



Serbian Jelena Jankovic stretches to make a forehand return against Russian Elena Dementieva (not in picture) during the semifinal of the Western & Southern Financial Group Women's Open in Cincinnati on Saturday.

## Trott to keep

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dropped Ravi Bopara.

Essex batsman Bopara managed just one and nought during England's innings and 80 run fourth Test defeat at Headingly, a result that saw Australia level the five-match Ashes series at 1-1 with the Oval finale, which starts on Thursday, to come.

Those scores compounded a poor series for Bopara who, batting at number three, has managed just 107 runs in seven innings against Australia at a meagre average of 15.

England, with Kevin Pietersen out of the series following the second Test because of an Achilles injury, decided they had to do something to stiffen the top-order and so selected Trott, in the squad at Headingly but left out of the final XI.

"I'm chuffed as hell really. I've been playing pretty well this season so hope I can play well this week," Trott told BBC Radio 5 Live's Sportsweek programme on Sunday.

"I'm pretty much going to try and stay as relaxed as possible. I'd like to think that under pressure I perform -- we'll see this week," added Trott, whose only previous experience of senior international cricket saw him score 11 runs in two back-to-back Twenty20s against the West Indies at the Oval in 2007.

Trott, who played for South Africa Under-19s but qualified for England on the basis of parentage, has been in fine form this season.

The 28-year-old reinforced his case for a Test call earlier this week with 121 for Warwickshire, whose director of cricket Ashley Giles is also an England selector, against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge.

### SQUAD

Andrew Strauss (captain), Alastair Cook, Ian Bell, Jonathan Trott, Paul Collingwood, Matthew Prior, Andrew Flintoff, Stuart Broad, Graeme Swann, James Anderson, Stephen Harmison, Graham Onions, Monty Panesar, Ryan Sidebottom.

## Rahmatganj

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side before the Federation Cup got underway from September 10.

"Keeping the time in mind, I will make the schedule and I think I will be able to prepare the team before the start of the tournament," said Faruque.

Rahmatganj MFS general secretary Tipu Sultan requested the football governing body to reconsider its decision on relegating three teams.

The signed up players are: Arifus Jaman Himmel, Mohammad Nehal Jahangir Patwary, Asif Hossain Rimon, SM Razib, Kabir Hossain, Jakir Hossain, Rasel Alam, Saeed Azaam Khan Saghor, Mohammad Mamun, Naimur Rahman Shahed, Sabir Hossain Pritom, Chowmin Rakhaian, Pasban Mollah, Mohammad Montu, A Hamid Sheikh Bhasani and Sohel Rana.

## Chamakh

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day, a 4-0 hammering of beaten 2004 Champions League finalists Monaco making sure they go top thanks to a superior goal difference over Bordeaux.

"We can't say we really expected that," said Nancy coach Pablo Correa.

"We're showing some interesting things out on the park and it's good to see the players are not happy with just a win."

Lens enjoyed a 2-0 win at home to Auxerre while Lorient grabbed a deserved share of the spoils when Laurent Koscielny scored an injury-time equaliser to draw 2-2 with Montpellier.

## Safina-Jankovic final

### Tennis

AFP, Cincinnati

World number one Dinara Safina cruised into the final of the two million-dollar WTA Cincinnati Open on Saturday as Jelena Jankovic clawed her way into the title match.

Safina needed just 56 minutes to post a 6-2, 6-0 victory over Italy's Flavia Pennetta. She improved to 7-0 lifetime against Pennetta, who was coming off a third-round victory over Venus Williams here as well as a title in Los Angeles last weekend.

In the final, Russia's Safina will take on fifth-seeded Serbian Jankovic, who emerged from a scrappy match with a 7-6, 0-6, 7-6 victory over fourth-seeded Russian Elena Dementieva.

Jankovic squandered three match points in the third set as Dementieva forced the tie-breaker.

She fell behind 6-2 before winning the final six points, finally sealing the victory after 2hr 46min.

She and Dementieva combined for 13 breaks of serve and 25 double-faults.

"I don't believe I won this match," Jankovic said.

There were no such worries for Safina, who reached her eighth final in 14 tournaments this year.

"Every match I feel better," said Safina, the French Open and Australian runner-up who

eliminated former world number one Kim Clijsters in the quarterfinals to end the Belgian's first comeback tournament.

"Today, stepping on the court, I was feeling very good and confident. I was feeling very good stepping in."

Pennetta admitted her run of success, which saw her playing her 11th match in 13 days, had taken a toll.

She had blisters on her feet and played with her aching right ankle taped.

"She was playing much better than me," Pennetta said. "I was a little bit tired, of course, but I didn't lose for that. She was playing unbelievable."

While Pennetta didn't want to make excuses, Safina said she could tell her opponent was running on empty.

"I know how it is playing that many matches in a row," Safina said. "When somebody starts to put pressure on you from the first, it's tough mentally to face it."

Safina won the first six points of the match, earned an early break to take a 2-0 lead and never looked back.

"That was the key for myself. I wanted to put the pressure and to dominate, and not let her get into the match," Safina said.

By reaching the semifinals, Pennetta ensured she will become the first Italian woman to break into the top 10 when the rankings come out on Monday. She started this week ranked 12th.

Safina, 23, will try to wrap up her 17th straight week at number one with a title on Sunday.

## Rhodes's thoughts on CT

### Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Jonty Rhodes, the former South African player, has said home advantage will mean little in next month's Champions Trophy in South Africa since teams travel a lot more and are used to different conditions these days.

"The support of the crowd does make a difference if things go a bit flat and they can't find you, but South Africa won't be relying on that," Rhodes told the Supercricket website. "They'll be relying on planning and getting in place all the processes involved in winning."

Rhodes, the leading coach for Indian Premier League team Mumbai Indians, said South Africa were favourites for the trophy along with Australia and India. "They [South Africa] are a really well-balanced unit and they are setting standards for the other teams to chase. But Australia are written off far too easily, they will obviously be strong contenders, they have a good record in the competition and they know

how to win. India are also very good, they've learnt how to travel and win and they have destructive bowlers and hitters in their line-up."

South Africa's strength, Rhodes said, was their consistency, which is important in a 50-over tournament. The top eight teams have been divided into two groups of four each and the top two from each group will qualify for the semifinals of the two-week long tournament. "They've been playing great cricket, the team is settled and everyone knows their roles, they've got special players in batting, bowling and fielding. Their preparation and organisation will be excellent and they've learnt how to hit the ground running. They've learnt how to switch on very quickly and the management team of Graeme Smith and Mickey Arthur have been very good at that."

"But you can't afford to have a bad day. We saw that in the Twenty20 World Cup, where we played great cricket but, to take nothing away from the opposition, someone like Shahid Afridi produced something special."

South Africa will open the tournament, from September 22 to October 5, with a game against Sri Lanka in Centurion. Rhodes's thoughts on CT

achieved in 2872 previous one-dayers.

He only managed three singles in the 48th, but a massive six over long-on took him to 191 with the final over still to come. A drive to cover on the first ball took him off strike, and he wasn't back facing the bowling until the last; Tamara Mupariwa was dismissed off the second and Prosper Utseywa facing the next three. Two runs were needed to equal Saeed Anwar's 12-year-old mark, and a tired punch straight past the bowler gave Coventry a share of the record. His final 91 had come off just 43 deliveries.

Bangladesh would have been facing a far smaller target had Syed Rasel held on to a simple catch at deep square leg when Coventry was only 13. With Coventry on 137 in the 44th over and the worst of the damage still to be done, Mahmudullah dropped a catch at square leg. Coventry celebrated by plundering 16 each of the next two overs, the crowds behind midwicket kept busy by the deliveries hammered by Coventry.

Bangladesh had won seven matches in a row ahead of their reverse in the third ODI. How they tackle this tall target will be an indicator of how whether they have actually progressed over the past few months.

**SCOREBOARD**

Scoreboard of the fourth one-

day international between Zimbabwe and Bangladesh at Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo on Sunday:

**ZIMBABWE**

Vermeulen c Zunaid b Mahbubul 5  
Masakadza c Rokibul b Ashraf 21  
Price c Weller b Waller 0  
Waller c Waller 3

**Result:** Bangladesh won by 4 wickets and lead 5-match series 3-1.

**Men-of-the-match:** Tamim Iqbal and Charles Coventry.

## Rossi wins in Brno

AFP, Brno

Italy's Valentino Rossi on a Yamaha won the MotoGP race at the Czech Grand Prix meeting here on Sunday to extend his overall championship lead and all but clinch a ninth world title.

After a thrilling head-to-head duel with Spanish stablemate Jorge Lorenzo, Rossi profited from the latter's fall five laps from the finish to extend his lead to 50 points.

Lorenzo had passed Rossi three laps earlier but his spectacular tumble -- from which he emerged unscathed -- handed Rossi a clear run through to the finish and a 102nd career victory.

The 30-year-old Rossi, nicknamed The Doctor, is now closing in on Giacomo Agostini's all-time mark of 122 race wins.

## Kambli quits int'l cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Vinod Kambli, who last played international cricket in 2000 and senior domestic cricket in 2004-05, has announced his retirement from international cricket. He will continue to make himself available for domestic selection.

Kambli made the announcement at the inauguration of his sports academy, Khel Bharati, in the presence of Virender Sehwag, who inaugurated the academy, and Ramakant Acharekar, who coached Kambli and Sachin Tendulkar during their youth.

Kambli, 37, has gradually gone farther and farther from the selectors' sights after he was dropped in 2000. His international career was a classic story of promise gone wrong. He announced himself to the world with double-centuries in his third and fourth Tests, but sadly took the fast route to destruction. He made nine comebacks into the ODI team, but played his last Test in 1995, before he had turned 24. Since being out of the Indian and Mumbai teams, he has tried his hand at movies and reality shows on the small screen.

**GP BCB fall**

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165 in the first innings after the home side posted 291 after winning the toss. The visitors will now face their counterparts in a three match one-dayer series, beginning on August 19 in Pretoria.

**BRIEF SCORES**

**STANDARD BANK NATIONAL CRICKET ACADEMY:** (292 all out in the first innings) in the second innings 254 all out - David Miller 77, Rilee Rossouw 43, Omphile Ramela 42, Obus Pienaar 21, Roy Adams 20, Farhad Hossain 4-30, Tanvir Haider 3-47 and Nasir Hossain 2-70

**GP-BCB NATIONAL CRICKET ACADEMY:** (165 all out in the first innings) - in the second innings 209-9 all out - Tanvir Haider 64, Farhad Hossain 44, Matsikwe 4-84 and Andrew Birch 2-25.

**Pakistan at the SSC.** But following his 68 off 60 balls while opening for Sri Lanka Cricket Development XI against the New Zealanders in the tour game in Colombo, he is likely to replace Malinda Warnapura as Tharanga Paranavithana's opening partner.

The selectors told me to have a knock here in the tour match as opener and I got a great opportunity to bat in the middle facing the new ball," Dilshan said. "It was good practice for me I am now ready for the Test match.

Dilshan, 32, had fractured his right index finger and underwent several stitches above his left eye on the second day of the third Test against

**Another**

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At the same mark came the end of Tysele Platzer, on a high at one point and dreaming of a medal, as she was also disqualified, and distraught went to the barriers to look for her brother and got a consoling hug. Both Liu and Loughnane got a warning early on the second lap, though, the Irish girl still had the legs to pull away from her Chinese rival -- but there was no catching the impressive Russian.

**Dravid back**

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be held from September 24 to October 5.

**SQUAD**

Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Sachin Tendulkar, Gautam Gambhir, Rahul Dravid, Suresh Raina, Yuvraj Singh, Yusuf Pathan, Harbhajan Singh, Praveen Kumar, Ishant Sharma, Ashish Nehra, Rudra Pratap Singh, Amit Mishra, Dinesh Karthik, Abhishek Nayar.

**CROSSWORD** By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Guitars' 33 Swing

5 Conclude 36 Fop

8 Audio 38 Nineteen

12 Punjabi 40 Conspiracy

13 Old believer

14 Maleficence

15 Basin

16 Pavement

18 Motor-

cycle

21 Laurel's

partner

20 Irritates

21 Distort

22 Distant

23 Campers'

shelter

24 TV

Tarzan

Ron

25 Sky

26 Proscribe

27 Moreover

28 Shaft

29 Crafty

31 English

32 Basin

33 Pavement

34 Range