

Nothing but the World Cup on Bob's mind

NAPIER, New Zealand, Mar 24: Bob Woolmer's career as a Test match coach may be over for now but South Africa's bid to win the World Cup is occupying every minute to his time and leaving little room to speculate about the future, reports Reuters.

Woolmer's five years at the helm of the South African side comes to an end after the World Cup in England in May and June despite unprecedented success which has brought 21 wins in 44 Tests and a win rate of 80 per cent in limited over internationals.

Ali Bacher, managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA), told Woolmer last year that everything has a natural lifespan and it was time for a change.

David Lloyd's announcement that he would step down as England coach after the World Cup has fueled speculation that Woolmer will be approached to take over as coach of the country for which he played 19 Tests between 1975 and 1981, scoring three centuries.

"No one from the ECB has contacted me and I certainly haven't been made an offer. There are offers on the table from other people but all my concentration is being spent on winning this series and then the World Cup," Woolmer told Reuters in Napier where the South Africans are preparing for the fourth match in a six match series against New Zealand which they trail 2-1.

"I won't make any decisions until after the World Cup and then my biggest priority is some rest and recuperation. I think I'll need a period of at least six months to relax and see how things lie," Woolmer said.

In 12 years since 1987 Woolmer has worked 19 out of 24 seasons in both northern and southern hemispheres and is keen to spend some time with his family in Cape Town before resuming his career.

Kasprovicz to join Leicester

SYDNEY, Mar 24: Australian Test discard Michael Kasprovicz has agreed to play for English county side Leicester, reports AP.

Kasprovicz had a frustrating Australian season, playing just a handful of first-class matches and spending long days as the national team's 12th man.

A lack of match practice cost the Queensland pacesman a place on the tour of the West Indies and the World Cup squad.

"The season never really got started for me in Australia," Kasprovicz said Wednesday. "If I was staying here at home and it was bang, end of season and that's it now I wouldn't feel fulfilled, really."

Kasprovicz took a first-class hat-trick against Victoria as the highlight of his season, which included the Shield final loss to Western Australia on Monday.

Now he joins the likes of Alan Mullally, Vince Wells and Chris Lewis at Leicester in his third stint in England.

He took 60 wickets in the 1994 season with Essex, 27 wickets on the Australia A tour in 1995 and finished the Ashes series in 1997 at The Oval against England with a career-best 7-36 in Australia's victory.

"Going back now I'm a far better player than when I first went over, even on the Ashes tour ... I've learnt a lot since then," Kasprovicz said.

"(And) the blokes are a lot of fun, very similar to Aussies really in the way they enjoy their cricket and have a good laugh."

Hendry to hang up his boots after Euro 2000

LONDON, Mar 24: Scotland World Cup captain Colin Hendry plans to retire from international soccer after the 2000 European Championship campaign, reports AP.

The burly, fair-haired defender, who will miss Scotland's next two Euro 2000 qualifiers against Bosnia and the Czech Republic through injury, announced his intentions on Glasgow club Rangers' website.

"My aim is to go to Euro 2000 and then go after that," he said. "I've always done myself justice for Scotland, but staying on that could be a bridge too far."

The Scots are second in Group Nine behind the Czechs and ahead of Lithuania, Estonia, Bosnia and the Faeroe Islands and stand a good chance of gaining the finals either as a group winner, as the best runners-up or through the playoffs of the other eight second-place finishers.

The 33-year-old Hendry has won 38 caps for Scotland since making his international debut at age 27 against Estonia in May 1993.

Known as "Braveheart" among the Scottish "Tartan Army" of supporters, he led Scotland in a 2-1 loss to defending titlist Brazil on the opening day of the France '98 World Cup. After a promising start, Scotland were bundled out of the World Cup finals after the first round and have never made it to the second round in eight attempts.

Hendry played for Dundee in Scotland before heading to England to link with Blackburn in 1986. He had a three season stint at Manchester City starting in 1989-90 before returning to Blackburn in 1991-92 and winning the Premier League championship with Rovers ahead of Manchester United in 1994.

He returned to Scotland this season, where he linked with Rangers in a three-year deal.

Windies A caught in Dale storm



ST JOHN'S, Antigua, Mar 24: An exceptional spell of swing and seam bowling from Adam Dale gave Australia an emphatic 154-run victory over West Indies A at the Antigua Recreation Ground on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

The Queensland medium-pacer claimed 6-66, taking six of the seven wickets to fall on Tuesday, as the A Team collapsed to 310 all out before lunch on the fourth and final day.

Resuming at 249 for three chasing 465 for an unlikely victory, West Indies A lost their last seven wickets for 61 runs as Dale weaved his spell with the second new ball.

He made an impact in his first over, the second of the day, when he had Carl Hooper caught at third slip by Michael Slater without adding to his overnight score of 102.

He then had Ricardo Powell caught at gully while Wavel Hinds lasted another half an hour, scoring 32, before he attempted to drive and was caught at slip by Shane Warne.

Neil McGeill drove Dale to the boundary for his only runs before falling in the same over, sharply caught by Ricky Ponting at short cover.

The last three wickets fell without addition to the score.

Nixon McLean pulled successive short balls from Colin Miller to the boundary but the left-hander was leg before wicket for nine when a Dale delivery cut back.

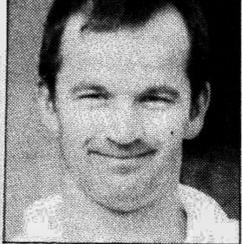
The only wicket not to fall to Dale was wicketkeeper Matthew Sinclair, caught behind for a scratchy 20 off a Miller outswinger.

Anthony Lake gave Dale his sixth wicket, chipping a ball to Greg Blewett at mid-wicket

without scoring. The seamer's latest performance follows a career-best 7-24 during the opening game of the tour in Antigua against a West Indies Board XI last month.

However he is still only an outside chance of playing in the third Test, beginning in Barbados on Friday.

"I've just got to wait and see. It depends on the wicket," Dale said.



DALE... 6 for 67

said. Captain Steve Waugh remained non-committal on Australia's final line-up. "Adam has done very well again and has to come into contention for a Test spot but I wouldn't envisage too many changes," Waugh said.

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AUSTRALIA: Second innings Elliott b Hooper 115 Slater c Sinclair b McLean 16 Ponting c Sinclair b McGeill 37 S Waugh c and B McGeill 30 Blewett c Rose b McGeill 34 Healy c McGeill b Hooper 34 Langer lbw b Hooper 5 Warne c McGeill b Hooper 13 Dale not out Extras: (b-6, lb-5, w-3, nb-7) 21 Total: for 8 wickets dec in 87.4 overs) 263

Did not bat: Miller, MacGill. Fall of wkts: 1-40; 2-121; 3-143; 4-233; 5-246; 6-246; 7-249; 8-263

Bowler O M R W McLean 13 0 52 1 Rose 12 2 37 0 McGeill 36 8 64 3 Hooper 13.4 4 40 4 Lake 12 0 56 0 Powell 1 0 3 0

WEST INDIES A: Second innings (overnight 246 for 3) Williams c Warne b MacGill 50 Gayle c Slater b MacGill 33 McLean lbw b Warne 40 Hooper c Slater b Dale 102 Hinds c Warne b Dale 32 Powell c S Waugh b Dale 10 Sinclair c Healy b Miller 20 McGeill c Ponting b Dale 4 McLean lbw b Dale 9 Lake c Blewett b Dale 0 Rose not out 0 Extras: (b-3, lb-3, nb-4) 10 Total: (All out) 310

Fall of wkts: 1-58; 2-95; 3-205; 4-253; 5-268; 6-278; 7-296; 8-310; 9-310.

Bowler O M R W Dale 30.5 13 67 6 Miller 31 4 114 1 MacGill 19 6 44 2 Warne 17 3 63 1 Blewett 6 2 10 0 Elliott 2 0 6 0

Result: Australia won by 154 runs.

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Barbados lift Busta Cup

BRIDGETOWN, Mar 24: Barbados duly won the Busta Cup after earning a comfortable 161-run victory against Trinidad and Tobago on the final day of their four-day match here on Tuesday, reports AP.

Set to score an imposing 329 runs for victory, Trinidad were restricted to 178.

Barbados bowlers Corey Collymore and Winston Reid shared eight wickets.

Apart from 53 by West Indies opener Suruj Ragoonath, Trinidad's other notable contribution came from 31 extras.

SCOREBOARD Final scoreboard of the four-day Busta Cup cricket final between Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago at Kensington Oval on Tuesday:

BARBADOS: First innings 289 (Campbell 62, Griffith 58; Dillon 4/57)

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: First innings 178 (Bishop 52; Collymore 3/39)

BARBADOS: Second innings (overnight 259 for nine) Campbell lbw b Simmons 16 Wallace c Ganga b Dillon 0 Griffith c and b Black 25 Reier lbw b Bishop 31 Hoyte b Persad 44 Hinds c Williams b Dillon 6 Browne c Ragoonath b Bishop 26 Bryan c Bishop b Black 60 Reid run out 29 Collins c Bishop b Dillon 0 Collymore not out 10 Extras: (b-6, lb-9, nb-6) 21 Total: (All out) 268

Fall of wkts: 1-1; 2-26; 3-61; 4-107; 5-125; 6-138; 7-195; 8-244; 9-247.

Bowler O M R W Dillon 20 3 50 3 Black 13.1 1 48 2 Simmons 12 1 43 1 Persad 22 3 60 1 Bishop 17 5 43 2 Rampersad 3 0 9 0

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: Second innings Ragoonath c Wallace b Collins 53 Ganga run out 18 Rampersad c Browne b Reid 17 Roberts c Hoyte b Reid 20 Simmons b Collymore 16 Smith c Reier b Reid 9 Williams c Griffith b Collymore 3 Bishop c Wallace b Collymore 0 Dillon b Collymore 10 Persad lbw b Reid 6 Black not out 5 Extras: (b-3, lb-14, w-1, nb-13) 31 Total: (All out) 178

Fall of wkts: 1-16; 2-94; 3-99; 4-132; 5-141; 6-156; 7-156; 8-156; 9-163.

Bowler O M R W Collins 12 1 29 1 Collymore 14.3 1 43 4 Reid 27 7 61 4 Bryan 4 0 28 0

Result: Barbados won by 161 runs.

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