting live cricket. Zee disputes that.

"General entertainment networks are looking to use cricket to drive the ratings and advertising on their other channels," said RC Venkatesh, managing director of ESPN Software India Pvt. Ltd, which provides programming to ESPN-Star Sports.

"But we are a sports channel -- this is our bread and butter."

Bids from Sony Corp., Dubai-based Ten Sports and state-owned Prasar Bharati were much lower. The BCCI is expected to award the broadcasting rights later this month.

Finally Marion

India captain Sourav Ganguly had no complaints after rain forced his side's match to be abandoned as a no-result. It was a game India were desperate to win.

Both Australia and India received three points for the no-result.

As far as Ganguly was concerned his team were already out.

"We needed to win this game to qualify," Ganguly told reporters afterwards when the ground was bathed in bright sunshine.

"If we had won this game we would have had some chance but now we are totally out," he added. "We didn't play well against Pakistan and we don't deserve to be in the final."

India were already without Sachin Tendulkar, the star batsman ruled out of the whole tournament before Saturday's opener with an elbow injury.

And for this match Ajit Agarkar was forced out with a side strain problem.

Owen here to stay



MIRROR, London

Michael Owen on Monday dismissed the doubts over his move to Madrid and declared this is his time and his place.

The England striker's decision to quit Liverpool took him from certain starter to having to contest a place with Ronaldo, Raul and Fernando Morientes.

But he defied suggestions he will suffer the frustration of being little more than a bit-part player at the Bernabeu and insisted leaving Anfield was a mark of courage.

"I'd like to think everybody looks at me and thinks, 'Well done, you've got guts'," he said.

"I've gone abroad at 24 and broken out of the comfort zone, taken my family away to live a new life, which is quite scary."

"I'm proud I've made that split, as much as I'm sad at doing it."

"It's something I've done for me as a person and as a player, to achieve success in the game and to have that experience of being able to tell people I played for Real Madrid, the biggest club in the world in my eyes and most people's eyes. I came because of the whole package. The least part of it was the money, that wasn't really part of the equation for me. It was about improving as a player and playing for a fantastic team with fantastic players."

Speaking in the Spanish capital at the launch of his autobiography, Off the Record, Owen added: "I went into the dressing room and smiled for the cameras but my peg still had Javier Portillo's name on it. I looked to one side and there was Ronaldo, Raul and Figo. Wherever you look there are massive names. It's been a rude awakening."

"I've not come here expecting to walk into the team and play every game. I have to force my way in, but I wouldn't come here to sit on the bench for four years, I'm coming to my peak."

"I've a winning edge. I don't like getting beaten at anything or sitting there not being part of anything. It's a big challenge. If I'm not playing I'll be just as I was when I was 17 when I was watching Robbie Fowler and Stan Collymore and I still had to have that belief I could muscle my way in."

"I'm down the pecking order now because I've only just joined the club but I'll fight my way in."

The self-confidence that has always been central to Owen's make-up emerged with his belligerent tone, although he admitted the decision was



PHOTO: AFP

EXCHANGING LAUGHS! Real Madrid's new signing Michael Owen (L) and Brazilian teammate Roberto Carlos in a light-hearted mood during a training session in Madrid on August 23.

not always so cut-and-dried.

"Of course I was nervous about leaving Liverpool. All my life had been lived in one area and I was leaving for a totally new life," he said.

"I did it for all the right reasons. I'm very happy with what I've done. I've played my heart out for the club for seven years, played 300 games and scored plenty of goals for them. I had some great moments and I'm not looking in the mirror and thinking I owe anyone."

"I knew I wouldn't get this opportunity twice. I was born to be a footballer. I could sit there, picking up the salary, taking it easy. But that's not me. I want to be pushing myself."

"I'll never be happy unless I'm not just playing but succeeding and playing really well. These are the most important years of my life in terms of football so I wouldn't have made this move for any other reasons but to improve as a player and fight my way into the team. If

I benefit and get into the team and perform there's no doubt it will improve me and hopefully improve England. If I don't, then obviously it won't."

Unlike new team-mate David Beckham, who was isolated for long periods, Owen will be surrounded by his family from day one.

He will also join former Newcastle star Jonathan Woodgate.

"David has already spoken to me about the best areas to live in, and when I felt like a little boy lost I phoned him. It's important for us to settle, find a house and start speaking Spanish. There's no half-measures."

"I'll always look for Liverpool's results and of course I'll miss Liverpool. I'll still see my family but I'll miss going and seeing the lads every day and playing at Anfield. I'm sure playing at the Bernabeu will soften the blow a bit."

Smith Fergie's key man



AFP, Paris

Manchester United coach Alex Ferguson is looking to in-form striker Alan Smith to lead his depleted side into the lucrative group stage of the European Champions League against Dinamo Bucharest on Wednesday.

Smith, who was at the heart of United's 2-1 Premier League win over newly-promoted Norwich City at the weekend, was showing no sign of over confidence despite Manchester taking a 2-1 lead into the return home leg against the Romanian side.

"If there are doubters out there (about my ability), that is up to them, but as long as we keep winning, I don't care," said Smith, who scored the winning goal with a stunning volley against Norwich.

"Now it is vital we qualify for the Champions League on Wednesday."

Smith, who debuted with a goal in United's 3-1 loss to Arsenal in the pre-season Community Shield, has hit form at a crucial time for Ferguson.

United's start to the season has been disrupted by injuries to strikers Ruud van Nistelrooy, Louis Saha and Ole Gunnar Soksjaer, and the absence on Olympic duty of Argentinian defender Gabriel Heinze and Portugal winger Cristiano Ronaldo.

Rae was charged with gross unsport-

ing conduct after the opening match against CSKA Moscow when his boot made contact with the grounded Serghie Dadu's head.

Other likely qualifiers are Real Madrid, who are at home to Polish side Wisla Krakow after an 2-0 away win. Bayer Leverkusen should also complete their qualification after a 5-0 home win against the Czech club Manik Ostrava, despite the loss of defender, Jens Nowotny, to a knee injury.

Juventus meanwhile will also be playing for pride when they face Djurgarden in Sweden following their shock 2-2 draw in Italy a fortnight ago.

WEDNESDAY			
Maccabi Tel-Aviv (ISR)	v	PAOK (GRE)	
Trabzonspor (TUR)	v	Dynamo Kiev (UKR)	
Sparta Prague (CZE)	v	Ferencváros (HUN)	
FC Bruges (BEL)	v	Shakhtar Donetsk (UKR)	
PSV Eindhoven (NED)	v	Red Star Belgrade (SEM)	
Djurgarden (SWE)	v	Juventus (ITA)	
Banik Ostrava (CZE)	v	Bayer Leverkusen (GER)	
Rangers (SCO)	v	CSKA Moscow (RUS)	
Manchester United (ENG)	v	Dinamo Bucuresti (ROM)	
Real Madrid (SPA)	v	Wisla Krakow (POL)	

Aussie-Pak final likely

Ganguly admitted it was frustrating not being able to field his first-choice team. "It's really been a worry. But we have to realise we do play a lot of one-day cricket, we play more one-day cricket than any other country in the world. I think that's pretty hard on the body."

After the match, Australia captain Ricky Ponting praised the performance of 23-year-old New South Wales batsman Michael Clarke, who has been playing English county cricket.

"He can bat in almost any position in the order, he backs himself in any situation and hits boundaries to strange parts of the field which is always handy," Ponting added.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the abandoned Videocon Cup one-day international between Australia and India at Amstelveen on Monday:
Australia
Hayden c Ganguly b Balaji 29

Haddin c Balaji b Nehra	5
Ponting lbw b Balaji	26
Martyn b Sehwa	12
Symonds c Dravid b Kumble	12
Lehmann c Gavaskar b Kumble	19
Clarke c Sehwa b Balaji	42
Hogg not out	17
Lee not out	1
Extras: (b-1, lb-4, w-6, nb-1)	12
Total: (For 7 wts in 31.4 overs)	175
Fall of wickets 1-23, 2-69, 3-70, 4-83, 5-101, 6-138, 7-169	
To bat: Kasprovicz, McGrath	
Bowler	O M R W
Pathan	6.4 0 34 0
Nehra	6 0 44 1
Sehwa	6 0 35 1
Balaji	6 0 20 3
Kumble	7 0 37 2
INDIA: Sehwa, Ganguly, Laxman, Dravid, Yuvraj, Kaif, Gavaskar, Pathan, Balaji, Kumble, Nehra	
Toss: Australia.	

Celtic get Juninho

AFP, London

Juninho's transfer from Middlesbrough to Celtic has been completed and the Brazilian World Cup playmaker could be available for the Old Firm derby with Rangers on Sunday.

The 31-year-old's agent Jonathan Hassall said Tuesday: "We've been told that Celtic are now handling the situation and everything else."

"But I believe that everything's sorted now and I would have thought he'd be up tomorrow (Wednesday) now."

"I can say that it's all sorted anyway now at the Middlesbrough end and he's looking forward to getting up there."

Celtic boss Martin O'Neill has been looking for a big-name playmaker since Lubo Moravcik's departure and the move of Henrik Larsson to Barcelona.

Juninho was targeted by the Scottish champions after he slipped down the pecking order at the Riverside Stadium.

Juninho could play as early as Sunday against Rangers after an injury to influential frontman Chris Sutton.

Holmes' golden joy

FROM PAGE 13
open up a new chapter for American sprinting which has been mired in recent drug controversies with Kelli White and Edwards both banned and with Marion Jones battling suspicion.

"We are happy to be a new wave here. We want people to see positive things about track and field," said Felix.

Talk of a new young generation in terms of competing at the top will have to be delayed while 44-year-old Merlene Ottey is still around as the sprinting great reached the semis just as she had in the 100m.

Greece's joy at a gold medal may have been slightly tempered by how their heroine had reached for inspiration.

Tsoumeleka said that 2000 Olympic 200m champion Kostadinos Kenteris and 100m women's silver medalist Thanou had been an inspiration for her.

"What happened with Kenteris and Thanou only made me stronger, especially Thanou who is from Preveza, just like me," said the 22-year-old.

The final script

FROM PAGE 13
Lilly paid tribute to O'Reilly after the match for regaining her composure after her easy miss to score the winning goal.

"She was magnificent. She didn't give up even when she lost a great chance to score. She continued to try and she scored the goal that have us victory," Lilly said.

However victory celebrations were dampened by an apparent ankle injury to captain Julie Foudy, who hobbled off the field midway through the second half after Bachor heavily tackled her.

US coach April Heinrichs told reporters Foudy's injury would force her to miss the final.

For Hamm, Lilly, Joy Fawcett and some of the other members of the 1996 gold medal winning team, Thursday's final will most likely be their last Olympic match.

Together they formed the core of one of the most successful women's football units the game has seen, with Team USA winning the 1991 and 1999 World Cup titles, as well as the silver medal in the Sydney Olympics.

Foudy, who made her debut as a 17-year-old in 1988, has also been an integral member of the enduring group of stars. But her dream of walking off the pitch with a second Olympic gold now appears over.

Japan tells

FROM PAGE 13
Bosnitch said a ministry official who delivered the government's decision to Fischer had told him he would be deported immediately.

"Even if he is not deported, their intentional verbal threat constitutes cruel psychological intimidation and abuse," Bosnitch said.

Officials at the ministry could not be reached for immediate comment.

Fischer has been wanted by Washington since 1992 for earning over three million dollars in a chess match staged in the former Yugoslavia in defiance of an international embargo. He faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

How could

FROM PAGE 13
banned steroid stanazolol.

It is the first time in the Games history that two track and field champions have been stripped of their gold medals for breaking doping rules.

Canada's Ben Johnson was the only previous case after his infamous stanazolol-charged 100m win at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Fazekas's gold will now be awarded to Lithuania's Virgilijus Alekna, the Sydney Olympics champion.