

We didn't throw

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"We had a little sniff of a 150 or 180-run lead and it could have been quite interesting. I would like to have seen them chasing another 100."

"Full credit to India. They've used conditions brilliantly over the five days, they've held their catches in the field and put us under pressure."

"But hopefully we can level the series at The Oval in a week and a half's time."

Vaughan said that throughout India's innings of 481 at the weekend, the team had felt they were likely to take wickets.

"Their batsmen rode their luck in certain instances," he said. "Ryan Sidebottom bowled beautifully and could have ended up with six or seven wickets."

Sidebottom, the most consistent performer all summer for England, took 1-75 and 0-28.

Booze adds

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criticism after some of them were seen drowning their sorrows in the early hours following a loss to New Zealand.

Le Roux, who resigned perhaps because he felt his reputation was at stake after the players suffered cramp, said cramping was the direct result of the use of alcohol.

He became increasingly frustrated when some players refused to take seriously his advice of 72-hour "alcohol curfew" before matches.

New tests

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"We have a policy to conduct dope tests for the last five years so it's nothing new," he said.

Asif returned to Pakistan's squad in the tri-series against Sri Lanka in Abu Dhabi in May, while Akhtar's return has been delayed after Pakistan's matches against Scotland and India -- both in Scotland -- were washed out earlier this month.

Both Akhtar and Asif are attending Pakistan's tune-up camp here. The team's new coach, Australian Geoff Lawson, is due to join them on August 20.

Lawson replaces Bob Woolmer who died during the World Cup in March.

Pakistan will open the Twenty20 World Cup against Scotland on September 12 before meeting archrivals India two days later.

Reyes moves

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lars) on new signings since they finished seventh in the Primera Liga last season.

Uruguay striker Diego Forlan from Spanish side Villarreal, midfielder Luis Garcia from Liverpool and winger Simao Sabrosa from Benfica are among the club's new recruits.

The club is in the second qualifying round for the UEFA Cup.

Di Michele

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been banned for five months and ordered to pay a fine of 10,000 euros, while Frosinone's Massimo Margiotta (four months) and Thomas Manfredini of Atalanta (three months) have also been punished as part of an investigation launched by the City of Udine.

Thaksin

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The Premier League stood by their decision, claiming their vetting process is one of most stringent in England.

"It is important to realise that the Premier League takes its responsibilities surrounding the governance of its clubs very seriously," a Premier League statement said.

"We have very clear rules on the ownership of our clubs, which include the 'Fit and Proper Persons Test (FAPPT)', which go beyond any responsibility by UK company law and are, to our knowledge, some of the sternest in place in any UK industry."

"But what needs to be made clear is that in the first place we accept the primacy of UK and European law. This determines who may, and who may not, legally reside in the UK, own and acquire assets, and engage in commercial and other activities."

Deco fancies

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out.

Deco insists he is happy at the Catalan club for the moment, but the Brazil-born star is keeping his options open.

"There has been a lot of speculation about my future but at the moment that's all it is," he said.

"Right now I'm a Barcelona player and I am just looking forward to the new season and trying to win the league. But football can change very quickly. If Barcelona want to sell me then all they have to do is say and I will go."

"It wouldn't upset me if I had to go because I know there are other big clubs in the world I could play for."



PHOTO: AFP

Venus Williams of USA serves to Russia's Anastasia Rodionova during her first round WTA San Diego Classic match held in San Diego on Monday.

Venus back to stretch win

Tennis

AFP, California

younger sibling Serena sidelined by a thumb injury sustained at Wimbledon.

"I won here three times in a row, but then I couldn't come back. I love playing in California in the summer because I'm from here."

Thai veteran Tamarine Tanasugarn lined up as a second-round opponent for top seeded holder Maria Sharapova, booking her place over American Laura Granville 6-4, 5-7, 6-4.

Second-seeded Serb Jelena Jankovic will start against Vania King, who beat fellow American Laura Muhammed 7-6 (7/2), 6-0.

Seventh seed Martina Hingis, testing a back injury which led to an early Wimbledon loss, will face off in the second round after a bye against Michaela Krajicek.

Elena Dementieva, the number nine, joined Williams as a winner as she took out Catalina Castano 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 while number 11 Swiss Patty Schnyder beat American Jamea Jackson 6-2, 6-1.

An unexpected trip to the Wimbledon final has whetted the appetite of French fifth seed Marion Bartoli for more of the same.

The fiery Rodionova was on best behavior after being fined 5,000 dollars, as she became only the second woman to be defaulted in a WTA history.

The scene occurred in Cincinnati this month as the 25-year-old, ranked 81st, hit the ball towards spectators cheering for her game.

Williams earned her 15th victory in succession at the event, being played for the last year after a WTA calendar shake-up. She stands 26-4 at the tournament.

"It's good to be back," said the only Williams sister in the field, her

way to an opening loss to American Lilia Osterloh.

"Everything will be more difficult now, I have new challenges," said Bartoli, who called her Wimbledon performance was "a dream come true."

"I've been there once but I'd like to be there many more times."

Ribery, Klose

FROM PAGE 20

Rostock despite hurting a shoulder in the League Cup final.

Klose is expected to sit out Monday's German Cup match against amateur side Wacker Burghausen and his striker partner, Italian centre-forward Luca Toni, will also be sidelined because he is nursing a knee injury.

Following the sale of Roque Santa Cruz to English Premiership side Blackburn, Bayern may be forced to rely on the inexperienced Sandro Wagner for the match.

Bayern have overhauled their squad in a bid to regain their domestic dominance and make a determined bid for the Champions League after slumping last season.

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Ferguson confident

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player will arrive. It's just a bit frustrating at the moment that's all.

"They have taken it to the High Court. I'm sure that is where there will be a final decision on that. If something happens before that, obviously we would welcome that."

"That's the place where we hope the right decision comes about and then we can get on with our business."

"Hopefully it will be settled quickly, the quicker the better for us obviously and even West Ham will want it done quickly because they have their own plans."

"They have done a lot of buying this summer and will want a conclusion on what their team is shaping for the new season."

The Scot is also confident that Heinze will remain at Old Trafford despite hankering for a move to

new season, which takes another step up in the Community Shield against Chelsea on Sunday.

New signing Nani is a doubt for the game at Old Trafford after picking up a minor ankle problem in training on Monday.

Ferguson added: "This is the right type of match for us now. We've had the tour of the Far East and we've got out of it what we needed to get out of it."

"Most of them got good minutes on the clock, good performances, but this is a more competitive level."

"Inter Milan are in the Champions League with us which adds a bit extra to the game."

"Going to the Far East is a different type of game, different speed, and humidity plays a part. This game is back on the normal terms in which we play our football."

Ferguson believes Wednesday's friendly with Inter Milan is an important stage in his side's build-up to the game.

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