

## Gay opts out of 200m

AFP, Berlin

Defending champion Tyson Gay of the United States has pulled out of the men's 200m at the world athletics championships here because of a nagging groin injury.

Gay will instead focus on preparing for a possible appearance in the US 4x100m relay, the US team said in a statement.

Gay's efforts in Sunday's 100m final, when he won silver in an American record of 9.71sec behind Usain Bolt's world record of 9.58, took enough of a toll on Gay that he decided "resting would better serve the interests of Team USA and himself", it said.

"Rather than risk further injury, I've decided that I will not compete in tomorrow's (Tuesday) first round of the 200m," Gay said Monday.

"I would like to be a part of Team USA's 4x100m and believe this decision will give me the best chance to be ready for the relay. I want to help our relayas best I can."

The US team will name its first-round relay line-up after the men's 200m final on Thursday. The first round of the relay is on Friday, with the final on Saturday.

## Super League

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"I personally believe only in sporting merit, so if one league is created there has to be promotion up and down. But that would be, practically, very difficult to resolve."

"I do not want to kill the national leagues so each team should have to play in the national league and in Europe. That means the Euro league taking place in mid-week and the national league over the weekend. All this would mean having two teams, basically."

Wenger went on to warn Celtic that his side, who kicked off their season with a stunning 6-1 win over Everton, have the potential to do even better.

"We go into the game maybe a little bit lifted and with belief and confidence because we had a good result away from home at a difficult place," he said.

"But you can't come to any conclusions after one game. There is room for improvement in every aspect of the game on Saturday, offensively and defensively."

"With every opportunity we created we scored in that game and that shows that the team is highly focussed. But our targets have not been reached yet."

"I want to do what is right for the team and the club and to help this team achieve success. I believe we have the potential to do it, but I am long enough in the job to know that one game is only one game."

## BCB expects

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of the domestic leagues and tournaments, but the fact is that the commercial and marketing hardly got any sponsor for the domestic tournaments or leagues.

The 9th meeting of the board of directors approved the 2009-2010 domestic calendar that will see the National Cricket League in the changed format as well as less matches than in the last year's 30 matches.

The amount in administration has been increased to Tk 18.73 crore, Tk 13.73 crore more than last year's Tk 5.73 crore.

"The coaches' salaries of different committee and the expenditure of sports gears have brought under the administration that's why it has increased this fiscal," said BCB acting CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury.

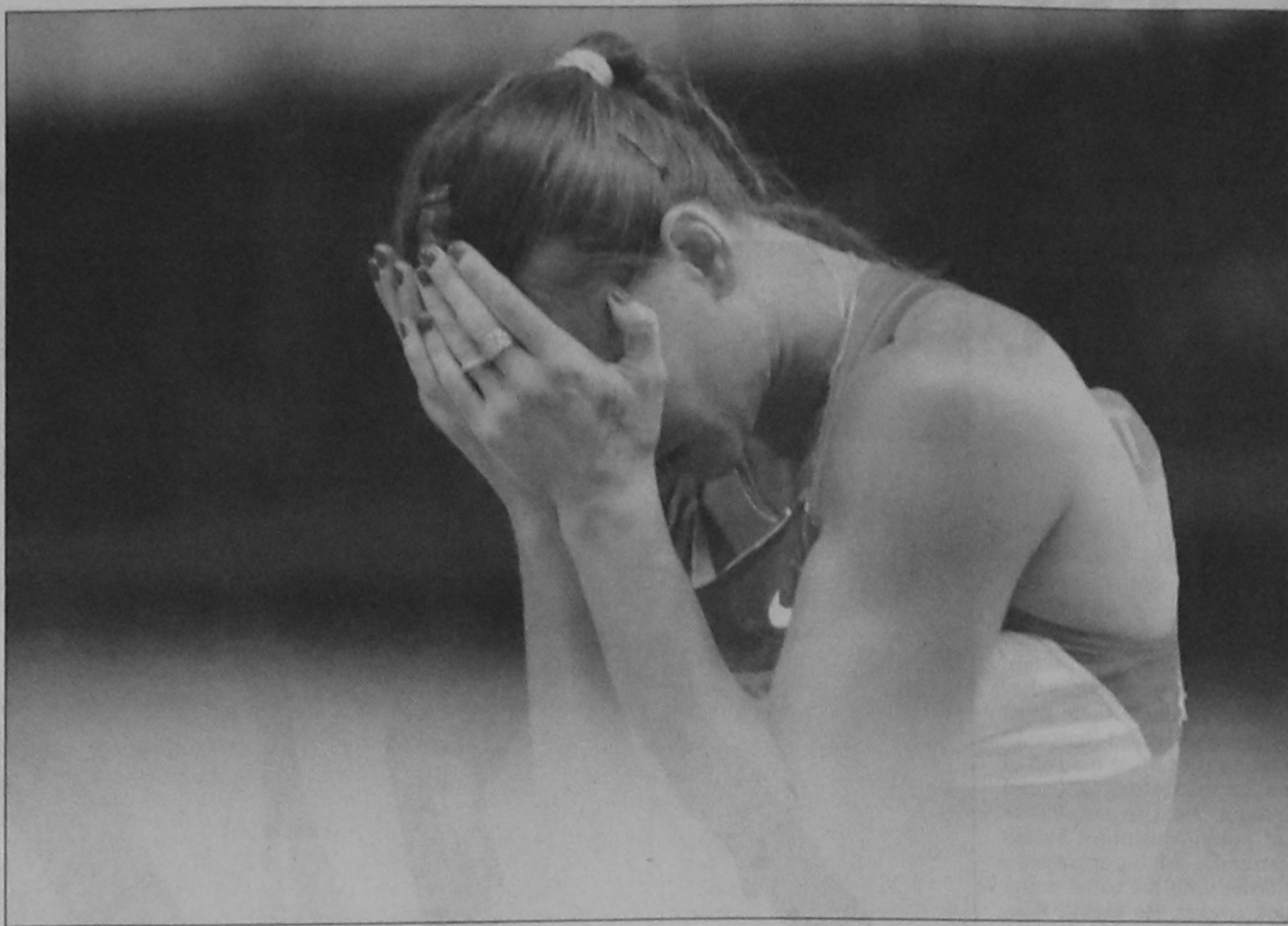
## C'Ron to rival

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"They want to be seen as young, good looking, funky, successful brands so therefore they want to have young, good looking, funky, successful icons promoting their name," said veteran football agent Jon Holmes, who managed former England international striker Gary Lineker.

"He is a good looking guy and I would say his level of articulateness is about the same as Beckham's. I don't know about his intelligence or anything like that but he is not dissimilar in some ways," he told AFP.

"He is probably a better player than Beckham in that he is more versatile. Beckham is a workhorse of a player. Ronaldo seems to be a more natural player."



Russian pole vault queen Yelena Isinbayeva reacts after missing her last attempt in the women's pole vault final of Athletics World Championships in Berlin on Monday.

## Isinbayeva dethroned

AFP, Berlin



Anna Rogowska claimed gold at the world athletics championships.

Isinbayeva, the double Olympic champion and world record holder, was a shadow of her usual self in her bid to win a third consecutive world title as she failed at 4.75m and then twice at 4.80m to finish out of the medals.

The 27-year-old -- who set the world record of 5.05m at the Beijing Olympic Games on her way to the gold last year -- slumped with her head in her hands after her third failure, while her Polish conqueror failed to contain her joy.

"I have no proper explanation for what happened today," said the Russian.

"Everything was perfect, I was confident and I cleared 4.70m during the warm-up."

"When I was lying on the ground and concentrating, I imagined my victory and not defeat."

"Something like this happened nine years ago. I did not expect it."

"I hope I will recover from this."

Rogowska for her part could scarcely believe it either.

She said: "If somebody told me this morning (Monday) that I would win the gold medal, I would have just smiled."

"Everybody was so surprised when Isinbayeva hit the bar. I still do not believe I won. Maybe tomorrow I will realise it."

"Who would have believed Yelena would not get a medal? She is the only woman in the world to have jumped over five metres."

## Icing tastes sweet

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when he scored a magnificent 154. He lasted for some time but never looked at ease. Tamim lost his stumps to the spin of Raymond Price after scoring only four runs playing 23 balls. Mohammad Ashraful also fell for four, he was unfortunately though as his powerfully struck shot was plucked superbly out of thin air at point by Vusi Sibanda off the bowling of Elton Chigumbura.

Mushfiqu struck up good partnerships with Rokibul, Shakib and Mahmudullah to always have their noses in front in the game. Rokibul's painstaking knock of 24 came in twice as many deliveries. Shakib played a cameo of 30 before perishing trying to go big over long-on. But Mushfiqu stayed there till the victory was almost confirmed. He struck 11 fours in his 121-ball knock.

Earlier, in the morning, winning the toss, Zimbabwe captain might not have expected Bangladesh pacers to dominate proceedings on this batting paradise called Queens Park, specially with the knowledge that the Bangladesh pace attack has been severely decimated due to injury of key bowlers. So it came as a pleasant surprise for the spectators when the first hour of cricket saw an unknown seamer aptly named Dollar Mahmood making all the inroads to leave the Zimbabwean batting in tatters.

Dollar was adjudged man-of-the-match for his four-wicket burst with opener Tamim lifting the man-of-the-series award for his 300 runs in five games including two fifties and a big hundred.

Dollar, who has only flown as a replacement for the injured Rubel Hossain, came in at the expense of Mahbubul Alam who had taken five wickets in the two games he played, albeit conceding a few runs. He grasped the opportunity with both hands to finish with figures of 28-4 from eight

overs. Bettering his one-day career wicket haul in this only his fifth game, much can be expected of this 20-year-old tall swing bowler in future.

The first wicket that he took was an unusual one, and he perhaps enjoyed it most. Sibanda, handed a second opportunity after his duck in the third ODI, couldn't justify the selectors' decision as he fell for only two this time leaving the team score on five. Sibanda left his leg stump as he made a huge shuffle towards middle and the ball pitched on leg stump found no hurdle in rattling the timber.

Zimbabwe's hero of last game, Charles Coventry couldn't repeat his heroics this time as an outswinger from Dollar undid him. Pitched outside off-stump, it moved away to kiss the outside edge and Mushfiqu Rahim behind the wicket took an acrobatic catch. The third one to fall was in-form batsman Hamilton Masakadza, who looked comfortable dealing with the bowling, had raced on to 25 but paid the price for poor running between the wickets.

Dollar's third dismissal was a classic one, a superb inswinger pitched on the off-stump and darting back in to break through the defences of Waller and crash into the stumps. His fourth one was hard-hitter Chigumbura, who went forward to inswinging delivery, came half-forward but couldn't negotiate and was struck plumb in front to be adjudged lbw. A hopeless situation at 69 for 6 was resurrected courtesy of two good partnerships involving lower-order batsmen Brendan Taylor, Prosper Utseya and Raymond Price who took Zimbabwe's total past 200 to have something for the bowlers to bowl at. Syed Raseel chipped in with three wickets for Bangladesh while the three part-time spinners shared one each. Shakib Al Hasan

"I didn't really care where I finished as long as I was on the podium, so to get gold was a wonderful surprise."

Rogowska broke Isinbayeva's six-year unbeaten record in London last month and having inflicted a second defeat on the Russian here, the 28-year-old Pole was hugged by her rivals after she claimed her first major competition win.

She was the only athlete to clear 4.75m here and it was enough to give her gold.

"I beat her in London, but don't forget, she is still Number One in the world," said Rogowska.

"Back in London, I just thought she was having a bad day and it would go away, I thought she would be on form for the world championships here and I expected her to win."

"I am very, very surprised that I got the gold medal with 4.75. I thought I would have to jump 4.80m plus to have a chance of the gold medal."

Having leapt her season's best of 4.65m, Chelsea Johnson of the United States shared silver with Rogowska's compatriot Monika Pyrek on count back as both cleared 4.65m at their first attempt.

Isinbayeva chose to first come in at 4.75m and Brazil's Fabiana Murer set the early pace before Johnson jumped her season's best to take the lead.

She was joined at 4.65m by Pyrek and Rogowska, while the crowd roared with enthusiasm when Germany's Silke Spiegelburg cleared the same height, but the pressure intensified when the bar went up to 4.75m.

Rogowska cleared 4.75m but then Isinbayeva raised a few eye-brows by aborting her attempt in mid-flight having failed to get enough height.

She passed her next two attempts to 4.80 and then failed at her first attempt to leave her with just one chance to pull off victory.

remained wicketless but was as miserably as ever conceding only 22 runs off his eight overs.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the fifth and final one-day international between Zimbabwe and Bangladesh at the Queens Sports Club on Tuesday:

ZIMBABWE			
Sibanda b Mahmud	2		
Masakadza run out	25		
Coventry c Mushfiqu b Mahmud	0		
Waller b Mahmud	10		
Williams lbw b Raseel	12		
Chigumbura lbw b Mahmud	12		
Taylor lbw b Mehrab	61		
Utseya b Mahmudullah	21		
Price lbw b Raseel	46		
Cremer st Mushfiqu b Nayeem	10		
Rainsford not out	1		
Extras: (lb-6, w-3)	9		
Total: (All out in 46.4 overs)	209		
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-9, 3-43, 4-47, 5-65, 6-69, 7-123, 8-176, 9-203.			

BANGLADESH			
Tamim b Price	4		
Mushfiqu st Coventry b Price	98		
Ashraful c Sibanda b Chigumbura	4		
Rokibul c Waller b Utseya	24		
Shakib c Masakadza c Cremer	30		
Mahmudullah not out	27		
Nayeem not out	4		
Extras: (b-4, lb-1, w-16)	21		
Total: (For 5 wks in 47.5 overs)	212		
Did not bat: Zunaed, Mehrab, Mahmud, Raseel.			
Fall of wickets: 1-43, 2-48, 3-99, 4-169, 5-199.			

Bowler			
Raseel	8.4	0	45
Mahmud	8	1	28
Shakib	8	2	22
Mehrab	7	0	43
Mahmudullah	10	0	40
Nayeem	5	0	25
Result: Bangladesh won by 5 wickets and clinched 5-match series 4-1.			
Man-of-the-match: Dollar Mahmud.			
Man-of-the-series: Tamim Iqbal.			

## SL dominate

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when he pulled O'Brien to the square-leg fence for his 13th boundary.

O'Brien gave away 90 runs in his 14 overs, while off-spinner Jeetan Patel went for 60 runs in 15 overs.

The Black Caps will play two Tests, two Twenty20 internationals and a limited-overs tri-series also featuring India during the five-week tour.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the opening day of the first Test between New Zealand and Sri Lanka at the Galle International Stadium on Tuesday:

SRI LANKA: First innings			
Paranavitana c McCullum b Martin	0		
Dilshan b O'Brien	92		
Sangakkara c Flynn b Martin	8		
M Jayawardene not out	108		
Samaraweera not out	82		
Extras: (b-1, lb-1, w-1)	3		
Total: (For 3 wks in 78 overs)	293		
To bat: Mathews, P Jayawardene, Muralidaran, Mendis, Thushara, Kulasekara.			

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-16, 3-134.

Bowler			
Martin	15	2	59
O'Brien	14	1	90
Oram	7	1	25
Vettori	24	5	48
Patel	15	1	60
Ryder	3	1	9

Toss: New Zealand

## Fraser

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but all her class could not bridge the gap with Jeter and she finished fourth in 10.95.

Jeter's US team-mate Lauryn Williams, the 2005 world champion and 2007 silver medalist, got better as the race progressed but, isolated out in lane eight, she had to be satisfied with fifth.

The two Bahamas veterans, 33-year-old Debbie Ferguson-McKenzie and Chandra Sturup, who first competed in the Olympics in 1996 and turns 37 next month, filled sixth and seventh respectively while Aleen Bailey, a member of the 2004 Olympic gold winning 4x100m relay team, was always trailing and rounded up the field.

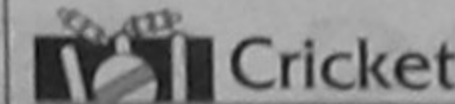
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## Flintoff facing heavy burden



AFP, London

Injury prone all-rounder Andrew Flintoff faces a taxing schedule after being named in all three of England's one-day squads here on Monday - each one missing injured batsman Kevin Pietersen.

Flintoff, who is set to make his farewell to Test cricket in this week's Ashes decider here at the Oval despite still struggling with a knee problem, has made it clear he wants to remain a force in one-day internationals (ODIs).

And the England selectors appear to have taken the 31-year-old at his word.

He was included in the 15-man party from which England will pick their side for the seven home ODIs against Australia that follow hard on the heels of the Ashes finale before that squad heads to South Africa for the Champions Trophy where England will bid to win their first major one-day title.

Test captain Andrew Strauss will lead a squad featuring just one uncapped player in Kent batsman Joe Denly.

But before that, and with star batsman Pietersen recovering from an Achilles injury, Flintoff will be a member of the 14-man squad that travels to Belfast for a match against Ireland that takes places just three days after the scheduled end of the decisive fifth Ashes Test.

That team will be captained by Paul Collingwood, in the rested Strauss' absence, as will the 15 man-squad chosen to face Australia in two Twenty20 internationals at Old Trafford - Flintoff's Lancashire home ground.

As well as Flintoff, Denly, leg-spinner Adil Rashid, wicket-keeper Matt Prior, Owais Shah and Ashes discard Ravi Bopara are in all three squads.

Jonathan Trott, Bopara's replacement at the Oval, only makes it into the Twenty20 squad as a batting stand-in for the absent Strauss.

But Alastair Cook, keeper James Foster, Test fast bowler Stephen Harmison, Ian Bell, Rob Key and all-rounder Dimitri Mascarenhas have all failed to make the cut for the Champions

## No 'pitch-fixing' at Oval



AFP, London

Officials at the Oval insisted Monday they had not been leant on by the England management to prepare a 'result pitch' for this week's Ashes decider.

The series is all square at 1-1 heading into the fifth Test which gets underway at England's oldest international ground on Thursday.

But Australia need only a draw to retain the Ashes whereas England must win to regain them.

It was at the Oval where England posted the then world record Test innings score of 903 for seven declared, against Australia, in 1938.

Although the pitch has ever since had a reputation as something of a batsmen's paradise, seven of the last 10 Tests at the south London have ended in a positive result.

And Surrey operations director Clive Stephens insisted to reporters at the Oval here on Monday that England officials had not been on the phone to long-serving groundsman Bill Gordon, who has been on the

staff since 1974, with a wish-list.

"They have let us get on with it," Stephens said. "They realise what we do here is produce consistently good wickets, year in, year out."

"I think the stats over the last ten Test matches are that England have won five, have lost two and there have been three draws."

"So the perception that it is a wicket set up to produce drawn results is just myth."

The Test pitch has not been used since England beat South Africa by six wickets last August.

Along with the rest of the square, it was scarified and re-seeded during the northern winter and protected from the wear and tear of county matches until Gordon's team began their final Test preparations 10 days ago.

Stephens added: "It will be a typical Oval international wicket, a bit of bounce and pace and fair competition between bat and ball."

"By days four and five we should start to see a bit of movement in it."

This match will be the first Test at the Oval since the TurfTrax weather monitoring system, already used in horse racing, has been installed.

Trophy squad after being included in the provisional 30 and do not feature in England's other one-day parties either.

"We have kept faith with the bulk of the squad which was successful in the NatWest Series against West Indies earlier this summer and also included two players, Luke Wright and Adil Rashid, who were part of our squad for the ICC World T20," said England national selector Geoff Miller.

"Joe Denly has impressed the selectors for a while with some excellent performances in one-day cricket -- and with Kevin Pietersen unavailable through injury, this is an excellent opportunity for Joe to step up to the next level and show what he is capable of."

Strauss ruled himself out of England's Twenty20 plans earlier this year but remains available for the 50-over format.

However, Miller