

Lamba's 3rd ton earns Abahani a date with Mohammedans

Sports Reporter



RAMAN LAMBA... 137

Abahani Krira Chakra set up yet another date with their traditional rivals Dhaka Mohammedans Sporting Club, this time in the final of the 13th Damal Summer cricket tournament, scheduled for next Friday, Nov 29.

Abahani arranged that appointment with a convincing 136-run win over Gulshan Youth in yesterday's second semifinal at the Dhaka Stadium, a match that turned out as much of an anti-climax — if not more — as the previous day's mis-match between defending champions Mohammedans and last year's runners-up Greater Mymensingh Cricket Club (GMCC) by the flatter margin of eight wickets.

Once again, Abahani owed their facile passage to their openers Zahid Razzak Masoom and Raman Lamba who gave them yet another dream start by putting on 169 runs before being separated in the 33rd over.

Yet, despite Masoom's role in that imposing stand, it was really the batting of Abahani's star acquisition Raman Lamba who rattled up his third hundred in five outings that took the stuffing out of the youthful Gulshan Youth attack.

Lamba, a former Indian international who still harbours hopes of barging into the Indian Test team — a hope that provides him the motivation to keep going in this game — lambasted the Gulshan bowlers by hammering an unbeaten 137 runs that included eleven scoring boundaries and three towering sixes.

Lamba's was an electrifying, run-a-ball innings that came off 137 deliveries. His fifty took 74 deliveries in 115 minutes but the second fifty came off another 53 deliveries.

Lamba's run of scores in this year's Damal meet has already begun to resemble Bradmanesque proportions. In the first group match against newcomers Ajax Sporting Club, Lamba hit an unbeaten 110 with Masoom making 116; in

the second group game against Dhaka Wanderers Club Lamba again remained unbeaten on 47; in the group final against the more formidable Bangladesh Biman Lamba made 51. The quarter-final clash against unlabeled Udy Club brought Lamba another exactly hundred runs.

The attacking Delhi and North Zone batsman, who ran up the highest first-wicket stand in Dhaka cricket by putting on 247 runs with Zahid Razzak Masoom in the team's inaugural match of the new season against Ajax, also

Indian, Masoom hit five fours in his 91-ball stay, his fifty coming off 78 deliveries. And he, too, followed up his feat with the bat by picking up a Gulshan wicket.

Abahani skipper Farooque made 24 before being bowled by Rupam when the score was 209 in the 39th over.

The burly Akram Khan then joined Lamba in the run chase and remained not out with 17 when the harassed Gulshan bowlers finally completed the 44th over in the time specified for 45.

Rupam's solitary success with the ball cost him 46 runs while Sohail, who claimed Masoom's wicket, gave away 18 runs in his two overs. Manju conceded 72 runs off the eight overs he had dared to send down in the face of the Lamba onslaught.

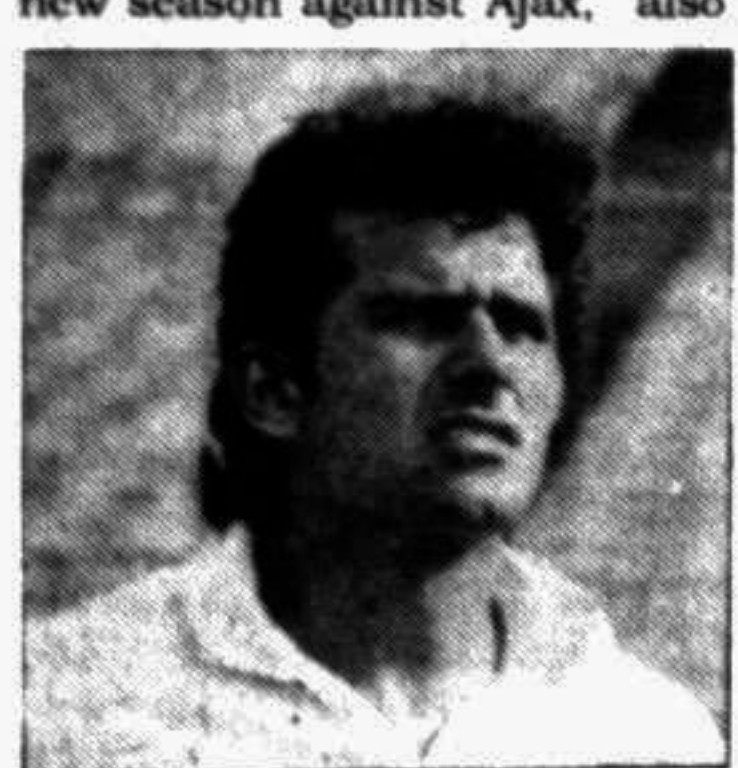
Going in to bat, the Gulshan Youths adopted a rather negative attitude. Realising well that they just didn't possess the potential to launch into a chase after the mammoth Abahani total, the Gulshan batsmen decided upon holding on to their wickets no matter how slow or inconsequential the run rate.

This they achieved with some degree of success, finishing on a miserly 126 for the loss of six wickets when their 44-over quota ended.

No amount of inducements by Abahani bowlers could entice the Gulshan batsmen into attacking shots and they remained content to keep their shutters down.

Rupam top scored with an unbeaten 55 with four fours while opener Ittefak with 13 and Babul at number six with 18 were the only others to reach double figures. There were 26 runs by way of extras.

G. M. Nowsheer (Prince, Anis, Lamba, Sujon, A. De Silva, Effy, Masoom and Akram were all given a bowl by skipper Farooque. Even then the Gulshan boys failed to bite the bait.



RAMAN LAMBA... 137

had a most rewarding day with the ball yesterday, picking up two Gulshan wickets for just 20 runs off his seven overs to finish as his team's most successful bowler. No other Abahani bowler — and eight of them tried turning their arm over yesterday — managed more than one scalp.

Gulshan skipper Manju, a former Bangladesh opener and wicket-keeper who these days prefers to bowl instead of donning the gloves, was made to ponder the wisdom of his decision when in the 40th over of the Abahani innings Lamba savaged him for 18 runs in one over — dispatching him for two majestic sixes over long-on and another crisp four to boot.

Masoom, whose own fine run with the bat so far this season has brought him plenty of runs, thereby erasing some of the bitter memories of last season with reigning Navana Premier Division champions Brothers Union, was eclipsed yesterday by Lamba's fireworks despite making a polished 66. Relishing his role as a fellow-opener with the dashing

Indian, Masoom hit five fours in his 91-ball stay, his fifty coming off 78 deliveries. And he, too, followed up his feat with the bat by picking up a Gulshan wicket.

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Foreign Minister and chief of the Bangladesh Cricket Control Board ASM Mustafizur Rahman will attend the game as chief guest and give away the trophies.

The BCCB has fixed the ticket rates for the final at Taka 100 for the VIP Gate No. 1, Tk 30 for VIP Gate No. 3 and Tk 10 each for the galleries.

SCOREBOARD

ABAHANI KC

Z R Masoom c Shamim b Sohail 66
 R Lamba not out 137
 Farooq b Rupam 24
 Akram not out 17

Did not bat : Pappu, A De Silva, Prince, Swjan, Anis, Selim and Effy.

Extras : (b 1, lb 4, wb 11, nb 2) 18

Total : (for two wickets, 44 overs) 262

Fall of wickets : 1/169, 2/209.

BOWLING	O	M	R	W
Shamim	6	0	40	0
Babul	8	1	24	0
Ripon	4	0	24	0
Atiq	5	0	22	0
Ashique	2	0	11	0
Rupam	9	0	46	1
Manju	8	0	72	0
Sohail	2	0	18	1

GULSHAN YOUTH

Ittefak run out 13
 Sohail b Anis 01
 Arif c Pappu b Lamba 04
 Rupam not out 55
 Ishliq lbw Lamba 0
 Babul c Pappu b De Silva 18
 Ashique b Masoom 5
 Manju not out 4
 Did not bat : Atiq, Shamim and Ripon.

Extras : (lb 9, wb 14, nb 3) 26

Total (for six wickets, 44 overs) 126

Fall of wickets : 1/4; 2/21; 3/40; 4/40; 5/96; 6/110

BOWLING	O	M	R	W
Prince	5	0	7	0
Anis	6	1	13	1
Lamba	7	0	20	2
Swjan	3	0	7	0
A De Silva	9	2	26	1
Effy	9	0	24	0
Masoom	4	0	18	1
Akram	1	0	2	0



Action from yesterday's Green Delta hockey super league match between Cantonian and Udy Club held at the Hockey Stadium. Cantonian Club defeated Udy 2-0. —Star photo

Cantonians stay on course

Sports Reporter

Cantonian Sports Club and Shishu Kishore Sangha kept their championship hopes alive with victories in their respective super league matches of the Green Delta Second Division Hockey yesterday at the Hockey Stadium.

Cantonian SC scored a comfortable 2-0 victory over Udy Club.

Masud Rana scored both the goals for the winners, slamming his first in the 24th minute of the match and his second five minutes into the second half.

With this victory Cantonian SC have now earned six points from four super league

Sports Reporter

matches while Udy Club languish at the bottom of the points table with just one point from their four encounters.

Shishu Kishore Sangha scored an exciting 2-1 victory over Farashganj Sporting Club in the second fixture of the day.

Both sides failed to break the dead lock in the first half. Babar scored the first goal for Shishu Kishore two minutes into the second half.

Raju doubled the margin in the 41st minute.

Farashganj pressed hard and Enayot reduced the margin in the 52nd minute. They put everything in their quest for a draw but Shishu Kishore hung on grimly to their 2-1 lead.

Sports Reporter

Shishu Kishore and Farashganj SC have collected six and two points respectively from four encounters each.

Today is a rest day and the eight-team super league matches resume tomorrow.

PWD SC lead the table at this stage with seven points from four games.

POINTS TABLE

TEAMS	M	W	D	L	T
PWD Club	4	3	1	0	7
Cantonian SC	4	2	2	0	6
Shishu Kishore	4	2	2	0	6
Barnak Samaj	4	1	2	1	4
Mukta Bhangra	4	1	2	1	4
Farashganj SC	4	0	2	2	2
Young Star	4	0	2	2	2
Udy Club	4	0	1	3	1

Bagan split points with Pas Club

NEW DELHI, Nov 25: Iranian Pas Club today split points with Mohun Bagan, their DMC soccer tournament Pool 'A' quarterfinal league tie ending in a goalless stalemate here today, reports PTI.

Border Security Force (BSF) were held to a 1-1 draw by Tata Football Academy in a Pool 'B' match.

Poor finishing marred the Iranian outfit's domination during the entire first-half.

Mohsen Garoosi initiated a 14th minute raid down the right flank, but there was none near the goalmouth to apply the finishing touches.

One fine opportunity was muffed by Azghar Modi Roosta in the very next minute, shooting over the crosspiece a pass from Arash Noamooz.

In the 34th minute Azghar Modi tried a back volley but alert Bagan goalkeeper Tanumoy Bose grabbed the ball with a quick dive.

In a Pool 'B' encounter, Border Security Force (BSF) and Tata Football Academy (TFA) were locked goalless at the breather.

Captain and striker Narinder Gurung gave BSF the 57th minute lead, neatly heading in an Avtar Singh cross.

Though the TFA lads struck together some good moves, they failed to taste success till Balin Singh equalised in the 88th minute.

Biman stay ahead

Sports Reporter

Reigning league champions Bangladesh Biman were leading the points table with a tally of 21 points after the completion of the seventh round matches of the First Division chess league yesterday at the National Sports Council chess room.

Star-studded Biman, led by national champion Rifat-bi-Sattar and a bunch of former national champions Zillur Rahman Champak, Ziaur Rahman and the experienced Rezaul Haque, yesterday had no difficulty in beating their rivals Genus Chess Club 4-0.

Biman have now dropped only three points in six matches.

Title-aspirants Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) were close on Biman's heels with 20 points.

BTMC yesterday defeated Protibha Daba Club 3-1.

Last year's runners-up Bangladesh Ansars were also maintaining a keen challenge to

Taylor threatens players for joining Japanese league

Sports Reporter

LONDON, Nov 26: England manager Graham Taylor warned his players today that their international careers could be over if they joined the new Japanese soccer league, reports Reuter.

"I would never say to any player that because he went to Japan to play, he would never play for England again," said Taylor.

"But anyone with serious England ambitions should be aware of the problems. Anyone who went would be seriously curtailing his international ambitions. I just don't see how it could work."

Taylor's warning comes after England captain Gary Lineker signed a deal with one of the 10 Japanese clubs in the New League which starts in March 1993.

Lineker said he would end his England career after the European Championship finals next June.

Japan who want to stage the 2002 World Cup, are keen to start off their professional league in 1993 with major international signings.

Under-16 soccer meet from Dec 1

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) under-16 coaching football tournament '91', organised by the national federation, will begin from December 1 at the Mirpur Stadium.

Eight teams divided into two groups will take part in the five-day tourney.

The teams in Group 'A' are: Dhaka Division, Rajshahi Division, Khulna Division and Chittagong Division.

The teams in Group 'B' are: the Mahanagar XI, BKSP, May XI and the NSC XI.

Four matches will be held daily in the mornings and afternoons.

The champions and runners-up of each group will play in the semifinals.

All the matches will be of 70 minutes' duration. Each team will be allowed four substitutes in every match.

Both the semifinals are scheduled to be held on December 4 while the final is fixed for Dec 5.

SUHWARWADY CUP

Meanwhile, the fixture of the eighth Suhrwardy national under-16 soccer championship was announced yesterday through a BFF press release.

The championship is scheduled to begin from Dec 7 in the four divisions of the country with each division being sub-divided into two zones.

Fifty-six district teams, including Jessore Education Board, are expected to take part on a knock-out basis.

Two champion teams from each division will play in the final round along with the defending champions Feni DSA and the team from the district hosting the final round.

Fitness woes worry Pak selectors

Sports Reporter

KARACHI, Nov 26: The injury-marred Pakistan team's dismal performance against the West Indies has alarmed selectors, while commentators are concerned about the squads prospects in the upcoming World Cup in Australia and New Zealand, reports AFP.

Pakistan were tipped to do well against the West Indies after winning the three-nation Sharjah Cup last month, but they made a bad start to the three one-day series, losing the opening match to the tourists.

They managed to tie the second after a hard struggle but surrendered the last match as well as the series two-nil.

The crowd amply demonstrated its frustration when in the penultimate over four Pakistani batsmen, playing one ball each, were out without adding a run to their side's paltry 175 for six against the visitors' 205 in the 4-overs each match.

Sensing defeat, fans threw plastic cushions, tossed bottles and empty juice cartons on to ground, forcing West Indies mid-wicket fielder Keith Arthurton to call for a helmet.

The series exposed the fitness problem Pakistan has been facing for some months, former selector Ilaeem Ahsan said, and the swelling list of injured players in posing a serious threat.

"Pakistan must find a quick replacement for its top batting lineup, Javed Miandad, Zahid Fazal, Ejaz Ahmed and Saeed Anwar," he added.

Zahid suffered a shoulder injury while attempting a catch from West Indies captain Richie Richardson at Karachi, and a similar problem with Ejaz has prevented him displaying his best skill as a batsman in the last two seasons.

Saeed joined the team in Sharjah on Imran Khan's SOS for the crucial final against India, but he too was injured while fielding there.

But the injury to Miandad, one of the greatest batsmen in the world with more than 8,000 runs in 109 Test matches, has caused the most disappointment.

Cricket experts consider that if he does not recover in time Pakistan's prospects in the World Cup will be dampened, despite some promising new finds.

"Miandad is suffering from too much cricket and I think it is in his own interest that he

should be absolutely fit before going out in the field," Haseeb said, adding that "We don't want to lose such an experienced player due to strain of the game."

Visibly concerned, Pakistan captain Imran Khan said there was a consensus that Miandad should work under medical supervision to improve his overall fitness.

His remarks gave rise to speculation that Miandad might not play against Sri Lanka who will open their three one-day match tour here on December 8.

Last week Miandad was seen nursing his back trouble with a special thermal belt to keep the pain under control.

He was dropped in the third and final Test against the West Indies at Lahore in December last year and only played in the first of the three just-ended one-day games

against them.

Imran Khan himself, who celebrated his 40th birthday three days ago, also appears not to have returned to his full form after an absence of nearly a year from international and domestic cricket.

The renowned fast bowler was hit by the West Indian opening batsman Philo Wallace for a towering six and a four in his very first over of the match at Faisalabad, which the West Indies won by 17 runs to clinch the series.

"It seems they are left with no option but to field newcomers in the pre-World Cup series against Sri Lanka, should they wish to improve their run-chasing capacity," former manager Salahuddin Ahmed said.

"We hope many of our star players would recover, by the time the Sri Lankans arrive here in December," he said.

Tails-up, Caribbeans fly to Down-Under

A M Chowdhury

As envisaged in my last write-up, the Pakistan sojourn of the Caribbean cricketers did present some exciting cricket.

The West Indians won the three-match series convincingly 2-0, and it could have been three nil as well but for the second match which ended in a tie under the World Cup rules agreed upon for series.

No one can complain that excitement and thrills were wanting among the full-houses Gaddafi Stadium spectators, who must have returned home having watched one of the most enthralling encounters. Staunch Pakistani supporters may have despaired at Mushtaque not getting the second run off the last ball of the match, but the local connoisseurs of the game must have felt satisfied; cricket at its best was on display, the competition was breath-takingly keen.

In the first match at Karachi the West Indians achieved rather easy 24 run victory. Batting first, they compiled 170 for the loss of six wickets in 34 overs and Pakistan could manage only 146 for the loss of all their wickets with one ball remaining. Hooper with his gentle spin captured 4 for 34.

But all excitement was reserved for the second match. Having been put in, the West Indians compiled 186 for five in 39 overs. In reply, Pakistan started steadily but found it difficult to force the pace and

at one stage the visitors looked like coasting home in comfort. Even when Ijaz after having put on 47 runs in a partnership with Imran, was out for 27 (117 for 5), the Windies were in command of the situation.

Imran, on 22 at that point, was joined by Wasim Akram. They were together for some time and at the end of the match.

Cricket gets new fillip through such efforts and matches like the one at Lahore will long be talked about not only by the people who had the privilege of watching it but also by the followers of the game all over the world. The drama in the last over bowled by Curtly Ambrose had all the elements of greatness: Pakistan needed 10 in 6 balls. Moïn Khan was out in the third ball. Waqar took a four and a single off the 4th and 5th balls. Mushtaque had to get 2 off the last ball for victory but having pushed the ball to mid-on, could only complete the first run and in his desperate attempt for the winning run was run out.

In the third match at Faisalabad the West Indies registered an emphatic victory, the margin of 17 runs not really telling the correct story.

After being put in again, the West Indians compiled 204 for 5 in 40 overs and the asking rate for Pakistan was 5.1.

The Pakistani openers could hardly take any liberty. The first wicket fell at 65 in the 20th over and at that point the asking rate had risen to 7.00 and it kept going further up to 7.9 at the end of the 30th over. Despite Zahid Fazal's commendable effort (53 they could get to only 187 for 8. The West Indians never lost their grip on the proceedings.

This two-nil victory will go a long way in boosting the morale of the Caribbeans and they fly out to Down Under with their tails up. The induc-

tion of Desmond Haynes and Malcolm Marshall effected a marked change in the performance of the team. Desmond Haynes, the top batsman in one-day cricket (to date he has 6902 runs at an average of 42.86) score 45,69 and 08 in the three matches and added his 40th half-century. His 20-year old opening partner debutant Philo Wallace shaped pretty well (22,32 and 36) and the flair he showed in the Faisalabad match in dealing with Imran and Akram in the opening overs clearly promise bright prospects. The other batsman to have benefitted from the Pakistan stopover was Brian Lara (54, 18 and 45). Hooper proved his worth both with the willow and with the cherry. Skipper Richardson did not really come off and his tally of only 21 quite was unlike him. A batsman of his quality and experience is bound to come out of such a bad patch and glorious things can be expected of him in the coming Benson and Hedges triangular World Series matches.

The West Indian bowlers performed well. Ambrose captured 6 wickets for 91 runs, Marshall 5 for 83, Patterson 4 for 73, Hopper 5 for 106 and new comer medium-paceer Cummings 2 for 54. Bishop had an empty bag despite conceding 64 runs. Ambrose's figures today of 88 wickets at an average of 18.72 and Marshall's 144 wickets at an average of 25.63 are no doubt impressive.

The three matches in

Pakistan must have given the West Indies team the much-needed cohesion and confidence and helped the process of rebuilding the reorganised team.

Pakistan's gain from the three matches may appear to be negligible in terms of match-results but in the grooming-up process they may be said to have reaped some

a big question mark; being pushed about by the promising youngsters, he shall have to produce something extraordinary to find his place secure in the team.

Among the bowlers, Aquib Javed, after the Sharjah success, continued to ride on; his figures of 7 for 119 at an average of 17.00 are definitely impressive. Wasim Akram's figures of 5 for 106. Waqar Younus's 0 for 99, Imran's 1 for 85 and Mushtaque's for 98 tell their own story. It can be unhesitatingly stated that the West Indian bowlers adjusted themselves well to the rather slow, less bouncy Pakistani wickets, which the not-too-inferior bunch of quickies of the home team found not too helpful.

The two teams have so far played 56 matches, West Indies have won 38, Pakistan 17 while are ended in a tie. It appears as though the West Indians are on the threshold of finally ending their bad-recent run of one-dayers.

Since 1988-89 they had managed only two victories in 9 encounters against Pakistan until the current series; lost to the Australians on home grounds 0-4. Last summer they lost to England 0-3 and recently at Sharjah to the Indians 0-2. But this emphatic 2-0 victory over Pakistan definitely augurs well for the Caribbeans in their forthcoming Benson and Hedges Trinagular against Australian and India, which begins on December 6 with a match against India at Perth.

benefit. Zahid Fazal's potentials, which came under the spotlight in the Sharjah final, got a chance of confirmation in the Faisalabad match. The new find Inzamamul Huq showed promise. But the uncertainty about Miandad's fitness and the poor showing by Salim Malik are definitely not comforting thoughts in the Pakistan camp. But, I am sure, Malik is only in a temporary bad-patch and with his quality and experience it is just a question of time when he will again be himself.

Ijaz Ahmed also came under

Marsh's ton in WA victory

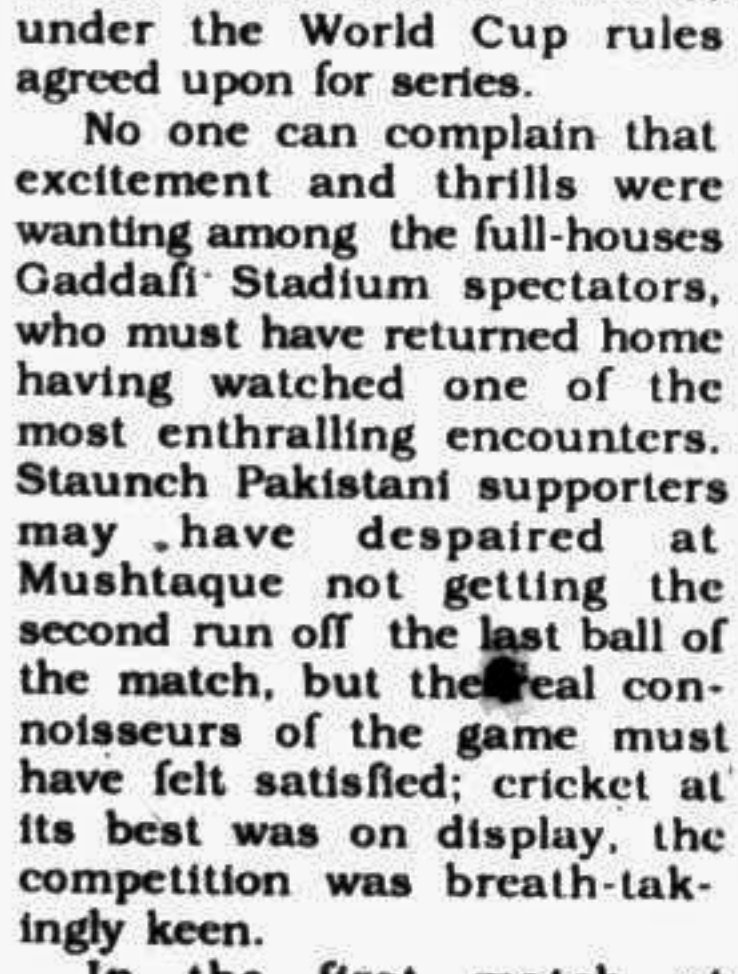
Sports Reporter

ADELAID, Australia, Nov 26: Australian vice-captain Geoff Marsh hit a century to steer Western Australia to a seven-wicket victory over South Australia on the fourth and final day of their Sheffield Shield cricket match on Monday, reports Reuter.

Opener Marsh struck 104 as Western Australia reached their victory target of 303 with 3.5 overs of their minimum 96 to spare.

Test reject Tom Moody, who scored 168 in the first innings, added an unbeaten 54 while off-spinner Tim May picked up the only two wickets to fall to the South Australian bowlers. Earlier acting South Australian captain Andrew Hilditch declared the home side's innings closed at the overnight total of 180 for six.

The win pushed Western Australia to third place in the Sheffield Shield table behind Queensland and Victoria.



DESMOND HAYNES



MALCOLM MARSHAL