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The Island Sports

Wednesday 29th April, 2009

School rugby draw finalized

Five matches of the inter-school rugby tournament held under the patronage of the Education Ministry and conducted by SLRFU CEO Lasitha Guneratne will be worked off this weekend, a tournament official told *'The Island'*. According to tournament official N.J. Mudannayake, the following 10 schools have been seeded in numerical order:

1. Kingswood, 2.Trinity, 3.St.Peter's, 4.Royal, 5.S.Thomas', 6.Isipathana, 7. St. Anthony's Katugastota, 8.Dharmaraja, 9.St.Joseph's, 10. Mahanama.

According to the rescheduled school rugby calendar the matches scheduled are as follows:

- May 2**-Trinity vs St. Joseph's at Pallekelle
- Dharmaraja vs St. Peter's at Bogambara
- St. Anthony's vs Royal at Nittawela
- Isipathana vs S. Thomas' at Havelock Park
- May 3**- Kingswood vs Mahanama at Bogambara
- May 9**- Trinity vs St. Anthony's at Pallekelle
- St. Peter's vs Isipathana at Bambalapitiya
- May 10**- Mahanama vs Dharmaraja at CR&FC
- St. Joseph's vs Kingswood at Havelocks SC
- May 15**- St. Joseph's vs St. Anthony's at CR&FC
- May 16**- Kingswood vs Dharmaraja at Bogambara
- Mahanama vs Isipathana at CR&FC
- S. Thomas' vs Trinity at Mount Lavinia
- St. Peter's vs Royal at Bambalapitiya
- May 23**- St. Anthony's vs Kingswood (Venue undecided)
- Isipathana vs Dharmaraja at Havelocks SC
- S. Thomas' vs St. Joseph's at Mount Lavinia
- Mahanama vs Royal at CR&FC
- St. Peter's vs Trinity at Bambalapitiya
- May 30**- Trinity vs Royal at Bogambara
- St. Anthony's vs Isipathana at Havelock SC
- June 5**- Dharmaraja vs Royal at Bogambara
- June 6**- Kingswood vs Isipathana at Bogambara
- St. Anthony's vs S.Thomas' at Nittawela
- St. Joseph's vs St. Peter's at Bambalapitiya
- Mahanama vs Trinity at CR&FC
- June 12**- Dharmaraja vs St. Anthony's at Bogambara
- Kingswood vs St.Peter's at Bogambara
- Royal vs Trinity at Royal Sports Complex
- S. Thomas' vs Mahanama at Mount Lavinia
- Isipathana vs St. Joseph's at Havelocks SC
- June 15**- Dharmaraja vs St. Joseph's at Bogambara
- June 20**- Royal vs Kingswood at Royal Sports Complex
- St. Peter's vs S. Thomas' at Bambalapitiya
- Trinity vs Isipathana at Pallekelle
- St. Anthony's vs Mahanama at Nittawela
- June 26**- Dharmaraja vs Trinity at Bogambara
- June 27**- Kingswood vs S. Thomas' at Bogambara
- Royal vs Isipathana at Royal Sports Complex
- St. Peter's vs St. Anthony's at Bambalapitiya
- St. Joseph's vs Mahanama (Venue undecided)
- July 4**- Trinity vs Kingswood at Pallekelle
- S. Thomas' vs Dharmaraja at Mount Lavinia
- July 7**- Royal vs St. Joseph's at Royal Sports Complex
- St. Peter's vs Mahanama (Venue undecided)

(RN)

Sri Lanka gets four more World Cup games



SLC Chairman D.S. de Silva

by Manjula D. Phillips

Pakistan's misery turned out to be Sri Lanka's gain when the Central Organizing Committee (COC) of the 2011 Cricket World Cup gathered in Mumbai yesterday to redistribute the 14

matches that were stripped from the South Asian nation.

After the International Cricket decided to pull out all World Cup games scheduled to be held in Pakistan due to security concerns, this was the first

meeting of the COC. The COC secretariat also shifted base from Lahore, Pakistan to Mumbai, India.

The 14 matches that Pakistan were scheduled to host were distributed among the three remaining sub-continent members with India retaining a large share of the matches (8) while Sri Lanka were given four games and Bangladesh were given two more additional games. Accordingly, India will now host 29 matches while Sri Lanka will host 12 with Bangladesh hosting eight games.

All hosts will financially gain as well with the ICC paying US\$ 750,000 per game for hosting the matches. Accordingly, Sri Lanka will earn US\$ 9 million for hosting the 12 games.

Although the Sri Lankan officials had spoken about canvassing for both the semi-finals to be held in Sri Lanka, India won the hosting rights for the semi-final that Pakistan was initially scheduled to host. India will also host the grand final of the 2011 World Cup.

It was also revealed that the matches in Sri Lanka will be held in three grounds, presumably, R. Premadasa Stadium, SSC and Rangiri Dambulla International Cricket Stadium while in India eight grounds will host matches with two venues in Bangladesh identified as hosting grounds.

Of the four quarter-finals, Bangladesh will host two while India and Sri Lanka will host a quarter-final each. Under the previous agreement each of the four hosting countries were scheduled to host the quarter-finals.

Scheduling of the quarter-finals will ensure that the host country will play at home if they qualify.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of the ICC Vice-President Sharad Pawar and Sri Lanka was represented by board Chairman D.S. de Silva, Secretary Nishantha Ranatunga, Treasurer Sujeewa Rajapakse and CEO of the board Duleep Mendis.

Through a media release, ICC Chief Executive Haroon Lorgat said he was happy with the outcome of the meeting. "It was a very constructive and decisive meeting with various working groups now charged with the responsibility to deliver on operational requirements."



Andrew Flintoff

Flintoff to make World Twenty-20 after knee surgery

LONDON (AP) - England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff should be fit for the start of the World Twenty20 in June following surgery on his right knee that forced him out of the Indian Premier League.

The England and Wales Cricket Board said Tuesday that the 31-year-old Flintoff had a cartilage tear repaired after playing just two games for Chennai Super Kings in the IPL, which is being held in South Africa because of security concerns in India.

"The surgeon has informed the ECB chief medical officer Nick Peirce that the operation went extremely smoothly," ECB managing director Hugh Morris said.

"I am grateful to the ECB medical team, the surgeon and radiologists as well as the Chennai Super Kings for keeping the England team management and me informed about Andrew's injury and the subsequent operation."

Chennai had agreed to pay the injury-prone Flintoff a record-equaling salary of \$1.55 million in the IPL draft, but he pulled out last week after complaining of discomfort.

The World Twenty20 will be played in England from June 2-21.

Italy hoping Williams sisters avoid Fed Cup final

ROME (AP) - Italy is hoping the Williams sisters decide to skip the Fed Cup final in November. Either way, though, the 2006 champions plan to host the United States in the best-of-five series on the slowest clay they can find.

"I hope the Williams sisters don't come," Italy captain Corrado Barazzutti told The Associated Press on Tuesday. "If they do come, we'll try to beat them. It's not impossible on clay. (Flavia) Pennetta has already beaten Venus more than once."

The 14th-ranked Pennetta beat Venus Williams twice last year - including a victory at the French Open - although Venus won their last two meetings.

Italy beat Russia 4-1 and the United States edged the Czech Republic 3-2 in the semifinals last weekend. The Williams sisters - Venus and Serena - skipped the trip to Brno, and Fed Cup rookies Alexa Glatch and Bethanie Mattek-Sands lined up for United States captain Mary Joe Fernandez.

The Nov. 7-8 final immediately follows the season-ending WTA

Championships in Doha, and Barazzutti expects the Williams sisters to play there. Italy would like to host the final in the south to play outdoors on slow clay to soften the impact of the Williams sister's fierce groundstrokes.

"We're definitely going to play on clay - very slow clay - and if possible, outdoors," Barazzutti said. "First we need to determine if we can play outdoors, then we'll choose the most uncomfortable setting possible. Uncomfortable in the sense that it suits us and not the Americans."

The 19-year-old Glatch cruised in her two singles victories against the Czechs.

"On clay sometimes it's not enough just to play well," Barazzutti said. "You've got to work. It's very unlikely she'll be able to beat our players 6-2, 6-2, because our players are natural clay players."

Francesca Schiavone won two singles matches for Italy against two-time defending champion Russia, and Roberta Vinci improved her Fed Cup doubles record to 13-0, teaming with Sara Errani.

"Ours is a team that has that extra spirit necessary to obtain great results," Barazzutti said. "They're friends and they respect each other. The national team is very important to them, and that has helped create such a tight-knit group."

The United States has won all nine previous meetings with Italy, although they haven't met since 2003 in Washington.

"That was a very lopsided (5-0) loss in Washington on fast courts," Barazzutti said. "Now we have very good players that play a very high level."

Italy has reached the final three of the past four years, winning its only title in 2006 over Belgium. This is the first time Italy will host the final.

Barazzutti has faced the United States in a final before, retiring with an injury from the opening match against Vitas Gerulaitis in the 1979 Davis Cup final, which the Americans swept 5-0. Gerulaitis and John McEnroe each won both of their singles matches and Stan Smith and Bob Lutz teamed to



Italy's Flavia Pennetta, right, Francesca Schiavone, partially covered, face to camera, Sara Errani, left, and Roberta Vinci celebrate their side win over Russia in a Fed Cup semi-final tennis match, in Castellana Marina, Italy, Sunday, April 26, 2009. (AP Photo/Felice Calabro)

beat Adriano Panatta and Paolo Bertolucci in doubles.

"They had a great team," Barazzutti said.

