

Kambl hits first overseas ton as Batsmen dominate Day One

COLOMBO, July 27: Run-machine Vinod Kambl scored a century in his first Test innings on foreign soil as India moved to a formidable total on the opening day of the second Test against Sri Lanka here Tuesday, reports AFP.

The left-handed Kambl hit an unbeaten 119 to help India reach 300 for four at the close. Pravin Amre was six not out having survived a chance in the slips at the same score.

Kambl, who came to the wicket after opener Manoj Prabhakar (4) had departed with the total on 25, reached his third three-figures mark in his third consecutive Test innings.

The 334-minute knock followed his achievement of becoming only the third batsman in history to score successive double centuries in matches against England and Zimbabwe earlier in the year.

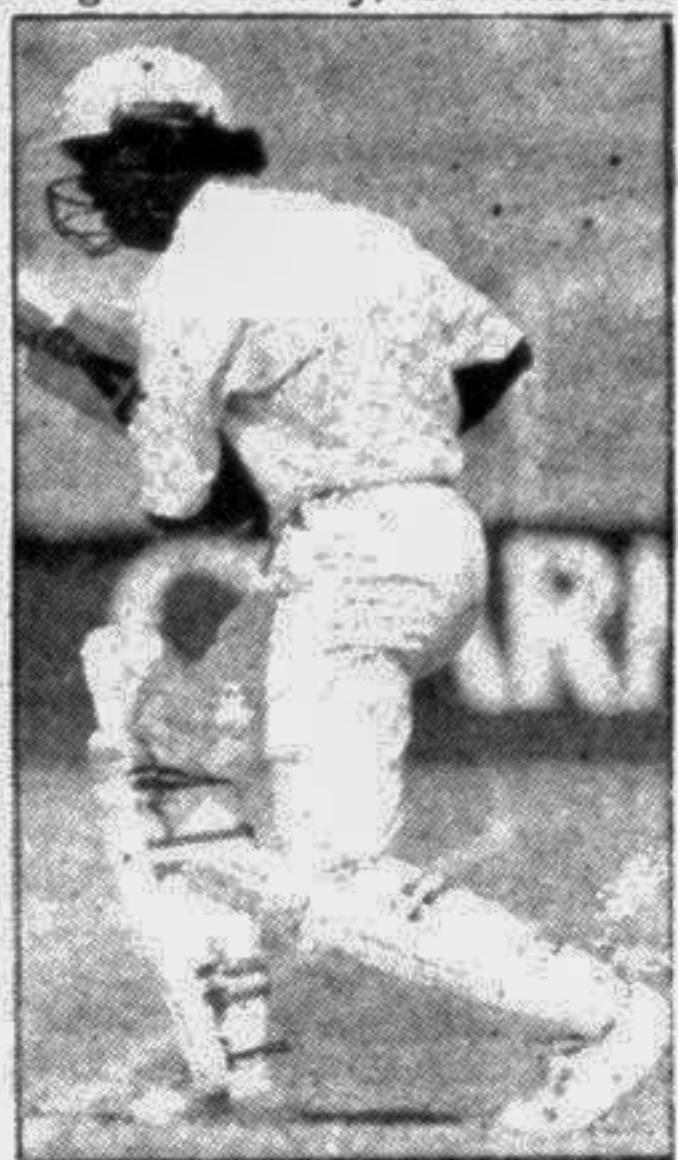
Assuming complete control of the day's play after joining opener Navjot Sidhu (82) in the morning session, Kambl brought his inherent batting talent to the fore once more with some marvellous shots to all parts of the field.

When bad light halted play six overs short of the stipulated 90 overs, Kambl had garnered 13 boundaries and a six.

The 21-year-old batsman made 224 against England in only his third Test and followed it up with an equally fine knock of 227 against Test minnows Zimbabwe.

He did not have an opportunity to bat in the first Test against Sri Lanka which was abandoned as a draw due to rain in central Kandy last week.

Playing in his sixth Test and only his first Test innings away from home, the left-hander was not perturbed by chance he gave to wicket-keeper Ashley de Silva when on 41 off-spinner



KAMBLI ... 119 n.o

Ruwan Kalpage and steadfastly set about compiling the 100.

He reached his century in exquisite fashion by driving medium-paced off-cutter Jayananda Warnaweera to the long-off boundary, his tenth for

short-leg by Hashan Tillekeratne off Warnaweera for 82.

Sidhu's innings, his seventh Test half-century, contained a six and 12 boundaries.

Vice-captain Tendulkar (28) and Kambl then produced 68 runs for the third wicket before Kalpage got his first Test victim by having Tendulkar caught by Tillekeratne in his pet forward short-leg position.

Kambl then shared a further

63-run fourth-wicket partnership with his skipper Mohammad Azharuddin, who seemed to have made the correct decision in winning the toss and electing to bat on a perfect batting track.

Azharuddin made 26 with three fours before being ruled out leg-before to Wickramasinghe.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the first day of the second cricket Test between Sri Lanka and India on Tuesday.

INDIA: First innings

M Prabhakar lbw

b Gurushinde

4

N Sidhu c Tillekeratne

b Warnaweera

82

V Kambl not out

119

S Tendulkar c Tillekeratne

b Kalpage

28

M Azharuddin lbw

b Wickramasinghe

26

P Amre not out

6

Extras (b-9, lb-3,

nb-15, w-8) 35

Total: (for four wickets) 300

Fall of wickets: 1-25; 2-150; 3-

219; 4-282

To bat: K Patel, K More, A

Kumble, R Chauhan, J Srinath

Bowling: O M R W

Lyaniage 15 2 53 0

Wickramasinghe 19 1 56 1

Hathurusinghe 12 1 36 0

Gurushinde 11 2 29 1

Warnaweera 19 1 75 1

Kalpage 8 1 34 1

SHRI LANKA: A Ranatunga,

R Mahanama, C Hathurusinghe,

A Gurushinde, Aravinda de Silva, H Tillekeratne, Ashley de Silva, D Lyanage, J

Warnaweera, P Wickramasinghe, R Kalpage.

The stoic left-hander from

Bombay established a century

stand and two half-century

partnerships as he treated the

local bowlers with sheer dis-

dain.

He joined opener Navjot

Sidhu for a 126-run second-

wicket stand before Sidhu was

superbly caught at forward

by Hashan Tillekeratne.

Shri Lanka brought in

Kalpage for off-spinner

Muttiah Muralidharan while

India fielded the first Test side.

Kambl handled unimpressive

seam attack with consummate

ease, perhaps making Shri

Lanka regret its surprising

decision to drop the seasoned

pace bowler Champaka

Ramanayake for seamer

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