

# Walsh says yes to two-year deal

**LONDON, Sept 24 (AFP) -- West Indies Test captain Courtney Walsh has agreed a new two-year contract with Gloucestershire and Hampshire have signed Australian opening batsman Matthew Hayden as their overseas player for next season.**

The Gloucestershire deal is now subject to Walsh's obligations to his country's board of control, who want the 33-year-old strike bowler to stay in the Caribbean after this winter to help develop their domestic game.

"We have shaken hands on the deal to extend his contract until the end of the 1998 season," said Gloucestershire's cricket chief executive Philip August today.

"The contract with details of clauses and bonuses has now been typed up ready for Courtney to sign. Everything has been agreed with him and his agent."

Walsh, who took 85 wickets in the season just ended, joined Gloucestershire in 1984 and has since missed three seasons while the West Indies have toured here. In all he has 763 wickets for the county.

Hayden, the 25-year-old Queensland vice-captain, has signed a one-year deal. He has scored over 7,000 runs in his first class career at an average of 57 – better than anyone currently playing first class cricket in Australia.

Hayden came on the 1993 Ashes tour, although he did not figure in the Tests, and returned in 1995 with Young Australia.



Courtney Walsh

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