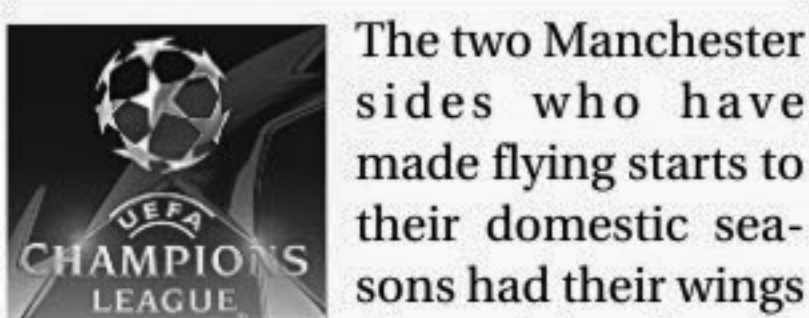


Manchesters' wings clipped

REUTERS, Manchester



The two Manchester sides who have made flying starts to their domestic seasons had their wings clipped in Europe this week as their free-scoring ways were replaced by caution for United and nerves for City.

They have amassed 33 goals between them in a perfect start of four Premier League wins but could not match that in the Champions League, salvaging 1-1 draws in Wednesday's openers.

United's point at their main Group C rivals Benfica was a better one than City's one at home to Napoli, the least fancied side in a strong Group A, but both had to come from behind to draw so know it could have been worse.

Champions League debutants City put their profligacy in front of goal down to over-excitement and coach Roberto Mancini said they would have no such trouble in their next game away to Bayern

Munich later this month if they went back to basics.

"I think the second game will be more calm," he told a news conference after a 74th-minute free kick from Aleksandar Kolarov levelled the match. "Bayern Munich are a fantastic team but we have a team that can win very well.

"Did we show a bit of naivety? Yes, absolutely. But I'm happy with our performance. Every game in the Champions League is different and difficult, for us it's important to play simple football. If we do this we will play better football."

Inexperience was not a problem for former winners and last season's runners-up Manchester United whose equaliser in Portugal came courtesy of the Champions League's oldest goalscorer Ryan Giggs, who turns 38 in November.

"Our possession in the first half was too cautious in the first half," Ferguson told reporters. "It was the kind of possession that gives you a certain control but doesn't win you the game."

"I think a draw was a fair result."

The pair now return to league action and despite Mancini's assertion that "it is impossible for a striker to score three or four goals every game" the likes of Sergio Aguero and Edin Dzeko, who have scored six each this season, will try to do so.

City travel to Fulham on Sunday while Manchester United entertain title hopefuls Chelsea in what is their stiffest test so far this season.

Ferguson had even rested some players for that big Premier League game, leaving out winger Ashley Young and keeper David Dea for the Benfica match.

"David De Gea will play on Sunday. That was the understanding we had before the Benfica game and it doesn't change," the manager said.

"We gave Ashley Young a rest tonight as I felt he needed a little break after the two games he played for England and the one for us at Bolton. He is new to the club and obviously every game is massive for him here, so he'll be nice and fresh for Sunday."

Final Test from today

Aussies drop Khawaja, Harris in Sangakkara's 100th match

Cricket

AFP, Colombo

Australia have left out injured fast bowler Ryan Harris and batsman Usman Khawaja for the third and final cricket Test against Sri Lanka starting in Colombo on Friday.

Harris, the most successful bowler in the series with 11 wickets, suffered a hamstring strain during the drawn second Test in Pallekele, and will be replaced by Peter Siddle.

Left-handed Khawaja was dropped to make way for former captain Ricky Ponting, who returns to the side after taking leave from the Pallekele Test for the birth of his second child.

Skipper Michael Clarke and the selectors had a tricky decision to make after Shaun Marsh, who replaced Ponting in the second Test, scored a century on debut to cement his place in the side.

"It's brilliant to have Ricky back, he was always going to walk back into the team," Clarke said ahead of a practice session at the Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) on Thursday.

"It is hard for Uzzie [Khawaja]. It's obviously been a tough selection, but with Shaun making 141 on debut, it was really hard to leave him out."

Clarke said resting Harris was a precautionary measure considering the heavy schedule ahead, which includes Test series against South Africa, New Zealand and India.

"I guess we have to be safe, rather

than sorry," the captain said. "I certainly don't think it's worth the risk of playing him here, because if that minor strain becomes a big tear he could be out for a lot longer."

Clarke said Australia's 1-0 lead in the series after winning the opening Test in Galle by 125 runs had put the onus on Sri Lanka to call the shots.

"Our goal is to win the Test, but if we draw, we go home 1-0 winners," he said. "But there is probably a bit more pressure on the Sri Lankans, knowing they have to win to level the series."

"They have to bat a bit more positively than they have done in the series so far and try and get a result."

If the hosts need inspiration, they need to look no further than their former captain Kumar Sangakkara, who makes his 100th Test appearance on Friday.

Sangakkara, who turns 34 next month, will be the fifth Sri Lankan to play a century of Tests after Muttiah Muralidaran (132 matches), Mahela Jayawardene (121), Chaminda Vaas (111) and Sanath Jayasuriya (110).

Clarke paid rich tributes to the prolific left-hander, but hoped Australia will get him out early.

"I've enjoyed watching him score runs for a long time," said Clarke. "But I don't like it when he scores them against Australia and I hope he gets a pair in this game."

In the 18 Tests Sangakkara has played at the SSC, he has scored 1,864 runs at an awe-inspiring average of 74.56, with seven three-figure knocks, including

three double centuries.

It was at the same venue that Sangakkara (287) and Jayawardene (374) recorded the highest partnership ever in Test cricket: 624 for the third wicket in 2006 against South Africa.

But Sangakkara has never featured in a Sri Lankan Test win over Australia, something the star batsman hoped to rectify.

"The key is to score big in the first innings, which we have not been able to do in the two Tests so far," said Sangakkara, who met the media instead of skipper Tillakaratne Dilshan on Thursday.

"I think we have a good enough team to win on any wicket. It is always challenging to play the Aussies, but we have not challenged them enough in the series."

"I hope that will change here."

SQUADS

AUSTRALIA: Michael Clarke (captain), Shane Watson, Phillip Hughes, Ricky Ponting, Michael Hussey, Shaun Marsh, Brad Haddin, Mitchell Johnson, Peter Siddle, Trent Copeland, Nathan Lyon.

SRI LANKA (from): Tillakaratne Dilshan (captain), Tharanga Paranavitana, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene, Thilan Samaraweera, Prasanna Jayawardene, Angelo Mathews, Suraj Randiv, Suranga Lakmal, Chanaka Welegedara, Lahiru Thirumanne, Rangana Herath, Shaminda Eranga, Dhammika Prasad, Seekkuge Prasanna.

Siddikur

FROM PAGE 16 Macau Golf and Country Club.

At the other end of the table, the No.1 position was shared by four players with scores of five-under-par 66 by Anthony Kang of the US, Rikard Karlberg of Sweden, Englishman Nick Redfern and Chan Yih-shin of Chinese Taipei.

Yih-shin produced some magic, hitting an eagle on the last hole, to shoot up the table.

With three more rounds still to come, it is possible for Bangladesh's ace golfer to make something out of the Macau Open but he may need to replicate some of Yih-shin's exploits to achieve that.

Trabzonspor

FROM PAGE 18 Real took their time to assert their authority over Croatian hosts Dinamo Zagreb, making their first appearance in the competition in 11 years, until Argentinian wing Angel di Maria struck in the 53rd minute.

Bayern Munich - who are motivated more than ever to win this season's edition as the final is at their home ground - made a dream start away at Villarreal with German international Toni Kroos shooting home.

They added a second through substitute Rafinha 15 minutes from time.

Dravid's final ODI

FROM PAGE 16 in the third one-day international at The Oval last week when he made 78 and picked up two England wickets with his left-arm spin bowling.

Given how injuries have hurt India on this tour, it wouldn't be a bad idea to blood youngsters and mark their performance for future references.

A win in the final game could only be token and wouldn't make any material difference in a series already lost.

Some good performances from youngsters would also alert the seniors who would be looking to return in the home series against England next month.

England, ironically, wouldn't be in the best of spirits even though the series is already won for them.

Two key players, Eoin Morgan and Stuart Broad, have been injured and both would have been invaluable when England pay a return visit to India next month.

Craig Kieswetter and Ben Stokes, two young talents, haven't covered themselves in glory and clearly there is a case for Kevin Pietersen's return in England fold next month.

Fast bowler Jade Dernbach, despite the specialist role he plays as a one-day bowler, hasn't put the skids under the Indian batsmen.

Indeed, despite providing two green pitches in London and having asked India to bat first in both the matches, England were lucky to leave London without losing either of the two matches at The Oval and Lord's.

England clearly don't have the flair and the flamboyance of the Indian batsmen and hitting over the top doesn't come easy to them.

A case in point was the last match at Lord's where Ian Bell and Ravi Bopara prospered as long as they kept the scoreboard ticking with ones and twos.

The moment Bell and Bopara flexed their arms and went for big hits, they were caught in the deep and England were just about lucky to escape with a tied match.

The pitch here usually helps batters and England would struggle to contain the Indians. As has been the trend in the series, home captain Alastair Cook would once again hope to win the toss and insert the visitors in.

TEAMS ENGLAND (from): Alastair Cook (captain), James Anderson, Ian Bell, Ravi Bopara, Tim Bresnan, Stuart Broad, Jade Dernbach, Steven Finn, Craig Kieswetter, Samit Patel, Ben Stokes, Graeme Swann, Jonathan Trott.

INDIA (from): Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Ajinkya Rahane, Rahul Dravid, Virat Kohli, Manoj Tiwary, Suresh Raina, Praveen Kumar, Munaf Patel, RP Singh, Vinay Kumar, R Ashwin, Amit Mishra, Parthiv Patel, Ravindra Jadeja, Varun Aaron.

Cook cautious

FROM PAGE 16 of the threat posed by the wounded tourists heading into the match.

"The last two games have been very close, and have shown what a talented side India are," Cook said.

"We're going to have to play at the top of our game to try to win, and finish the summer on a high as a one-day team."

Cook however is satisfied with England's form in his first season in charge as skipper of the limited overs side, which also included a 3-2 series win over Sri Lanka.

"It's been a good start, and I'm very happy with the way the lads have taken to me as captain and bought into the ideas," Cook said.

"I'm very happy with winning both series. We know how tough it's going to be in the next two months or so (in a return series in India), but this side has always responded well to challenges."

Cook also believes England's one-day squad can improve.

"We are a very young side trying to make progress," he said. "The exciting thing is I don't think we've played as well as we can."

"We have been put under pressure in this series, but have still won the games. That is very encouraging."

Meanwhile Cook paid tribute to India batsman Rahul Dravid, who will be playing his 344th and final one-day game.

"He's scored 10,000 runs in both forms of the game. He's managed to adapt his game to every surface," Cook said. "He is an all-time great."

DAVIS CUP TIE Feeling-good Fed warns Australia

AFP, Sydney

Roger Federer said Thursday he was feeling "really good" as he prepared to face Lleyton Hewitt in the Davis Cup despite a long flight after a gruelling US Open semifinal defeat to Novak Djokovic.

The world number three has made the long trek to Sydney for Switzerland's World Group play-off against Australia.

"I'm not sore -- sorry to disappoint you. I'm feeling good, really good actually," Federer said.

He will face Hewitt on Friday, with a 17-8 record against the Australian working in his favour.

The pair plays second after Stanislas Wawrinka takes on Bernard Tomic on the opening day of a tie on grass courts at the Royal Sydney Golf Club.

Ash fires

FROM PAGE 16 didn't help win the game but was enough to claim the man-of-the-match award.

Rubel Hossain bowled effectively, taking three wickets while Abdur Razzak did himself a favour by picking two. Kapali, Nasir and Nazmul Hossain all picked up a wicket each.

BRIEF SCORES

BANGLADESH: 311-9 in 50 overs (Ashraf 83, Tamim 65, Mushfiqur 63, Nafees 50; Riyad 4-75, Sunny 3-33).

BANGLADESH A: 234-8 in 39 overs (Naeem 101 not out, Junaed 45; Rubel 3-38).

Result: Bangladesh won by 36 runs (D/L method).

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 36 See-through cheese wrap 5 Chathroom chuckling 8 Birds, to Brutus source 12 Shake-speare's river 13 Anger 14 Bound 15 Backbone 17 Killer whale 18 Store grain 19 Slow tree-dwellers 21 Round Table address 22 Stereo hookup 23 Rest-room, for short 26 \$ dispenser 28 "Pomp and Circumstance" composer 31 Detail 33 Thee 35 Meditative exercise

Crossword grid with numbers 1-35 indicating starting positions for words.

CRYPTOQUIP TY EXP BGJKXXA XY G WXJTF-KGCKTUI QWTQABDG BKGKE, T VXPNF IPDCC EXP GKD GU GVPN YGNGYDN. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: NOW THAT HE'S DECLINING IN ABILITIES, THE SPORTS TITLEHOLDER HAS BECOME THE WANING CHAMPION. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals F