

Sport

First ODI today
Tillekeratne
left out

COLOMBO, Jan 21 (AP/APP): Sri Lanka have dropped veteran middle order batsman Hashan Tillekeratne from a 14-man squad named for the first one-day international against Zimbabwe on Thursday at Colombo's Sinhalese Sports Club.

Maheba Jayawardhana, who impressed with an unbeaten 87 for the Sri Lanka Board Resident's XI, in Tuesday's win over Zimbabwe, has been included in the squad. Tillekeratne had scores of 44, 7 and 0 in his last three Test innings.

Off-spinner Kumar Dharmasena, who missed the two-Test series with an injured spinning finger, is back to partner Muttiah Muralitharan, Dharmasena replaces the aging Don Anurasiri, who took his place for the Tests.

Three pacemen, Chaminda Vaas, Ravindra Pushpakumara and Sajeewa de Silva have been named, but only two are likely to play. Vaas, who spearheads Sri Lanka's attack, has not yet recovered from a bout of flu.

Allrounder Ruwan Kalpage, and spinner Upul Chandana are also in the squad.

The Zimbabweans, who succumbed to a four-wicket defeat against a Sri Lanka Board XI on Tuesday plan to make a change or two in their bowling, according to the team management.

Pace-cman Heath Streak who was rested for Tuesday's match is one of the bowlers set to come in. Zimbabwe are playing Sri Lanka in a one-day series for the first time away from home.

TEAMS

ZIMBABWE: Alastair Campbell (captain), Grant Flower, Andrew Flower, Guy Whittall, Andrew Whittall, John Rennie, Gavin Rennie, Murray Goodwin, Paul Strang, Heath Streak, Craig Wishart, Bryan Strang, Everton Matambaranzo, Henry Olonga and Mpumelo Mbhangwa.

SRI LANKA: Arjuna Ranatunga (captain), Sanath Jayasuriya, Marvan Atapattu, Arvaninda de Silva, Roshan Mahanama, Romesh Kaluwatharana, Upul Chandana, Kumara Dharmasena, Chaminda Vaas, Ravindra Pushpakumara, Muttiah Muralitharan, Sajeewa de Silva, Maheba Jayawardena and Ruwan Kalpage.

Rookie surprises
Anand

WIJK AN ZEE, Netherlands, Jan 21: Grand Master Viswanathan Anand was held to a short draw in just 18 moves, in less than three quarters of an hour by lowly rated Jeroen Piket of the Netherlands in the strong category 17 Hoogovens Grand Masters tournament here last night, reports PTI.

The local player Piket was happy with the result considering he had collected just half a point in his previous three rounds.

The World No 3 Anand of India now has three points from four rounds.

The top rated player and world number two Vladimir Kramnik continued his lead having collected three points from as many games and his fourth round game against Belarusian Boris Gelfand was in progress.

Anand's match was the first to get over on the fourth day of competition, as six other pairs battled it out in the first major tournament of the year.

First to face his onslaught was Piket and then followed Friso Nijboer also of the Netherlands and then in the third round, the highly rated Englishman, Michael Adams was ground down.

Anand, who has had month-long hectic playing schedule in Groningen at the World Chess Championship and followed by summit final against Anatoly Karpov of Russia, was looking tired.

The Indian GM played a quick draw against Jan Timman of the Netherlands and then in the following round another local player, Loek van Wely, gave him his first win.

In the third round Anand looked like getting into the mood for the top position with a great win over Valery Salov. But in the fourth game he obviously was in no mood to stretch himself when his rival was not interested in making a match of it.

Adams gets another chance



KINGSTON, Jan 21: Rumours of West Indian veteran paceman Curtly Ambrose's retirement were firmly pushed aside here on Tuesday after he was selected in the squad for the first Test with England starting on January 29, here, reports AP.

Left-hander Jimmy Adams, once the world's top ranked batsman, also got the selectors nod with impressive performances in the A team tour of South Africa after spending nearly a year in wilderness.

The 34-year-old Ambrose is one of six fast bowlers nominated in a party of 13, including Ian Bishop, who has found it tough going after two back operations, and former captain Courtney Walsh.

Windward Islander Nixon McLean is called in and has been rewarded after impressing new captain Brian Lara in a President's Cup match last weekend.

Also in the West Indies fast bowling ranks are Jamaica's Franklyn Rose and the much-maligned Mervyn Dillon, who like Lara and Bishop plays for Trinidad.

Ambrose has taken 307 Test wickets and is two short of former West Indies off-spinner

Lance Gibbs — though he only took one in 44 overs on the tour of Pakistan.

Ambrose, who has struggled with his run-up since returning to action, bowling 49 no balls in 47 overs and taking just five

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Adams, though failing twice against England last weekend, has claimed the number six berth ahead of Trinidad all-rounder Phil Simmons, and Sherwin Campbell will resume his opening alliance with Stuart Williams.

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bined with Ambrose and Walsh will present a pretty formidable Caribbean pace spearhead on home territory.

Lara, who played against McLean in Trinidad on Sunday, said: "It was the first time that I played a competitive match against Nixon and he does have some real pace."

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