

Geoffrey Dean sees a man from Qatar keep his feet to ensure an England cricket team suffer an unlikely 'international' defeat

Swiss shade it on slippery wicket that rather lacks in moisture

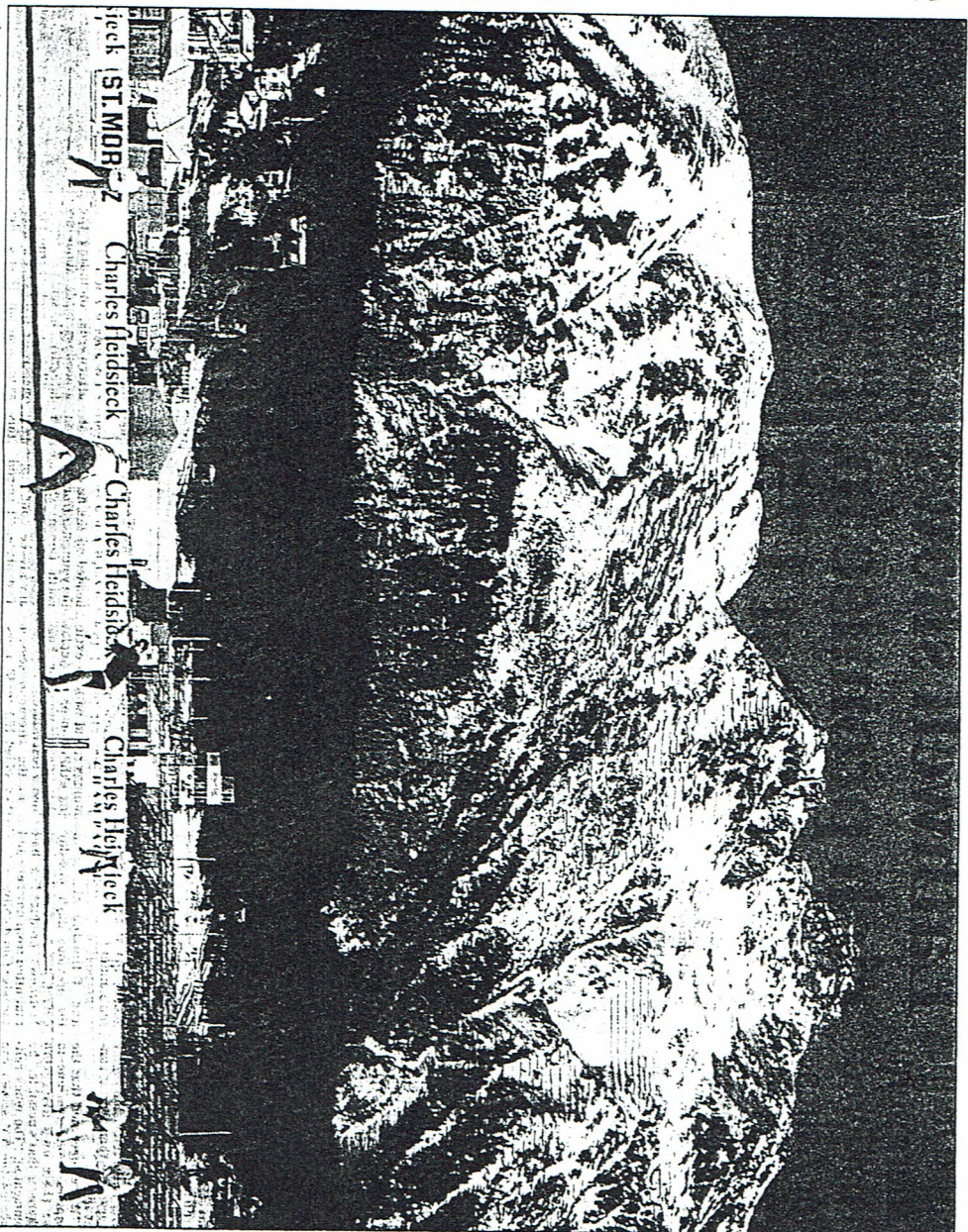
SIMON HUGHES, the over-afraid played in warm sunshine at nearly 6,000 feet, started into the TV camera as he prepared over the pitch preparing to pitch a cricket ball. He was in the manner of Ray Illingworth at the start of a Test. "The key test," said Hughes, "No big test of a cricket match is complete without it." This is no ordinary cricket match. It is England v Switzerland. The lake of St Moritz is the scene of the match. Hughes does not go into the wicket. That there was any wicket at all was due to its loan by a nearby international school, Zuz, whose English sports master imported an artificial pitch that the ball hit his glove when he was given out in the summer.

Last weekend's festival, sponsored by champagne house Charles Heidsieck, was the fifth in successive years to be staged on the frozen lake. Hughes, who had long and hard to win the winter by ice two feet thick and covered by several inches of compacted snow, plays host to several sportsmen of compacted snow, polo in January, cricket, polo in February, and greyhound racing in February.

Crowds are good, with some 6,000 at the racing last weekend. Several hundred spectators, mostly bewitched or just curious, watched last Saturday's one-day 'international', a 25-

over affair played in warm sunshine at nearly 6,000 feet. The England side, a collection of goodish club players, included the England captain, Geoffrey Dean, and Hughes, a Hampshire batsman, and Northern Hemisphere's first-class batsman, Nick Cook, who took first use of a pitch removed for its uneven bounce.

It was from a ball bowled by a Swiss batsman that Hughes feared from just short of a length that the helmetless Hughes was hit in the chest by the ball. Hughes was hit in the chest by the ball. Hughes was hit in the chest by the ball.



A mountain to climb... England's cricketers try to ignore the St Moritz scenery but their score of 153 was not enough to avoid defeat by Switzerland

out caught behind off against second string Hughes.

With the fall of two more quick wickets, the Swiss seemed to be belying their place in last summer's European Cup final. Hughes, who had been playing for the man from Qatar, a portly left-hander, who swung loftily

His unbeaten 78, which included seven sixes, won him the Swissair man-of-the-match award and saw his side to an unlikely two-

Only a dozen or so players were playing for the man from Qatar, a portly left-hander, who swung loftily

polo on ice was "A lot of fun and a spectacle but no comparison to a match on grass with players of the same ability."

Fallers are rare in the steep-pitching but numerous in the "skipping" a dangerous British-introduced sport in which competitors on skis are pulled by horses.