

Peterson replaces replacement

CRICINFO, undated

Two days after Charl Langeveldt was called up as a replacement for South Africa's two-Test tour of India after Nicky Boje declined to go, he has pulled out injured and been replaced himself. Robin Peterson, the slow left-artermer from the Warriors, will fill the vacant spot.

Langeveldt, 29, suffered a back injury during a long bowling stint for the Highveld Lions against Western Province-Boland -- for whom Graeme Smith scored a double-century -- at the weekend.

Shane Jabaar, South Africa's physiotherapist, confirmed that Langeveldt would not be able to tour. "He has an irritated left sacroiliac joint and a facet-joint sprain on the left side of his lower back. He will need about two to three weeks' rest and rehabilitation before he can bowl again."

Peterson, 25, was unlucky not to have been called up as a like-for-like replacement in the first place after Boje decided he did not wish to face possible further questioning by the Delhi police over the match-fixing allegations that surfaced on South Africa's last tour there, in 1999-2000.

Semifinal lineup

FROM PAGE 13 take on Acme in the second semifinal on the same day.

SCORES IN BRIEF

CITYCELL: 134 for 8 in 20 overs (Hasannuzzaman 34, Dhiman 34, Tareq 2-26)

AKTEL: 123 all out in 19.1 overs (Harunur Rashid 39, Nabil 3-16)

ROBINTEX: 104 for 9 in 20 overs (Naimur 40, Bashar 27, Shafaq 2-8)

ARAF: 105 for 8 in 19.1 overs (Nayem 23, Hasibul 2-28, Naimur 2-20)

Result: Araf won by 2 wickets.

BIMAN: 121 for 8 in 20 overs (Rashedul 38, Sajjad 38, Razzak 4-22)

GRAMPHONE: 122 for 5 in 20 overs (Tushar 32 not out, Shahrir 26, Mashrafe 25, Mosharaf 3-19, Aminul 2-16)

Result: Gramphone won by 5 wickets.

EPYLLION: 115 for 5 in 20 overs (Kamrul 25, Shaheen 24, Murad 2-17)

GAZI TANK: 118 for 7 in 19.5 overs (Wasel 33, Sumon Barua 30, Gazi Alamgir 2-12)

Result: Gazi Tank won by 3 wickets.

PARTEX: 144 for 7 in 20 overs (Sumon Das 43, Shakil 32, Tareq 25, Nadif 2-20, Shuvo 2-23)

BEKIMCO: 146 for 2 in 18.4 overs (Sajjad 66 not out, Akram 48 not out, Shamsul 1-18)

Result: Bekimco won by 8 wickets.

ACME: 123 for 8 in 20 overs (Nasiruddin 39, Izzat 2-18)

ISPAHAN: 95 all out in 18 overs (Emon 32, Ripon 3-11)

Result: Acme won by 28 runs.

Stand up and bat

FROM PAGE 13 "None of us are happy with our batting in last two games. We did things the way we wanted in the two Tests but our one-day performance, especially top order is unsatisfactory," said Bracewell.

He said that they would not take the final match lightly.

"Our mission is not over because tomorrow's match is very important for us. We had a disciplined performance in the Test series but failed to keep it up in the one-dayers. I told the boys to bring back the discipline in the last match before the important Australia series," said the 46-year-old former New Zealand off-break bowler.

He however praised Bangladesh's bowling especially in the second game.

"I think Bangladeshi bowlers did an excellent job defending a modest total," said Bracewell, who highly praised the brilliant bowling of Aftab on Friday.

ZCU scuttles Streak again

CRICINFO, Harare

Hopes that the Zimbabwe Cricket Union was serious that it was willing to accept the return of the rebel players appeared to be dashed with the response of the board to news that Heath Streak was helping out Matabeleland in an unpaid capacity.

Streak, a former Matabeleland captain, had accepted an invitation to help Pommie Mbangwa, their bowling coach, on a voluntary basis. But as soon as ZCU officials became aware of the situation, they demanded that Streak withdraw. They were probably further irked by the excellent reception Streak received from spectators at the ground at Bulawayo.

Peter Chingoka, the ZCU's chairman, has been at the forefront of those making conciliatory comments. But he claimed that

Matabeleland had acted inappropriately and that the Logan Cup, Zimbabwe's domestic first-class



HEATH STREAK

competition, depended "on adherence to appointments within existing structures otherwise one risks having those who should benefit not

being in place at the right time.

"The appointments of the four provincial coaches were well-structured and done in consultation with the national team coach and national selectors," Chingoka told the government-controlled Herald newspaper. "Streak's involvement was irregular as it did not go through this process. The protocol was breached and the person who made the ad hoc appointment has since apologised to the Union for the breach. Because of the irregularity, we did ask Heath not to be involved but he was not replaced by Phil Simmons." Coincidentally, Chingoka added that the ZCU was about to appoint an assistant coach to Mbangwa.

The ZCU's action is unlikely to do anything to smooth the way to a settlement, nor is Zimbabwe cricket in a position that it can afford to shut out players of Streak's calibre.

ZCU officials were not available for comment.

Keegan fined

REUTERS, London

Manchester City manager Kevin Keegan has been fined 8,500 pounds for insulting referee Steve Dunn after his side's Premier League defeat at Newcastle United last month.

The Football Association ruled on Friday that the former England striker had been found guilty of "abusive and/or insulting words and/or behaviour".

Keegan's tirade came after City lost 4-3 on October 24. He was furious over several decisions immediately after the match but later said he would apologise in writing to Dunn for his language.

Beckham on the mend

INTERNET REPORT, London

David Beckham is targeting next weekend for his Real Madrid comeback, a move that will put him in line to captain England in their friendly in the Spanish capital on November 17.

Beckham has been out of action since breaking a rib in England's World Cup qualifier against Wales at Old Trafford last month.

He now claims to be making a good recovery and has targeted Real's November 14 clash with Albacete for his comeback.

"I'm aiming to play against Albacete, which is on the Sunday before England's friendly in Spain on the Wednesday," said Beckham.

He admitted he had been frustrated sitting on the sidelines as his England team-mate Michael Owen has sparked an upturn in Real's form.

"It's an injury that you can enjoy for a couple of weeks, getting the rest in but after that it is so frustrating. My broken ribs have prevented me from going to the gym; I can't run, I can't walk."

"A couple of days ago I felt great and tried running, but for the last two or three days I've not been able to move. I just want to get playing again. But we'll have to see how it goes."

Mozart fails dope test

REUTERS, Milan

Brazilian midfielder Mozart, who plays with Serie A club Reggina, and five players from Italian Serie B teams have been suspended after failing doping tests.

All six players have tested positive for the banned substance Betamethasone in random doping controls carried out after games in early October, the Italian Olympic Committee (CONI) said on Friday.

Mozart tested positive at a control carried out after the October 3 Serie A game against AC Milan.

PwC ratings

FROM PAGE 13 fifth overall, while Jason Gillespie closed the gap after some fine performances in the Tests.

RANKINGS

Table with columns: Batsman, Points. Lists players like Dravid, Lara, Hayden, Kallis, Sehwag, Inzamam, Ponting, Martyn, Gibbs, Sangakkara, Harmison, Pollock, Muralitharan, Shoaib, McGrath, Gillespie, Kumble, Warne, Vaas, Ntini with their respective points.

Santini steps down

Football

REUTERS, London

Jacques Santini has quit as manager of Tottenham Hotspur after just 13 games in charge.

A Spurs statement on Friday said the former France manager is returning to France for "personal reasons".

Martin Jol, Santini's assistant at White Hart Lane, will take charge of the first team for the home match against Charlton Athletic on Saturday.

"My time at Tottenham has been memorable and it is with deep regret that I take my leave," Santini said. "Private issues in my personal life have arisen which caused my decision."

"I have therefore requested to return to France. I very much hope that the wonderful fans will respect my decision. I should like to thank Frank Arnesen and (chairman) Daniel Levy for their understanding. I wish the club and the supporters all the best for the season."

Arnesen, the club's sporting director, said the club respected Santini's decision.

"We are obviously disappointed that Jacques is leaving us," he said. "We fully respect his decision. I can assure you that the club will act swiftly to minimise the impact of Jacques' departure."

"Our priority is to ensure that this season's performance remains unaffected by this move. I shall make a further statement on Monday clarifying our position. We wish Jacques well."

Tottenham announced that Santini would be their new coach in June and the 53-year-old arrived at White Hart Lane after his French side slipped out of Euro 2004 championship in Portugal with a disappointing quarter-final defeat by Greece.

His appointment was seen as the final piece in a new managerial structure at the under-achieving club which has been in the shadow of north London rivals Arsenal for more than a decade.

After the mediocrity of former managers Glenn Hoddle and David

Pleat, there was genuine optimism amongst Tottenham fans that Santini could create a team capable of closing the gap on fellow Frenchman Arsene Wenger's Arsenal.

Tottenham's starting line-up against Liverpool on the opening game of the season was barely recognisable with the likes of Cameroon international Thimothée Atouba, Sweden's Erik Edman, veteran Moroccan Nourredine Naybet and Pedro Mendes, a Champions League winner with Porto, all making their debuts.

That encouraging 1-1 draw was followed by a dogged 1-0 victory at

the club in the bottom half of the table.

However the majority of the success-starved Tottenham fans were still backing Santini despite last Saturday's woeful 2-0 defeat at London rivals Fulham.

Santini built his reputation as a coach with Olympique Lyon, steering them to their first French title in 2001-02.

After France's humiliating exit at the 2002 World Cup finals, Santini was chosen as the man to replace sacked Roger Lemerre.

Under his command France won the Confederations Cup and qualified with a 100 per cent record for the



JACQUES SANTINI

Newcastle United and after another narrow victory over Birmingham City, Tottenham were challenging at the top end of the table.

A first defeat of the season, 1-0 at home to Manchester United, was followed by a 1-0 victory at Everton, but since then the club's league form has fallen away.

Despite boasting the second best defensive record in the Premier League, the goals dried up and three consecutive league defeats, with just one goal scored in that time, has left

Euro 2004 finals.

But after Santini announced that he would be leaving to join Tottenham after the championship, France performed poorly in Portugal with Santini's defensive tactics called into question.

Those same cautious tactics have tested the patience of Tottenham fans, although with more than two thirds of the season still to go, many believed Santini would have eventually been a success in English football.

FA too soft on Mutu

Football

REUTERS, London

The Football Association knew it would not please everybody when it delivered its verdict on Romanian striker Adrian Mutu.

The seven-month suspension imposed on the 25-year-old, sacked by his club Chelsea for his admission of cocaine use, satisfied Mutu himself, the players' union and, probably, world body FIFA which demands a six-month minimum for such offences.

For Chelsea, the World Anti-Doping Agency, the government and much of the media on Friday, however, the punishment was totally inadequate.

Chelsea chief executive Peter Kenyon is furious and his club now face the possibility of seeing Mutu, for whom they paid almost 16 million pounds, line up against them for an opposing team next season.

"Chelsea is extremely disappointed," Kenyon said in a hard-hitting official club statement.

"We believe it is far too lenient and sends out the wrong message about drugs in football. It is also indicative of a lack of direction within the FA at this time."

"As a club we can only take the action we believe is right for Chelsea. However the FA has a much wider responsibility to look after the interests of the game as a whole and in this case we believe it has shown itself to be weak over the issue of drugs."

The "lack of direction" reference is a jab at the fact that the ruling body is still to appoint a chief executive following the resignation of Mark Palios on August 1.

The FA hit back, saying it took

"doping control matters extremely seriously".

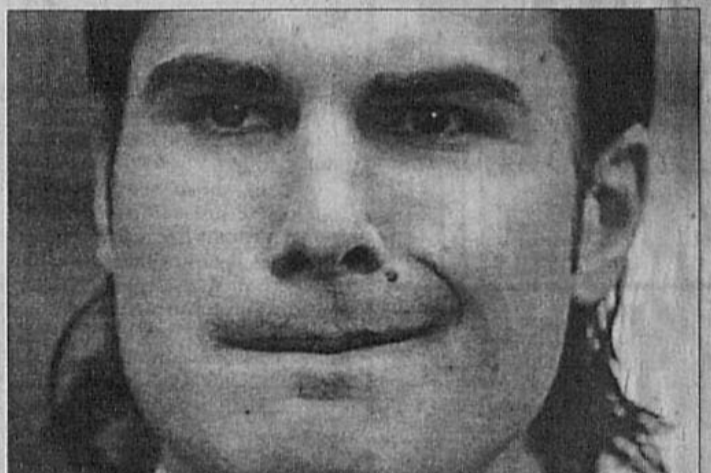
FA officials will reflect ruefully on the fact that last year they were accused in many quarters of being too harsh on Manchester United's defender Rio Ferdinand, whom they banned for eight months for missing a doping test.

They claimed this week that to ban Mutu for longer than Ferdinand would encourage players to think they would be better off missing a test like Ferdinand than taking one and failing it like Mutu. That would

declared before Thursday's disciplinary hearing that he would not appeal against any suspension.

WADA believe their recommendation of a two-year minimum should apply in all cases, whether the drug concerned is recreational or performance-enhancing. The British government agrees.

Mutu's agents are looking to the future. They claim two English clubs have already shown an interest in signing the striker and Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger was quoted last Sunday as saying he might be



ADRIAN MUTU

throw their testing procedure into chaos.

However, that principle does not sit comfortably with the fact that they banned Ferdinand for less than the nine months for which another ex-Chelsea player, Australian goalkeeper Mark Bosnich, was suspended last year for cocaine use.

The FA also took into account the fact that Mutu has agreed to a rehabilitation programme and had

interested.

Mutu's suspension -- he was also fined 20,000 pounds -- is backdated to October 25 and will expire on May 18, 2005.

That is three days before the FA Cup final and seven days before the Champions League final, meaning in theory at least, he could end up playing against Chelsea for a rival team in either. The FA will be praying that does not happen.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution time of 25 minutes and a list of words to be found.

Cryptogram puzzle grid with letters and numbers. Includes a solution time of 25 minutes and a list of words to be found.

CRYPTOQUIP WTY FUKHNY NUFQYU RL CRHKMMA LYYVRHN HYQ QFUV TY'L LF WRUYS FC WTY SKRMA URHS. Yesterday's Cryptogram: WHEN A CATTLE RANCH IS FREE OF ALL ITS BABY COWS, WOULD YOU SAY IT'S DECALFINATED? Today's Cryptogram Clue: U equals R. The Cryptogram 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.

Ganguly ready

FROM PAGE 13 and the two openers recently picked in the Indian Test squad, have been included, as has Sadagopan Ramesh, the Test discard. MS Dhoni, Dinesh Karthik's main competitor for a place in the Test side, will be the wicketkeeper.

Sairaj Bahutule will captain the side, and the squad also included India discards Hemang Badani, Dinesh Mongia, Ramesh Powar and Amit Bhandari. The talented batsman from Andhra Pradesh, Venugopal Rao, has also been picked.

South Africa play two Tests at Kanpur (Nov 20-24) and Calcutta (Nov 28-Dec 2) after the tour-opener.

SQUADS INDIA (from): Virender Sehwag, Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly (capt), VVS Laxman, Rahul Dravid, Yuvraj Singh, Dinesh Karthik (wk), Irfan Pathan, Harbhajan Singh, Anil Kumble, Zaheer Khan, Ajit Agarkar, Mohammad Kaif, Ashish Nehra, Sridharan Sriram. BOARD PRESIDENT'S XI (from):

Gautam Gambhir, Dheeraj Jadhav, Sadagopan Ramesh, Hemang Badani, Venugopal Rao, Dinesh Mongia, Sairaj Bahutule (capt), Ramesh Powar, Shubhankar Paul, Amit Bhandari, MS Dhoni (wk), Suresh Raina, Avishkar Salvi, Joginder Sharma.

Pathan's absence

FROM PAGE 13 not play to expectation," he said, noting that neither batsmen nor bowlers played to their capabilities.

To a question on Sachin Tendulkar's fitness, he said: "I don't see why he cannot go on. It depends on mental strength."

Khan, who successfully led Pakistan team for years before retiring at his prime, said the surfeit of one-day cricket had affected the game negatively as it puts tremendous pressure on players and leads to more injuries. "The standard of cricket is not the same as it was in 1980s. Bowling standard has particularly come down. We hardly seen any genuine world class bowler," he said.

Liverpool incur losses

Football

INTERNET REPORT, London

Liverpool will announce a record loss of £21.9 million at their annual general meeting next month.

And the report to shareholders shows that it cost over £10 million to pay off former manager Gerard Houllier and his staff of Phil Thompson, Joe Corrigan and Christian Damianno and players who were deemed surplus to requirements.

"These figures underline why they decided to sell Michael Owen earlier in the season rather than allow his transfer value to shrink to nothing if he worked out his contract and left on a free transfer."

The club lost £14 million because of their failure to reach the Champions League last season but

the club insist that much of this has been made up by qualification for the current campaign.

The good news for Liverpool is that they have managed to reduce their overall debt by £3.5 million, from £18.9 million to £15.4 million.

Chief executive Rick Parry says: "The key business objective for the year was to secure an immediate return to the Champions League. The board, therefore, took a conscious decision to continue to invest in the team in the summer of 2003 and to budget for a loss."

"Instead, the main financial target was to ensure there was no increase in net debt. Both these objectives were achieved."

"The loss is essentially attributable to two factors. The loss of Champions League revenue and the decision to change the management team. The loss in itself does not constrain player spending, after all

we did invest significantly in the summer.

"It is the level of debt and future cash flows that govern our transfer activity."

Despite the overall loss, Liverpool's board have still been able to sanction the signings of four new players since Rafael Benitez arrived at the club.

The sale of Emile Heskey to Birmingham enabled the club to fund their commitment to signing Djibril Cisse while the departures of Michael Owen and Danny Murphy generated the cash to secure the arrivals of Spanish quartet Xabi Alonso, Luis Garcia, Antonio Nunez and Josemi.

With the transfer window reopening in January the yearly accounts will not prevent Benitez from strengthening his squad if he deems it necessary.