

Boon, Slater savage Kiwis

HOBART, Australia, Nov 26: Ope-ner Michael Slater hit a dashing 168, his highest score in Test cricket, as Australia piled on the run against New Zealand on the first day of the second Test today, reports Reuter.

Number three batsman David Boon, playing in front of his home fans at Hobart's Bellerive Oval, joined in the plunder, scoring an undefeated 105. At stumps, Australia were a commanding 329 for two, taking full advantage of a weak New Zealand bowling attack. Mark Waugh was the other not out batsman on 18.

Coming together before lunch following Mark Taylor's dismissal for 27, Slater and Boon shared a record 235-run second-wicket partnership against New Zealand.

Slater, who survived chances on 27, 99 and 156, was the dominant partner, smashing 17 boundaries before his dismissal 33-minute before the close.

The 23-year-old was finally caught when he hit a wide half-volley from off-spinner Dipak Patel to Danny Morrison in the cover.

On reaching his century, Slater kissed his Australian cap, an understandable how of relief following his frustrating dismissal on 99 in last week's drawn first Test in Perth.

"Slater's innings, which came off 235 deliveries in a 328-minute stay at the crease, surpassed his 152 at Lord's in the second Test against England in June.

"This was my first century in Australia and that is a highlight for me," Slater said afterwards.

Boon, playing in front of his home crowd in Hobart, took a supporting role as Slater savaged the New Zealand attack after tea, belting 60 quickfire runs before his dismissal.

Although subdued in comparison of Slater's impressive array of shot making, Boon did achieve a personal milestone during his innings.

With his score on 64, Boon became only the fifth Australian to pass 6,000 runs in Test cricket.

Despite their dominance against a feeble Kiwi attack's both batsmen survived chances early in their innings.

Slater was on 27 when he gave a simple catch to Mark Greatbatch but the New Zealand vice-captain spilled the ball at first slip.

Slater, attempting a quick single to reach his century was stranded when Boon sent him back. Only a wayward throw from Andrew Jones prevented his return to the pavilion.



SLATER... 168

"I was very nervous on 99 remembering what happened in Perth. I did not want to go through that disappointment again," said Slater.

"It was a stupid single to attempt and I was lucky not to be run out."

Finally, on 156 Slater gave Morrison a difficult, low return catch which the fast bowler failed to hold.

Boon, who should have been stumped by wicketkeeper Tony Blair on 65, is confident Australia can take advantage of their solid start on Saturday.

"We should be capable of

getting a total close to 500," said the 32-year-old Tasmanian.

New Zealand's first breakthrough on a gruelling day in the field came before lunch when pace bowler Murphy Su'a grabbed Taylor's wicket.

Su'a tempted Taylor into a drive which flew to Andrew Jones in the gully with the score on 65.

The tourists' attack was weakened by the late withdrawal of paceman Chris Cairns.

The all-rounder declared himself unfit only two hours before the start of play, complaining of a bruised heel sustained during the first Test.

Cairns, named in the New Zealand line-up overnight, pulled out despite the pleading of captain Ken Rutherford, coach Geoff Howarth told reporters.

New Zealand, already missing injured pace bowler Willie Watson, were weakened further when Patel limped off with a knee injury after tea.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the first day of the second cricket Test between Australia and New Zealand today:

AUSTRALIA: First innings				
Taylor c Jones b Su'a				27
Slater c Morrison b Patel				168
Boon not out				105
M Waugh not out				18
Extra: (nb-10, b-1)				11
Total: (for two wickets)				329
Fall of wickets: 1-65; 2-300				
To bat: A Border, S Waugh, I Healy, P Reiffel, T May, S Warne, C McDermott.				
Bowling (to date)				
Morrison	O	M	R	W
Su'a	17	2	66	1
Doull	15	0	60	0
De Groen	20	5	66	0
Harris	2	0	18	0
Patel	18	3	55	1

NEW ZEALAND: M Greatbatch, B Pocock, A Jones, K Rutherford (captain), D Patel, C Harris, T Blair, M Su'a, Doull, D Morrison, R De Groen.

Charlton's fear

DUBLIN, Nov 26: Ireland manager Jack Charlton has revealed his biggest fear for next year's World Cup — the British media, reports Reuter.

The Republic will be the only team from the British Isles to go the final and he is worried that the fierce media attention focused on ex-England manager Graham Taylor during the qualifying matches will now be switched to the Irish.

Charlton said on Thursday: "I won't bargain with them. I'll sue them if they are unduly unfair about my players or myself."

The former England players enjoys an amicable relationship with the Irish press and during a sponsorship launch at the American Embassy in Dublin he supported Taylor: "The press were out of order as regards Graham Taylor. They treated him very badly and I've nothing but sympathy for him."

Charlton added: "The last three years must have been traumatic for him and in those circumstances I would have tendered my resignation months ago."

Charlton, who would have considered quitting as Republic manager had they not secured a World Cup place with a 1-1 draw against Northern Ireland last week, admitted that the opportunity of taking over as England manager for the 1996 European championships had interested him.

But that possibility has vanished now, with Charlton concentrating on the Republic's preparation for the United States in June by when a new England manager to succeed Taylor will have been named.

Heroes' welcome

SOFIA, Nov 26: Bulgarian President Jelio Jelevev held a reception with Prime Minister Luben Berov on Thursday in honour of the Bulgarian football team reporting the World Cup finals, reports AFP.



Barcelona's Laudrup (R) and Galatasaray's Strimpf (L) in an aerial duel for the ball while Romario (10) and Ugur (7) look on during their European Champions league match on Nov 24. The match ended in goalless draw. — AFP photo

Colombia have point to prove

CALI (Colombia), Nov 26: Colombia's soccer players are looking on the World Cup as a chance to show that there is more to their country than the stereotyped image of a nation riddled with drug traffickers, reports Reuter.

By repeating the exhilarating play which took them to the 1994 finals, they hope to win some rare international respect.

"We have a mission to change this unfortunate situation through our football. Every game will be important for us in this respect," said midfielder Freddy Rincon.

Coach Francisco Maturana added: "All Colombian sportsmen, not just footballers, have to try and show the world that our country is not all bad. Of course, we have problems but there is a lot more than just the negative side."

"The problem is that every time something goes wrong here, the press blow it up and put it on the front page. Then the foreign press go and sell the story abroad."

Colombia's talented team, who made headlines by thrashing Argentina 5-0 in Buenos Aires in their final qualifier in September, are one of the main hopes for fans hoping for an improvement on the sterile, insipid soccer offered at the last World Cup in Italy.

The country appears to have everything to put on a show in the United States.

Faustino Asprilla, their gazelle like Italian-based strikers, is one of the most exciting forwards in the World.

Carlo Valderrama, with his distinctive mop of hair, is another colourful figure, controlling midfield with deft touches yet appearing, deceptively, to spend most of the game strolling casually around the centre of the pitch.

Other talented players include Bayern Munich striker Adolfo "The Train" Valencia, the lanky but gifted Rincon in midfields and goalkeeper Rene Higuita, who delights fans with his risky — some say suicidal — habit of dribbling the ball up to the halfway line.

Higuita is currently in prison on charges of breaking the country's anti-kidnap law.

but his lawyers are hoping he will be free by the end of the year.

Asprilla is back in favour after a one stage walking out on the squad during the World Cup qualifier in protest at being dropped.

Maturana said the row has been forgotten. "Faustino was a little upset because he was not finding his best form," he said. The result in Buenos Aires, which has made Colombians

believe that their team can actually win the trophy, is still celebrated.

One Colombian radio station keeps staff permanently in Italy and carries live commentary on every game played by Parma, Asprilla's club.

One of the favourite marketing ploys of domestic appliance shops is to play a recording of the game on the television sets on display in their window.

They're not dinki-du but they're Aussies

Once you could spot Australians on the far side of the sports arena — bronzed, bush-hardened, settler sons and daughters of mostly British stock. Today, Australian sport shows how things have changed. One top cricketer, for example, is of Chinese extraction with some English, Irish, German and Samoan blood. Gemini News Service reports on the new face of Australian sport.

The face of Australian sport is changing. In the modern, multicultural society, Australian sports heroes now include a Russian boxer, Fijian rugby league player, an Aboriginal sprinter and a cricketer of Chinese extraction.

Time was when you could spot Australians on the far side of the arena. Bronzed, bush-hardened, settler sons and daughters of mostly British stock, they came from the beaches and the outback to beat the Mother Country and others at their own games. They excelled at cricket, tennis, athletics and both rugby codes, while they swam — and drank — like fish.

Today, Aussies are drinking slightly less but still winning while their successes are beginning to reflect the country's broader ethnic mix. Since the 1960s, there has been large-scale emigration from southern Europe and, since the late 1970s, from Asia and the South Pacific. It was only a matter of time before these new Aussies made their mark.

Richard Chee Quee is making a name for himself in the New South Wales cricket team. The 22-year-old opening batsman has the potential to play his country, which would make him the first person to do so with a Chinese father and a mother who is half-Chinese with strains of English, Irish, German and Samoan blood.

Born and brought up in Sydney, Chee Quee has an elder brother, Michael, who is also a talented cricketer and their rivalry was as much a spur to his development as the racism the pair encountered.

"I guess I had to prove myself a bit more and eventually did," said Richard after scoring a superb 90 on his debut for New South Wales against the touring England, 'A' team in March.

Another 10 runs would have put him in the illustrious company of Sir Donald Bradman and Arthur Morris, the only two players to score a century on their debut for New South Wales. However, his 10 not out in the second innings gave him an average of exactly 100-0.6 more than the legendary Don.

Having been raised a six-hit away from the Sydney Cricket Ground, Chee Quee dreamed about playing for Australia as a boy and insists: "It's still my No. 1 goal."

No one who saw him belt the English bowlers all over his homeground last season, doubts he will achieve it.

Noa Nadruka is another story. The Fijian still has to commit himself to a second season of rugby league, as well as Australia. But having crossed the rugby Rubicon after 25 union tests for his country of birth, the 26-year-old is almost certain to return to the Can-

berra Raiders next year. And, if he wishes, he would then be but a goose-step away from Australian citizenship.

Nadruka's distinctive stride has electrified league crowds in Australia as much as it has bamboozled his opponents. Allied to the sort of strength that would stop a Mac truck, he is becoming as big a name Down Under as he is in the Pacific.

Since making an unforgettable pass through his legs in the Hong Kong Sevens — an image that splashed his name across the world — the only "mistake" this South Sea Islander has made is in settling in the coldest climate in the Aussie game.

Canberra is a southerly outpost of the 13-man code and tales abound of Nadruka's suffering in the capital's winter. But after being bewildered by his first sight of snow and suffering frostbite in training, he has gradually warmed to his task.

Nadruka is notoriously shy off the field, but becomes an extrovert on it and has earned the respect of this hardest of tough schools.

"He's not only got great commitment with the ball, but

Former amateur star Tszuy and his girlfriend have been granted Australian residency for which he is touchingly "grateful". He adds: "This country has been very good to me and Natasha. I have been all over the world, but what I like about it here is stability."

What the Aussies like about Tszuy is his sheer, raw talent. "It's eerie," says trainer Johnny Lewis, "that one athlete has been blessed with so much ability. There is not a skill missing from his repertoire."

The softly-spoken, hard-hitting Russian brings the cold-eyed brutality of the KGB into the ring, all his opponents having hit the canvas, most of them in the first round.

Although his professional career has not yet lasted 10 minutes, a world title bout is already being lined up while champion Cesar Chavez is talking of moving up a weight. Could it be that this unbeaten champ, of 80 bouts wants to avoid Australia's Russian?

The Australian roots of Cathy Freeman are not in doubt, nor is her quicksilver running ability. The 20-year-old Aboriginal from Queensland has the talent to be the greatest sprinter the country has pro-

duced since the heyday of Raylene Boyle in the late 1950s.

This year's British 200m champion, Freeman first came to prominence by winning relay gold in the 1990 Commonwealth Games in Auckland, New Zealand as a 17-year-old. She went on to become Young Australian of the Year 1990, British 400m champion, Australian 200m queen and gaining

a silver at the world junior championships in Seoul. She will not, of course, be the first Aboriginal to make sporting headlines — the likes of Evonne Goolagong (now Cawley), Lionel Rose and the Ella brothers being among other notables — but Freeman could be the first to do so since the nation's conscience was stirred on the question of Aboriginal rights.

The four new-breed Aussies are a varied bunch but they symbolise the changes in Australian society. As sport assumes a role beyond its real importance, they may have quite an influence on how that society comes to see itself in the multicultural 1990s. — Gemini news

About the Author: Bob Holmes is a British sports journalist now living in Sydney. He is author of the bestselling Match of My Life, a collection of great football matches.

Medellin hold America

BOGOTA, Nov 26: Colombian champions America were held to a 1-1 draw at home to Medellin as coach Francisco Maturana, who doubles as the Colombia national team coach, began a ten-match touchline ban at the weekend, reports Reuter.

Bernardo Redin gave America the lead with a long-range shot but Henry Zambrano equalised for Medellin.

The result kept America top of semifinal Group B with two games left. The top two teams in each four team group qualify for the fourth and final phase of the competition.

Maturana was banned for criticising the referee of a match between America and Atletico Nacional in Medellin at the end of October.

"A gentleman took advantage of the fact that it is a halloween to disguise himself as a referee and take control of the match," he said at the time.

After the punishment was announced, Maturana said he was considering resigning as Colombia's coach.

"I can't promise that I will lead the national team at the World Cup, nor can I be certain that I will continue at America," he said.

The incident also led to a row between Maturana and Atletico Nacional trainer Hernan Dario Gomez, who is Maturana's national team assistant.

Colombia team captain Carlos Valderrama was a pale shadow of his usual self as his team, Junior Barranquilla, were held to a 1-1 draw at home to underdogs Once Philips.

Junior still lead Group A, thanks to the bonus points carried through from the previous two stages of the competition.



Up-and-coming Down Under...

in defence too. I mean he can tackle," says Bob Fulton, Australia's national coach.

Kostya Tszuy can handle the cold. A Russian refugee who settled in Sydney less than two years ago, this light-weight boxer sensation has had more trouble with the English language than anything else — least of all his nine opponents in the ring.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Hardly ruddy

5 "Encore!"

8 "Oops!"

12 Articulate

14 Pebbles' pet

15 Football legend Bronko

16 Fiery saint

17 Rubber-tree plant mover

18 Made it

20 Cheer-leaders' repertoire

23 Ryan and Foster

24 "Oh, woe!"

25 Established patterns

28 Yr. parts

29 Actress Berger

30 Nosh

32 It gets into your hair

34 Big rig

35 Wishes undone

36 — Grows

DOWN

37 Slender

40 Winter woe

41 Eye part

42 Able

47 Lecturer's aid

48 Optional course

49 Paradise

50 Conk out

51 Jet forth

1 Slammer

2 In the style of

3 Diary

4 Is

5 Tops

6 Squid

7 Heel type

8 Ukraina seaport

9 Sword handle

10 "This Time the Dream's —"

11 Costner role

13 Coffee makers

19 Water, to Juan

20 Go off course

21 Benevolent brother-hood

22 Rebuking remark

23 King for whom the Labyrinth was built

25 Showed contrition

26 Ogle

27 Unaltered

29 Too confident

31 Typical Father's Day gift

33 Up

34 "Beat the Clock" challenges

36 Pianist Templeton

37 Marceau, e.g.

38 Saharan

39 Similar to

40 Skeddadle

43 Actress MacGraw

44 Lagniappe

45 Leading lady?

46 Morning moisture

Solution time: 25 min.

C	R	A	B	P	O	P	S	A	G	A	D
L	I	M	O	A	M	I	A	I	L	E	
A	L	O	T	R	E	L	I	G	E	M	
W	E	S	T	O	N	E	T	A	X	I	
L	A	D	O	S							
S	A	F	E	L	I	N	O	R	M	A	L
E	L	E	N	A							
C	I	N	E	M	A	S	P	L	E	E	N
C	O	O	D								
W	O	R	K		V	J	M		N	O	V
A	H	A		B	E	N	T		E	V	A
L	I	Z		U	R	G	E		C	E	N
T	O	E		S	T	A	R		K	N	E

CRYPTOQUIP

MXIM UQLWOTSB RLUUQC
 OLRTSFRR TS VPPWP
 KF OPLBXM... KF MPPV
 IOIMX P'S TM.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: INDECENT SEACAPTAINS ON A SPREE TIDE ONE ON.

Today's Cryptoquip clue: O equals B

The Cryptoquip 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.