

Wright could head Aussie academy

PTI, Melbourne

Former India cricket coach John Wright is all set to take over as the head coach of Australia's Centre of Excellence.

According to a report in the 'Sydney Morning Herald', Wright is set to fill the post left vacant by Tim Nielsen, who took over as Australia's coach after the World Cup.

The Christchurch-based Wright will now be required to move to Brisbane, where the Centre of Excellence is located, and will be in charge of Australia's A team, the newspaper reported.

Wright, who was India's coach before Greg Chappell, was earlier tipped to take over as Pakistan's coach and had even travelled there to meet PCB officials before the World Cup.

The 52-year-old played 82 Tests for New Zealand before starting his coaching career.

DVT hits Lehmann

AFP, Sydney

Former Australia Test batsman Darren Lehmann has been diagnosed with deep vein thrombosis and will undergo blood-thinning therapy, his South Australia state side said Tuesday.

The South Australian Cricket Association (SACA) said Lehmann's condition was picked up during a routine check-up following surgery on a damaged Achilles tendon.

"It has been identified early and Darren will undergo blood-thinning treatment for the next three months," SACA physiotherapist John Porters said.

Porter said Lehmann, 37, who played 27 Tests and 111 one-day internationals for Australia, was expected to be fit for South Australia when the domestic season begins in October.

The left-handed batsman, who has a Test average of 44.95, played his last Test against Pakistan in December 2004.

High alert

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will have their movements shadowed by riot police.

"This is normally a disadvantage, but the fact that Athens has no large boulevards will make it easier to monitor the fans," Stathis said. "In any case, we cannot prevent people from travelling to support their club."

In order to minimise fan movement, the police have asked hoteliers around town to show the match -- aired on state television NET -- on large screens in their bars and restaurant areas.

"The point is to create a stadium atmosphere," the ministry spokesman said.

To prevent a chance encounter between the two teams' supporters, Liverpool fans will be forwarded to the Olympic Stadium on buses whilst Milan fans will travel on the suburban railway.

Fans will also be given coloured bracelets upon landing at Athens International Airport to help staff escort them back in separate groups.

In total, 100 charter flights from Britain and 80 flights from Italy will arrive in Athens until May 24, in addition to regular flights and 106 private jets carrying VIP guests.

The Liverpool and Milan squads arrived on Monday.

In addition to planning the security operation, Greek police brass are in last-minute talks to prevent police unionists from staging a demonstration in Athens on the day of the final to pressure the government on salary increases.

"This mobilisation must not be held... it could blemish this great sporting event and embarrass our country internationally," said Public Order Minister Vyon Polydoras.

The union has pledged not to disrupt security plans, with only off-duty officers set to participate in the protest.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

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leaders with 3.5 points after beating Mahmuda Haque in the fourth round. Masud Begum and Hamida Rahman were third with three points.

DIVIT

Palolic Group and Sports World won their respective matches to share the lead in the AB Bank first division table tennis super league. Palolic blanked Combined SC 3-0, Sports World beat TT Academy 3-1 while Dhaka South East TTC won in straight sets against Barma TTC.

BKSP BOXING
The first BKSP Cup boxing competition concluded at BKSP with the hosts winning eight gold medals. City Boxing Club of Rajshahi were second best with two gold, four silver and one bronze while Dhaka, Dinajpur, Khulna and Jahangir Boxing Club (Comilla) won one gold each.

Over 100 boxers (under-17) from 14 teams took part in the event.

Sonn gravely ill

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Percy Sonn, the president of the ICC, is critically ill in an intensive care unit in Cape Town, according to Cricket South Africa.

His PA, George Hector, told Cricinfo that Sonn had suffered complications after being admitted to the Durbanville clinic in Cape Town on Monday to undergo a minor colon operation. The appointment, Hector added, had been scheduled several months prior to the recent World Cup in the Caribbean.

Sonn, 57, the former president of the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCB) succeeded Ehsan Mani at the helm of the ICC in June 2006, and immediately announced his intentions to be a "hands-off" president. This declaration was borne out by his low profile during the World Cup; after delivering his speech at the opening ceremony in Jamaica, he returned to South Africa for several

weeks of the 47-day tournament, although that decision may have been attributable to his ill-health.

"This news is extremely upsetting for everyone who knows Percy," Brian Murgatroyd, the ICC's spokesman, told Cricinfo. "Everyone was with him at the

bling.

"Percy has given virtually his whole life to cricket," added Murgatroyd. "He started out in administration at his local club in Belville (in Cape Town) because he was virtually the only person at the club who could read and write. He played a major part in the integration of the South African game after apartheid, and was president of the UCB throughout a tumultuous decade. All our thoughts are with his family and wife Sandra at this difficult time."

Sonn's career in cricket administration has been stalled by controversy. In January 2002, as president of the UCB, he caused a public rumpus by overruling the selection of Jacques Rudolph for the New Year Test against Australia, opting instead for Rudolph's black roommate, Justin Ontong. But his most infamous behaviour came at Paarl during the 2003 World Cup, when he drank himself into a state of inebriation during Holland's match against India that he was reported to have "almost fallen out of his trousers".

World Cup, where he was his usual jolly self, and so to hear this less than a month later is very trou-

per. PERCY SONN

ble.

Test as England's new coach. "It's nice we still bowled them out." That aspect of the performance, however, owed everything to the admirable Monty Panesar, a man who shaves Hoggard's phlegmatis and appetite for the hard yards. England would not have lost without him, but they would almost certainly have been embarrassed.

Hoggard will surely not feature at Headingley. According to Moores, his injury is pain-free, but the danger is of aggravating the damage and ruling him out in the long term. It means that, after a run of 40 consecutive matches, he will have effectively missed three Tests in a row, starting with the Sydney Test back in January. James Anderson is the man who should slot back into the eleven, although his most recent nine overs for Lancashire were slapped for 68 runs.

The back-up for the squad is less easy to anticipate. Jon Lewis is injured, as is Stuart Broad, while Sajid Mahmood is badly off the boil. Durham's Graham Onions, who toured Bangladesh with Moores' team in the winter, could well expect an invitation to join the squad -- although in light of Monday's archive entertainment, England could worse than offer a last hurrah to Gough and Caddick, the old stagers who have started their county seasons with such a bang. At least they could be guaranteed to hit the cut strip.

Matthew Hoggard made his debut in that 2000 Lord's Test -- his contribution was so unobtrusive that Nasser Hussain forgot he was even on the pitch during the second innings, as Andrew Caddick, Darren Gough and Dominic Cork of the chase imbued England with greater determination than they had known for a generation. They went on to win that summer's battle 3-1, regained the Wisden Trophy for the first time in 34 years, and topped that achievement in the winter with twin victories in Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

For West Indies, on the other hand, the game was a less auspicious turning point. Courtney Walsh and the unhittable Curtly Ambrose had delivered them a crushing innings victory in the previous Test at Edgbaston, but in seven subsequent years, the team has failed to win a single match on their travels against any of the senior Test nations. They were

crushed in four Tests out of four on their last trip to England in 2004, and so regardless of Monday's gloomy denouement, this was undoubtedly a moral victory for Ramnaresh Sarwan and his unfancied side.

Such psychological horse-trading is all that this low-key contest is good for now. The second Test in Headingley is looming at the end of the week, and on Tuesday the international caravan ups sticks to Leeds, the scene of West Indies' infamous two-day defeat on that 2000 tour. Of the two squads, however, it'll be England who will carry the most baggage from this result, as they reflect on a fixture that passed so perfectly for six members of their team, but so pitifully for two rather crucial bowlers.

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Classy Milan vs dogged L'pool

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been us who were the favourites but now AC Milan have beaten Manchester United and maybe people think they are favourites.

"We still approach the game in the same way. They have a good team, we have a good team -- but I still have my notes from Istanbul -- not a souvenir but because I will use them again for sure."

Benitez added: "If they are harder to beat it will be because their players have more experience of winning European competitions and experience of winning the World Cup."

"They will use their experience in this game but it is also the same situation for us. We have more experience now than two years ago too. From my point of view, the two teams are in a similar situation."

If everyone is fit, Milan's first XI virtually picks itself with Ancelotti's only real selection issue being whether he opts for the finishing prowess of Filippo Inzaghi or the greater youthful vigour of Alberto Gilardino in a forward partnership with Kaka, the Brazilian who has been the tournament's outstanding performer this season with 10 goals.

Benitez's fondness for constantly adapting his formations to suit their opponents is to be admired. The committee recommends that the Cricket World Cup should last no longer than one month. The format of the tournament, which finished in the Caribbean last month after almost seven weeks, should be urgently reviewed with the intention of reducing the length of the next tournament, due to take place in 2011," it said in a statement issued on Monday.

In order to limit the number of one-sided matches, the panel advocated participation of fewer teams in the event.

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Taking note of the farcical final match of the tournament played in the Caribbean, the MCC body said: "Every effort should be made to ensure that the World Cup final be played over 50 overs, even if this means going into a second or third day."

MCC urges

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Cricket Committee, the framer and copyright holder of laws of the game, said the length of the prestigious tournament must be curtailed.

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Weather settles match

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spinner and only the fifth instance in all.

"Monty bowled fantastically well," said Moores. "It is challenging when you lose one of your front-line bowlers (Hoggard) but the seamers got better."

England's first innings saw Matt Prior become the first England wicketkeeper to score a century against Somerset, their lone warm-up fixture in England, were washed out.

"Leading into the Test match there was a lot being said about us and our preparation," said West Indies captain Ramnaresh Sarwan.

"There's not much I can complain about. The only little concern I had was our bowling in the first session but I thought we came back really well after lunch. Everyone played their part, especially the batters. It was really good to see everyone getting a score."

SCOREBOARD
Umpires: Rudi Koertzen (RSA) and Asad Rauf (PAK)

TV umpire: Nigel Llong (ENG)
Match referee: Alan Hurst (AUS)

REMAINING FIXTURES

May 25-29: Second Test, Headingley

June 07-11: Third Test, Old Trafford

June 15-19: Fourth Test, Chester-le-Street

ENGLAND: Second innings 284-8

WEST INDIES: First innings 437 (Chanderpaul 74, Ramdin 60, Bravo 56; Panesar 6-129)

ENGLAND: Second innings 284-8

deci (Pietersen 109, Cook 65; Collymore 3-58, Gayle 3-66)

WEST INDIES: Second innings (overnight 7-0)

Gayle not out 47

Ganga not out 31

Extras: (b-4, lb-3, w-3, nb-1) 11

Total: (For no loss in 22 overs) 89

Bowler O M R W

Harmison 8 1 21 0

Plunkett 11 1 48 0

Panesar 3 0 13 0

RESULT: Match drawn.

Man-of-the-match: Alastair Cook.

Toss: West Indies

Umpires: Daryl Harper (AUS) and Billy Doctrove (WIS)

TV umpire: Enamul Haque (BAN)

Match referee: Roshan Mahanama (SRI)

Sri Lanka post 296-9

STAR SPORT MONITOR

Half-centuries from captain Mahela Jayawardene and Chamara Silva boosted Sri Lanka to reach

296 for 9 in 50 overs in the third and final one-day international against Pakistan at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

Silva (64) and Jayawardene (83) shared a 124-run fourth wicket stand after Sri Lanka slipped from a good start to 101-3 in the 19th over.

Silva struck four boundaries in his 87-ball knock while the 29-year-old skipper struck seven fours and two sixes in his 81-ball 83. Earlier, Upul Tharanga forced his way to a rapid 40 off 37 balls.

Silva's career in cricket administration has been stalled by controversy. In January 2002, as president of the UCB, he caused a public rumpus by overruling the selection of Jacques Rudolph for the New Year Test against Australia, opting instead for Rudolph's black roommate, Justin Ontong. But his most infamous behaviour came at Paarl during the 2003 World Cup, when he drank himself into a state of inebriation during Holland's match against India that he was reported to have "almost fallen out of his trousers".

Silva, who has already won the series 2-0, Ifikhar Anjum took three wickets for 53 runs while off-spinner Mohammad Hafeez chipped in with two wickets. The series winners also gave debuts to young men Fawad Alam and Najaf Shah, who bowled 10 fruitless overs giving away 59 runs.

Asif pulled up