

Sport

Sidhu overlooked for one-day series

Indian spin awaits SA

BOMBAY. Oct 14: South African cricket skipper Hansie Cronje admitted here today that his one-day wonders could face a rude awakening during their Test series against India, reports AFP.

Cronje, who flew in with his squad for a limited-overs tournament also involving Australia before the three-match Test series said his side was "in cracking one-day form."

But he admitted: "The Tests against home side's spinners particularly on a turning track will be an entirely different ball game."

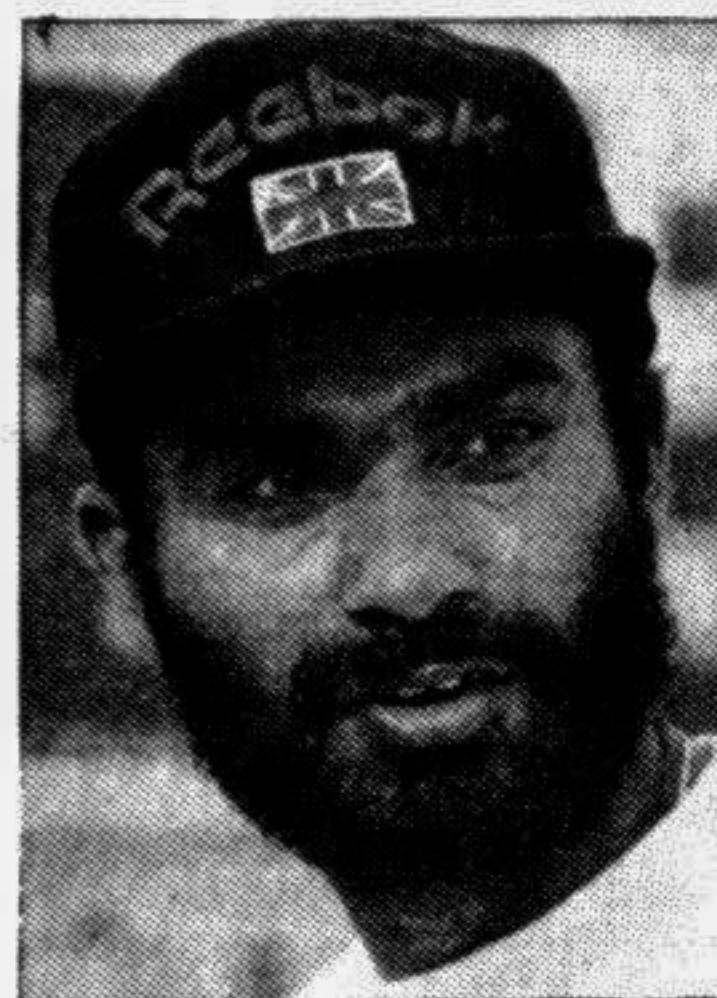
Cronje was speaking just after Australia's seven-wicket loss within four days in the New Delhi Test.

South Africa came off an impressive victory in the Kenyan Centenary four-nation cup in Nairobi last week, where they defeated Pakistan, world champions Sri Lanka and the hosts.

Cronje added: "Gary Kirsten is our best player of spin but for a good total, Dave Cullinan, Jonty Rhodes and myself will have to improve our record against the spinners."

The South African captain confirmed the side could be overhauled for the Test series, with the injured Jacques Kallis (stress fracture) and wrist spinner Paul Adams (groin injury) candidates for a recall.

Cronje whose side must also do without injured pace bowler Craig Matthews and talented all-rounder Shaun Pollock added: "We have to put a brave face on the injuries but it will be difficult. We're hoping Kallis and Adams will be back by November 20 for the Tests."



NAVJOT SIDHU

and an outstanding fielder. Both close in and in the deep," he said. "Lance Klusener is a left-handed batsman and a right-arm medium-pacer. Herschelle Gibbs is a stylish batsman."

Wolmer also confirmed the South Africans had done their homework on their opponents.

"Anil Kumble is already known as a world-class bowler, even though I have not seen

him. I have also heard of newcomer, spinner Sunil Joshi, so let us see," Wolmer said.

"All in all, we have come fully prepared."

Another report from New Delhi adds: Indian selectors on Sunday included two new faces in their 14-man squad for the triangular one-day series.

Punjab's wicket-keepers batsman Pankaj Dharmani, who scored an unbeaten century for the Board President's XI against Australia last week, and Karnataka opening batsman Sujit Somasundar were named for the hosts' opening three matches.

Selectors left out controversial opener Navjot Sidhu whose 50-day ban sidelined him from the one-off Test against Australia. Sidhu was banned for walking out during the tour of England in the middle of the year.

The squad for the remaining three games of the limited overs tournament will be picked on October 24, Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Jagmohan Dalmiya told reporters.

The selectors wanted to gauge Sidhu's form before considering him for squad.

Medium-pacer Salil Ankola and opener Ajay Jadeja were also recalled. Vikram Rathore, David Johnson, Narendra Hirwani and Vangipurappu Lakshman were the players dropped from the Test squad.

SQUAD: Sachin Tendulkar (captain), Saurav Ganguly, Mohammed Azharuddin, Rahul Dravid, Sujit Somasundar, Ajay Jadeja, Pankaj Dharmani, Nayan Mongia, Jagmohan Singh, Venkatesh Prasad, Salil Ankola, Anil Kumble, Sunil Joshi, Aashish Kapoor.

Marsh being merciless

NEW DELHI. Oct 14: Australian coach Geoff Marsh has accused his side of lacking professionalism following their seven-wicket defeat to India on Sunday, report agencies.

The unofficial Test world champions were outplayed on a spinner's pitch, losing the one-off Test by seven wickets with a day to spare.

"They have trained a little like millionaires instead of getting down to business..." Marsh said. "Some of these guys have been very casual."

The boys have got to tighten up on their professionalism. You can look for all the excuses in the world why we didn't play well, but these guys are professional sportsmen."

The way they got themselves out on the first day when the wicket was pretty good was disappointing.

If we'd applied ourselves to make a Test 100. Which is made in over five hours by all great Test cricketers, we would have made a lot more runs.

We only needed another 100 runs in the first innings but our batting never changed in the second innings."

But Australian captain Mark Taylor lashed out at his uneven Kotla wicket after his team's defeat.

"It was a disappointing



GEOFF MARSH

Nayan Mongia's monumental 152 in the first innings dictated

the course of the match.

"Mongia was superb," Taylor said. "He showed that the wicket demanded more patience."

"I think we lost the game on the first day itself when we were bowled out for 182."

Tendulkar said it was "the most important innings" of Mongia's career.

"He proved himself with the new ball," he said, defending his decision to have the wicket-keeper open the innings.

"One win is not enough," the 23-year-old said. "The boys are in an aggressive mood."

"We have made the entire country happy by this victory, and I am confident we will continue winning form here."

Taylor and Tendulkar conceded Indian wicket-keeper

had a good day.

"There's a lot of cricket left this season and I should be among the runs soon."

Taylor expectedly rued the absence of star spinner Shane Warne and the fact that Australia were underprepared for the Test match.

"If Shane had been there we would have had the best spinner in the world. We were unlucky on that count."

"But I don't think we were ready for this Test because there have been only one-dayers since March. There was not enough practice of the longer game," Taylor said.

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ACB asks for WC dues

NEW DELHI. Oct 14: Australian cricket officials today demanded 75,000 pounds (\$12,000 dollars) held back by World Cup organisers for their team's refusal to play in Sri Lanka this year, reports AFP.

Australian Cricket Board chief executive Graham Halbush said it was "improper" that the last instalment of the 250,000 pounds guaranteed to them for the World Cup was not paid.

Organisers of the tournament in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in February and March, have refused to release the money, citing financial losses incurred by the boycott.

West Indies, who also refused to play in Colombo following a January 31 bombing there which killed more than 90 people, were also fined by the organisers.

"Our contention is that the remaining 75,000 pounds should be paid to both boards and if there is a matter of some penalty or claim it should be dealt as a separate issue," Halbush said.

He also set a June deadline for payment of dues, and warned that the Australian board would not sit back if the organisers went to court or imposed a penalty or claim.

"We would defend any claim extremely vigorously," said Halbush, who came here to witness the one-off Test between India and Australia which ended on Sunday.

"I would think the matter would surely have to be resolved before the next meeting of the International Cricket Council (ICC) in June. There's more than

enough time to solve that."

Halbush, however, declined to say what action the ACB would take if the dues were not paid.

Halbush said he had been "advised" recently that World Cup organiser Jagmohan Dalmiya had been suggesting that there could have been other reasons why Australia did not go to Sri Lanka.

"Hopefully he did not say that because that would be extremely offensive to my board. There was only one reason why we did not go, and that was the security risk was too great."

"We had very good reasons based on high level governmental advice. The security risk was too great and you can't ignore that."

We are not a group of mercenaries, we are a sporting team."

Halbush cited the example of seven cancelled series between warring neighbours India and Pakistan, to underline that it was the right of any nation to determine the safety of its players.

"The tournament also featuring India, Zimbabwe and hosts Sri Lanka, went off without a hitch. The government imposed tight security around the teams' hotel and match venues."

Relations between the Australian and Sri Lankan teams soured ahead of the World Cup when Australian umpires accused the Sri Lankans of ball-tampering and branded off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan a thrower.

Sri Lanka went on to win both the World Cup and the Singer Cup — defeating Australia in the finals of both events.

Shahid Nabi and Haider Ali High schools moved into the semifinals of the Metropolis Kishore league eliminating their rivals at the Outer Stadium kabaddi court yesterday, reports UNB.

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In the day's first match Shahid Nabi High defeated Rifles Public School and College by 85-82 points (first half 56-28) with six lolas to book a seat for the semi.

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