

Windies wilt again

Pakistan clinch 2nd one-dayer

Cricket

AFP/REUTERS, Gros Islet (St Lucia)

Pakistan again exposed the fragility of the West Indies' batting to clinch a comfortable 40-run triumph in their second one day international.

West Indies were dismissed for 218 in 48.2 overs, chasing 259 to win, to concede an unbeatable 2-0 lead in the best-of-three series that ends on Sunday here.

Pakistan also won the opening match of the series last Wednesday at Arnos Vale by 59 runs.

It is the first time Pakistan have defeated West Indies in a one-day series in the Caribbean, although they won a triangular competition in 2000 involving Zimbabwe.

The defeat equalled the longest losing streak for West Indies, who were also beaten in eight consecutive games in 1999-2000.

Runako Morton, playing in his fourth ODI, was the top scorer for West Indies with seven fours in 55 from 98 balls.

Outside of Morton, Chris Gayle gave the innings the usual flourish at the top of the order with five fours and one six in 43 from 45 balls, and Courtney Browne hit two fours and two sixes in late flurry of 35 from 29 balls, but no other batsman came to grips with the steady, if not menacing Pakistan bowling.

Shahid Afridi collected four wickets for 38 runs from his allotment of 10 overs with his leg-spin missiles to be the pick of the Pakistan bowlers.

Half-centuries from Shoaib Malik, who was later named man-of-the-match, and Pakistan captain Inzamam-ul-Haq had helped the visitors post a competitive 258 for eight from their 50 overs.

Shoaib, who Gayle dropped on one at first slip off Daren Powell in the ninth over, and Inzamam both hit three boundaries and both scored 51 from 91 and 58 balls respectively.

The two added 55 for the fourth wicket to lead consistent batting right down the order from the Pakistanis, who also got 48 from Younis Khan.

Corey Collymore snared three wickets for 40 runs from his allotment of 10 overs to be the most successful West Indies bowler.

West Indies had problems from early, when Pakistan keeper Kamran Akmal and first slip fielder Younis Khan muffed a chance to remove teenaged opening batsman Xavier Marshall, clearly out of his depth, in the first over off Rana Navedul Hasan.

Rana eventually got his man, when Marshall sliced a drive and was caught at gully for seven in the fifth over.

Gayle continued to play his strokes freely, but Shabbir Ahmed

bowled him in the 14th over and the West Indies innings continued to wobble.

Morton and Wavell Hinds, who came together when the total was 114 for four in the 25th over, added 49 for the fifth wicket in the best partnership of the innings.

They however, were removed in a period when West Indies lost three wickets for nine runs in the space of 14 balls to subside to 172 for seven in the 40th over, and literally give up the ghost.

Earlier, Pakistan, who chose to bat in ideal conditions, suffered two setbacks inside the first 10 overs, when Shahid Afridi was caught at mid-off for 12 off Powell, who smartly fielded to his own bowling, and effected the run out of Salman Butt for 16 to leave the visitors 33 for two in the seventh over.

Yousuf Youhana joined Shoaib and was just beginning to seize control, when Hinds, bowling his part-time medium pace, had him caught behind for 21, essaying a drive in the 20th over to leave Pakistan 81 for three.

The wicket of Shoaib, who was run out when he failed to beat Shivnarine Chanderpaul's direct hit at the bowler's end from mid-on in the 31st over, and Inzamam retiring hurt on 33, after one of Gayle's off-spin darts struck in the groin region in the 36th over, slowed Pakistan down.

Abdul Razzaq came to the wicket to replace Inzamam and with Younis lifted the tempo, but Collymore bowled him for 20 in the 41st over, and the Pakistanis could only make steady, and not flourishing, progress towards the close of their innings.

"We are playing our best cricket for a while," vice-captain Younis Khan told reporters.

"I think the tough tours to Australia and India have helped us gel as a team and believe in ourselves. Those tours were a turning point for us."

Younis will lead Pakistan in the first Test in Barbados in the absence of Inzamam, who will serve a one-match ban for excessive appealing in India.

"It is a dream come true to get the chance to lead Pakistan in a Test match. But my main ambition is to lead Pakistan to a win in Barbados as we have never won a test series in West Indies," said Younis.

SCORES IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN: 258 for 8 in 50 overs (Malik 51, Inzamam 51, Younis 48; Collymore 3-40).

WEST INDIES: 218 all out in 48.2 overs (Gayle 43, Morton 55, Browne 35; Afridi 4-38, Navedul 2-20).

Result: Pakistan won by 40 runs. Series: Pakistan lead the three-match series 2-0.

PRIMERA LIGA

Betis boost hopes

HIERRO HONOURED

AFP, Madrid

Real Betis beat Real Zaragoza 3-2 in the Spanish League on Saturday to jump two places to third which would be enough for Champions League football next season.

Real Betis must now travel to Real Mallorca in their final game next week in an attempt to hold on to third, enough for a qualifying round spot in Europe's top club competition.

Should Betis go through, they would have made the most of the disappointing seasons of traditional European qualifiers in Valencia, Deportivo La Coruna and Atletico Madrid.

Meanwhile Atletico drew 0-0 at Real Madrid in a meaningless match for both teams, with Real assured of second spot and an automatic berth into the Champions League and Atletico in midtable.

Former Real Madrid captain Fernando Hierro had a standing ovation from the Bernabeu stadium crowd before the game, just one week after playing the final match of his career for English Premiership club Bolton.

TOP SIX										
Spanish football league table after Saturday's matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against, points):										
Barcelona	36	25	7	4	70	26	82			
Real	37	24	5	8	68	31	77			
Betis	37	16	13	8	61	49	61			
Villarreal	36	17	10	9	62	33	61			
Sevilla	36	17	8	11	44	39	59			
Espanyol	36	16	9	11	51	45	57			



HE'LL BE LOVED FOR EVER: An emotion-choked former Real Madrid talisman Fernando Hierro greets the fans before the Primera Liga match between Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on May 21.

Gunners fans rub it in

REUTERS, Cardiff

There was a trade in U.S. flags on the streets of Cardiff before Saturday's FA Cup final as Arsenal supporters chanting "USA, USA, USA" jeered Manchester United fans over the Malcolm Glazer takeover.

Rain put a damper on the peaceful protests of the United fans, many dressed predominantly in black, against the U.S. financier's purchase of their club last week.

Probably the last FA Cup final to be staged in Cardiff's Millennium Stadium went off without any major trouble, with police reporting only 10 arrests for minor public order offences, two of which were inside the ground.

"A good-natured and friendly atmosphere was maintained throughout the day with one protest, which was conducted in a peaceful manner," chief superintendent Bob Evans said in a statement from South Wales Police.

"There will continue to be a police presence in the city throughout the evening to ensure the safety of all those enjoying the capital's bars and restaurants."

Asked if he had been offered a one-year extension to his current contract, Bergkamp, on the field for 65 minutes before being substituted by Freddie Ljungberg, replied: "For one year, yes."

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger told reporters: "I feel at the beginning of the week we will sort it out but he should stay for one more year."

But United manager Alex Ferguson said he too had reason to be optimistic about the future of his side because of the number of relatively young players already in the team.

Wenger admitted Arsenal, harried throughout by 19-year-old England striker Wayne Rooney, the man-of-the-match, and Portugal winger Cristiano Ronaldo, 20, had been lucky to win.

"We were fortunate not to concede in the second half because United created three or four great chances."

"They played well. We played a bit more today not to lose because we didn't create enough going forward."

"Overall I felt we won it more with our mental strength and resilience than with our usual style. But in the end we kept our nerve and that was vital in the penalty shoot-out."

"In the end it's about going home with the trophy even though we know we can play better."

Arsenal's victory was their fourth FA Cup final success since Wenger took charge and the Frenchman ruefully observed: "The one we played the best we lost in (2001) when two late goals from Michael Owen gave Liverpool the trophy."

Germany goalkeeper Jens Lehmann turned out to be Arsenal's hero, making the only save of the shoot-out, from former England midfielder Paul Scholes, in the first FA Cup final to be decided on penalties in the tournament's 133-year history.

Look to the future

Football

AFP, London

Dennis Bergkamp gave Arsenal fans an extra reason to celebrate after their penalty shoot-out FA Cup final win against arch-rivals Manchester United by saying he'd be staying at Highbury for one more season.

The 36-year-old Dutch striker, a revered figure in his 10 years with the London club since arriving from Italian giants Internazionale, had said he was considering retiring from football altogether if the Arsenal board didn't offer him a new deal.

But after Saturday's final, which Arsenal won 5-4 on penalties after the match was still goalless following extra-time, Bergkamp told BBC Radio: "I'll be here (next season), yes. It will be okay."

Asked if he had been offered a one-year extension to his current contract, Bergkamp, on the field for 65 minutes before being substituted by Freddie Ljungberg, replied: "For one year, yes."

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger told reporters: "I feel at the beginning of the week we will sort it out but he should stay for one more year."

But United manager Alex Ferguson said he too had reason to be optimistic about the future of his side because of the number of relatively young players already in the team.

Wenger admitted Arsenal, harried throughout by 19-year-old England striker Wayne Rooney, the man-of-the-match, and Portugal winger Cristiano Ronaldo, 20, had been lucky to win.

"We were fortunate not to concede in the second half because United created three or four great chances."

"They played well. We played a bit more today not to lose because we didn't create enough going forward."

"Overall I felt we won it more with our mental strength and resilience than with our usual style. But in the end we kept our nerve and that was vital in the penalty shoot-out."

Federer's missing piece

A quarterfinalist here last year, she is determined to do better this year.

"Being a more experienced player and being physically a lot stronger makes me feel that I'll last two weeks," she said on Saturday.

"Last year, I didn't think I would last that long."

One of Sharapova's most dangerous rivals is likely to be Belgian Justine Henin-Hardenne, who has impressed since returning to action in April after fighting a viral illness.

The Belgian has won three clay-court titles in succession. "Everybody knows this is a special tournament for me," said Henin-Hardenne.

She refused, however, to be considered the favourite.

"I still have ups and downs and it will take me a few months to be 100 per cent," she added.

Fellow Belgian Kim Clijsters, who lost to Henin-Hardenne in the 2003 final, said on Saturday she would enter the tournament despite a sore right knee.

Mboma calls it a day

Football

AFP, Tokyo

Cameron striker Patrick Mboma, the 2000 African Footballer of the Year, has bid a fond farewell to Japan where his well-travelled career gathered steam and finally ended with recurring injuries.

"If I talk about my memories of Japan, it will become a whole book," Mboma, 34, told a farewell ceremony Saturday at Kobe, the last club of his 15 professional years spent in France, Japan, Italy, England and Libya.

"I will go home with a bag full of memories," he said before cheering fans at Kobe Wing Stadium, home to the J-League's Vissel Kobe.

"I want to say 'arigato' (thank you) to all the people who have supported me. I will go all-out in a new challenge," Mboma said, according to media reports.

Mboma, who scored 33 goals in 57 matches for the "Indomitable Lions" of Cameroon since his international debut in 1995, has lined up a job to support the country's national team while training himself to become a football agent.

Known for his aerial strength and power-packed left foot, the lanky Mboma powered Cameroon to triumph at the 2000 and 2002 African Nations Cups as well as the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

Mboma, who played for Gamba Osaka in 1997 and 1998 in his first J-League stint, joined Kobe last December after a year with Tokyo Verdy.

He announced his retirement last week after a series of injuries, including a damaged right thigh, which cost him dearly.

He scored only two goals in 10 matches for Kobe, and none in four matches this season which opened in March. Kobe currently lie at the bottom of the 18-club J-League.

Mboma earned the nickname "The Black Panther of Naniwa (Osaka)" when he became the top

J-League scorer with 25 goals in 28 matches for Osaka in 1997.

The prowess led Mboma to the World Cup finals at France 1998 and a contract with his first Italian Serie-A club Cagliari.

"My first goal for Gamba Osaka was the start of my career in a true sense," he said.

The farewell ceremony took place after Kobe's 1-0 loss to Omiya Omiya Ardia in a home J-League Cup match, in which he did not play.

Clad in a business suit, Mboma received bouquets from his family, veteran Kobe striker Kazuyoshi Miura, 38, once the Asian Footballer of the Year, and another teammate Ryuji Bando, who cried in the arms of the Cameroon star.

Mboma ran around the pitch and threw 48 autographed soccer balls in to the stands, the number representing the goals he has scored in 79 J-League matches.

"I wanted to draw the curtain by contributing to the team's victory," he said.

Born in the Cameroon city of Douala, Mboma immigrated to France with his family when he was two.

His career began in 1990 with Paris Saint-Germain. He moved to Osaka after mediocre experience in France, where he spent two years on the PSG bench, two years on loan with third division club Chateauroux and another loan spell with Metz.

After playing a defensive role at the 1998 World Cup, Mboma dazzled with 15 goals in 40 matches over two years for Cagliari before moving to AC Parma in 2000. In mid-2002 he was loaned to English Premiership club Sunderland.

He also played a part in Cameroon's disappointing first round exit from the 2002 World Cup, and spent two years at Libya's Al Itihad before making his J-League comeback.

Mboma retired from international football after scoring four goals in four matches at the 2004 African Nations Cup.

Wenger for life?

Football

AFP, London

Arsenal are set to offer their French manager Arsene Wenger a job for life following their FA Cup final penalty shoot out triumph over Manchester United on Saturday.

The news came hours after Wenger appeared to drop a hint about a possible departure from the club once the Gunners move to a new ground in 2007.

"One day, another manager will benefit from the new stadium and new team," Wenger told the News of the World.

"When we go to the new stadium I feel it will have completed what I set out to do with Arsenal. It is only at that time when I may look to new challenges."

"I do not see managing France as a big enough challenge but that could change. League football is a bigger challenge."

However the club's board see things differently, and vice-chairman David Dein told BBC radio they are hoping that Wenger will stay at the club in another capacity well beyond their move to a new home.

"I believe Arsene will stay with the club for a long, long time - his ambition and desire is still with the club."

"We have already said that we don't want him to leave and we believe if he ever gets tired of being a tracksuit manager there will be a role for him on the board in some capacity - technical director or whatever he wants to be."

Dein said Wenger has been the best manager in Arsenal's history and added: "He has transformed the club - there is no doubt about it."

"It will be his decision in the end but at the moment he has got enough hunger there. He wants to continue to win trophies for the club and long may it last."

And Dein admitted that ahead of next season, the only star of the club to leave is likely to be out-of-contract Brazilian Edu.

"We do not intend to sell anyone," added Dein. "We will be looking at strengthening the squad with maybe two or three new players coming in."

"We will be announcing today or tomorrow that Dennis Bergkamp will be signing a new one-year contract. No-one will be leaving the club."

Sharapova

FROM PAGE 12 where that's going to take me," said the Russian.

"There's not a lot of time to do acting roles but there are a lot of shows wanting me to have a few moments on them. At this moment there is nothing on the line, so I am not going to be in anything soon."

"When I get back to the US after Wimbledon there are a few options of maybe doing something."

Her target for the next two weeks is to get through the testing conditions of Roland Garros on a clay surface which she admits is not her favourite although she surprised even herself in 2004 by making the quarterfinals.

In 2005, her two clay-court tournaments have seen her lose to Justine Henin-Hardenne in the quarterfinals in Berlin and then go down in three sets to Patty Schnyder in the semifinals in Rome.

Both defeats meant that her hopes of entering the French Open as world number one were thwarted.

Rahim

FROM PAGE 12

Friedlander bAnwar	7
White not out	30
Extras: (b-2, lb-4, nb-6)	12
Total: (For 6 wks decl. 49 overs) 230	
Did not bat: Pietersen, King, Wolstenholme.	
Fall of wkts: 1-18, 2-47, 3-93, 4-142, 5-143, 6-155.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Baisya	10	0	53	1
Anwar	20	2	113	4
Aftab	5	1	10	0
Rafique	10	2	27	0
Enamul	4	0	21	1

BANGLADESH: First innings Omar c Huggins b Pietersen 4; Iqbal b Pietersen 24; Aftab c Friedlander b King 16; Ashraf c Wolstenholme 30; Friedlander 30; Saleh c AWhite b Friedlander 1; Rahim not out 68; Mashud not out 31; Extras: (lb-1, w-6, nb-8) 15; Total: (For 5 wks in 50 overs) 189; To bat: Enamul, Rafique, Anwar, Baisya.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Pietersen	11	0	53	2
Friedlander	9	1	37	2
King	7	2	32	1
Wolstenholme	9	3	14	0
AWhite	10	1	46	0
RWhite	4	0	6	0

Pietersen's reminder

AFP, London

Hampshire batsman Kevin Pietersen passed the century mark against Glamorgan on Saturday to remind England selectors who left him out of the Test squad facing Bangladesh.

The 24-year-old, tipped for a Test debut this summer but not included in the line-up for Lord's next week, resumed on 57 on day two of the county championship clash at the Rose Bowl and his eventual 126 helped the hosts reach 375 for five by stumps.

Former England batsman John Crawley anchored Hants' first innings with a measured 106 from 247 balls, while Greg Lamb weighed in with 42. Glamorgan's bowlers toiled and skipper Robert Croft was their most successful with two for 107.

The hosts lost four big wickets for 12 runs inside three overs on the second afternoon as they limped to 169 for nine in reply to 301 by the time rain and bad light brought an early close to a day shorn by bad weather.

Cook ended the day with four wickets at the cost of 38 runs while Darren Bicknell, who managed 63 before being run out, was the only Notts man who can have been happy with his day's work.

In Division Two, wicketkeeper Philip Mustard struck a vital 78 to give Durham a first-innings lead against Yorkshire at Chester-le-Street.

In reply to the visitors' 254, Mustard came to the crease with his side struggling on 146 for six before launching an offensive to swing the game in Durham's favour.

Kamal named BU's football chairman

SPORTS REPORTER

Premier and National League champions Brothers Union yesterday named A.Y. Mohammed Kamal as chairman of the club's new football committee.

Kamal, an industrialist, is a director of DCCI and a member of the FBCCI.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Tuesday at the movies?	1 Dennis Rodman's nickname
5 "Pygmalion" monogram	2 Director of Kazan Street lesson
8 Auctioneer's cry	3 Leslie Caron's title role
12 Hodgepodge	4 Buck Cross
13 "A mouse!"	5 "I Can't Satisfaction"
14 Pat on the buns?	6 Titanic problem?
15 Small stream	7 Reggae-like music
16 Behind	8 Sun (Fr.)
18 Sending out	9 Ken or Lena
20 Wards (off)	10 Give temporarily
21 Disturbance	11 Iditarod team
22 Numerical prefix	17 Area of Morocco
23 Loved ones	19 Passports, e.g.
26 Deputy's task	20 Blue hue
30 Bobby of hockey fame	21 Mason portrayed
31 Pitch	22 Zoo structure
32 By means of	23 School canceler
33 Banshee's noise	24 Notion, in Nanles
36 Guitar-neck ridges	25 Asta's mistress
	26 Pleased
	28 -de-France