

Five all out!

AFP, London

An English village cricket team narrowly missed out on one of the worst scores ever recorded after they were bowled out for five, with all the runs coming from extras, newspapers reported Wednesday.

Not one single batsman from Goldsborough Second eleven managed to muster a run to their name in the match against league leaders Dishforth, who sent their opponents back to the pavilion in 12 overs.

The visiting side's only runs came from four byes and a leg bye in what is thought to be the lowest score in the 112-year history of the Nidderdale and District Amateur Cricket League in North Yorkshire.

But Dishforth made hard work of the reply, losing two wickets themselves in the meagre run-chase.

The Daily Telegraph said Goldsborough's effort was not as bad as English Midlands side Shepstone's ELEVEN who were all out for four extras in 1931.

India ready

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India won 18 out of 24 one-dayers against Sri Lanka, South Africa, Pakistan and England before West Indies beat them in May.

Sri Lanka defeated India in their previous two meetings in a final at home -- by 18 runs in a tri-series last year and by 25 runs in the 2004 Asia Cup -- and are currently on a high after beating England away 5-0.

"They apply pressure on the batsmen by using their spinners very well in the middle overs and their fielding is top class," Harbhajan said.

"We always got good starts out there, but didn't continue that well in the middle overs and that's where we lost the games."

Harbhajan blamed the West Indies one-day series defeat on poor Indian batting.

He said: "They (West Indies) were not scoring more than 240-250, which are scores we should be successfully chasing any day with the kind of batting we have."

India managed to wipe the memory of the poor one-day show by winning their first Test series in the Caribbean in 35 years. Victory in the final Test handed the Indians a 1-0 win.

Vaas missing

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with him going into a Test match," said captain Mahela Jayawardena. "It is a huge blow with the experience that he possesses but we want to give him time to recover."

Sri Lanka have drafted in reserve wicketkeeper Prasanna Jayawardena to bat at number seven and allow Kumar Sangakkara to concentrate on his batting.

"With so much cricket being played, Kumar was finding it a bit hard to bat and keep wickets," the captain said. "He can now concentrate on his batting and leave Prasanna to do the keeping."

Jayawardena hinted that Sanath Jayasuriya, Sri Lanka's most successful Test batsman with 6,621 runs in 103 matches, may once again open the innings, displacing young Michael Vandort who opened in England.

"We have not finalised anything yet but Sanath is a genuine opener and has been successful," said Jayawardena.

"You have got to take tough decisions. Michael has done well, but you can't ignore Sanath for his experience and form."

South Africa's stand-in captain Ashwell Prince, 29, said the tourists were geared for the battle ahead.

"We will obviously miss our three big players but it's an opportunity for others to show their worth," said the left-handed batsman who has played in 21 Tests.

"We have had a good outing in the three-day game with most of our batsmen getting runs and the bowlers also had a good work out."

Dunga demands

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unsuccessful stint in the job in 1998-2000 and an unhappy 11 months with Real Madrid in 2005, has not commented on the appointment.

Autuori, currently in charge of Japan's Kashima Antlers, said: "He's an excellent person...He's a victorious player, a team player and he's always risen to the challenges in his career."

Other coaches were divided, with younger ones welcoming the appointment and older ones expressing doubts.

"He doesn't need to have 30 or 40 years experience to say he's the best," said Zetti. "He has to know football."

Nelsinho Baptista, a stalwart of the Brazilian coaching scene, said: "I believe it's an experiment. One thing is to be a player and give orders on the field, (coaching) is a radical change."

Former Brazil coach and goalkeeper Emerson Leao was even less impressed.

"Is that true? I prefer to be silent," he said.



PHOTO: AFP

England batsman Kevin Pietersen plays rugby during a training session at Old Trafford in Manchester on Wednesday on the eve of their second Test against Pakistan.

Strauss for resilience



REUTERS, Manchester

Captain Andrew Strauss called on England to show they have rediscovered their self-belief and hunger for victory on the eve of the second Test against Pakistan.

"We have had a lot of problems off the pitch, with injuries and stuff like that, it has been harder to go out and believe we are going to win every Test match," Strauss told a news conference at Old Trafford on Wednesday.

"Now I think we have come to terms with those injuries a little bit, we are moving forward. The guys who have come in have spent a little bit longer in the team as well so there is no reason why they don't feel they can't make a match-winning contribution."

"We need to make sure we do things very well for the rest of the summer. If we show that hunger and self-belief, that is going to serve us very well in this series and in the winter as well."

England, deprived through injury of Michael Vaughan, Andrew Flintoff, Simon Jones and Ashley Giles since beating Australia last year, drew the first Test against an equally injury-hit Pakistan side at Lord's.

Strauss, leading the team for

the second time, had been expecting to hand the reins back to Flintoff in Manchester only for the all rounder to break down again with ankle problems. Flintoff now faces more surgery and a race against time to be fit for the Ashes in Australia.

"All the indications were that Freddie would be fit. It was a bitter pill to swallow when we heard," added Strauss. "It's a real shame that we are going to be without him for the rest of the series. The side showed we could play without him at Lord's and we now need to show it for the next three games."

"Sometimes you need someone as important as him not to play to realise you don't have to rely on him time and time again."

Strauss rejected suggestions by former Australia captain Steve Waugh that England had become too casual, arguing that the team were preparing in exactly the same way they had done previously.

"The important thing is the way we approach the Test match, how much effort and commitment we put in," he said. "These are the things that make the difference between winning and losing. We saw last summer against the Aussies that if we want it badly enough we will win. That is exactly what we have to show in the next three games."

Perry floors Hantuchova

AP, Stanford

Shenay Perry continued her breakout season with a 6-2, 0-6, 6-3 victory over fifth-seeded Daniela Hantuchova in the first round of the Bank of West Classic on Tuesday night.

"I want to do well, of course, but I try not to put too many expectations on myself," Perry said. "It felt great, but I didn't feel that much pressure out there."

Perry, who turned pro in 2000, was the last American to be eliminated at Wimbledon last month, reaching the fourth round. That led to a career-high ranking of No. 49. She had never been ranked higher than 64th.

Perry had to play in the qualifying tournament to reach the main draw here, which she saw as a positive.

"Coming here to qualify was a good thing," she said. "Playing in the heat helped me test my stamina. Getting three matches under my belt might have helped me win tonight."

Perry and Jill Craybas meet in Wednesday's second round as the only two Americans left in the event.

Jelena Jankovic beat Lilia Osterloh 7-5, 6-3, to earn a spot in the second round and a match against world No. 2 Kim Clijsters. Also, sixth-seeded Ai Sugiyama defeated Kveta Peschke 6-3, 6-4, Samantha Stosur topped qualifier Olga Savchuk 6-1, 6-3, and qualifier Vasilisa Bardina upset 42nd-ranked Sania Mirza, 6-3, 6-2 in the late match.

No reprieve for Dalmiya

PTI, Kolkata

Beleaguered Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) president Jagmohan Dalmiya Wednesday failed to get a reprieve from a city court, which refused to restrain the BCCI Disciplinary Committee from summoning him in connection with the PILCOM accounts issue.

Chief Judge of the City Civil Court PK Sarkar refused to stay the summons issued to Dalmiya by the BCCI Disciplinary Committee to appear before it following his alleged failure to reply to a showcause notice.

The cricket board has, however, deferred the Disciplinary Committee's proceedings against Dalmiya after the former BCCI chief filed the suit challenging the summons.

Faruque holds

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reluctance to join the team was more to do with a financial disagreement with the board.

It was learnt that Faruque was not ready to accept a new financial package on offer for the selectors while on tours.

"Recently, the board raised questions about the past expenditures of the selectors in away series which at times were too high. In that context the board has decided to offer the selectors the same TA/DA bills it is offering to the cricketers," said a BCB official on condition of anonymity.

Faruque however declined to make any comment on the issue.

Tigers off

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"Mashud is now fully fit. He had a minor chest infection and was running high temperatures after a long journey but he is now okay. The conditions of the other players are also good and they are enjoying the pleasantly cool weather," Hira informed.

After two days break, Bangladesh will play their first one-day international of the five-match series on July 29 at the Harare Sports Club ground.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ZIM BOARD XI: 198 for 8 in 50 overs (Tinashe Hove 50, Gregory Strydom 57, Chauluka 27, Mashrafe 5-29, Aftab, Rafique and Shahadat 1wk each).

Bangladesh: 199 for 5 in 45.4 overs (Aftab 60, Shahriar Nafees 12, Javed 45, Bashar 38, Mushfiqur 15 not out).

Teams beset

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"It was a little bit tender to start with. But touch wood he'll be available to play and he'll be 100 per cent. He's a tough man from the north, a Pathan." But he was more cautious about Akhtar's prospects for the series.

"Shoaib is reacting well to the first few days back bowling," Woolmer said. He wants to play in this Test. But we know better, so we won't rush him."

TEAMS

ENGLAND (from): Marcus Trescothick, Andrew Strauss (captain), Alastair Cook, Kevin Pietersen, Paul Collingwood, Ian Bell, Geraint Jones, Matthew Hoggard, Stephen Harmison, Sajid Mahmood, Monty Panesar, Jon Lewis, Jamie Dalrymple.

PAKISTAN (from): Shoaib Malik, Imran Farhat, Younis Khan, Inzamamul Haq (captain), Mohammad Yousuf, Shahid Afridi, Abdul Razaq, Kamran Akmal, Mohammad Sami, Danish Kaneria, Umar Gul, Samiullah Niazi, Shahid Nazir, Salman Butt, Faisal Iqbal, Taufeeq Umar.

Spain's great escape

Dutch demolition of Pakistan



AFP, Terrassa

Netherlands thrashed Pakistan 9-2 and Spain overcame a 3-0 first-half deficit to defeat Australia 5-3 at the Champions Trophy men's field hockey tournament here Tuesday.

Australia stretched Spain's defence wide in the first half and was rewarded with three goals by Grant Eglington, Michael McCann and Grant Schubert as Australia looked to be cruising to a win.

But Santiago Freixa hit back with a penalty corner conversion before the break to keep Spain in the match before second-half strikes from Freixa (2), Eddie Tubau and Pol Amat completed a remarkable comeback.

Spain coach Maurits Hendriks said he had appealed to the pride of his players at the break.

"I played on their emotions at half time -- obviously it was not about tactics," Hendriks said.

"We went out in the second half to get our own confidence and respect back which was an impor-

tant motivation for the team," Hendriks added.

Australia assistant coach Colin Batch said his side had struggled to contain the Spaniard's forward play in the second half.

"In the second half Spain got some breaks and we were unable to stop their forward flow which is their trademark," Batch said.

"We expected Spain to come out hard after the break with only two goals in it at that stage and we went away from what we had done in the first half which had worked well for us and to Spain's credit they took their chances when they came and the game got away from us," Batch said.

Earlier, the Netherlands had scored at will to score a record 9-2 win over Pakistan.

"This has never happened before to Pakistan and as the coach and the head of the team and on behalf of the whole team we are all ashamed of this performance," said Pakistan coach Asif Bajwa.

"It was an advantage for me to have coached Pakistan because I know a little of the way they play and the spaces they leave on the field and we discussed that before

the game," said Roelant Oltmans, Netherlands coach.

"Nevertheless we did not expect to win with a margin like this," Oltmans added.

Matthias Brouwer scored 35 seconds into the match, followed by Floris Evers, Robert Reckers then Ronald Brouwer who carved their way into Pakistan's circle to score with easy shots on goal in the first half.

Asif Bajwa replaced goalkeeper Salman Akbar with Nasir Ahmed after the fourth goal, 30 minutes into the first half only to see Netherlands score five more times in the second half.

Teun de Nooijer scored early in the second half and a minute later Shakeel Abbasi made a deflection goal from a free hit outside the circle for Netherlands to lead 5-1.

Adnan Zakir rebounding in a penalty corner before Netherlands came back with three more easy goals to Ronald Brouwer and a penalty corner conversion to Taeke Taekema to make the record 9-2 scoreline.



PHOTO: AFP

Australian Samantha Stosur makes a forehand return against Olga Savchuk of Ukraine during the Bank of the West Classic tennis tournament at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California on Tuesday.

Hewitt sent packing



AFP, Los Angeles

Two time Grand Slam champion Lleyton Hewitt was sent crashing out of the Los Angeles ATP tournament on Tuesday losing his opening round match to unheralded Paul Goldstein 6-4, 6-4.

American Goldstein clinched the victory with an ace that froze the second seeded Hewitt in his tracks in the evening match at the main stadium of the University of California Los Angeles.

"It was a tactical match," Goldstein said. "I am not the kind of guy who is going to serve (Hewitt) off the court. It was a little bit of cat and mouse out there."

Goldstein posted the biggest upset of the tournament so far as Hewitt lost for just the second time in his last 11 matches and slipped to 26-10 on the year.

"It is disappointing," said Hewitt, who arrived from Australia the day before his match. "He (Goldstein) played well on the bigger points."

"When I had an opportunity late in the second set to break him I didn't do it."

The 29-year-old Goldstein won his first match against Hewitt in five career meetings.

Goldstein came out with more spark, breaking Hewitt's serve in the opening game of the match. It was the first of five service breaks for Goldstein who also fired eight aces.

"This has to be one of the biggest wins of my career," he said.

Goldstein has seen his world ranking drop from 58 in April to 86 heading into the Los Angeles tournament.

His second round match will be against Russian Igor Kunitysyn and if he wins it would be the first time since April he has won more than one match in a tournament.

Most of tennis' big names have passed on the Los Angeles hardcourt tournament. With world No 13 Hewitt gone, American Andy Roddick (10th) is the lone player ranked in the top 15 left in the 32-player draw.

The 25-year-old Hewitt didn't look at all like the player who won the 2001 US Open and 2002 Wimbledon title. But he says he plans to play a lot over the next few weeks and is confident he will get his form back before the US Open.

"I got to hit a lot of balls," Hewitt said. "I want to get my rhythm back and keep that going through the next five or six weeks. Hopefully the positive things will take care of themselves on the court."

This was his third appearance in Los Angeles, having reached the final in 2003 where he lost to Wayne Ferreira of South Africa.

It was a bad day all around for the Aussies as former World No 2 Tommy Haas cruised to a two set victory over Australian Wayne Arthurs.

Haas beat hard-serving Arthurs 6-4, 6-4 in just under one hour in oven like daytime temperatures

that reached 46 degrees Celsius (114 degrees Fahrenheit).

"I didn't do anything sensational, but it was a good solid match," said Haas.

"I didn't have many loose mistakes, I played it safe. I had an early break in the first set and one at four-all in the second. The heat didn't seem as bad as it was on Monday."

The 28-year-old German's victory sets up a second-round clash with Chile's Paul Capdeville who defeated Arnaud Clement of France 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 on Monday.

Haas, who won the Los Angeles title two years ago, is seeking his ninth career singles title.

He dominated Arthurs with his second serve, winning 87 per cent of his second serve points. Arthurs won just 57 per cent of his second serve points but fired 12 aces to Haas's five.

In May 2002, Haas reached No 2 in the world rankings but then started to have problems with his shoulder and he missed the entire 2003 season after undergoing surgery.

But the injuries appear to have cleared up and Haas is back on track winning tournaments again.

In other matches Tuesday, Marat Safin, of Russia, defeated American Mardy Fish 6-4, 7-5 while Slovakia's Dominik Hrbaty defeated Zack Fleishman, of the US, 7-5, 7-5.

Switzerland's George Bastl beat France's Nicolas Mahut 6-3, 7-6.

No desperate situation: Fergie



AFP, London

Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson claimed there was no desperate situation at the club though they have yet to make a single purchase this season.

Ferguson, who has flown up to Glasgow with an extremely young squad for Wednesday's friendly with Celtic, insists he is not panicking over a lack of new signings.

United have yet to make a single purchase this summer, with Atletico Madrid forward Fernando Torres ruling out a move to England on Wednesday.

Tottenham midfielder Michael Carrick continues to be linked

with United but Ferguson is unwilling to pay the 17 million pounds (24.9 million euros) Spurs are believed to want for the England midfielder player.

"We are working on certain things," said Ferguson. "Of course, people are trying to make out we are in a desperate situation. That is far from the case. If I was to start the season with the players I have now, all fully fit, I would not be disappointed."

And wantaway striker Ruud van Nistelrooy has yet to complete a deal with either Real Madrid or Bayern Munich.

The Holland forward is desperate to leave Manchester United following his bust-up with Ferguson at the end of last season.

Van Nistelrooy has already handed in a written transfer request and had hoped to have sealed a move away from Old Trafford by now.

Instead, with United holding out for a 15 million-pound transfer fee, the 30-year-old was forced to return to training on Monday.

And, while the odds are still on van Nistelrooy leaving before the new season gets under way against Fulham on August 20, Ferguson was impressed by the Dutchman's hunger in training.

"At this moment in time Ruud is still a Manchester United player," said the United boss. "Without question, he did very well in training yesterday. He showed a good attitude, which is good."