

Danica's Indy 500 dream

AFP, Indianapolis

There have been three female drivers in the history of the 89th Indianapolis 500, but 23-year-old rookie Danica Patrick is the first with a legitimate chance of winning.

"There is nothing I want to do more than to win this race," said Patrick. "I will do what it takes. I expect to win this race if I and the team get everything right."

Patrick is the lightest driver in the Indy Racing League, but she will be carrying the weight of history on her shoulders in Sunday's race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

There have been three other female drivers who have preceded Patrick at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, beginning with pioneer Janet Guthrie from 1977-79.

At the time, she was unwelcome by fellow drivers and her best finish was ninth in 1978.

Lyn St James competed in seven Indy 500s from 1992-97 and returned in 2000. Her best finish was 11th in her rookie season.

Jnr hockey camp from June 6

SPORTS REPORTER

Just three days after cancelling the senior camp, the Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) yesterday called up 45 players for trials as part of the under-18 hockey camp.

The youngsters have been requested to report to coaches Abdul Maleq Chhunu and Abdullah Piru on June 6 for the camp.

The BHF's latest decision raised eyebrows as the federation had closed the national team camp on Thursday after running it for two weeks. The national team was preparing for the Asiad in Doha but it was closed due to the absence of coach Qamar Ibrahim.

The BHF, yet to confirm the arrival of the former Pakistani international, also failed to convince most of the senior players to join the residential camp.

Rangamati soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Borkol Upazila defeated Longdu 3-1 in the second match of the Zila Parishad Junior (Under-14) Gold Cup Football Tournament at the local stadium yesterday.

The winners led the first half 3-0.



Did U Know?

Bangladesh (108) recorded their lowest ever total in the first innings against England in Tests, eclipsing their 138 at Chittagong in October/November 2003.



PHOTO: STAR

Abahani director Harunur Rashid (R), football captain Arif Khan Joy (2nd from L) and manager Satyajit Das Rupu (L) receive the new team jerseys from sponsor Mutual Trust Bank's vice-president Salahuddin Mahmud Khasru at the club in Dhanmondi on Sunday.

Davenport stuns Clijsters



AP, Paris

Lindsay Davenport dug out of another hole on clay Sunday, staging a comeback to beat Kim Clijsters at the French Open.

The top-ranked Davenport won 1-6, 7-5, 6-3 to reach the Roland Garros quarterfinals for the first time since 1999.

Veteran former winner Mary Pierce also reached the last eight although she needed 11 match points to end the challenge of Switzerland's Patty Schnyder.

The French top seed won a fluctuating match 6-1, 1-6, 6-4 to set up a quarterfinal meeting with top seed Davenport.

Joining the 28-year-old Davenport in the final eight was 15-year-

old Bulgarian Sesil Karatantcheva, who showed her earlier win over Venus Williams was no fluke by beating Emmanuelle Gagliardi 7-5, 6-3.

The youngster will next face No. 16-seeded Elena Likhovtseva, who needed 2 hours, 49 minutes to win an all-Russian matchup by beating No. 4 Elena Dementieva 7-6, 5-7, 7-5.

In men's fourth-round play, No. 10 David Nalbandian lost to unseeded Victor Hanescu 6-3, 4-6, 5-7, 6-1, 6-2.

No. 9 Guillermo Canas and No. 28 Nicolas Kiefer completed victories in third-round matches suspended Saturday because of darkness. Canas overcame two match points to edge Frenchman Paul-Henri Mathieu 6-3, 7-6, 2-6, 6-7, 8-6. Kiefer defeated Igor Andrejev 6-4, 7-6, 3-6, 6-4.

Clijsters, seeded 14th but play-

ing the best tennis in the tournament through the early rounds, was three games from another easy victory but struggled with her serve and began to misfire from the baseline.

Clijsters committed 11 double-faults, and the last one came on break point to put her behind 5-3 in the final set. Three errors by Clijsters in the final game gave the win to Davenport, who in a rare display of jubilation meekly raised a fist and smiled.

The tall American began thinking about giving Roland Garros another try just three weeks ago.

Starting on a mild, hazy morning, Clijsters whacked three winners in the opening game, earned her first service break with a running forehand winner and swept the final five games of the first set. Not even three double-faults in the final game could keep her from serving out the set.

'Axing Bangladesh folly'

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Australia in a five-Test Ashes contest later this season, refused to be drawn into the row about Bangladesh's status.

"It's up to ICC to make that decision not me. Players don't set out the schedules we just turn up and play."

Meanwhile Whatmore was adamant there were positives for Bangladesh, who became a Test nation in 2000, at Lord's where they struggled to cope with the swing friendly conditions.

"We had an opening stand of 31 which was encouraging but as soon as we were asked to decipher what to do and what not to (play) there were mistakes."

"It's about reading and reacting, to have the discipline to play within conditions. But they were totally foreign to what the boys play on in Bangladesh or sub-continent."

And while the result would probably have been the same, the scale of the defeat might have been smaller had not Bangladesh dropped all of England's top four batsmen, includ-

ing Vaughan on eight.

"I also felt there was enough chances created. You take the catch off Vaughan and he's out early," Whatmore added.

"I just felt the boys had a little bit of disbelief about being able to get the ball past the bat and get a wicket. There were chances created even though we only had 108 on the board."

"But (fast bowler Mashrafe) bin-Mortuza deserved more wickets."

Whatmore praised too the second innings effort of Khaled Mashud, who made 44 and the endurance of left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique, who got through 41 overs for a respectable 150 runs.

Whatmore also singled out 16-year-old debutant Mushfiqur Rahim, who grafted for 85 minutes in scoring 19, one of just three double-figure scores, when Bangladesh batted first.

"Khaled Mashud, is a bit of a crisis guy, he's done well, Mohammad Rafique toiled away manfully and little Rahim showed enough to suggest he might be around for a while."

FRIENDLY

England beat USA

AP, Chicago

Even a second-rate England squad was too much for the Americans to handle.

Kieran Richardson scored twice in his first appearance for England on Saturday, leading his short-handed nation to a 2-1 victory over the United States in the teams' first meeting in more than a decade.

The loss was the Americans' first on U.S. soil in more than two years. Clint Dempsey prevented it from being a shutout with his first career goal late in the second half.

"Down 2-0 at the half, they could have really embarrassed themselves. But they hung in there and showed pride," U.S. coach Bruce Arena said. "I told our young players, these experiences, they've got to benefit from."

They're going to have to, because the next couple of games count. While England now flies to New Jersey for another exhibition against Colombia, the Americans have World Cup qualifiers against Costa Rica next Saturday and Panama on June 8.

Aside from the Americans' stunning 1-0 victory at the 1950 World Cup -- still considered one of the sport's greatest upsets -- the English have pretty much run roughshod on their little cousins. They've won six of their eight meetings, and came into Saturday's game with a 31-7 advantage of shots on goal.

And except for one group of fans behind the south goal who held up a large American flag and a banner reading "Yank Army Don't Tread on Me," Soldier Field looked more like an English ground. Banners featuring the English flag and various English teams -- Everton, Leicester City and Tottenham Hotspur, just to name a few -- covered every spare inch of the walls ringing the field and the first row of seats.

Bat didn't cause

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The 32-year-old Tendulkar has been ruled out of action for at least four months after he underwent a surgery on his left elbow in London early this week.

Tendulkar, the world's most successful one-day batsman with 13,642 runs and 38 centuries besides 10,134 runs in Tests, will miss the August tri-series in Sri Lanka, also featuring the West Indies, and probably India's tour of Zimbabwe in September as well.

He has been troubled by the tennis elbow injury for over a year now and had missed three major one-day tournaments last year.

Bhaji cleared

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understand the points of concern.

"The chance to sit with Harbhajan and his coach to talk through the points raised will provide the best opportunity for him to avoid concerns arising in the future," said Richardson.

Harbhajan was reported for a suspect action for the third time in his career by match referee Chris Broad at the end of the second Test against Pakistan in Kolkata in March.

Broad was especially concerned by Harbhajan's away-going "doosra" delivery.

Harbhajan, who has taken 199 wickets in 45 Tests and 120 wickets in 98 one-dayers, was also reported in 1998 but returned after remedial work.



PHOTO: INTERNET SOURCE

HOME SWEET HOME: Real Madrid's Brazilian superstar Ronaldo arrives at the Tom Jobim International Airport in Rio de Janeiro on Sunday after playing in the last match of the Spanish Primera Liga on Saturday.

PRIMERA LIGA

Real's winning finish



Football

REUTERS, Madrid

Real Madrid finished their disappointing season on a high note as they overcame a spirited Real Zaragoza 3-1 on Saturday.

Already assured of second place, Real ended their second successive year without a major trophy on 80 points, four behind champions Barcelona. England striker Michael Owen put Real ahead in the first half but the sides changed ends level after Oscar's equaliser two minutes before halftime.

Brazilian defender Roberto Carlos restored Real's lead just after the re-start and star striker Ronaldo added a third in the final minute.

Earlier on Saturday, Barcelona, with a number of key players rested,

drew 0-0 against mid-table Real Sociedad.

Sociedad's Russian midfielder Valery Karpin, playing his last game before retiring, received a standing ovation when he was substituted near the end.

The last two Champions League places and the final relegation spot will be decided on Sunday.

Third and fourth in the league is being contested by Villarreal, Real Betis, Sevilla and Espanyol, while at the foot of the table Levante and Real Mallorca are fighting to avoid the drop. Numancia and Albacete are already relegated.

Against the run of play, Real took the lead after 25 minutes when Zaragoza keeper Luis Garcia failed to hold Zinedine Zidane's low shot from the edge of the area.

Owen raced in to pounce on the loose ball and slot in at the near post, taking his tally for the season

Ronaldo asked to stay

MADRID

AC Milan have made an inquiry for Real Madrid striker Ronaldo.

A high ranking Milan director has already held talks with the Brazilian's representatives and the beaten Champions League finalists are expected to make formal contact with Real president Florentino Perez this weekend.

But Real have no plans of cashing in on Ronaldo, who has also told his agents that he is settled in Madrid and does not want to move.

Perez actually has scheduled a meeting with Ronaldo late next week to discuss with the Brazilian the season just gone and also his ambitions for the new campaign. Milan are expected to register their interest in the World Player of the Year before the summit.

While Perez isn't interested in selling Ronaldo, who has also told his Milan has to say. Those close to the Real president say an offer of £40 million would force Perez to reconsider his position.

Fully aware of the growing rumours, Real star Roberto Carlos has publicly urged Ronaldo to remain with him at the Bernabéu.

"I do not think that the president will let him leave," he huffed. "I want him to stay, he is my friend and he has several years left on his contract."

"Where is going to better than here? I do not think that Ronnie will move country or club." (Internet Source)

to 13. Zaragoza equalised two minutes before the break.

Midfielder Oscar ran at the Real defence from midfield, played a one-two with Villa on the edge of the area, and finished calmly past Casillas as he continued his run.

Portuguese winger Luis Figo came off the bench at halftime to make what could be his last appearance in a Real shirt before a transfer in the close season.

But he played no part in Real's flowing move for the second goal. Zidane fed Raul, whose first time pass put Roberto Carlos clear in the area and the Brazilian drilled a low shot into the far corner.

An error by Garcia in the final minute, when he spilled the ball at the feet of Ronaldo on the edge of the area, gifted the Real striker his 21st goal of the season.

Bayern complete double



Football

AFP, Berlin

Felix Magath crowned a fantastic debut season at Bayern Munich with his side defeating Schalke 04 2-1 in Saturday's cup final to clinch the double.

Magath had already guided Bayern to the German championship and he became the first coach to win the league and cup double in his maiden season since Branko Zebec achieved the feat with Bayern in 1969.

It is a fifth league and cup double for Bayern with their last coming in the 2002/03 season under Ottmar Hitzfeld.

Bosnian substitute Hasan Salihamidzic was Bayern's hero scoring the winning goal on 76 minutes after coming on as a replacement for Bastian Schweinsteiger.

Dutch international Roy Makaay had given Bayern a 42nd-minute lead only for Brazilian Lincoln to

equalise from the penalty spot on the stroke of half-time.

Bayern finished 14 points above Schalke in the league and it was easy to see why in the first period with Bayern creating enough chances to rack up a tennis score in the German capital.

Makaay spurned two good opportunities and then in the 34th minute Michael Ballack saw his shot handled in the area by defender Sven Vermant. Referee Florian Meyer missed the incident, to Bayern's fury.

After 37 minutes Claudio Pizarro then had a goal harshly ruled out for offside and Munich were starting to lose their cool with the official and his two assistants.

Three minutes before half-time Makaay finally broke the deadlock scrambling the ball home after Brazilian Ze Roberto hit the post.

Magath must have been relieved at making the breakthrough but on the stroke of half-time Bayern conceded a penalty with Ailton collapsing to the ground after a slight nudge from Frenchman Willy Sagnol.

Bayern players encircled referee Meyer, who was becoming increasingly unpopular, but Lincoln was unconcerned, sending Kahn the wrong way from the penalty spot.

The game was constantly interrupted by niggling fouls and it was hindered further on the hour mark when a comical scene saw the sprinklers spurt water everywhere before being switched off by the embarrassed grounds staff.

The incident, coupled with some bizarre refereeing decisions, did not amuse Bayern but they were smiling in the 76th minute when a decision finally went their way.

Salihamidzic had been on the pitch less than sixty seconds but was on hand to roll the ball home after a clever pass from Makaay.

Schalke were furious as Salihamidzic appeared to be in an offside position, but the goal stood.

Schalke had beaten Bayern twice in the league this season but could not make it three in a row despite two great chances for Marcelo Bordon late on.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 "Wind in the Willows" character
- 5 Grouch
- 9 Bowie or Beam
- 12 Jason's craft
- 13 "Tomb Raider" heroine
- 14 Expert
- 15 Ties
- 17 Extinct nonflyer
- 18 "The Immoralist" author
- 19 Canonized one
- 21 Charles' princedom
- 24 Manicurist's tool
- 25 Make a statement
- 26 Wagner opera
- 30 Web address bit
- 31 Pacific Sound
- 32 Kyoto cummerbund
- 33 Owing
- 35 Wheel-base terminus

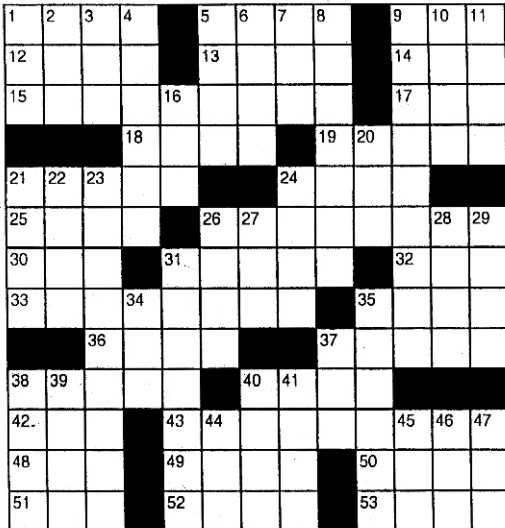
DOWN

- 2 Dixie Chicks'
- 3 "Goodbye"
- 4 Brooklyn athlete
- 5 Formal wear
- 6 "The Amazing art"
- 7 Seagoing menagerie?
- 8 Charlie Mingus, e.g.
- 9 "Ray" Oscar winner
- 10 PC picture
- 11 Vegan's no-no
- 16 Fleur-de-—
- 20 Foreman foe
- 21 Dry riverbed

22 Shake-speare's- 23 Wide-screen viewing method
- 24 Barney's pal
- 26 Opposite of "knit"
- 27 Census stat
- 28 Competent
- 29 Fibs
- 31 Reading
- 34 Bella Abzug trademark
- 35 Oldsmobile model
- 37 Sailor's mecca
- 39 "Casa-blanca" role
- 40 Bing precursor
- 41 Portent
- 44 Get a move on
- 45 Oppositionist
- 46 Nebr.
- 47 Box-office sign

Solution time: 21 mins.

HOPS GAS TRAM
INAPANTIC RICE
SOLITUDE ULNA
SALENS NAILED
OVER NARABIE
BEN REMIT GAN
COLUMBO DEVO
ENOS CIDER
SHAVEN BRA
MODE ALLACONE
ORAL DITAGONAL
GAMS ETH GEMS



CRYPTOQUIP

T Y M F L Q V X F F D E T F

D V J W X E S I Q A F I L X E Q I F

Q H D F I X ' Z Y E F X E X W S D ?

" H F ' I F D F M F I A Z Q E T F J . " Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF A WRISTWATCH WERE FILLED WITH HELIUM, DO YOU SUPPOSE YOU COULD SEE TIME FLY?

Today's Cryptquip Clue: I equals R

The Cryptquip 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.