

Sport

Waiting for Warne

SYDNEY, July 2: Australia's star leg-spinner Shane Warne has yet to make up his mind up about his international cricketing future, cricket officials said today.

Brendan McClements, general manager for communications for the Australian Cricket Board (ACB), told AFP today that Warne, who came back to form with a bang in last month's World Cup triumph had yet to commit himself to Australia's August tour of Sri Lanka.

"The situation regarding Warne is unchanged. He requested some time to consider his international future and he is taking that time at the moment," McClements said.

"At this stage we've no indication of Warne's intentions."

Reports from Colombo, where ACB Operations Manager Richard Watson was inspecting facilities, had mistakenly suggested Warne had already decided to play on the Sri Lanka tour.

"In two to three weeks Warne will decide if he has decided to continue in international cricket and if he decides to continue he will be available for the Sri Lankan tour," Watson had said in Colombo.

Warne, dropped from Australia's Test team on their tour of the West Indies in April, roared back to form in the World Cup one-day tournament in England.

Yorkshire shot out for 52!

LONDON, July 2: Yorkshire's title aspirations suffered a severe jolt on Thursday when they were shot out for 52 on the opening day of their county championship match against defending champions Leicestershire, reports Reuters.

By the close Darren Maddy, with 85 not out, had steered Leicestershire to 170 for six for a lead of 118.

Second placed Warwickshire also came unstuck against Kent at Maidstone where they are facing only their second defeat of the season.

Needless 245 to win after

their second innings for 199, Warwickshire slumped to 104 for seven by the close with Mimi Patel taking four for 17.

However it was a better day for batsmen at Northampton where Worcestershire staged a determined revival on the back of the day's top score of 126 from England's A batsman Vikram Solanki.

Worcester were still 59 runs in arrears when they resumed their second innings at 36 for three and then slipped to 47 for four.

But Solanki and skipper Tom Moody, who scored his second 63 of the match, held up the slide before Steve Rhodes (45 not out) and Phil Newport (31 not out) took the visitors to 361 for eight at the close, a lead of 266 with two days to play.

Sixth placed Sussex are in danger of an innings defeat against Somerset after being forced to follow on 338 runs behind at Taunton.

Piran Holloway added only nine runs to his 101 not out overnight, but Keith Parsons (43 not out) saw Somerset to an imposing first innings total of 503 for eight declared.

Sussex were then bowled out for 165 before closing at 16 without loss in their second innings after being made to follow on.

Essex's former England off-spinner Peter Such took six for 77, giving him match figures of 13 for 213, before Lancashire declared their second innings at 209 for seven, setting the visitors and victory target of 301 with one day remaining. They closed at 33 without loss.

Leaders Surrey, chasing a sixth win in nine games, reduced bottom club Durham to 182 for seven in reply to their 335 by the close of the second day at the Oval.

Beckham's honeymoon offer

SYDNEY, July 2: David Beckham and bride to be Victoria Adams have been offered a 25,000 Australian dollars (17,000 US) tropical island honeymoon if he tour Australia with Manchester United, reports AP.

Beckham and Posh Spice will marry in Ireland on Sunday and United manager Sir Alex Ferguson has given his midfield star a leave pass from the tour.

Rene Rivkin, whose company is promoting matches between United and the Socceroos on July 15 and 18, has passed on the offer of a first class holiday to Beckham via the club.

"Mr. Rivkin has tried to entice them a little bit because he's love to see David Beckham playing in Australia," Rivkin entertainment spokeswoman Robbie Harris told the AP on Friday.

"He has offered a honeymoon on a Queensland island, probably Hayman. It has been put to them through the club and we're expecting an answer in the next 24 hours."

Meanwhile Australia is likely to have 12 of the 18 players who beat a FIFA All Star team at last month's opening of Sydney's Olympic Stadium for the match against the European champion.

Leeds United's Harry Kewell, the best player in that 3-2 victory, will be the most high-profile absentee while Soccer Australia is arguing with Flora over the release of its gifted new signing Paul Okon.

Wolverhampton defender Kevin Muscat is another in doubt while Josip Skoko, who is primed to leave Hajduk Split, will only make the trip if his transfer has been settled.



Mark Butcher at silly point attempts to catch New Zealand's Adam Parore on July 1.

—AFP photo

Parore provides stability



BIRMINGHAM, July 2 (AP/AFP):

Adam Parore scored a defiant 73 Thursday as England bowlers took three wickets apiece to bowl New Zealand out for 226 in the first test at Edgbaston.

Caddick and Tufnell, both recalled to the lineup after England's disastrous World Cup campaign, shared the honors as Nasser Hussain's new look English team dominated the opening day.

Parore was the last man out, lasting 140 balls before he was caught behind by rookie wicketkeeper Chris Read off Alan Mullally's bowling.

At his dismissal, the umpires called an extra to play.

New Zealand-born Caddick did the damage early, dismissing Matt Horne in the first session.

lunch to snare dangerous Chris Cairns and Craig McMillan as the Kiwis crumbled to 104 for six.

Parore shared an 85-run seventh-wicket stand with Dion Nash, who scored 21 off 100 balls, before Tufnell ripped through the tailend.

The 33-year-old spinner, on the outer with England selectors since England's 1997-98 tour of the West Indies, deceived Nash with a ball that gripped and turned.

Nash got a thick edge to skipper Nasser Hussain at first slip with the total on 189.

Daniel Vettori scored one run before he was caught Hussain off Tufnell's bowling with the addition of two to the total.

Simon Doull belted 11 runs off 15 balls and took the score to 211 before driving Tufnell to mid-on, where Mark Butcher clutched a diving catch in his right hand.

Geoff Allott remained unbeaten on 7 after adding 15 valuable runs for the last wicket with Parore.

After winning the toss and electing to bat, New Zealand lost its first wicket without a run on the board when the gamble to promote World Cup hero Roger Twose to opener back-fired.

A regular at Edgbaston in six seasons with Warwickshire, Twose was out on the third ball of the game when he edged Mullally to Graham Thorpe at first slip.

Horne (12) was next out, adjudged leg-before wicket to Caddick, with the total on 19.

Kiwi skipper Stephen Fleming scored 27 and combined with Nathan Astle to take the score to 55 before he edged Alex

Tudor to Thorpe at first slip.

Fleming, who was surprised by some extra bounce in the pitch, becoming Tudor's first Test wicket on home soil.

Butcher, a part-time bowler, picked up his first test wicket just an over before the lunch break when Astle (26) got an edge to 20-year-old Robbie Read — England's youngest ever Test wicketkeeper.

New Zealand went to lunch at 75 for four and reached 103 before losing two wickets for one run in the next session.

Caddick had McMillan (18) caught by Thorpe at first slip — his third catch of the day — before Cairns (17) mistimed a shorter ball and popped up a

England's chairman of selectors David Graveney said he felt that a satisfactory score in the overcast conditions would have been between 250 and 300 and was happy with his team's work.

Parore said batting had not been easy. "If we bowl well, 226 could still prove to be a reasonable wicketkeeper," he said.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play on the opening day of the first Test between England and New Zealand on Thursday:

NEW ZEALAND: First innings

Twose c Thorpe b Mullally 0

Horne lbw Caddick 12

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