Langer to play despite rib injury

AFP, Brisbane

Australian opening batsman Justin Langer is confident he will play in next week's opening cricket Test against the West Indies despite fracturing a rib in a one-day match.

Langer sustained the injury while batting for Western Australia when he was hit in the rib cage by Victorian paceman Gerard Denton in Melbourne on Saturday

He retired hurt and was taken to hospital for precautionary scans, which revealed a hair-line fracture.

Langer will travel to Brisbane to join the Australian squad as planned, and his progress will be monitored by team medical staff in the lead-up to Thursday's Test.

Should the 34-year-old left-hander withdraw, the most likely replacement would be Langer's state teammate

Hussey has also been in excellent form at one-day level for Australia.

But the Test veteran said there would be no need for a standby player. "I'll be playing on Thursday," Langer said late Saturday

"Apparently with a cracked rib the thing you have to get used to is the pain... I'm not going to miss a Test match."

Langer said he apparently has a break in his seventh rib which is attached to the diaphragm.

"That's why I've got this breathlessness at the moment," he said.

Cricket Australia medical officer Trefor James said in a statement "Justin was in considerable pain after receiving the knock to the rib cage, and scans taken of that area have discov $ered\,a\,small\,fracture\,in\,one\,of\,his\,ribs.$

"We are optimistic though that he will be able to take his place in the Australian line-up for next week's Test. However he will need to be monitored prior to that time before a final decision is made.

Rudolph to take Dippenaar's spot

REUTERS, Durban

Jacques Rudolph will replace Boeta Dippenaar in the South Africa squad for the third one-day international against New Zealand in Port Elizabeth on Sunday. Batsman Dippenaar pulled out of

the second match of the series in Cape $Town \, on \, Friday \, with \, a \, wrist \, injury. \,$

Dinnenaar is scheduled to undergo surgery and will miss the rest of the five-match rubber as well as the five one-day internationals South Africa will play in India next month

Rudolph, 24, has played 39 one-day internationals and he captained South Africa A on their tour of Sri Lanka in

"Jacques had a good 'A' tour of Sri Lanka and would have learnt much about taking responsibility through the captaincy experience on the subcontinent," selection convenor Haroon Lorgat said on Saturday.

"He is the obvious replacement for Boeta Dippenaar.'

Rudolph's return could help him kickstart an international career that stalled when he lost confidence on South Africa's tour of the West Indies in April and May

Brazil include Edmilson, Fred

REUTERS, Rio de Janeiro

Olympique Lyon striker Fred and Barcelona's Edmilson have been recalled to the Brazil squad for next month's friendly against United Arab Midfielder Edmilson has not played

for Brazil since he suffered right knee ligament damage playing for Barcelona and underwent surgery a year ago. "(Edmilson's) return to the national

team had been expected ever since he played again for Barcelona," coach Carlos Alberto Parreira said.

"We were just waiting for (him to have) a sequence of games," he told

"He's important because he's a versatile player who plays as a centre-

backandalsoin midfield."

Fred, who won his first cap against Guatemala in April but did not feature in the World Cup qualifiers, gets another chance because Real Madrid team mates Ronaldo and Julio Baptista are both

nursinginjuries.

GOALKEEPERS: Dida (AC Milan), Julio Cesar (InterMilan)

Defenders: Cafu (AC Milan), Cicinho (Sao Paulo), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid), Gustavo Nery (Corinthians), Lucio (Bayern Munich), Juan, Roque Junior (both Bayer Leverkusen), Luisao (Benfica)

MIDFIELDERS: Emerson (Juventus), Gilberto Silva (Arsenal), Edmilson (Barcelona), Ze Roberto (Bayern Munich), Ricardinho (Santos), Juninho Pernambucano (Olympique Lyon), Kaka (ACMilan), Ronaldinho (Barcelona) FORWARDS: Robinho (Real Madrid),

Fred (Lyon), Adriano (Inter Milan), Ricardo Oliveira (Real Betis)



WHEN SPARKS FLY: Tottenham Hotspur's Mido (L) pulls the collar of Arsenal's Freddie Ljungberg during their English Premiership encounter yesterday.

PREMIERSHIP

Pires saves Arsenal

Football

AFP, London

Robert Pires celebrated his 32nd birthday in style by coming off the bench to score the goal that rescued a point for Arsenal in their 1-1 north London derby draw away to Tottenham at White Hart Lane here Saturday

The Frenchman's 77th-minute strike cancelled out Ledley King's opener and extended Arsenal's unbeaten run against their arch-rivals to 13 games in all competitions.

It was an ideal way for Pires to round off a week that had seen him dropped from the starting line-up after his mix-up with Thierry Henry produced one of the most bizarre penalty misses in recent years against

Manchester City last time out. But Arsene Wenger's side were still

different West Indies team in the

three-Test series, getting underway

Australia and we've been rollovers

but this is going to be a different

aspect in our game and we're going

The Windies' score was also a

It came despite the absence of

record at the ground, beating the

582 posted by Queensland against

Hinds, who did not bat because of a

broken finger suffered while field-

ing on the opening day of the tour

not out) combined for a record

Samuels and Daren Powell (34

the touring English in 2002-03.

to be a lot stronger and very com-

"In the past we've come to

left in the unusual position of being three points behind Spurs, whose first-half performance suggested they could sustain their challenge for Champions League qualification.

Tottenham have not been beaten in the Premiership since August 27 and he made just one change to the team that drew with Manchester United last week, Teemu Tainio replacing Edgar Davids. The game began, unsurprisingly, at

a frantic pace. Two Arsenal players --Mathieu Flamini and Gilberto -- were $booked in the first 14\,minutes for crude$ tackles as the Gunners desperately tried to seize the initiative. It was left to Spurs' centre-half King to show Wenger's team how it

the area just when it seemed the Spaniard seemed certain to score. How Wenger must wish he had someone of King's stature in his back

Samuels puts WI on top

ninth-wicket partnership of 156.

Off-spinners Chris Simpson (4-

Test opener Matthew Havden

(22) was the only wicket to fall in

Queensland's second innings,

hooking Tino Best (1-29) to Brian

ball stay at the crease which ended

when he played fast bowler Mitchell

Lara, batting with a sore little

The cheap dismissal threatens to

finger at the unfamiliar position of

number eight, was out to a wild

leave Lara considerably underdone

Lara only scored one in his five-

Lara on the fine-leg boundary.

Johnson on to his stumps.

173 off 39 overs) and Symonds (2-

43) were Oueensland's best bowl-

should be done when he delicately

dispossessed Iose Antonio Reves in

Arsenal's defensive frailties were brutally exposed in the 17th minute when King showed his attacking prowess by thumping in Michael Carrick's free-kick. It was a crashing header, but the

lack of any kind of challenge on King

had Wenger wringing his hands in

frustration on the sidelines The goal flooded Spurs with belief. Six minutes later a sweeping move involving Jermain Defoe, Jermaine Jenas and Carrick ended with the England midfielder cracking a 20yard drive just past the right-hand

Jenas went even closer in the 27th minute. The former Newcastle playmaker earned himself hero status equaliser at Old Trafford last week, but he almost enhanced that reputation when his stinging shot was

for match practice before the first

Test against Australia, starting

start of this month to play for the

World XI. Lara has failed to reach

double figures in five of his six

innings here to average less than 10.

earlier saying Lara was likely to bat

at the fall of the first wicket

Saturday, it took three dismissals in

the tour match before he finally

strode to the crease in the final over

form quick Powell who didn't bowl

in Queensland's second innings

because of a quad strain.

There was more concern over in-

Despite Windies management

Since arriving in Australia at the

Thursday at the Gabba

before lunch.

Arsenal had more purpose in the second half, and the Spurs defence, which had looked comfortable in the first period was suddenly creaking.

The South Korean Lee Young Pvo was soon forced to haul down Cesc Fabregas on the edge of the area but Pires - who replaced the ineffective Flamini at half-time - curled the free-

But for all Arsenal's urgency Spurs continued to create chances. Defoe was the centre of attention, the England striker's pace a constant threat and in the 59th minute he tore away from Kolo Toure and fired a low shot which Lehmann saved well.

It was a crucial stop. With less than 15 minutes left and Arsenal growing desperate, Dennis Bergkamp's freekick was only partly punched clear by England keeper Paul Robinson and Pires drilled in a precise first-time

very strong on the counter-attack and we can kill them on the counter-

attack. Arsenal's manager Arsene Wenger had said that "a little bit of [Chelsea's] Jose Mourinho declared Chelsea will belief has gone because they could be champions irrespective of how not win those two games. So there is a many points they drop in the next little hope there. month. Having drawn against

Boastful Mourinho

Mourinho feels that the country as a whole is so against his team that a national holiday will be declared should they lose a league game. "Everyone was crying that Chelsea kept winning and winning," he said of the mood last week.

"Everyone was waiting for Chelsea not to win every game. One day when we lose, there will be a holiday in this country. When we broke 10 years of Man United and Arsenal dominance I think we didn't deserve so many people wanting us to feel guilty.'

"You cannot say the way to beat He does not appear as unruffled Chelsea is to play counter-attack by Chelsea's previous two results as because we have very fast players and his opponents would wish. we are a very good team recovering

"Two draws is not a drama," said from balls lost. You cannot say the Mourinho, still refusing to count the Carling Cup exit as a defeat because it was on penalties. He is unimpressed because we have proved we can cope with the way attitudes have changed towards Chelsea in seven days

"One week ago we were speaking about 4-1, 5-1, 4-0. This weekend we try to win the game because we are

are speaking about two matches that were 1-1. Of course one of them leaves us out of the Carling Cup but I think the team is playing well in every aspect of the game.

Mourinho is still bitter about last Sunday's Everton game. James Beattie's intimation that Chelsea can be defeated in a physical battle pro-

"James Beattie had one touch of the ball in 90 minutes," said Mourinho, referring to Beattie's goal.

voked a stinging response.

"It was an important shot but he didn't touch the ball. John Terry. afraid of James Beattie, or Robert Huth of Duncan Ferguson? I don't think so. If they think we are little kids, afraid of the fight, they are very wrong. James Beattie should be worried that he has been in the club for one year and he has scored two goals. He should be worried about that, not worried about what Chelsea is doing.'

Mourinho denied anything untoward had occurred to cause Glen Johnson's hand injury, believed to have been caused by the player punching a wall. Mourinho initially refused to give an explanation but then dismissed the issue by saying: "There are lots of suggestions."

Best hanging on

Football

Football

Carling Cup by Charlton, the Chelsea

manager made an exasperated

response to questions about his

is against Blackburn or Manchester

United, we will be champions," said

Mourinho before adding that the

"The best way to beat Chelsea is to

best way to beat Chelsea is to kick

long balls up and to play a direct game

with it. You cannot say the way to beat

Chelsea is to have a go and to attack to

"It doesn't matter what the result

side's credentials.

misfortune.

AFP, London

Soccer legend George Best responded Friday to new medication that has limited internal bleeding but he remains a "very sick man" clinging to life in a London hospital, doctors said.

Roger Williams, the doctor who has overseen Best's treatment, said the 59year-old former Manchester United and Northern Ireland winger's condition was now "very definitely a little better" than it was on Thursday However, Williams cautioned he did

spoke to reporters outside the private Cromwell Hospital in west London, where he was admitted four weeks ago. "I never said that we give him a good chance, but we go on treating him day by

not want "to raise any hopes" as he

day. He is a very sick man," Williams Best, viewed by some as a near-equal to football greats Pele and Diego Maradona in his prime, was admitted to

the hospital on October 1 with an infec-

tion that has spread to several organs,

including the liver and kidneys.

ically over the last few days as the infection spread to his bowels, which began to bleed. Best, who is attached to a ventillator, has been kept sedated since Wednesday.

his antibiotics and began treating his blood loss in a different way, Williams The infection was linked to immunosuppressant drugs used to help prevent

the rejection of the liver transplant Best received in 2002 following decades of alcohol abuse, Williams said earlier. Williams, who carried out the transplant, said the patient's signs were

somewhat improved and I think the bleeding's a little less. It has certainly been less overnight.' He added: "I have had lots of letters from people saving, 'Please look after

him, and that sort of thing. Former soccer star Denis Law wept after seeing his ex-team-mate lying in

the hospital bed. "He does not look good but he is fighting," Law said later, wiping tears from his eyes with a tissue. "I did get a

shock, the man's not looking good.' Sir Alex Ferguson, the current boss at Manchester United, said "everyone at

His son Calum Best, 24, who visited him on Friday, was quoted earlier in the Best's doctors on Thursday changed Daily Express newspaper as saying it had

the club is praying for him. We hope he

pulls through this recent dip in his

been a "very emotional time" for the

family. "It's looking pretty bleak at the Best began drinking heavily during his playing days and later became an alcoholic, bringing on a succession of health problems which led eventually to

the liver transplant, during which he nearly died However, he was drinking again within a year.

Best earned his status when he nelped Manchester United to win the English league championship in 1965 and 1967 and the European Cup in 1968.

Voted European Player of the Year in 1968, Best's ability, coupled with his long-haired good looks and sometimes wild temperament, led him into partygoing habits which took an increasing

By 26 his top-level playing career was over, a fact viewed by many football experts as a tragic waste of his unique

Benitez ready to spend

Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez is ready to spend in the January transfer window in an effort to save the European champions' faltering

Liverpool, who crashed out of the League Cup at Championship side Crystal Palace in midweek, face West Ham at Anfield on Saturday struggling in 13th place in the Premiership. "I have confidence in them and

confidence in myself. We will start winning, I am sure," said Benitez.

"I have a lot of confidence in myself, my team and my staff. I have been training teams for 18 years and I know there is always another day Each week things can change.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

Variety of

lettuce

5 Mexican

9 Mid-June

12 On the

briny

13 Grate

14 Past

15 Unlikely

17 Sara of

victor

Than

18 High

Perfect

regard

weather

21 Pharmacy

22 Red Sea

gulf 24 Sacred

27 Greek

28 "--- no

kick

from

31 Jackie's

32 401(k)

second

alterna

33 Freudian

34 "Price Is

Right"

decora

concept

cross

19 "Today"

honoree

"If you are a player and you don't

36 Stylish,

in the

1960s

37 Air Force

(Abbr.)

41 Starbucks

offering

38 Refuge

40 Greek

43 Taste

48 Draft

51 Work

47 Matter-

horn,

orde

52 Actress

53 Musical

Horne

54 Dress in

55 Take care

56 Tackles'

mates

de Matteo

then you won't score. If you put the ball in the stands and people whistle at you, if you don't try again you "If you pass badly, if you want to

improve you must want to receive the

ball and try again. If you cannot do those things then you are not a player for a top team.' But Benitez accepts that it was wrong not to make more signings in the summer, and vows to put that

"In some positions, we don't have enough players," said the Spaniard.

right in January

By Eugene Sheffer

20 Sapporo

breaker

23 Campus

Abzug

mouse

26 Electronic

stylus

dimension

container

unclearly

grassland

29 Silly Putty

30 Youngster

35 Perched

37 Speak

39 African

40 A wel-

41 Praise to

42 Addition

43 Roe

the skies

provider

head part

44 Hammer

45 Emulate

46 Mound

49 Rage

Shylock

27 Fourth

trademarl

22 Ruth

24 Bella

25 Man-

DOWN

1 Com-

does'

roomie

see nice

4 Where to

buns

5 Ball in a

gymna

6 Listening

device

times it's

grand

Certain

period

10 Malaria

11 Active

Solution time: 25 mins.

historica

symptom

7 Draft

3 Ernie's

manded

"You can't change things that happened in the summer now, but we can put it right in January. We know we need to think about the future.

"When you've missed a player you need in the summer, you must make sure you fill the position in January.

shoot the next time after missing, Our scouting department is working hard to find at least the two players we need, a right midfielder and centre

> "I'm confident we will sign the players we want in January because Liverpool are an attractive club to top players. In some positions we know we need to do something for the future. We are preparing now for the transfer window.

"We tried hard to sign players for the right side and centre-backs, but when you try for one month for one player and then he says no, as in the case of Luis Figo, you have less time to go for the next name on your list.

"If that player isn't sure if he wants to join you either, you move to the next. You have a responsibility not to spend more than the player is worth."

SA's 11th on the trot

FROM PAGE 12

FROM PAGE 12

at the Gabba next week.

petitive," he said.

South Africa with a laboured 51 off 94 balls. Most of the batsmen found it difficult to time the ball consistently on a pitch of uneven bounce.

South Africa looked well placed when captain Graeme Smith and Herschelle Gibbs took the total to 69 in the 14th over before Smith was bowled by Styris when he went for a big hit. Styris then had pinch-hitter Shaun Pollock caught at wide long-on. Gibbs was leg before to Kyle Mills as South Africa lost three wickets for five runs in

The innings lost momentum as Kallis and Ashwell Prince battled against accurate bowling by Styris and left-arm spinner Daniel Vettori, who took one for 31 off his ten overs.

South African wicketkeeper Mark Boucher helped lift the scoring rate with 40 off 47 balls before he was the first of three batsmen to sky catches off Mills in the closing overs. Injuries forced South Africa to

bring in new cap Andrew Puttick, a left-handed opening batsman. Boeta Dippenaar was diagnosed with a right wrist problem which will require surgery and will keep him out of action for four weeks, while AB de Villiers, who would probably have come in for Dippenaar, was ruled out with a calf

Puttick lasted only five balls and failed to score before being bowled by Shane Bond but he finished the night on a high when he took a catch on the cover boundary to end the match

South Africa won the opening encounter of a five-match series by two wickets in Bloemfontein to equal their record sequence of ten wins, achieved on two previous occasions, in 1995-96 and 2000-01

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard in the second oneday international between South Africa and New Zealand at Newlands on Friday SOUTHAFRICA Smith b Styris Puttick b Bond

33

51

19

40

201

ibbs lbw b Mills
ollock c Adams b Styris
allis c Vincent b Mills
rince b Vettori
oucher c and b Mills
emp not out
angeveldt c Adams b Mills
tini b Bond
el not out
xtras: (lb-1, nb-2, w-6)
otal: (For 9 wkts in 50 overs)

Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-69, 3-71, 4-74, 5-

120, 6-182, 7-188, 8-196, 9-197

Substitute: Boje for Kallis

R 44 10 0 42 0 39 Adams Styris 10 1 29 2 Vettori 10 0 31 1 Astle 0 15 0 NEW ZEALAND

Fleming c Smith b Ntini

Astle c Gibbs b Ntini

Vincent c Prince b Ntini 90 27 Styris c Kemp b Nel McMillan c Boucher b Langeveldt 3 Oram c Boucher b Kemp 11 McCullum st Boucher b Boie Vettori c Smith b Boje 0 Franklin c Puttick b Langeveldt 21 Adams lbw b Langeveldt Mills not out 2 Extras: (lb-5, nb-1, w-6) 12 Total: (All out in 47.5 overs) 182

3

R Bowler 0 M Pollock 0 36 29 Ntini 10 1 32 Nel 35 7.5 3 Langeveldt 3 6 0 19 26 Boje Result: South Africa won by 19 runs.

Man of the match: Lou Vincent (NZ).

Next match: Port Elizabeth, Oct 30.

Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-16, 3-80, 4-93, 5-

126, 6-129, 7-137, 8-165, 9-177

Substitute: Franklin for Bond

BCCI issues

by the second Test in Nagpur on March 16-20 and finished in Mumbai on March 25-29.

As well as the match in Goa, ODIs will also be staged at Indore, Guwahati, Faridabad, Cuttack and Visakhapatnam. The ODI series starts on April 4 and ends on April 22.

Nair said that the Board had issued

the dates now to help the ECB with

their planning: "We had to decide on

the venues for the series quickly as the

ECB wanted to finalise their travel schedules. "We previously wanted to take a decision in this regard after the Annual General Meeting of the Board but since it is adjourned at the moment, the

prevailing committee had to take the

decision. The grounds were allotted the matches according to the BCCI's rotation policy and the decision has to be ratified by the Working Committee of the Board and Nair added. "If the ECB so chooses, they can send its teams to access the venues decided for

No Ganguly

Tendulkar, Sri Lankan Sanath Jayasuriya and Pakistan's Inzamamul

He contributed just 48 in three home Tests against Pakistan early this He scored a century against Zimbabwe in the opening Test at

Bulawayo last month, but his painstak-

ing six-hour knock against the weakest

attack in international cricket did not

satisfy critics. Ganguly and Chappell were involved in a bitter row in September with the coach saying in a leaked email to Indian cricket chiefs that the captain was unfit to lead the team.

10,123 one-day runs in 279 matches with 22 hundreds. The next one-day match will be played in Jaipur on Monday.

Ganguly has scored 5,066 runs in 84

Tests with 12 centuries. He also has

SOUAD

Rahul Dravid (captain), Virender Sehwag, Sachin Tendulkar, Yuvraj Singh, Venugopal Rao, Suresh Raina, Gautam Gambhir, Mahendra Dhoni, Jai Prakash Yadav, Irfan Pathan, Ajit Agarkar, Sri Sreesanth, Rudra Pratap Singh, Harbhajan Singh, Murali Kartik.

CRYPTOQUIP PRRMLHPCM

PVXSC P RXY FPTLMGC, VSRV

EMPT

ZTXYMTG ZPLM P GCPCM-

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF AUSTRALIAN MARSUPIALS DRANK SOFT DRINKS, THEY SHOULD MOST LIKELY PREFER COCA-KOALA. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals D

XE-CFM-XIHXI PJJTMGG

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.