

Tendulkar told to rest more

BBC ONLINE, undated

Star batsman Sachin Tendulkar will not play for Mumbai in the domestic Ranji Trophy competition in India.

India physiotherapist Andrew Leipus Saturday said there was no prospect of fans in Mumbai seeing their hero play.

"His tennis elbow is still a problem," Leipus told a website, saying Tendulkar had one eye on the upcoming home series against Pakistan.

"I spoke to surgeons in Australia and they thought it would be better to rest it before going into the major games."

Leipus said all-rounder Ajit Agarkar, who also plays for Mumbai, would also be rested.

"Agarkar has lost a lot of muscle mass and the recovery was not as good as we had expected," he said.

"So we thought it would be better to rest him because if he continues this way he may be susceptible to injuries."

Young fast bowler Irfan Pathan, meanwhile, was advised to pull out of the Baroda team for its most recent Ranji Trophy fixture.

He had picked up a niggling groin injury during the first one-day international in Bangladesh.

India have still not announced their Test and one-day fixtures for the home series against Pakistan next month.

England turn to Warne's guru

AFP, Sydney

Shane Warne's spin guru Terry Jenner leaves this month to help England develop a Test-standard leg-spinner.

Jenner has been hired by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) to unearth the closest he can find to the next Warne, who is Test cricket's leading bowler with 561 wickets.

Warne's mentor leaves for England on January 9 in a project that has already spanned five years.

"It's not about finding another Shane Warne -- there's only one of him, and only ever will be," Jenner said Saturday.

"But they want a leg-spinner. They have seen what (paceman) Glenn McGrath and Warne have done and like a lot of countries, they are looking at that as a bit of a model for the way the game can be played."

"A quick and a fantastic leggie. Finding the fast bowlers isn't the major problem. Finding a good leg-spinner is."

"There is some good talent over there. I'd say at the same age there is as much talent in England as there is in Australia."

"But I think players are maybe more determined to push themselves and do the work here than some of the younger English blokes."

Noor, Farhad

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points at the end of the sixth round at the federation hall room yesterday.

Nine players followed them with five points each. They are Naser, Mostafa, Nazrul, Shahjahan, Mithu, Mollah, Faruque, Qasem and Nasir.

Sobhan rejoins

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Club for the year 2004-05.

Sobhan is also a renowned industrialist and the co-chairman of Bashundhara Group.

Victoria officials expressed the hope that his experience and achievement in sports arena would help the traditional club further enhance its reputation.



PHOTO: STAR
Intekhab Mahmud (C), senior vice-president of sponsors CityCell, takes questions from reporters during a press conference at a city hotel yesterday organised in connection with the Test and ODI series between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe.

Premiership

Cole denies Liverpool



AFP, Liverpool

Substitute Joe Cole scored a potentially priceless 80th-minute winner as Chelsea secured a controversial 1-0 victory over Liverpool at Anfield on Saturday.

The England international had only been on the pitch five minutes when his 25-yard drive beat goalkeeper Jerzy Dudek with the aid of a deflection.

Leading scorer Milan Baros was once again missing with a hamstring injury as Liverpool looked to become only the second Premiership side to defeat Chelsea.

Jose Mourinho's side arrived at Anfield protecting an 11-match unbeaten record in the league. Only three clubs -- Aston Villa, Manchester City and Tottenham Hotspur -- had prevented them from scoring while they had not conceded a goal in more than five hours of action.

Yet Czech Republic goalkeeper Petr Cech was forced to come to his side's rescue on more than one occasion during a lively first half in which Liverpool, who carved out the better chances, were denied a 37th minute penalty after Tiago sent Arjen Robben clear through only for the Holland striker to be denied by a splendid save by Jerzy Dudek.

Controversy flared eight minutes before the break when Tiago handled inside his own area as Nunez attempted a header but the incident was missed by referee Mike Riley who was surrounded by incensed Liverpool players.

Chelsea appeared to be suffering from a New Year hangover as French defender Djimi Traore, who has not scored a league goal in almost six years at Anfield, had a 15th minute drive saved after Eider Gudjohsen had lost possession deep inside his own half.

It was Cole's fourth goal of the campaign. The England midfielder also scored the winner when the two sides met at Stamford Bridge in October.

The Merseyside club were looking

to extend a three-match winning run, their best Premiership form since Rafael Benitez took charge in the summer.

Alonso's involvement ended in the 27th minute when he limped off six minutes after Lampard's cynical challenge. X-rays confirmed he had fractured a bone in his ankle.

Steven Gerrard, who Chelsea tried to sign last summer, Luis Garcia and substitute Antonio Nunez all forced Cech into saves before the interval, although Liverpool were given a warning when Tiago's through ball sent Arjen Robben clear through only for the Holland striker to be denied by a splendid save by Jerzy Dudek.

Controversy flared eight minutes before the break when Tiago handled inside his own area as Nunez attempted a header but the incident was missed by referee Mike Riley who was surrounded by incensed Liverpool players.

Liverpool continued to press with Jamie Carragher hitting the roof of the net from distance while Gerrard also went close before Cole had the final say after Robben's corner had been headed into his own area.

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Pollock crucial for Proteas

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for the Durban and Cape Town Tests.

Swing bowler Charl Langeveldt may come into the side in place of fast bowler Dale Steyn but left-arm spinner Nicky Boje, who was disappointed in Durban, remains the only spinner.

Whatever combination is picked, a key issue will be to stem the flow of runs from England opener Andrew Strauss, who made 381 runs at an average of 127 in the first two Tests.

Jennings said the spirited batting of the South Africans on the last day in Durban, when they were able to save the game, meant the team were confident going into the next Test. "There was a winning feeling in the dressing room afterwards," he said.

But England captain Michael Vaughan reckons he holds a stronger hand than his counterpart, Graeme Smith.

"What really impresses me is the character of my team and their fighting spirit," said Vaughan. "We've had a fantastic year but we're all committed to continuing this form through into 2005. I've always said it's going to be a closely fought series and that's the way it has turned out."

"We go to Cape Town with the desire to keep the South Africans under pressure. If we can do that I believe we'll get the better of them."

England's only problem is the form of number three batsman Mark Butcher, who has looked out of form despite making 79 in the first innings of the first Test. There may be some discussion about playing Robert Key in his place.

Otherwise it is likely a winning team will be kept together. South Africa, though, have several worries, although they will be boosted by the return of Boeta Dippenaar in their middle order.

Dippenaar, who scored a century in the first Test, could not play in Durban because of a knee injury but he has been passed fit for Cape Town. He will replace Martin van Jaarsveld, who was an emergency replacement in Durban.

Hashim Amla failed twice in Durban and could be replaced by all-rounder Andrew Hall.

TEAMS

SOUTH AFRICA (from): Graeme Smith (captain), Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Rudolph, Jacques Kallis, Boeta Dippenaar, Hashim Amla, AB de Villiers, Shaun Pollock, Andrew

Hall, Nicky Boje, Makhaya Ntini, Dale Steyn, Charl Langeveldt, Thami Tsolekile.

ENGLAND (likely): Michael Vaughan (captain), Marcus Trescothick, Andrew Strauss, Mark Butcher, Graham Thorpe, Andrew Flintoff, Geraint Jones, Ashley Giles, Matthew Hoggard, Simon Jones, Steve Harmison.

Umpires: Steve Bucknor (West Indies) and Darryl Harper (Australia).

Double blow

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side for this opposition and these conditions," Ponting told his match-day media conference.

Asked if his dumping signalled the end of Lehmann's Test days, Ponting said: "No way at all. His selection was made wholly and solely for this game and these conditions."

Ponting said it was opportune to give 23-year-old Watson, a fast bowler and accomplished batsman, his Test debut.

"We've all known Shane's potential for a long time now," he said.

Ponting said MacGill's selection for his 34th Test was in response to curator Tom Parker's pitch looking like the SCGofold".

The pitch was expected to provide significant turn over the final three days when MacGill and Shane Warne will bowl in tandem.

They're two of the best in the world," Ponting said. "Stuvey knows conditions here like the back of his hand and his record here is absolutely outstanding and Warney's not much different."

"Pakistan have never been great players of leg-spin bowling. We think as this game goes on, having those two absolute quality leg-spinners in the side is going to be the hardest bowling for Pakistan to face. It should be exciting to watch."

Ponting said breaking the news to Kasprowicz and Lehmann was the worst part of his job.

Matches

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Board has pledged the gate receipts from its series against Zimbabwe, estimated at 10,000 US dollars, to relief efforts.

The tsunami-affected areas include Sri Lanka and India which are ICC Full Members; Malaysia which has been an ICC Associate Member since 1967; and Thailand, the Maldives and Indonesia which are all ICC Affiliate Members.

"It's a great prospect to have them both in the side. Stuart really deserves his opportunity ... his form has been outstanding."

"We've all known Shane's potential for a long time now," he said.

Ponting said MacGill's selection for his 34th Test was in response to curator Tom Parker's pitch looking like the SCGofold".

"We've had a lot of problems throughout the season and we ended in a pretty good style today. I'm optimistic about the next season," added Ardiles.

Pollock crucial for Proteas

Did not bat: Shahadat Hossain, Shafiq Al Jaber.

Fall of wkts: 1-25, 2-47, 3-159, 4-179, 5-183, 6-183, 7-195.

Bowler O M R W

Panyangara 5 0 35 1

Hondo 8 1 29 0

Mupariva 9 1 28 1

Chigumbura 14 1 71 0

Uteya 26 4 82 1

Matsikenyeri 17 2 53 4

Taylor 1 0 3 0

ZIMBABWE: First innings

Matsikenyeri batting 12

Rogers batting 18

Extras: (lb-5, nb-6) 11

Total: (No loss in 10 overs) 41

Bowler O M R W

Shahadat 5 2 15 0

Jaber 4 0 15 0

Tareq 1 0 2 0

CRYPTOQUIP

G T K S F V Q K U R G V G D Q S F

A G B B G F - V T F - L Q Q T

N T K Y K N V F Y E A Q Z D U I Q Z

E K I G R V G X X F Y - T K L L ?

Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A PODIATRIST

URNS AGAINST SÖMBODEY, I SUPPOSE HE

MEET BECOME AN ARCH ENEMY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals P

The Cryptoquip 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.

Umpires: Billy Bowden (New Zealand) and David Shepherd (England).

Solution time: 24 mins.

POOL SASH FLO

ABLE WIPE RAW

WOLF IDLY LEVE

NEAT NEED READ

BAG NEED READ

SHEEN HAGGER

DOUGHTY CHARD

LEGION TETRAD

NUFELIDA

FEED USE NODE

ICY BRAID GRID

SHE EASY LAVE

HOD ELSE ELAN

45 Stannum

46 Chapeau

Ukraine bestows honour on Shevchenko