

## Lara tipped to coach T&T

CRICINFO, undated

Brian Lara, the former West Indies captain, has confirmed he is in talks with the Trinidad & Tobago board about a role for him in T&T's Champions League campaign. His role is likely to be a coaching one since he cannot join the side as a player -- under the rules, the squad must be the same as the one that participated in the domestic competition.

"I haven't been approached but we have had discussions on it," Lara was quoted as saying in the Trinidad & Tobago Express. "I think we really want to come to a mutual understanding of exactly what Trinidad and Tobago cricket wants to get out of Brian Lara. I think you are going to play in an international tournament for the first time, we're accustomed to playing regional tournaments but we have to know exactly what the pitches are going to be."

T&T are the only West Indies team to compete in the tournament, which includes three sides from India, two each from Australia, England and South Africa and one each from Sri Lanka and New Zealand. They will be up against international stars like Brendon McCullum, Andrew Symonds, Adam Gilchrist, Dale Steyn, Virender Sehwag and Daniel Vettori.

"The opposition is on an international stage ... so I see some merit in it but to know exactly what role I'll be playing, I'm not so sure. If they see I can be an asset, it is something I'll definitely look at."

Lara had signed up with the ICL for their first season but that is unlikely to affect his role with the T&T since players who have ended their association with the unofficial league are being rehabilitated by their country's boards.

## Sheikh Russel

FROM PAGE 17

Abahani defender Sunny, Mohammedan defender Kamal, striker Mohammad Ronny, midfielder Maruf, Brothers Union winger Abdullah Parvez and Chittagong Mohammediand defender Khokon Das.

Club's president Nurul Islam Chowdhury informed that they were initially going to start the camp with 18 players. The remaining players will join them later.

Chowdhury said that four players from Serbia and Ghana would be playing for them in the upcoming Federation Cup and later one more player would join them during the professional football league scheduled to start on October 16.

Meanwhile, holders Abahani have already started their preparations on Wednesday and are also scheduled to head for BKSP on August 18 for a two-week camp.

## Drogba fires

FROM PAGE 17

Hull goalkeeper Boaz Myhill.

From that moment on, Hull were forced into survival mode with Chelsea dominating possession.

It helped Hull's cause that Chelsea were in wasteful mood, never more so than when Nicolas Anelka tamely shot straight at Myhill just seconds after the restart, a miss that was as glaring as Drogba's had been at the start.

Myhill repeatedly dealt with anything Chelsea threw at him in the second period, including an outstanding save to deny Drogba.

And, worryingly for Ancelotti, as time wore on, his side ran out of ideas far too quickly for a side with title ambitions until Drogba conjured a final piece of magic.

## Cesc not

FROM PAGE 20

Wenger revealed Arsenal are no further forward in any potential transfer deals, which have included a look at bringing former captain Patrick Vieira back as well as Bordeaux's Morocco striker Marouane Chamakh and Fulham defender Brede Hangeland.

"I have all the players in place," he added. "If we need to add one or two more, the transfer period is open until August 31."

"Ideally you want not to move any more, but you always have to adjust. If there is a need there, we will do it."

"There are still a lot of players who want to come to Arsenal, because they like the way we play and develop them."

"They feel they get access to top level competition, so I do not think we have a financial handicap."

"The market now is a world market, so you can always find good players."



Dhaka Club president Sadat Hossain Salim (6th from L) is seen with the winners of the Dhaka Club 98th Foundation Day Golf Tournament at the Suhrawardy Uddyan in the city on Friday.

## GAY SETS EARLY PACE Borchin takes first Gold

### Athletics

AFP, Berlin

Olympic champion Usain Bolt and reigning world champion Tyson Gay both cantered through the heats of the men's 100m on the opening day of the World Athletics Championships here on Saturday.

The first gold of the championships went Russia's way when Olympic champion Valeriy Borchin won the men's 20 kilometres walk title, finishing ahead of China's Wang Hao and Mexican Eder Sanchez.

With the Olympic Stadium bathed in sunshine and temperatures at a balmy 23C (73F), Bolt timed 10.20sec to lead Jamaican compatriots Michael Frater and Asafa Powell into the quarterfinals.

But former world record holder Powell, who took bronze in the Osaka worlds in 2007, almost paid the price for easing up too early, eventually finishing third in 10.38sec.

The one shock result in the 12 heats came as the silver medallist from Osaka, Derrick Atkins of the Bahamas, failed to qualify after clocking a disappointing 10.44sec.

In the US camp, defending triple world sprint champion Gay cruised through in the fastest heat time of 10.16sec along with his trio of teammates Darvis Patton, Michael Rodgers and Monzavous Edwards.

But Gay complained after his heat that his ongoing groin injury had not quite healed.

"I feel okay but my groin felt a little sore," he said. "I just didn't want to waste too much energy getting through. I just wanted to play it safe."

Other pre-race favourites, Daniel Bailey of Antigua -- Bolt's training partner -- won his heat while Churandy Martina of the Dutch Antilles, fourth at the Beijing Olympics, qualified in third spot in his race.

Briton Dwain Chambers, the world indoor 60m silver

medallist who is competing after having served a two-year doping ban, recorded the second fastest time of the morning, coming home in 10.18sec.

"I'm happy with the time," said Chambers. "The aim is to get through the rounds as easily as possible without using too much energy."

"You don't want to go sub-10sec here that uses up too much energy and digs into

your reserves."

"I didn't want to have any doubt about being in the next round so I made sure I didn't ease up," he said, adding that he was confident he could challenge the likes of Bolt and Gay.

"I don't doubt it for a second or I wouldn't be here."

In the men's shot-put, all the main favourites qualified for the final.

Olympic champion Tomasz Majewski of Poland recorded the longest putt of 21.19 metres on his first effort, with Belarus duo Pavel Lyzhyn and Andrei Mikhnevich close behind.

The American trio of Olympic silver medallist Christian Cantwell, Adam Nelson and reigning world champion Reese Hoffa also all qualified although the latter failed to hit the minimum qualification standard of 20.30m.

Britain's Jessica Ennis sat in pole position on 2,267 points after the first two events of the heptathlon, recording field leads of 12.93sec in the 100m hurdles and 1.92m in the high jump. Olympic champion Nataliya Dobrynska was in sixth spot on 2,016.

The heptathletes will later compete in the shot put and 200m. The second day of competition on Sunday involves long jump, javelin and the 800m.

In the women's 400m, American Sanya Richards struck the first blow in her bitter rivalry with Olympic and world champion Christine Ohuruogu, winning her heat in a conservative 51.06sec.



Russia's Valeriy Borchin strides his last few steps as he goes on to win the men's 20 km walk of the 2009 IAAF Athletics World Championships in Berlin yesterday.

## Rahul likely to return

### Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Expect Rahul Dravid, who last played an ODI in October 2007, to return. That is the likeliest solution for the recent woes against short-pitched bowling that the selection committee will arrive at when it sits to select the team for the tri-series in Sri Lanka and the Champions Trophy. This should work in the short term as immediate solidarity in the middle order, and also in the long term if Dravid can hang on for so long as the youngsters find their feet firmly.

Dravid's success in this year's IPL makes the decision easier for the selectors, who were prompted to bring him back to the one-day fold after Virender Sehwag's injury and the younger batsmen's troubles with short-pitched bowling, highlighted most starkly in the ICC World Twenty20.

It doesn't seem likely that Sehwag will meet the fitness deadline for the Sri Lanka tri-series, but the selectors should name him in the Champions Trophy squad. He is expected to be back in action by the first week of September, which makes it too tight to pick him for Sri Lanka, but gives him enough time before the Champions Trophy. How much ever the selectors might want to choose the same 15 for both events, Sehwag will be too big a temptation. A word of caution, though: replacement rules at ICC events are tough, and India might not want to push them too much. In Sehwag's absence in Sri Lanka, though, India need not find a replacement, because Sachin Tendulkar is expected back and should open the innings with Gautam Gambhir.

Also returning will be Suresh Raina, who has recovered from a hairline fracture on his thumb. Zaheer Khan, as previously reported, has been ruled out of both events and Ishant Sharma, Praveen Kumar, Ashish Nehra and RP Singh should be given the fast-bowling duties. What should make the decision easier is that three of them did well during the IPL in South Africa, where the Champions Trophy will be played. That being the fast-bowling scenario, 12 players select themselves, leaving three places open for debate.

While it is believed that left-arm spinner Pragyan Ojha is under pressure from Amit Mishra, he should retain his place owing to his success in this year's IPL. Moreover, Ojha has had an impressive run in ODIs, taking 12 wickets at 28.00 in nine games. Rohit Sharma's place is a little less certain owing to a lean run off late (15 runs in three innings in the West Indies and 43 runs in three innings against major opposition in the World Twenty20), but he should hold on to his place, unless the selectors have made their mind up to send a strong message to the talented batsman who has just four half-centuries and no century in 41 ODIs.

The last place will be a toss-up between Dinesh Karthik, who did himself no harm by doing well both in the IPL and in the West Indies, Ravindra Jadeja and Abhishek Nayar.

There is also a possibility that Karthik might play as a pure batsman ahead of Rohit. In Irfan Pathan's absence, Yusuf Pathan remains the only allrounder in the team, so they might want to pick either Nayar or Jadeja. If Sehwag is picked for the Champions Trophy one of the extras might have to make way.

#### PROBABLE SQUAD

Sachin Tendulkar, Gautam Gambhir, Rahul Dravid, Suresh Raina, Yuvraj Singh, MS Dhoni (captain), Yusuf Pathan, Harbhajan Singh, Praveen Kumar, Ishant Sharma, Ashish Nehra, RP Singh, Pragyan Ojha or Amit Mishra and two out of Dinesh Karthik, Abhishek Nayar, and Ravindra Jadeja.

## Pak blind team denied UK visa

### Cricket

AFP, Islamabad

The head of Pakistan's blind cricket team on Saturday demanded that the sport's World Cup be shifted from England after the team was denied visas to play two series.

He said it was ridiculous that the UK visa authorities said they were concerned players would not return to Pakistan and that they did not have sufficient income.

It is insulting, how can a blind man run away when he can't go anywhere without help?" he added.

Pakistan is one of the top nations in the ten-member WBCB, having finished runners-up in the inaugural World Cup in 1998 and winning the next two editions, 2002 in Chennai, India and 2006 in Islamabad.

Shah was the first Pakistani blind cricket team captain.

"Most of our players are well-off with government jobs and the Pakistan Cricket Board was sponsoring us for the tour so where does the question of income arise?" he said.

The UKBA maintained it was justified in refusing the team visas and demanded the World Cup be re-located.

"We are protesting this with the WBCB. We are demanding that the World Cup be shifted from England because Bangladesh, India, Nepal and

the rest of the world are not allowed to play in England," he said.

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