

Bowl more, says Srinath

AFP, New Delhi

Former Indian paceman Javagal Srinath Saturday played down fears of burnout in modern cricket-ers, urging fast bowlers to bowl more if they are to cut down on their frequent breakdowns.

Srinath, now an International Cricket Council match referee, says it is up to individuals to manage their workload effectively.

"Injuries happen if you are not bowling enough. Bowlers like Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis and myself never had any problems. The body gets used to fast bowling when you bowl more," he told AFP.

"You must bowl 600 to 1,000 first-class overs in a year to strengthen the muscles. Otherwise you will always be under the threat of injuries. Bowlers get injured more these days because of less bowling."

India have produced quality quicks in recent times but injuries have ended most of their careers prematurely.

Ashish Nehra has not lived up to early hype, while Irfan Pathan appears to have lost both pace and swing.

Munaf Patel, billed as the country's best fast bowling hope, has also been plagued with injuries recently. He struggled with fitness in South Africa last year and broke down again in Bangladesh recently.

Srinath, who took 237 wickets in 67 Tests, said poor knowledge of sports science and inadequate guidance were the main reasons for problems.

"You have to train hard and bowl more and more but you must ensure you don't put too much stress on yourself. It is here that the knowledge of sports science helps," he said.

He also advised bowlers not to sacrifice pace for line and length.

"This line and length thing is more one-day stuff. It is important, but you cannot compromise on pace," he said.

"Until the age of 28, pace has to be on the upswing. After that a bowler becomes mature and learns how to bring in the variations and bowl according to conditions."

Srinath also said a bowler must assert himself.

"It depends on how much individualism you have. You have to assert and say 'this is what I can do.' This is how you build your personality," he said.

Get a fielding coach: Afridi

PTI, Karachi

As Pakistan Cricket Board enters the final stages of selecting a successor to Bob Woolmer, all-rounder Shahid Afridi has said the team did not need a full time coach but was missing a fielding coach.

"I think we don't need a full time coach and instead appointing a specialist fielding coach could be more beneficial for the team as this (fielding) department has been a grey area of our team," Afridi was quoted as saying by 'The News'.

Afridi played an important part in Pakistan's 2-1 win in the recently-concluded ODI series against Sri Lanka in Abu Dhabi.

He said the series win over the World Cup finalists had given the team a much-needed boost.

"The team needed a breakthrough after its early ouster from the World Cup and I think the victory over Sri Lanka has given us what the need of the hour was," Afridi said.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

FROM PAGE 17
Chess Federation Rafiqul Islam, general secretary Jamilur Rahman and general manager of United Insurance and Leasing Mohammad Rafiqul Islam were present.

DANONE NATIONS CUP

Chittagong and Khulna reached the final of the Danone Nations Cup under-10 and under-12 football tournament at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Chittagong rode on a brace from Abdul Kader as they thumped Dhaka 4-1 while Khulna had Tariqul Islam to thank as his strike ensured the southern division's 1-0 win over Chapainawabganj in the second semifinal.

The final will be held at the same venue at 5pm today. Nobel Prize winner Dr Muhammad Yunus will be present at the final where he will distribute prizes among the winners.



Did U Know?

Former England batsman George Gunn was recalled at the age of fifty to tour West Indies after a break of 17 years.

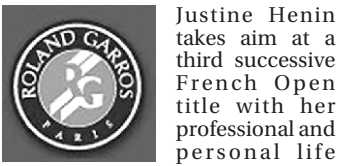


PHOTO: AFP

World number one Roger Federer plays a return against Fernando Gonzalez during an exhibition match ahead of the French Open at Roland Garros in Paris on Saturday. The French Open starts today.

Henin going for hattrick

AFP, Paris



after the trauma of her marriage break-up.

Furthermore, the Belgian world number one is determined to prove once again that being petite is no barrier to Grand Slam success.

"I have this image of being a girl not as tall as the others, not as strong as the others," said Henin who is aiming to become the first woman since Monica Seles (1990-92) to win the title three times in a row.

Victory on June 9 would also give her a fourth title in five years.

"But I have a great sensibility, which makes me perhaps a bit more fragile, but also much stronger than others on some occasions."

Henin says that she is finally over the emotional strain that accompanied the break up of her four-year marriage to Pierre-Yves Hardenne, a drama that caused her to miss the Australian Open.

"I'm a very happy person, I'm lucky, I'm in good health and that's important for me and I have a wonderful team around me," she said.

"My life has been a fight many times, but I have no bad feelings about it. I want to share with other people and I don't consider anything as a revenge against life."

Despite the turmoil of her pri-

vate life, the Belgian has battled back as strong as ever, winning tournaments in Warsaw, Doha and Dubai and clamping a lock on the world No. 1 position ahead of Maria Sharapova.

Asked who she feared most in Paris, Henin cited the woman she defeated in last year's final, Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia, and the volatile Serb Jelena Jankovic.

The two east Europeans have been omnipresent on the WTA tour in recent weeks racking up vital hours of work on the clay and it has shown in their performances with Jankovic winning the Italian Open in Rome and Kuznetsova defeating Henin to reach the German Open final.

The same cannot be said though for the sport's glamour girl Sharapova who returned to action in Istanbul last week after taking two months out to recover from a shoulder injury.

Her comeback ended in a semi-final defeat to Frenchwoman Aravane Rezaï.

That will hardly get her match fit for Paris and in any case she is far from happy on the slow clay here where she has failed to get past the quarterfinals.

The biggest question marks surround the two "veterans" Serena Williams of the United States and home heroine Amelie Mauresmo.

Serena has not played in Paris since 2004, two years after her first and only win in the year's second Grand Slam event.

But after injuries and lack of motivation last year saw her slump down the rankings, she has rebounded in typical swashbuck-

ling style, winning the Australian Open in January and defeating all of her top rivals at one time or another.

In her last outing she lost in the quarterfinals of the Italian Open to Patty Schnyder of Switzerland, but insisted she was fully confident going into Roland Garros.

"I feel like I'll really enjoy myself, and obviously I have nothing to lose," she said.

"I'm going to do well, and I think once I start believing that, it will happen."

The problem for Mauresmo is twofold -- physical and psychological.

The Wimbledon champion spent two months out to recover from appendicitis.

And then there is her history of choking on the Philippe Chatrier centre-court where her long-suffering French fans are never sure what to expect from her.

Henin opens her campaign against Russian world number 67 Elena Vesnina and is seeded to meet Serena Williams in the quarterfinals.

Sharapova faces experienced Frenchwoman Emilie Loit in the first round with Mauresmo, a potential last eight opponent, taking on Laura Granville of the United States.

Third seed Kuznetsova faces Russian compatriot Ekaterina Bychkova in the first round with fellow Russian, and 2004 winner, Anastasia Myskina a possible second round opponent.

Serena starts against Tsvetana Pironkova of Bulgaria with fourth seeded Jankovic facing French wildcard Stephanie Foretz.

A collective non-effort

FROM PAGE 17
them to bat the remaining one and half hour and the result was the recurrence of nightmare.

Soon after the lunch session, Bangladesh fielders had their hands on hips and there after they lost four wickets inside three overs to finish the day on 58-5, as they were heading for a disaster.

So, only a miracle can salvage a devastated Habibul Bashar, who gave another example of his lack of confidence by making four runs, and his men facing a possible embarrassing defeat in the series deciding second and final Test match.

The first two days proceedings so far gave the indication of how outgoing coach Dav Whatmore is leaving behind his legacy on the Test team.

Self-belief

FROM PAGE 17
the match inside three days.

"I don't like to comment on that because you know they are also a good

team and I'm sure when they will come out tomorrow they will try to

put their best foot forward. So, what we would like to do to is bowl good length like we did today. And then take advantage from that," he said.

Karthik also praised his wife contribution behind his success.

"Yeah her presence here inspired me lot in a very difficult condition. Definitely she has contributed a lot in my success," he said with a smile.

Under his guidance Bangladesh is all set to suffer their 13th innings defeats in 27 Tests.

But what will be fresh in everybody's mind is that how a coach of his stature made a gross mistake in his last appearance with the Tigers by taking the decision of fielding first on

a placid surface which ultimately killed any chance of a fight in the second Test after a rain-hit draw in Chittagong.

Undoubtedly, the ultimate blame should go to captain but everybody knows how a coach like him can play a big role in a team like Bangladesh.

BANGLADESH-INDIA 2ND TEST SCOREBOARD

FROM PAGE 17
Did not bat: Ramesh Powar, Zaheer Khan, Anil Kumble, Rudra Pratap Singh, Ishant Sharma.
Fall of wickets: 1-408, 2-493, 3-525.

	O	M	R	W	NB/W
Bowler					
Mashrafe Bin Mortaza	31.4	4	100	1	nb-1, w-4
Syed Rasel	23.4	0	109	0	nb-1
Mohammad Sharif	25.4	2	109	0	nb-1, w-1
Mohammad Rafique	45	4	181	2	nb-3
Shakib Al Hasan	19	1	62	0	nb-1
Mohammad Ashrafu	8	0	35	0	-
BANGLADESH: First innings					
Javed Omar c Dinesh Karthik b Zaheer Khan	0	1	0	0	
Shahriar Nafees b Zaheer Khan	2	5	0	0	
Habibul Bashar c Mahendra Dhone b Rudra Pratap Singh	4	6	1	0	
Rajin Saleh c Wasim Jaffer b Anil Kumble	20	29	4	0	
Mohammad Ashrafu lbw b Zaheer Khan	0	1	0	0	
Shakib Al Hasan not out	30	45	4	0	
Mohammad Sharif not out	0	10	0	0	
Extras: (lb-1, nb-1)	2				
Total: (For 5 wickets in 16 overs)	58				
To bat: Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Khaled Mashud, Mohammad Rafique, Syed Rasel.					
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-5, 3-7, 4-7, 5-40.					

	O	M	R	W	NB/W
Bowler					
Zaheer Khan	5	1	20	3	-
Rudra Pratap Singh	5	0	19	1	-
Anil Kumble	3	1	13	1	-
Ishant Sharma	3	1	5	0	nb-1
Toss: Bangladesh					
Umpires: B Doctrove (West Indies) and D Harper (Australia)					
TV umpire: Nadir Shah					
Match referee: R Mahanama (Sri Lanka)					

No Irish luck!

INTERNET, undated

The Ireland squad arrived in London yesterday afternoon on a police bus, after their coach from Leicester was impounded at a service station just north of the capital.

When a police car pulled in front of the coach with the flashing sign 'Follow Me', as the squad were being driven south on the M1, the players thought they were getting a police escort to their hotel, something they got used to during their seven weeks stay at the World Cup finals in the West Indies.

Instead, they were guided into the London Gateway service station where the police told us they were carrying out a vehicle inspection check. This took place while the squad had an impromptu lunch. However, on their return, they were told the driver was "over his hours" and would not be allowed to drive for another 24 hours and the two rear wheels on the coach were found to be defective.

The team's luggage was put on one police bus while the squad and the other members of the travelling party got on another, driven by a policeman and a 90 minutes journey ended up taking almost four hours. Coach Phil Simmons had given the players the day off. They will practise at the Oval today ahead of their Friends Provident Trophy game against Surrey tomorrow.

Nistelrooy ends

FROM PAGE 20

"We are glad that he will be available because that will give more competition in the squad and that is what we need."

Van Nistelrooy was not named in the Dutch squad for friendlies against South Korea and Thailand next month but will return for the Euro qualifiers against Bulgaria and Albania in September.

McClaren happy

FROM PAGE 20

get 90 minutes under his belt, however. That's the first time he has done that in an England shirt for almost a year and he just needs more games now.

"He looked sharp and he looked strong and the goals will come, there is no doubt about that. He was getting in all the right positions, so it's just a matter of time before he starts scoring again."

Knighthood

FROM PAGE 17

redder and sweeter than the victim of a tabloid sting, and my shins felt as though they had been pounded by a jackhammer."

Botham is already an OBE, as well as receiving the BBC Sports Personality of the Year Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004.

By an accident

FROM PAGE 20

win or lose a great race by means of a freak.

Athletics, rowing, combat sports, judged sports such as gymnastics, skating, diving: no. You can't win the Olympic 100 metres with a fluke. Most sports are carefully framed to minimise the assistance of luck, to make a level playing field on which excellence will prevail and the best man, the better team, will win.

Only in football does luck play so huge a part. Only in football are the greatest of all prizes so often decided by means of chance. And yet football is the most popular game on earth.

Now I ask you this: is that a coincidence? Or is the possibility of luck an essential part of the game? Is it the high importance of luck that makes football so phenomenally attractive to so many million people?

In football, to win with a sprinkling of luck, or with a soaking of luck for that matter, is a wonderful thing. The little team so often beat the big team they have 25 attempts on goal but, as luck would have it, they can't hit the target and your brave lads break away, the centre half slips, the shot hits the post and bounces in off the goalkeeper's back. And then you argue about who deserved it and who didn't deserve it. But deserve ain't worth doodlysquat. It says 1-0 in the paper and that's an end to the matter.

Always, in every match, there is the possibility that luck will play a part, and perhaps a colossal part. Milan scored a goal by accident and the goal is the highest-value currency in all sport. A lucky run, a lucky try, a lucky chip-in all these things have their place, but they very, very seldom decide the destiny of the great prizes. Nothing in sport is so lucky as a lucky goal in football.

And it seems to me that the random awarding of luck is a vital part of the game. We savour luck's cruelty, luck's injustice, the clear fact that God doesn't love us, and then we are intoxicated by luck's extraordinary benevolence; by the fact that we have been singled out and blessed in this extraordinary fashion. In football, we are luck's playthings. And that, clearly, is the way we like it.

(Simon Barnes writes for The Times)

Jayasuriya to lead MCC



CRICINFO, undated

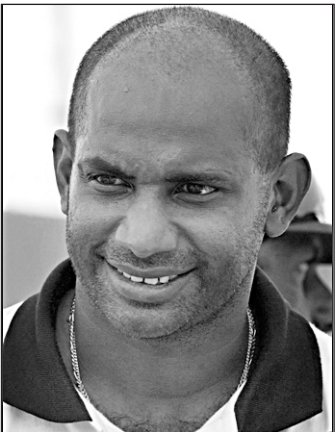
Sanath Jayasuriya will lead MCC in their three-day match against West Indies at the Racecourse Ground in Durham from June 1. William Porterfield, the Ireland opening batsman, is also included while the rest of the side comes from a collection of University Centre of Excellence players and MCC Young Cricketers.

Lee Hodgson, after acting as 12th man for England during part of the Lord's Test and taking a catch off Steve Harmison, is one of two current MCC Young Cricketers in the squad. Zoheb Sharif, who played for MCC against Sussex in the first match of the season, has another chance to press his claims for a county contract while Paul Dixey, who is on Kent's books, will take the wicketkeeping duties.

The most intriguing selection, though, is Mali Richards, son of Viv, who will line-up against the team his father captained during their glory years. Richards junior opens the bowling for Oxford UCCE and spent time on the staff at Middlesex.

"Few young players will have such an opportunity to play against quality opposition and I am sure that the students will make the

most of it," said Jayasuriya. "The match will be a big challenge, but I am confident that we will be able to perform well against the touring team."



SANATH JAYASURIYA

The match is West Indies' only remaining first-class fixture outside of the Test series and will provide preparation for the third Test at Old Trafford.

SQUAD

Sanath Jayasuriya (captain), Ruel Brathwaite, Simon Butler, Shaaiq Choudhry, Paul Dixey (wk), Laurie Evans, Lee Hodgson, James Morris, William Porterfield, Mali Richards, Zoheb Sharif, Mark Tomsett and Robbie Williams.

Kaif called back



CRICINFO, undated

The Indian Board has called up 14 bowlers and 15 batsmen to attend separate conditioning camps ahead of the team selection for the tours of Ireland and England. Significantly, Mohammad Kaif, who has been out of favour with the selectors for some time now, has been asked to attend the camp.

Recent discards Ajit Agarkar, Irfan Pathan and Harbhajan Singh are among the bowlers who will attend the camp at the Infosys campus in Mysore from June 4 to 8. Prajyan Ojha, the young left-arm spinner from Hyderabad and Ranadeb Bose, the Bengal medium-pacer, have also been included for the camp. Two promising young bowlers, Piyush Chawla, the legspinner, and Yo Mahesh, the medium pacer, who might normally have been called up to this camp, will instead travel to Australia where they will train at the Australian Cricket Academy from June 2 onwards.

Rohit Sharma, the promising young batsman from Mumbai and S Badrinath, the Tamil Nadu middle-order batsman who scored

push their case for an India call-up. The camp for batsmen will take place at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bangalore from June 9 to 12.

These camps will be followed immediately by a conditioning camp from June 13 to 16 at the NCA, and will be attended by players selected to represent India in the tours of Ireland and England. These teams will be selected, in Bangalore, on June 12.

BATSMEN

Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, Wasim Jaffer, VVS Laxman, Gautam Gambhir, Robin Uthappa, Virender Sehwag, Dinesh Mongia, MS Dhoni, Dinesh Karik, Rohit Sharma, Mohammad Kaif, S Badrinath and Yuvraj Singh.

BOWLERS

Zaheer Khan, Rudra Pratap Singh, VRV Singh, Ishant Sharma, S Sreesanth, Ajit Agarkar, Irfan Pathan, Ranadeb Bose, Munaf Patel, Anil Kumble, Ramesh Powar, Rajesh Pawar, Harbhajan Singh and Pragyan Ojha.

Pietersen plunders Windies

FROM PAGE 17

In all he'd faced 262 balls in nearly seven hours at the crease with two sixes and 24 fours. Pietersen's was the highest Test score by an England player since Graham Gooch's 333 against India at Lord's in 1990.

Plunkett was 44 not out off 48 balls, having shared a stand of 81 in 12 overs with Pietersen.

Sidebottom, in for the injured Matthew Hoggard, had gone wicketless in his only previous Test against Pakistan at Lord's in 2001.

But the 29-year-old left-arm seamer, who began his career at Headingley with Yorkshire before moving to Nottinghamshire three years ago, had Gayle lbw for 11. The son of Arnie Sidebottom, who played one Test for England in 1985, struck again when Daren Ganga, playing no shot, was lbw for five.

The vice-captain's exit left West Indies in a dire position at 23 for two and at the end of his first spell Sidebottom had taken two for 15 in six overs.

England began Saturday well-placed on 366 for five with Pietersen 130 not out. He's raced to his century Friday in 104 balls. It was his second Test hundred in as many innings after his 109 in the drawn series opener at Lord's.

England's strong position had initially been built around Michael Vaughan's 103, the captain marking his return to Test action after 18

months out injured in style.

Pietersen broke his previous Test best of 158, which curiously he'd achieved three times, when a flashing cut off Taylor sped to the third man boundary.

Together with Prior, whose unbeaten 126 at Lord's saw him become the first England wicketkeeper to score a century on Test debut, posted a hundred stand at a run-a-minute.

Medium-pacer Bravo didn't escape punishment either, Pietersen playing his trademark 'flamingo' shot to whip him from outside off-stump to long-on.

Prior's bold innings ended when he was clean bowled by a Powell delivery that clipped the top of off-stump. He faced 99 balls with nine fouls.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the second day of the second Test between England and West Indies at Headingley on Saturday:

ENGLAND: First innings (overnight 366-5)					
Strauss c Ramdin b Powell	15				
Cook lbw b Gayle	42				
Vaughan c Morton b Taylor	103				
Pietersen c Taylor b Bravo	226				
Collingwood c Gayle b Collumore	29				
Bell c Ramdin b Collumore	5				
Prior b Powell	75				

ICC frets over Sonn heir

PTI, Karachi

The International Cricket Council officials have been forced to look into their constitution and regulations to find out who will automatically succeed President, Percy Sonn who has fallen seriously ill in Cape Town.

According to South African newspapers his personal assistant George Hector said, "He (Sonn) is in the same condition. He is still serious, stable but unchanged." Sonn had fallen ill after suffering from complications after being admitted to a clinic to undergo a minor colon operation.

Sources in the Pakistan Cricket Board said that with the outlook on Sonn not bright, the ICC was now working out who would replace him immediately in case of any emergency.

"Apparently there is no mention in the ICC constitution what will happen in such a situation and there is also no elected Vice-president in the world body at the moment who can automatically take over this post in emergency," said one source.

The interesting thing is that the ICC members have even deferred a decision on the next President of the ICC who will be elected next year.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Md Rafiqul Islam (C), general manager of United Insurance Company Limited speaks at a press briefing in connection with the 8th Grand Master chess tournament at the NSC conference room yesterday.