

Robin, Nikhil recalled

Indian squad for first 2 ODIs

AHMEDABAD, Oct 31: The national cricket selectors yesterday omitted opener Devang Gandhi and Harbhajan Singh from the current Test squad and brought in all-rounder Robin Singh and off-spinner Nikhil Chopra into the team for the first two fixtures of the one-day series against New Zealand, reports PTI.

Sachin Tendulkar, who missed the last two limited-overs tournaments at Toronto and Nairobi to tend to his troublesome back, returns to lead the team announced by the selectors who met here during the second day of the ongoing third and final Test against the Kiwis.

The 12 other members of the squad for the third Test have been retained. Cricket Board secretary Jaywant Lele announced here after the selection committee meeting.

Leg-spinner Anil Kumble, omitted for the last two tours due to poor form, has forced his way back thanks to impressive efforts in the ongoing Test series with pace spearhead Javagal Srinath also returning after he was rested after the August triangular event in Sri Lanka.

Giving way to these three are batsmen Jacob Martin and Mohammad Kaif and medium pacer LR Shukla who were in Toronto and Nairobi.

The one-day series opens with the tie at Rajkot on November 5. The second match is slated to be held at Hyderabad on November 8.

The squad for the first two one-dayers: Sachin Tendulkar (Capt), Sourav Ganguly, Sadagopan Ramesh, Rahul Dravid, Ajay Jadhava, Robin Singh, Nikhil Chopra, Anil Kumble, Javagal Srinath, Venkatesh Prasad, MSK Prasad, Debashish Mohanty, Sunil Joshi and Vijay Bhargadwaj.

Sachin's dream fulfilled

AHMEDABAD, Oct 31: Indian skipper Sachin Tendulkar yesterday said his maiden Test double century has come at the right time, just before the Australian tour, and that he was determined to get to the landmark, reports PTI.

The 26-year-old who hammered 217 for his highest first class score which ended the maestro's long wait to reach the milestone.

"I became aware of the double-century when I reached 180. It was only a matter of hanging in there," Tendulkar said at the end of the second day's play here.

The batting maestro admitted that he had waited patiently for 10 years since making his Test debut against Pakistan in Karachi in the 1989-90 series.

Ten years is a lot of time. I showed a lot of patience which wasn't required. Finally I have got it and I am happy about it. I tried my level best. The bottom-line is to keep trying and one would get it," he told reporters.

Asked to comment on his charmed existence in the 90s on Friday when he was dropped by Nathan Astle off Chris Cairns and nearly edged Dion Nash before square-cutting him to reach his 100, Tendulkar said he misjudged the bounce of the ball on the first occasion.

Asked whether he was aware that he was within striking distance of batting legend Sunil Gavaskar's 236 made against the West Indies at Chennai in the 1983-84 series — the highest ever Test score by an Indian — Tendulkar said he was indeed conscious of that.

"I was aware of it, but the team total was more important," he said.

The batsman also felt the 300-run mark was not really beyond reach. "We've got some talented people. We should be able to do it, he said when pointed out that the magic mark had not been achieved by any Indian despite the 200-run mark being passed 18 times.

Tendulkar was confident India will be able to beat the Kiwis with three days left to claim the series 2-0. "We have good bowlers in Anil Kumble, Javagal Srinath and Harbhajan Singh. I am confident we can do the job."

Red Stripe cricket

Jamaica in Semis

KINGSTON, Oct 31: Franklyn Rose took four wickets for 16 runs and Wavell Hinds led the batsmen with an unbeaten 27 to send Jamaica to the semi-finals of the Red Stripe Bowl with a seven-wicket victory over the Windward Islands on Saturday, reports AP.

Rose's haul helped bowl out the Windwards for 102 in 47.4 overs, and Jamaica replied by reaching 104 for three wickets in 30 overs.

The victory at Kingston's Sabina Park was Jamaica's second and gave it the lead in Zone A with four points.

The loss eliminated the Windwards, having also lost their first match Thursday to defending champion Guyana.

Besides Hinds' 27 not out, his West Indian national teammates Christopher Gayle and Ricardo Powell contributed with 24 and 16 not out, including a match-winning six.

Rose, seeking a return to the West Indies team will tour New Zealand in November, took the Windwards' first three wickets to reduce it to 33 for seven and completed his haul of four wickets in eight overs.

Derwinson Thomas and captain Rawle Lewis combined for a 39-run, eighth-wicket partnership to help push the Windwards past 100 runs.



Players of the victorious Mohammedan Sporting Club.

— Star photo

Dale destroys Pakistan



BRISBANE, Oct 31 (Reuters/AP): Queensland seam bowler Adam Dale grabbed five wickets on the second day of the four-day match against Pakistan today.

Dale staked his Test claims by capturing five for 58 as Pakistan, who resumed at 0-2, made 276 in their first innings in reply to the home side's 274.

Pakistani paceman Shoaib Akhtar bowled three bumpers that sailed over Jimmy Maher's head to start the Queensland innings and play was immediately abandoned because of bad light.

Dale, who took three wickets in his final 12 deliveries completed the ninth five-wicket haul of his career and his fifth for Queensland.

He trapped Yousof Youhana for thought and had Inzamamul Haq (37) caught at slip. His other victims were Saeed Anwar (29), Mushtaq Ahmed, bowled for nought, and Shoaib Akhtar who was brilliantly caught at slip by Matthew Hayden, also for nought.

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Anwar votes for Dale



BRISBANE, Australia, Oct 31 (AFP): Pakistan opener Saeed Anwar believes seamer Adam Dale deserves a place in the 12-man Australian squad for the first Test starting at the Gabba here on Friday.

Seasoned Test batsman Anwar praised Dale (5-58) after becoming one of his victims on the second day of the four-day tour match against Queensland here Sunday.

The match was well-balanced, with Pakistan, bolstered by a polished 83 from all-rounder Azhar Mahmood and a breezy 70 from wicket-keeper Moin Khan, making 276 in reply to Queensland's 274.

Pakistani express bowler Shoaib Akhtar bowled three bumpers that sailed over Jimmy Maher's head to start the Queensland innings and play was immediately abandoned because of bad light.

Dale took 3-1 from his final 12 deliveries for the ninth five-wicket haul of his career as chief selector Trevor Hohns — who will pick the Test team later Sunday with his fellow panelists, Allan Border, Andrew Hilditch and Geoff Marsh — watched from the grandstand.

"It's in everybody's minds that the first Test is coming up, everybody playing first-class cricket would like to have a good performance so they can put their hand up and hopefully get the nod," Dale said.

"Hopefully, I'm a chance like everybody else, - a positive chance.

Aussies plan pace-fest



BRISBANE, Australia, Oct 31 (AFP): Australian selectors were deliberating Sunday on their line-up for Friday's opening cricket Test against Pakistan with most interest centring on a likely third pacer.

The candidates were New South Wales tearaway Brett Lee and local pacemen Adam Dale, Andy Bichel and Scott Muller.

Australian cricket selectors Trevor Hohns, Allan Border, Geoff Marsh and Andrew Hilditch met Sunday to decide on their 12-man squad before it was officially announced on Monday.

Australia's top six batsmen pick themselves. Adam Gilchrist will be the new wicket-keeper in for the newly-retired Ian Healy, leg-spinner Shane Warne is again a certainty and Glenn McGrath and Damien Fleming will share the new ball.

Two positions were vacant and the pace-friendly Gabba means Colin Miller's versatility of off-spin and medium pacer will probably be rested until the Test move to more conducive venues.

Lee, the fastest in the country but still relatively inexperienced, took five wickets against South Australia in Sydney last week, including a particularly swift and impressive 3-59 in the second innings.

Picking him for Test duty would be a gamble, but Australian captain Steve Waugh is known to appreciate the benefits of a frighteningly fast bowler.

Maroney's brother Michael said she suffered the attack after swimming 675 laps at an indoor pool in Sydney to raise money for a campaign to help prevent babies from drowning.

Despite Dale's heroics

Pakistan mounted a fine recovery from 95 for five midway through the first session thanks to a 130-run partnership off 187 balls between Azhar Mahmood (83) and wicket-keeper Moin Khan (70).

They eventually fell to successive deliveries.

Azhar, who blasted 11 fours and two sixes in his 150-ball stay, was first to go when he edged Andy Bichel to wicket-keeper Wade Secombe.

Moin then hit an Andrew Symonds full-toss straight to Dale at mid-wicket to end his 83-ball innings, which included eight fours and two sixes.

The Australian side for the first of three Tests against Pakistan will be named on Monday.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the four-day match between Pakistan and Queensland on Sunday:

QUEENSLAND: First innings 274 (A Symonds 78, J Maher 70; M Ahmed 4-103)

PAKISTAN: First innings (overnight 50-2)

Ijaz c Love b Muller 3  
M Wasim c Secombe b Bichel 0  
Razaq st Secombe b Anderson 30  
Inzamam c Law b Dale 37  
Youhana lbw b Dale 0

Mahmood c Secombe b Bichel 83  
Moin c Dale b Symonds 70  
Anwar c Secombe b Dale 29  
Akram not out 21  
Mushtaq b Dale 0  
Akhtar c Hayden b Dale 0  
Extras: (b-1, nb-2) 3  
Total: (All out in 97.1 overs) 276

Fall of wickets: 1-2: 2-4: 3-60; 4-60; 5-95; 6-225; 7-225; 8-263; 9-264.

Bowler O M R W  
Bichel 25 7 52 2  
Muller 22 7 84 1  
Dale 29 10 58 5  
Anderson 13 4 56 1  
Symonds 7 2 21 1  
Law 1 0 4 0

Note: Scorers amended overnight score for Ijaz Ahmed to three.

QUEENSLAND: Second innings  
Maher not out 0  
Hayden not out 0  
Total: (No wicket in 0.3 overs) 0

Bowler O M R W  
Akhtar 0.3 0 0 0

Rangers, Celtic go on goal spree

GLASGOW, Oct 31: Rangers' Finnish striker Jonatan Johansson punished 10-man Aberdeen on Saturday with a devastating hat-trick as the Dons suffered a late collapse going down 5-1 at Pittodrie, reports AFP.

Johansson outlined the strength in depth in the Rangers squad ahead of Wednesday's Champions League decider with Bayern Munich with goals after 23, 78 and 80 minutes.

That was after bottom club Aberdeen had stunned the league leaders by taking a shock lead through Thomas Solberg's penalty after 10 minutes.

Johansson's first goal cancelled out that advantage on 23 minutes but it was the sending-off of Aberdeen's Paul Bernard for clattering into Giovanni Van Bronckhorst on 36 minutes which decided the contest.

Rangers were slow to turn the screw but finally overcame the Dons' resistance with two goals in two minutes courtesy of individual efforts from Michael Mols and substitute Gabriel Amato.

The win keeps the reigning Scottish champions top of the table on 28 points, one ahead of Celtic who have played a game more.

Mark Viduka scored one of the fastest hat-tricks on record as Celtic thumped Kilmarnock 5-1.

The Australian striker's goals came inside four minutes in the second half of a remarkable match at Celtic Park.

Remarkably it was the visitors who started the brighter of the two sides and made their greater possession tell by taking the lead after 38 minutes through Frenchman Christophe Cocard.

Celtic needed only eight minutes of the second half to get an equaliser and that goal, sparked an amazing chain of events.

Craig Burley picked out debutant Ian Wright who delivered a neat header into the path of Viduka, who drove a shot under the keeper's body.

A minute later Kilmarnock were reduced to ten men when Martin Baker was sent off after a tussle with Lubomir Moravcik.

Celtic immediately took advantage with Viduka heading into the corner following a delightful ball from Moravcik in the 55th minute.

MSC thank

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When festivity gripped Mohammedan dressing room a pal of gloom fell on the Abahani tent.

"The team was a depleted one as we missed four of key players, including Aminul," said Abahani manager Monem Munna.

"We were beaten in every department today," he added without any elaboration.

Skipper Partho also underlined the absence of their poor performers for their poor performance.

"We were thrown out of the match with the three first half goals. And from that point it was almost impossible for us to rally back to the match," said a demoralised Partho.

Inter Milan's Ivan Zamorano (L) being pursued by Lazio's Sinisa Mihajlovic during their Serie A fixture on October 30.



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Rosenborg annex Norwegian Cup

OSLO, Oct 31: Jan Derek Sorensen scored both goals as Rosenborg captured the Norwegian Cup by beating Brann 2-0 Saturday, reports AP.

Rosenborg already clinched the league championship for the eighth consecutive time on October 3, two games before the end of the league, and the team could be headed for the European Champions' League again next year.

Before a crowd of 25,296, Sorensen gave Rosenborg the lead in the 48th minute, dribbling past five Brann defenders and placing the ball out of the reach of Brann goalkeeper Magnus Kihlstedt.

Sorensen added a second goal in the 56th after a perfect pass from Orlan Berg.

The originally was scheduled for Sunday, but with Rosenborg facing Dutch club Feyenoord in Rotterdam, Netherlands, in their last game of the first phase of the European Champions' League on Tuesday, the game was moved ahead.

Rosenborg already have clinched Group C in the Champions' League and qualified for the second round.

Chelsea's Gianfranco Zola (L) and Derby County's Horaci Carbonari fight for possession during their Premiership encounter on October 30. Derby stunned the London side 3-1.

Premiership No stopping Leeds

LONDON, Oct 31: West Ham manager Harry Redknapp believes Leeds pose a serious threat to Manchester United's Premiership crown after watching his side lose to David O'Leary's young guns at Elland Road on Saturday, reports AFP.

Redknapp said: "They've got to be considered as serious contenders."

"Chelsea have been beaten again today and you have to think they're not looking too much of a threat at the moment as they are falling away."

"Leeds are looking a bit lively so you've got to fancy them and either Arsenal or Manchester United and the thing in Leeds' favour is that United are in the Champions League."

However, despite Redknapp's praise for the Yorkshiremen Leeds struggled to make an impact during a poor first-half against a West Ham side looking for only their second win at Elland Road in 28 visits.

Leeds made the breakthrough in the 57th minute when Lee Bowyer picked out Ian Harte on the far edge of the area with a right wing ball.

The Republic of Ireland international controlled the ball and then sent a searing right-foot drive between two defenders and past the outstretched grasp of Hislop for his third goal of the season.

After last week's 4-4 draw at Everton, O'Leary was delighted to see his side keep a clean sheet as he said: "We might have played really well last week, but individual mistakes cost us."

"I can only prepare them from Monday through to Friday but when they cross that white line on the pitch they are only human beings."

"We had a talk about it in the dressing room after the game and we looked at the video on the Monday and they all know what they did wrong."

"Obviously they didn't do it on purpose and hopefully they won't do it again for a long time to come, but it's all part of the learning process and they are going to make mistakes."

"Today we got a bit bogged down again but I feel we ran out worthy winners and I was more than satisfied with the performance."

Goals from Paul Scholes, Andy Cole and Roy Keane gave



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Goals from Paul Scholes, Andy Cole and Roy Keane gave

Manchester United a convincing 3-0 victory at home to Aston Villa.

The win takes United second in the Premiership on 27 points, two behind leaders Leeds.

Sir Alex Ferguson gave England manager Kevin Keegan a welcome boost by declaring Scholes will be available for England's Euro 2000 play-off matches against Scotland despite needing a hernia operation.

Ferguson said: "Paul Scholes will be available for England. Whether he has the conscience to go out and hurt his manager by playing against Scotland is another thing."

"We have said all along that Paul will continue to play until after the Champions League games in early December. Then we won't have any more European games until March, we shall think about his operation during that spell before the Champions League starts again then."

Arsenal could not prevent determined Newcastle holding them 0-0 at Highbury.

Chances were at a premium with much of the play compressed into a crowded midfield area and the closest the Gunners came was not until two minutes before half-time when Patrick Vieira's header from a Thierry Henry corner was deflected and sweeper Frank Dumas had to clear off the line.

Derby improved their terrible home record with a 3-1 win against Chelsea thanks to two second half goals from Rory Delap.

Frank Leboeuf cancelled out Deon Burton's sixth minute opener to keep Chelsea on level terms at the break at Pride Park.

Chelsea boss Gianluca Vialli admitted his side's Premiership form was cause for concern after the Blues' third league defeat in a row.

Just four days after earning a superb 1-1 draw with AC Milan in the San Siro, Vialli's side came off decidedly second best at Pride Park as Derby climbed out of the bottom three.

Vialli said: "It was a scrappy game and I don't think either side - or the referee - played well. It wasn't a good game but they deserved to win the game."

"They outplayed us in terms of spirit and pressed us very well. We were forced to make two substitutions and change

the shape of the team but they are just lame excuses, we didn't play as well as we did in Milan."

However, Derby boss Jim Smith was delighted with the win, particularly as his side's next four games are against Liverpool, Manchester United, Arsenal and Leeds.

"The lads were fantastic," Smith said. "The difference today was scoring goals. We scored three very good goals and that's something we had to do at home and they went out and did it and showed tremendous commitment and got the result they deserved."

"We needed a home win because the only reason we're in trouble is because of our home form, losing five out of six games."

Brian Deane headed the winner for Middlesbrough in their 2-1 victory over 10-man Everton.

Christian Ziege and Kevin Campbell kept Middlesbrough and Everton on level terms at half-time.

Leicester thrashed Sheffield Wednesday 3-0. Central defender Gerry Taggart added to the woes of bottom club Wednesday by striking twice in the first half from set pieces.

Tony Cottee put Leicester three ahead in the 57th minute.

Latvian Marian Pahars scored for Southampton against Wimbledon in the 67th minute but Marcus Gale hit a last-minute equalizer for a full-time score of 1-1.

Saints manager Dave Jones was devastated after watching his side throw away the lead in the final minutes for the second time in a week.

Jones said: "The game was dead. Wimbledon had tried everything and couldn't get through us."

"We have to stop conceding sloppy goals. Some of the goals we've given away in the latter stages of games have been suicidal."

"There was no danger. I felt we were comfortable. I had done everything I had asked of them but I probably forgot to tell people to come on and clear the ball in the last minute of the game."

"It's about five times this season that we've given games away in the last minute."

Coventry play Watford and Sunderland meet Tottenham on Sunday, with the Monday game between Liverpool and Bradford City.

Serie A

Pancaro keeps Lazio atop



ROME, Oct 31: Lazio stayed top of Italy's Serie A for at least another week here Saturday after snatching a 1-1 draw from the jaws of defeat against Inter Milan, reports AFP.

Chilean striker Ivan Zamorano had given Inter, deprived of the services of Brazilian forward Ronaldo, the advantage with a typical poacher's goal after 36 minutes.

Football fatality

BELGRADE, Oct 31: A football fan was killed when fighting broke out during a Yugoslavian league match between rival clubs Partizan Belgrade and Red Star Belgrade, the Tacug news agency reported here on Saturday, reports AFP.

The name or identity of the supporter were not revealed. Details of the incident were not given, but a statement issued by hosts Partizan Belgrade expressed the club's deepest regret at the tragic incident which they said occurred despite rigorous security measures.

"Such rigorous measures have never before been taken for any match. Despite these incidents of vandalism, which resulted in this tragic event occurred," the statement said.

Outbreaks of violence between fans from the rival Belgrade clubs have been a frequent occurrence over the past few years.

Partizan, who won the match 2-0, called for an immediate investigation into the incident.

It was Portuguese star Paulo Sousa who set up Zamorano who beat Lazio goalkeeper Luca Marchegiani from 18 yards to give the score a fair reflection after Inter had dominated the first period.

Marchegiani produced the save of the night to prevent Inter's world record buy Christian Vieri from increasing the advantage with a well-struck shot.

Then French World Cup winner Laurent Blanc had a goal disallowed in a push by his Inter team-mate Luigi Di Biagio on a visiting defender.

Lazio made a better showing after the interval but Zamorano should have wrapped up the points after 73 minutes only for his header to strike a post.

And Inter were made to rue their failure to convert their chances when Lazio equalised in injury time.

Argentinian midfielder Juan Sebastian Veron drove in a freekick and Giuseppe

Pancaro managed to deflect the ball past Angelo Peruzzi to grab a share of the points.

Earlier Saturday Fiorentina had to settle for a 1-1 draw at home to Torino.

Argentinian striker Gabriel Batistuta, whose goal in midweek against Arsenal in the European Champions League at Wembley ensured the Tuscan side progressed at the Londoners' expense, had a rare off day blasting a 52nd minute penalty over the bar.

But his compatriot Abel Balbo spared his blushes with an equaliser with one minute remaining.

Vincenzo Sommese had given Torino a 79th-minute lead. Torino's Andrea Silenzi, the former Nottingham Forest player, was injured in that match.

Bologna won 1-0 at Venezia with the winner an own goal coming from Fabio Bilica after 12 minutes.

STANDINGS