

## Semenya shuns gender row

AFP, Pretoria

South Africa's world champion athlete Caster Semenya on Tuesday declined to speak about the order for her to undergo gender tests, instead praising her coach as she addressed reporters alongside President Jacob Zuma.

"I called my coach and my coach told me 'you can do it, man'," she said. "You lead from start to finish. You can do it, girl," she added, recalling her coach's comments.

"I took a lead in the last 400 and I killed them. They couldn't follow the race. It was good man. I saw gold at the last 200," she said, smiling as she spoke.

The comments were the first time that the 18-year-old has spoken about her gold medal at the World Athletics Championships in Berlin last week, where she powered to a 1 minute 55.45 seconds win in the 800 metres -- the world's best this year.

Shortly before the race, world athletics governing body, the IAAF, announced that Semenya would undergo tests to verify her gender, sparking an outcry in South Africa and feeding a debate about what makes a woman a woman.

## Crowe warns of Vettori burnout

CRICINFO, undated

Martin Crowe has expressed concerns about the workload of Daniel Vettori, who has become the most powerful New Zealand captain in history after getting a place in the selection panel.

"I do worry that the workload will burn Dan out," Crowe told the Dominion Post. "(Being) captain of the national team is exhausting enough." Besides captaining the team, Vettori is also the side's leading bowler and an important cog in the lower order.

On Sunday, he and coach Andy Moles were included in the selection panel, which also has former players Glenn Turner and Mark Greatbatch. Captains and coaches usually have a say in selections, but this is the first time they are being given voting rights. After the new appointments, Turner had said Vettori and Moles would have to put more time into team selection as they would now have to present their cases to the panel.

Another former New Zealand captain, Ken Rutherford, backed the radical move but said that there was potential for problems to crop up. "Vettori is a wise man and, better than anyone else, will know what is required to ease his team out of the doldrums," he said. "His relationship with the coach appears strong, and that might be a problem at the selection table, as Glenn Turner, in particular, is stubborn and won't have his opinion easily massaged for consensus sake. Therefore, there could be a recipe for some conflict."

## ECNEC okays

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wait for budgetary approval for the port city venue as they have just submitted the DPP (development project planning) to the NSC.

Meanwhile, the ECNEC has also approved the Tk 392 crore Siddirganj-Maniknagar 230KV power transmission line and Tk 40 crore expansion and development of Chittagong College to Kapash Gola Road project under Chittagong Development Authority.

## Muslim leader

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sundown, but with sundown occurring at just before 8pm, it would not give Sulley much time to rehydrate and get some energy into his body.

Sulley is not the only player in Italy to be faced with this problem, although many other Muslim footballers choose not to practise Ramadan.

Siena striker Abdelkader Ghezzal, who scored in the 2-1 defeat at home to AC Milan at the weekend, revealed he simply cannot fast and play at the same time.

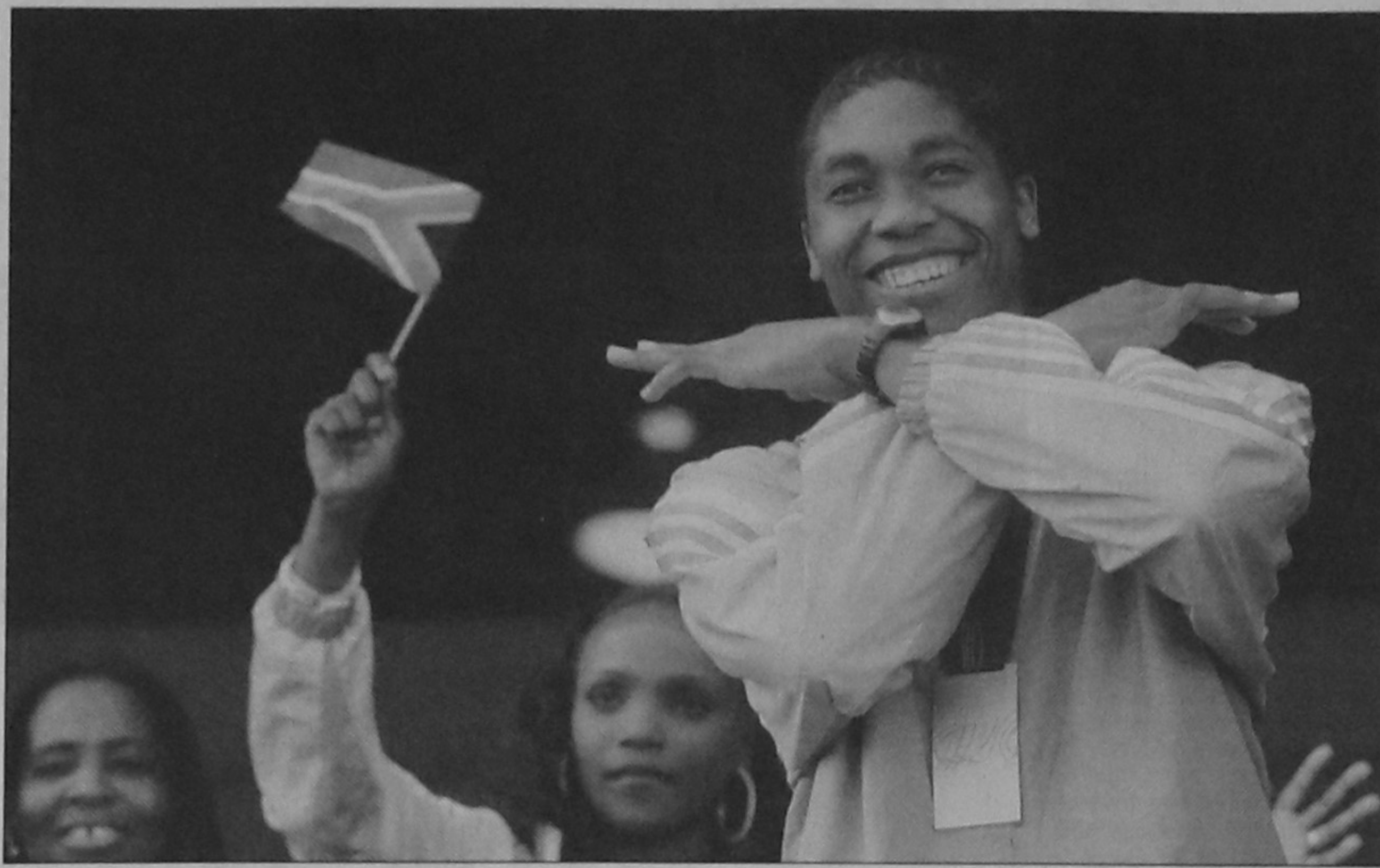
"I observe the fast during my days off, when there are no games or training," said the Algerian.

"I've always observed Ramadan but I have had to change my habits for health reasons from the first year that I became a professional.

"I was at Crotone (then in Serie C1 but now in Serie B) but after two weeks I felt ill and had to stop."

Udinese's Swiss midfielder Gokhan Inler, a Muslim of Turkish origin, is another who is not fasting this month, while Genoa's Moroccan midfielder Houssine Kharja does respect Ramadan.

Tellingly, though, both Ghezzal and Inler played 90 minutes at the weekend, Kharja never got off the bench.



South Africa's 18-year-old 800m world women's champion Caster Semenya (R) dances during a welcome ceremony outside the Tambo international airport in Johannesburg on Tuesday. Semenya was awarded a heroine's welcome by her countrymen despite a controversy over her gender that marred her victory at the World Athletics Championships.

## Broad looks beyond Ashes

Cricket

AFP, London

Any thoughts that winning the Ashes might be the summit of Stuart Broad's ambition were firmly dispelled by the England rising star just a day after the team's series win over Australia.

"I want to play 100 Test matches for England, I want to be the highest one-day wicket-taker for England but more importantly I want to win World Cups for England and an Ashes series in Australia," Broad told reporters at the team's hotel here on Monday.

"I want to make England the best team in the world and that prospect is the thing that really excites me and makes me want to get out of bed every day when I have bowled 30 overs the day before."

No wonder then that pace bowler Broad, whose father Chris, the former Test opening batsman turned match referee, was a member of the last England side to win an Ashes series in Australia back in 1986/87, insists he won't have his head turned by talk of him becoming the new Andrew Flintoff.

All-rounder Broad's five wickets for 37 runs during Australia's first innings collapse at the Oval saw him named man-of-the-match after England won the fifth Ashes Test by 197 runs and, with it, the Ashes 2-1.

Tall, blond and blue-eyed, the 23-year-old Broad, who has already appeared in adverts for a protein drink, has the potential to become the new poster boy for English cricket, particularly as the fifth Test was Flintoff's last before his retirement from the five-day game.

But Broad, who plays for English county side Nottinghamshire, said: "I haven't got the body to be posing in my underwear like David Beckham. I don't think they have paparazzi in Nottingham."

"My dad has always said that cricket comes first. If you get your runs and wickets then

everything else will take care of itself," he added in response to reports he could earn millions of pounds in endorsements.

It may come as some consolation to Australian cricket fans that Broad cites Glenn McGrath as his pace bowling hero and credits a spell playing sub-district cricket in Melbourne for toughening him up.

"McGrath has always been a role model for me ever since I was a really young lad," Broad, England's leading wicket-taker in this year's Ashes with 18, as well as two fifties with the bat, said.

"What did he do? He just banged out length at the top of off-stump and ran it back into off stump and his record speaks for itself. If I could be half as good as Glenn McGrath, that would be fantastic."

And as for that season in Melbourne playing for Hoppers Crossing in 2004/05, Broad said: "That six months, it was tough."

"Wherever I went they just mouthed me about my dad and they were swearing at me constantly but that really helped me develop as a cricketer."

Broad repeatedly stressed how much his batting needs to improve before he can be considered a genuine all-rounder.

But Flintoff was in no doubt of his talent, saying, "The one thing that impresses you about Stuart is the way he comes to the fore in pressure situations. You forget how young he is."

But Broad said that all the praise now coming his way wouldn't deflect him from his on-field goals.

"My mum is very clued on and my dad thinks he is very clued on," Broad said. "You do get people who come out of the woodwork a little bit and want tickets left, right and centre and stuff like."

"But the group of people who have supported me throughout this series are also the ones who sat in Durham in April against the West Indies with seven layers on."

## Wenger warns

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mind what my team will be. I understand that if we lose 2-0 again, I will be judged to have got the team wrong again but if we win 3-0 then hopefully everyone will be pretty happy."

Fortune insisted it was only a matter of time before he broke his duck at his new club and the former Nancy forward is looking to build on that against the Gunners.

"I hoped to start last Tuesday, I hope to start every game," Fortune said.

## Chappell bats

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However, turning to the first Test, Chappell said: "There I guess you could perhaps query Ricky Ponting's choice of bowlers at the end. I think he went for quantity of overs rather than quality of overs and that was a mistake."

Warne, the first bowler to take 700 Test wickets, revitalised Hampshire during his spell as captain of the English county earlier this decade and led Rajasthan Royals to victory in the inaugural Indian Premier League (IPL) Twenty20 tournament in 2008.

Jones, speculating on possible successors to Ponting, said the 39-year-old Warne, whose colourful private life effectively denied him what chance he had of captaining Australia, could be tempted out of retirement "in a heartbeat" to lead the side before handing on to current vice-captain Michael Clarke.

"Ask Shane Warne to come out of retirement just for two years, then give it to Michael Clarke," Jones told BBC Radio Five Live.

"A lot of people might be thinking 'that's stupid' but it will take him two months, three months to get himself fit, just let him play the Test matches and, I tell you what, he would do it in a heartbeat."

"I don't think they'll do that, I don't think they'll go that far but it'll be an option, I tell you, that'll be looked at."

## Haddin going back home

AFP, Melbourne

Australian wicketkeeper Brad Haddin will return to Australia to allow a broken finger to recover, officials said Tuesday, placing him in doubt for next month's ICC Champions Trophy.

Haddin missed the third Ashes Test at Edgbaston after fracturing the ring finger on his left hand during a warm-up.

Although he played in the fourth and fifth Tests, Australian officials said they wanted to assess the damage.

"It has now been decided Brad will return to Australia to allow him further recovery time and consultation with specialists to determine the best possible management of the injury," team physiotherapist Alex Kountouris said.

Kountouris said Haddin's participation in the upcoming Twenty20 and one-day internationals in England, as well as the ICC Champions Trophy in South Africa later next month, would be decided after the consultations were complete.

## Reefat, Parag

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Kazakhstan -- were in the second place with four points each.

In the sixth round games, Parag beat Bakre, Razib drew with Mikheil. Gagunashvili beat Dibiyendu, Rausis beat Indian IM Atanu Lahiri, GM Neelotpal drew with Bitan, GM Abdullah Al Rakib drew with India's Vinod Kumar, Rustam beat FM Taibur Rahman, FM Kh. Aminul Islam drew with GM Anuar Ismagambetov of Kazakhstan.

Indian Praveen Kumar beat FM Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar, FM Sahaj Grover beat FM Abu Sufian Shakil, IM Vishal Sareen beat Golam Moshataf Bhuiyan, FM Nasir Ahmed beat Nepali Badrinal, Mohammad Javed beat FM Hamal Manish and FM Syed Mahfuzur Rahman beat Jamal Uddin, Keshav Shrestha beat Aminul Islam Polash, Debaraj Chatterjee drew with Krma Pandey and Abdullah Al Saif beat Shrestha Bilal Lal.

## Aussie fall pleases Wasim

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Australia losing the Ashes and slumping to number four in Test rankings is good for world cricket as it gives other teams the confidence to shine in the future, Pakistan great Wasim Akram said Tuesday.

England beat Australia by 197 runs in the fifth and final Test at The Oval on Sunday to regain the Ashes 2-1 -- a defeat which knocked Australia from the top position for the first time since the rankings were introduced in 2003.

"Thank God, the Australians are now losing and have lost their dominance on world cricket," Wasim told AFP. "I wish I was playing in this period because when I played they were nearly unbeatable."

Australia, which also lost a home series against South Africa and an away series in India last year, are now placed fourth with South Africa perched atop the Test rankings. Sri Lanka are number two and India three. Pakistan are ranked sixth in the world.

Wasim, one of the best left-arm pacemen to play the game, agreed Australia's aura as near-invincible was over.

"I agree with what England captain (An-

drew) Strauss said that Australia have lost their aura, they don't have replacements for (Glenn McGrath and (Shane) Warne and that's making the difference.

"This Australian team is still exciting but they are no more world beaters with two great bowlers in Warne and McGrath, and (Adam) Gilchrist and (Matthew) Hayden all retired."

Wasim confessed he never thought England would win the Oval Test.

"It is unexpected for me that England won the last Test," said Wasim, who took 414 Test and 502 one-day wickets in an illustrious 19-year career.

"England played bold cricket, did bold selections and were not scared of losing."

Wasim said retiring England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff would be missed in Test cricket.

"Of course, Flintoff will be missed. He will be remembered as an exciting and aggressive player," said Wasim of his former Lancashire county colleague who retired from Test cricket after the Ashes.

"We need a series like this to keep Test cricket healthy," added Wasim, who has been linked to Indian Premier League team Kolkata Knight Riders as their new coach. Wasim, however, refused to comment on the reports in Indian media.

## Harmy keeps options open

Cricket

AFP, London

England fast bowler Stephen Harmison says he is ready to continue his international career if selected for the upcoming tour of South Africa.

But the 30-year-old Durham quick is equally prepared for the selectors telling him his time as a Test bowler is over.

Harmison found himself in the international wilderness at the start of this season but returned for the final two Tests against Australia.

On Sunday he became an Ashes winner for the second time in his career, taking three wickets for 54 runs as England won the fifth Test at the Oval

by 197 runs and with it the series 2-1.

"I've got an idea in my mind what I want to do," Harmison told Talksport Radio on Monday.

"Anybody who plays for their country never wants to give it up but there is going to come a time when you have to say 'well it's time for me to move aside because there are other people who can do as good a job -- if not a better job -- as me'."

"I always believe you plan for the Ashes and for the next Ashes and I'll sit down with (England captain) Andrew Strauss and (coach) Andrew Flower and if they want me to go to South Africa, I'll go."

"If they are saying 'we're going to take this in another direction', then I'll gladly step aside."

Harmison, infamous in Australia for the mammoth wide with which he started the 2006/07 Ashes series, added: "All I am going to do is enjoy this moment because at the end of the day, I wasn't in the side at the start of the summer and that decision probably wasn't going to be made."

"Now I've forced my way back in like last year, who knows."

England pace bowling all-rounder Andrew Flintoff, who played his last Test at the Oval before an injury-induced retirement, urged close friend Harmison to keep going, saying he could become one of the country's greatest wicket-takers.

Harmison has taken 226 wickets in 32 Tests at an average of under 32.

That puts him in tenth place among England's list of most successful bowlers with Ian Botham (383 wickets in 102 Tests) in top spot.

Harmison bowled with something approaching his old fire Sunday and was on a hat-trick.

"I was just urging him to get the hat-trick, for me that would have been the perfect way to finish," said Flintoff at England's hotel here Monday.

"Whatever he decides will be the right decision but I would urge him to carry on and become one of England's all-time leading wicket-takers."

"He could quite easily get 300 wickets and go further, but it's up to Steve. I'd love to be a Lord's Test next year, sit in a box with a glass of champagne, watching the big lad charge in and get a few wickets."

Flower said Harmison remained available for selection. "Right at this moment, yes, but he's getting towards that time of his career when he's contemplating retirement."

"He'll make that decision, but as I said we have spoken about it and I hope he carries on playing."

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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12 Inventor  
13 Last  
14 Turkish  
15 Active person  
17 MRI fore-runner  
18 "A mouse!"  
19 Cow  
21 Insignia  
24 Fond du --, Wisc.  
25 Court  
26 "Uh-huh"  
28 Birth-related  
32 "Desire Under the --"  
34 Peregrinate  
36 Infant  
37 Change your offer  
39 Intimidate  
41 Barbie's companion  
42 Period  
44 Highway stopovers  
46 Patella  
50 Lummo  
51 Title  
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57 Piece of work  
58 By way of  
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60 Simple  
61 Ostrich's cousin  
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2 "The Greatest"  
3 Attack forcefully from above  
4 Mellow  
5 Sapporo sash  
6 Y chromo-some  
7 Filch  
8 Urban transport  
9 "Slumdog Millionaire" site  
10 Converse  
11 Kyser and Thompson  
16 Moray, for one  
20 Skedad-died  
21 Ornamental pitcher  
22 Double agent  
23 Face  
27 Atl.  
28 counter-part  
29 Relax a bit  
30 First victim  
31 Photog's choice  
33 Type of baseball pitch  
35 Comic DeLuise  
38 "What's up, --?"  
40 "Give a hoot, don't pollute" owl  
43 California-Nevada lake  
45 Trump casino-hotel  
46 Smooch  
47 Cranny  
48 Needle holder  
49 One of the Three Bears  
53 Greek consonants  
54 Energy  
55 Water (Fr.)

Solution time: 25 mins.

OPT CAPO CLAP  
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USE TOPDRAWER  
SHEAF SUB  
COAL EBBED  
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AWL DEGA ORE  
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PEA MYRRH  
BOTTOMSUP IOU  
OHIO IAGO MAT  
POMP SONO EMS

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## CRYPTOQUIP

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Z B F G T C K E Q V H E O Y F W  
Y F K Q V H V I Q T I B V H O, Y ' G O V P  
H U V H ' O K Y F T C V K H O R V F O U Y D.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE OUR COMPANY IS LAYING OFF EMPLOYEES TWO AT A TIME, I SUPPOSE IT'S BEING PAIRED DOWN.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals D