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The Island Sports

Monday 29th June, 2009

Remain unbeaten with 20 points to 9 victory

Kandy huff and puff to beat CR



by Ravi Nagahawatte

Kandy Sports Club proved their superiority in domestic rugby when they cleared their final hurdle in the first round of the inter-club rugby tournament which came in the form of beating Ceylonese Rugby & Football Club 20 points to 9 at Longden Place yesterday.

The game failed to provide the sparks expected of a game in the caliber of the deciding match of the points table. Both teams tried and failed in their attempts to rev up the pace of the game despite possessing fast runners.

Kandy SC came up against stiff resistance from CR&FC but managed to cross the oppo-

nent's goal line once apart from getting five penalties through the uprights. CR responded with two penalties and drop goal.

Kandy SC got off to an explosive start with a penalty by Radika Hettiarachchi which was followed by a touch down by winger Sameera Silva.

Kandy's fast running threes showed the will to run the ball but found the going tough due to some ruthless and well executed tackles by the CR threes.

CR's fly half Dev Anand proved to be a bit of a disappointment with his kicking boots by missing some vital penalties. But he did enough to bridge the gap in points with a well taken penalty and drop goal in the first half.

Hettiarachchi fired across his second penalty to put Kandy SC 11 points to 6 in the lead before referee Nizam Jamaldeen blew the short whistle for half time.

The pace at which the Kandy SC three quarters ran



CR's scrum half Zulka Hamid slings out a pass in the team's league rugby tournament fixture against Kandy SC which the team from Kandy won 20 points to 9 at Longden Place yesterday.

(Pic. by Kamal Wanniarachchi)

was often jammed by the hard tackling CR threes, who stood out for tightening their defence.

Kandy's full back Hettiarachchi was a tower of strength in defending and manned the last line of defence very well. He also executed some booming up and unders which sent the entire CR line into a defensive mode at times. CR's third row forward

Dushanth Lewke had an outstanding game in loose and also excelled in the line outs.

Kandy stretched their lead with a penalty by Hettiarachchi early in the second half.

Finding the CR defence to be rock solid, Kandy's Fazil Marija tried a high kick inside the opponent's 22 but Sanjeeva Jayasinghe who was moving into collect and score was bun-

dled out of touch by his opposite number Mohammed Jabbar.

Hettiarachchi slammed his fourth penalty through the uprights ten minutes from the end to take Kandy's score to 17 as against 6 by CR.

Both teams traded a penalty each as the minutes ticked on with CR making a change in the kicker and handling kicking duties to Reza Mubarak.

Win their fourth regional title Sri Lanka crowned Asian Netball Champs

The Sri Lankan netball team put up a commanding display to outclass Singapore 77-48 in the final of the seventh Asian Netball Championship at the Juara Stadium in Bukit Kiara yesterday.

It was Sri Lanka's fourth title in eight years after last winning it in 2001. They also won the competition in 1990 and 1997 and were the runner-up in 1985 and 1993.

The victory came as sweet revenge for the team who redeemed their defeat at the hands of Singapore at the Five Nations Cup in the republic two years ago.

Last year, the Sri Lankans also lost to Singapore in the Asian Youth Cup held in Hong Kong.

"The feat at this year's championship was important as it would spur the team to further improve on their world rankings in our bid to qualify for next year's Commonwealth Games in India," said the team coach Thilaka Jinadasa.

"By winning the championship again, we hope to take the game to a higher level in Sri Lanka and hopefully there'll be more support," she added.

The team once again banked on their lengthy goal shooter Tharjani Sivalingam and goal attack Shashika Samarasinghe to score.

In the final, Tharjani netted 74 goals while Shashika managed to slip in three.

Tharjini was also named the top scorer of the 10-day competition, having netted 380 goals for the team. After her came two Malaysian players, S. Aruna (152 goals) and Norashikin Kamal Zaman (128).

Final Placing: 1. Sri Lanka, 2. Singapore, 3. Malaysia, 4. Thailand, 5. Hong Kong, 6. Taiwan, 7. India, 8. Maldives and 9. Pakistan.

National Snooker Championship

Unbeaten Susantha continues dominance



Susantha Boteju in action during the final of the 57th National Snooker Championship at Reid Avenue yesterday. Susantha now has 12 national titles to his name.

(Pic by Kamal Wanniarachchi)

by Roshen Steelman

Susantha Boteju of YMBA, defeated Ryan Somaratna of OAC seven

sets to four in the final encounter of the 57th National Snooker Championship that ended

yesterday at Reid Avenue, to continue his dominance in the game of Snooker and to take his overall tally of national titles to 12.

Classical Susantha started his game in style by winning first three sets and gave no room at any point to the young Somaratna and eased past his opponent.

Somaratna also showed quite an improvement in his game, but yet, he fell short. He has won the Under-21 Snooker Championship previously on a few instances and this is the first time he made it to the finals of the championship.

Meanwhile in the consolation final, played between P. Pushpakumara and Tariq Ahamed was won by P. Pushpakumara three sets to nil.

Results

Finals

Susantha Boteju beat Ryan Somaratna seven sets to four (59/33, 43/26, 69/46, 43/53, 21/52, 76/43, 41/59, 67/10, 29/56, 56/53, 93/46)

Consolation final

P. Pushpakumara beat Tariq Ahamed three sets to nil (63/37, 73/66, 101/85)

2nd Sri Lankan Open Wheelchair Tennis Double for 'Raja' once again

by Revata S. Silva

It was a repeat of last year's performance by Sri Lanka's champion wheelchair tennis player Upali Rajakaruna as he emerged victorious in both singles and doubles (partnering D.M. Gamini) in the 2nd Sri Lankan Open Wheelchair Tennis Tournament, an International Tennis Federation (ITF) ratified Future wheelchair int'l event, worked off at the Sri Lanka Tennis Association hard courts in Colombo from June 26-28.

It was notable though that there was a stiff resistance, especially in doubles, coming against the telling dominance of 'Raja' making the final of the latter becoming a hectic three-setter on Sunday.

Rajakaruna, 34, clinched the two key titles last year as well in this main regional international competition which is yet to gather sizeable attraction from top Asian wheelchair tennis players. A single Indian, S. Balachandar, was the only foreigner to compete last year and there were two, Balachandar and D. Mariappan, who became the only non Sri Lankan participants this year.

A SL Army soldier heralding from Anuradhapura, Rajakaruna who lost his left leg in an LTTE artillery attack in 1997 in Welioya, won last year's singles beating Gamini and doubles title, partnering Gamini who is also from the Army. Jayalath Manatunga and Sunil Perera were the losing finalists in last year's doubles.

'Raja' who last year held a stupendous ITF world rank of 68 will further improve his present world rank of 144 after winning in singles on Saturday (27) and doubles on Sunday morning in this US\$1,800 worth ITF event.

Results of finals this year:

Men's Open Singles:

U. Rajakaruna bt D.M. Gamini 7-6 (5), 6-1

Men's Open Doubles:

U. Rajakaruna & D.M. Gamini bt J. Manatunga & K.M.S. Perera 6-7 (5), 7-6 (5), 7-5

Lomu to join 3rd-division French club Marseille

MARSEILLE, France (AP) - Former New Zealand rugby international Jonah Lomu is set to join third-division French club Marseille. "Marseille is on the cusp of finalizing the transfer of the biggest legend in world rugby," the club said on its Web site. The 34-year-

old Lomu played 63 tests for the All Blacks. His international career was cut short by a rare kidney ailment, for which he eventually needed a transplant in 2004.

The powerfully built winger was one of the stars at the World Cup in 1995 and 1999.

India win toss, bat in 2nd ODI vs. West Indies

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) - India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni won the toss and elected to bat Sunday in the second one-day international against West Indies.

India made one change for the match at Sabina Park to the side that won on Friday by 20 runs, bringing in Praveen Kumar to replace seamer Ishant Sharma.

The West Indies made a similar bowling adjustment, with Ravi Rampaul included at the expense of Lionel Baker.

There are two more matches in the series.

The teams:

West Indies: Chris Gayle (captain), Runako Morton, Ramnaresh Sarwan, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Dwayne Bravo, Darren Bravo, Denesh Ramdin, David Bernard, Jerome Taylor, Sulieman Benn, Ravi Rampaul.

India: Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Gautam Gambhir, Dinesh Karthik, Rohit Sharma, Yuvraj Singh, Yusuf Pathan, Ravindra Jadeja, Harbhajan Singh, Praveen Kumar, Rudra Pratap Singh, Ashish Nehra.

"I decided to take a sabbatical year to be around for the pregnancy of my companion," Lomu was quoted in French as saying on Marseille's site. "Everybody thought that I was stopping my career but that's wrong. I still feel the need to play, and I alone will decide when the end is."

