



Pakistan run-machine Mohammad Yousuf pulls the ball on the first day of the third Test at Newlands Stadium in Cape Town on Friday.

## Old foes clash

**FROM PAGE 20**  
court to chase down returns. Sharapova, who came within two points of being eliminated in her opening match, said she felt she had turned around her game in her semi-final win over Kim Clijsters and was ready to face Williams in the final.

"I did the right things at the right time and played good tennis, which gives me a lot of confidence going into the final," she said.

The reigning US Open champion played down the much discussed "intimidation factor" Williams brings on court, saying she never felt overwhelmed by the American even when she was at the height of her powers.

"We've always had pretty good battles, exciting matches. I definitely enjoy the fight against her," she said.

"If you've played the opponent before and seen the opponent before you know the strengths and weaknesses. You know what shots work well for you and what shots work well for them."

The pair have met four times, the most recent an epic three set semi-final here in 2005 that Williams won after saving three match points.

## Playmaker

**FROM PAGE 20**  
Platini was repaid in kind on Thursday, when the FIFA chief voiced his support for the Frenchman prior to Friday's vote.

Named vice-president of the FFF in 2001, Platini made a crucial career move in 2002 when he became an executive member of both UEFA and FIFA.

Johansson's bid for a fifth term hinged on the success of the game in Europe, and its flagship Champions League competition.

Platini felt it was time to focus more on the social, and less the financial issues in European football, and declared his intention to challenge Johansson in 2005.

## Gonzalez inking

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the answer."

Gonzalez, like he did in his third round win over Hewitt, played almost perfect tennis with his first error not coming until the first game of the second set.

The Chilean, rejuvenated under American coach Larry Stefanki, broke the German's serve seven times and was in complete control with his dominant forehand.

He broke Haas three times to romp through the opening set in 28 minutes and then broke again in the second game of the second set to serve it out for a two sets lead.

Gonzalez again broke Haas in the first and fifth games of the final set to take a throttle hold on the match.

Nothing went right for Haas who served four double-faults, with Gonzalez thundering down nine aces and serving at 63 percent in his second career win over the German.

# Ntini, Kallis on fire

**FROM PAGE 17**  
throws being scored as South African fielders took hasty throws at the stumps.

When Sami was caught behind off a top-edged hook against Kallis the tail crumbled quickly, with the last four wickets falling for seven runs in 19 balls.

Yousuf was last man out when an attempted lofted drive off Ntini spiralled to deep mid-off where Ashwell Prince took the catch.

Ntini took four for 44 and Kallis four for 42 as Pakistan were bowled out in just over three-and-a-half hours, with an early tea being taken.

Smith's decision to send Pakistan in was bold on a pitch which seemed likely to give help to the spinners later in the match, particularly at the southern Wynberg end, which was virtually bare. The Kelvin end had a fair covering of grass.

South Africa made three changes, with Boeta Dippenaar coming in as an opening batsman and De Villiers moving down the order to take the place of the suspended Herschelle Gibbs at number six.

All-rounder Shaun Pollock was

rested, with Hall taking his place, while Steyn was picked ahead of Andre Nel in a switch of fast bowlers.

Pakistan made one change, with Shahid Nazir replacing injured fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar.

**SCOREBOARD**  
Scoreboard at tea on the first day of the third Test between South Africa and Pakistan at Newlands on Friday:

**PAKISTAN:** First innings  
Hafeez c De Villiers b Ntini 10  
Farhat c Smith b Kallis 20  
Hameed c Kallis b Ntini 7  
Younis Khan c De Villiers b Kallis 8  
Yousuf c Prince b Ntini 83  
Inzamam c Boucher b Hall 6  
Akmal c De Villiers b Steyn 0  
Sami c Boucher b Kallis 4  
Nazir c Harris b Ntini 3  
Kanerica c Boucher b Kallis 0  
Asif not out 0  
Extras: (lb-2, nb-8, w-6) 16  
Total: (All out in 43.1 overs) 157  
Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-27, 3-47, 4-54, 5-81, 6-90, 7-150, 8-155, 9-157.

**Bowler**  
Steyn 11 3 40 1  
Ntini 13.1 2 44 4  
Kallis 11 1 42 4

Hall 8 2 29 1  
**SOUTH AFRICA:** G Smith, H Dippenaar, H Amla, J Kallis, A Prince, A de Villiers, M Boucher, A Hall, P Harris, M Ntini, D Steyn.  
**Umpires:** S Bucknor (WIS), P Parker (AUS).

## Kaiser drafte

**FROM PAGE 20**  
UEFA president in 1990.

Six seats had become vacant on the UEFA executive committee and a separate ballot for those positions saw Icelandic FA president Eggert Magnusson, the new chairman of West Ham United, voted off.

Angel Maria Villar Llonca of Spain, Senes Erzik of Turkey and Joseph Mifsud of Malta were all re-elected. Mircea Sandu of Romania, Gilberto Madali of Portugal and Grigory Surkis of Ukraine were also elected to the committee.

Giangiorgio Spiess of Switzerland was not re-elected while Rakhat Aliyev of Kazakhstan and Tomas Gek of Andorra failed in their attempts to get on to the executive body.

# Gibbs glad it's over

**Cricket**  
**AFP, Paris**

Herschelle Gibbs said Thursday he was disappointed that his appeal against a Test match ban failed but he was glad that he had been cleared of racism.

The South African batsman will miss the third Test against Pakistan starting at Newlands Friday as well as a Twenty20 international and the first of five one-day internationals against the same opponents next month.

He was originally banned for two Tests but in terms of the ICC code, the punishment was amended to take account of the next matches the player was due to appear in.

Despite the ban, Gibbs was delighted that ICC appeals commissioner Richie Benaud had concluded that he was not a racist.

Gibbs said in a statement: "I am really disappointed to be missing the Test match in front of my home ground and the next two matches the Proteas will be playing."

"However, I am glad that I have now had a proper opportunity to explain myself. I feel it is important that Mr Benaud has confirmed that I am not racist. I have apologised if my remarks inadvertently caused offence, and that apology still stands."

Cricket South Africa has dropped its own disciplinary action against Gibbs following remarks made by the player about a section of the crowd which were picked up and broadcast by a stump microphone during the first Test against Pakistan in

Centurion earlier this month.

Gerald Majola, CSA chief executive, said the national body accepted Benaud's findings.

"We particularly welcome the fact that Mr Benaud has emphatically cleared Herschelle of any allegations of racism," said Majola.

"The CSA's disciplinary hearing was set before the ICC announced its charges. Consequently, CSA's hearing was postponed by disciplinary commissioner Judge Mervyn King until after the ICC had completed its hearings arising from the same circumstances."

"Now that the ICC has completed its process, we have decided that there is no point in charging Herschelle twice in this matter."

South African captain Graeme Smith earlier criticised the ICC after the appeal was rejected.

He said at his captain's pre-match press conference: "It is disappointing. We have one or two gripes with the ICC and maybe this is not the forum to discuss it. Maybe we need to get on the phone with (cricket general manager) Dave Richardson and (chief executive) Malcolm Speed and discuss these things."

"We are disappointed at losing Herschelle. We just want to see consistency in decision making around the world. We've experienced things that haven't been dealt with."

Smith was believed to be referring to incidents that involved the South African team in Australia last season in which it was alleged racist remarks had been made against the South African players.

In the ICC statement, Benaud said: "At Chris Broad's hearing

(Pakistan team manager) Talat Ali spoke about the offence the words used by Herschelle would give to the whole Pakistan nation. I am not surprised."

"(However), as an Appeals Commissioner and a person, I certainly do not consider Herschelle to be a racist and I take great exception to the suggestion, in the same way I believe Chris Broad would object (to suggestions his finding would do the same)."

While Smith was critical of the ICC, he appeared to have softened his stance on stump microphones after saying at Centurion that he believed television companies were to blame for leaving the microphones on instead of switching them off immediately after a ball had been bowled.

**Tensions wont**  
**FROM PAGE 20**  
Meanwhile, Inter Milan coach Roberto Mancini -- who Thursday was reportedly linked to the Chelsea job -- has refused to rule out managing in the Premiership one day, and described the Chelsea job as "fantastic."

The San Siro chief, whose side are on course to win Serie A this year, has yet to sign a new deal with the Italian giants.

He told The Sun: "I'd really love to manage a Premiership side one day. Chelsea? It would be fantastic."

"Nothing has been decided about the contract but this is not a formality."

# England hit rock bottom

**Cricket**  
**AFP, Adelaide**

England's horror tour of Australia continued Friday when the home side routed them for just 110 and beat them by nine wickets in their one-day series match at Adelaide Oval.

Australia cruised to the victory target, finishing on 111 for one from just 24.3 overs and claiming a bonus point in the process.

It was unbeaten Australia's fifth win, and they are already guaranteed a berth in the tri-series finals, while the mentally shattered English are anchored at the foot of the table with just one win from five games.

With recalled paceman Mitchell Johnson claiming 4-45, the embattled English weren't even able to match their dismal score of 120 against New Zealand at the same venue on Tuesday.

They lasted 34.3 overs despite Australia resting first choice bowlers Glenn McGrath and Nathan Bracken.

The effort equalled England's fourth-lowest score in one-day internationals and continued their alarming recent history of being unable to bat out their full complement of overs.

In their past three one-day innings, they have managed just 155, 120 and 110 in a worrying trend.

Former Australian captain Bill Lawry summed up England's plight.

"Their fielding is sub-standard, their bowling is ordinary and their batting is shocking," he said in a grim assessment.

At the same venue where they

blew the second Ashes Test in December with a last-day batting collapse, interim England captain Andrew Flintoff won the toss and elected to bat.

His side started well making 2-72 with Ian Bell in his best form of the one-day series.

However, Bell's dismissal for 35 triggered another collapse by the English, who were embarrassingly inept at the crease and must simply be wishing their antipodean nightmare would quickly come to an end.

Coach Duncan Fletcher will also be glad to see the back of Australia, with pressure mounting on his position with every on-field debacle.

Flintoff defended Fletcher after the loss.

"Duncan's been fantastic, he's taken the side forward over the past few years, he's been someone who every lad in the dressing room has got something from him and has improved by working with him. Now is the time to repay him and put some performances up," Flintoff said.

"The coaching staff give us all the tools, they work with us they help us, and it's up to the lads who go out on the field -- when you're in the middle, it's down to you."

Australian captain Ricky Ponting said all the planning in the world was of little use to England in their current form.

"You can have as many plans as you like and if you can't execute them exactly how you want to they just all go out the window. I've been there before myself as captain," he said.

Beaten 5-0 in the Ashes series, England have enjoyed just one win since arriving Down Under in early November -- a narrow one-day

match victory against New Zealand. They also have just eight wins in their last 32 one-day internationals as the World Cup looms.

Bell offered renewed hope for the English with some enterprising stroke-play during Friday's match, but once he fell the lack of fight from his teammates was telling, all 10 wickets falling to catches.

Paul Collingwood, who also dropped a chance in the field, and Paul Nixon lobbed up simple catches from the part-time spin of Andrew Symonds and Brad Hogg (2-16) respectively.

The 36-year-old Nixon's attempt to shield No 11 Monty Panesar was a comical failure and his record of 34 runs in five innings at 6.80 in his first international tournament must have other English wicketkeeper-batsmen scratching their heads.

At one stage, England lost 4-4 to slump to 9-107 as Johnson created havoc.

Brett Lee also continued his fine tri-series with 2-8 from eight overs, claiming the wickets of recent debutant Mal Loye (9) and Tuesday's top-scorer Ed Joyce (11).

England were also without opening bowlers James Anderson and Jon Lewis to take on the Australian batting order, the pair joining Vaughan and Kevin Pietersen on the injured list.

**SCOREBOARD**  
Scoreboard of the triangular one-day series match between Australia and England at the Adelaide Oval on Friday:

**ENGLAND**  
Strauss c Gilchrist b Johnson 17  
Loye c Gilchrist b Lee 9  
Bell c Clarke b Clark 35  
Joyce c Johnson b Lee 11

Collingwood c Clark b Symonds 3  
Flintoff c Ponting b Johnson 16  
Dalrymple c Gilchrist b Johnson 10  
Nixon c and b Hogg 4  
Plunkett c Clarke b Johnson 0  
Tremlett c White b Hogg 0  
Panesar not out 0  
Extras: (w-5) 5  
Total: (All out in 34.3 overs) 110  
Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-47, 3-72, 4-79, 5-81, 6-103, 7-106, 8-106, 9-107, 10-110

**Bowler**  
O M R W  
Lee 8 2 8 2  
Johnson 10 2 45 4  
Clark 5 0 21 1  
Symonds 5 0 20 1  
Hogg 6.3 0 16 2

**AUSTRALIA**  
Gilchrist run out (Plunkett) 23  
Hayden not out 30  
Ponting not out 51  
Extras: (lb-2, w-4, nb-1) 7  
Total: (For one wkt in 24.3 overs) 111  
Fall of wickets: 1-32

**Bowler**  
O M R W  
Plunkett 5 0 39 0  
Tremlett 9.3 0 41 0  
Flintoff 3 1 4 0  
Panesar 5 0 19 0  
Dalrymple 2 0 6 0

**Result: Australia won by nine wickets.**  
**Man-of-the-match: Mitchell Johnson.**  
**Toss: England**  
**Umpires: Steve Davis (AUS), Ian Howell (RSA)**

**STANDINGS**  
Standings in the triangular one-day series after Australia beat England on Friday (played, won, lost, bonus points, points):

Australia 5 5 0 3 23  
New Zealand 4 1 3 1 5  
England 5 1 4 0 4

## Indians grab tennis titles

SPORTS REPORTER

Both the boys' and girls' singles titles in the Fifth BKSP Junior Tennis Championships (Group 4), which concluded at the Savar sports institute on Friday, went to India.

Iyer Venkat emerged boys' singles champion with a comprehensive 6-3, 6-2 win over South Korean player Jae Beom Kim.

In the girls' final, Kyra Shroff outplayed Uzbekistan's Nigora Sirjoiddinova 6-3, 6-1.

Brig Najib Hasan, DG of BKSP, distributed trophies among the winners.

**Ruud calls**  
**FROM PAGE 20**  
Van Nistelrooy as saying he would be happy to welcome another Ronaldo to the Bernabeu with the "other" Ronaldo having just been shipped out to AC Milan.

"He is a fantastic player. This year he's been playing better than at any time since he joined Manchester, scoring lots of goals and playing well."

"He is very young and has the experience of a World Cup behind him," during which the starlet managed to help knockout the England of strike partner Wayne Rooney.

But van Nistelrooy added that any deal would be "between Madrid and United."

The striker explained: "It was nothing serious. The press talk a lot, buties."

On the situation of David Beckham, who is Los Angeles-bound and has been frozen out of the first team picture, Van Nistelrooy said: "It's a difficult situation for David. It's difficult for us too as we want the best for him. He's a great professional and has shown that all through his career."

# India rest key men

**FROM PAGE 17**  
biggest success recently. Though it took a hiding at Nagpur, the bowling came up trumps defending a low total at Cuttack, and the composition at Chennai will include the spin combo of the wily veteran, Anil Kumble, and Ramesh Powar, who marked his return to the side with three wickets in the last game. Ajit Agarkar seems to have found himself a nice groove in which to bowl, but to say that he is the leader of the pack is premature. That leaves Sreesanth as the potential front man, but he will first need to up his tally in the shorter version of the game before assuming that responsibility. Though he was not present Friday, Irfan Pathan, in the wickets during Baroda's Ranji Trophy semifinal loss to Mumbai, may join the side in time for the match. If he plays, Pathan will fill the vital allrounder slot and add balance to the team.

Brian Lara didn't offer any hint of a change to the West Indies composition, but if he does return, then Devon Smith will be the man to make room at No.3. Smith looked uneasy at Cuttack, and its not all that hard to envision Lendl

Simmons, who impressed with a responsible 70 against Pakistan late last year, getting a game in his place. Jerome Taylor, so deadly in the ICC Champions Trophy and at home against India in the summer, has yet to hit his straps on this tour but will retain his place.

The pitch at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, flatly, looks a batting paradise. It's hard, baked, and there is but a smattering of green on the edges. As Dravid himself put it, with a smile, "It's a good wicket for batting. I wouldn't want to bowl too much spin out there; it's that kind of track. We should have a good-scoring game."

Both India and West Indies have had to adjust to two very contrasting pitches in the series. Where Nagpur hosted a record-breaking run feast, Cuttack was a low-scoring affair on a dust bowl with variable bounce. To Lara, however, this was not a deterrent. "Its tough, but it's what you want. You don't want to be able to walk out there, close your eyes, and just bat, or go out and see a minefield," he said.

Moreover, Lara saw an opportunity to employ spin in the middle overs. "We have the likes of Chris

Gayle and Marlon Samuels, two guys who've done a very good job over the years for us in the middle overs. We are going to be depending on them a lot. We also have a few medium pacers, guys who get the ball to move about, roll their fingers over the seam, so I think we have what's necessary to perform well and we have what's necessary to ensure we get back into the series," he said.

Will inexperience matter? That remains to be seen, but given the confident nature exuded by Dravid and Lara when assessing their respective sides, you can be certain of one heck of a fight on Saturday.

**TEAMS**  
**INDIA** (likely): Robin Uthappa, Gautam Gambhir, Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid (c), Yuvraj Singh, Dinesh Karthik, Suresh Raina, Ajit Agarkar, Ramesh Powar, Anil Kumble, Shanthakumaran Sreesanth.  
**WEST INDIES** (likely): Chris Gayle, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Brian Lara (c), Marlon Samuels, Dwayne Bravo, Runako Morton, Dwayne Smith, Dinesh Ramdin (wk), Ian Bradshaw, Daren Powell, Jerome Taylor.

# Contenders march on

**FROM PAGE 17**  
It was Jaffar Quraishi who snatched the match from them with a splendid all-round performance as he claimed three wickets after hammering an explosive 68-ball 79 that saw nine big sixes besides one boundary.

Hard-hitting Nazmul Hossain was the other Victoria batsman who powered his side to put up the challenging total of 295-9 after being sent into bat first. The number eight clobbered five fours and two sixes during his hurricane 22-ball 47 while Mahmudullah Riyad contributed 48.

With the outcome Victoria kept the third spot along with defending champions Old DOHS securing eight points from six matches.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
**PEGASUS:** 181 all out in 50 overs

(Rabiul 13, Asif 8, Lal Mohon 8, Maruf 7, Sharifullah 39, Saif 59, Raisul 3, Jubair 15, Delwar 3, Mortuza 0, Kamal 1 n.o., extras 25, Mahbubul 2-34, Ashiqur 2-26, Rafique 1-18, Jayantha 1-29, Kapali 1-31).

**SONARGAON:** 183-2 in 40.3 overs (Al-Shahriar 91, Mehrab 69, Jayantha 9 n.o., Salim 1 n.o., extras 13, Kamal 1-38, Sharifullah 1-27).

**Result: Sonargaon won by eight wickets.**  
**MOHAMMEDAN:** 276-9 in 50 overs (Imtiaz 14, Zunaed 32, Rashedul 12, Aftab 28, Sakib 40, Faisal 67, Sahagir 41, Tapash 9, Hasibul 16 n.o., Sunny 2, Manjurul 1 n.o., extras 14, Ariful 2-50, Anis 2-63, Tariqul 3-55, Golam Mowla 1-33).

**INDIRA:** 180 all out in 44.5 overs (Mehdi 4, Ashiqur 56, Rasel 15,

Sumon 5, Golam Mowla 12, Anis 40, Safiul 1, Hamidul 4, Ariful 4 n.o., Tariqul 7, Younis 4, extras 28, Manjurul 3-20, Hasibul 4-44, Sunny 2-35).

**Result: Mohammedan won by 96 runs.**  
**VICTORIA:** 295-9 in 50 overs (Imrul 8, Faruque 21, Hasanuzzaman 20, Mushfiqur 4, Riyad 48, Mahbubul 23, Quraishi 79, Nazmul 47, Palash 6, Sabbir 10 n.o., Kabir 0 n.o., extras 29, Dipojjal 2-46, Azim 2-43, Nayeem 3-65, Hasan 1-56).

**PARTEX:** 281 all out in 48.3 overs (Aslam 34, Rajin 1, Tariq 22, Rafiqul 60, Hanif 97, Niamur 5, Nayeem 15, Raqibul 4, Hasan 19, Dipojjal 9, Azim 2 n.o., extras 13, Kabir 1-37, Palash 3-46, Sabbir 3-44, Quraishi 3-66).

**Result: Victoria won by 14 runs.**



Fahima Hossain, chairman of Bangladesh Cricket Board's women's wing, addressing a press conference at the NSC conference room yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR