

U-19 football camp from Saturday

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Under-19 football team will go into the residential camp for preparation of the Indo-Bangla Bangladesh Games from Saturday.

A total of 26 booters will join the camp at BKSP under coach Hasanuzzaman Babloo.

The second edition of the Games, originally scheduled for this December, will be held in February next year.

The players have been requested to report to the coach at the Savar sports institute on Saturday afternoon.

The squad: Mohammed Nihal, Mostakur Rahman, Sultan Ahmed, Mosaddek Hossain, Russell Alam, Mafizur Rahman Jony, Mohammed Nurul, Mostafizur Rahman Saikat, Pintu Kumar Das, Mahfuz Babu, Robin Hasan, Rezaul Karim, Asif Hossain Rimon, Emon Mahmud Babu, Moneem Khan Raju, Alamgir Kabir Rana, Mobarak Hossain, Shahedul Alam, Mejbahul Haque Manik, Sarfin Rahman Rony, Towhidul Alam Sabuj, Sabbir Mahmud Pritam, Jahirul Islam, Biplob Hossain, Rashedul Islam and Imtiaz Sultan Jitu.

Del Piero

FROM PAGE 20 "We are extremely satisfied," he said. "This agreement consolidates our trusting relationship with a great champion."

"Del Piero represents our values and our projects. Throughout his career he has always given passion and professionalism while honouring with great performances our colours. I am certain he will be crucial in the coming years."

Rugby England

FROM PAGE 20 balance right. We are coming here to win. That means we have to score. We have to get the balance right and not defend for 90 minutes. I don't intend to do that."

Bolton boot

FROM PAGE 20 hardy returned to the club on the opening day of the season as Newcastle cruised to a 3-1 victory.

Defeats at Fulham and Portsmouth followed before a 3-0 home victory over Reading briefly eased the pressure.

However, further losses to Everton, Birmingham and Chelsea, and a home draw with bottom side Derby left Bolton in the relegation zone and Lee's cause was not helped by off-field issues.

Kartik salvages

FROM PAGE 17 to become the first one-day captain to score 50 fifties. New Zealand's former captain Stephen Fleming is second in the list with 45.

Hodge failed yet again to find form when he offered a tame catch in the slips while Symonds, who had smashed an unbeaten 107 in the previous game at Nagpur, was caught by Sachin Tendulkar.

Symonds, in the news for his run-ins with Indian players and allegedly being the target of racial abuse during the fifth game at Vadodara, was booed by the 40,000-strong crowd as he made his ground.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the seventh and final one-day international between Australia and India at the Wankhede Stadium on Wednesday: AUSTRALIA Clarke lbw b Zaheer 0 Gilchrist c Harbhajan b Pathan 19 Ponting c Dhoni b Rudra Pratap 57 Hodge c Karthik b Kartik 16 Symonds c Tendulkar b Kartik 0 Haddin lbw b Kartik 19 Hopes b Kartik 22 Hogg c Uthappa b Kartik 0 Lee c Rudra Pratap b Kartik 0 Johnson not out 24 Bracken c Harbhajan b Rudra Pratap 3 Extras: (b-4, lb-3, w-26) 33 Total: (All out in 41.3 overs) 193 Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-60, 3-117, 4-117, 5-126, 6-162, 7-162, 8-162, 9-177.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Zaheer	9	1	22	1
Rudra Pratap	8.3	1	59	2
Pathan	5	0	23	1
Ganguly	2	0	24	0
Harbhajan	7	0	31	0
Kartik	10	3	27	6

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Ganguly c Gilchrist b Johnson	0			
Tendulkar b Lee	21			
Karthik c Gilchrist b Johnson	0			
Yuvraj c Gilchrist b Bracken	15			
Uthappa lbw b Clarke	47			
Dhoni c Gilchrist b Bracken	5			
Pathan c Clarke b Hopes	0			
Harbhajan c Ponting b Johnson	19			
Zaheer Khan not out	31			
M Kartik not out	21			
Extras: (b-4, lb-12, w-20)	36			
Total: (For 8 wickets in 46 overs)	195			
Did not bat: RP Singh				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Lee	10	1	37	1
Johnson	10	0	46	3
Bracken	10	3	30	2
Hopes	5	0	13	1
Hogg	8	0	40	0
Clarke	3	0	13	1

Result: India won by two wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Murali Kartik

Winning start for Federer



AP, Madrid

Roger Federer played his first match on tour in more than five weeks, defeating American Robby Ginepri 7-6 (2), 6-4 Tuesday in the second round at the Madrid Masters.

Federer, the defending champion, was tested in the first set before winning his first match since capturing his fourth straight US Open on September 9. His only competition since the Open were two singles matches in the Davis Cup.

"I took a rest so I could be 100 per cent here, and now I'm fresh and eager to play here again," said Federer, who hasn't lost to an American in four years, a streak of 39 matches.

The top-ranked Swiss will play the winner of Wednesday's match between Argentines Agustin Calleri and 13th-seeded Guillermo Canas. Calleri advanced after rallying for a 3-6, 7-6 (4), 6-4 win over Dmitry Tursunov.

David Nalbandian and Ivo Karlovic won first-round matches while Nikolay Davydenko withdrew because of an injured right elbow. Nalbandian rallied past Arnaud Clement 5-7, 6-2, 6-4, and Karlovic served 17 aces in beating Marat Safin 6-3, 6-4. Karlovic, 6-foot-10, had one serve that reached 136 mph.

Davydenko, seeded fourth, said his injury made it "too dangerous" for him to play this week. He will fly to Germany on Wednesday for therapy in an attempt to play at the St. Petersburg Open. The Russian qualified for the Masters Cup in Shanghai with his Kremlin Cup victory Sunday.

"I try as hard as possible to recover for the next week," he said.

Federer served two consecutive aces to thwart Ginepri's double-break chance in the seventh game of the first set. Ginepri, a 72nd-ranked qualifier, forced Federer into 17 of his 30 unforced errors in the first set as both players held serve to the

tiebreaker, which Federer clinched with one of his 10 aces.

In the second set, Federer scored the decisive break in the fifth game, lobbing his return over Ginepri as he came to the net.

"I was struggling in the beginning a little bit, but I served well to get out of trouble," Federer said. "I'm happy I won this first match, for me it was a big win today."

Juan Ignacio Chela and Tommy Haas were the first seeded players to be eliminated from the tournament.

Andy Murray played near perfectly in the first set before holding off the 15th-seeded Chela 6-1, 6-3. Juan Monaco had to work a little harder in a 6-4, 7-5 win over the 11th-seeded Haas.

Also, 2003 champ Juan Carlos Ferrero beat qualifier Alejandro Falla 6-4, 7-5; Paul-Henri Mathieu held off Mardy Fish 6-3, 2-6, 7-5; Nicolas Kiefer defeated Stanislas Wawrinka 7-5, 6-3; and Nicolas Almagro downed Fabrice Santoro 6-4, 6-4.

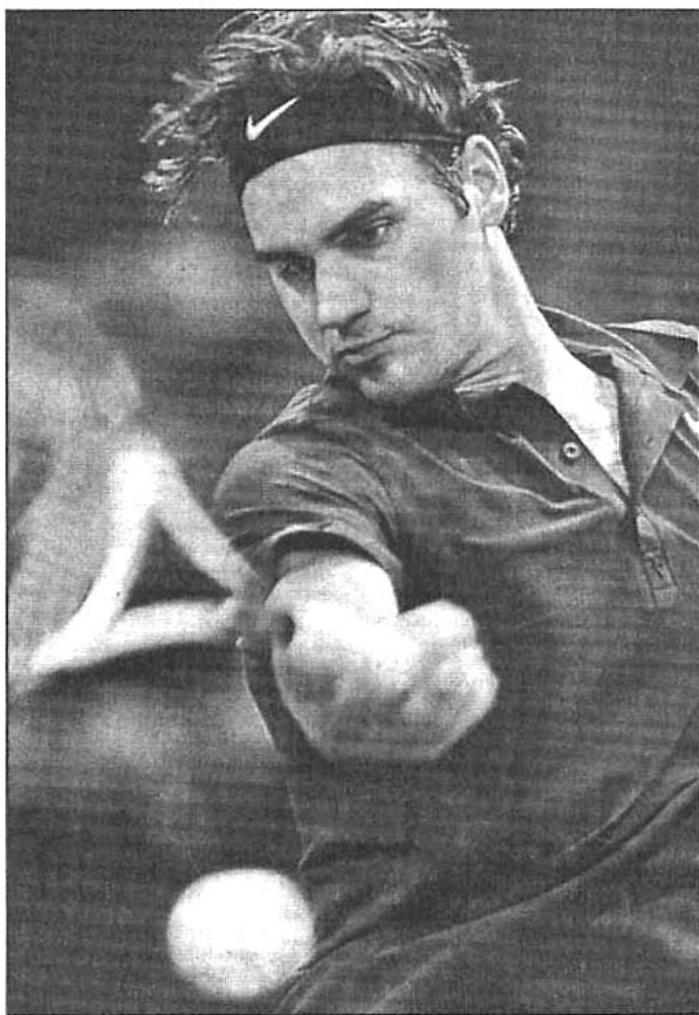


PHOTO: INTERNET

World number one Roger Federer of Switzerland plays a forehand against American Robby Ginepri in the second round of the Madrid Masters on Tuesday.

Mr Unpredictable



CRICINFO, undated

Craig McMillan was one of those players who always dominated the conversations of New Zealand cricket fans. Whether the discussion focused on his dismissal after attempting a reverse sweep or dancing down the wicket to hit his first delivery for six, he was never far from the action.

It's ironic that McMillan should now edit the game of his own accord, when so many people over the last ten years have called for his dropping on many occasions. His ability has never been in question, but his decision-making at the crease often frustrated New Zealand supporters.

But when that decision-making paid off, there were very few batsmen in international cricket that could entertain as well as McMillan. His unpredictability not only frustrated fans, but also opposition bowling attacks. At times it was impossible to predict what he would do. He may dance down the wicket, play a reverse sweep or even play a beautiful cricket shot that would please Martin Crowe or Glen Turner. This style of batting was never more evident than in March 2001 when he hit 26 off a Younis Khan over to break the record for the most runs scored in a Test over.

McMillan made his debut for New Zealand in the 1996-97 season, but he would not play a Test until the following summer. From those early days, he was never scared to take on his opposition. He

had some interesting verbal exchanges with a few Australian players. He liked to dominate Shane Warne with the bat and the two had some great verbal battles over the years. They later became good friends, particularly after McMillan played for Hampshire in 2005 under the captaincy of Warne.

When he first entered the New Zealand team, there were high hopes that McMillan would become an international star. After a good start to his career, he never quite made it to the level some expected him to reach. Many argue that his shot selection was why he failed to score more runs. But McMillan liked to dominate bowling attacks. He would refuse to get bogged down, particularly in the one-day game. If he had to risk his wicket to keep on top of a bowler, that's what he would do.

He was also explosive at the bowling crease. Although he did not have the pace to scare opposition batsmen, his energy and determination gave him an uncanny ability to break up long-standing partnerships.

Scoring over 3000 Test runs at an average of 38.46, he has contributed a great deal to his national side in the longer form of the game, even if the record is not spectacular. His ODI statistics look less impressive, but they do not tell the whole story.

His overall batting average in the one-day game is just 28.18 and he has reached three figures on only three occasions in his 197-game career. But as a middle-order batsman, he often came in during the death overs and had to sacrifice his wicket. Despite the low average,

he did play some useful innings for his country.

The other interesting thing about McMillan is his fighting spirit. It was never obvious to spectators or viewers that he had to regularly take his diabetic medication. He refused to let that affect his game. This fighting spirit was also evident on the field and through his determination to get back in the team when he was dropped. This first happened when he was dropped for the New Zealand tour to Sri Lanka in 2003. When he was re-selected for the tour to India later that year, he scored 83 not out to save his team in the first Test. He followed that up with a century in the second.

But the more remarkable comeback followed his failure to secure a contract with New Zealand Cricket in June 2006. After his re-selection later that year, he would dominate the Australian bowling attack in the 2006-07 Chappell-Hadlee Trophy. The highlight was the final game where he was instrumental in chasing down 346 to see his team win the series 3-0. His century came off 67 balls and he was later dismissed for 117. McMillan followed that performance up with 228 runs at 32.57 in the World Cup earlier this year, while he was New Zealand's highest run scorer in the recent ICC World Twenty20 in South Africa.

His teammates and New Zealand cricket fans will miss his explosive nature on the park and fighting spirit. He may go down in history as someone who could have done more, but no one can deny his determination and natural ability.

Harris spinning magic



CRICINFO, undated

As Inzamamul Haq lumbered off with his bat for the final time in his international career, and Pakistan moaned the loss of a hero, a thin and springy character was being mauled on the field. South Africa were celebrating the birth of a hero of their own.

Paul Harris, whose teasing spin undid Inzamam, has been around the first-class circuit for nine years. It was only after the sudden retirement of Nicky Boje that the selectors dragged him into the frame for the home series against India. A four-wicket haul on debut -- including the prized scalp of Sachin Tendulkar -- thrust Harris into the limelight straightaway in the Pakistan series the following month. Responding with six wickets in two matches, including a four-for, Harris had repaid the selectors' faith and become a fixture. Temporarily, at least.

The tour to Pakistan was set up as Harris' biggest test. Not only was he touring for the first time, and bowling on unfamiliar pitches to batsmen well at ease against spin, he also ran the risk of being overshadowed by

the likes of Makhaya Ntini, Shaun Pollock and Dale Steyn. And while his place in the Test side was guaranteed (as the only spinner in the squad), a record of 11 wickets in four Tests till then wasn't something to crow about. An innocuous performance in the tour match leading up to the first Test only reduced the expectations.

It soon became apparent that Pakistan were considering slow, turning tracks -- Shoaib Malik spoke of playing to their strength -- but even so few expected Harris to play wrecker-in-chief. A South African spinner tormenting the home side with spin and bounce in each innings? Banish the thought.

Two matches and 12 wickets later Harris had proved to be just that, with a five-wicket haul on away debut to boot. He produced sparks when they were needed most; he dismissed both Pakistan openers twice in four innings and got the better of Kamran Akmal all four times in the series -- three of those after Akmal had ruthlessly punished his team.

Harris wanted to be a fast bowler, due to his height, but resorted to spin as he lacked "fast-twitch muscles" in his body. In Pakistan his high release

allowed him considerable -- and sharp at times due to a crumbling Karachi pitch -- bounce that daunted a promising but fragile batting lineup and forced them to succumb as he persisted. And it wasn't just the batsmen who faced the force: Mark Boucher was hit flat on the cheek as Younis Khan played and missed.

As the series progressed, the crowds saw no Pollock and little from Ntini, while Steyn and Andre Nel were effective in brief bursts. Harris easily outshone his much-publicised teammates. He was the workhorse that dazzled, making use of his probing length and annoying accuracy. He utilised the bowlers' footmarks but it was mostly the curator's generosity that he manipulated. Batsmen were dismissed when they cut, swept, drove, and even when they resorted to defence only to be hit plumb in front. One, not knowing what to do, went back as the ball straightened and bounced, and only managed to dab it back onto his stumps. With no immediate solution in mind, attack seemed the apt reply. Apt, but not effective, as Malik, Inzamam and even Umar Gul realised.

BCB on track

FROM PAGE 17 committee.

The board has set a deadline of October 30 for the appointment of DavWhatmore's successor to make sure that the Tigers will go to New Zealand in December-January with a permanent coach.

"At the moment, BCB has three names. We have West Indies' legend Gordon Greenidge and two Australians in John Dyson and Colin Miller," said Lipu.

Greenidge was in charge of Tigers when they won the ICC Trophy in 1997 and then during the ensuing World Cup in 1999. He left acrimoniously but has since been contacted by BCB for the top job.

Dyson, the former Australian batsman, coached Sri Lanka for a couple of years before handing the reins to Tom Moody but the surprise in the list lies with the name of 43-year-old Miller, the maverick all-rounder who was Australia's best Test player in 2001.

"Gordon (Greenidge) is looking through our international schedule for the next two years while (John) Dyson has also communicated with us after returning from his holiday. We also added the name of Miller in our list. We can reach a concrete decision next week," assured Lipu.

ICC warns BCCI

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something about it. As the ICC president, I strongly condemn incidents of racism wherever they occur throughout the world. This is a serious issue, and we need to act on it to the best of our abilities," Mali said.

Morgan, who will assume the ICC chairmanship next year, echoed Mali's sentiments and denied the council afforded preferential treatment to the BCCI on account of the millions of dollars it brings to the game in the form of television rights and sponsorship deals.

Messi set

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"Leo is happy at Barcelona and signed a deal until June 2014, but the club is open to renegotiating some of the conditions - Messi deserves this."

"Leo gives us 100 per cent and can help us win many titles with us and Argentina."

Messi's current contract reportedly earns him 5 million euros (3.5 million pounds) a year, and the 20-year-old is valued at 150 million euros (105 million pounds).

Kanoute's worst

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"We're following the situation closely and awaiting the match report," a CAF official told AFP on Monday.

"The question will be discussed during the scheduled meeting of the organising committee of the African Nations Cup on October 18 at Accra."

Sidibe is now back at Stoke and is receiving treatment, although the severity of his injuries remain unclear.

"Although we do not yet have full information on what took place in Togo, everyone will agree that no-one wants to see this type of thing happening," said team chief executive Tony Scholes.

"Obviously our concerns are with Mama and the hope that the injury is not too serious. Our responsibility however is to protect our club and its players, and we will be making representations to the appropriate authorities."

The African section of the professional players association Fifpro said the incident may make Africans playing in Europe think twice before playing for their national teams and their European clubs less likely to release them.

English fans

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expected to be released Wednesday, he said.

"None of the injuries was very serious," he said.

Authorities have announced that security for the England-Russia match would be very tight, and local police on Wednesday reiterated their warning that no one in a state of inebriation would be allowed to enter the stadium.

"We appeal both to Russian and English supporters not to show any inappropriate behavior towards each other, either inside or outside the stadium," Gildayev was quoted by Interfax news agency as saying.

The British embassy spokesman also advised England supporters to take heed of the guidelines posted on the embassy website which, among other things, warn fans not to turn up at the stadium drunk.

England needs a draw or better to clinch a place at the Euro 2008 finals while Russia needs a draw or victory to keep alive its hopes of qualifying from Group E.

Moscow authorities were reported to be posting more than 5,000 police at the stadium to keep order, including 2,370 Interior Ministry troops, 55 mounted police, 85 canine units and 230 OMON riot police.

Some 4,500 England supporters were expected in the Russian capital for the match.

BOB WOOLMER INQUEST

Pathologist testifies



AFP, Kingston

The British pathologist Nathaniel Cary was one of three witnesses who testified as the inquest into the death of Bob Woolmer began in Jamaica on Tuesday. On March 18, Woolmer was found unconscious in his room at the Pegasus Hotel after Pakistan were embarrassed the day before by Ireland in the World Cup.

In his opening statement at the Jamaican Conference Centre, the Kingston coroner Patrick Murphy said the inquest was to find out "when, how, and by what means Robert 'Bob' Woolmer came to his death". Other witnesses who testified included Imogene Douglas, the waitress who served Woolmer three days prior to his death, and Bernice Robinson, the hotel maid who told the court she noticed a

chair was overturned when she entered the room on the morning Woolmer was found.

Robinson said alarm bells went off inside her head when she first entered the room on the morning of March 18 because she noticed a chair was overturned. She told the court she saw blood on a pillow and then caught the smell of alcohol and vomit. It was after this she said she saw a man's leg sticking out of a bathroom door and tried to open it without success so she called for help.

However, it was the testimony of Cary that took the longest and he spent approximately three hours answering questions from Ken Pantry, Jamaica's director of public prosecution. He agreed there could have been a third party in Woolmer's room leading up to the time he was found unconscious, but was quick to point out that the government pathologist, Ere Seshiah, who conducted the first post-mortem, was in a better position

to conclude how Woolmer died.

After Seshiah's post-mortem, two days after the death of Woolmer, the Jamaican police first reported it was inclusive, and then suspicious, before saying it was murder. As the investigation continued, the Jamaican police turned to Scotland Yard for help. The case took another twist when London's Metropolitan Police reached the conclusion, after studying work of a visiting pathologist from Britain's Home Office, that Woolmer was not murdered, but died of heart failure.

Quizzed by Pantry about the overall conclusion, Cary, who will return to the stand on Wednesday, said he could not conclusively state the cause of death. The inquest is set to determine the cause of Woolmer's death and whether anyone bears any responsibility. More than 50 witnesses, including the chief investigating officer, the deputy superintendent of police Colin Pinnock, will testify.

Giggs remains

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Instead, Giggs rallied and went on to enjoy what, in his eyes, was his best season as a professional.

And, although the Cardiff-born player accepts he will probably be used more sparingly by Sir Alex Ferguson over the coming years, his retirement from international football at the end of last season, has helped keep some of the freshness in his legs.

"I hope it will prolong my career," Giggs said of his decision to quit the Welsh cause.

"At 18 or 19, you think it will go on forever. But obviously it doesn't."

"Retiring from international football was a big decision but already - although it has only been a couple of internationals I have missed - I feel as if I have benefited."

Certainly, after resting during the current break, Giggs will be one of the men Ferguson will look to when United look to extend their six-match winning streak in league combat at Aston Villa on Saturday.

More and more, it is looking as though Ferguson will be the only club boss Giggs will play for in his entire career.

The bond between the two Celts is still as strong as it has ever been. And, while their personalities are vastly different, the fiery Ferguson shares the same insatiable desire as the laid-back Giggs, who was first spotted as a raw teenager and instantly snatched from under the noses of Manchester City.

"Ryan Giggs epitomises the word loyalty," said Ferguson.

"He signed here as a 14-year old school boy and is still with the club 20 years on."

"Apart from his playing ability he has a fantastic demeanour and is a great role model to the younger players."

"I am sure he will be at the club for a long time to come."

McMillan calls it a day

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backed up his three ODI centuries and six Test hundreds with more than useful medium-pace bowling which brought him 28 Test wickets at 44.89 and 49 one-day victims at 35.04.

A destructive, though sometimes inconsistent batsman, McMillan was 20 when he was first called into the national limited-overs side in 1997 during a quadrangular tournament in India. His striking power was soon obvious --

his maiden ODI half-century featured five sixes but no fours against Zimbabwe at Harare.

A Test call-up followed on the 1997-98 tour of Australia and in his first appearance McMillan showed his promise with 54 against an attack led by Glenn McGrath and Shane Warne. McMillan usually brought the same aggression to Test cricket as he did to the limited-overs game, and in March 2001 he broke the record for the most runs in a Test over with 26 off Younis

Khan's part-time legspin at Hamilton.

However, he could also show fight and determination when his team needed it. In October 2003, after being dropped from a tour of Sri Lanka earlier in the year, McMillan justified his recall with an unusually cautious 83 not out from 190 balls as he and Nathan Astle rescued New Zealand from what looked like certain defeat against India at Ahmedabad.

He twice set a record for the fastest ODI century by a New Zealand player -- first from 75 balls against Pakistan in 2000-01 and then from 67 deliveries against Australia in this year's Chappell-Hadlee Series in February. The latter effort was another case of McMillan justifying his recall; he had lost his national contract in June 2006 and considered a career as a salesman before the selectors gave him another chance.

Although he had a quiet Caribbean trip at his third World Cup, McMillan sparked in the ICC World Twenty20 in South Africa. During what would be his final international tournament he was New Zealand's leading run-scorer with 163 at 40.75 and a strike-rate of 181.

PROFILE												
Name: Craig McMillan												
Born: September 13, 1976 in Christchurch.												
Age: 31 years 34 days												
Teams: New Zealand, Canterbury, Gloucestershire and Hampshire.												
Batting style: Right-hand bat.												
Bowling style: Right-arm medium.												
Test debut: v Australia at Brisbane, Nov 7-11, 1997.												
ODI debut: v Sri Lanka at Hyderabad, May 20, 1997.												
T20I debut: v Australia at Auckland, Feb 17, 2005.												
BATTING												
	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	Ct		
Tests	55	91	10	3116	142	38.5	54.9	6	19	22		
ODIs	197	183	16	4707	117	28.2	75.9	3	28	44		
T20Is	8	7	1	187	57	31.2	159.8	0	1	3		
BOWLING												
	M	I	W	BB	Ave	Econ	SR					
Tests	55	50	28	3/48	44.89	3.01	89.3					
ODIs	197	74	49	3/20	35.04	5.48	38.3					

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer