

Aussies abase Zimbabwe

Sports Reporter

Australia defeated Zimbabwe by 125 runs in the opening match of the four-nation Singer World Series limited overs cricket tournament at the Premadasa Stadium in Colombo, according to Star TV monitored here last night.

After stand-in captain-cum-wicketkeeper Ian Healy won the toss, the Australians piled up 263 for seven in their stipulated 50 overs of the day-night clash.

Man-of-the-match Steve Waugh top-scored with a fluent 70-ball 82. Besides half-centuries by opener Michael Slater and No 3 Ricky Ponting contributed to an imposing total on a docile pitch.

Set to score at more than five runs per over, the Africans never got going as they lost wickets at regular intervals. And eventually they were shot out for a paltry 138.

Ali Shah was the main run-getter with 41. Mr Sundries with 21 was the next highest contributor.

Debutant left-arm spinner Brad Hogg, a last-minute replacement for Shane Warne, grabbed a wicket.

The match is Healy's and Campbell's first as skipper.

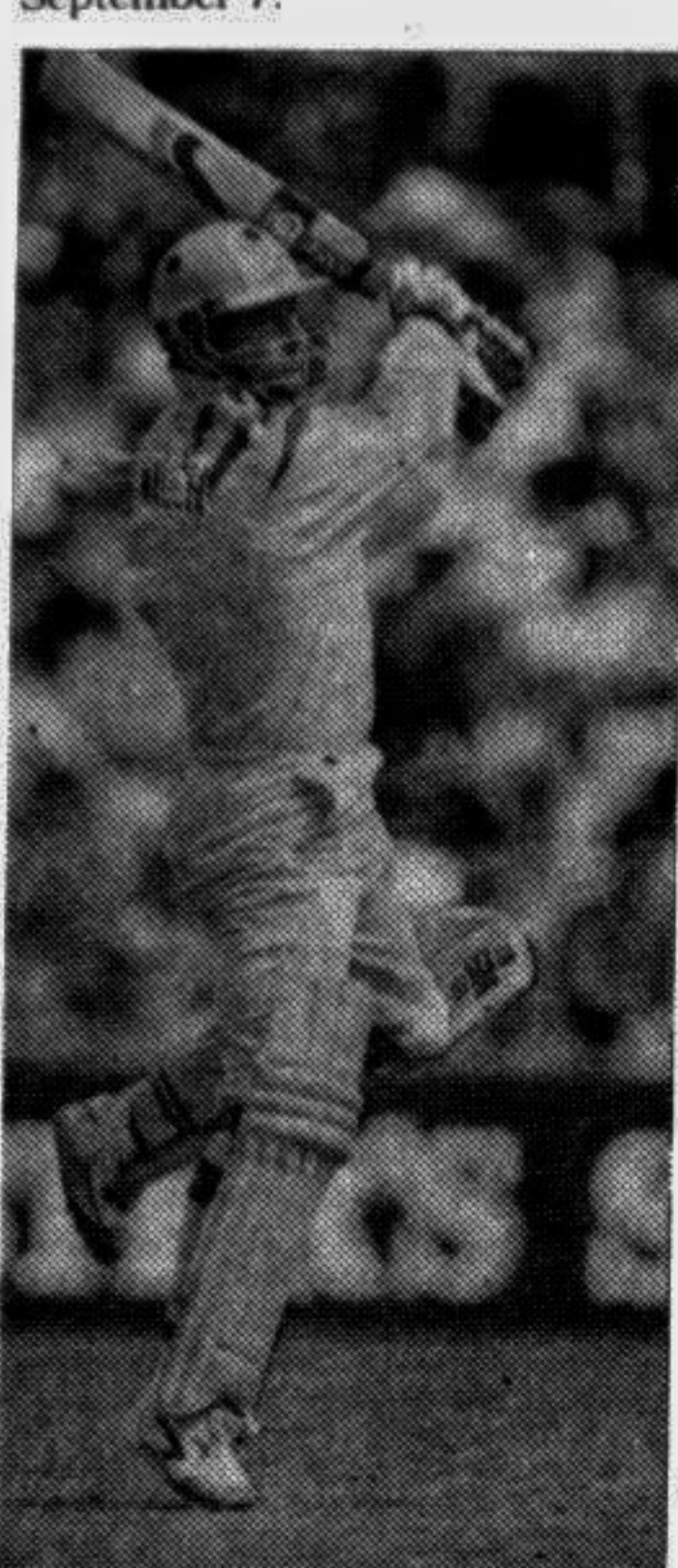
"I am not nervous, in fact I am looking forward to the match," said Campbell, who donned the skipper's cap after regular captain Andy Flower opted out to concentrate on his batting.

Healy, the fiercely competitive wicketkeeper from Queensland, was the last minute choice after Mark Taylor opted out because of injury.

"It is better than getting India or Sri Lanka first-up," Healy said earlier about Monday's match. "We can use the Zimbabwe match as an enthusiasm test, and to get our game going. They're like us — they'll be trying as hard as hell to win."

World cup champions Sri

Lanka and India are the other teams taking part in the tournament which runs till September 7.



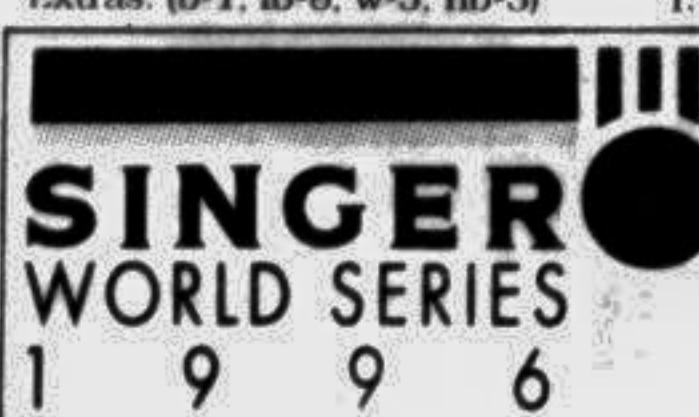
S WAUGH... m-o-m

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the Singer World Series one-day cricket match between Australia and Zimbabwe on Monday:

AUSTRALIA:	
M Slater c P Strang b Whittall	50
M Waugh b P Strang	82
R Ponting c and b Whittall	53
S Waugh c Campbell b Whittall	82
S Law b Strang	20

M Bevan c Campbell b Brandes 9
I Healy b Brandes 5
B Hogg not out 11
Extras: (b-1, lb-8, w-3, nb-3) 15



Total: (for seven wickets—50 overs) 263
Fall of wickets: 1-48; 2-92; 3-167; 4-230; 5-240; 6-242; 7-263.
Did not bat: P Reiffel, D

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
Strang	10	1	47	2
Brandes	10	1	47	2
P Strang	9	0	41	1
G Flower	6	0	28	0
Whittall	10	0	53	3
Decker	3	0	17	0
Shah	2	0	18	0

ZIMBABWE

A Shah c M Waugh b Hogg	41
G Flower c Ponting b Flemming	7
A Flower lbw b Flemming	0
A Campbell lbw b McGrath	9
C Whistart c Healy b Reiffel	0
C Whittall b Reiffel	11
C Evans c Healy b S Waugh	15
M Dekker not out	8
P Strang b M Waugh	9
H Streak b M Waugh	0
E Brandes c Hogg b M Waugh	17
Extras: (lb-4, w-10, nb-7)	21
Total: (all out—41 overs)	138

Fall of wickets: 1-16; 2-16; 3-33; 4-35; 5-56; 6-98; 7-100; 8-120; 9-120.

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
McGrath	7	2	13	1
Flemming	7	0	24	2
Reiffel	6	1	23	2
S Waugh	7	2	24	1
Hogg	9	2	26	1
M Waugh	5	1	24	3

Result: Australia won by 125 runs.

Ong Malaysian Open champ

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 26: Malaysia's Ong Ewe Hock overcame an erratic start on Sunday to clinch his first Grand Prix title in the men's singles at the Malaysian Open badminton championships, reports Reuter.

The 24-year-old Malaysian, seeded second in the 185,000 dollars tournament after a spate of late withdrawals, was given an early fright by Indonesia's Indra Wijaya who streaked to a 15-1 lead and then cruised to a 15-7 victory in the final game for his first singles title since turning professional two years ago.

"Although I was confident of winning, it did not come easily," Ong said. "Wijaya played a well-calculated game but he could not sustain the pace."

The unseeded Wijaya said he was happy just to get to the finals and admitted he suffered from nerves.

"I was under tremendous pressure, but Ong deserves the credit. He controlled the match in the second and third games. But I am happy with my play here," said Wijaya who will compete in the Indonesian Open next week.

In the women's final, second seed Zhang Ning of China defeated top seeded compatriot Wang Chen 11-7, 11-8.

The women's doubles final saw the most entertaining badminton of the night with Danish pair Marlene Thomsen and Lisbet Stuerre-Lauridsen edging China's Qiang Hong and Lin Lu 10-15, 17-14, 17-16 in a 70-minute thriller. It was the Danish pair's first title on the Asian circuit since they became partners two years ago.

"This win is fantastic," Stuerre-Lauridsen said. "We were trailing all the time but finally managed to pull through. I guess our experience mattered most today."

Batistuta's gift for Fiorentina

MILAN, Aug 26: Argentine striker Gabriel Batistuta gave Fiorentina the perfect 70th birthday present on Sunday with two goals that gave the Italian Cup winners a 2-1 Super Cup victory over Serie A champions AC Milan, reports Reuter.

The victory, coming on the eve of the founding of the Florence club in 1926, also marked the first time since the pre-season trophy between the cup winners and league champions was started in 1988 that the cup winners had won.

Batistuta gave Fiorentina the lead in the 11th minute. Sweden's Stefan Schwarz picked him out with a lob to the edge of the box and Batistuta did the rest, chipping veteran defender Franco Baresi and scoring at the near post.

Montenegrin midfielder Dejan Savicevic equalised for the home team, weaving past a defender, checking and firing in a left-footed shot in the 21st minute that gave young Fiorentina goalkeeper Francesco Toldo little chance.

The scored stayed level to the final minutes but with a penalty shoot out looming, Batistuta took charge.

French international midfielder Marcel Desailly fouled the Argentine, whose coach at Boca Juniors before he joined Fiorentina in 1991 was new Milan coach Oscar Tabarez, and Batistuta rammed home the free kick from 30 metres out.

The 83rd minute shot, curling over the defence and dipping in under the bar from the striker dubbed Batigol by adoring Fiorentina fans, was just reward for Fiorentina who looked a far more impressive team.

Milan's player-of-the-year George Weah missed a good first half opportunity but otherwise looked a little rusty while Italian teammate Roberto Baggio did not play due to injury.

New Dutch signing Edgar Davids came on late in the second half as a Milan substitute but made little impact.

The league season starts on September 8.

Libuda no more

GELSENKIRCHEN, Germany, Aug 26: Reinhard "Stan" Libuda, whose stunning goal from 40 metres gave Borussia Dortmund the European Cup Winners' Cup over Liverpool in 1966, has died of a stroke. He was 52, reports AP.

Libuda also scored the winning goal in a 3-2 victory over Scotland that sent Germany to the 1970 World Cup in Mexico, where he played for the national team.

A right-winger who was one of the best dribblers Germany ever produced, Libuda earned the nickname "Stan" after England star Stanley Matthews.

He spent his career with Schalke 04 and Borussia Dortmund, and played 26 games for the national team.

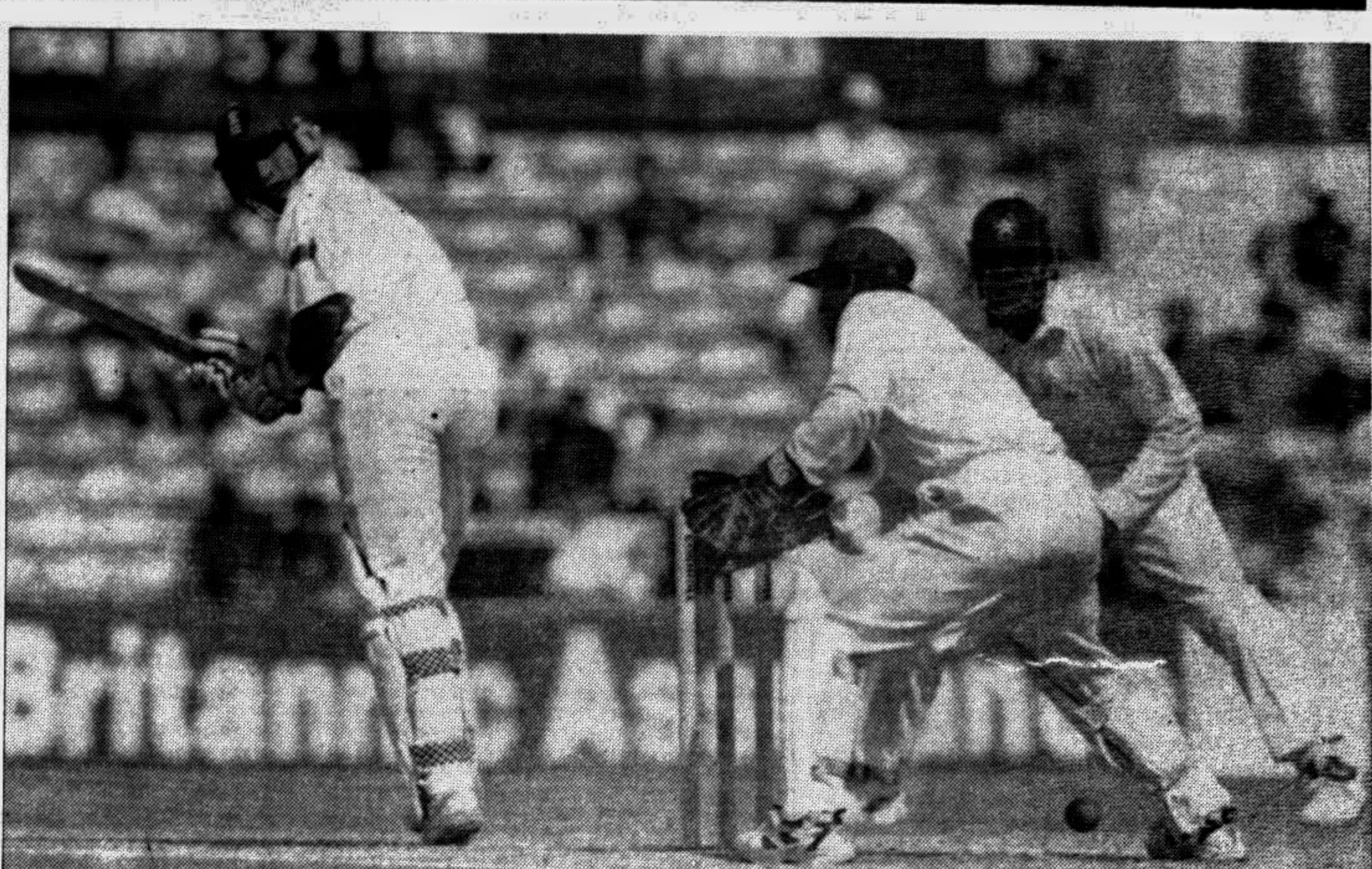
Libuda's most spectacular goal was the lob from some 40 metres in extra time that clinched Dortmund's 2-1 victory over Liverpool in the Cup Winners' Cup final in Glasgow 30 years ago. It was the first European title won by a German club.

Libuda, who had surgery for throat cancer and other health problems in recent years, died Sunday. He will be buried Thursday in Gelsenkirchen.

Ethiopia advance

ADDIS ABABA, Aug 26: Ethiopia advanced into the first round of the African Nations Cup on penalties after the teams drew 0-0 in their second leg, preliminary round match here on Sunday, reports AFP.

Ethiopia won the penalty contest 4-2.



England middle-order batsman Nasser Hussain anxiously looks behind as the crafty Pakistani wicketkeeper Moin Khan makes a deceptive stumping attempt during the final day of the third and deciding Test at The Oval yesterday.

Pakistan win Test series 2-0

Mushie makes a miracle

LONDON, Aug 26: Pakistan leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed wreaked havoc on England's batsmen here today as he bowled Pakistan to victory in the third and final Test — sealing the series 2-0.



WASIM ... in 300 club

report agencies. Mushtaq took six wickets for 78 in a masterful display of bowling.

Instead of playing for a draw — they already led the series 1-0 — Pakistan went all out for victory with Mushtaq, due to return to county cricket with Somerset next season, leading the way.

First to fall to his magic was Alec Stewart, who had been in commanding form on Sunday evening. The England wicket-keeper, who had just reached 50 in a Test for the 28th time, was given the benefit of a big appeal for a bat-pad catch by Inzamam-ul-Haq before falling next ball.

Captain Mike Atherton, who had not looked comfortable against Mushtaq, finally fell when a push forward gave the simplest of catches to Inzamam at silly point.

Atherton, clearly annoyed at himself, was marching off before Sri Lankan umpire BC Cooray had time to raise his finger.

Immediately memories of England's startling collapse at Lord's in the first Test, from 168 for one to 208 for nine came

to mind — the slide coming once the tourists had broken an Atherton-Stewart alliance which produced 154 runs.

And after lunch the collapse came in dramatic fashion.

Graham Thorpe was undone by Mushtaq's goosy and caught at slip by Wasim, and a bold and defiant innings of 51 by Nasser Hussain was ended by the lbw verdict of Sri Lankan umpire BC Cooray.

Hussain padded up playing no stroke to a ball which pitched around leg stump, and it looked to be spinning enough to miss the off stump, but the Essex player had to go — leaving England on 178 for four.

Eight runs later, Nick Knight hit back a low full toss to Mushtaq for a bonus wicket.

Then when Crawley fell to Pakistan captain Wasim Akram it was all but over.

Wasim took the final two wickets to join a select group who have taken 300 Test wickets.

England's total of 242 left Pakistan needing only 48 runs in almost two hours to win.

Although Saeed Anwar skied a lifting ball from Allan Mulally to be caught by Knight for one, Aamir Sohail (not out 15) and Ijaz Ahmed (not out 12) steered Pakistan to a brilliant win.

Earlier on Sunday, former captain Salim Malik effectively guaranteed Pakistan a series win over England when he hit a fine 100 not out on the fourth day.

It was his 14th Test century and his first since being sacked from the captaincy amid allegations of bribes and match-fixing in March last year.

Malik's innings allowed the Pakistanis to declare on 521 for eight in their first innings, a lead of 195 and ensured that England would spend the last day fighting for a face-saving draw rather than pushing for the win which would level the series 1-1.

His 14th Test century, which came in 287 minutes from 223 balls and included 10 fours, was also a record fourth for a Pakistan batsman against England, only Javed Miandad, with 23, has scored more centuries overall.

It also demonstrated that Pakistan's batting line-up has few equals. Five different players have scored hundreds during the three-Test series and England have dismissed them only twice, for 240 and 448, in five attempts during the summer.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the last day of the third and final Test between England and Pakistan at The Oval on Monday.

ENGLAND: First innings 326 (J Crawley 106; G Thorpe 54; Waqar Younis 4-95)

PAKISTAN: First innings 521-8 declared (Saeed Anwar 176; Salim Malik 100 not out; Ijaz Ahmed 61)

ENGLAND: Second innings (overnight 74-0)

Atherton c Inzamam b Mushtaq 43

Stewart c Mujtaba b Mushtaq 54

Hussain lbw b Mushtaq 51

Total: (all out) 242

Fall of wickets: 1-96; 2-136; 3-166; 4-179; 5-187; 6-205; 7-220; 8-238; 9-242.

Bowling:

Wasim Akram 15.4 1 67 3

Waqar Younis 18 3 55 1

Mushtaq Ahmed 37 10 78 6

Aamir Sohail 2 1 4 0

Mohammad Akram 10 3 30 0

Extras: (b-5, lb-2, w-1, nb-13) 22

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Fall of wickets: 1-96; 2-136; 3-166; 4-179; 5-187; 6-205; 7-220; 8-238; 9-242.

Result: Pakistan won by 9 wickets.

First Test: Lord's — Pakistan won by 164 runs.

Second Test: Headingley — Pakistan won by 100 runs.

Pakistan win series 2-0.

Pollock's fitting county farewell

LONDON, Aug 26: South African fast bowler Shaun Pollock concluded his Warwickshire career with a flourish on Sunday by taking the final three wickets during the county's Sunday League victory over Worcestershire, reports Reuter.

Pollock, who returns home on Tuesday for an ankle operation, took the last three wickets in nine balls as Worcestershire were dismissed for 154.

After an hour's interruption for rain, Warwickshire then reached an adjusted target of 109 with 13 balls to spare and record their fifth win in the last six games.

Warwickshire are currently in fourth position behind Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and Surrey.

Yorkshire captain David Byas completed his third Sunday league century as his side swept clear at the top of the table, reaching a career best 111 not out against Lancashire.

Lancashire's total of 205 for eight from 40 overs looked reasonable before Byas put their attack to the sword, collecting his runs from just 100 balls with three sixes and nine fours.

Yorkshire eventually reached their target with only four wickets down and 7.5 overs to spare.

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