

## Norman heading to India

PTI, Dubai

Greg Norman, one of the most charismatic players to have walked the golfing greens, said India was a land of opportunities and he was interested to take up golf course designing projects in the subcontinent.

The 52-year-old Australian golfer, described as 'Great White Shark', was the World Number 1 for 331 weeks, a record that Tiger Woods broke. He won 86 titles worldwide including two British Open and finished in top-10 of the Majors as many as 29 times.

Norman, now considered a legend in golf course designing, said he was negotiating to take up a few projects in India.

"We have been approached for numerous projects (and asked) if we're interested in going to India, and the answer is yes. We have looked at them, and we are in the negotiation stage right now," said Norman, who is playing at the Desert Classic.

Norman, who was one of the first designers to come to India and lend his name to a course -- now called Jaypee Greens near Delhi, is one of the sharpest business minds in sport.

"Like any designer you want to be at the tip of the sphere and the growth of the game of golf is at its peak at present," he said.

"Normally, golf course design is a very good barometer to what's happening to the economy no matter what continent you're on, because when people go and build a golf course, they are either doing a residential golf course community or a resort development," he added.

PTI

## Trez in Domenech

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That is unlikely to discourage Domenech, though, as the French coach has made a reputation for toughness and forcing players to join up with the squad, even in the case of prior retirement.

His biggest selection poser will be who to start in the centre of defence with Roma's Philippe Mexes, Lyon's Sebastien Squillaci and Monaco's Gael Givet pressing for the two starting berths.

## SQUAD

**Goalkeepers:** Gregory Coupet (Lyon), Mickael Landreau (PSG)

**Defenders:** Eric Abidal (Lyon), Francois Clerc (Lyon), Julien Escude (Sevilla/ESP), Patrice Evra (Manchester United/ENG), Gael Givet (Monaco), Philippe Mexes (Roma/ITA), Willy Sagnol (Bayern Munich/GER), Sebastien Squillaci (Monaco), Lilian Thuram (Barcelona/ESP)

**Midfielders:** Claude Makelele (Chelsea/ENG), Rio Mavuba (Paris/PSG), Jeremy Toulalan (Lyon), Patrick Vieira (Inter Milan/ITA), Sidney Govou (Lyon), Florent Malouda (Lyon), Franck Ribery (Marseille)

**Forwards:** Nicolas Anelka (Bolton/ENG), Djibril Cisse (Marseille), Thierry Henry (Arsenal/ENG), David Trezeguet (Juventus/ITA)

## Akram warns

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taken over 400 wickets in both versions of the game, advised Pakistan to focus on improving its fielding for the March-April mega event.

"Fielding will be a key factor and it can be improved if we work very hard in this department," he said.

Akram said he favoured a foreign coach for the team because it reduced the chances of bias but "in my opinion, Bob Woolmer is not behaving impartially which is an area of concern at the moment." He also said fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar's fitness would be crucial for Pakistan's chances in the mega event.

"The fitness of Shoaib, skipper Inzamamul Haq and players like Kamran Akmal would be very important. Inzamam is a strong captain and he also has a big say in selection of the team. Hopefully, the best eleven would be picked for every game in the West Indies."

## Flintoff relieved

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the foundation for the team's 292-7.

The 28-year-old said: "It's unbearable to score a hundred against Australia in Sydney. Obviously I had a bit of luck along the way but we all we need that."

Stand-in Australia skipper Adam Gilchrist said: "We were out there to play and we were up for it but we just couldn't execute the way we wanted to and sustain any real pressure with the ball."

"Good overs were followed by expensive overs and with the bat we just didn't get the partnerships going."

Australia were bowled out for 200 with Gilchrist being bowled on the first ball of the innings by Liam Plunkett.

"That first ball pretty much set the tone for the whole innings," Gilchrist said.

"But it's not all doom and gloom for us.... this just highlights that we've still got a lot to work on and improve."



Top-seeded Russian tennis player Maria Sharapova returns the ball during her quarterfinal match against Ai Sugiyama of Japan in the Pan Pacific Open Tennis Tournament in Tokyo yesterday.

## Another Gough comeback?

CRICINFO, undated

A report in Friday's London Daily Mail claims that England have asked the ICC for special dispensation to select their final 15-man World Cup squad from outside the provisional 30-man party named last month.

The news underlines the desperation among the selectors following a dismal one-day series in Australia and, according to the article, opens the door again for Darren Gough to make a dramatic return. Sources inside the England camp quickly moved to suggest that there were options other than Gough available to them. James Kirtley and Ryan Sidebottom of Nottinghamshire were two other names mentioned.

It seems that the abysmal bowling performances have led to the move, with Liam Plunkett, Chris Tremlett and Sajid Mahmood all failing to offer any sign of form. The Daily Mail added that things are so bad that the future of Kevin Shine, the bowling coach only appointed last May, is likely to be reviewed when the team returns home.

The inclusion of extra players would be possible as the 30-man squad had to be named mainly for logistical reasons to help with the preparation of pre-tournament publicity.

"I think it's absolutely ridiculous that the selectors can't get the squad right and it's a reflection of how badly they have played in Australia," said Michael Atherton. "A few months ago Duncan Fletcher said he knew 10 or the 11 for England's World Cup side... now they can't even agree on who the best 30 are."

## Sachin hits 105

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Friday, the scoreline read 14 for 2 and Mumbai desperately needed him to take charge.

And take charge he did, though after initial problems. He left the first ball from Bose alone, only for it to come in from wide outside the off stump to hit his elbow. Two overs later, he shouldered arms again and was hit on his thigh. In the same over he edged one through the gully region for four. And that was that.

The cynic would argue that most state teams have sponsors who ensure every player wears the official apparel but it's a fact, as pointed out in the press box, that Sachin turns out even for club matches wearing the club shirt.

This goes a bit beyond the merely symbolic as it reveals two things about Tendulkar: he wants to be one with the team he is playing for and he feels strongly for Mumbai cricket.

The irony is that he hasn't played as much as he would possibly like – only seven Ranji matches in the past 10 years, his last back in 2000 – yet in those seven matches, he has five centuries and a 95. He would have played in Mumbai's last league match but for a hamstring injury but that offered a more fitting stage for his return to the side.

When Tendulkar walked out on

stumps: Tendulkar, for lack of room, just punched it down the ground with absolutely no follow-through of the bat and the ball sped to the long-on fence.

The bowlers, on their part, just fed Tendulkar, barely causing him to manufacture even a single stroke. His fifty came off his 78th delivery, which was pulled disdainfully for his 10th boundary.

Dinda and Sourav Sarkar, the inexperienced pacemen, got special treatment as Tendulkar scored 52 of his 105 runs off their 43 deliveries. By the time Saurashish Lahiri, the only spinner, came on to bowl, he had settled down well enough and was just having fun. He drove him against the turn, swept him in front of square, and probably got too confident as he swept him straight to short mid-wicket.

With Tendulkar at the other end, Wasim Jaffer had the pressure taken off him and went to his century almost unnoticed. Jaffer later said that, Tendulkar excepted, scoring runs was difficult on the wicket. The rest of the team scored 176 runs in 61.3 overs. Two late strikes mean Bengal have not yet been beaten but Tendulkar's remorse at missing out so much domestic cricket will have grown one century less.

## Final prep for sides

Cricket

AFP, Johannesburg

match Test series 2-1, will be strengthened by the inclusion of all-rounders Abdul Razzaq and Shoaib Malik, who both missed the Tests because of injury, while fellow all-rounder Shahid Afridi has been recalled to the team.

Afridi is one of the most dynamic hitters in world cricket but has not played a substantial innings at international level for more than a year.

He said before leaving Pakistan that he knew South African conditions well after spending a season in South African domestic cricket with Griqueland West and was confident of regaining form.

Opening batsman Imran Nazir is another who gets a chance to revive his international career.

South Africa will be without batsman Herschelle Gibbs for the opening match. Gibbs was banned from the last Test, Friday's pipe-opening Twenty20 international and the first one-day international after insulting comments about Pakistani supporters were broadcast over a stump microphone during the first Test.

The absence of Gibbs will probably mean that big-hitting Justin Kemp will be moved up the batting order.

South Africa trounced India 4-0 in a one-day series earlier in their home season but will seek more consistency from their top-order batsmen, particularly openers Smith and AB de Villiers, to unlock the potential of quick-scoring players like Kemp, Mark Boucher

and Shaun Pollock.

South Africa named only one specialist spin bowler, Robin Peterson, in their squad and are expected to stick to their traditional strength in seam bowling backed by athletic fielding, with former one-day star Jonty Rhodes having had an impact since he became the team's fielding coach last year.

## TEAMS

**South Africa:** Graeme Smith (captain), Jacques Kallis (vice-captain), Loots Bosman, Mark Boucher, AB de Villiers, Herschelle Gibbs, Andrew Hall, Justin Kemp, Charl Langeveldt, Andre Nel, Makhaya Ntini, Robin Peterson, Shaun Pollock, Ashwell Prince, Roger Telemachus.

**Pakistan:** Inzamamul Haq (captain), Younis Khan (vice-captain), Mohammad Hafeez, Yasir Hameed, Imran Nazir, Shoaib Malik, Mohammad Yousaf, Shahid Afridi, Kamran Akmal, Abdul Razzaq, Zulqarnain Haider, Rana Naved-ul-Hasan, Mohammad Asif, Abdul Rehman, Shabbir Ahmed, Imran Farhat, Mohammad Sami.

## Ulsan edge

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including the goalkeeper, replacing Tarig with Himmel who was beaten twice ten minutes from time. But Aurup made a goal-line save on Jung Min-mu's close-range tap before Lee Dong-keun rattled the crossbar from 25 yards.

## Sharapova, Hingis into semis

Tennis

AFP, Tokyo

World number one Maria Sharapova struggled with her serve again before beating Japan's Ai Sugiyama in three sets to reach the Pan Pacific Open semifinals on Friday.

The Russian top seed, who hit 17 double faults in three sets Thursday, committed another 14 double faults before finally seeing off Sugiyama 4-6, 6-0, 6-1.

In the semifinals Saturday, Sharapova will take on fifth seed Ana Ivanovic of Serbia, who eliminated her compatriot and fourth seed Jelena Jankovic 3-6, 6-4, 6-2.

The other semi will be a rematch of last year's final between Swiss former world number one Martina Hingis and defending champion Elena Dementieva of Russia.

## Joyce brings joy

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I'm glad it's come."

Joyce, dropped twice, scored 107 off 142 balls to help England post a competitive score and put the Australians under pressure for the first time in the tri-series, having them reeling at 45 for three and never recovering.

Adam Gilchrist, deputising for injured skipper Ricky Ponting, was bowled first ball by Plunkett and Ponting's replacement Brad Hodge chopped Sajid Mahmood on to his stumps for one to have Australia four after just eight balls.

Matthew Hayden top-scored for Australia with 51 off 105 balls but once Symonds retired hurt and the crucial wicket of Mike Hussey fell for six, bowled by Ravi Bopara, the task proved impossible for the home team, accused during the week of being arrogant.

The Australian innings finished 11.1 overs short when Shaun Tait was run out by a direct throw by Ian Bell for 11.

Plunkett, shunned for the Ashes Test series, finished with 3-24 off 9.5 overs and Mahmood chipped in with 2-38 off seven overs.

Irishman Joyce, dropped by Tait on six and later by Symonds off his own bowling on 59, was the shining light for England, hitting 10 boundaries before he was caught by Nathan Bracken off Tait.

"I wasn't playing too well early on but then I got into it and calmed down a bit and it went well," Joyce said.

"I know we lost the Ashes series 5-0 and it's our first victory against Australia but it's just brilliant being here and being part of this team, it's been a rich experience."

England's total surpassed their 260 for eight against New Zealand in Perth last week.

"Good overs were followed by expensive overs and with the bat we just didn't get the partnerships going."

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"That first ball pretty much set the tone for the whole innings," Gilchrist said.

"But it's not all doom and gloom for us.... this just highlights that we've still got a lot to work on and improve."

## Gilchrist stays upbeat

BBC ONLINE, undated

needed three stitches. He was later cleared of a fractured jaw.

Loe, who resumed batting after lengthy treatment from the trainer, was out next ball as he top-edged a hook shot off McGrath to be caught by Bracken for 29 off 33 balls.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the triangular one-day series match between Australia and England at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Friday:

#### ENGLAND

Joyce c Bracken b Tait 107

Loe c Bracken b McGrath 29

Bell c Gilchrist b McGrath 51

Flintoff lbw b White 3

Strauss c Clark b Bracken 26

Dalrymple run out (Clarke) 30

Nixon c Hodge b Tait 4

Bopara not out 7

Plunkett not out 10

Extras: (lb-5, w-19, nb-1) 25

Total: (For 7 wkts in 50 overs) 292

Fall of wickets: 1-58, 2-169, 3-179, 4-222, 5-256, 6-261, 7-274.

Not bat: Mahmood, Panesar

Bowler O M R W

Tait 10 0 68 2

Bracken 9 1 53 1

Clark 10 0 55 0

McGrath 10 0 51 0