

## Sport

Second WSC final today

## Border down but not out

SYDNEY, Jan 22: Australian captain Allan Border said today his team are tired and jaded, and tried to rally them to level the World Series Cup finals against South Africa, reports Reuter.

Australia lost by 28 runs in Melbourne on Friday in the first final of the limited overs series and on Sunday will attempt to draw level and force a third match decider.

"You feel more tired and more jaded if you are not playing at your absolute optimum," said the 38-year-old Border.

"If you are playing well you seem to get over it but if you go off the ball a bit you notice the aches and pains a bit more. It's very important to get back in the winners' circle tomorrow and stay alive in the World Series. For a lot of reasons we want to finish the summer on a strong note."

The media has begun suggesting it is now time for Border, whose side is also 0-1 down against South Africa in the current five-day three Test series, to retire.

He is expected to go after a three-Test tour of South Africa starting in March.

The South Africans, on the other hand, are brimming with confidence after winning a third successive limited overs.

Gary Kirsten scored an unbeaten 112 on Friday, helping his side to 230. Australia were out for 202.

South African captain

Hansie Cronje was cautious about clinching the final at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Sunday.

"We take each match as it comes," he said.

"We've stuck together fantastically well and we're confident without being over-confident," said coach Mike Procter.

"We know we'll have a real fight on our hands tomorrow night and we just have to try and tune our minds to it."

"We're one up, but that means nothing if we don't win one of the next two matches."

The World Series is decided by a best-of-three finals series.

South Africa are expected to name an unchanged team, but could make one switch to their attack.

All their players are fit after the tourists were troubled by injuries and illness in the early part of the tour.

"It's always hard on a tour when some guys don't play, but for the first time in three months everyone's on song, healthy and playing well," Procter said.

"That's where the side has shown a lot of character. We should be going downhill near the end of a long trip like this but we're actually accelerating in our practices. It's great."

South Africa may consider introducing a spinner on a Sydney Cricket Ground pitch that traditionally favours spin.

"We've had a look at the wicket and there's absolutely no grass at all on it, so we'll

have to think about whether we play a spinner," Procter said.

Australia have not beaten South Africa when chasing runs on Friday night was bowled out for 202 in reply to South Africa's 230-5 from 50 overs.

"It was a lot closer than the margin suggests," Procter said.

But Border, desperate to go out on a winning note on home soil, is haunted by the possibility of a repeat of the 1992-93 season, when Australia lost the final two Tests and the limited overs finals against the touring West Indies.

"We have played brilliantly at times but the South Africans have go their game in order and they are going to be a tough nut to crack," he said.

"Everyone's pretty equal these days and that's million dollar question — trying to find the magic formula to get ahead."

**TEAMS**

**AUSTRALIA** (likely):

Matthew Hayden, David Boon, Dean Jones, Mark Waugh, Steve Waugh, Allan Border (capt), Ian Healy, Paul Reiffel, Shane Warne, Craig McDermott, Glenn McGrath, Mark Taylor (12th man).

**SOUTH AFRICA** (likely):

Gary Kirsten, Peter Kirsten, Hansie Cronje (capt), Jonty Rhodes, Daryll Cullinan, Brian McMillan, Richard Snell, Dave Callaghan, David Richardson, Fanie de Villiers, Allan Donald, Craig Matthews (12th man).

**SUN**

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Susanti said, "My condition is so-so. She (Martin) is much taller and had nice smashes but I returned them well. I won seven and lost three in the past against Ye. We know each other but I will try my best in the final."

Top-seeded Suprianto, enjoying his best season with six titles last year, powered past Hu Zhiyan of China 15-6, 15-7, and Wiranata fought off a narrow 18-15, 15-10 win over Park Sung-Woo of South Korea in the day's last match.

In the women's singles quarter-finals earlier, Susi Susanti and her arch-rival Ye Zhaoying had comfortable straight games victories.

World number one Susanti, who brought major titles to Indonesia by winning at the Barcelona Olympics and England tournament, World Championships, World Cup as well as the Grand Prix final, eased aside Catrine Bengtsson of Sweden 11-5, 11-4.

Fresh from retaining the season-opening Taipei Open last weekend, the Indonesian seemed to control the match when he took the first game comfortably in the men's singles quarterfinals.

Earlier, defending champion Heryanto Arbie had to work hard on his 21st birthday Friday in beating Thomas Johansson of Sweden 15-4, 9-15, 11-1.

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