

Column One

DID U' KNOW?

(The Professor does)

THAT Indian Test cricketer Robin Singh was born and brought up in the West Indies. He only came to study in India and was caught up in his cricket. He had begun his playing days in the Caribbean and could have ended up being capped for the country of his birth. His parents and family still live in the West Indies.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-113

✓ Tick the Correct Answers Post to The Daily Star Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 8 pm April 9, '99 and draw shortly afterwards

- Who won the Asian Test Championship title?
India Sri Lanka Pakistan
- Kevin Keegan is the manager of
England Scotland Wales
- Warne is a
leg-spinner off-spinner medium-pacer
- Who is the first Bangladesh batsman to score an ODI century?
Mehrab Shahriar Hasibul
- How many half-centuries has Akram Khan scored?
4 5 6

Name

Class Roll No.

School Address

Phone: (if any)



SPORTS TALK



Thomas Muster
(Austrian tennis star)
"I might go back to school or become a commercial helicopter pilot."
When he hangs his racquet up.

1000 Pakistanis come to Mohali

MOHALI, India, Apr 1: Some 1,000 Pakistani cricket fans who travelled across the border cheered their team at the one-day match with India today in a demonstration of the thaw in relations between the two arch-rivals, reports Reuters.

Indian authorities issued visas for the visitors and arranged transport and lodging for them in a gesture of friendship as they travelled across the border of the Punjab province, which was divided between the two nations in 1947.

"These kind of efforts are very good. All of us want good relations," said Talib Raza, 32-year-old landowner from Lahore.

"I feel it should be an open border," he said.

The move was the latest sign of a warming relations between the two arch-rivals after Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee made a landmark bus trip to Lahore in February.

The bus visit marked a contrast from the rival nuclear tests that soured ties last May.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars, two of them over the disputed region of Kashmir, since their independence from Britain in 1947.

India newspapers said the Pakistani fans had been offered sweets and snacks by Indians and greeted with poetry as they crossed over.

'Prince of Trinidad' keeps Test cricket alive

Lenin Gani

'Please don't worry about a thing Because everything's gonna be alright'

Brian Lara must have constantly reminded Curtly Ambrose of those eternal lines sung by reggae legend Bob Marley as they neared the stiff 308-run target in the final hours of the phenomenal third Test at Bridgetown last Tuesday.

And when the 'Prince of Trinidad' drove a visibly weary Jason Gillespie through the covers off the first ball of over number 120 to send the crowd into raptures, even Marley would have had a smile on his face. With that winning stroke, West Indies reached victory and Lara marked his 12th Test century with a superlative unbeaten 153.

To say the match was just another match would be a gross understatement. Only the fortunate few witnessed two combative teams, both of whom deserved not to lose, contest a bloodless war over five days.

The Australians, regarded by many as unofficial world champions, were still coming to terms with their crushing ten-wicket defeat at the hands of the Lara brigade in the second Test at Sabina Park in Kingston, Jamaica.

Then the diminutive Trinidadian had slammed 213 in a record fifth-wicket stand with Jimmy Adams (94), which realised 322 runs after the West Indies were tottering at 34 for four in their first innings in reply to Australia's 256. The hosts eventually piled up 431 and the rest, as they say, was history.

The victory not only ended a seven-Test losing streak but also restored the West Indian skipper's shattered image.

In the third Test, it was the Australian captain Steve Waugh, who again carried the attack to the West Indian bowlers by carving a majestic 199 in the first innings as his side posted a huge 490. In the previous match he hit exactly hundred, when the team was in thick soup.

After the Aussies won the toss they lost early wickets. Irrepressible Walsh, who is rapidly closing in on Kapil Dev's 434-wicket haul, gave the initial breakthrough by inducing an edge from Matthew Elliott's bat with the total on 31. Elliott had recently slammed a century in a tour match.

The Jamaican workaholic finished with seven wickets in the match to take his career total to 418 from 109 Tests.

Walsh's partner-in-crime, Ambrose, got rid of the dangerous pair of Michael Slater and Mark Waugh with the addition of five runs on the board.

Two periods of consolidation followed.

The first was between Justin Langer and the other Waugh, fresh from hammering a ton in the match against West Indies 'A', put on a hundred valuable runs for the fourth wicket with the captain. The gritty South Australian was out for 51 trying to cut Carl Hooper's first ball. This was Hooper's first contribution after missing the earlier Tests.

Recalled Ricky Ponting, coming in place of injured Greg Blewett, figured in a mammoth 281 fifth-wicket partnership with Steve, going great guns at the other end. The Tasmanian justified the call-up with his 104.

Off-spinner Nehemiah Perry broke the stand by sending the skipper back lbw, one run short of what would have been his second double century.

The latter pair, together with 48 extras, pushed the total ten runs short of 500.

The West Indian reply began horribly wrong. The first wicket fell on one, when debutante Adrian Griffith was run out without the Barbadian opening his personal account.

Even Lara's presence could not halt the floodgates as McGrath and Gillespie took turns in dismantling the top order.

At one stage the home side slid to 98 for six and even its most die-hard followers could not anticipate the team avoiding following-on, let alone winning from such a position.

With the Windies' world in turmoil, opener Sherwin Campbell, all the time growing in confidence, was not about to go down without a fight, especially in front of a partisan crowd.

He and wicketkeeper Ridley Jacobs proceeded to launch a counterattack on the rampaging Australians by taking the score to 251. Campbell was rewarded with only his third Test century and Jacobs, the bright star on the disastrous South Africa tour, grabbed another half-century.

The teamwork inspired a turnaround as the tail wagged furiously. Not even the much-vaunted twin-spin theory of Waugh and MacGill could check the flow of runs as the hosts marched, first past safety and then the all-important 300-

barrier.

The Australians, with 161 runs in the bank, were aiming to shut their opponents out of the match as they began the second innings. However, none of their main batsmen could stay around long enough to push the advantage. Once again it was that man Walsh that dealt the telling blows.

Only some lusty thumps by Waugh, who has become more of a batsman of late, gave any substance to the final score.

The stage was set for an exciting finish. The hosts required 308 for victory to go 2-1 up in the four-match series. The Australians needed to capture ten wickets with 45 overs of the penultimate day and the full fifth day still left to play.

The West Indian openers got off to a solid start, putting on 72 runs, before first-innings centurion Campbell was trapped leg-before by McGrath. Five runs later, Dave Joseph departed for one. Unlucky night watchman Pedro Collins, who only had time to pad up, was sent packing thereafter.

Alarm bells started to ring as Brian Lara came to the crease. But no more casualties were reported. The West Indies finished at 85 for three.

The final day's morning session belonged to the Australians as they picked up two wickets. Lara and Adams, heroes of Sabina, staged another resurgence. They added a vital 133 runs in the sixth-wicket before Adams was beaten by a superb McGrath delivery.

McGrath, bowling virtually unchanged, got a spring in his steps as he accounted for the scalps of Jacobs and Perry with two contentious leg-before decisions.

At tea, West Indies were 54 runs away from victory. Lara had only Ambrose and Walsh to help him. It was a delight to watch Lara playing the role of a captain by leading his side from the depths of a quagmire to the glory of a memorable win.

Despite McGrath and Gillespie's best efforts, they failed to dislodge the lanky Ambrose, who provided the much-needed support at Lara's other end. Each time the last ball was bowled the Antiguan snuffed out the yorkers. Soon the match turned from the notoriety of Test cricket to the excitement of a one-day match.

Deservedly Lara scored the winning runs. Who says Test cricket was dead?

Hussain to replace Atherton

LONDON, Apr 1 (Reuters/Internet): England called up Essex captain Nasser Hussain on Wednesday as a World Cup replacement for the injured Mike Atherton.

Atherton was ruled out on Tuesday when he suffered a recurrence of a long-standing back injury and the selectors had said then that Hussain and Mark Ramprakash were the main candidates to replace the Lancashire opener.

Hussain is regarded as one of the best all-round fielders in England and was a surprising omission from the one-day squad for the World Cup which opens at Lord's on May 14.

Thorpe sets new world mark

HONG KONG, Apr 1: Australian Ian Thorpe broke the longest-standing men's short-course swimming record Thursday night, shaving .36 second off the 9-year-old 200-metre freestyle mark set by Italian Giorgio Lamberti, reports AP.

Thorpe took the lead from Dutch swimmer Pieter van den Hoogenband in the last 50 metres and finished second in 1:43.78. Van den Hoogenband was third in 1:44.39 and Italy's Massi Rosolino fourth in 1:45.96.

Teammate Michael Klim also pulled ahead of van den Hoogenband in the last 50 metres and finished second in 1:43.78. Van den Hoogenband was third in 1:44.39 and Italy's Massi Rosolino fourth in 1:45.96.

It's a specially great feeling for me and a great feeling for the folks back in Australia," said Thorpe. "I wasn't sure how fast I would go at first, but I swam my fastest."

India 196

MOHALI, India, Apr 1: Pakistani pacer, Shoaib Akhtar worked up hostile pace to reduce India's experimental batting line-up to 196 all out in the day-night international here today, reports AP.

The fiery Akhtar forced Saurav Ganguly to retire hurt briefly with a shorter and dismissed India's other frontline batsman Rahul Dravid for no score in the space of three deliveries.

Akhtar, who conceded just 10 runs in his first eight overs, finished with 2-18 as a full-strength Pakistan tightened the screws on the young Indian team led by Ajay Jadhava.

The Indians, assured of playing Sunday's final against Pakistan at Bangalore, rested seven top stars including skipper Mohammad Azharuddin, Sachin Tendulkar and Anil Kumble for the inconsequential league fixture.

But the fringe players who were fielded ahead of the selection for the World Cup squad next Monday left the selectors tearing their hair in frustration.

Amay Khurasia was stumped in Saqlain Mushtaq's first over for six, debutant Virender Sehwag made one, Hrishikesh Kanitkar ran himself out and Laxmi Shukla holed out after making five.

India's major contributors were seniors like Ganguly and Robin Singh, who are certain to make the England-bound squad.

Ganguly, hit a painful blow on the rib cage by Akhtar, returned to top score with 57. Singh made 42 after sharing a 74-run stand for the fifth wicket with Ganguly.

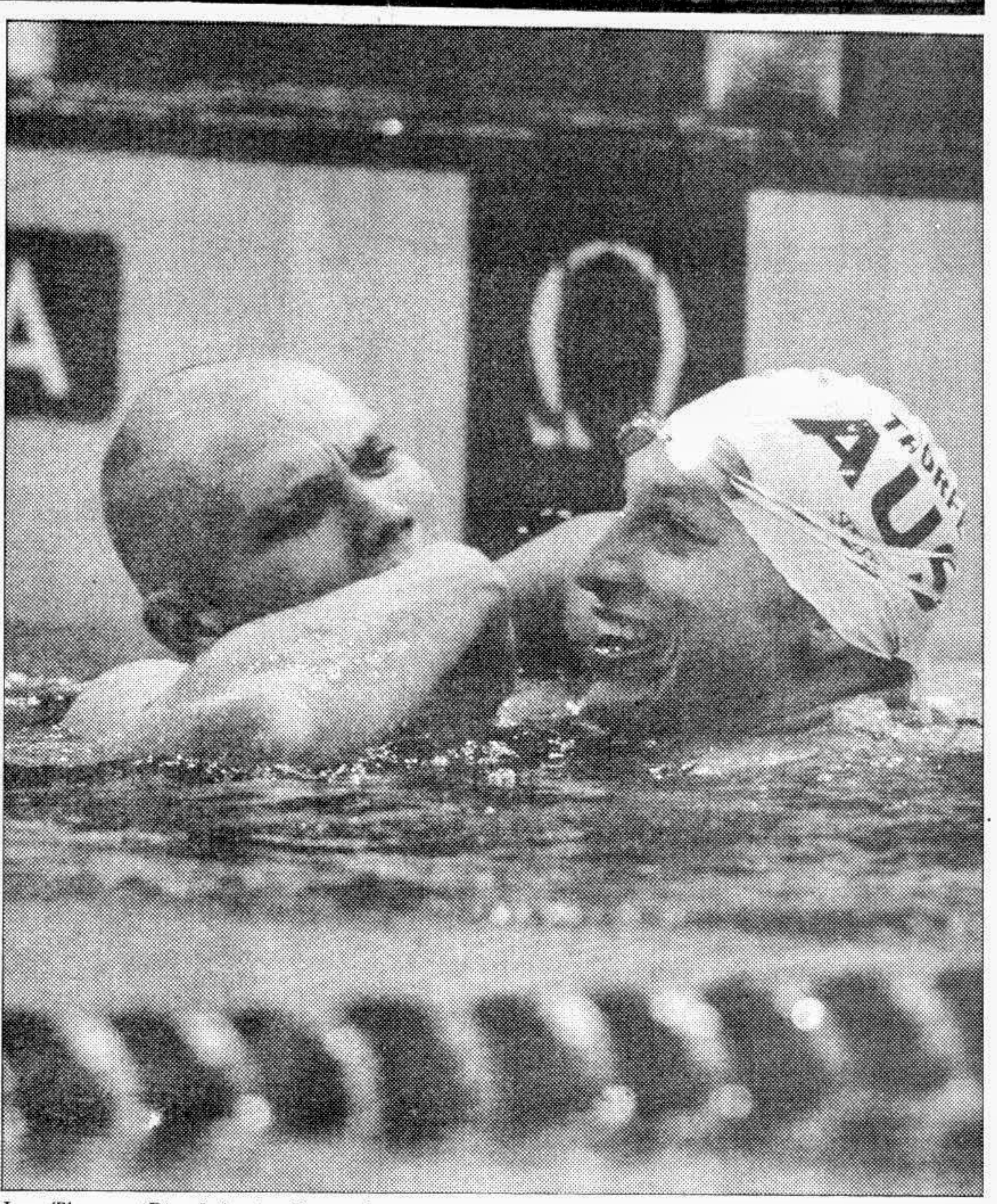
Among the sell-out crowd of 35,000 at the Mohali Stadium were 1,023 Pakistani tourists, who were granted special visas by the Indian government to watch the match.

Pakistan were in danger of being penalised for slow over rates which forced play to be extended by an hour to complete the stipulated 50 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Indian innings in the day-night limited-over international with Pakistan on Thursday:

INDIA	Bowler	O	M	R	W
Ganguly c Afridi b Nazir	Akram	10	0	42	0
Karim c Ijaz b Mahmood	Akhtar	10	1	18	2
Dravid c Afridi b Akhtar	Akhtar	10	1	31	2
Jadhava b Mahmood	Nazir	10	0	45	1
Khurasia st Moin b Saqlain	Saqlain	9.5	0	49	3
Singh run out					
Sehwag lbw b Akhtar					
Kanitkar run out					
Shukla c Nazir b Saqlain					
Pandey not out					
Prasad st Moin b Saqlain					
Extras: (b-1, lb-10, w-17, nb-5)					
Total: (49.5 overs)				196	
Fall of wickets: 1-16; 2-47; 3-54; 4-71; 5-145; 6-150; 7-172; 8-186; 9-186					



Ian Thorpe (R) of Australia and compatriot Michael Klim exchange pleasantries after Thorpe has broken the 200 metres freestyle world record at the World Short-Course Swimming Championships at Hong Kong yesterday. — AFP photo

Lara doing a Bradman

LONDON, Apr 1 (Reuters/Internet): Only one man alive can comprehend fully the burden Brian Lara has carried over the past month.

In a shot heard round the world, Lara off-drove Jason Gillespie for a boundary on Wednesday to give West Indies victory against all the odds over Australia.



SIR DONALD BRADMAN

Seemingly down and out after they were humiliated in the first Test, West Indies are now 2-1 up in the four-Test series thanks primarily to Lara.

Sir Donald Bradman, by common consensus the greatest cricketer to step on to a field, faced uncannily similar pressures more than half a century ago.

Bradman was named captain for the 1936-37 home series against Gubby Allen's England side to the dismay of a section of his team who had flourished under Vic Richardson's leadership during a triumphant tour of South Africa.

The underlying tensions between Bradman and a group of Irish Catholics headed by Jack Fingleton and Bill O'Reilly was a microcosm of the split in the Australian society of the time.

Australians of Irish origin were overwhelmingly Labor Party supporters and also anti-British. Those of English Protestant background usually voted for the conservative Liberal-Country Party coalition and supported the Empire and the Crown.

Against this background of simmering unrest in the Australian camp, England won the first two Tests.

In the second, Bradman was bowled by Hedley Verity, playing what C.B. Fry called: "The worst stroke in the history of cricket."

Some of the press wanted Richardson to be recalled, others thought Stan McCabe, another Irish Catholic, should be named in Bradman's place.

In the end the selectors stuck with Bradman and their faith was triumphantly vindicated.

Australia went on to win the next three Tests with Bradman recording consecutive scores of 13, 270, 26, 212 and 169. He was to remain the automatic choice as Australian skipper until his retirement in 1948.

West Indian cricket, the only

force to unite the scattered islands, has traditionally been plagued by regional jealousies and there were persistent reports of factionalism during West Indies' monumental but unsuccessful tour of South Africa.

Lara, himself, was put on probation and named as captain for the first two Tests only.

As with Bradman, his character has emerged in adversity. His double century in the second test set up a West Indies



BRIAN LARA

victory, his unbeaten 153 on Wednesday was one of the finest innings ever played.

Even the last bowler turned commentator Michael Holding, one of Lara's fiercest critics, is now a convert.

Holding, who said Lara needed psychiatric help, conceded: "Brian is a changed man and better captain these days."

Calls for Waugh & Healy's heads

SYDNEY, Apr 1 (AFP/Reuters/AP/Internet): The glittering careers of Australian stars Shane Waugh and Ian Healy are under serious threat, with the Australian press and former Test greats calling for them to stand aside.

"Waugh must sack Healy and Waugh," screamed the Daily Telegraph today, while The Australian said: "Time for a change, Australia."

Waugh, 29, and wicketkeeper Healy are two of Australia's all-time greats but their reputations have taken a severe blow in the West Indies, where Australia trail 2-1 in the Test series.

The celebrated leg-spinner has taken just four wickets for 378 runs in four Tests since replacing Steve Waugh.

Healy, at 34 the oldest man in the side, is enduring the worst tour of his illustrious 115-Test career, particularly with the bat and has scored just 31 runs from his six innings in the series.

His problems with leg muscle soreness and Waugh's lack of wickets have contributed to the call for them to be replaced by Adam Dale and Adam Gilchrist as the tourists try to salvage their battered Frank Worrell trophy campaign.

With the fourth and final Test starting in Antigua on Saturday, former Australian Test greats Jeff Thomson and Neil Harvey have joined calls for the sacking of Waugh and Healy, who has terrorised Test opponents for the past decade.

"He took tonight for 69 on the fifth day (of the third Test). He just couldn't do the job. He didn't worry anybody," said Thomson who is a television commentator on the tour. He said Dale must come into the side.

Harvey implored the national selectors one of whom is Waugh's partner in crime, Steve Waugh and Geoff Marsh to immediately dump the leg-spinner.

"It serves them (Australia) right because they picked an ill-balanced bowling attack," he said.

"He's got to go, it's no good carrying some bloke who's not performing." But Waugh particularly, has received the backing of other Australian stars, not least Richie Benaud, Doug Walters and Geoff Lawson.

Australia's former fast bowler Jeff Thomson has joined a call for struggling leg-spinner Shane Waugh to be dropped from the Test team.

Thomson believes seamer Adam Dale should play in the fourth Test at St John's, Antigua, starting on Saturday.

Earlier in the tour, Dale had innings hauls of seven for 24 and six for 67 in two first-class matches at the Antigua Recreation ground, the venue for the Test.

"They have got to look at something different, especially when they have somebody like Adam Dale on the sidelines who has been taking wickets. He has got to come into the team," Thomson said.

"I believe we have to stick to the two leg-spinner policy," said Benaud, while Walters said "the two leg-spinners (Waugh and Stuart MacGill) are the best in the world and I think they'll be needed more than ever in the fourth Test."

Captain Steve Waugh has strong loyalty to senior men with great records like Waugh and Healy, but he acknowledges hard decisions must now be made.

"It's always tough when the top players are out of a bit of form but I look at myself people in the past have shown me respect and a bit of faith and hoped that I pulled through in

tough times," Waugh said.

"But the bottom line is we've got to pick a side to win the next Test match and if either of those guys aren't in the best eleven then they won't be there."

"No-one has the right to a place on the side or has a right to a place and if I don't get runs is expect someone to take my spot," the Australian press has been merciless on Waugh and Healy.

The Sydney Morning Herald said "The greatness is starting to spill out of Australia's hands" and questioning whether the famous call of "bowled, waughy" will be heard again in a Test arena.

"Shane Waugh is on the brink, perhaps even past it," the Herald said.

"One flipper would have done it" it said of removing West Indian match winner Brian Lara "but Waugh has so lost confidence in his old weaponry that he did not try one."

It said there was little left for Healy to achieve in the game and his decline "may be permanent."

The Telegraph commented "Australia's Caribbean campaign is now in such deep trouble that two of the most celebrated players of the modern era Healy and Waugh should have no further part to play in it," it said.

Peter Roebuck, writing in the Sydney Morning Herald, described it as the best innings "it has been my privilege to watch."

"If I live another 50 years I do not expect to see a better innings or watch a finer cricket Test," Roebuck wrote.



SHANE WAUGH



IAN HEALY