



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

PHOTO: AFP

Old foes clash

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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

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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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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 Stefani, 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

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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
Yousuf 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
Kaneria 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 O M R W

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

Yousuf c Prince b Ntini

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 draft

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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 Egger Magnusson, the new chairman of West Ham United, voted off.

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

Giangiorgio Spiess of Switzerland was not re-elected while Rakhmat Aliyev of Kazakhstan and Tomas Gea 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 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.

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

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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".

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 night mare 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 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.

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.

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	51
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