



Australian leg-spinners Shane Warne (L) and Stuart MacGill during practice at the Sydney Cricket Stadium yesterday. — Internet photo

## Proteas plan more to do



CAPE TOWN, South Africa, Jan 1: The series is already over as a contest but South Africa captain

Hansie Cronje is bent on total domination of West Indies and a 5-0 clean sweep of the Tests, reports Reuters.

Touring captain Brian Lara, by contrast, is desperate to rekindle the team spirit of his demoralised players in the fourth Test starting in Cape Town tomorrow.

But his task has been made even harder by the absence of Courtney Walsh because of a hamstring injury and doubts over Walsh's new ball partner Curtly Ambrose who has knee and back problems.

South Africa's nine-wicket win in Durban on Tuesday earned them a 3-0 lead and victory at the earliest opportunity in the first post-apartheid tour of the republic by West Indies.

The tourists had gone down by four wickets in the first Test and by 178 runs in the second.

A sign of South Africa's clear superiority is that only the first Test has reached the fifth day. The Port Elizabeth match was concluded as early as 30 minutes after tea on the third.

We are getting stronger, but the only time I will be satisfied is when we reach the pinnacle of Test cricket," Cronje said.

We didn't plan to finish the series this early, but we did plan to play 25 days of solid cricket and there are still 10 days left. So we are going out there to win the next two Tests," he said.

South Africa coach Bob Woolmer says his team's sparkling form had its roots in their series defeat in England this year.

"I think the West Indies have

suffered the backlash of our failure in England, where we believe we should have won," Woolmer said. "We've come back much stronger and the West Indies have felt that."

"We've got into winning positions now and are actually nailing them down."

The only change to the South Africa squad sees all-rounder Lance Klusener returning from ankle surgery at the expense of off-spinner Pat Symcox, clearing the way for left-arm wrist spinner Paul Adams to play on his home ground.

Pat will be missed but we need new blood and we need to get Paul on to the field and take

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**SQUADS**  
SOUTH AFRICA: Gary Kirsten, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Darryl Cullinan, Hansie Cronje (captain), Jonty Rhodes, Shaun Pollock, Mark Boucher, Lance Klusener, Alan Donald, Paul Adams, David Terbrugge, 12th man: Ashwell Prince.

WEST INDIES: Clayton Lambert, Philo Wallace, Brian Lara (captain), Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Carl Hooper, Stuart Williams, Darren Ganga, Floyd Reifer, Ridley Jacobs, Nixon McLean, Rawl Lewis, Curtly Ambrose, Mervyn Dillon, Franklyn Rose, Junior Murray.

**HANSIE CRONJE**

wickets," Woolmer said. "He will be a vital cog in South Africa's wheel over the next 10 years, I'm sure."

The only choice facing the South Africans is between Klusener, among the most explosive players in the game with both bat and ball, and fast bowler David Terbrugge.

Ambrose, 35, and Walsh, 36, have taken 740 Test wickets between them but Lara is hopeful

of Franklyn Rose, who took career-best figures of 7-84 in the first innings at Kingsmead in his first Test of the series, could represent the next generation of world class West Indian pacemen.

Franklyn needs to keep his consistency up," Lara said.

"Forget the state of the series — he's got four innings to go against the South African batsmen to try and take as many wickets as possible and improve his confidence."

The series defeat has prompted sober self analysis by the West Indians. The management can talk to the players until they're blue in the face, but it's still up to those players themselves to know that our people expect them to give their best," Lara said.

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## Tasmania fightback

HOBART, Jan 1 (Reuters/Internet): Tasmania recovered from a shaky start to dominate the opening day of their Sheffield Shield match against Victoria state on Friday.

The Tasmanians recovered from losing their first two wickets for 17 and a midday collapse when they lost three for 11 to finish the day at 293 for five.

The innings was built on the back of two big partnerships.

Jamie Cox (77) and Shaun Young (76) shared for a 153-run stand for the third wicket before former test batsman David Boon (36 not out) and Daniel Marsh (77 not out) added an unbeaten 112 to see the home team through to the close.

Ricky Ponting, who was dropped from the Australian side after the third Ashes test, failed again, making just nine runs before he was caught at third slip.

Cox and Young began cautiously before accelerating the run rate during the middle session against a heavily-weakened Victorian side.

They took the score from 17 to 170 before the Victorians struck back with three quick wickets to reduce Tasmania to 181 for five.

Boon, Australia's third highest test runscorer, joined Marsh, son of former wicket-keeping great Rodney Marsh, in a crucial stand that turned the match Tasmania's way.

Boon adopted the more careful approach while Marsh went after the bowlers, hitting 11 fours on his way to 77 in 112 minutes.

Juve pencil Kluivert

ROME, Jan 1: thwarted in attempts to sign Frenchman Christophe Dugarry and Turk Hakan Sukur, Italian champions Juventus have now switched their attention to Barcelona's Patrick Kluivert, the Corriere Dello Sport newspaper reported Thursday.

The Italian championship resumes on January 6 and Juventus are desperate to boost their attacking stocks before then. Alessandro Del Piero is out for the season after undergoing surgery on his left knee.

Dutch World Cup star Kluivert left AC Milan at the start of the season to join Barcelona, the Corriere Dello Sport newspaper reported Thursday.

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Charlton tie, the only other game between two Premier League teams features Manchester United, who have won the Cup or appeared in the final since their seventh success in 1957, face Hull City, currently the 92nd and bottom club in the league.

A tricky visit to Blackburn Rovers this Saturday, though, could eliminate the London side by the time Arsenal begin the defence of the trophy they won last May.

Charlton, whose only FA Cup final success was their 1-0 win over Burnley in 1947 during a match when the ball burst, travel to Blackburn Rovers in one of only two third round ties between two premier league teams on Saturday.

Charlton manager John Gregory says he will send his team out with instructions to score as many goals as possible against the league's basement side in a bid to keep their confidence high going into the second half of the season. Anything other than a Villa win by at least four goals will be a major shock.

Leeds United, looking for their first Cup Final success since their only win in 1972, face Rushden and Diamonds, an enterprising non-league club from rural Northamptonshire.

The match pits former Arsenal Cup winning teammates Brian Talbot, now the manager of Rushden and Diamonds, against David O'Leary, the manager of Leeds.

Charlton have lost their last seven matches and, despite Wenger's optimistic backing, will do well to escape from Ewood Park with as much as a draw following the mini-revival underway there since Brian Kidd became manager a month ago.

Arsenal, who won the Cup for the seventh time when they defeated Newcastle United 2-0 to complete the double at Wembley, must wait until Monday night before they start the defence of the trophy, against Preston North End in an intriguing tie at Deepdale.

Preston completed the first double in 1888-89, the first season of league football, and after years in the doldrums they are enjoying a revival and pushing for promotion from the second division.

Arsenal should win, but are no strangers to big Cup defeats as losers to York City and Wrexham in the last 15 years have proved.

For once the third round draw did not provide its usual number of potential giant-



Yokohama Flugels captain-to-be Motohiro Yamaguchi holds up the Emperor's Cup after the final against Shimizu S-Pulse — AFP photo

## FA Cup kicks off today



LONDON, Jan 1 (Reuters/Internet): For undisclosed reasons, Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger has tipped Charlton Athletic to win the FA Cup this season.

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Middlesbrough's manager Bryan Robson captained United to three Cup final triumphs in the 1980s and 1990s but would love to leave his old club down and out at the first attempt.

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