

SA arrive

Down Under

PERTH, Nov 21: South Africa distanced themselves from the Australian players' pay dispute Friday as they arrived for a tour which may be marred by strike action, reports AP.

Australian players are considering strikes for four one-day internationals, including two against South Africa on Dec 4 and Dec 9.

Team manager Alan Jordan said the South Africans were told before their arrival that one-day games were in jeopardy.

Jordan said he had no contact with the Australian Cricketers Association.

Aussies in ascendency



PERTH, Nov 21: Australian batsman Mark Waugh hit one of the biggest sixes seen at the WACA ground as he and twin brother Steve pulverised the New Zealand attack on the second day of the second cricket Test today.

The high jinks came as the 32-year-olds were rescuing their side with a fourth-wicket stand of 153 in minutes after Australia had been a troubled 71 for three.

They completed a 50-run stand in 43 minutes, slammed 100 in 95 minutes and posted

with 79 and wicketkeeper Ian Healy 3. Mark was ousted for 86 shortly before stumps, having hit 12 fours and that six — a shot that will go down in the game's folklore.

It is the third time the brothers have figured in century partnerships for their country in Tests.

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derful touch after surviving uncertain starts.

Mark reached his 50 in 117 minutes from 97 balls with seven fours.

Steve powered to the half-century mark in 94 minutes from only 69 balls, also with seven boundaries.

But both could have been ousted before arriving at those milestones.

Steve, on 40, was lucky to be dropped by Kiwi captain Stephen Fleming, at first slip, off luckless left-arm fast bowler Geoff Allott.

To complete his misery, the 26-year-old from Canterbury also had Mark, on 38, 'dropped' from no-ball. The offending wicket was Bryan Young, at first slip.

The Waughs came together after New Zealand had jolted Australia immediately after the resumption following a rain-caused delay of almost four hours.

Number three batsman Greg Blewett (14) fell to paceman Shayne O'Connor, the man who had trapped skipper Mark Taylor for two the previous night.

Then energetic Chris Cairns blasted out accomplished opener Matthew Elliott.

O'Connor again had a hand in the wicket, taking a fine catch at fine leg after the left-hander had hooked a short ball.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the second cricket Test between Australia and New Zealand at the WACA on Friday:

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 217 (McMillan 54; Warne 83/4)

AUSTRALIA: First innings (overnight 32 for one)

Taylor lbw b O'Connor 2

Elliott c O'Connor b Cairns 42

Blewett c Astle b O'Connor 14

M Waugh c Parore b Doull 86

S Waugh not out 79

Healy not out 3

Extras: (b-2, lb-3, nb-4) 9

Total: (for four wickets) 235

Fall of wickets 1-3; 2-53; 3-71; 4-224

To bat: Ricky Ponting, Paul Reiffel, Shane Warne, Michael Kasprowicz, Simon Cook.

Bowling: O M R W

Doull 14 2 49 1

O'Connor 17 3 60 2

Cairns 13 6 35 1

Vettori 16 6 39 0

Allott 12 2 47 0

M WAUGH... 86

their 150 partnership 151 minutes in a dazzling liaison which swayed the balance of the game.

Mark Waugh, needing a solid score to preserve his Test position, was on 59 when he straight drove a ball from left-arm spinner Daniel Vettori straight down the ground.

The ball, perfectly timed, sailed high on to the top of the five-storey high southern stand, landing with a clunk 130 metres (yards) away from the batsman's crease.

It is the first time a ball has travelled as far as the roof of the 10-year-old stand.

The ball, 56 years old, could not be retrieved, and umpires Darrell Hair (Australia) and George Sharp (England) spent several minutes trying to find a ball with equal wear so that game could continue.

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England were a 1986 quarterfinalist and 1990 semifinalist. But FIFA puts more weight in their calculations on the most recent performance and the fact that England failed to qualify in 1994 will go against Glenn Hoddle's team.

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