

Column One

SPORTS TALK



Saeed Anwar

(Pakistani opening batsman)
"I saw the way Michael Slater and Mark Waugh bat. I took chances and they paid and I think I've learned from them how to play in Australia."

After scoring his ninth Test century.

Boost sports WHIZZ KID

COMPETITION FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

Competition-122

Tick the Correct Answers

Post to Jir Daily Star

Win attractive prizes

Competition closes at 5 pm

Nov 12, '99 and draw

shortly afterwards

1. Which country won the SA

football gold?

2. Who is the captain of Brazil?

3. How many teams will play in next

year's Asia Cup cricket?

4. Who won the men's 100 m in the

Summer Athletics?

5. Who lifted the Grand Slam Cup

title?

Name

Class

School Address

Phone: (If any)

POWERED WITH

EN-VITS

ENERGY RELEASING VITAMINS

Young leggie to face England

CAPE TOWN, Nov 9 (Internet report): With six of their players either on Test or SA A duty, the Free State/Griqua selectors had to dig deep into their resources to come up with a competitive unit for next weekend's four-day outing against the touring England side in Bloemfontein.

Even so, the selection of 18-year-old "unknown" leg-spinner Andre Abrahams is bound to raise a few eyebrows.

Abrahams, who actually hails from Johannesburg, has yet to play for Free State, but according to the Bloemfontein youngster has already been singled out by Australia's guru of spin, Terry Jenner, for special attention.

Abrahams will, in fact, be flying out to Adelaide in two weeks' time to link up with Jenner at the Aussie Cricket Academy.

Rain bogs down SL

BULAWAYO, Nov 9 (Reuters): Rain seems likely to condemn the three-day tour match between a Zimbabwean President's XI and Sri Lanka to a stalemate.

At the close of the second day on Monday, brought forward by 29 overs because of rain, Sri Lanka had reached 194 for three in reply to the home side's 325 - a deficit of 131.

With the weather ending play soon after tea for the second time, prospects of a result being reached have waned.

The President's XI were dismissed 30 minutes before lunch, having resumed on 215 for four.

DRU sports on

The annual sports competitions of Dhaka Reporters Union (DRU) began at the organisation's office, reports BSS.

Sports organiser Nurul Alam Chowdhury inaugurated the competitions in a simple ceremony.

DRU president Shahjahan Sarfar, general secretary Mohiuddin Islam Raju, convenor of the sports committee Motahar Hossain Masum were present on the occasion.

No transfer, no cricket

BCB has been warned

Sports Reporter

Cricketers have given the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) an ultimatum to arrange the inter-club cricketers' transfer for the Premier Division within November, short of which they would not take part in any domestic cricket competition.

A memorandum to this effect was handed over yesterday evening to the BCB and the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan (CCDM) by the newly formed Cricketers Welfare Association of Bangladesh (CWAB).

President Minhazul Abedin and general secretary Faruque Ahmed, both former national skippers, handed over a copy of the memorandum to CCDM chairman Tanveer Haider. The copy addressed to the BCB president Sabir Hossain Chowdhury was received by his office.

Earlier in the morning, a meeting of the cricketers, under the banner of CWAB, was held at the National Sports Council conference room.

Chaired by Minhazul Abedin, prominent among those present at the meeting of about fifty cricketers were skipper Aminul Islam, Faruque Ahmed, Athar Ali Khan, Naimur Rahman, Khaled Mahmud, Saiful Islam Effe, Shahriar Hossain, Al-Shahriar, Jahangir Alam, Monjurul Islam, Neyamur Rashid, Mofizur Rahman, Ehsanul Haque, Habibul Bashar, Sanwar Hossain, Sajid Hasan, Zakir Hossain and

Anisur Rahman. After the meeting, the CWAB general secretary, Faruque Ahmed told a press conference that the premier league was the only means of their (cricketers) bread and butter, and unless the transfer was held they would not think of playing in any form of domestic cricket.

"Generally the transfer is held in September every year. This time the CCDM fixed November 6, 7 and 8 for the transfer, and then it deferred the transfer till January 15. This is a big blow to our earning because we don't know whether there will be any league at all," said Faruque.

"So we have decided not to play in the national league before our transfer," he added. "When asked to clarify further, Faruque said that they want the transfer first and then the national league."

"We are rigid in our demands this time. We want the transfer to be held in this month. We play the game, and the board and the CCDM is for us. If the clubs and the cricketers have to think of the transfer then there is no requirement of the board or the CCDM," said Faruque while replying to another question.

Minhazul Abedin said that the cricketers have gathered under one umbrella to press for their demands.

"This is our first step because this has come up now. We will also look into the irregularities

of the First, Second and Third Divisions subsequently and try to solve other problems too," Minhazul said.

CCDM chairman and BCB vice-president Tanveer Haider said that the transfer of Premier Division cricketers, which was scheduled to be held on the 6th, 7th and 8th of this month, had been shifted to January on the request of the clubs.

"The clubs are the main party in the transfer and if they are not interested, the CCDM can not order them," said Tanveer at the BCB office yesterday.

"The clubs want to start the league within 15 days of the transfer. The league will not start before the end of January. So we can not hold the transfer now," he added.

BCB joint-secretary and CCDM secretary Mahmud Ul Haq also thought in the same line, saying that the cricketers should not be worried about the transfer.

"The only problem is that the transfer will be held in January instead of September or November. But that does not mean there will be no league. It is only a matter of two months before or later."

"We also understand that the Premier league is their main source of income. We can assure them that under any circumstances, the league will start after the Eid ul Fitr," said Mahmud.

England take no risks

CAPE TOWN, Nov 9: England settled for a draw Monday against a below-strength Western Province side after a four-day fixture in which the visitors were largely outplayed, reports AFP.

When play was called off 30 minutes before the scheduled close, England had managed only 82-2 off 41 overs for their second innings.

Their first innings reached 249 while the South African side had racked up 358-9 declared and 140-6 declared.

The only spark from the visitors came Sunday when they had the home side staggering on 51-4 in their second innings.

But their efforts were outshone Monday by a dogged sixth-wicket South African partnership of 55 between Ashwell Prince and wicket-keeper Steve Palfreman.

Prince posted 31, including four fours, off 104 balls and Palfreman added 43 with two fours off 100 balls to his first innings 72.

Captain Louis Koen was able to declare shortly after lunch and set England the task of scoring at 5.3 runs to the over if they wanted to win - which they promptly declined.

England captain Nasser Hussain said Newland's wicket was 'too low and slow' for his men to accept the challenge of 250 runs off 47 overs set by Koen.

Butcher was run out after a horrible mix-up with opening partner Michael Atherton and just 10 runs on the board.

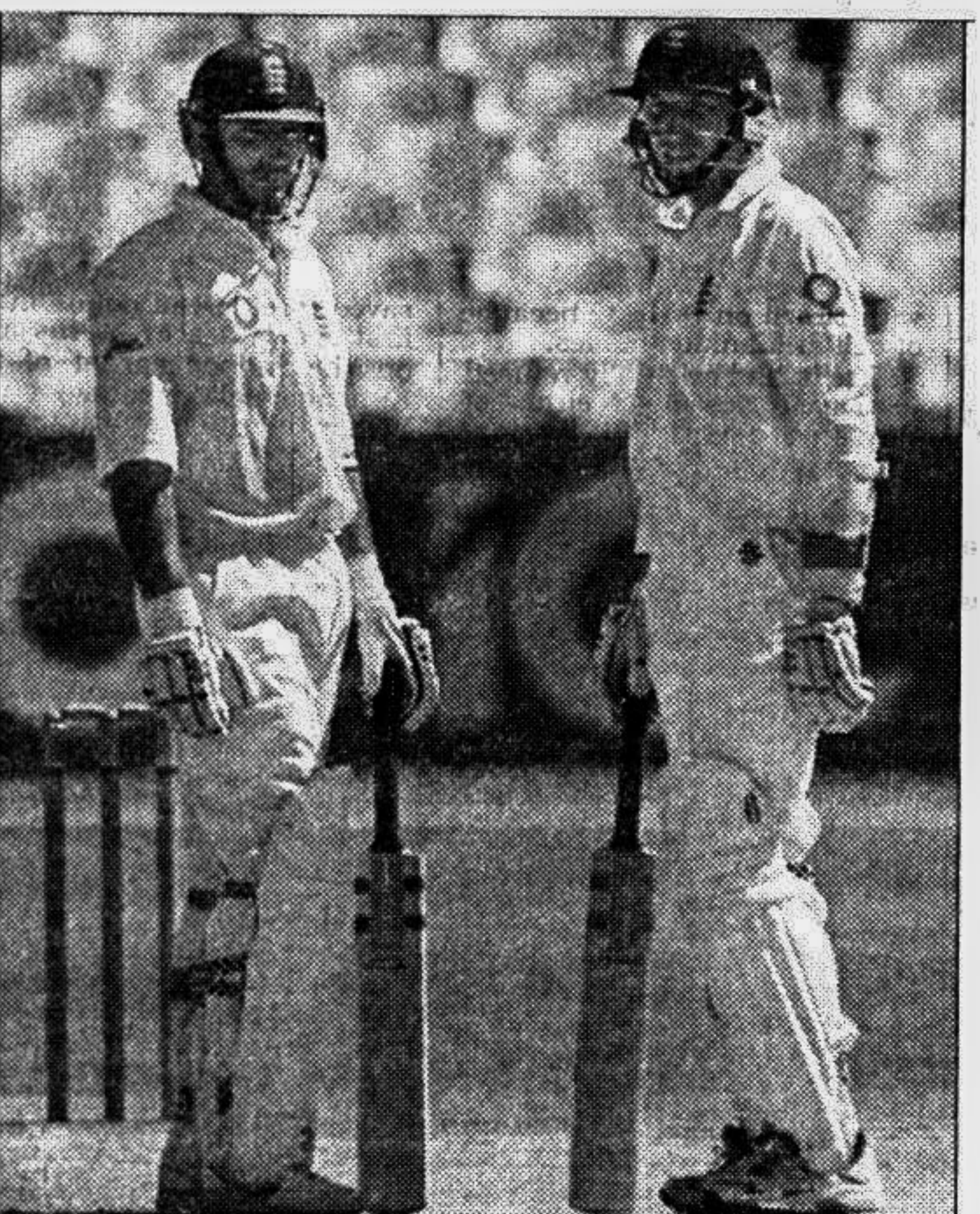
Atherton was brilliantly caught by Rashad Magiet at mid-wicket after having batted for 69 minutes for 24.

Hussain (33 off 103 balls) and Michael Vaughan (16 off 77 balls) rounded off for England.

The visitors have two more four-day matches against provincial sides before their first Test starting on November 25.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fourth and final day of the four-day fixture between a Western



England captain Nasser Hussain (L) and former skipper Michael Atherton chat between overs during the tour match against combined Western Province/Boland XI on November 8. —AFP photo

Province Boland XI on Monday:		Tudor		11	4	18	1
WP/Boland XI: First		Vaughan		12	2	31	1
Innings		Hamilton		5	1	19	0
ENGLAND: First innings		Butcher		3	1	3	0
249		Maddy		4	0	12	0
WP/Boland XI: Second		ENGLAND: Second innings					
Innings (over/10)		Butcher run out		12			3
51-4		Atherton c Magiet b Koch		24			34
Magiet b Caddick		Hussain not out		25			23
Henderson c Butcher b Mullally		Vaughan not out		16			16
Koen lbw Mullally		Extras: (lb-2, lb-1, nb-3)		6			6
Ackerman c Hamilton b Tudor		Total: (For 2 wickets in 41 overs)		82			82
Jackson c Caddick b Vaughan		Fall of wickets: 1-10; 2-30					
Palfreman not out		Bowler		O	M	R	W
Koch not out		Telemachus		7	1	20	0
Extras: (lb-2, lb-2)		Willoughby		7	3	8	0
Total: (For 6 wickets in 63 overs)		C Henderson		14	5	24	0
Fall of wickets: 1-6; 2-36; 3-		Koch		2	2	12	1
47; 4-51; 5-54; 6-109		J Henderson		2	2	15	0
Bowler		Result: Match drawn					
Caddick							
Mullally							

Butcher under pressure

LONDON, Nov 9 (Internet report): Mark Butcher has been handed a stay of execution as England's first choice opening partner alongside Michael Atherton - providing he rediscovers his form before the start of the Test series.

The Surrey left-hander, dropped for the final Test of last summer against New Zealand, had been in to provide a left hand-right hand opening partnership in an attempt to disrupt the line of South Africa's fearsome pace attack.

But having suffered at Test level, where he has not scored a half-century in the last 15 innings, he has now scored just 24 runs in his four innings since arriving in South Africa.

He could do little about his dismissal in the drawn match against a Combined Western Province/Boland XI at Newlands, a victim of a misunderstanding with Atherton

which resulted in him being run out for three.

Butcher, though, has been told no uncertain terms that he must score runs in the remaining two first class matches prior to the first Test on November 25 and ideally in this Friday's game against a Combined Free State/Griqualand XI in Bloemfontein if England are not to consider other options.

"At the moment our game-plan is Atherton and Butcher, but Mark's going to have to get some runs and we'll review it every game," stressed captain Nasser Hussain.

"You have to believe in people and I'm a firm believer in Mark Butcher when he gets into the Test arena. He has the right guts about him to get some runs."

Hussain's belief in Butcher could become important if he fails to deliver in Bloemfontein, particularly as Yorkshire's Michael Vaughan provides in-form alternative at the top of the order.

"We're not overly worried about Mark," claimed Hussain. "He's a good player, he's got plenty of Test runs and he's got runs against South Africa before."

"Everyone would like to get runs in the middle. He's an outward-going lad with a lot of confidence in himself and I wouldn't be surprised if he went out next week and got some runs."

"We would be looking to play him at Bloemfontein and you have to remember that before this last game, everyone was asking about Chris Adams and he's gone out and got 89 and hopefully that will be the case with Mark as well - he's got a couple of games to do that."

Butcher's current run drought may be helped by the standard of this week's opposition, which includes only one player with South African international experience - opener Gerhardus Leibenberg, who averaged just 9.83 during the 1998 Test series in England.

Crucial delivery for Steve!

BRISBANE, Nov 9: Steve Waugh, who rushed home to Sydney to be with wife after she went into labour, said Tuesday that Australia's 10-wicket thrashing of Pakistan at the Gabba was the best Test of his career.

"We played very aggressive cricket," said Waugh. "We were there to win the Test, not to waste time. The way we scored and bowled, it was outstanding."

Waugh rushed to catch a flight to be with his wife Lynette, who was in labour and expecting their second child in Sydney. "It's the most important delivery of the week for me," Waugh joked in a post-match television interview.

The Waughs already have a girl, Rosalie.

It was Australia's second win in successive matches following their win in Zimbabwe.

"It was a match we never in control until this morning," Waugh said after his decision to put Pakistan into bat had backfired on the first day.

"We didn't bowl well to our potential until today. We did very well to come back on the first day when they were 265 for three."

Waugh, who took over from Mark Taylor as captain, felt the game turned in Australia's favor in the last hour on the first day.

"We showed a lot of patience and played tough Test-match cricket when things weren't going our way. We've talked about it before, but this is the first time we've shown it on the field."

Clouds over Ambrose's Test career

TRINIDAD, Nov 9 (Internet report): West Indies fast bowler Courtney Walsh may have played his last Test match against Australia earlier this year, according to a report in Trinidad's Independent newspaper, picked up by the Caribbean News Agency today.

The Independent said it understands that Ambrose, who has been used interchangeably with the other veteran fast bowler Courtney Walsh in one-day cricket, has angered the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) because of his state of fitness in the recent Sharjah tournament, when the side failed to reach the final.

"Ambrose arrived for the Sharjah tour clearly underprepared and unfit and was in no condition to play up to his high standard. He was clearly inactive for a long time which caused him to be sore and unable to bowl properly," a source close to the West Indies Cricket Board was quoted as saying.

Azhar's bat does the talking

PANAJI, Goa, Nov 8 (Internet report): Discarded cricketer Mohammad Azharuddin slammed a magnificent double century in the domestic tournament today after selectors had left him out of India's tour down under.

The former India captain hit his maiden double century in Ranji Trophy to steer Hyderabad to an unassailable position against Goa at the Panaji Gymkhana Ground here on Monday.

At the close on day two Goa have scored 49 for no loss in reply to Hyderabad's first innings score of 592 for 6 declared.

But on the first ball after drinks Fleming got him with a splendid delivery which moved

and 119 along with the impressive No. 5 Yousuf Youhana's 95 and 75 and Inzamam-ul-Haq's first innings 88.

"Our batting did reasonably well considering this is our first Test in Australia. Whenever we

wicket first Test cricket loss to Australia here Tuesday and declared: "We're not done with yet."

The three-match series moves to Tasmania and the second Test at Hobart's Bellerive Oval starting on November 18, where the unpredictable Pakistanis have to win to keep the series alive to the third Test in Perth.

Although being conclusively beaten in short time on the fifth and final day, 380-Test wicket-taker Akram said: "We've done it before and we can do it again. We have a good enough side and I can assure you we are going to look a lot better side in the next Test match in Hobart."

Thirty-three year-old Akram admitted that Test inactivity had cost his team over the five days of the Brisbane Test, but they would benefit from the experience.

"We haven't played a Test match for the last six to seven months and in this Test it showed that we looked rusty in fielding," he said.

Players weren't used to fielding all day and after this Test we will definitely improve a lot as a team.

"Shoaib Akhtar didn't bowl that well, mainly because of a lack of bowling practice, but in the first innings he bowled 30 overs and that will help him."

Mushtaq Ahmed didn't have a good game, but Saqlain Mushtaq will be fit for the next game so he'll come back into the side."

Akram drew positives from the team's batting where opener Saeed Anwar starred with 61



Australian cricketers celebrate after winning the Brisbane Test. —AFP photo

Australia trounce Pakistan

BRISBANE, Nov 9 (Reuters/AFP): Australia scored a comprehensive 10-wicket victory in the first Test against Pakistan today after the tourists collapsed in their second innings.

In an extraordinary turn of events on the final day, Pakistan's second innings resistance crumbled with six wickets falling for the addition of just 58 runs to leave Australia just 74 to win with 66 overs left.

The Australians cruised to victory with in-form openers, Greg Blewett (40) and man-of-the-match Michael Slater (32) polishing off the runs in 56 minutes.

Australia have not lost a Test to Pakistan in four matches at the Gabba and it was their 16th victory in 44 Test meetings.

Pakistan resumed on the final day at 223 for four and needing to occupy the crease for long periods to stave off defeat.

But it all went wrong from the first ball when Abdur Razaq spooned a loose Shane Warne full toss straight to Ricky Ponting at silly point.

Century-maker Saeed Anwar added one run to his overnight score before he was caught behind by Adam Gilchrist off Glenn McGrath for 119.

Gilchrist, making his Test debut as Ian Healy's replacement made a snappy leg-side stumping of Azhar Mahmood off Warne for a duck.

Wasim Akram joined Moin Khan in Pakistan's last stand and hit out lustily for four fours and a six and got his team to the morning drinks break at 273 for seven.

But on the first ball after drinks Fleming got him with a splendid delivery which moved

off middle and leg to hit Akram's offstump.

Akram was out for 28 and with his departure Pakistan's fate was sealed.

Moin Khan, who blazed 61 in the first innings, was brilliantly caught by a diving Scott Muller at fine leg off Fleming for 17.

Fleming mopped up the in-

nings when he bowled Shoaib Akhtar for five to finish with 5-95 and nine wickets for the match.

But he was modest about his haul, saying the opening spells of McGrath and Warne had set up his wickets.

"We needed somebody to chip in at the end to get a few wickets, so I just aeroplaned in beautifully there," he said.

Australia have not lost a home series since being defeated by the West Indies 2-1 in 1992-93.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the final day of the first cricket Test between Australia and Pakistan at the

Gabba on Tuesday:

PAKISTAN: First innings 367 (Yousuf Youhana 95, Inzamam 88; D Fleming 4-65)

AUSTRALIA: First innings 575 (M Slater 169, M Waugh 100; S Akhtar 4-153)

PAKISTAN: Second innings (over/night 223-4)

Anwar c Gilchrist b McGrath 119
M Waism lbw b Fleming 28
Ijaz c Gilchrist b McGrath 5
Inzamam c Ponting b Fleming 12
Youshana c M Waugh b Muller 75
Razaq c Ponting b Warne 2
Moin c Muller b Fleming 17
Azhar st Gilchrist b Warne 0
Akram b Fleming 28
Mushtaq not out 1
Akhtar b Fleming 1
Extras: (b-6, lb-6, nb-5) 17
Total: (All out in 74.1 overs) 281

Fall of wkts: 1-3; 2-8; 3-37; 4-214; 5-223; 6-225; 7-227; 8-273; 9-276

Bowler: O M R W
McGrath 21 9 63 2
Fleming 14.1 2 59 5
Muller 10 1 55 1
Warne 25 8 80 2
Ponting 4 0 12 0

AUSTRALIA: Second innings
Slater not out 32
Blewett not out 30
Extras: (lb-2) 2
Total: (For no wkt in 14.2 overs) 74

Bowler: O M R W