

Warne's hatrick initiates England collapse Australians go two up



MELBOURNE, Dec 29: Master spinner Shane Warne grabbed his first hatrick as Australia thrashed England by 295 runs in the second Ashes Test today, reports Reuter.

The leg-spinner dismissed Phil DeFreitas, Darren Gough and Devon Malcolm as the home side wrapped up a stunning victory at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

England, who trail 2-0 in the five-Test series, lost their last six wickets for the addition of a paltry 13 runs to be all out for a miserable 92.

Resuming on 79 for four, their capitulation on the fifth and final day took a mere 56 minutes.

England captain Mike Atherton was dismayed by his side's collapse, saying: "I've been some through lows this year but this is one of the lowest."

It was the lowest England total in an Ashes Test since 1958-59 when they made 87 on the same ground and followed their capitulation for 46 against the West Indies in March.

England's gloom was in sharp contrast to the jubilation which followed Warne's hatrick, his first in first-class cricket.

Warne, whose haul took his tally for the series to 20, bowled six overs today at a cost of just three runs.

The Victorian bowler brought the small crowd on his home ground to their feet during his 13th over from the southern stand end.

With the score on 91 for six, Warne's fourth ball of the over trapped DeFreitas leg before wicket and Gough edged his fifth ball to wicketkeeper Ian Healy.

After a delay of three minutes as Malcolm walked slowly to the wicket, Warne found the first bowler's glove with a full-length ball and leapt with joy as David Boon took a fine catch diving low to his right.

Warne was immediately swamped by his teammates after recording the first hatrick in an Ashes Test since compatriot and fellow spinner Hugh Trumble achieved the feat in Melbourne in 1903-04.

"It was a fantastic moment," Warne said afterwards. "I've never run as fast as that in my life but I wanted to get to boonie to congratulate and thank him."

Australia captain Mark Taylor described himself as very satisfied afterwards.

"You cannot do better than win the first two Tests and we just have to keep going like this," he added.

Pace bowler Craig McDermott, the man-of-the-match, was equally destructive, taking five for 42 in the second innings and fittingly wrapped up the match by removing spinner Phil Tufnell.

Resuming on 79 for four, England faced a winning target of 388 but a more realistic challenge of batting for 90 overs to save the Test.

When Gattling edged the second ball of the day to Australia captain Mark Taylor at slip, the outcome was assured although the speed and meekness of England's collapse stunned spectators.

The outcome was a severe blow for England captain Mike Atherton whose bold decision to put Australia in to bat on the first day backfired badly.

"As it turned out it was the

wrong decision because we lost," said Atherton, who faces the monumental task of raising his side's morale before the third Test, which begins in Sydney on Sunday.

"Most of the players are down especially the younger ones on their first tour," Atherton told reporters.

"It is up to the senior players to keep their heads up and lift everyone. We have got to dig deep."

"We are two-down with three Tests to play but it is mathematically possible to

declaration.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the final day of the second Test between Australia and England today.

AUSTRALIA: First innings 279 and 2nd innings 320 for seven declared.

ENGLAND: First innings 212

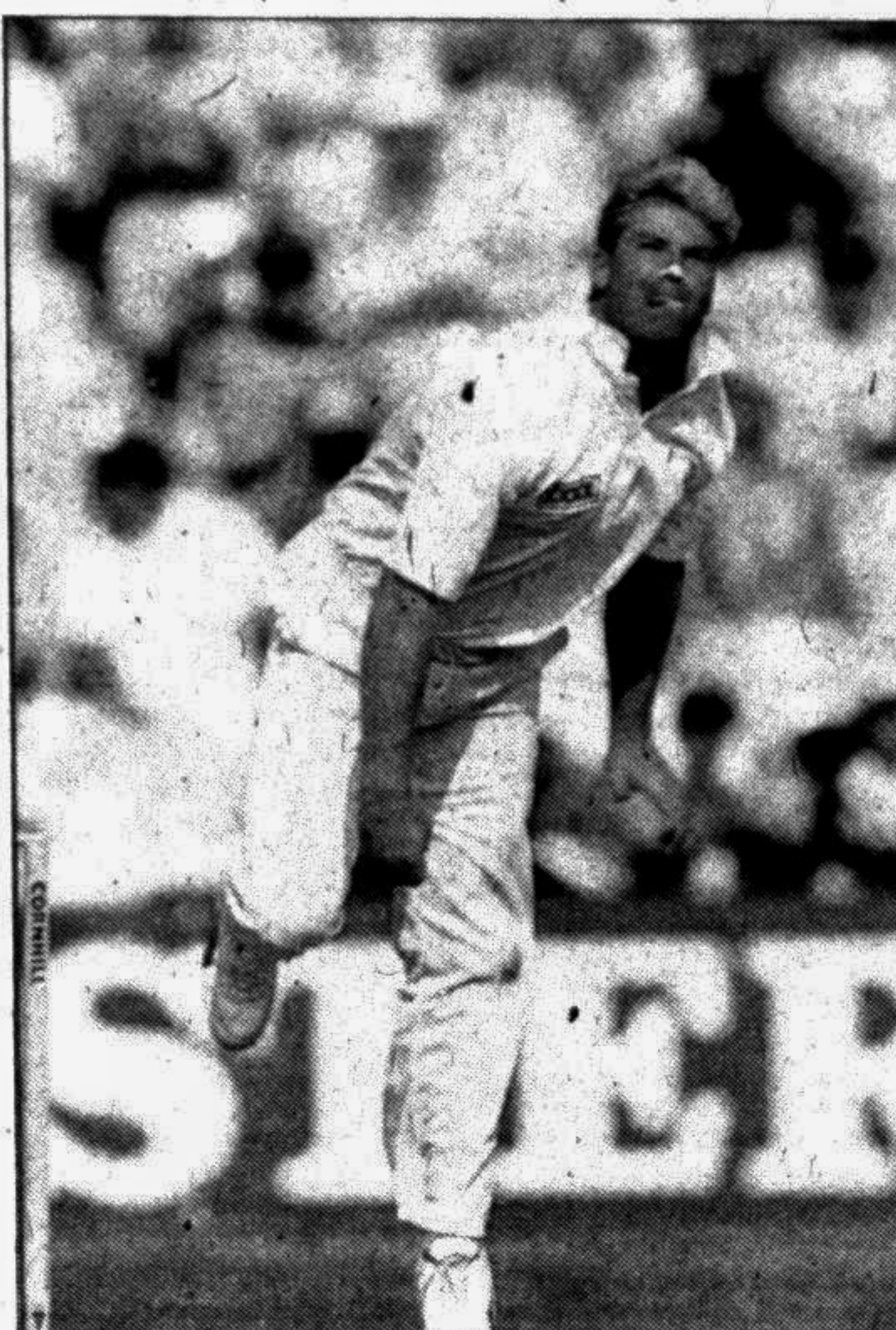
ENGLAND: Second innings (overnight 79 for four)

G Gough c Healy b Fleming 2

M Atherton c Healy b McDermott 25

G Hick b Fleming 2

G Thorpe c Healy b McDermott 9



SHANE WARNE ... another feather

come back. There is a glimmer of hope," he added.

After struggling early on the opening day, Australia made 279 in their first innings and gradually took command of the match from that point.



McDERMOTT ... m-o-m

England's reply of 121 left the tourists 67 in arrears on first innings, an advantage which Australia extended by scoring 320 for seven before Taylor declared at tea on Wednesday.

England's dismal batting compared unfavourably with the determined, patient innings of 131 by Australia's David Boon which set up the

M Gattling c Taylor b McDermott 25

S Rhodes c M Waugh b McDermott 16

A Stewart not out 8

P DeFreitas lbw Warne 0

D Gough c Healy b Warne 0

D Malcolm c Boon b Warne 0

P Tufnell c Healy b McDermott 0

Extras (lb-2, nb-3) 5

Total 212

Fall of wickets: 1-3: 2-10; 3-23; 4-43; 5-81; 6-88; 7-91; 8-91; 9-91.

Bowling

McDermott 16.5 2 42 5

Fleming 9 1 24 2

Warne 13 6 16 3

May 4 1 8 0

Result: Australia won by 295 runs.

Australia lead the five-match series 2-0.

The Third Test will take place in Sydney between January 1-5 followed by the fourth Test in Adelaide between January 26-30. The fifth Test is in Perth between February 3-7.

ASHES ACHIEVERS

Hatrick in Ashes Tests between England and Australia after Shane Warne's achievement during the second Test here today.

F R Spofforth (Australia)

Melbourne 1878-79

W Bates (England) Melbourne 1882-83

J Briggs (England) Sydney 1891-92

J T Hearne (England) Leeds 1899

H Trumble (Australia) Melbourne 1901-02

H Trumble (Australia) Melbourne 1903-04

S K Warne (Australia) Melbourne 1994-95

David Boon which set up the

Wizard turns to a novice



MELBOURNE, Dec 29: Master spinner Shane Warne sought the advice of the most inexperienced player on the field before completing the hatrick which sent England hurtling to a crushing defeat in the second Test, reports Reuter.

Instead of seeking the wisdom of captain Mark Taylor or veteran all-rounder Steve Waugh, Warne turned to novice swing bowler Damien Fleming, the last bowler to perform the feat in Test cricket.

The advice paid off as the 25-year-old leg-spinner removed tail-ender Devon Malcolm to add to the scalps of Phil DeFreitas and Darren Gough and send the tourists crashing to a humbling 295-run defeat to trail 2-0 in the five-Test series.

"I thought about speaking to experienced players like Stephen Waugh or Mark Taylor before delivering the ball, but as Fleming had got a hatrick in Pakistan, I asked him what he thought," Warne said afterwards.

Fleming, who dismissed three Pakistani batsmen with successive balls on his Test debut in Rawalpindi in October, told his Victorian teammate to keep things simple.

"Damien said he just closed his eyes and tried to picture bowling his stock ball, the outswinger, before he did it,"

Warne recalled during a post-match interview at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

"So I did the same and tried to imagine bowling my stock ball, the leg-break," added Warne, who missed out on achieving a similar feat during Australia's 184-run victory in last month's first Test in Brisbane.

Malcolm, one of Test-cricket's least gifted batsmen, lurched forward but, beaten by some extra bounce, merely deflected the ball off his gloves to David Boon at short leg.

"When Boonie took the catch it's the quickest I've ever run to congratulate him," Warne said.

He set up his stunning hatrick by trapping DeFreitas leg before wicket with the fourth ball of his 13th over.

Gough edged Warne's next ball to wicketkeeper Ian Healy to get the crowd on his home

ground to their feet.

"DeFreitas played back to a leg-break when he should have played forward and I bowled with more over spin to Gough to get more bounce and Ian took a great catch," Warne said.

The dismissals helped complete an England collapse which involved the loss of their last six wickets for just thirteen runs on the final day.

Australian captain Mark Taylor compared Warne to the world's great fast bowlers.

Although he bowls at only a fraction of the pace, Warne's turn and accuracy overwhelms batsmen, Taylor said.

"Once he gets a wicket, Shane is like the best West Indian fast bowlers, he's all over you and he makes it tough when you first come in," Taylor said.

Warne became the first bowler to achieve the feat in matches between Test cricket's oldest rivals since compatriot Hugh Trumble in 1903-04.

Warne, who has 154 wickets in 31 Tests, has taken 20 wickets in two matches in this series and is on course to shatter England's off-spinner Jim Laker's Ashes record of 46, set in 1956.

"If I beat Laker, I'd 'you beauty', but we're two-nil up in the series and the important thing is to win one more Test to make sure the Ashes are ours again," Warne said.

Van Basten, who can exercise gently, will be examined again in a month.

Van Basten's ankle needs more time

BRUSSELS, Dec 29: AC Milan's Marco van Basten had further checks on Wednesday on the injured ankle which has kept him out of action for virtually two years, reports Reuter.

Van Basten, who can exercise gently, will be examined again in a month.

Pakistan humiliated

CAPE TOWN, Dec 29: Western province beat Pakis-tan by 192 runs in their four-day cricket match at Newlands on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Scores: Western Province 436 and 270-8 declared; Pakistan 308 and 206.

Flower digs Zimbabwe out of a hole

MARYBOROUGH, Australia, Dec 29: Zimbabwe captain Andy Flower smashed his second successive tour century Thursday as his team posted a healthy total on the first day of their three-day cricket match against the powerful Queensland state team, reports AP.

The aggressive left-hander scored 139, his highest first-class score, before declaring the Zimbabwe innings at 294 for six.

Queensland were 33 for one at stumps after experienced opener Trevor Barsby was run out for 18.

Matthew Mott (10) and Martin Love (two) will resume on Friday morning.

Flower's aggressive innings followed an impressive performance from makeshift opener Mark Dekker, who scored 52 and shared an 82-run opening partnership with Grand Flower (38).

Andy Flower came to the crease with Zimbabwe at a shaky 90 for three and belting eight boundaries and a six before the tea interval.

Pace bowlers Michael Kasprovic and Carl Rackemann and spinner Paul Jackson took two wickets apiece.

Scores: Zimbabwe 294-6 declared (Andy Flower 139 not out); Queensland 33-1.

Fiery Trueman fires away

LONDON, Dec 29: After England's latest humiliating loss in Australia, former fast bowler "Fiery" Fred Trueman Thursday blasted cricket officialdom back home, reports AP.

The first bowler to take 300 wickets in Tests said England would continue to lose so long as they had their old-fashioned hierarchy at county level.

"I'm going to upset a few people but you have committed up and down the country who don't know what the game is about," the former Yorkshire paceman told the British Broadcasting Corporation.

"All they care about is that they have their own, privileged car parking position."

"A lot of them have nothing to offer the game whatsoever," Trueman said. "Half of them wouldn't know a cricket ball from a tennis ball or a cricket bat from a baseball bat."

Trueman, who quit playing in 1969, often has been an outspoken critic of the England team setup and his latest comments came on the day Australia bowled England out for 92 to win the second Test by 295 runs and take a 2-0 lead in the five-match series.

"I have said for years that if you want the best then you have to pay for it," Trueman said. "All you have to do is look at our set-up in this country. We are reaping the rewards of our stale and backward system."

"We have allowed players with great ability, great knowledge of the game to wander into the wilderness because we have not been willing to pay to keep their cricketing brains within the structure."

"We have to set up incentives for people to play," Trueman said. "Who wants to play county cricket in this country for peanuts? Non-league (soccer players) earn more."

Trueman also said that England captain Mike Atherton was too inexperienced for the job.

"Mike is one of the nicest guys you could ever meet," he said. "But he was never even captain of his county, Lancashire. Okay, he captained Cambridge University but so what? Captaining England is one of the biggest jobs in sport."

"We are happy that the Yekini case is finally over so we can make plans to buy another foreign player. We agreed that Gijon will pay a half million dollars," an Olympiakos official said on Wednesday.

Olympiakos bought Yekini on the strength of his performances in the World Cup finals earlier this year. But he has not played for them since breaking his contract in October.

The club said they wanted to sell Yekini following rows with coaches and teammates.

Yekini, who has 154 wickets in 31 Tests, has taken 20 wickets in two matches in this series and is on course to shatter England's off-spinner Jim Laker's Ashes record of 46, set in 1956.

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Australian fielders burst into ecstatic expressions after wicketkeeper Healy took a smart catch to dismiss England tail-ender Darren Gough off Warne who went on to snare last man Malcolm next ball. It meant the master leg spinner's maiden hatrick and a loss for England in consecutive Tests, this time at the MCG. The Aussies are now two up in the five-Test current Ashes series.

Atherton offers no excuses



MELBOURNE, Dec 29: England must show more determination and fighting spirit in the final three Ashes cricket Tests against England, captain Mike Atherton said Thursday, reports AP.

The tourists slumped to a 2-0 deficit in the series when they were bowled out for a dismal 92 on the last day of the second Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground - England's lowest score in their

Imran realises a dream

LAHORE, Dec 29: A modern cancer-hospital built with funds raised by cricket celebrity Imran Khan started functioning here today, reports AFP.

The first phase of the project, on which construction started in 1991, has been completed at a cost of rupees 670 million (over 22 million dollars).

Samira, a 10-year cancer sufferer, performed the opening of the outpatient facility of Sahaukat Khanum Cancer Hospital, named after the Pakistan national captain's mother who died of cancer.

"Treating the poor patient with dignity and compassion will remain the hallmark of the hospital," Imran Khan said in a speech at the inaugural ceremony Wednesday.

Taiwan mayor to lobby China for 2002 Asiad

TAIPEI, Dec 29: The newly elected mayor of Taiwan's largest port wants to visit China to win Chinese support for the city's bid to host the 2002 Asian Games, a newspaper reported Thursday, reports AP.

The China Times quoted president of the Chinese Taipei Olympic Committee, Chang Feng-shu, as saying that Kaohsiung mayor Wu Den-yih is consulting with the government for his planned visit to Beijing.

Wu, who was elected early this month, also plans to lobby for support from other members of the Olympic Council of Asia in a meeting next month in Bangkok, Thailand, it said.

Chang said China's attitude toward Taiwan will be vital on whether Kaohsiung will be able to host the 2002 Asian Games, the newspaper said.

It said Chang plans to accompany Wu to China if the government permits such a visit.

The presidential office said Wu has not applied for permission and that it has no comment.

Neither Wu nor Chang was available for comment. At present, a politician in Wu's position would not be allowed to visit China, which regards Taiwan as a renegade province.

The Nationalist government fled to Taiwan in 1949 after the Communist takeover of the mainland.

Chinese Olympic Committee president Wu Shaozu has said Taiwan is not an appropriate place to host the Games in 2002, and that China will support South Korea's bid to stage the Games in Pushan city.

last 107 Tests against Australia.

Leg-spinner Shane Warne secured the first Ashes hatrick in more than 90 years, claiming 3-16, while pace bowler Craig McDermott took 5-42 as the Australians won by 295 runs.

England lost their last six wickets for 11 runs in the space of 12.4 overs and Atherton said there was no excuse for such a lack of commitment.

"We need to pull our socks up and show some commitment and guts," he said. "We have some good players in our side who are just not playing well."

"We are 2-0 down and we've been walloped in the first two Test matches. There are no miracles, but just a lot of hard work to be done."

Atherton said he could offer no reason why England have won just one of their last 21 Tests against Australia.

"It's difficult to say why we are less competitive against Australia," he said. "In my time, we have struggled to bowl them out for cheap scores."

"In this series, we are not getting the scores either."

Atherton refused to concede the series.

"While it's mathematically possible to come back, there is a glimmer of hope there," he said.

As part of Atherton's

tougher approach for the rest of the series, the skipper asked injured vice-captain Alec Stewart to bat Thursday despite a broken right index finger.

"Stewie batted because I don't want to be surrendering with a man still in the shed (locker room)," he said.

"That's not the right way to go about Test cricket. He was quite happy to bat and I wanted him to bat."

"He had a pain-killing injection and it was a gutsy effort."

Stewart will now miss the third Test, which starts Sunday in Sydney, and will be replaced by John Crawley.

Australian captain Mark Taylor, meanwhile, praised the umpiring of Steve Randall and Steve Bucknor in the second Test.

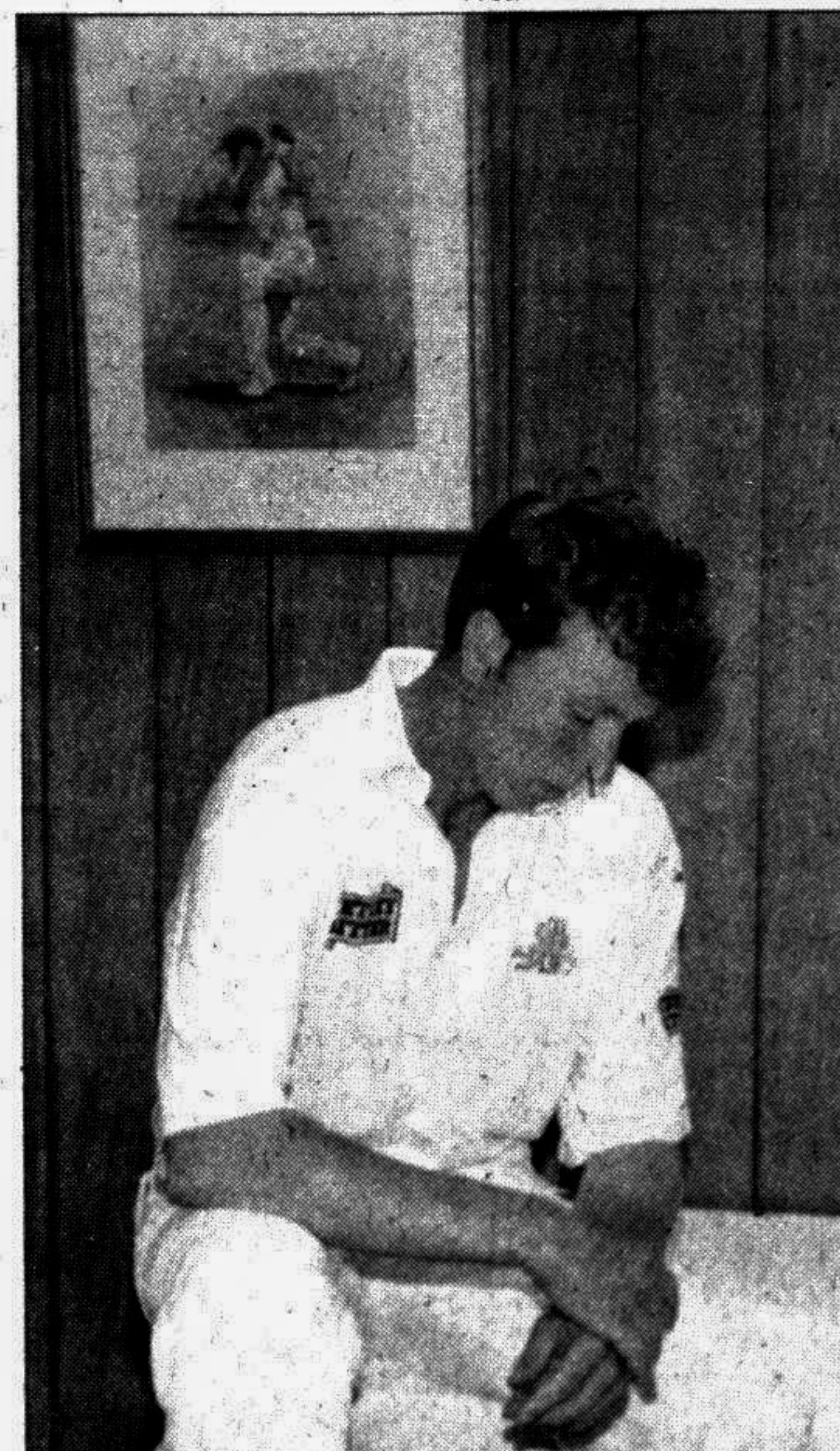
"What I liked about the umpiring in this game was that it was positive," Taylor said.

"If the umpires thought the batsmen were out, they gave them out."

Atherton said he did not want to discuss his thoughts on the umpiring, saying there was no point once the match was decided.

"Once the umpires have made their decision, that's the end of it," he said. "I don't see any point in discussing it."

International umpire Bucknor from the West Indies will stand again in the third Test.



DRAWING INSPIRATION? Beaten, battered England skipper Michael Atherton seeks some of solace from a picture of legendary Australian batsman