

CHAMPIONS TROPHY Kumble might get the nod

PTI, Mumbai

Anil Kumble is widely tipped to make it to the 14-member Indian squad for the ICC Champions Trophy but the selectors are unlikely to cast the net outside the 16 chosen for the ongoing tri-series in Malaysia.

The squads for both the September 12-24 tri-nation event in Kuala Lumpur and the October-November Champions Trophy in India are to be picked here on Sunday.

Kumble, although out of selectors' favour for one-dayers for more than a year, is staking a strong claim for inclusion in the team for Champions Trophy due to his fine record on home soil.

The veteran leg spinner returned home before the end of the English county season where underwent a stint for Surrey before developing tendonitis in his bowling shoulder.

He is expected to recover fully by the time the Champions Trophy winds up in four Indian centres, according to the assessment report given by team physio John Gloster.

Bachelor on a merry run

UNB, Dhaka

Jami Hossain and Azam Miah struck twice as Bachelor Sporting Club absolutely outclassed Mukta Bihanga Tarun Sangha 7-0 to notch their third victory in the Green Delta Insurance First Division Hockey League at the Maulana Bhashani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Skipper Maruf Reza, Imran Ali and Kazi Rajib netted one each for the winners as they led by four goals in the first-half.

Meanwhile, Farashganj Sporting Club also posted their third win when they beat Uttara Hockey Club 2-0. Rajib and Faisal scored for the winners.

Both sides

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to his side, according to Dhaka captain Arif.

"He has worked wonders with smaller teams in the past and we believe that it will happen once again," said Arif.

"We must also not forget our luck in getting as far as the final round itself. But now that we have come this far, we must look to leave this holy town with the title with us," added an excited Arif.

The 23-year-old American moved into the third round of the US Open with a confident 6-2, 6-2, 6-4 win Friday over Paul Goldstein. He will next play No. 14 Tommy Haas.

Ginepri made a surprise run at Flushing Meadows last year, going from an unseeded entry into the semis. He became the only man to play four consecutive five-set matches at the tournament in the Open era, beating Haas, Richard Gasquet, and Guillermo Coria before losing to Andre Agassi.

But Ginepri has had trouble this year, winning only six matches in his first 15 tournaments through Wimbledon.

"At the beginning of the year, I think I took weeks for granted," he said.

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Justine Henin-Hardenne of Belgium makes a return against Ai Sugiyama of Japan during their US Open 2nd round match at Flushing Meadows on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP

OPEN SECRETS

AP, New York

Robby Ginepri played consistently long matches last year in reaching the US Open semifinals.

This year, he's once again struggling to find any consistency at all.

"My whole career, so far, has been kind of like a roller coaster. Up and down," he said. "I need to figure out how to play a complete year at high-level tennis."

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semifinals at Indianapolis, the quarterfinals at Los Angeles and the round-of-16 at the Cincinnati Masters last month.

FACE IT

Andy Murray can tell more people are recognizing him at the US Open, and the 19-year Briton thinks he knows why.

He's fan friendly, plus his new coach is Brad Gilbert, once a tennis TV announcer and formerly the coach of Andre Agassi and Andy Roddick.

"I think I'm probably more popular this year partly because of Brad," Murray said Friday after a 6-0, 6-1, 6-1 win over Alessio Di Mauro.

"Everybody loved Brad's commentary on TV. He's pretty big over here. I'm sure that's probably why."

Murray pulled off a huge upset last month at the Cincinnati Masters, ending No. 1 Roger Federer's 55-match winning streak in North America.

At the US Open, Murray has held a pen almost as much as a racket.

"I think I'm probably one of the few players that at the end of the match, I try to sign as many autographs as possible," he said. "If you sign their autograph, the tennis ball, it makes them happy."

"If they stick it in your face and you just walk past them or you tell them to get out of the way, you're not going to like someone as much."

LATIN TRIBUTE

There will be a "Celebration of Latino Legends of Tennis" on Sunday at Louis Armstrong Stadium.

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The US Tennis Association's Hispanic task force organised the event.

"It is difficult," he conceded. "I have won many trophies with them and I also lost some. We have had moments of happiness together and others that were more painful.

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