

## Early exit for Hingis

BBC ONLINE, undated

Justine Henin-Hardenne ensured Martina Hingis suffered a first-round exit at her latest comeback event, the Sydney International, on Monday.

French Open champion Henin-Hardenne beat the Swiss star 6-3 6-3 at the Australian Open warmup competition.

Hingis lost her opening service game and struggled for pace as the Belgian attacked her slower second serves.

Henin-Hardenne is also on the comeback trail, having been out since October with a leg injury.

Five-time Grand Slam singles winner Hingis, who has been off the WTA Tour for three years, won three matches on the Gold Coast last week in her first full tournament back.

But in her first match against a top-10 player she struggled against her opponent's groundstrokes.

However, she was upbeat about her progress so far and how it sets her up for the Australian Open.

"I chose to come (to Sydney) to know where I'm at," said Hingis. "I know what I'm aiming for now."

"It's good to know how I played, how the match went - she was at a different level."

## Ljubicic wins Chennai Open

BBC ONLINE, undated

Ivan Ljubicic carried his superb form of 2005 into the new year with victory over Carlos Moya at the Chennai Open.

The Croat won two titles last year and reached another six finals as he rose to number nine in the world rankings.

And Ljubicic claimed the fourth title of his career on Sunday with a 7-6 (8-6) 6-2 win over Moya in the final.

Damien destroys

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covered - and efficient, glossy fielding. What more could the home crowd want?

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Twenty20 cricket international between Australia and South Africa at the Gabba Monday.

## AUSTRALIA

Hopes	Kallis	Pollock	17
Martyn	Gibbs	Zondeki	96
Ponting	Bracken	27	
Symonds not out		54	
Clarke not out		0	
Extras: (b-4, lb-3, w-8)		15	
Total: (For 3 wkt in 20 overs)		209	
Fall of wickets: 1-57, 2-104, 3-187			

Bowler O M R W

Pollock 4 0 34 1

Kruger 4 0 29 0

Zondeki 3 0 41 1

Hall 4 0 38 0

Botha 4 0 43 1

Kallis 1 0 17 0

**SOUTHAFRICA**

Smith b Hopes 22

Dippenaara c Haddin b Bracken 1

Gibbs c Clark b Bracken 0

Boucher c Haddin b Clark 29

Pollock c Lewis b Symonds 24

Kallis run out 15

Rudolph not out 6

Hall c Hussey b Hopes 11

Botha c Katchib b Symonds 2

Kruger c Martyn b Lewis 3

Zondekib Lewis 0

Extras: (w) 1

Total: (All out in 18.3 overs) 114

Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-7, 3-38, 4-56, 5-92,

6-92, 7-106, 8-109, 9-114

Bowler O M R W

Bracken 3 0 9 2

Lewis 3.3 0 18 2

Clark 4 0 35 1

Hopes 4 0 26 2

Symonds 4 0 26 2

**Result: Australia won by 95 runs**

**Man-of-the-match: Damien Martyn (AUS)**

## PRIMERA LIGA

## Stalemates give Barca more ground

## Football

APP, Undated

Real Madrid and Osasuna saw their hopes of catching Spanish league leaders Barcelona suffer a blow on Sunday when both had to make do with draws while Real also cursed a renewed injury for luckless Ronaldinho as the Brazilian is set to miss the next three weeks due to a recurrence of calf injury.

Osasuna could only manage a 1-1 home draw with modest outfit Racing Santander to leave Barca four points clear of the chasing pack.

A further stalemate saw third-placed Valencia draw 0-0 at Atletico Madrid to leave the former six points adrift of Osasuna and tenth of Barcelona.

Real, with 14 points to make up on the leaders at start of play, were cursing their poor luck following a goalless draw at high-riding Villarreal when Ronaldinho limped off before halftime having just returned from an injury to his right leg.

Real's French midfield veteran Zinedine Zidane said there was little point in lamenting the growing gap with Barcelona.

"At this stage of the season there's still everything to play for. We mustn't think about Barcelona but about the team right above us," said the Frenchman.

That team is Villarreal, a point better off.

On the renewed injury for Ronaldinho, Zidane said: "It's a bad one for us as we know Ronaldinho will get goals. We'll have to see how long he will be out."

Osasuna had won all their previous home league matches this season but Santander stopped them in their tracks and deserved a point.

Frenchman Ludovic Delporte swept home a fine freekick to put Osasuna ahead on 29 minutes but seconds before the break Perez Antonito levelled for Santander, taking advantage of confusion in the home defence to score off a pass by Mora and bag his fifth of the

season.

Second half pressure from Osasuna, who had won their previous home league encounters, failed to dislodge the visitors' stiff resistance.

Real 30 points from their 18 outings, stand sixth after their draw at Villarreal which saw Woodgate swiftly into his stride, feeding Ronaldinho in the fifth minute only for the striker to be hauled up for offside.

Zidane then slammed an effort just wide as Real set the early pace before Villarreal, inspired by Juan Riquelme, began to settle.

Real had to give a premature debut to new Brazilian defender Cicinho, just arrived on a five-year deal from Sao Paulo when Ronaldinho



PHOTO: AP

Real Madrid's Ronaldinho limps off the field as coach Juan Ramon Lopez Caro (R) gives instructions to his players during their Primera Liga match against Villarreal at the Madrigal on Sunday.

## Vieri set for Monaco move

INTERNET, undated

AC Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani has revealed that the club has agreed a deal with Monaco for the transfer of Christian Vieri.

The striker only joined the Rossoneri in the summer but he has struggled to make an impact at the club and is down in the pecking order behind Andriy Shevchenko, Alberto Gilardino and Filippo Inzaghi.

Vieri has made a move for the former Inter hitman, with Italian coach Francesco Guidolin wanting to pair him up with Marco Di Vaio, and the French outfit would be able to give Vieri the first team football that he needs to get back into the Italy national squad for the World Cup.

Galliani said: "We have reached an agreement with Monaco. Now it is just up to the player to agree personal terms with the Monégasques."

"If Bobo leaves we will think about getting another striker. We will certainly not be doing a swap deal with Monaco. Javier Chevanton doesn't interest us and neither does Mirko Vucinic of Lecce."

## Tour opener drawn

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All-rounder Mansoor Amjad fell leg before left-arm paceman Zaheer Khan without scoring, leaving the home team at 226-6.

Iqbal, 13 overnight, hit some well timed strokes in his 87 and added 88 for the seventh wicket with wicketkeeper Zulqarnain Haider, who made 35.

Iqbal, a nephew of former Pakistan batting great Javed Miandad, hit 15 fours before he mistimed a drive off Ajit Agarkar and was caught at point by Harbhajan Singh.

Irfan Pathan then trapped Haider to finish with 3-82.

India made 414-7 declared in their first innings with six batsmen hitting half centuries.

## SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard of the three-day game between India and Pakistan A at Bagh-e-Jinnah ground in Lahore on Monday:

**INDIA :** First innings 414-7 dec (Sachin Tendulkar 74, Rahul Dravid 63, Yuvraj Singh 59, Wasim Jaffer 58, Gautam Gambhir 53, Venkatsar Laxman 54)

**PAKISTAN A:** First innings (overnight 212-4)

Farhat c Zaheer b Harbhajan 107

Bazid c Laxman b Agarkar 6

**Result: Match drawn**

**Umpires:** Riazuddin and Zameer Haider

## Hooligans face WC crackdown

APP, Berlin

Violent hooligans and fans who invade pitches at this summer's World Cup finals will face heavy fines as organisers attempt to ensure the June 9-July 9 tournament passes off peacefully.

According to an article in Monday's Focus magazine, the various German regional authorities are working to introduce a fast-track system to deal with offenders.

The measures include punishing transgressors without witness testimony while Dusseldorf prosecutor Klaus Bronny told the magazine that foreign fans could be hit with financial sanctions of between 150 and 1200 euros.

The prosecutor in Celle, Harald Range, in the north of the country demanded "immediate extradition" for instigators of "serious violence".

Authorities fear the fall-out of the Group A match in Hanover on June 20 between Costa Rica and Poland because of the traditional hostility between German and Polish fans.

As far as pitch invasions are concerned, the vice-president of the World Cup organising committee Wolfgang Niersbach, insisted that "only heavy fines can dissuade them".

"We have to keep winning and make sure we're ready to exploit any mistake Juve might make," he said.

Parma took the lead at the San Siro when Nelson Dida fumbled a corner and Paolo Cannavaro, brother of Juve defender Fabio, stabbed home the loose ball from a yard out.

Milan responded with three goals in a blistering nine-minute spell before half time which crushed Parma's early swagger.

Giuseppe Cardone turned Kaka's cross into his own net to level the score, before Alberto Gilardino headed in Andriy Shevchenko's pinpoint cross.

Kaka appeared to have put Milan in control going into the break, his right-footed shot curling into the bottom corner after Shevchenko's drive had been blocked.

Parma gave themselves hope when Marco Marchionni burst through and beat Dida with a low shot in the 70th minute, but Shevchenko restored Milan's two-goal cushion by converting Andrea Pirlo's right-wing cross.

Marchionni doubled his goal haul with a superb solo effort to ensure a nervous finale for the home side, but Milan held on despite their defensive frailties.

"I couldn't believe it when Luton got a corner and the keeper started to run up to it... I thought I was going to pass out. When it went in, I went crazy."

## I'm happy at Real: Carlos

INTERNET, undated

Roberto Carlos insists he has no desire to leave Real Madrid - for the time being at least.

The Brazilian full back has admitted in the past that he is considering a return to his homeland amid speculation that the 32-year-old has become increasingly unsettled in the Spanish capital.

However, for the next five months at least, Carlos is more concerned with helping to rectify Real's season of underachievement and the ultimate goal of adding more silverware to the trophy cabinet of the already decorated club.

"I'm not concerned about whether or not other clubs are making offers for me," said Carlos.

"I'm happy in Madrid and happy in Spain."

"If I get an offer to leave I will let people know but now isn't the right time as we have to work hard and keep battling away. I've got five months to help this club win something."

"I'm not leaving Real Madrid without winning another trophy."

Carlos, a fixture in the Real side for almost a decade, also admitted that he may be prepared to extend his stay beyond the end of the season.

"If I can I will stay on next season and continue trying to make history with Real Madrid," added Carlos.

## Interim ZC

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The players had walked out on Dec. 22 in protest at financial and transport issues and the continued presence in office of Zimbabwe Cricket chairman Peter Chingoka and managing director Oziias Bvuto.

"However, no one should regard the appointment of this committee as a solution to the issues facing Zimbabwe cricket and there remain a number of outstanding matters that must be urgently resolved in an open and transparent manner to support Zimbabwe's participation in international cricket," Mani said.

"These include addressing allegations of financial mismanagement, ensuring disputes between players and the board are effectively addressed and providing certainty for other ICC members that the strongest possible Zimbabwe cricket team will be able to fulfil future international commitments, especially the forthcoming tour of the West Indies due to commence in April."

## Mirpur Stadium

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Bangladesh in February-March. The Bangladesh Cricket Board is trying hard to prepare the stadium for the second Test in March. The first Test of the two-match series is expected to be held in Chittagong.

## SERIE A

## Milan win 7-goal thriller

## Football

APP, Rome

AC Milan emerged as the closest rivals to runaway Serie A leaders Juventus after edging Parma