

Aussie greats differ over sledging

AFP, London

Former Australia cricket captain Steve Waugh and swimming legend Kieren Perkins, both liaison officers with their country's Olympic delegation, clashed over the controversial use of sledging Saturday.

Waugh, who once referred to sledging as 'mental disintegration', insisted that there was a role for the tactic, whereby an opponent is subject to a constant barrage of insults aimed at undermining his confidence.

"There is always a role for sledging," Waugh said on Saturday.

"In any sport there are mind games but cricket is a bit different to most sports because you're out in the field for seven hours but most of these sports are shorter."

However, Perkins, the 1992 and 1996 Olympic gold medalist in the 1500m, said that the ploy was a sign of weakness on the part of the sledgers.

"The people who do the sledging generally aren't good enough, so they have to find other ways to slow us down," said the 38-year-old.

"Those of us that are good enough just get on with it."

Tigers owe

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the 13th over as Mashrafe finished with his best figures in all Twenty20s.

SCORES IN BRIEF
IRELAND: 140-8 in 20 overs (Porterfield 28, Johnston 24*; Mashrafe 4-19).

BANGLADESH: 141-8 in 20 overs (Tamim 39, Mashrafe 30; Stirling 3-21).
Result: Bangladesh won by two wickets and win series 3-0.

Man-of-the-match: Mashrafe Bin Mortaza.

Serena skips exhibition match

AFP, Washington

Reigning Wimbledon champion Serena Williams has pulled out of an exhibition match to get treatment for back pain, but she said Friday that would not keep her out of the London Olympics.

Williams said she needed to rest her back after her two recent titles.

"I'm disappointed that I won't be able to see my (Washington) DC fans, but can't wait to go for gold in London," Williams said.

The American has never won an Olympic singles crown but she hopes to change that when Olympic tennis competitions begin on July 28 at Wimbledon.

Williams won her fifth Wimbledon title earlier this month and a week later she captured the Bank of the West Classic in California.

She announced that she was withdrawing from a World Team Tennis match in Washington on Sunday. She will be replaced by her sister Venus.

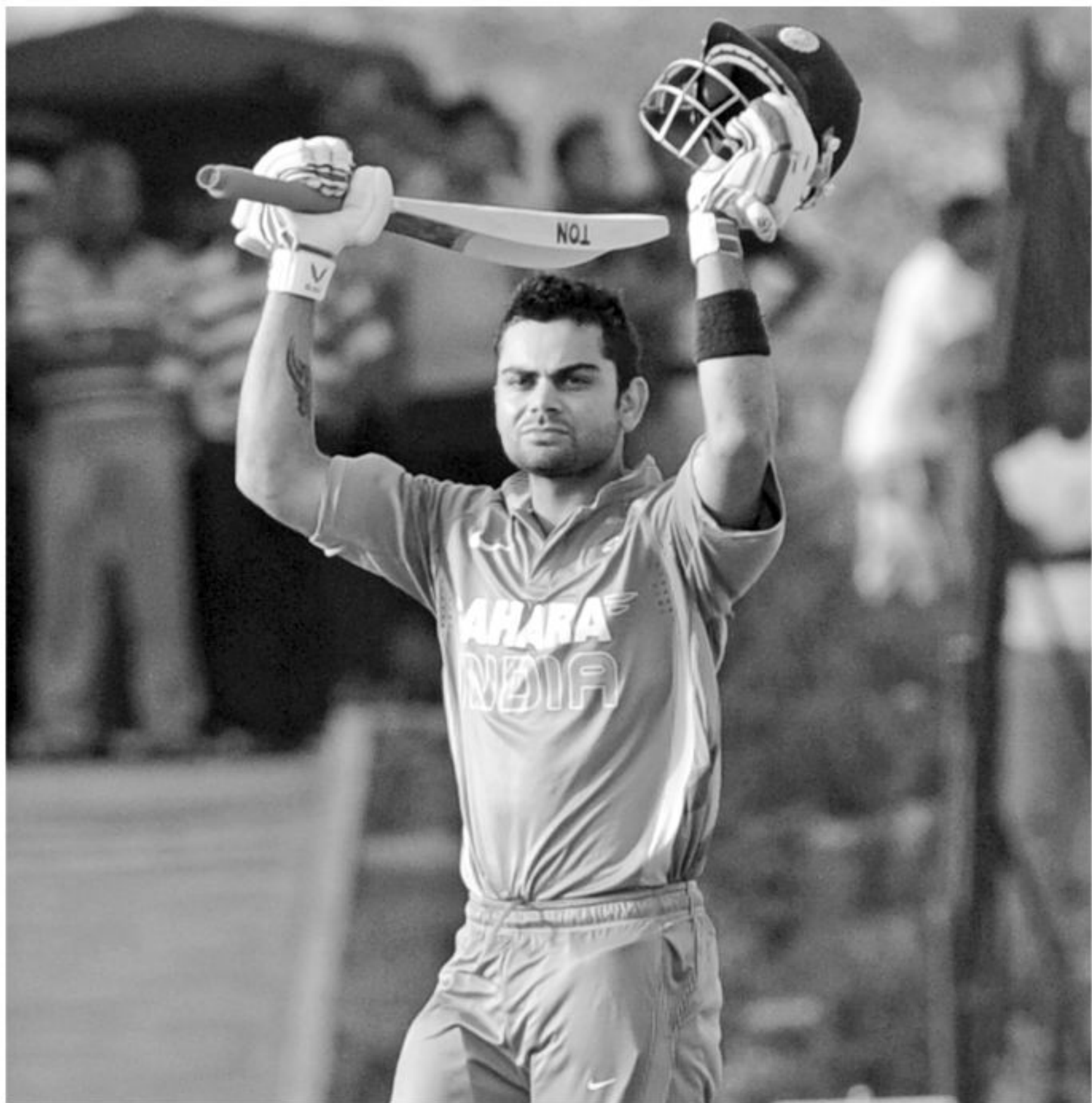
Torch on Tour

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flame to the host city, abseiling from a Sea King helicopter hovering over the entrance to the Tower of London.

"I obviously checked out the view on the way in and saw London and everybody down here and you think, 'wow this is a bit more than just a normal abseil,'" he told AFP.

"But as soon as I got in the door and got my hands on the rope, it is just another abseil from a helicopter so I just had to come down as perusal.

"I said I'd like to do it and the job came to me so I'm very lucky and very proud to be here."



India batsman Virat Kohli raises his bat in celebration after scoring his fourth century in five matches, this one coming against Sri Lanka, in the opening ODI at the Suriyawewa Mahinda Rajapakse International Cricket Stadium in Hambantota yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Kohli powers India

Cricket

AFP, Hambantota

Virat Kohli hit an impressive century to set up India's 21-run victory over Sri Lanka in the opening one-day international in Hambantota on Saturday.

Kohli cracked 106 for his 12th one-day hundred, and the fourth in the last five matches, as India scored 314-6 before restricting Sri Lanka to 293-9 in the day-night game for a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

Sri Lankan Kumar Sangakkara defied the Indian attack, top-scoring with 133 for his 14th one-day hundred. He hit 12 fours in his 151-ball knock before being bowled by seamer Umesh Yadav in the 48th over.

Off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, and seamers Irfan Pathan and Umesh Yadav each took two wickets for India.

Kohli, 23, earlier helped India set a stiff target with a 173-run stand for the second wicket with opener Virender Sehwag, who hit a 97-ball 96 with the help of 10 fours.

Kohli hit nine fours in his 113-ball knock before falling in the 40th over, caught by substitute fielder Sachithra Senanayake in the covers off seamer Perera.

Suresh Raina smashed a 45-ball 50 and skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni made 35 off 29 deliveries as India scored 86 in the last 10 overs.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Gambhir b Kulasekara	3
Sehwag run out	96
Kohli c sub (Senanayake) b Perera	106
Sharma b Mathews	5
Raina c sub (Senanayake) b Perera	50
Dhoni c Thirimanne b Perera	35
Pathan not out	7
Ashwin not out	0
Extras: (b1, lb2, nb2, w7)	12
Total: (For 6 wkts in 50 overs)	314

Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-180, 3-191, 4-228, 5-307, 6-307

Did not bat: Zaheer, Yadav, Ojha

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Kulasekara	5	0	20	1
Malinga	10	0	83	0
Mathews	10	0	58	1
Perera	10	0	70	3
Dilshan	5	0	28	0
Herath	10	0	52	0

SRI LANKA

Tharanga c Sehwag b Ashwin	28
Dilshan lbw b Pathan	6
Sangakkara b Yadav	133
Chandimal c Dhoni b Yadav	13
Jayawardene lbw b Ojha	12
Mathews c Gambhir b Khan	7
Thirimanne lbw b Ashwin	7
Perera c Kohli b Pathan	44
Herath run out (Raina)	0
Malinga not out	19
Kulasekara not out	1
Extras: (b1, lb6, w16)	23
Total: (For 9 wkts in 50 overs)	293

Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-86, 3-117, 4-132, 5-

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Z Khan	10	0	63	1
Pathan	10	1	37	2
Yadav	10	0	76	2
Ashwin	10	1	46	2
Sehwag	4	0	20	0

Kamran was included after ICC clearance

Cricket

PTI, Lahore

The chairman of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Zaka Ashraf has clarified that wicketkeeper-batsman Kamran Akmal was included in the national team only after the ICC gave him clearance.

Kamran was recalled to the national Twenty20 squad for the upcoming series against Australia in the UAE and for the ICC T20 World Cup after being sidelined by the selectors and the board since the 2011 World Cup because of some of his suspicious performances.

"As regards Kamran Akmal, the PCB approached the ruling global body ICC and asked if the ICC had any objection to Kamran's selection."

"The ICC [International Cricket Council] said it had nothing against Kamran Akmal and when clearance came from ICC, then the PCB integrity committee cleared him for national selection," Ashraf was quoted as saying by a TV channel.

"Moreover Pakistan badly needed a keeper who could also contribute with the bat," Ashraf added.

The national selectors recalled Kamran after seeking clearance from the board for his selection.

The board had convened a meeting of its

integrity committee, which spoke to Kamran before clearing him for selection.

Since 2010, suspicions have been raised over some of Kamran's shoddy performances and he was also named during the spot-fixing trial last year in London in which Salman Butt, Mohammad Aamer and Mohammad Asif were later given different jail sentences for spot-fixing on the England tour in 2010.

Ashraf, who is clearly not in very good terms with his predecessor Ijaz Butt, said that despite ICC asking the former chief to take action against Salman Butt, Asif and Aamer, he did not do anything.

"The ICC had asked former Chairman of PCB Ijaz Butt to initiate action against Salman Butt, Asif and Aamer in Pakistan for involvement in spot-fixing. Unfortunately Mr Butt did not do it and then the ICC had to take action that resulted in long term bans and embarrassment," said Ashraf.

He also said the PCB had now decided to regulate and monitor the club and regional cricket as the ICC has informed the Board that it (ICC) had reports of corruption at lower level of cricket in Pakistan also.

The PCB from this year has made it mandatory for organisers to seek NOC from the board for organising private T20 tournaments during the month of Ramadan or at any time of the year.

Proteas lead thru'

FROM PAGE 16

and Ricky Ponting.

It was his seventh century against England and continued a remarkable run of success in matches in England. He took his total of runs in the country to 1,214 at an average of 75.87. The tally includes five centuries, two of which were double hundreds.

Only Australia's Don Bradman, who scored 2,674 runs in England at 102.84, has a better average among visiting batsmen who have played in 10 or more innings.

Sonali Bank

FROM PAGE 16

The lead lasted only a minute as Imtiaz Ahmed scored a field goal for Ajax to make it 2-2 before the break. And soon after the restart, Ajax took the vital lead in the 38th minute through Faisal Hossain which also ensured their victory.

In the day's other match, Sadharan Bima recorded a 1-0 victory over Azad SC, thanks to a 68th minute strike from Russel Hossain Rony.

Meanwhile, joint leaders Mohammedan will have a chance to assume solo lead when they take on Mariner Youngs in today's lone match.

Condition not conducive

Akhtar asks PCB not to invite foreigners

Cricket

PTI, Lahore

Former Pakistan pacer Shoaib Akhtar has ruffled feathers in the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and in government circles by suggesting that the board should avoid inviting foreign teams to the country because of the security situation here.

Former speedster, who regularly used to clash with the establishment during his playing days, told reporters in Rawalpindi that condition in Pakistan was not conducive for inviting foreign teams to play international cricket.

"Our citizens are not safe and there is a war going on in the country. Therefore, inviting a team in these conditions will be risky," he said.

"What if a visiting team is attacked again? So I would advice to the PCB not to invite foreign teams since the country is not in a position to stage any international event," he added.

Reacting to his statement, a board

official said Shoaib needed to understand the sensitivities of some issues.

"Everyone knows what the ground realities are in Pakistan at the moment but some things don't need to be stated publicly. But since he is a retired player he has the right to air his opinions although those views might not help Pakistan cricket," the official said.

No Test playing nation has visited Pakistan since militants attacked the Sri Lankan cricket team in Lahore in March 2009. And the PCB were being forced to organise its "home" series abroad at neutral venues with most of these being played in the United Arab Emirates in the last three years.

PCB is set to host Australia for a series in August in the UAE yet again.

However, since Zaka Ashraf took over as Chairman of the PCB last year in October he has been trying to not only convince teams to play in Pakistan but has recently also managed to resume bilateral ties with India.

In April Pakistan had invited Bangladesh to play a short series of two matches to signal the resumption of international cricket in Pakistan but

the tour didn't materialise at the last moment due to a court injunction in Dhaka.

The PCB, meanwhile, is also not happy with Shoaib's stating that he didn't see 70-year-old people in the board capable of organising the Pakistan Premier League (PPL).

"Seventy year old people can organise the PPL. The PCB should hire services of foreign consultants instead of old people for hosting a successful event if it really wants to organise the PPL," the former fast bowler had said.

The board official said that the PCB was already in the process of appointing an independent commissioner for the PPL for which advertisement was placed for people to apply.

"We have even got some foreign companies to show interest in the PPL and make presentations. So apparently Shoaib is not aware of what is happening," he said.

Shoaib himself is interested and ready to play in the PPL when it is launched and wants his name to be included in the players' list.

Rahul fails drugs test

PTI, New Delhi

The Mumbai Police on Friday night confirmed that Rahul Sharma along with South African cricketer Wayne Parnell, who were arrested at a rave party in Juhu on May 20, tested positive for drugs.

Mumbai Police said that they were among the 42 who tested positive for drugs. The two cricketers were among the 100-odd people who were detained on that day.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India, however, stood by the cricketer and said it would investigate the matter thoroughly before deciding the future course of action.

"I don't know why everyone is in a mood to execute Rahul Sharma without even going into the details," Srinivasan had told PTI on Friday night.

"The BCCI will first procure each and every bit of relevant information and then study them before deciding on the course of action," he added.

The Mumbai Police received reports of blood samples of 44 out of the 90 people, who had attended the sundown party at Oakwood Premier Hotel in Juhu.

"Of the 44, two females tested negative, while the rest are positive," deputy police commissioner Pratap Dighaokar told PTI.

These 44 people include two IPL cricketers Rahul and Parnell (both played for Pune Warriors India) and 38 women, police sources said.

All those who tested positive would face arrest, another police official said, adding the procedure to arrest would start soon.

AFP, London



South Africa's Oscar Pistorius, the first double amputee athlete to compete at an Olympics, insisted on Saturday he has earned the right to be at the Games, blasting critics who think otherwise.

The 25-year-old, fondly known as 'Blade Runner' because he runs with carbon fibre prosthetic running blades, has not been universally welcome with some observers believing he has an unfair advantage.

"You'll find a journalist who has not approached the story properly, or somebody with the title of professor or doctor who wants to make a name for himself," he told the Daily Telegraph.

"He will argue that water is dry, or that orange used to be green. They will try to be controversial for the sake of it."

"Honestly, this is not something I can give much more energy to. I would be answering these questions for days."

Pistorius will make history in London when he becomes the first amputee

Bartoli gets through

Tennis

AFP, Carlsbad

French top seed Marion Bartoli held off a spirited challenge from young American Christina McHale to move into the semifinals of the WTA Carlsbad event with a 7-5, 4-6, 6-4 win on Friday.

Bartoli, who will not be playing the London Olympics, competed with a thigh strapping after suffering an injury in her match the day before.

She cut down her double-faults from a massive 18 the previous night to 11 against fifth seed McHale, who beat her at the US Open last summer.

The French number one accounted for her second straight American victim as she beat McHale in a struggle lasting almost three hours. She ousted Vania King 24 hours earlier to start her week in southern California.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

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comedy
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8 Mimicked
12 Writer
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13 Web
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14 Wise one
15 Chicken
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16 Winter
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DOWN

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5 Con men
6 Grecian
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7 Radiate
light
8 Have
high
hopes
9 South
Carolina,
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10 Ids'
counter-
parts

11 Moist in the morn 17 Personal question? 19 Calendar abbr. 22 Canon- ized one 24 Hot tub 25 Gist 26 Freedom of access 27 Irregular 29 Taxi 30 That guy's 33 Basin acces- sory 36 Island off China 38 Foot- baller's garment 40 Tavern 42 "Hey, you!" 43 Aware of 44 Marceau, notably 46 Actress Jessica 47 Recess 48 Saw- bucks 50 Garbage invader

Solution time: 24 mins.

51	— gin fizz	6	Grecian vessel
52	Old portico	7	Radiate light
53	With 34— Across, rum cocktail	8	Have high hopes
54	Black, in poetry	9	South Carolina, the — State
55	Ripped	10	lds' counter- parts
56	And so on (Abbr.)		

Solution time: 24 mins.

M	O	D	E	M	S	C	A	M	P	T	
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CRYPTOQUIP

J D S Z N F C R B G O F G R D D O B G

O N Z Z X J D X S J D F B D E G R F

S X X D F N I N Q Y R F S J W B C

Y J S N Q: "F B D S E S I N Q Y J N W D."

Saturday's Cryptoquip: THE FIGHTING PLAYFUL SEA ANIMAL FINALLY SUFFERED A DEFEAT. I SUPPOSE IT HAS MET ITS OTTER-LOO.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals E