Spin stock takes a hit

Cricket

INTERNET, undated

Australia's preparations for the tour of India have been dealt another blow, with spinners Beau Casson and Bryce McGain ruled out of this week's unofficial Test against India with injuries.

Both bowlers had hoped to use Australia A's two-match tour to gain much-needed experience in Indian conditions before the Test series. However, a groin strain to Casson and McGain's side injury have scuppered such plans.

Their absence has provided Jason Krejza, a Tasmanian finger spinner formerly of NSW, with a chance to impress national selectors in the second unofficial Test

China, Britain

FROM PAGE 17

last month's Olympics, along with South African swimmer Natalie du Toit, who already has two golds out of the five she is aiming for.

"In Athens four years ago it was easy. Here I had much better opponents but I concentrated hard and just played my own game. I have done very well," she said.

Partyka, born with a right arm that ends at the elbow, has proved she can mix it with the top ablebodied players, defeating Singapore's Li Jia Wei, ranked six in the world, at this year's world team championships in China.

More than 4,000 competitors from nearly 150 countries and regions are battling for 472 gold medals in 20 sports at the eyecatching venues used for the Olympics such as the "Bird's Nest" and the Water Cube.

The sports at the Paralympics, which end on September 17, include athletics, swimming, powerlifting, wheelchair fencing and five-a-side and seven-a-side football, as well as the lesser-known goalball and boccia.

Meanwhile, the Paralympics suffered its second doping scandal in as many days Wednesday, with a German wheelchair basketballer kicked out of the event for taking a banned drug contained in hair loss treatment.

A statement from the German National Paralympic Committee said Ahmet Coskun had tested positive for finasteride after a precompetition urine test on August 23.

The substance is used in a drug against hair loss and is on a list of banned substances, according to the statement.

It said that although finasteride does not enhance performance, it can be used to cover up drugs that do.

"I was thinking about my hair and had no idea that the drug, which is against hair loss, contained a banned substance. I'm very upset. I never intended to do doping," Coskun said, according to the statement.

German chef de mission Karl Quade expressed regret at the news.

"We take the issue of anti-doping very seriously. We've been carrying out an intensive anti-doping campaign for years in cooperation with NADA (the German anti-doping agency)," Quade said in the same statement.

Sourav hard

FROM PAGE 17 way back into the side by representing Bengal in the Plate Division.

"The president [Jagmohan Dalmiya) will speak to Ganguly in a few days. He is available for Bengal, there's no confusion over that. But he has to wait for the Test team announcement for the Australia series, though he has an outside chance. But we'll speak to him soon, confirming his availability," CAB

joint-secretary Arun Mitra said. Dalmiya meanwhile asserted that Ganguly will not shun Bengal as far as playing in the Ranji Trophy is concerned.

"Where is the question of him [Ganguly] not playing for Bengal arising? He is a Bengal player, so automatically he will play for Bengal. There's no confusion in this regard," Dalmiya said.

Back from exile Cricket

FROM PAGE 17

Vaughan, who led England to Ashes glory in 2005, resigned as Test captain after South Africa clinched their first Test series win in England since 1965 last month and was replaced as skipper by Pietersen.

Vaughan, who sat out the final match of the South Africa series, has struggled for runs this season. His last fifty, for Yorkshire, was followed by scores of two, nought, 21, nought and 17 against South

Africa. A break from cricket did not lead to an upturn in his fortunes when he came back, with the 31-year-old Vaughan, who hasn't featured in one-day internationals since England's lacklustre World Cup campaign in the Caribbean, managing just 10, nought and 19 in his

next three innings for his county. "The award of an England central contract to Michael Vaughan reflects the selectors' view that Michael still has a role to play in the England Test squad over the next 12

months," said Miller. England are due to announce on September 29 their squad for a two Test tour of India in December.

against India A, which began in Hyderabad overnight.

Casson, Australia's incumbent Test spinner, will return home this week having bowled just one over of the first unofficial Test in Bangalore. The rookie left-armer remains confident his strained left adductor muscle will heal in time for the Test series, in which he will most likely be asked to shoulder extra responsibility in the absence of part-time spinner Andrew Symonds.

"I was a bit down earlier in the week, but things have been getting more positive in the last few days," Casson said. "Because I have quite a long delivery stride, the groin strain was giving me a few problems. I haven't had many soft tissue injuries, so it's a bit of a new thing for me. It's been a little disappointing because this was a great opportunity to get a real feel for the country and the conditions here."

On-duty selector Jamie Cox had hoped to use the Australia A tour to assess Casson and McGain before announcing the Test squad for India next week.

Casson, though, managed just six deliveries for the series, while McGain was restricted to 17 overs for figures of 3-51 before straining his right latissimus dorsi. Both should still figure in Australia's plans for the Test series, although Krejza has now been presented with an opportunity to move past McGain should he excel in Hyderabad over the next few days. Despite his limited output,

Rudra Pratap Singh reckons vary-

ing pace would be the key against

Australia and the Uttar Pradesh

left-arm pacer says he has devel-

oped a slower ball that would prove

quite a handful for Ricky Ponting

and his men when they arrive for a

tough customers even when they

are playing away and the surprise

element should be there if a bowler

Australia series I am just concen-

trating on my basics," said RP,

insisting he would otherwise like to

variations as well and have devel-

oped a new slower delivery," RP

said on the sidelines of an interac-

At a time when the money on offer

in Twenty20 cricket appears to

have no limit, the ECB is working to

try and ensure England's Test

players are suitably rewarded to

keep the longest form of the game

as the main priority leading into an

Stanford Super Series was named --

putting 11 players one match away

from becoming dollar millionaires

-- there are continued talks to

formulate a reward scheme for

those players who only appear in

Test cricket. From England's con-

tracted list of 12, that includes

Andrew Strauss, Michael Vaughan

Even the four players who don't

make the final XI in Antigua and the

backroom staff will be handsomely

paid for their day's work, but there

"Pakistan cricket is going

through a dark era and it is a very

depressing situation that no inter-

national cricket activity is taking

place in Pakistan," Malik was

quoted as saying in The News on

such series on a short notice, but

ICC being the parent body of cricket

behind any move for an away one-

with a planned one-day series

against Sri Lanka later this month

due to lack of sponsor interest, a

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) offi-

decision on the proposed series this

The five-match limited-overs

series was planned in Sri Lanka to fill

"I know it's not easy to arrange

"(The ICC) should put its weight

Pakistan are unlikely to go ahead

and Monty Panesar.

arrange series.

Wednesday.

candoit," Maliksaid.

day or Test series."

cial said Tuesday.

As the squad to take part in the

"But I am trying some new

"As a preparation for the

RP says the Aussies would prove

Test series in India next month.

has to succeed against them.

keep things simple.

Cricket

CRICINFO, London

Ashes year.

Cricket

INTERNET, undated

Casson still believes the Australia A tour of India was a worthwhile exercise.

"Before we came here, I had a good chat with Michael Clarke about different approaches to spin bowling in India, and I also asked (Cricket Australia) for a lot of footage of (Indian) batsmen," he said. "I've also had a lot of discussions with Simon Katich, and generally feel better equipped than before.

"I still had a fair bowl in the nets, which obviously isn't as good as being out in the middle, but at least it's something. And the whole cultural experience has been a real eye-opener. It might not have been the way I planned it, but there's definitely been some good to come out of this trip."

The Australian attack will depart this month with no Test experience in the dry, dusty conditions of India, although all senior pacemen have played one-day cricket in the country. Casson, too, has had limited exposure to Indian surfaces, having only played there twice on youth tours before the Australia A series.

The series against India A has proven difficult for the Katich-led Australians. Shortly after arriving in India, rookie NSW batsman Peter Forrest was struck down with an acute case of appendicitis, which required immediate surgery in Bangalore. The Australians were then rolled for 116 in the first innings of the first unofficial Test against India A.

RP reveals Aussie flaw

Wednesday.

bouncers," he added.

spinners as well.

bat and ball," RP said.

Amity University here on

"Besides, I'm also working on

The Indians will have to be at

their best to thwart the Australians

and they are likely to roll out dust-

bowls against the visitors to suit

to play on lively pitches which

would have something for the

which should be fair to all and

make it an even contest between

pacers to chose from for the four-

match Test series against Australia

and RP says the competition for the

good for Indian cricket. Personally

too, you get to learn so many

are still concerns that some of

England's leading players will be

tempted by Indian Premier League

deals. Before being named captain,

Kevin Pietersen spoke of wanting

to join the IPL, although he hasn't

talked about it in recent weeks.

From the end of October he will be

conversations with the players'

representatives (the Professional

Cricketers' Association) over the

last three or four months and they

will continue," Hugh Morris, the

managing director of the England

board, said. "It's important to

stress that there are significant

rewards available in one-day

cricket. We are looking very closely

at making sure that Test match

rewards and bonuses are very

much in line with that to maintain

England players to take up IPL

deals next year was "quite short".

The one-day series in West Indies

Morris said the window for any

the primacy of Test cricket."

"We've had very constructive

"This healthy competition is

things. Even a senior bowler learns he said.

berths augurs well for the team.

ECB tries for balance

play almost non-stop

India will have a decent pool of

RP, however, felt they can afford

"I would prefer lively pitches,

their traditional spin strength.

tive session with the students of things from the youngsters, espe-

cially their mental approach," he

RP also stressed on the need for

"Injury is a part of our life, we

a strict fitness regime to restrict

injuries to a minimum and keep

can't escape it. But if we follow a

strict fitness regime and work on

the trainer's instructions, we can at

his one-day and Twenty20 captain

Mahendra Singh Dhoni and the

left-arm seamer is forthright about

whom he wants to see as India's

he has everything what it needs.

But if somebody becomes the next

Test captain, it will be Dhoni," RP

and is already captaining India in

ODIs and Twenty20 with aplomb,

doesn't finish until April 3 and the

first Test against Sri Lanka starts on

May 7 at Lord's. The next IPL tour-

nament begins on April 10, running

until May 29. Even if players are

allowed to take part, the ECB want

to keep a close watch on them with

we are continuing to negotiate,"

Morris said. "We have drafted a

"As far as the IPL is concerned,

the Ashes on the horizon.

"Dhoni is a very thoughtful guy

"Anil Kumble is good captain,

RP shares a good chemistry with

least reduce it," he said.

next Test captain.

said.



NECK & CROP: Hampshire batsman Chris Benham pays a heavy price for his misjudgement as his off-stump is pegged back by Surrey paceman Jade Dernbach during their county match at The Brit Oval in London yesterday. Shoaib Akhtar made his debut in this match but remained luckless as only picked up a single wicket.

Modest start

Pakistan fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar took a wicket for Surrey on his debut for the county but southern rivals Hampshire had the better of a rain-

Akhtar had Michael Carberry

But Hampshire still managed to make 116 for two in the 39 overs that were possible in south London.

Former England fast bowler Alex second ball.

against an 18-month ban and a fine of seven million rupees (93,000 dollars) imposed by the Pakistan Cricket Board following his public criticisms of his country's cricket chiefs in January this year after he was dropped from a list of 15 centrally contracted players.

banned for five years, a move that threatened to finally end his incident-packed international career but this was cut to 18 months and the hefty fine by an appeal commit-

imposed the hefty fine.

Trophy squad last month.

was postponed for a year by the International Cricket Council after several non-Asian teams raised concerns about playing in Pakistan, where bombings and suicide attacks have taken place in recent months.

play Kenya tri-series

AFP, Nairobi

Zimbabwe's cricket team will arrive in Nairobi on October 14 for a tri-series with Kenya and Ireland, its first international outing since a political crisis erupted in March.

The eight-day tournament will be played at the Nairobi Gymkhana club where the three countries will play each other twice before the final, Cricket Kenya (CK) chief Tom Tikolo told reporters.

Zimbabwe had earlier declined to take part in the triangular tournament, claiming its schedule was too busy to accommodate the series.

full membership in the International Cricket Council but agreed to pull out of the World Twenty20 championships in England as part of the deal.

Calls have risen in Kenya to ban the visitors in protest at President Robert Mugabe, who is accused by the Zimbabwean opposition of fixing elections earlier this year.

back from a dismal showing in their tour of Europe in August during which they failed to qualify for next year's Twenty20 World Championships in England.

Mahela's T20 vision

Cricket

AFP, London

Jayawardene has said there should only be one major Twenty20 cricket event a year so as to preserve a balance with the Test game and ensure a fairer spread of the sport's riches.

Authorities in India, world Cricketer magazine. cricket's financial powerhouse, were initially wary of the shortened format, which has proved popular with fans around the world after being pioneered professionally in the English county game.

But the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has since embraced Twenty20 with the creation of the Indian Premier League (IPL), a lucrative competition featuring the world's best players appearing for franchise teams.

Now there are plans to expand the IPL and, in the meantime, English cricket chiefs, alarmed about losing control over their own dollars a man winner-takes-all Twenty20 clash in Antigua in November against a Caribbean 'Superstars' side put together by Texan-born billionaire Allen Stanford.

Next year will see the launch of

the English Premier League (EPL) and Jayawardene, a nominee for the International Cricket Council's cricketer of the year award, due to be presented in Dubai on Sri Lanka captain Mahela Wednesday, said the feeding frenzy had to stop for the overall good of the global game.

"The important thing is that the boards don't compete with each other," the batsman told the October edition of the Wisden

"The BCCI also needs to understand that we can't be playing four Twenty20 tournaments in a year. What happens to other cricket around the world then?

"Everyone's being driven by the money but you have to compromise and start sharing the pot."

Jayawardene, whose comments were published as the ICC board met in Dubai with the future shape of the game one of the topics on the agenda, was in no doubt about what should happen next.

"The way forward would be to players, have signed up to a million Stanford, and it will accommodate everyone's interests.

> short period and the income generated can be shared," the 31-yearold veteran of 98 Tests and 283 oneday internationals explained

Sri Lanka's senior players are

currently in dispute with their board over next year's hastily arranged tour of England, brought about by England's decision to break off cricket relations with Zimbabwe.

Jayawardene said the row revolved around financial security for his side which, for all the exciting cricket it often plays, is not considered a big commercial draw by other nations.

"There's no compromise when it comes to playing for our country," said Jayawardene. "We put everything on the line but, regardless of how well we play against England or Australia, we'll still get paid what we get right now [about 2,500 pounds per Test and 1,500 pounds for a one-day game].

"But when we're given an opportunity like the IPL, it's a chance to play six weeks of cricket and make the sort of money that the rest of the world makes just by playing for their countries."

Sri Lanka, a small island nation plagued by civil war, have consishave one big T20 tournament, tently punched above their weight whether that's IPL, EPL or in international cricket but Jayawardene said a lack of matches was restricting their progress in "The best players will play over a five-day Tests.

"I think we have only 10 Tests in the next three years. Out of that, we're playing Bangladesh home and away. So where's our opportunity to climb up the ladder?"

Hantuchova advances

Tennis

AFP, Nusa Dua

Top seed Daniela Hantuchova launched her quest for a first career WTA title at the Bali Open on Wednesday with a 6-1, 7-5 victory over Ukrainian Olga Savchuk.

The 25-year-old Slovakian, currently ranked 11th in the world, is hoping to go one step further than she did here last year, when she lost in the final to former number one Lindsay Davenport, who was launching her comeback.

Hantuchova won the first set easily against the 121st-ranked Savchuk, but was tested in the second as the underdog mounted a percent yet.

spirited fight in the tropical heat. Savchuk broke Hantuchova with a passing shot winner for a 4-2 lead, but the Slovakian broke back in the following game, and sealed

the victory on her second match "She picked up her level the

second set," said Hantuchova. "She was more aggressive on serve and it was tough to break here. I made one mistake and she broke me.

pleased for that. I just kept fighting for every point. It was a good test for me, I handled the big points Hantuchova is trying to salvage her 2008 season after suffering a

stress fracture in her right heel two months before Wimbledon. "It's getting there," she said of her conditioning. "I'm working as hard as I can. I understand it's a

long way back and it's not 100 "I have to keep going, play a lot of practice sets and hopefully soon

I will be back." Her win on Wednesday was only



Natalia Partyka of Poland in action against China's Fan Lei during the table tennis final at the 2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing yesterday. Polish teenager Partyka won 11-8, 11-4, 11-9.

100 on

name

for a

5-iron

related

7 Possess

cultural

group

cookie

down the

mented,

with "out"

10 "Swell!"

lawn

17 Supple-

19 Conclu-

sion

22 Journey

11 Lays

6 Comes-

tibles

8 Of a

5 City-

4 Old

24 "All the

25 Meado

26 Deterio

27 Lubrica

29 Cragg

35 Feedb

36 By way

37 Soak t

39 Warne

Bros.

skunk

Pepe

40 Same as

above

42 Summer-

43 Imago-in-

44 Curved

bone

46 Drudge

imple-

ment

48 Galley

45 Arm

training

molding

over on

dessens

segment 41 Put one

bother

peak

behind

28 Big

31 Trail

9 Sandwich 34 Throttl

Things

You -

Poland's Marta Domachowska booked a quarterfinal place with a win over US veteran Jill Craybas 6-"But I broke right back, I'm 3,6-7,6-4. B. League logo

grass-court season, and comes

Groenefeld.

after a first-round loss at the US

Open against German Anna-Lena

for fixture for the first B. League and to follow it again, a draw is a must. But the BFF hasn't done this although it had enough time. That is why we are worried about unfair

BFF's B. League manager Abu Nayeem Sohag, later informed that he and his associates had to use the traditional system for the first round but followed the AFC format for the rest. "It is a mixture of the old and

newformats," Sohag added. Matches during the Ramadan will start at 3.30pm. On completion of the third round ties on September 7, the league goes into a brief vacation for the Eidul Fitr.

The league is expected to resume on October 5 or 6.

I should've

FROM PAGE 17

I hardly trained and just did enough to prepare myself mentally for matches," Smith wrote in his diary for Bigstarcricket.com.

He said the pain became terrible during the third Test at Edgbaston, where he scored a match-winning hundred to clinch the series. "I should probably have called it a day then, but when you are captain it can be difficult to let go -- you feel responsible for the team. It got so bad I had to change my grip on the bat handle just to find a way of relieving the pain."

Smith hoped the injury wouldn't come back after the rest and rehabilitation in South Africa. "I had a cortisone injection in the tendon and I'm trying to stay away from surgery at this time. With the amount of international cricket as well, schedules are becoming tighter but ultimately I am doing what I love doing so I am certainly not complaining.

He credited Kevin Pietersen with doing a good job for England in the one-day series but believed South Africa had put a lot of emphasis on one goal -- winning the Test series.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer 3 Scored 40 Dostoev-23 Burst ACROSS

sky's

e.g.

movie

lecher

ously

tool

52 Nevada

city

54 Uncook

ed

DOWN

1 Clcatrix

2 Arrive

53 Disarray

49 Look

50 Duel

51 Mimic

43 Heavy

Prince

Myshkin

1 Con

5 Martian

vessel

8 A really

of "Your

Show of

Shows"

13 Tier

14 Smart-

phone

15 lowa city

name

16 Dunce

18 Lucille

20 "--

Ball,

21 Hostel

22 Main-

23 Lost

color

26 Minute-

notably

lander's

souvenin

man's foe

30 Raw rock

WOOL

jacket

38 Crone

Landing" 55 Pod

12 Imogene 47 Marx

					_				•		100000	
12					13			i	14			T
15					16			17				t
18				19				20		-	-	1
			21				22		1			
23	24	25				26				27	28	29
30					31					32		t
33			34	35				36	37			t
			38				39					-
40	41	42				43			-	44	45	48
47					48				49	-		t
50					51		-		52		-	1

CRYPTOQUIP

ESIT GTCW JV LGWYIOOW

DUIC VGYOBF MJ UIE SBU JET FKJMSBTZ BMIL, B ZDIUU

BM EGU MGWKJO-LGCI

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: COULD YOU SAY CAIN'S BROTHER WANTED TO STAY IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN FOR AS LONG AS HE WAS ABEL? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals S

Malik seeks ICC help the gap created after the Champions down in the Test rankings and our

Trophy was postponed for a year due to security fears in Pakistan. Pakistan had earlier also tried to INTERNET, undated

organise a triangular series in South Africa also featuring Sri Lanka, but Pakistan captain Shoaib Malik has Cricket South Africa refused, saying asked the International Cricket Council (ICC) to help his country by its players were exhausted after a tour of England. asking its member countries to The likely cancellation of the Sri

> Lanka series adds to the dearth of international cricket for Pakistan. Pakistan has not played a Test match in 2008. It has hosted only two one-day series against weaker oppositions -- Zimbabwe and Bangladesh -- earlier this year and

the Asia Cup one-day tournament.

Security concerns prompted Australia to postpone its scheduled tour in March this year, and Australia joined England, South Africa and New Zealand in lobbying the International Cricket Council to postpone the Champions Trophy until October 2009.

Pakistan are currently placed at number six in both Test and ODI rankings. Prolific batsman Mohammad Yousuf is the sole The PCB expects to make a final Pakistani nomination in the ODI Player of the Year category of the ICC

team and players as we have slipped

document that we are taking forward, saying if players are allowed to go to unauthorised events, then on what conditions they are "There are some fantastic opportunities for players at the

moment, but we do have a World Twenty20 event coming up next summer and we want to do well in that," Morris added. "We have to practice and prepare for that, too." Only one England player -

Dimitri Mascarenhas -- took part in the inaugural IPL tournament, playing one match for the eventual champions, Rajasthan Royals.

players are suffering because they didn't get chance to play test cricket for the last eight months," Shoaib

Pakistan's next Test is not sched-

uled until January 2009 when India

are due to tour. It's next major international assignment is a quadrangular Twenty20 tournament in Toronto, Canada next month in which the host nation, Sri Lanka and the West Indies are the other competing

Matty, Ricky

"The feedback was pretty solid, all good," Nielsen said. "He has just started batting again as well." Nielsen said they would wait to

make a decision on Symonds' availability for the India trip. "Until we have finalised everything with Roy (Symonds) and made those decisions, we're probably not really willing to talk about it, to be honest," Nielsen said. The squad will be named following Australia's current match against India A in "It's quite alarming both for our Hyderabad and the first Test is in Bangalore on October 9.

for Akhtar AFP, London

affected first day at The Oval here Tuesday.

caught behind on the opening day of four in this County Championship First Division clash on his way to figures of one wicket for 23 in eight overs.

Tudor, on loan from Essex to bottom-of-the-table Surrey, the club where he began his career, took the other wicket to fall when Michael Brown played on to the paceman's

At stumps, Michael Lumb was 29 not out having hung in for 92 balls while Chris Benham was unbeaten on 28. Shoaib, 33, is currently appealing

Initially the fast bowler was

In July, an appeal committee reduced the ban to 18 months but

A Lahore High Court hearing suspended the ban but upheld the fine, paving the way for his selection in hosts Pakistan's Champions

However, the Champions Trophy

Zimbabwe to

Zimbabwe recently retained its

Kenya will be looking to bounce

31 Journal 32 Altar affirmative 33 Sallor's 36 Bravery 39 Women's

Solution time: 21 mins.