

Hussey hits ton after two years

AFP, Perth

Acting captain Michael Hussey slammed his first Sheffield Shield century for two years as Western Australia ceded the Tasmanian attack on the opening day of the four-day clash at the WACA Ground Sunday.

The talented left-handed opener cracked 138 in the home state's 351 for three wickets after they had been sent in by Tasmanian captain Daniel Marsh, the 30-year-old all-rounder son of former Australian wicketkeeper-batsman Rod Marsh.

Hussey completed his 14th century for Western Australia in first-class company, sharing an opening stand of 43 with Chris Rogers (24), a second-wicket partnership of 147 with Murray Goodwin (72) and a third-wicket liaison of 111 with Marcus North (70 not out).

Div I chess

FROM PAGE 13

Krira Chakra, 16. Nakhapara SKS.

The first round matches are: 1. Sonali Bank vs Nakhapara, Destiny vs Fighter, Leonine vs Narayangonj, Ansars vs Anushillan, Rajshahi vs Farashgonj, Titas vs Monipur, Kamlapur vs Propid Sangha, University vs Biman.

Relishing

FROM PAGE 13

Pakistan's Patron's Trophy and Cup tournament because it contained experienced players.

"Every one is very determined to show their best in the tournament. That makes me optimistic about our chances.

The Bangladesh A team will fly for Karachi on December 11.

The second string national side trained in a unique way yesterday under the supervision of coach Abdul Hadi Ratan. Players divided into two groups played a match where the batsmen were under strict orders to curb their shot making in the first thirty minute. The next half-an-hour concentrated on ground strokes while the last 30 minutes was for hitting the ball and going over the top.

Pakistan keep

FROM PAGE 13

Fall of wickets: 1-50, 2-106, 3-141, 4-155, 5-158, 6-179

Did not bat: Tuffey, Hitchcock, Walker

Table with 5 columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Rows include Shoaib, Shabbir, Razaq, Mahmood, Malik, Farhat, Hameed.

Result: Pakistan won by 49 runs to take the five-match series 5-0.

Man-of-the-match: Yasir Hameed and Imran Farhat.

Toss: Pakistan.

Umpires: David Orchard (South Africa) and Nadeem Ghauri (Pakistan).

Ganguly's answer

FROM PAGE 13

I'm very happy that I've scored runs on a wicket which is supposed to have a fair bit of bounce."

Ganguly said it was a huge confidence boost that India had started its Aussie series well, but it was a challenge to continue to do well in the remaining three Tests.

He said he was disappointed after the first day when he won the toss and sent Australia into bat only for the home side to go on and score 262 for two.

"I probably looked like a fool putting them in on a wicket which I thought had a bit in it, but we've come back and bowled well and I'm very happy with the position we're in after the fourth day."

'Morale still high'

Cricket

AFP, Galle

Sri Lankan captain Hashan Tillakaratne on Saturday said his team's morale was still high despite the failure to notch up a win in the opening cricket Test against England here.

"Our morale remains high even though it was disappointing not to win the match," said Tillakaratne. "It's definitely not a moral loss for us as we almost won the Test."

Hussey completed his 14th century for Western Australia in first-class company, sharing an opening stand of 43 with Chris Rogers (24), a second-wicket partnership of 147 with Murray Goodwin (72) and a third-wicket liaison of 111 with Marcus North (70 not out).

"We should have won the match but now we need to regroup and come back strongly in the series. We had our positives from the match, especially the batting by our lower order," said Tillakaratne.

"We hope to play some good cricket in the next two matches."

The next Test will be held in Kandy from December 10 to 14 and the final Test in Colombo from December 18 to 22.



HASHAN TILLAKARATNE

should be getting big individual scores."

Tillakaratne's English counterpart Michael Vaughan was happy to salvage a draw.

"I thought our lower order did a wonderful job, especially Ashley (Giles) and Paul (Collingwood). We batted out three crucial hours

which was a really creditable effort," said Vaughan.

"It's not easy playing (Muttiah Muralitharan) with so much pressure in your debut Test as Paul did," said Vaughan.

Collingwood (36) and Giles (17 not out) played out vital time as England batted through the last day after being set a stiff 323-run target.

Man-of-the-match Muralitharan appreciated the batting effort of the English batsmen.

"It's disappointing not to have won this match but these things happen in cricket," he said. "England deserve full credit for drawing the match."

Muralitharan though felt defending against spinners on the Galle track was not difficult on the final day.

"The pitch became slower and it was easy to defend. It may have been difficult to play shots on, but then they were not going for a win," said Muralitharan.

"It was a thrilling match and wonderful for the crowds to watch and they will surely come back to watch more Tests," he added.



Australian players hold aloft the trophy after defeating China in the Women's Champions Trophy hockey final in Sydney yesterday.

Women's Champions Trophy Australia lift title

Hockey

AFP, Sydney

Three goals in the first 16 minutes proved enough for Australia to secure the women's Champions Trophy field hockey tournament 3-2 Sunday but they still had to see off a late charge by China.

A goal in the first minute set the tone for a rampant Australia to establish an apparently unassailable lead but a second-half rally by the Chinese after a dreadful opening period set up an exciting finish.

The victory was revenge for the Australians who last Tuesday were beaten by China during the round robin stage.

The 6,000-strong partisan Australian crowd were cheering within seconds of the push-back. Peta Gallagher robbed Chinas midfield at the half way line before firing a pass to Katrina Powell at the top of the circle.

Powell, who finished tournament top scorer with four goals,

deflected the ball to the right post which China's goalkeeper Nie Yali failed to clear and Julie Towers scored.

Australia kept the pressure on Chinas defence, earning three penalty corners in six minutes and converting the third with a deflection by Suzie Faulkner from Karen Smiths drive from wide on the right of the circle.

Australia took a commanding 3-0 lead a minute later with Peta Gallagher's goal from an acute angle on the right, driven over Nie Yali as she came out to try to shut her down.

The closest China came to scoring in the first half was the second of two penalty corners but Ma Yibo's shot hit the left post after beating the keeper.

China came back with speed and confidence after the break, pressuring Australias defence and scoring twice in the second half.

Zhou Wanfang took a free hit eight metres outside the top of Australias circle and Fu Baorong deflected inside the left post to wrong-foot Rachel Imison in goal.

China set up a frantic finish by striking again with five minutes left on the clock with a goal by Li Shuang but Australia defended strongly to keep China from equalising.

The win moves Australia to second in world rankings behind Argentina and ahead of The Netherlands who move down to third. China remains at fourth.

"This is the best performance for Australia in a tournament since 2000, said Australia's coach David Bell. "We have improved in each tournament but feel we have not got the result our improvement deserved.

"You have to give credit to China because you dont play in a Champions Trophy final unless you play well and they have played well all week."

He said the victory was one of the two goals he set this year. The other was achieved earlier in the year by winning the Oceania Cup against New Zealand to qualify for the Athens Olympics.

Australias Bianca Netzler was thrilled with the win. "We started in 2001 with a clean slate and a new team and have been chipping away for three years to get where we are now," she said.

Despite the defeat, China's coach Kim Changback said she was happy with the way her team had competed throughout the tournament. "The second half was a better performance for China but Australia is a very good team with very strong forwards so we had problems in our defence today," Kim said.

"My target for this tournament was fourth place so I am happy with second place."

Lee ready for Test recall

CRICINFO, undated

Brett Lee declared on Sunday that he is fit for a Test recall after bowling 10 overs for New South Wales against Victoria in an ING Cup match.

Lee bowled for the first time in six weeks after resuming from an abdominal tear and clean-up surgery to his left ankle, and said he was fit and available for the second Test against India in Adelaide, starting Friday.

Lee said, "I'll keep my fingers crossed. I think I'm definitely ready to play, I knew that if I was to get through these 10 overs and do it well I'm certainly thinking I'm ready to play."

While Glenn McGrath is struggling to overcome his own ankle surgery, Lee made good progress in the match which ended in a thrilling tie. Lee nearly had a wicket in his very first ball but the umpire turned down a huge lbw appeal.

Lee added, "I felt really fit out there, I thought the ball came out at good speed and I was really impressed. The first ball of the match, I thought this was too good to be true but the umpire didn't give it out unfortunately, he said it was sliding down (leg-side), but that happens but I was really pleased the way the ball came out."

Mark Waugh, who captained NSW for the first time, also felt that Lee was ready to resume at Test level. Waugh said, "We know what sort of bowler he is, he's a match-winning bowler so yeah I would (play him). It was pretty good first-up, there wasn't much in the wicket for him, so I thought he bowled well."

Neither batsman gave a chance in a 377-minute partnership before Jacobs was leg before to Free State left-arm seamer Cliffie Deacon.

Pak openers'

FROM PAGE 13

Two-century stands in successive one-day matches:

- 1. Rameez Raja-Saeed Anwar 132 and 204 vs Sri Lanka, 1992-1993
2. Sanath Jayasuriya-Marvan Atapattu 171 vs Bangladesh, 137 vs India, 1997-1998
3. Hayden-Gilchrist 114 and 189 vs New Zealand, 1999-2000
4. Salim Elahi-Taufiq Umer 159 and 154 vs Zimbabwe, 2002-2003
5. Tendulkar-Sehwag 107 and 134 vs England 2001-02 and 103 against Australia and 182 vs New Zealand, 2003-04
6. Yasir Hameed-Imran Farhat 115, 142, 134 and 197 vs New Zealand, 2003-04

Sun and Saurav

FROM PAGE 13

The crowd earlier groaned when Tendulkar was controversially given out by West Indian umpire Steve Bucknor for his 11th duck in 108 Tests.

Opener Virender Sehwag, who was dropped on 16 at third slip by Damien Martyn off Nathan Bracken, plundered 26 off four Bichel overs, before he fell to Bracken in the 20th over.

Sehwag smashed five boundaries in his 45 off 51 balls before he was snapped up by Hayden, giving left-arm debutant Bracken his first Test wicket.

Three overs later vice captain Rahul Dravid followed Sehwag for one when he was squared up by Gillespie and offered a low catch to Hayden.

Opener Akash Chopra, the beneficiary of another contentious Bucknor decision on 27 when the umpire turned down a strident bad-pad catch appeal, batted for three hours for his gritty 36.

Chopra was out four balls after lunch giving Hayden his third catch of the innings and 52nd in Tests.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the fourth day of the first Test between Australia and India at the Gabba on Sunday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings 323 (Langer 121, Ponting 54; Zaheer 5-95, Agarkar 3-90)

INDIA: First innings (overnight 11-0)

Table with 5 columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Rows include Chopra, Sehwag, Dravid, Tendulkar, Ganguly, Laxman, Patel, Agarkar, Extras.

Table with 5 columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Rows include Gillespie, Bracken, Bichel, MacGill, Waugh, Katich.

Record-breaking C'paul, Jacobs

Cricket

AFP, Bloemfontein

Shivnarine Chanderpaul and Ridley Jacobs shared a South African fifth-wicket record stand as the touring West Indians played themselves into a dominant position on the second day of a four-day match against Free State on Saturday.

Chanderpaul made 245 and fellow left-hander Jacobs hit a career-best 149 as the tourists made 618 all out. Free State were three for two when bad light ended play.

Chanderpaul and Jacobs put on 359 for the fifth wicket, beating the 52-year-old South African first-class record of 342 set by Eric Rowan and Paul Gibb for Transvaal against North-Eastern Transvaal in 1951-52.

It was largely effortless batting for the West Indian pair against a weak attack on an easy-paced pitch.

Free State rested three regular bowlers from the match, the only first-class game before the tourists take on South Africa in the first Test starting at the Wanderers in Johannesburg Friday.

Jacobs, the West Indian wicketkeeper and former vice-captain, who has shone in two previous series against South Africa, bettered his previous highest first-class score of 131 against Australia in Hobart in 2000-01.

At 36, Jacobs is a veteran in a largely youthful West Indian side. He has a Test average of 48.76 against South Africa compared with 28.05 against all nations.

Chanderpaul was strong on the pull and cut as he made his 245 in

468 minutes off 369 balls with 31 fours.

Likely to be a key player in the Test series, he lost momentum after reaching his double century off 279 balls and was bowled soon after taking a short break to go to the loo.

He went too far across his stumps in trying to play Free State newcomer Dillon du Preez to leg and fell well short of his career-



CHANDERPAUL...245

highest score of 303 not out for Guyana against Jamaica in Kingston in 1995-96.

The West Indians carried on batting until they were all out losing their last five wickets for 25 runs, and Free State were left with 13 overs to see out before the close.

With thunderclouds building up, the home side lost both openers inside the first two overs and they could have been three down in the next over if Rammaresh Sarwan had had a chance from Free State captain Gerhardus Liebenberg at third slip off Mervyn Dillon before he had scored.

At the end of the over the umpires offered the batsmen the chance to go off because of bad light.

SA wait on Kirsten

Cricket

REUTERS, Johannesburg

Gary Kirsten will decide by Monday whether to remain by his pregnant wife's side or play for South Africa in the first Test against West Indies, the United Cricket Board (UCB) of South Africa said on Sunday.

Stalwart batsman Kirsten, 36, was named in a 14-man squad for the first Test starting in Johannesburg on Friday. His wife is expecting their first child within the week.

Martin van Jaarsveld will play should Kirsten withdraw.

Left-arm wrist spinner Paul Adams and batsman Boeta Dipenaar have been dropped after playing in South Africa's last Test against Pakistan in October.

"Although Adams is recovering well from the hand injury he sustained last week, we feel that conditions would not be ideal for him at the Wanderers," selection convenor Omar Henry said in a UCB media release.

"Boeta has shown fantastic form in both international and domestic limited-over cricket, but his form at Test level has been patchy.

"The opportunity has now gone

to Neil McKenzie, Jacques Rudolph and Martin van Jaarsveld to stake claims for the middle order positions."

All-rounder Andrew Hall, suspended for two Tests in Pakistan after a clash with Yousuf Youhana, and paceman Andre Nel have been recalled.

Ngam, who has suffered a series of career-threatening stress fractures, will join the squad for three days.

"Mfuneko has shown signs of returning to his best form this season," Henry added. "He has been well looked after by the coaching and medical staff at Eastern Province and the selectors feel that, as part of his continued rehabilitation, he would benefit from being involved.

"The net practices will also give the national coach and medical staff a chance to assess his progress."

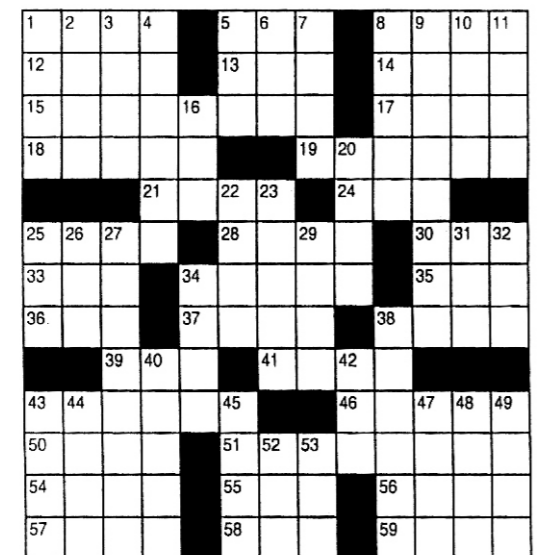
SQUAD

Graeme Smith (captain), Mark Boucher, Herschelle Gibbs, Andrew Hall, Jacques Kallis, Gary Kirsten, Neil McKenzie, Makhaya Ntini, Andre Nel, Robin Peterson, Shaun Pollock, Jacques Rudolph, Martin van Jaarsveld, Garnett Kruger.

"Garnett will benefit from being

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 38 Narrow, 1 Tranquil, 5 Recede, 8 Got bigger, 12 Medley, 13 Addressee, 14 Actress, 15 Tobacco, 17 Alkali, 18 Band-leader, 19 Give way, 21 Vendetta, 24 Fresh, 25 Fargos, 28 French military cap, 30 Chow down, 33 Not just my, 34 Attack from all sides, 35 Caustic solution, 36 Swelled head, 37 Sends out invitations. DOWN 1 Caesar, 2 Wingle, 3 Springy, 4 Adapt, 5 Sight-seeer?, 6 S.A., 7 Idea, 8 Klutz's, 9 Saturday, 10 Pianist, 11 Test the waters, 16 Infinitesimal, 20 Monad, Solution time: 21 mins.



CRYPTOQUIP

RLN XNONVJB IYFJXPY N INPYINSSYB, VJYP QY P TYGV XEFQ JLL QRP

ORXY RG OQY IESSTYG? Yesterday's Cryptiquip: WE'RE SURE THE CLEVER PERSON WHO INVENTED VELVET MUST HAVE MADE A NICE PILE.

Today's Cryptiquip Clue: S equals L. The Cryptiquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.



Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman inaugurates the Partex 19th Bangladesh Amateur Golf Championship and the newly-laid course of Kurmitola Golf Club at the club premises on Friday. The tournament proper starts tomorrow with players from Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and hosts Bangladesh taking part.