Van Jaarsveld to join Proteas

CRICINFO, undated

Vaughn van Jaarsveld will join South Africa's Test squad on Sunday to cover for ongoing injuries to Ashwell Prince and Graeme Smith. Prince suffered a cracked thumb prior to the Perth Test and Jean-Paul Duminy was promoted to the starting line-up, leaving no backup batsman in the touring party.

Smith has been battling an elbow problem that needed a painkilling injection before the Melbourne Test. He was intending to play through the Test series before assessing whether surgery was required.

Van Jaarsveld, 23, was already part of the squad for the limited-overs series that fol-I lows the Tests and his early arrival gives him a chance to acclimatise to the Australian conditions. A Lions left-hand batsman, van Jaarsveld is yet to make his international debut.

Keane fires

FROM PAGE 17 scored a 65th minute penalty after Gabriel Agbonlahor was I brought down by William Gallas.

Arsenal, not for the first time this season, couldn't see out the game with Villa's Zat Knight scoring in stoppage

Two-goals apiece from Felipe Caicedo and Robinho at Eastlands helped Manchester City end a run of six games without a win in all competitions.

Caicedo put City ahead in the 15th minute when he turned in Stephen Ireland's cross. The Ecuadorian had his and City's second 12 minutes later, with Ireland again the provider.

Ireland also laid on City's third, releasing Robinho.

The Brazil forward made it 4-0 in the 36th minute with a picture-book goal after a superb cross from Shaun Wright-Phillips.

Craig Fagan pulled one back for Hull before Ireland got the goal his play deserved eight minutes from time.

Portsmouth took the lead through Nadir Belhadj before Jack Collison equalised for the Hammers.

Before half-time Pompey missed a penalty when former West Ham forward Jermain Defoe shot wide and, after the break, the visitors pulled away thanks to a goal from Carlton Cole and two from Craig Bellamy.

Everton's Australia international Tim Cahill again scored from a corner, following-up after his header was

Ryan Taylor put Wigan in front with a 25-yard free-kick just before the half-hour mark. Amir Zaki added a second

from the penalty spot 17 minutes from time after Newcastle's Sebastien Bassong was sent-off for bringing down Emile Heskey.

Danny Guthrie's penalty two minutes from time came too late for Newcastle.

Aus tail wags

FROM PAGE 17

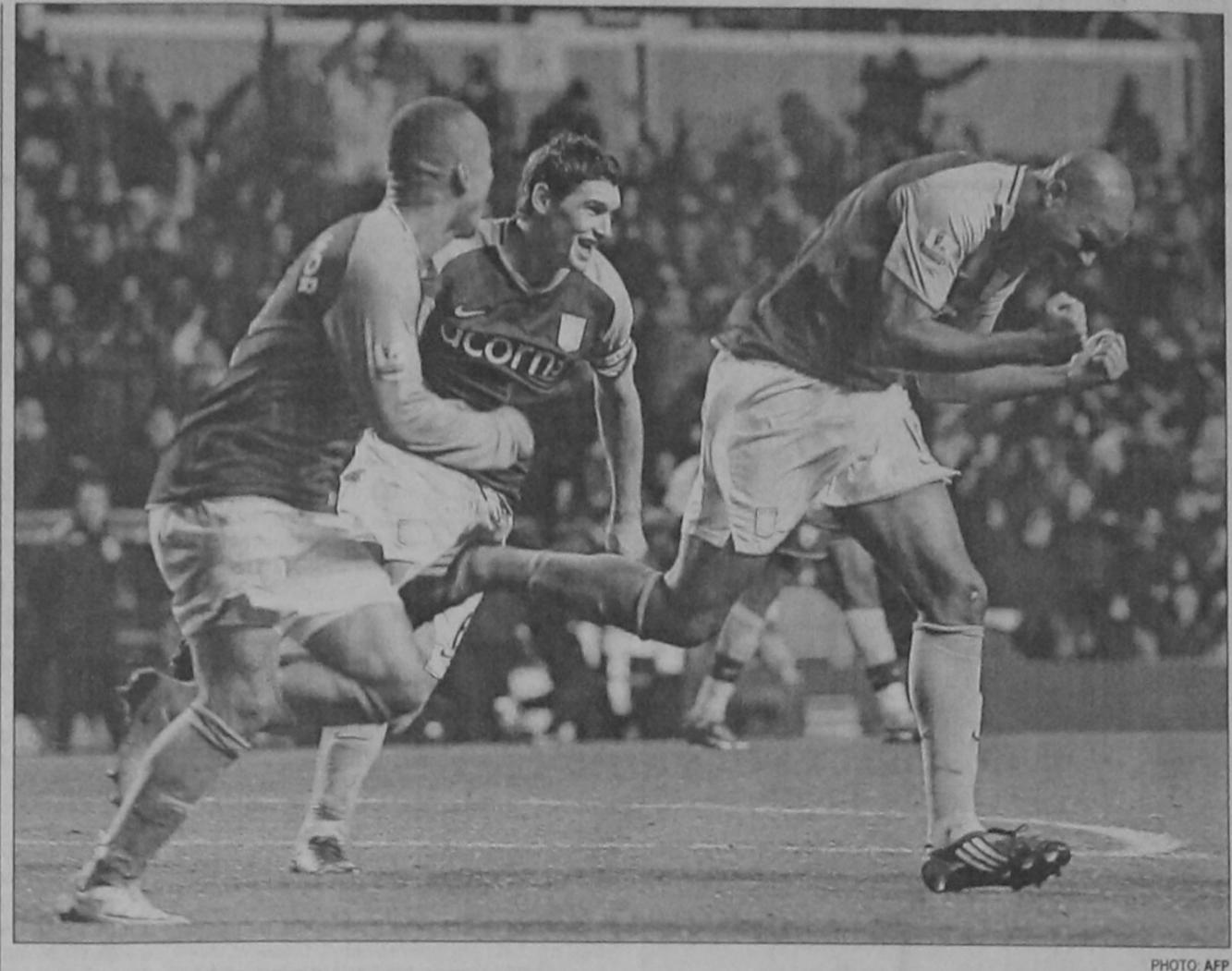
could ill afford to give up. They let Australia reach 394, well past the 350 Arthur wanted as an upper limit. Having struggled at the WACA, Dale Steyn was the one shining light with 5 for 87, which was a rare positive Arthur could take out of the day. "I thought he was very

good, I thought he was back to where he needed to be, Arthur said. "There was a hint of swing. He had some movement, he was getting back to the Dale Steyn that we knew. I was pretty happy and if he keeps improving it will be pretty exciting for us."

But Steyn will need to emulate his fellow wickettaker Siddle and contribute with the bat on the third day for South Africa to have their best chance of staying in the match. Like Australia with Clarke, South Africa have a where we last played the Prasadlbwb Shakib specialist batsman at the matches. It may happen Herathrunout crease and they want JP Duminy to build significantly | ture," said Murali. on his 34.

add another 70 that's going to take us around to lunch time, not only does that get us closer it also takes time out of the game," Arthur said. "We've got itiall to do, really. We've got to find a way to get ourselves out

of this situation." Siddle, who picked up 3 for 24, will be searching for his first five-wicket haul and as a tail-wagger himself he knows the importance of wrapping up the innings rapidly. "Those 10 or 20 extra overs that [South Africa were] out in the field is just a little bit more tired legs and little bit more frustrated they get," Siddle said. "It can put the pressure on the toporder batsmen that do have to come in."



Aston Villa defender Zat Knight (R) is overjoyed after scoring the equaliser to make it 2-2 against Arsenal during their Premier League tie

at Villa Park on Friday.

Wilkins warns rivals

AFP, London



Ray Wilkins see in 2009 in style after watching them dispatch West Bromwich

Albion 2-0. Victory left the Blues just a point behind Premier League leaders Liverpool and they could end the year top of the table if they beat west London rivals Fulham on Sunday and the Reds slip up against

Newcastle. break sweat in sweeping aside Tony Mowbray's bottom-ofthe-table team, cruising to victory here at Stamford Bridge on Friday thanks to an early strike from Didier Drogba and Frank Lampard's on 3 January after recovering

effort in first-half injury time.

A polished performance suggested Chelsea have banished the doubts which have bedevilled them at Stamford Bridge for much of the campaign. Wilkins, the Blues assistant

manager, has warned the club's title rivals to expect more of the same in the New Year, when Chelsea hope to welcome back several key players. Drogba is set to feature

more regularly for Luiz Felipe Scolari's side, having made just two league starts in an Chelsea hardly had to injury and suspensionravaged season, and is likely to be unleashed again at Fulham. Defender Ricardo Carvalho, meanwhile, has

been pencilled in to return for

the FA Cup tie with Southend

from injury.

With new signings also expected to arrive in the January transfer window CSKA Moscow striker Wagner Love is a long-standing target -Chelsea could soon be back to their formidable best - a prospect which excites Wilkins.

"Competition is what big clubs are all about," said former Chelsea captain Wilkins.

The competition is already there to a great extent but that will rise even more as players return and that will help the performance levels

"It's vitally important to have everyone fit and firing. The squad is fuller now than it has been for most of the time this season and that gives us lots of options to explore all over the pitch."

Rio blow for United

Football

AFP, Stoke

Rio Ferdinand faces a 10-day lay-off after being forced to pull out of Manchester United's victory over Stoke City with a recurrence of a backinjury.

named on the team-sheet at the Britannia Stadium but was Boxing Day kick-off when the problem flared up and he was deemed unfit to start the

Ferdinand's place was taken by young Northern Ireland defender Jonny Evans and the England international has now been ruled out of the rest of the Christmas and New Year programme.

Ferdinand will miss Monday's race visit of Middlesbrough to Old Trafford and the FA Cup third

round tie at Southampton the

following Sunday. almost certainly have been rested for the first leg of the League Cup semifinal with Derby County on January 7, will now target the visit of The centre-back was Chelsea to Old Trafford four

days later for his return. That game now has added withdrawn minutes before the significance following United's victory at Stoke which came courtesy of Carlos Tevez's goal seven minutes and we were patient. from time.

winning the Club World Cup in Japan six points behind sec- added. ond-placed Chelsea with two games in hand and, with both clubs winning on Friday, the game at Old Trafford could be His injury means crucial in terms of the title

Ferguson admitted his English and European champions faced a tough task at Stoke after their exertions in The defender, who would the Far East and said he was relieved to see United claim a victory.

"At this stage of the season I think they are all good wins," he said. "Coming back from Japan I think we were all worried about how it was going to affect the team but the energy level was good. It was a difficult game but sometimes you have got be patient in games

"Hopefully we will look United returned from back on this and think it was a significant victory," the Scot

"If we get to New Year's Day and are just a couple of points behind, we'll be happy with that. The second half of the season, we will kick on a bit."

Aussie bar on Zim officials

AFP, Sydney

Zimbabwe's top cricket administrators have been included in an expanded list of officials of President Robert Mugabe's regime targetted by Australian sanctions, a report said Saturday.

The president of Zimbabwe Cricket, Peter Chingoka, and chief executive Ozias Byute, have been banned from visiting Australia or having any financial dealings with the country, the Sydney Morning Herald reported.

Chingoka is a full voting member of the International Cricket Council (ICC) executive board and the visa ban may force the ICC to change its plans to hold an executive board meeting in Perth next year, it said.

Australia announced earlier this month that it had added 75 individuals and four companies to a list of Mugabe regime members and supporters facing sanctions, but details were only made public this week.

The additions bring the total number of individuals on the list to 254 as Australia presses Mugabe to stand down, accusing his regime of brutal human rights offences.

Zimbabwe has been in political limbo since elections in March and the failure to implement a power-sharing deal signed on September 15, while the economy reels under inflation last estimated at 231 million percent.

Siddle sizzles

FROM PAGE 17 discomfort for the visitors, who will look back at his innings as the first major

turning point. SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the second Test between Australia and South Africa at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Saturday: AUSTRALIA: First innings (overnight 280 for 6)

Katich b Steyn Ponting c Amla b Harris 101 Hussey c Boucher b Steyn Clarkenotout Symonds c Kallis b Morkel 27 Haddin c Smith b Ntini Lee c Kallis b Steyn

Hayden c Duminy b Ntini

Johnson b Steyn Hauritz c Smith b Steyn Siddle c De Villiers b Kallis Extras: (b-5, lb-12, nb-7)

Total: (All out in 113.4 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-21, 2-128, 3-143, 4-184, 5-223, 6-277, 7-322, 8-326, 9-352, 10-394.

OMRW Bowler 6 87 Steyn 27 7 108 Ntini 4 55 18.4 Kallis

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings Smith c Haddin b Siddle McKenzie b Siddle Amlac Symonds b Johnson 19 Kallis c Haddin b Hauritz 26 DeVilliers b Siddle

Boucher c Hussey b Hauritz Harris not out Total: (For 7 wkts in 63 overs)

> OMRW 13 2 68 13 3 24 17 3 53

3-0 Boxing Day win over

Liverpool's match away to Newcastle at St James' Park starting two hours before the west London derby at Craven Cottage gets underway.

crowned champions of England since 1990 but hopes are rising in the red half of Merseyside that this might be

they beat Newcastle on 1980s.

could be punished by second-

chance to apply some pres-

sure by beating bottom-of-

the-table West Bromwich

the lead, who face Fulham.

year on top

"Being top is important, Hull. Liverpool but this club prepares to be will finish top of the league, not fifth, 2008 on top sixth or seventh," said assistant manager Sammy Lee, who won several titles as a

L'pool look to end

"We are where we want to But they know any slip-ups be at this moment in time. "This is a long, hard cam-

placed Chelsea, just a point off paign, though. It's nice going into the New Year in this posi-On Friday, Chelsea had the tion, but we go to Newcastle on Sunday and that will be a very difficult task for us." Reigning champions

Albion 2-0 in an early kick-off Manchester United, in their first domestic match since Liverpool responded with a winning the Club World Cup in Japan, stayed seven points off top spot Friday, with two However, roles will be games in hand, after winning reversed on Sunday with 1-0 away to Stoke City.

But it was a frustrating day for the other member of the 'Big Four' as Arsenal surrendered a two-goal lead in stoppage-time in a 2-2 draw away Liverpool haven't been to Aston Villa, the Midlanders retaining their place amongst the leading quartet.

moved out of the bottom three

with a spectacular 5-1 win over

Their victory was an ideal response to fellow strugglers West Ham's 4-1 win over Portsmouth earlier in the day.

Wigan beat Newcastle 2-1 player with Liverpool in the while Everton defeated Middlesbrough 1-0.

The London derby between Fulham and Tottenham and Sunderland's game against Blackburn both ended in goalless draws.

(1500GMT unless stated) Sunday

Arsenal v Portsmouth (1400GMT), Blackburn v Manchester City (1615GMT) Bolton v Wigan (1400GMT), Everton v Sunderland (1400GMT), Fulham v Chelsea (1400GMT), Newcastle v Liverpool (1200GMT), West Brom v Tottenham, West Ham v Stoke (1400GMT)

Monday Manchester United v Middlesbrough (2000GMT)

Tuesday

Earlier, Manchester City Hull v Aston Villa (2000GMT)

FA may probe Wenger

Sunday.

Wenger added.

Football

AFP, Birmingham

AFP, London

Sunday.

match.

Bolton at Anfield.

Arsene Wenger may be facing a request from the Football Association (FA) to explain his comments following Arsenal's 2-2 draw with Aston Villa after he effectively accused officials from the home club of influencing referee Lee was nothing. The dug-outs are very close at Mason during the half-time interval.

The French manager and his counterpart pened." Martin O'Neill were also involved in an angry verbal exchange across the technical areas during the second-half at Villa Park here Friday.

They had to be separated by the fourth official although neither manager received any punishment.

But Wenger's coded accusation that members of the Villa backroom staff spoke with Mason, when Arsenal were leading 1-0 through Denilson's goal, may well be placed under closer scrutiny as it could be viewed as an accusation that Villa had behaved improperly.

"I know exactly how it works here," Wenger said after seeing his side give up a 2-0 lead. "At half-time the referee gets stick and in the

second half, every 50-50 decision went to them. "I decided to wait and see what happened after half-time and I was not disappointed. It is Wenger has his own opinions about it. As for

Villa. You will have to ask him why it hap-O'Neill and Wenger have been growing into

The draw left Arsenal 10 points behind

leaders Liverpool ahead of Wenger's reunion

with former Gunners captain Tony Adams, now

manager of Portsmouth, at the Emirates on

experts had us down to lose the game today,"

"We are disappointed, but 58 out of 59

"What happened with Martin O'Neill

fierce rivals in recent weeks, as Villa look to deprive Arsenal of their regular top four place and the Villa manager was less than impressed with Wenger's accusations. O'Neill did admit there was a conversation

between his longstanding assistant John Robertson and Mason, but said: "There was someone speaking to the referee at half-time. It was John Robertson and he simply asked the referee to explain a decision in the build up to their first goal.

"Gabby Agbonlahor was fouled. He was obstructed, but the foul was not given before they scored. John Robertson asked him to explain why and the referee chose not to.

"There was no one giving him stick. Arsene not only at Villa where it happens. I don't feel what happened in the dug-outs, that was much ado about nothing."

Tie-breaker vexes Dan

Cricket

the need to elaborate any more."

AFP, Hamilton

New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori wants tiebreakers banished from Twenty20 cricket after his side were belted into submission by the West Indies in their opening limited-over international.

"What's wrong with a tie, I have no issues with it," Vettori said Saturday, on the eve of the second and final Twenty20 match between New Zealand and the West Indies in Hamilton. When the first match in Auckland on Friday

ended in a tie at 155-all the teams were forced to play a one-over "eliminator" involving three batsmen and one bowler to decide the winner. West Indies captain Chris Gayle belted Vettori

for 25, including three sixes, in his over while New Zealand were out for 15 after four balls. The only previous Twenty20 clash between the two teams in 2006 also ended in a tie and

was won by New Zealand after a "bowl-off" where bowlers needed to hit unguarded But, Vettori did not believe it was necessary

to break a deadlock in an international. "I think a tie's a tie," he said.

37 Secular

50 Parlia-

51 Swanson

product

54 Drench

55 Rowing

petroleum 57 Earthen-

overthrow 59 Mop

tographer 41 Burn

12 Sandwich 43 Chefs

13 Longoria 46 It

14 Out of

kilter

15 Music

17 Egyptian

18 Bizarre

24 Exploit

25 Lotion

30 Pair

additive

ski mecca

28 Colorado

33 Moo goo

gai pan

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34 Tubular

pasta

around

the track

35 Once

38 Crooked

eliminator). I suppose if you're sitting on the

By Eugene Sheffer

1 Couturier 20 Christmas

2 Language 23 "War of

Pakistan

card

4 Origin

5 Coop

6 Hail,

dweller

7 "You Bet

host

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in the

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Solution time: 21 mins.

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Kilmer

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tently

48 Tran-

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44 Combine

resources

29 Small

31 Pale

32 Make

emotion

attermath

other side of a win you might enjoy it. "(But) The game's called Twenty20, it's not

much." Gayle, who quipped after the first match that "it was a good one-over game", again threatens to be the central figure in the second encounter.

called One1. We don't want to dilute it too

His man-of-the-match performance in Auckland included a bowling spell in which he took two for 16 and a whirlwind 67 off 41 balls with the bat before sealing the issue 25 runs in the play-off over.

New Zealand meanwhile will be without

limited overs specialist Scott Styris who will miss the remaining matches against the West Indies because of a broken thumb. All-rounder Styris was injured during his short-lived knock of 21 from 12 balls on Friday

when he was rapped on the hand by a delivery from Fidel Edwards. The New Zealand management said Styris was to have a pin inserted in his right thumb.

There would be no replacement added to the squad for Sunday's match, opening the way for either the uncapped Ewen Thompson or Friday's 12th man Mark Gillespie to make the

starting XI. After the second Twenty20 the teams move "I understand the appeal of it (an to Queenstown to start a five-match one-day international series.

CRYPTOQUIP

U QLTULYL PIL EGPCTF ILYLV GUZBGGUJL MKZLV FMVJ. DPC BPCTF EMD UZ'E QLLI RD VCTL PK ZGCRQ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AFTER YOU'VE HAD SEVERAL ADULT BEVERAGES ON A FLIGHT. YOU'LL PROBABLY BE FEELING NO PLANE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals H

Murali blasts batsmen Mirpur on Saturday: Shahadat st P Jayawardene

it onto the stumps to put an SRI LANKA: First innings end to his fighting knock of 68-

however was consoled by the

observation of Murali regarding the pitch as he had a different opinion about the character of the surface. "It's not a good batting Dilshanb Shakib wicket. I think it's a traditional (sub-continent) wicket and there was hardly any bounce. Vaasc Mushfiqur b Those wickets were good .Mashrafe

After every success he face Total: (All out in 89.4 overs) "If we can maybe try and one question: how long you Fall of wickets: 1-24, 2-119, 3want to go? This question was 121, 4-135, 5-155, 6-171, 7-270, also asked after his five-wicket 8-285, 9-291. haul and the record-breaking Bowler bowler reminded everyone of Mashrafe

his age. "I'm now thirty-six and Shahadat 16 getting old. I hope (Ajantha) Shakib Mendis takes over the charge Mehrab from me," said Murali.

Murali may have been BANGLADESH: First innings concerned of his age while TamimcWarnapura thinking about his future but b Muralidaran one thing was sure that there is Imrul c P Jayawardene not immediate relief for the bVaas Tigers batsmen until or unless Zunaed b Muralidaran they apply their common Ashrafulc Dilshan b Vaas 12 sense in their batting.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard at stumps on the b Herath second day of the first Test ShakibcMJayawardene between Sri Lanka and bMuralidaran Bangladesh at the Sher-e- Mushfigurnotout Bangla National Stadium in Mashrafe Ibwb Muralidaran

(overnight 172-6) Vandort c Shakib b Shahadat The Bangladesh batsmen Warnapuralbwb Mashrafe 14 Sangakkara c Ashraful b Shakib M Jayawardene b Shakib Samaraweera c Zunaed b Shakib P Jayawardene c Tamim b Shahadat because there are more mois- Muralidaran not out Extras: (b-4, lb-13, nb-9, w-12)

Rokibul b Prasad

Mehrab c M Jayawardene

29

11

29

b Muralidaran Mahbubul not out Extras: (b-4) Total: (For nine wkts in 59 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-44, 2-68, 3-90, 4-95, 5-117, 6-158, 7-162, 8-162, 9-176. OM Bowler 33 Vaas 61 Prasad Muralidaran21 Herath Motto look FROM PAGE 17

six but with Samaraweera around, nobody really should have been worried.

Yesterday's 90-run knock brought back memories of his 138 made against Bangladesh at Colombo's P Sara Stadium in 2005, made at a time when Sri Lanka were really struggling at 48 for four. He added 280 for the fifth wicket with Tillakaratne Dilshan. The Tigers lost that match by an innings and 69 runs.

Extras: (lb-4, nb-14) To bat: Steyn, Ntini. partner him on this occasion, the ever-reliable Chaminda Vaas helped him rescue a dire Bowler situation by adding 99 for the seventh wicket and that gave Siddle Johnson the Lankan bowlers some-20 6 49 Hauritz thing to bowl at.

22 Morkel

Duminy not out Morkel b Johnson While he had no Dilshan to

3 89 17 3 38 Harris

34 21 198 Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-39, 3-102, 4-126, 5-132, 6-141, 7-