

Aussie hunt for new academy coach begins

Cricket Australia will begin a world-wide search for a new head coach of the country's cricket academy after confirmation that Bennett King was leaving to become coach of the West Indian national team.

David Moore, a senior academy coach, will also follow King to the Caribbean to take up the role of assistant coach with its national team.

Cricket Australia on Monday paid tribute to King's role in overseeing Australian cricket's player development system since taking up the head coaching position in 2002.

Academy director Trevor Robertson said while it was disappointing to lose a key member of the academy's coaching panel, Cricket Australia offered its full support and congratulations to King.

"Over many years, Bennett King has made an outstanding contribution to the progress and development of Australia's emerging players," Robertson said in a statement.

"In particular, his leadership and direction over the past two years in helping to establish the Commonwealth Bank Centre of Excellence is testimony to his capabilities as an educator and strategic thinker.

"Naturally its disappointing to lose someone of his calibre: his expertise, knowledge and dedication to the game are second-to-none.

"But this role is a wonderful opportunity for Bennett to demonstrate his skills as coach of a national team, and Cricket Australia understands his decision to take on this next challenge in his career."

Robertson said the academy will begin the search for a new leader to head the centre of excellence as well as a senior coach to work with coaching staff in John Harmer and former Test fast bowler Damien Fleming.

King joined the academy in 2002 after leading Queensland to two Sheffield Shield titles (1999-2000 and 2000-01) and two domestic one-day finals (1999-2000 and 2001-02) during his three-year stay at the helm.

King and Moore are expected to complete their roles at the academy in mid-November before taking up their positions with the West Indies.

Thornely shattered a David Hookes' batting record in putting New South Wales in command of their Sheffield Shield cricket match against Western Australia here on Wednesday.

Thornely made 261 not out, clouting 11 sixes, and joined former Test leg-spinner Stuart MacGill in a 10th wicket partnership of 219 that helped NSW to 419 on the second day of their match.

In reply WA were bowled out for 137 and were 23 without loss following on, still trailing by 259 runs with two days to play.

Thornely broke the record held by the late David Hookes for the most sixes in a first-class innings in Australia, Hookes having hit 10 for South Australia against NSW at Adelaide in 1985-86.

Queenslander Andrew Symonds holds the world record for the most sixes in a first-class innings, smashing 16 for Gloucestershire against Glamorgan in 1995.

After Thornely's heroics with the bat, the NSW pace trio of Stuart Clark (4-24), Matthew Nicholson (3-18), and Nathan Bracken (1-22) cleaned up the visitors.

Warne faces long layoff

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

boys can achieve our aim of winning the series 3-0. I'm just flat knowing that I won't be there for it."

Warne, 35, is the world's highest wicket-taker in Tests with 541 scalps in 115 matches. He has also taken 291 wickets in one-day internationals.

A thumb fracture which knocked Australian leg-spinner Shane Warne out of the Test against India starting Wednesday could also rule the world record wicket-taker out of a Test against New Zealand later this month.

Australian team physiotherapist Errol Alcott said Warne fractured the thumb on his bowling hand during nets practice Tuesday in Mumbai.

"The scans have detected a fracture in his right thumb, and given the amount of cricket on the horizon, we feel that it is in his best interests to get home now and rest," Alcott said in a statement released here.

"We can't predict a return date for Shane, but we will review him in the lead-up to the first Test in Brisbane," he said, referring to the start of the New Zealand series on November 8.

Earlier team spokesman Jonathan Rose said doctors believed Warne could need "between six and eight weeks to recover fully" from the injury.

Warne expressed deep disappointment at missing the final Test in India after Australia took a winning 2-0 lead in the four-match series last week in Nagpur.

"This series has been one of the true highlights of my career, so I'm really disappointed that I won't be able to finish it off on the right note," Warne said.

"It would have been a great thrill to be on hand when we received the Border-Gavaskar Trophy at the end of this Test, but I'm satisfied with the knowledge that I helped contribute to our series win.

"I have every confidence that the



Australian spin wizard Shane Warne, who is out of the fourth Test against India with a fractured thumb, talks to reporters at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai yesterday.

Darren best down under

Cricket

CRICKINFO, undated

Darren Lehmann, who selflessly offered his Test place to Michael Clarke, is Wisden Australia's Cricketer of the Year.

The award is recognition of Lehmann's belated, unlikely and romantic international purple patch, which is currently on hold after he injured his hamstring in the third Test at Nagpur.

The 2004-05 edition of Wisden Cricketers' Almanack Australia, published on Wednesday, is a history-making edition: the front image of a roaring Shane Warne is the first full-colour pictorial cover in Wisden's 141-year history.

Wisden Australia mourns the modern trend towards "McCricket", calling for a stop to "back-to-back Tests, whistle-stop tours, two- and four-Test series and all other dundereaded attempts to jam Test cricket into a polystyrene carton and shove it down our throats as quickly as possible".

For its first 125 years, the five-Test series was cricket's prestige forum. But Australia have played only one in the past three years and India one in the past seven. New Zealand last

played a five-Test series 33 years ago, Pakistan 12 years ago and Sri Lanka have never played one.

Wisden Australia's new editor Christian Ryan writes in his Editor's Notes: "Only when Australia play England are we now assured the unique thrill of a five-Test series. And beware the hardwoods: with their calculators for brains and cash

some issues confronted by a feistier, revamped edition. Cricket Australia (CA) comes in for the fiercest criticism. Of the board's eagerness to play against a race-based Zimbabwean side, and its description of this year's tour to Zimbabwe as "a tick in a box", Wisden Australia wonders: "Have Australian cricket administrators no heart, no moral existence at all?"

Of the Sri Lankan off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan's refusal to come to Australia last July, it says CA did not try hard enough to change his mind.

"Anything, everything should have been done to make sure he felt comfortable... Australia is the only cricketing nation Murali has felt compelled to stay away from. History will judge us accordingly."

The 2004-05 edition of Wisden Australia is at 976 pages the biggest ever and the first -- in Australia or England -- to incorporate balls faced and boundaries hit in Test scorecards. Among several innovations is a new section called "Farewells", women's player profiles, a beefed-up back half and two new tables listing the full career records of every Australian Test and one-day player in order of appearance.

"It's a strange situation for me not to qualify but I'm focusing on this week first and really want to end my season on a good note," Williams said after dispatching Raymond with ease.

"Lisa is a very good player and can play very well against me. I wanted control early in the match and I was able to do that."

Williams could face top seed Amelie Mauresmo of France in the quarterfinals. Mauresmo will face 38th-ranked Czech Iveta Benesova.

Raymond was disappointed with the last match of her 16th WTA season.

"I never really settled down, never relaxed," Raymond said. "I never got my rhythm in the match. When I take a break I'll get my goals together and regroup."

Two berths in the Tour Championships are at stake this week, with one almost certain to go to Williams' sister Serena, who is skipping this event.

Fourth seed Jennifer Capriati of the United States and sixth seed Vera Zvonareva of Russia, who could meet in the quarterfinals, are the other contenders for a berth in the concluding event next week in Los Angeles.

Jelena Kostanic of Croatia outlasted lucky loser Anne Kremer of Luxembourg 6-4, 2-6, 7-5, to set up a match with third seed Maria Sharapova of Russia.

CA for biennial India series?

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Cricket Australia is trying to institute a Border-Gavaskar Trophy series against India every two years, it was reported here on Monday.

The International Cricket Council's (ICC) 10-year plan has Australia not touring India until

2010 but the respective national boards are eager to expedite one of the game's marquee tours.

Cricket Australia chairman Bob Merriman said neither his organisation nor the Board of Control for Cricket in India had signed off on the ICC's plan because of their desire to have a tour in 2008.

"We want to see Australia's program with India being on a four-yearly cycle, with one team visiting

the other every two years," Merriman told Australian Associated Press in Mumbai Monday.

"That's the perfect scenario and I think everyone in the game of cricket would like to see that."

"The Border-Gavaskar Trophy has become an important part of the calendar, an icon series."

"It really took off over here in 2001 and it continued in Australia last summer. The interest is huge and we have to recognise that."

"Travelling back to India in 2008 is certainly an avenue we will be vigorously pursuing."

Under the current draft proposal India is scheduled to tour Australia in 2007-08, but Cricket Australia will fight for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy to mirror the four-yearly Ashes series against England, which Merriman still rates as the pre-eminent trophy in the game.

"We are not bringing Australia and India on a par with the Ashes - you don't create 120-odd years of history overnight," he said.

"But it's getting to the stage where we are not far behind it. There needs to be more discussions between the two boards but both countries are confident the desired result can be achieved."

"India and Australia have not signed off on the ICC plan as yet. There still needs to be some fine-tuning with that programme."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer. A grid of numbers 1-61 for crossword clues. Includes words like 'Drive', 'Target', 'Writer', 'Vegas', 'Faxed', etc.

CRYPTOQUIP. A 10x11 grid of letters for a substitution cipher puzzle. The solution is a movie title.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: A MOVIE CONCERNING A BIG AIR-CIRCULATION CONDUIT MIGHT BE CALLED "THE MAIN-VENT". Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals P

Seeds upset

AFP, Quebec City

Australian eighth seed Samantha Stosur and American third seed Mashona Washington were ousted here Tuesday in first-round matches at the 170,000-dollar WTA Challenge.

Bulgarian qualifier Sesil Karatantcheva defeated Washington 6-0, 6-2 while Russia's Alina Jidkova eliminated Stosur 7-6, 6-3.

Washington and Stosur were the top upset victims at one of the last full-field events of the season in advance of next week's WTA Championships at Los Angeles.

Top seed Mary Pierce of France and Slovakian second seed Daniela Hantuchova, who each received first-round byes, learned who they will face in their second-round matches.

Argentina's Mariana Diaz-Oliva defeated Russian qualifier Elena Vesnina 6-3, 6-2 to book a date against Pierce.

Canada's Melanie Gloria ousted France's Stephanie Foretz 6-4, 6-7, 7-6 to set up a match against Hantuchova.



Scene from the fifth round of the Open FIDE Rating chess tournament at the Bangladesh Chess Federation Auditorium yesterday.

Hewitt breaks French hearts

Tennis

AFP, Paris

Australia's Lleyton Hewitt returned to the court for the first time since the end of his relationship with Kim Clijsters and broke the hearts of French fans by defeating teenage hope Gael Monfils in the Paris Masters on Tuesday.

The second-seeded Australian won 6-3, 7-6, dismantling the breathtaking game of the world junior number one who, for the second night in succession, belied his humble world ranking of 248.

The 18-year-old Monfils, winner of the Australian and French Open as well as Wimbledon junior titles this year, gave the former world number one plenty of scares as he briefly threatened to add the Australian's scalp to that of Thomas Enqvist he so confidently claimed on Monday.

But Hewitt, with his cussedness and in-your-face game firing on all

refused to discuss the issue.

"I have no comment to make on that," said Hewitt preferring to focus on his life on court rather than off it while his ATP minder warned reporters that only tennis questions would be tolerated.

"Monfils is a very flashy player. He's tough and will have a great future. In a way he's a bit like me," said Hewitt who next meets either Olympic champion Nicolas Pietrangolo or Belgium's Christophe Rochus.

When pressed he steadfastly

"It took a while for me to get going out there tonight. I was trying to get the rhythm right." Defending champion Tim Henman, the third seeded Briton, also made the third round securing his sixth career win in seven meetings with Thailand's Paradorn Srichaphan 6-3, 6-4 in just 63 minutes.

He now faces either 16th seed Jiri Novak of the Czech Republic or Russia's Mikhail Youzhny, the winner last weekend in St Petersburg.

Henman said he had recovered from the mystery energy-sapping virus which had sent him to an early defeat at the Madrid Masters last month.

"I feel much better now after the lethargy and exhaustion in Madrid," said the Briton.

"I mixed it up pretty well tonight. I served well and that allowed me to dominate."

Paradorn had no answer to the Henman serve, taking just six points in the entire match.

Tournament top seed Andy Roddick is not in action until Wednesday, when he faces Armenia's Sargis Sargsian who put out last weekend's Stockholm winner Thomas Johansson.

But the brash American was still making news as he found himself defending the likes of Roger Federer and Andre Agassi who pulled out of the 2.45-million-euro tournament.

"In what other sport do you play 11 months of the year?" asked the American. "I am going to finish my season on December 5 and start next year on January 5. I would rather pull out of an event than injure myself. If they can't understand the way an athlete works, it's too bad."



Australian Lleyton Hewitt jubilates after beating Gael Monfils of France in the Tennis Masters Series in Paris on November 2.

Venus moves on

AFP, Philadelphia

Venus Williams, fighting to qualify for the season-ending WTA Championships, ousted fellow American Lisa Raymond 6-2, 6-1 here Tuesday at the \$85,000-dollar WTA Advanta Championships.

Fifth seed Williams advanced to a second-round match against 87th-ranked Yuliana Fedak of Ukraine. Williams probably must reach Sunday's final in order to qualify for next week's showdown of the season's eight top WTA players.

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Aussies shine

FROM PAGE 13

Dravid not out 9, Tendulkar not out 2, Extras 0, Total: (For 2 wkts in 11 overs) 22. Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-11. To bat: Laxman, Kaif, Dinesh, Kumble, Harbhajan, Murli, Zaheer. Bowler O M R W, McGrath 6 4 9 1, Gillespie 5 0 13 1. AUSTRALIA: Ponting, Hayden, Langer, Martyn, Clarke, Katich, Gilchrist, Hauritz, Gillespie, McGrath. Toss: India. Umpires: Rudi Koertzen (South Africa) and Aleem Dar (Pakistan).

Bakhrabad Gas Systems Limited (A Company of Petrobangla) Comilla, Bangladesh International Tender Notice. Table with columns: SI No, ICB tender No & date, Description of materials, Cost of tender documents, Closing date & time, Opening date & time.

28 Jet engine, e.g. "H. sailor" 33 Hasten 34 Unspoken 36 Leading lady 37 Speedy 39 Michael Jackson album