

# MSC total too big for BU BCCB condemns slander

Sports Reporter

**MSC total too big for BU**

Dhaka Mohammedan Sporting Club cruised to the final of the Victory Day cricket tournament with a massive 112-run victory over last year's Navana Premier Division league champions Brothers Union at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The unfinished part of the match, scheduled to have been played on December 14, was held after a lapse of three days because of the requisition of the ground for programmes marking the Victory Day.

Brothers started from where they had left off, eight without loss, when stumps were drawn on the first day of the semifinal Dec 13.

Brothers' quest for a victory target of 320 in the remaining 71 overs (MSC totalled 327 for 9 on the first day) suffered a jolt when opener Shovon was run out for 19.

Rafiqul Alam, who contributed substantially to lay the foundation of a Mohammedan victory on the first day with a sterling knock of 76 then dealt two quick blows to send Brothers reeling at 60 for three.

Nurul Abedin Nobel, dropped lower down the bat-

ting order for injury, tried to resist a possible collapse but Golam Faruk Suru threw cold water on any such plans by removing another couple of Brothers batsmen in quick succession.

Skinner Athar Ali was one of the victims in that spell, and when he edged one behind from Suru for a blob the end appeared pretty imminent.

The suspicion deepened when the West Bengal all-rounder Arup Bhattacharya needlessly ran himself out for five.

But young Halim Shah, who left MSC this year to join Brothers, had other ideas.

Throwing caution to the wind, this lean youngster belted the Mohammedan bowlers all over the ground.

Together with tailender Salahuddin he put on 76 runs for the ninth wicket.

Halim Shah finally held out for 81 made off 104 balls.

His sparkling knock included nine delightful hits to the fence.

Rafiqul Alam bowled exceedingly well to capture two for only 23 runs.

Suru backed him up with two for 44.

Centurion Aminul Islam Bulbul with two for 36 and

stand-in skipper Waheedul Ghani with an expensive two for 36 joined the act.

Mohammedans meet Abuhani Kira Chakra in the final of the tournament on Friday, December 20.

The final, a 75-overs-a-side affair, will be played over two days.

**SCOREBOARD**

**Mohammedans : 327 for 9** (Bulbul 119, Rafiq 76).

**Brothers Union**

Shovon run out 19

Tomal Ibw Rafique 29

Shamsul c Dulu b Rafique 10

Nobel c Dulu b Wahid 34

Sumon b Suru 10

Athar Ali c Ratan b Suru 0

Arup run out 5

Halim Shah c Gamagee b Bulbul 81

Fernando b Bulbul 2

Salahuddin s Ratan 18

Wahid 18

Saad not out 0

Extras 7

Total (all out in 71.4 overs) 215

**Bowling :** O M R W

Gamagee 12 2 32 0

Dulu 12 2 27 0

Suru 13 2 44 2

Rafique 12 1 23 2

Mithu 5 0 14 0

Wahid 6 0 36 2

Bulbul 11.3 0 36 2

**BCCB condemns slander**

Sports Reporter

The Bangladesh Cricket Control Board (BCCB) has expressed its dismay and surprise at the 'fabricated and contention statement' issued against three responsible officials of the Board by the General Secretary of the Dhaka Metropolitan Football Association Kazi Mishu appearing in some local dailies.

The DMFA official is trying to divert the attention of the people from the original incident by giving out falsified account," a BCCB press release said.

The trouble started when a BCCB peon went to collect the sight screen for the exhibition cricket match at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

DMFA officials present there thwarted him and used abusive language.

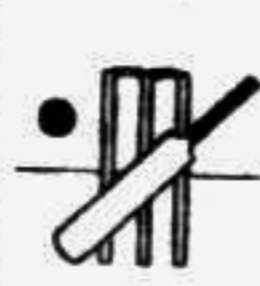
Later, one of the joint secretaries of the BCCB suffered a similar fate at the hands of the threatening DMFA officials.

The BCCB General Secretary tried for an amicable settlement but the DMFA officials dodged this attempt and issued statements accusing the BCCB official of 'intimidatory behaviour,' the press release claimed.



Australia's Geoff Marsh (c) lies on the pitch after colliding with fellow team-mates Dean Jones (r) and David Boon (l) whilst attempting to make a catch during the Australia versus West Indies day-night match in Sydney yesterday.

# Aussies storm into WSC finals



**SYDNEY, Dec 18:** Australia stormed into the World Series cricket finals after routing the West Indies by 51-runs in a day-night match here today.

A boisterous crowd of 37,770 at the Sydney Cricket Ground saw the reigning world champions outwit their opponents in ruthless fashion.

Fired by a 128-run opening stand between David Boon and Geoff Marsh, the Australians scored 234 for six in 50 overs after electing to bat first.

The West Indies were bowled out for 183 in 46.5 overs despite a brilliant 77 off 87 balls from Carl Hooper.

The win makes Australia clear leaders in the three-nation competition with eight points from five matches and three more to play. India have five from five matches while the West Indies continue to lag behind in third place with a solitary point from four games.

Australia are assured of playing the best-of-three finals even if they lose their remaining three matches when the series resumes on January 9.

Hooper, who was in danger of losing his place in the team after a meagre 24 runs in the last three matches, fought a lone battle as wickets tumbled at the other end.

His dismissal triggered a sensational collapse which saw the West Indies lose their last five wickets for just six runs and give Australia an easy win.

Wallace in the fourth and fifth of overs with only 17 on the board.

They suffered a severe blow when skipper and batting star Richie Richardson fell for six in the 13th over.

But Hooper retrieved the situation with aggressive batting during two useful stands with

Left-arm seamer Mike Whitney, who claimed Malcolm Marshall and David Williams off successive balls, was the most successful bowler with three for 25 from ten overs.

The man-of-the-match award went to Marsh for a superb 82 off 146 balls which included four boundaries and two sixes in one over from leg-spinner Robert Ilaynes.

But the West Australian farmer was unable to collect his prize after being injured during a mid-field collision with Dean Jones.

Team manager Ian Macdonald said Marsh had developed back pain, but will be fit in time for the second Test against India which begins in Melbourne on Boxing Day (Dec 26).

Marsh, a veteran of 106 matches, fell 18 runs short of his tenth century when he top-edged Anderson Cummins to Desmond Haynes at mid-on.

Boon provided able support to Marsh scoring 61 off 91 balls with seven boundaries.

Australia seemed set for a big score at 190 for two in the 45th over, but the West Indians fought back to claim four wickets for 24 runs.

Fast bowler Curtely Ambrose was the most successful West Indian bowler with fine figures of two for 26 from ten overs.

Ian Healy and Peter Taylor struck 15 off the final over bowled by Marshall to increase the victory target for the West Indies.

AP adds: Boon and Marsh recovered from a slow start to give Australia their fourth win in the series. The Australian openers put on only 33 runs in the first 13 overs but gradually got on top of the West Indies attack.

Marsh struck two sixes off the bowling of spinner Robert Ilaynes in the 24th over. He passed 4,000 runs in one-day internationals with 82 from 146 balls.

Australia were 190 three by the time Marsh departed and also benefited from a quick-fire 34 off 37 balls from Steve Waugh.

The West Indies could have restricted the West Indies to a lesser total, but their fielding was shoddy. The experimental West Indies team, minus long-time captain Viv Richards, never got on pace to better the Australian total.

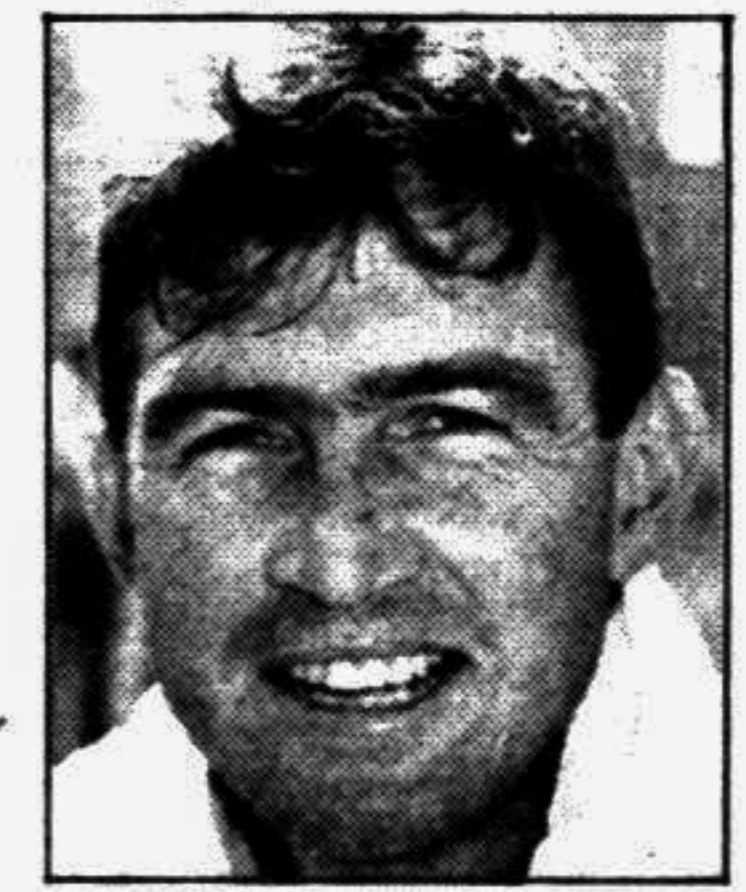
Marsh left the field with concussion after a fielding collision with Dean Jones late in the match.

Pacemen Bruce Reid, Mike Whitney and Craig McDermott did the damage for Australia—Reid finishing with 29-2 from 10 overs, Whitney 25-3 from 10 and McDermott 29-2 from eight.

Meanwhile, West Indian manager Deryck Murray announced that paceman Ian Bishop, suffering lingering back problems, will return home to the Caribbean on Thursday.

The West Indies next play a four-day match against an Australian combined team in Hobart, Tasmania beginning Friday. India play the Queensland state team in a four-day match that starts Friday in Brisbane.

The Australian team will be idle until it faces India in the second Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Dec 26. Australia won the first Test.



MARSH...man-of-the-match

Brian Lara and Keith Arthurton.

He added 34 with Lara and then 79 for the fifth wicket with Arthurton to take the West Indies to 146 for four in the 40th over.

Hooper, who hit five boundaries and a six, was finally caught on the mid-wicket fence by Steve Waught off Tom Moody.

His dismissal triggered a sensational collapse which saw the West Indies lose their last five wickets for just six runs and give Australia an easy win.

# Hick hopes to get over debut hiccups



**LILLESIAL, England, Dec 18:** Graeme Hick believes his nightmarish debut in Test cricket will prove nothing more than a blip on his extraordinary career graph, reports Reuter.

When England fly out to New Zealand on December 27 en route to the World Cup in the new year, Zimbabwe-born Hick will be the most determined man on the plane.

So far his Test record is a sorry sight — 75 runs in seven innings at 10.71. Even fast bowler David Lawrence averages more.

But the player whose England debut attracted roughly the same amount of

publicity as actress Liz Taylor's wedding is adamant his painful debut against West Indies pace bowlers will soon be forgotten.

"Success has always been my one ambition," Hick, 25, said as he took a brief break from England's pre-tour fitness camp at the national sports centre.

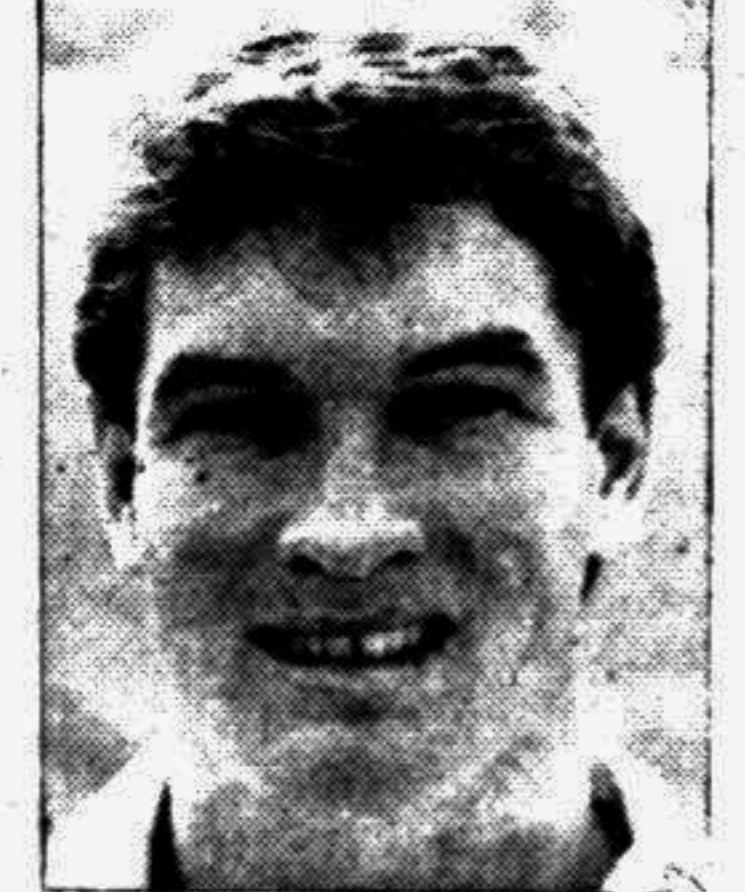
Former England batsman Tom Graveney told me that if you're going through a bad patch you should imagine what people will be saying about you in five years. I've no doubts in my own mind."

Neither has his captain Graham Gooch.

"The boy was selected on his ability, you don't accumulate his sort of record if you haven't a certain amount of tal-

ent," Gooch said.

"There are obviously areas he has to sort out if he wants to succeed at the highest level but I've every confidence in the character of the lad."



GRAEME HICK

Twelve months ago Hick seemed to have to need for such soothing words. In his seven-year wait to qualify for England he had begun the appear superhuman.

He was the youngest player to score 50 first-class hundreds and attracted worldwide acclaim in 1988 when he hit 405, the second-highest score in English first-class cricket, for Worcestershire against Somerset at Taunton.

All that success made his slump against the West Indians all the more tough to take.

"It was a combination of few

things. I think starting the year in totally different conditions in Australia had something to do with it," Hick recalled.

"I also found that playing against one of the weaker English countries, particularly in a three-day game, was not the best preparation for a Test."

England manager Micki Stewart wants his potential match-winner to forget about the dark days.

"All the questions seem to be about the past," Stewart said.

"Everyone knows it is very hard to come into Test cricket from the English country game. To come in with the high profile he was given makes it even more difficult."

"He got that profile from a phenomenal record of run-scoring as a young man. The most important thing now is that he plays like Graeme Hick always has."

To shield Hick from more banner headlines, an offer from former England great Geoff Boycott to help him in the nets has been declined.

"Technically I haven't made any changes anyone would notice," Hick revealed.

"I'm quite happy to listen to anyone. If what they say is worth listening to I'll go away and think about it. Everyone's got their pieces of advice. I've had a fair number of letters saying all sorts of things."

The result is that Hick is still mostly backing his own judgement, although he has been working with several ex-players to improve his off-spin bowling.

"You get one or two people who take to Test cricket very easily but most take a while to settle in. They may have a bad start but two or three years later everyone's forgotten all about it," he said.

"I've always enjoyed my cricket. If I stopped enjoying it I'd retire."

# Botham may be Gooch's deputy for W Cup

**LONDON, Dec 18:** Ian Botham could be named England vice-captain for the World Cup even though he will miss the first four weeks of their tour, reports AFP.

Chairman of selectors Ted Dexter said, "Ian is not ruled out" from the job of Graham Gooch's deputy for the Tests in New Zealand and World Cup campaign.

England will be half way through the first Test by the time Botham joins Gooch's squad in New Zealand on January 22 following his pantomime in Bourne-mouth.

A late arrival like that would bar any other player from taking up an official role, but Botham's ability to motivate and inspire cannot be discarded.

Even so the 36-year-old may have to settle for a place in the ranks, simply because any appointment would reopen the debate about his "special treatment" this win-

ter.

"There are plenty of realistic candidates," said Dexter, who is sure to consider Derek Pringle, Gooch's Essex teammate, and new Surrey captain Alec Stewart.

Mike Atherton's absence from the tour party with a back injury has not robbed Gooch of his vice-captain, but also left him without a recognised opening partner.

Gooch said the lack of an opening partner will be discussed over the next few days at Lilleshall, near London, where the squad is in training. They leave England on December 27.

Stewart, who has opened for England before but does not relish the role, Graeme Hick and Mark Ramprakash the Test candidates.

"I'm confident Graeme can put his disappointments behind him and have a bright and long future for England," said Gooch. And Hick insisted: "What happened last summer has gone now. I'm looking forward to the future."

# Anirban cricket

Sports Reporter

Khilgaon Jack Club outplayed Azam Walker Cricket Club by seven wickets in the Anirban Victory Day cricket competition held yesterday at Manikdi of Dhaka Cantonment.

Batting first, Azam Cricket Club scored 181 runs for the loss of four wickets in the stipulated 35 overs with Ripon hitting a brilliant 111.

In reply, Khilgaon reached the target in 30.2 overs for the loss of only three wickets.

# Fans always come first for Manchester United

**MANCHESTER, Dec 18:** Manchester United plan to exclude visiting fans from Old Trafford next season — so that their own supporters can get in, reports AFP.

The capacity will be reduced by around 10,000 to 34,000 while extensive improvements are carried out to make to one of England's most famous grounds an all-seater stadium in line with the Taylor

report.

The famous Stretford end will also be closed for work during that period and United are reluctant to squeeze in away supporters at the expense of their own.

Chairman Martin Edwards said: "It's fairly obvious that with gates reduced to 34,000, you are not going to allow visitors in. We have 60,000 members and some of them will be disappointed. Next year we will have to concentrate on home fans only."

First Division leaders United are the best supported club in England with an average attendance of almost 45,000 this season. None of their 10 home league matches has attracted fewer than 40,000 this season.

We have to consider our own supporters first and we don't wish to deny them the opportunity of seeing games at Old Trafford," Edwards said.

"Once you allow visitors into your ground, you also have to contend with segregation."

# Tour over for Ian Bishop

**SYDNEY, Dec 18:** West Indian fast bowler Ian Bishop is being sent home after failing to recover from a nagging back injury, team manager Deryck Murray said. J. Jay, reports AFP.

Murray said Bishop was unable to bowl because of the injury sustained before the start of the current Australian tour.

"He has been advised by specialists to readjust his bowling action, so it's only wise he returns home," Murray said.

The manager did not say who will replace him for the remainder of the tour, which includes four matches in the triangular World Series competition.

The 24-year-old paceman from Trinidad has not taken part in any match on the tour so far.

**Holmes to fight Mercer**

**NEW YORK, Dec 18:** Former world heavyweight champion Larry Holmes will get the chance to fight World Boxing Organisation (WBO) champion Ray Mercer here in February — but he won't be able to win the title, reports AFP.

The 42-year-old Holmes, who regained as heavyweight champion from 1978-1985 and who took a leaf out of George Foreman's book by returning to the ring after passing 40, will face the 36-year-old Mercer in Atlantic City on February 7.

The WBO, however, have said they will not recognise the bout.

# 1991: Out of South Africa, new hope for the game

**LONDON, Dec 18:** Having made a naive return to world cricket in 1991, South Africa are looking for a quick fix to lift them in time for the World Cup, reports AFP.

South Africa were cold-shouldered for 21 years. Now Clive Rice must lead a squad top-heavy in over 30-year-old, but lightweights in the Test arena, against the world's best sloggers and skidders.

Himself 42, Rice led South Africa for the first time in India and his team learned some valuable lessons in their defeat in the three-match series.

Maybe it was an Indian ploy to give them a heroes' welcome through the streets of Calcutta with hundreds of thousands of people throwing garlands of flowers.

The Indian team followed it up by taking easy runs off the South African bowlers and then using an allegedly "doctored" ball against their opponents.

Cricket is not the gentleman's game it was when Ali Bacher, who made the allegations about scuffed balls and later apologised for them, captained the last Springbok Test side against Australia in 1970.

"It is enough just being here," said Rice after losing the first game in Calcutta, already knowing that South Africa were not going to take the world by storm.

The competition in

Australia and New Zealand starting in February will be tougher still.

"They can expect respect but no heroes' welcome," said Australian captain Allan Border, whose team are masters at unnerving incoming batsmen through verbal "sledging".

The Test nations bent over backwards in 1991 to get the South Africans back into the International Cricket Council last July, but much of credit belongs to Bacher.

He won the key support of Nelson Mandela's African National Congress to mould the black and white federations into the United Cricket Board of South Africa of which he is chairman.

It was only the doctored ball allegations that showed South Africa are still wet behind the ears in international cricket.

Bacher said though he was "quietly confident" South African would do well in the World Cup.

"For the first time ever, when the national team goes abroad the majority of the population will be supporting them. That will provide a tremendous boost."

In the past, when South Africans have been involved in international contest, the majority of the population has supported the other side.

"But in the World Cup, even Nelson Mandela will be right behind us saying: come on chips."

Bacher admitted the Indian games had highlighted weak-

nesses and given the selectors an indications of what the South Africans will be up against.

The tour was very beneficial as it has given us time to prepare the team and to formulate a strategy. By the time we get to Australia we'll be very well prepared.

rounder Adrian Kuiper, but only fast bowler Allan Donald looks set to remain a Test class performer in the long term.

And there were no black players in India, Rice said: "The best black players back home are aged about 18. Cricket is at that stage among

be the first to tour South Africa, thus rejecting strong overtures from Pakistan and only increasing rivalry between the Asian neighbours.

South Africa will play Pakistan as one of their warm-up games for the World Cup — which will be a Test for a lot of teams.

**WEST INDIES**

Reigning champions Australia will be formidable opponents on their home ground for challenges West Indies.

The Caribbean stars have embarked on their own upheavals, with Gordon Greenidge retiring from international cricket after being dropped from the squad that went to Pakistan and then the World Series Cup in Australia.

The new side performed disappointingly in losing in the World Series to India and Australia.

Former captain Viv Richards was also missing from the trip, but new skipper Richie Richardson, who has culled for greater effort from his batsmen, has not discounted the possibility of the West Indies board calling on Richards for the World Cup.

**PAKISTAN**

Pakistan, the Sharjah Cup winners, have one of the strongest bowling attacks in the world led by Wasar Younis and Aqib Javed. But they also have problems to sort out before going to Australia.

After defeat by West Indies

in November, the critics turned on captain Imran Khan, Board of Control Secretary Shahid Rafi and team manager Intikhab Alam over team selection.

Protests have been held for the reinstatement of selection committee member Salahuddin Ahmed who was sacked after he claimed he was being used as a "rubber stamp" for other people's choices.

**ENGLAND**

England are already looking for a replacement for captain Graham Gooch and manager Micki Stewart — and their World Cup campaign started with a touch of theatre.

Gooch is assured of leading in England in Australia, but has said he will retire at the end of the 1992 season. The much criticised Stewart will not get his contract renewed when it ends in 1992.

Gooch's steady influence is critical to England's chances. The team are unpredictable and are already relying on a theatrical touch.

Ian Botham, having had a steady summer in England, was chosen for the winter tour and was given the unprecedented honour of being excused the New Zealand portion of the trip so he could appear in a pantomime and finish off a television series.

With injuries to Angus Fraser and Michael Atherton also casting a shadow on England's departure to the Pacific, Gooch may not get the final curtain his efforts Richly deserve.

**SCOREBOARD**

Series one-day international between West Indies and Australia here Wednesday:

**AUSTRALIA:**

Marsh c D Ilaynes b Cummins 82

Boon b Arthurton 61

Jones b Ambrose 2

S Waugh b Ambrose 34

Moody run out 8

Border b Hooper 1

Healy not out 17

Taylor not out 2

Extras (b2, lb 15, wd, nb6) 27

Total: (for 6 wkts, 50 overs) 234

Fall of wickets: 1-128; 2-137; 3-190; 4-204; 5-211; 6-214

**Bowling:** O M R W

Ambrose 10 3 26 2

Cummins 10 0 53 1

Marshall 9 2 39 0

R. Haynes 6 0 35 0

Hooper 10 0 42 1

Arthurton 5 1 22 1

**WEST INDIES:**

Ilaynes c Healy b McDermott 9

Wallace lbw b Reid 2

Richardson c Healy b Reid 6

Lara c Waugh b Whitney 19

Hopper c Waugh b Moody 77

Arthurton b Waugh 38

Marshall b Whitney 7

Williams b Whitney 0

Ilaynes c Moody b McDermott 0

Ambrose b Waugh 2

Cummins not out 1

Extras (lb-13-w-4 nb-5) 22

Total (46.5 overs) 183

Fall of wickets: 1-13; 2-17; 3-36; 4-70; 5-146; 6-177; 7-177; 8-178; 9-181.

**Bowling:** O M R W

Reid 10 2 29 2

McDermott 8 1 29 2

Waugh 6.5 0 33 2

Whitney 10 1 25 3

Taylor 5.5 0 32 0

Moody 7 0 22 1

Australia won by 51 runs