

## India A's 1st Test from today

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad, Nov 18: Fast bowler Doddha Ganesh, the only member of the India cricket team with Test experience, is struggling to be fit for the opening unofficial Test of the series between India A and West Indies A beginning here on Friday, reports AP.

West Indies A would have been boosted by the performance of leg-spinner Dinni Nath Ramnarine in that match. The 24-year-old Trinidadian, back in first-class cricket after undergoing shoulder surgery earlier in the year, took eight wickets for 121 and earned the Man of the Match award.

### SQUADS

**INDIA A:** Hrishikesh Kanikar (captain), Gagan Khoda (vice captain), Jagdish Arunkumar, Amit Bhandari, Devendra Bundela, Samir Dighe, Doddha Ganesh, Mohammad Kalf, Murali Kartik, Jacob Maru, Pravanan Mullik, Rahul Sanghi, Laxmi Ratan Shukla, Harvinder Singh Sodhi, Sridaran Srinivas.

**WEST INDIES A:** Jimmy Adams (captain), Darren Ganga, Chris Gayle, Ryan Hinds, Sylvester Joseph, Rawl Lewis, Dwight Mais, Nixon McLean, Brenton Parchment, Wayne Phillip, Goldwyn Prince, Lincoln Roberts, Ramaresh Sarwan, Rodney Sooklal.

## Zimbabwe off on wrong foot

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe, Nov 18: Zimbabwe's batting woes continued here Thursday in the opening session of the first Test in the three-match series against Sri Lanka as they were struggling on 74 for three at lunch, reports AFP.

Pramodha Wickremasinghe, bowling first change, got Grant Flower to edge a catch to Russell Arnold at slip with the first ball after the drinks break.

Flower made 17 and was looking secure when he played a rash shot.

Three balls later Wickremasinghe trapped Gavin Rennie leg before 16. The opening pair had put on 37 for the first wicket, but Sri Lanka exerted further pressure on the home team when Chaminda Vaas induced a poor shot from Neil Johnson and a difficult catch at second slip was snapped up by Arnold.

In recent Tests against Australia and South Africa, Zimbabwe's batting was exposed as less than international standard. They had hoped, given a less lively wicket than in Harare last week and slightly slower bowling from the Sri Lanka opening trio, that a recovery would be on the cards.

But Sri Lanka captain Sanath Jayasuriya's decision to put Zimbabwe in after winning the toss, questioned by several commentators, turned out to be justified.

The Sri Lanka bowlers were tight without being especially dangerous. But they were able to induce some indifferent shots from the Zimbabweans - and, there might well have been a couple of run-outs early on.

Only 24 overs were bowled in the first session but Sri Lanka will be well pleased with their performance so far, while Zimbabwe still have a lot of work to do in order to achieve a decent first innings total.

**SCOREBOARD**  
Scoreboard at lunch on the opening day of the first Test between Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe in Bulawayo on Thursday:

**ZIMBABWE:** First innings  
G Flower c Arnold b Wickremasinghe 17  
Rennie lbw b Wickremasinghe 16  
Goodwin not out 13  
Johnson c Arnold b Vaas 17  
A Flower not out 2  
Extras: 9  
Total: (For 3 wks in 24 overs) 74  
Fall: 1-33, 2-37, 3-68

To bat: Alastair Campbell, Gary Brent, Guy Whittall, Bryan Strang, Andrew Whittall, Henry Olonga.

**SRI LANKA:** Sanath Jayasuriya, Marvan Atapattu, Roshan M Dilshan, Romesh Karanam, Indika de Chaminda Vaas, Indrajith Pramodha Wickremasinghe, Muttiah Muralitharan.



Don Hutchison (No 10), the Scotland Striker, is ecstatic after scoring against England at Wembley on November 17. — AFP photo

## Bravehearts go down bravely



LONDON, Nov 18: England stumbled into Euro 2000 on Wednesday despite losing 1-0 to their rivals Scotland at Wembley in a desperately tight qualifying play-off second leg match on Wednesday, reports AFP.

England didn't have a single shot on target all night in front of nearly 76,000 fans and squeezed into next year's finals in the Netherlands and Belgium thanks to Paul Scholes' two goals which gave them a 2-0 first leg win at Hampden Park on Saturday.

Don Hutchison was Scotland's hero on the night at an icy Wembley, heading home what proved to be the winner in the 39th-minute.

Just as they had in the first leg, Craig Brown's side dominated most of the match and in the end England needed a point blank save by goalkeeper David Seaman from Christian Dailly in the final 10 minutes to advance 2-1 on aggregate.

Kevin Keegan's team barely had a worthwhile shot all night as they went down to their first defeat since the new coach took over nine games ago.

Scotland's win was their first at Wembley since 1981 and it confounded the pundits predicting a massacre.

The England coach, virtually hoarse after the game, knew he had little to shout about, saying: "We didn't play well. We just couldn't get going at all."

There's a lot of excuses we could make maybe for some of the players it was a little bit too much for them in defending a 2-0 lead. Too much psychologically.

We knew we had to work, but it was a poor performance. But give Scotland credit because

England's only other effort of note in a shocking first half display was an early drive by Paul Scholes, the two-goal hero of Hampden, which whistled past Sullivan's near post into the side netting.

Scotland's midfield of John Collins and Barry Ferguson were by the more effective and both had efforts on goal, Ferguson in particular wasting a clear header.

England had nothing but frustration to show for their efforts - and a booking for Paul

Sheldan.

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It followed the last whistle of the referee, hundreds of fans at the Ataturk stadium in Bursa rushed into the pitch hugging the players and the coaches, singing national anthems and dancing at the background of stands covered with red Turkish flags.

A long convoy of cars followed for kilometers (miles) the bus carrying the team to Istanbul.

"Our country deserved this ... This success is a present for our suffering people, for suffering Turkey," said the head of the Turkish Football Federation, Haluk Ulusoy.

The atmosphere of festivity replaced the gloomy mood that has been prevailing in Turkey

since last Friday when a massive tremor measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale hit the country's northwest, killing at least 550 people and injuring more than 3,200 others.

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