Pollock joins 300-wkt club

REUTERS, Dambulla

South Africa fast bowler Shaun Pollock became the seventh bowler to take 300 one-day international wickets on Wednesday.

The 31-year-old brought up the landmark when Sri Lanka opener Sanath Jayasuriya, surprised by extra bounce, was caught in the gully.

Pollock, the highest South African wicket-taker, reached the milestone in his 217th match.

Pakistan's Wasim Akram heads the all-time list with 502 victims in 356 matches.

Matthew Hayden

(Australian star batsman)

"I think the important thing about this competition is that we've never won it."

On the Champions Trophy.

SL spinners strangle SA

Cricket

REUTERS, Colombo

Sri Lanka spinners Rangana Herath and Tillakaratne Dilshan shared six wickets to help bowl South Africa out for 191 in the third one-day international on Sunday.

The tourists, trailing 2-0 in the five-match series, started brightly with a 44-run opening stand after winning the toss but then struggled on the bone-dry pitch against Sri Lanka's five spin bowlers.

Herath dismissed three top-order batsmen with his left-arm spin to finish with three for 28, while Dilshan, a part-time off-break bowler, mopped up the tail to finish with three for 25.

Jacques Kallis earned a top score of 52 from 108 balls, hitting just three boundaries during a hard-working innings, before being caught behind in Herath's second spell.

Out-of-form opener Herschelle Gibbs, close to being dropped after a wretched run of form, rode his luck for an 82-ball 49 that included four fours and one six.

The 30-year-old right-hander could have been given out lbw before scoring, should have been run out on 28 when he backed up too far and survived on 43 when substitute fielder Farveez Maharoof spilled a simple catch.

Gibbs and skipper Graeme Smith (16) gave the tourists their best start of the series, before Smith mistimed a lofted punch through the leg side and was brilliantly caught by Sanath Jayasuriya at mid-on.
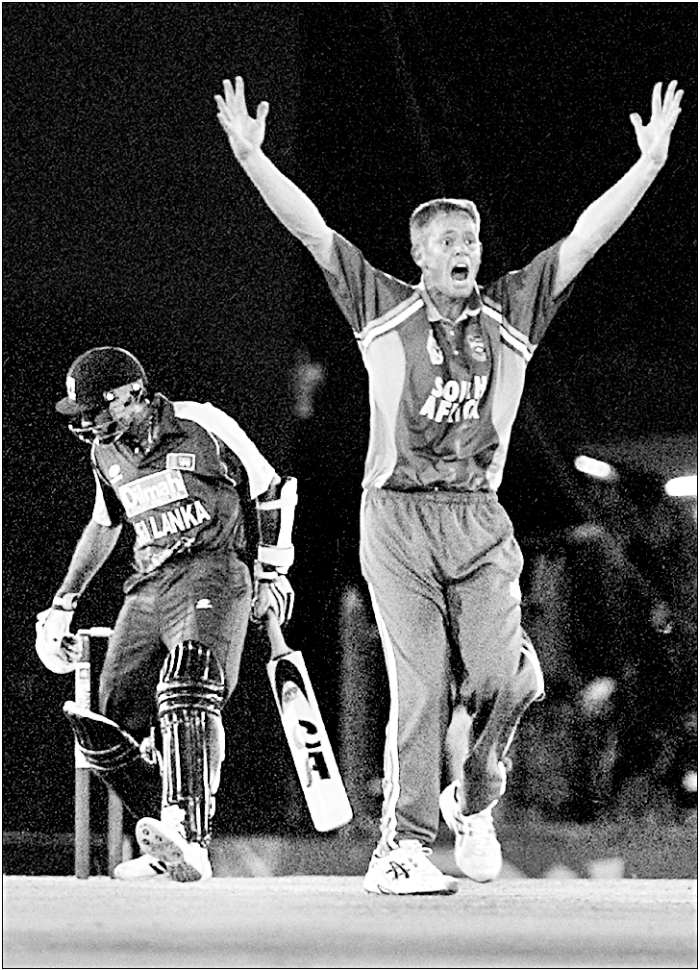
Pinch-hitter Lance Klusener was then bowled for a duck by Nuwan Zoysa.

Run scoring became harder as the ball softened and Gibbs and Kallis were forced to work hard for their 41 from 94 balls.

Gibbs's luck finally ran out in the 28th over when he was stumped by Kumar Sangakkara off Herath as he tried to bring up his 20th fifty with a cover drive.

Kallis consolidated with Jacques Rudolph (18), adding 53 in 77 balls, before Rudolph was trapped lbw reverse sweeping to trigger a collapse in the final 10 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the South African innings in the third one-day international against Sri Lanka on Wednesday:

SOUTH AFRICA

Smith c Jayasuriya b Vaas	16
Gibbs st Sangakkara b Herath	49
Klusener b Zoysa	0
Kallis c Sangakkara b Herath	52
Rudolph lbw b Dilshan	18
Boucher c Dilshan b Herath	7
Pollock c Sangakkara b L'rachchi	14
Duminy lbw Lokuararchchi	3
Boje st Sangakkara b Dilshan	10
Dawson c Herath b Dilshan	11
Ntini not out	0
Extras: (lb-6, w-5)	11

Total: (All out in 50 overs) 191

Fall of wickets: 1-44, 2-50, 3-91, 4-144, 5-147, 6-164, 7-170, 8-170, 9-189

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Vaas	8	1	24	1
Zoysa	8	0	33	1
Jayasuriya	7	1	26	0
Dilshan	7	0	25	3
Chandana	7	0	26	0
Herath	8	1	28	3
L'rachchi	5	0	23	2

SRI LANKA: Atapattu, Jayasuriya, Sangakkara, Jayawardene, Dilshan, Gunawardene, Vaas, Chandana, Zoysa, Lokuararchchi, Herath

Toss: South Africa.

IN THE ELITE CLUB: South Africa's Shaun Pollock appeals unsuccessfully for an lbw decision against Marvan Atapattu of Sri Lanka during the third one-day international at Colombo yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Irina won't give back her medal

AFP, Moscow

Russia's Irina Korzhanenko, who won the Olympic Games shot put before being stripped of her gold after failing a drugs test, insisted on Wednesday that she would not give back her medal.

"It's so sweet to crucify the Olympic champion to prove that the war against doping is going on," she told the Izvestia newspaper.

"I don't believe either the results of the Greek laboratory or the activity of (anti-doping agency) WADA.

"I will not return my gold medal. I won it and I'm Olympic champion. I'm completely sure I did not use any doping."

Korzhanenko said she was innocent and labelled her dope test failure as "political provocation".

The shot putter said she has successfully passed numerous dope tests in the current season, adding she was deeply shocked with the results of the test in Athens.

"I'm an experienced athlete. I have already served a two-year ban, which was a violation of all existing rules," Korzhanenko said.

Korzhanenko also said she demanded the DNA testing of her samples and the samples that contained the banned steroid stanozolol, but her demand was rejected by WADA.

Taxi driver the hero

AFP, Athens

A Greek taxi driver was hailed as a hero on Wednesday after returning an Olympic silver medal left in the back of his cab by a Dutch rower.

The driver is to be honoured by Athens Olympic games organisers ATHOC for swiftly handing back the medal after it was mislaid by Diederik Simon, a member of the Netherlands men's eight rowing team.

Marton Simitsek, executive director of ATHOC, said the fact the driver had given the medal back was testimony "to the hospitality and the sense of honour of the Greek people."

"For a variety of reasons, the status quo remains. The views of the forecasters regarding the weather are not giving us too much confidence," said tournament media spokesman Hugo Nelissen.

Gul out for one year

CRICINFO, undated

In a severe blow to Pakistan, Umar Gul, their promising swing bowler, has been ruled out of competitive cricket for a year.

According to a Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) press release, Gul has been diagnosed with having three stress fractures on his spine, and the fractures alone will take six months to heal, after which rehabilitation will begin.

The diagnosis was carried out by specialists in Cape Town, where Gul spent a week.

The first signs of this injury surfaced in 2000, but it wasn't correctly diagnosed then, and Gul, believing that it was just a niggle, played through the pain.

The injury became worse during Pakistan's recent home series against India, and Gul had to pull out of the third Test at Rawalpindi. Gul was the match-winner in Pakistan's lone win in that series, in the second Test at Lahore, in which he took 5 for 31 in the first innings.

Sagar wins again

SPORTS REPORTER

Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar won the fifth round board against Sandipan Chaterjee to maintain his all-win run in the Telegraph Schools Chess Championship in Kolkata on Tuesday.

Sagar bagged maximum five points while another Bangladeshi player Mohammad Imran Ali Elin secured 4 points after beating Niraj Saripalli in the fifth round game.

Odumbe's place goes to Patel

AFP, Nairobi

Suspended Kenyan cricketer Maurice Odumbe has been replaced in the national team for next month's ICC Champions Trophy, as his lawyers announced they would go ahead to file a petition challenging his five-year ban.

The Kenya Cricket Association (KCA) has picked Brijal Patel, an up and coming right-hand batsman to take Odumbe's place in the 14-man squad.

Patel, who will join his teammates in playing a four-day match against visiting India A at the Ruaraka Sports Club on Thursday was a member of the Kenyan team that reached the semifinals of the 2003 World Cup.

Odumbe's lawyer Ishan Kapila said the KCA's decision to drop the player had taken them by surprise, but they would still go ahead with their appeal to have the suspension lifted.

Following investigations brought by the ICC's anti-corruption and security unit, Odumbe was found guilty of taking bribes from an Indian bookmaker in 2002.

The Tally

Cuba	1	1	6	8
Brazil	1	1	2	4
Indonesia	1	1	2	4
South Africa	1	1	2	4
Zimbabwe	1	1	1	3
Lithuania	1	1	0	2
Morocco	1	1	0	2
Denmark	0	5	6	
Belgium	1	0	2	3
Israel	1	0	1	2
Switzerland	1	0	1	2
Bahamas	1	0	0	1
Cameroon	1	0	0	1
UAE	1	0	0	1

(As of 9:30 pm BST. List includes only the gold medals winners)

Drama as Hayes

Hayes, ignorant of the carnage, carried on leading from start to finish and collapsed in surprise on realising she had won.

Hayes, who turned to 100m hurdles after reaching the quarterfinals of last year's world championships in the 400m hurdles, said she had achieved both her goals.

"I am just so happy and so excited to have pulled this off," she said.

"I had planned on winning and I went out and there and did it.

"I had two goals one to win and one to set the Olympic record and I did both," added Hayes, who unusually for an American is going to try her hand at cricket after the Games as her father owns one in Los Angeles.

Sharapova shocked

AFP, New Haven

Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova was stunned 6-3, 2-6, 6-2 by unheralded Mashona Washington in the second round of the 585,000-dollar WTA New Haven event on Tuesday.

Defending New Haven champ Jennifer Capriati quickly advanced to the third round, avoiding a challenge from French teenager Tatiana Golovin 6-3, 6-2.

Daniela Hantuchova and No.7 seed Elena Bovina also moved on winning both their matches in straight sets.

Sharapova had an extra day of rest as the fourth seeded Russian received a bye in the first round.

The top four seeds received at the final US Open warmup tournament.

Aussie-Pak tie

Pakistan beating Australia by a huge margin to have any chance of qualifying for the tournament's climax.

After a meeting lasting several hours and including representatives of all three competing teams, organisers decided to stick with the original programme and confirmed that the final would go ahead as scheduled.

That also means the additional friendly match between the Netherlands and Pakistan is still due to take place on August 30.

A government spokesman also offered congratulations to the driver who handed the medal back to his bosses after Simon left it in the taxi on Monday night.

Nelissen added that spectators who had bought tickets for Wednesday's match would be allowed entry into the ground for Saturday's game.

The tournament is a warm-up event for the ICC Champions Trophy competition in England next month.

India, in particular, would have had trouble fitting in extra games here as they are due to start a three-match one-day series against England at Trent Bridge on September 1.

POINTS TABLE

Table in the Videocon Cup triangular one-day series following the no-result match between Australia and Pakistan on Wednesday (played, won, lost, no result, net run-rate points):

Pakistan	2	1	0	1	+2 9
Australia	2	0	0	2	0 6
India	2	0	1	1	-2 3

Russian boss hits out at 'judging mafia'

REUTERS, Moscow

Russia's gymnastics chief Leonid Arkayev has added his voice to a chorus of public opinion calling for major reforms in his sport, saying Olympic gymnasts are powerless against what he called "judging mafia".

The gymnastics competition in Athens has been embroiled in controversy over judging decisions, prompting Russia to lodge a forceful protest with International Olympic Committee (IOC) chief Jacques Rogge on Tuesday.

"A judging mafia rules gymnastics," Arkayev, president of the Russian Gymnastics Federation and the country's chief coach, was quoted as saying in Wednesday's Sovietsky Sport newspaper.

Several current and former gymnasts have called for a major change in how their performances are judged following a spate of disputed medals that have tarnished the sport.

Monday's final on the horizontal bar at the Olympic Indoor Hall was brought to a standstill as the crowd jeered and booed the judges for giving Russia's Alexei Nemov low marks.

Nemov, a 12 times Olympic medallist and defending champion in the event, wowed the crowd with an amazing routine but was awarded only a 9.725, well behind American Paul Hamm.

"Nemov had six release and catch manoeuvres while Hamm only one. Even a blind person can see who is better," Arkayev said.

"And what do we see? The American gets a 9.812. It doesn't come close but no one can say anything."

"I'm a member of the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) executive board and I was involved in adopting the ethics code for our sport," added Arkayev.

"Probably I should not say this but I cannot be silent anymore. (Judging) is a mafia! We're powerless to act against them because they feel they are simply untouchable."

Arkayev said the sport needed major reform and transparency in key appointments to remove judging bias.

Afterwards Nemov said he felt cheated by the judges.

Russian Olympic team spokesman Gennady Shvets said in Athens that Nemov was, however, resigned to the result and would not appeal. He also appreciated the support of the public.

"That he is finishing his career, not with a victory, nor with a gold medal, such an exit is a little sad," Shvets said.

"But in the end he says he is happy all the same."

"He won the sympathy of a great many people."

Asked if he thought Nemov would continue competing, Arkayev said: "I don't think so. In any case, I wouldn't want him to continue in the current situation."

Shvets said there had been "obvious" judging errors and Russia felt the United States had won too many gold medals.

"There's always a problem of refereeing in whatever sport, there are relationships, a bit of corruption, a bit of money, sometimes there are relationships among people, very many, that don't always work in one's favour," Shvets said.

But Russia were not expecting radical decisions from Rogge: "This letter is not a call for revolution or a revision of the results in gymnastics," he said. "The sports chiefs just want to draw the attention of their colleague to what's going on in gymnastics so it doesn't happen again in the future."

Collingwood in, Bell out

Cricket

AFP, London

Injury-plagued all-rounder Paul Collingwood was Wednesday included in England's tour party to travel to South Africa this winter, but Robert Key has beaten Ian Bell to the final batting place.

Mark Butcher and Graham Thorpe, who are both currently injured, will also make the trip with Gareth Batty and Chris Read are included as cover for Ashley Giles and wicket-keeper Geraint Jones respectively.

But it is Collingwood's inclusion that will cause most debate. He has been hampered by a knee injury this summer and has not featured in one of England's record-equalling seven successive Test wins this season.

The Durham player, who has played two Tests, is seen as cover for Andrew Flintoff should the Lancastrian all-rounder fall victim to injury this winter.

Chairman of selectors David Graveney said: "Paul Collingwood gives us a bit of flexibility and can cover every single area. No one in the world can cover for Andrew Flintoff but Collingwood and his experience gets the nod.

Graveney added: "We were impressed by the maturity of Ian Bell on his debut against the West Indies last week (when he scored 70) and he was considered for one of the specialist batting positions. West Indies this summer."

Key, who came in for Butcher, impressed this summer with a double century at Lord's and a match-winning 93 not out at Old Trafford.

In the aftermath of England's 10-wicket win over the West Indies at the Oval on Saturday coach Duncan Fletcher said he expected to beat South Africa but Graveney warned Wednesday of what should be "a fiercely contested series".

England arrive in South Africa on December 5 and have just one first class match before the first Test in Port Elizabeth starts 12 days later.

Glamorgan's Alex Wharf has been put on standby for the forthcoming NatWest Challenge and the ICC Champions Trophy if Worcestershire's Kabir Ali fails to recover from a stomach injury.

SQUAD

Michael Vaughan, James Anderson, Gareth Batty, Mark Butcher, Paul Collingwood, Andrew Flintoff, Ashley Giles, Steve Harmiso, Matthew Hoggard, Geraint Jones, Simon Jones, Robert Key, Chris Read, Andrew Strauss, Graham Thorpe, Marcus Trescothick.

FIXTURES

Dec 8: Nicky Oppenheimer XI, Randjesfontein
Dec 11-13: South Africa A, Potchefstroom
Dec 17-2: First Test, Port Elizabeth
Dec 26-30: Second Test, Durban
Jan 2-6: Third Test, Cape Town
Jan 9: South Africa A, Kimberley
Jan 13-17: Fourth Test, Johannesburg
Jan 21-25: Fifth Test, Centurion
Jan 28: South Africa A (D/N), Benoni
Jan 30: First ODI, Johannesburg
Feb 2: Second ODI (D/N), Bloemfontein
Feb 4: Third ODI (D/N), Port Elizabeth
Feb 6: Fourth ODI, Cape Town
Feb 9: Fifth ODI (D/N), East London
Feb 11: Sixth ODI (D/N), Centurion
Feb 13: Seventh ODI (D/N), Centurion

The Champions Trophy

DS: You said earlier that we didn't have match winners but we are in the process of making stars. You have at least ten months to go with the Tigers. Do you think by that time we are likely to get one or two match winners?

DW: We are doing as best as we can. I am hopeful that if this team plays consistently, we will have players who will win matches for us. There are a lot of matches on home soil this season. We will be busy and if we start picking the habit of winning, which is necessary for the team, players will improve as well.

DS: But Bangladesh have hardly played well at home.

DW: Maybe it's because of pressure. The expectation is high and the home supporters make the players nervous.

DS: In Sri Lanka, we played under familiar conditions but that did not prove an advantage as our mighty neighbours were also doing the same. We also did not play well against teams like South Africa or England at home although the side has performed better away. How do you explain this?

DW: Well, the abroad-form does not always follow. It's a matter of confidence of the players. We did not play well against England but in the future we have to learn how to push the opposition hard at home. We have to hit the home-form as well. That is very important. You also have to remember that we have always been the bottom-ranked team but that's no excuse. The coming four series', starting in October with New Zealand coming first, will be very tough. We have to go upward in the graph and we need a start. The Champions Trophy could give us that.

DS: But your opponents, West Indies and South Africa, will be hungry for wins after getting some battering in their recent tours?

DW: I guess so. Facing them is difficult. We have to understand what their current form is. South Africans must be stressed after a poor series in Sri Lanka but they have been second ranked in the world for long. Although the West Indies were whitewashed (by England) in the Test series, they played in the final of the tri-nation against New Zealand at the cost of the home team. I think the time we are getting (in Ireland and Scotland) to acclimatise before the Champions Trophy will help the boys.

DS: You have three players from the U-19 squad. What are their chances?

DW: We are going to give exposure to a couple of youngsters. I think it's time to do that.

DS: Do you see yourself with the Tigers beyond your contract?

DW: That is to be decided by my employers.

DS: Many were surprised when a high-profile coach like you joined Bangladesh. Having worked with them and getting only two wins so far, do you think that your reputation is at stake?

DW: (Laughs) No. I have more things to worry about. There is the Champions Trophy and a long home series. I must concentrate on those rather than thinking about reputations. I am enjoying this challenge and just concentrating on my job.

Chick with the Stick

wealthy young woman.

"A yacht is what I will buy," she said after winning the Olympic gold medal. "Or a great car. I haven't got a great car yet. But I am still waiting for my bonus so we will have to wait and see."

This ebullient and most modern of Russians cuts a fascinating contrast with Feofanova, a quieter and sometimes dour character. It is rumoured the two are not the best of friends.

"At the moment I feel nothing but emptiness," said the 28-year-old.

"I think happiness will come later but right now I feel free and the stress has gone. I realise now that I have achieved the greatest day of my athletics career."

Felicien, who will be 24 in 10 days time, made a lonely walk back to the changing rooms flinging her shoes behind her onto the track and then lay weeping.

of the event, Sergei Bubka, is 6.14m.

Isinabyeva took her first steps in sport as an artistic gymnast at the age of five but she failed to achieve success and a sudden growth spurt when she was 15 dashed her hopes of being a serious gymnast.

Bubka, a Ukrainian, indirectly had a key role in her decision to switch from gymnastics to pole vaulting.

"My coach predicted I could have a career like Bubka in the pole vault. But at that time I didn't know who Bubka was.

"This year Bubka told me he thought I was great after my victory in Donetsk. After that I understood that I was really worth something."

Isinbayeva is set to rule the event for years, although Stacy Dragila, the American who won the event in its Olympic debut in Sydney, will redouble her efforts to clear the magical five-metre mark after failing to make the final in Athens.

Conquest

Nor did New Zealander Peter Snell, who took the world record from Elliott and went on to complete the 800-1,500 double at the 1964 Tokyo Games.

Roger Bannister, who this year celebrated the 50th anniversary of his epic 1954 feat when he became the first man to run the mile in under four minutes, signals out Elliott and El Guerrouj for special praise.

Then there is the little Algerian Noureddine Morceli, who dominated the event in the early 1990s and won the 1996 Atlanta Games title after El Guerrouj tripped just before the bell.

El Guerrouj now sets his sights on the 5,000, second half of demanding double which has been completed only once, by the flying Finn Paavo Nurmi in 1924.

"I came from very far down," El Guerrouj said on Tuesday. "You might say I'm very deserving, maybe because I've had a very difficult time between Atlanta and today.

"Now I've come to a city where the Games were revived in 1896 and it's history that is being recorded here."