

Giles spurs on mates

Cricket

AFP, London

Ashley Giles has told his England teammates they should prepare themselves for a hard-fought series in Pakistan as they look to build on their Ashes-winning exploits.

Warwickshire left-arm spinner Giles, 32, played a key role in England's 2-1 home Test series win against Australia that gave them the Ashes for the first time in 18 years by helping Michael Vaughan's men retain control in the field while the quicks rested and taking 10 wickets into the bargain.

He also starred with the bat, seeing England to victory in the fourth Test at Trent Bridge and then making a Test-best 59 as the hosts secured a series-clinching draw on the last day of the final Test at The Oval.

Giles was making his name in international cricket when England last toured Pakistan five years ago, winning the three-match series 1-0 after a dramatic victory in fading light on the final day of the third Test saw them become the first visiting team to win a Test in Karachi.

That win was the catalyst for much of the subsequent success enjoyed by England under coach Duncan Fletcher but Giles knows full well that

Pakistan and India, where England tour in the New Year, will provide their own particular challenges for a side lacking in sub-continental experience.

"It will be a very tough series for us. Everyone is on a high still and very excited about what has happened in the Ashes," said Giles as England flew out to Pakistan from London's Heathrow Airport on Tuesday for a tour featuring three-Tests and five one-day internationals.

"But this is another stepping stone to becoming the best side in the world, so we still have a lot of work to do," Giles, one of five survivors from England's last tour of Pakistan, added.

"We have to draw strength from what we have done and learn from our experiences, but it will be a tough and very different challenge.

"If we go into it lightly it could easily bite us quite hard. We must be ready so we can come out on top and enjoy our Christmas."

Giles has usually operated as a lone spinner for England but if, as is often the case in Pakistan, the pitches are dusty and dry he could find himself being partnered by Hampshire veteran Shaun Udal or Warwickshire's Alex Loudon.

The off-spinners' prospects of making what, in both cases, would be a Test debut have been increased by

the withdrawal through injury of reverse-swing specialist Simon Jones, one of England's Ashes heroes.

And Giles said he was looking forward to playing alongside another spinner, especially Udal who appeared in the last of his 10 one-day international caps a decade ago.

"I always enjoy bowling with another spinner. You pick up a bit of rhythm and can create more pressure and get on top of batsmen together. I hope we will play two spinners.

"I can learn from 'Shaggy' (Udal) as much as he can learn from me, because he is a very experienced bowler.

"We have three spinners, and I don't think any of them will be written off. I have to do my job, because I have two guys up my back now looking to put me under pressure."

Giles said patience would be vital if England were to match one of the high spots of a 50-Test career featuring 137 wickets at a shade under 39 apiece.

"We managed in 2000 to stick at it and stay with them until the final hurdle when we won that great game in Karachi," he explained. "That was a personal highlight in my career."

England's three-day tour opener in Rawalpindi is due to get underway on October 31 with the first Test in Multan starting on November 12.



PRINCE WILLIAM

Prince William on trial at Charlton!

Football

AFP, London

Britain's Prince William, a football fan, could find himself taking part in a kickabout with top-flight players when he visits highflying English Premiership side Charlton's training ground on Friday.

William, the eldest son of Prince Charles, the heir to the British throne, is due to succeed his uncle, the Duke of York, as president of English governing body the Football Association in May.

As part of his role as president-designate William, 23, who supports Aston Villa, will visit Charlton's Sparrows Lane training ground in south-east London on Friday.

He will see the work being carried out by the Charlton's award-winning community department, and meet a number of local schoolchildren

before linking up with members of the Addicks' first-team squad prior to their Premiership match against Bolton at The Valley on Saturday.

Charlton manager Alan Curbishley said Tuesday he was looking forward to the royal visit.

"We want to let him enjoy himself," said Curbishley, whose team are currently second in the Premier League behind leaders and London rivals Chelsea. "Being landed in south London with a group of people that he perhaps doesn't know too much about, we will try to let him enjoy himself."

"If we can get a pair of boots that fit him, we'll see what he's got. He looks like someone who likes to stick the ball in the back of the net."

On a serious note, Curbishley added: "He wants to see a football club and how it operates and they have decided to pick on us. It will be nice."

Pakistan want English to help quake victims

Cricket

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan cricket authorities are keen to involve the touring England team in fund-raising activities to help the earthquake victims in the north of the country.

However, a senior official of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) ruled out any chance of England visiting areas devastated by the Oct. 8 disaster that killed 53,000 people and left about three million in need of food and shelter.

"We have submitted a list of options through which they can play their part in raising funds and drawing the attention of the world towards the problems being faced by the earth-

quake victims," PCB official Abbas Zaidi told Reuters.

"It is their choice what they want to do."

Another official, Zakir Khan, said the England players had planned golf events in Islamabad and Lahore to raise funds for the earthquake victims.

"They might also visit some of the victims in the hospitals," Khan added.

Islamabad and other northern areas have suffered frequent aftershocks since the earthquake.

There is tight security for the England tour amid concerns about violence by Islamic militants. Measures also include a contingency for evacuation in the event of a major natural disaster.

England are playing three Tests and five one-day internationals in Pakistan.

Mahela to marry, to miss tie

REUTERS, Mumbai

Sri Lanka batsman Mahela Jayawardene will miss a game of the one-day series in India in order to get married, a team official said on Wednesday.

Jayawardene, 28, will skip game four of the seven-match series, to be played in Pune next Thursday, to be in Colombo that day for his marriage to a tourism executive.

Team manager Michael Tissera said the middle-order batsman would re-join the team for the fifth match in Ahmedabad on November 6.

"His wedding was fixed a long time ago," said Tissera. "This series was originally scheduled to begin on November 7, so he didn't think he would have to miss any matches then."

Sri Lanka lost Tuesday's opening game in Nagpur by 152 runs. The next match will be played in Mohali on Friday.

BKSP hockey team beat Haryana

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The BKSP hockey team won their first match in the Nehru Under-17 Hockey Tournament in New Delhi beating against Haryana 2-1 on Tuesday.

Chayan and Malik netted one goal each for BKSP, who will play their next match against Jalandhar at the same venue today.

A win will take BKSP into the quarterfinals.

BCB's nominees for bowling advisors and review team

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) yesterday announced a list of nominees for the ICC bowling advisors and bowling review group.

Former national pace bowler Ziaul Islam Masud, all-rounder and current national selector Athar Ali and spinners Azhar Hossain Shantoo and Omar Khaled Rumi make the bowling advisors.

The review group includes ex-national skipper Roquibul Hasan, chief selector Faruque Ahmed, former umpire Kazi Mishu and BCB's high performance manager Alister de Winter.

CAB U-17s

The local boys, in reply, were bundled out for 111 in 45.1 overs.

Sohel Parvez made 39 with two boundaries.

Nada and Paul grabbed three wickets each for the West Bengal side.

Shoaib threatens

Akhtar, one of the fastest bowlers in the history of the game, has a long injury record and missed Pakistan's away series in India and the West Indies earlier this year due to fitness problems.

He was last week lambasted by Worcestershire county chairman John Elliott, who said he was difficult to handle during his stint at the county this year.

But he remains a match-winner for Pakistan, with 144 wickets in 36 Tests.

Ronaldo is like 'six gorillas'!



RONALDO

FABIOLA FRANCOIS

Football

RIO DE JANEIRO

Real Madrid striker Ronaldo is well-known for scoring on the pitch - now he's been hailed for scoring off the pitch too.

A former girlfriend of the Brazilian says he has the passion of six gorillas as a lover - whatever that means.

Beauty queen Fabiola Francois went out with him for a year - and is preparing to write a steamy book about her sizzling relationship with the Sambastar.

"Ronaldo was a sex machine," the 22-year-old said.

"He wanted me all the time - he had

the passion of six gorillas rolled into one.

"He invited me to spend a season with him in Madrid. Afterwards I returned to Brazil and we continued our romance from afar, but the distance cooled our ardour.

"He used to phone me every day, and begged me not to forget him. He is the tenderest man I have ever known."

Ronaldo's legal team are now poring over early transcripts of the book entitled 'The Phenomenon - An Ordinary Guy'.

Fabiola said: "I am sure Ronaldo will enjoy the book. I want the whole world to know what he is like - a marvellous, simple man who throws himself madly into relationships."

-- Internet Source

Only he knows

FROM PAGE 12
captain for two home one-day series against Sri Lanka and South Africa as the selectors gauge his suitability for a longer term.

It is a job that no sane man should want, said the respected India Today weekly.

"Being India's captain," the paper said, "is like tap dancing with your shoes on fire. It gets you a lot of attention but no one else knows what it feels like."

It helps that Dravid is considered the team's leading batsman despite the imposing presence of Sachin Tendulkar.

Dravid, who was selected the International Cricket Council's player-of-the-year in 2004, has scored 7,871 runs at an average of 58.30 in 91 Tests with 20 centuries.

In one-day cricket, he has made 8,514 runs in 266 matches with 10 centuries.

The second match against Sri Lanka will be played under lights in the northern town of Mohali on Friday.

Euro 2004 hero faints

AFP, Amsterdam

Greece's Euro 2004 goalscoring hero Angelos Charisteas was rushed to hospital here on Tuesday after fainting at a cafe, a spokesman for his club Ajax said.

The 25-year-old had suffered concussion during the Champions League match with Arsenal on September 27 and had not played since.

However it was reported by the national news agency ANP that tests had revealed there was no link between that incident and his malaise on Tuesday.

Charisteas, who won the German league and Cup with Werder Bremen in 2004, had become a national hero when he headed the only goal - his third of the tournament - in Greece's 1-0 victory over hosts Portugal in the Euro 2004 final.

ENGLISH LEAGUE CUP

Liverpool become poorer

Football

AFP, London

Liverpool's season went from bad to worse when the Champions League holders crashed out of the English League Cup with a 2-1 defeat away to Championship side Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park on Tuesday.

In the day's other League Cup matches Japan's Junichi Inamoto struck in extra-time against his former club as West Brom won 3-2 away to Premiership rivals Fulham while high-flying Wigan needed an extra 30 minutes to beat Championship outfit Watford.

Fresh from their 2-0 Premier League defeat against Fulham, Liverpool suffered more misery in London when Dougie Freedman headed in Michael Hughes's cross in the 37th minute.

Returning Reds captain Steven Gerrard levelled three minutes later when the England midfielder struck from 20 yards to score his 50th goal for the club.

But Palace, relegated from the top flight last season, had the last word when Hughes again turned provider for Marco Reich who shot home in the 66th minute.

Liverpool, last season's beaten League Cup finalists, came into this match a huge 18 points behind Premiership leaders and reigning champions Chelsea - the League Cup holders - and badly in need of a victory.

Palace took the lead when Freedman

turned in Hughes's cross from the left.

However, out of nothing, Gerrard side-footed the equaliser six minutes before half-time.

The Eagles, relegated from the Premiership last season, had a second-half penalty appeal turned down but it didn't matter when Reich shot past Liverpool keeper Scott Carson and Palace survived four minutes of injury-time for a memorable victory.

At Craven Cottage, Robert Earnshaw put West Brom 1-0 up after seizing on Inamoto's pass in the third minute before Luis Boa Morte levelled after the hour mark.

Fulham keeper Tony Warner then gifted the Baggies a second goal when he miscontrolled a back pass and Nwankwo Kanu scored in

the 88th minute. However, Heidar Helguson's header in the last minute forced extra-time.

Inamoto though settled the tie with a brilliant 30-yard strike although the Baggies did have Paul Robinson sent-off.

Goalless at full-time, Ryan Taylor's penalty and Andreas Johansson's double saw Wigan pass a spirited Watford.

Meanwhile an Arsenal side showing 10 changes from last weekend's 1-0 Premiership victory over Manchester City won 3-0 away to top-flight rivals Sunderland.

Fans at the Stadium of Light were charged just five pounds per head for a ticket and an impressive crowd of over 47,000 spectators turned up at the

north-east venue.

Ivorian full-back Emmanuel Eboue's long-range drive gave the Gunners the lead and the result was secured thanks to Robin van Persie's 67th-minute penalty before the Dutchman scored again.

Blackburn, who won the League Cup in 2002, were another Premiership side who made it through into the last 16 with a 3-0 win at home to Leeds, their fifth victory in six games.

Brett Emerton scored Rovers's first and the game was settled when Paul Dickov tapped in Morten Gamst Pedersen's cross. Leeds ended the match with 10 men as Gylfi Einarsson was sent off late on before Lucas Neill scored.

Elsewhere Kevin Phillips's first-half goal was good enough to give Premiership Aston Villa a 1-0 win against Burnley while in the battle between the top two teams in the Championship Dave Kitson's double helped Reading beat Sheffield United 2-0.

League One Doncaster, who knocked out Premiership Manchester City in the previous round, continued their progress with a 2-0 win over divisional rivals Gillingham after substitute Paul Heffernan scored twice in the last six minutes.

Bottom of the Championship Millwall needed a last-ditch David Livermore goal to see off League Two strugglers Mansfield 3-2.

Fergie concedes to Chelsea

Football

AP, Manchester

Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson admitted Wednesday that his side does not have the financial means to compete for the same players as champions Chelsea.

Ferguson has seen targets Arjen Robben, Damien Duff and Michael Essien all snub Old Trafford in favour of the Roman Abramovich-backed Londoners, with Nigerian teenager John Obi Mikel's decision to go back on his proposed move to United believed to be because he was told Chelsea were interested in him.

Although new owner Malcolm Glazer has pledged to back a major transfer

initiative in

January, Ferguson knows he will have to sidestep any targets Chelsea identify, and instead he is placing a lot of his faith in his club's youth system to nurture future talent.

"I do not think we would even think about competing with Chelsea," Ferguson told Century FM.

"If Chelsea go for a player we are interested in, we are not going to beat them, so there is no point even going for him unless, like Park Ji-sung, they are of a mind to join United.

"But any young player wanting to progress his career should think seriously about joining us because, as our record proves, we do give them a chance."

The latest young talents to roll off the United production line will be on show Wednesday night, when Manchester

United host League Two strugglers Barnet in the League Cup.

Ferguson has always used the competition to give his fringe players a game.

Defenders Adam Eckerley and Danny Simpson, striker Sylvan Ebanks-Blake and midfielder Lee Martin, are set for their first senior starts, while Gerard Pique and Giuseppe Rossi are expected to be given the opportunity to further their first-team education.

"It will be a very exciting night for these lads," said Ferguson.

"I hope the fans will see the years ahead will be very good for these players. I am trying to lay the foundations for Manchester United and I want to build something that will last for years, not two minutes."

GERMAN CUP

Schalke massacred

Football

AFP, Berlin

Last season's finalists Schalke 04 crashed out of the German cup on Tuesday after a humiliating 6-0 second round defeat at the hands of Bundesliga rivals Eintracht Frankfurt.

Schalke, who lost 2-1 to Bayern Munich in last year's final, are the only unbeaten team in the Bundesliga but Frankfurt showed no respect and handed out a 6-0 thrashing to heap more pressure on Schalke manager Ralf Rangnick.

Rangnick is expected to deliver silverware this season after investing heavily in new players but the club are seven points behind Bayern in the Bundesliga, bottom of Champions League Group E and now out of the domestic cup.

"After a display like that we can not just go back to normal," ranged

Rangnick.

"My team played like school kids in the final half hour. There will be no day off on Wednesday just more training."

Two goals in as many minutes from Alexander Meier (28) and Benjamin Hugel (30) put Frankfurt in control and Christoph Spycher wrapped up the game on 64 minutes.

Meier grabbed his second of the game four minutes later and two late strikes made it 6-0 as Frankfurt avenged their 1-0 league defeat in fine style.

While Frankfurt cruised into the next round Werder Bremen needed extra-time and penalties to defeat fellow top-flight side VfL Wolfsburg.

With the game deadlocked at 2-2 after extra-time the lottery of penalty kicks decided the tie and Bremen won 5-4 with Wolfsburg's Pablo Thiam missing the crucial spot-kick.

Former France international Steve Marlet had put Wolfsburg ahead in the

64th minute but German international Miroslav Klose equalised two minutes from the end of normal time.

Klose, joint top scorer in the Bundesliga with ten goals, struck again in extra-time but Marlet equalised in the final minute of added time.

Marlet also scored in the shootout yet still tasted defeat as 2004 victors Bremen edged into the next round.

Elsewhere three other Bundesliga sides, Kaiserslautern, Hannover and FC Nuremberg, all came through tricky ties against lower opposition to reach the last sixteen.

On Wednesday holders Bayern Munich travel to second division FC Erzgebirge Aue with the Bundesliga leaders expected to cruise through.

However, at least two more Bundesliga teams will exit the competition with SV Hamburg hosting Bayer Leverkusen and Hertha Berlin entertaining Borussia Monchengladbach.

Only California for Klinsmann

Football

AP, Frankfurt

Germany coach Juergen Klinsmann won't be moving out of California despite criticism from Bundesliga coaches.

Klinsmann and the league coaches held a lively discussion Tuesday, with Klinsmann making no concession on his California residence less than eight months before the World Cup.

Klinsmann's choice to continue to live in California was one of the main points of contention. But Klinsmann said he would continue his continental commute, spending time in Germany when necessary.

"My presence in Germany will depend on what is going on," Klinsmann said, describing the meeting as "lively," with "clear, very emotional words."

Bayern Munich chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, speaking for the clubs, called it a "very emotional, excited discussion" that had been necessary to clear the air.

"Our target is the same and the league's intention is to support Juergen Klinsmann in his work and in his goal to win the World Cup title," Rummenigge said. "The most important achievement is that we parted as friends."

The two sides agreed to revive a "task force" that will include club bosses and consult on national

team issues with Klinsmann's staff. The task force's leader will be Uli Hoeness, the Bayern Munich general manager and Klinsmann's chief critic.

"I have no problem in sitting together at a table with people who have a different opinion and sometimes are loud in discussions," Klinsmann said.

Bundesliga bosses stepped up criticism of Klinsmann's methods after his team's lackluster performances in recent games, focusing on his prolonged absences from Germany, rotation of goalkeepers and the unorthodox fitness programs devised by American trainers.

Klinsmann stood his ground on fitness and goalkeeper issues.

"It was important to present our work and what we want to achieve," Klinsmann said.

He said the rotation of goalkeepers had helped both Oliver Kahn and Jens Lehmann.

While restating that Kahn "was and remains No. 1," he said Lehmann would be between the posts in the Nov. 12 game at France.

Rummenigge appeared to dismiss complaints about fitness programs and said the team's only chance for World Cup success was if it was fully fit.

As host, Germany was the only team that didn't have to qualify for next year's World Cup and Klinsmann has brought in a new crop of young players.

Browne quits

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

The Barbados selectors meet on Wednesday to name a new captain. Browne played 20 Tests and made 387 runs with a highest score of 68 against Pakistan in Barbados earlier this year.

He also held 79 catches and made 25 stumpings in 46 one-day internationals.

His finest moment came in September 2004. He and Ian Bradshaw starred with the bat as the West Indies beat England by two wickets to win the International Cricket Council's Champions Trophy.

It's a tough spot to fill - Courtney was an outstanding leader and he worked well with the other players," said Barbados selector Joel Garner.

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