

## Gade enters last eight

BIRMINGHAM, England, Mar 10: World men's number one Peter Gade reached the All England quarterfinals with a comfortable 15-3, 15-9 victory over Indonesia's Budi Santoso on Thursday but women's top seed Ye Zhaoying was beaten 11-9, 11-9 by a revitalised Mia Audina, reports Reuters.

## Mighty Rafique

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then shared a match-winning 83-run stand for the seventh wicket before Brothers captain Khaled Mahmud removed Neeamur for 33 with a brilliant return catch in the 47th over. Neeamur faced 44 balls and struck two boundaries.

When Tillekeratne departed courtesy of yet another run out for a 56-ball 42 it left Mohammedan on 208 for eight in 47.3 overs.

But Rafique's cameo denied the Gopibagb club their victory. Earlier, put into bat, Brothers were all out for 227 in 49.4 overs with their new Pakistani recruit Farhan Adil hammering highest 84.

The Pakistan under-19 captain who arrived on Thursday, faced 99 balls and hit three fours. His compatriot Abid Hanif, with a 100-ball 55, was the other notable run-getter.

Left-arm seamer Monjurul Islam captured three for 43 from 8.4 overs followed by Athar Ali who took two wickets for 35 runs from ten overs.

It was the fourth win for Mohammedan in five matches which placed them in the second place of the 12-team league table along with Kalabagan Kira Chakra and Surjo Tarun Club. They trail leaders Biman and Abahani Kira Chakra by a win. On the other hand, it was the third defeat for Brothers from as many matches.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Premier Division Cricket League match between Mohammedan Sporting Club and Brothers Union National Stadium yesterday:

## BROTHERS UNION

Shahriar c Rafique b Athar	11			
Ehsanul c Mortuza b Athar	1			
Jahangir c Monjurul b Kalpage	19			
A Hanif c Hannan b Dharmasena	55			
Farhan b Monjurul	84			
Sanwar c Tillekeratne b Monjurul	16			
S Mehmed run out	1			
K Mahmud c Monjurul b Rafique	18			
Mukhtar run out	1			
Jamaluddin not out	2			
Shafuiddin c Hannan b Monjurul	1			
Extras: (b-4, lb-2, nb-2, w-10)	18			
Total: All out in 49.4 overs	227			
Fall of wickets: 1/2; 2/16; 3/72; 4/128; 5/165; 6/168; 7/217; 8/221; 9/225				
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Monjurul	8.4	0	43	3
Athar	10	1	35	2
Kalpage	10	0	46	1
Rafique	10	0	28	1
Dharmasena	9	0	49	1
Tillekeratne	2	0	20	0

## MOHAMMEDAN SC

Rashed b K Mahmud	6			
Hannan lbw b Shafuluddin	45			
Nasirul lbw b A Hanif	35			
Athar st Mukhtar b S Mehmed	5			
Kalpage c Mukhtar b S Mehmed	5			
Dharmasena b A Hanif	9			
Tillekeratne run out	42			
Neeamur c b K Mahmud	33			
Rafique not out	25			
Mortuza c Mukhtar b S Mehmed	1			
Monjurul not out	0			
Extras: (b-2, lb-7, nb-3, w-17)	24			
Total: (For 9 wickets in 49.3 overs)	231			
Fall of wickets: 1/7; 2/14; 3/65; 4/85; 5/106; 6/116; 7/199; 8/208; 9/219				
<b>Bowler</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
K Mahmud	10	1	35	2
Shafuddin	6	1	22	1
Sanwar	4	0	18	0
A Hanif	10	0	41	2
S Mehmed	10	0	43	3
Jamaluddin	6.3	0	48	0
Farhan	3	0	15	0
<b>Result: Mohammed Saif won by one wicket.</b>				

Result: Mohammedan SC won by one wicket.

## Masood

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Extras: (b-4, lb-2, nb-1, w-9)  
Total: (For 3 wks in 43.1 overs)  
Did not bat: Enamul Hogue,  
Rajesh Chaudhan, Sagar Sarfaraz,  
Imran Ahmed, Suja Erfan and  
Morshed Ali Khan.

Fall of wickets: 1/20; 2/32;  
3/62

Bowler	O	M	R
Mizan	10	0	30
Mofizur	6	1	23
Haidar	2	0	9
S Malik	7	0	27
Mosaddaq	9	0	29
Russell	8.1	0	52
Mridul	1	0	7

Result: Surjo Tarun won  
seven wickets.

Result: Surjo Tarun won by seven wickets.

## Lothar off to the States

MUNICH, Mar 10: Lothar Matthaeus flew to New York today to start his new soccer career in the United States, reports Reuters.

The 38-year-old libero, who wore Bayern Munich colours for the last time in their 4-1 defeat of Real Madrid at the Olympic stadium on Wednesday, has signed a one-year contract with New York-New Jersey MetroStars.

The captain of Germany's 1990 World Cup-winning side avoided waiting reporters at the Munich airport before heading for an uncertain future.

Matthaeus first played for Bayern from 1984 to 1988 and re-joined them in 1992 after a four-year spell with Inter Milan.

He will be back in Munich on May 26 for his farewell match between Germany and a Bayern selection.

# WI duo fighting fitness



KINGSTON, Mar 10: The West Indies legendary opening pacemen Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh were struggling to be 100 per cent fit for the opening Test with Zimbabwe which starts next Thursday in Trinidad, reports AFP.

The 36-year-old Ambrose, who has taken 369 Test wickets and is considered one of the great fast bowlers of all time, is to have an X-ray on Friday to determine the cause of a recurring swollen left knee.

However, Ronald Rogers, the West Indies' sports therapist, claimed that the injury was not serious enough to rule the beam-pole West Indies fast bowler out of the opening Test.

There is no concern about him not being able to play or anything like that," Rogers said.

"He is feeling no pain and the problem has been recurring for years. It's just that I want to know what is causing it in order to deal with it. That's the reason for the X-ray."

"It gets puffed and I have taken him out of activities (for the time being) while we control the swelling," he added.

Ambrose bowled a five-over spell on Thursday during training which simulated match conditions.

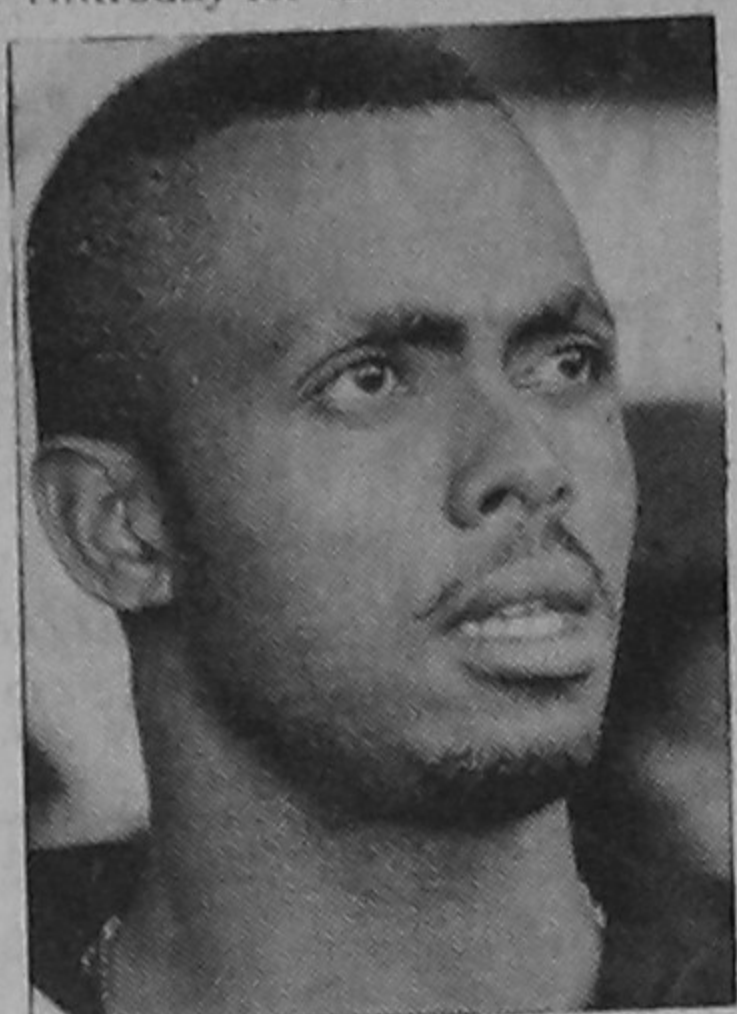
Once his spell was complete, he took no further part in training and saw a doctor who prescribed anti-inflammatories.

The concern about Ambrose comes on the heels of an ankle injury to his long-time new-ball partner Walsh, who is also recovering from a bout of influenza which has kept him out of much of the activities in a nine-day training camp.

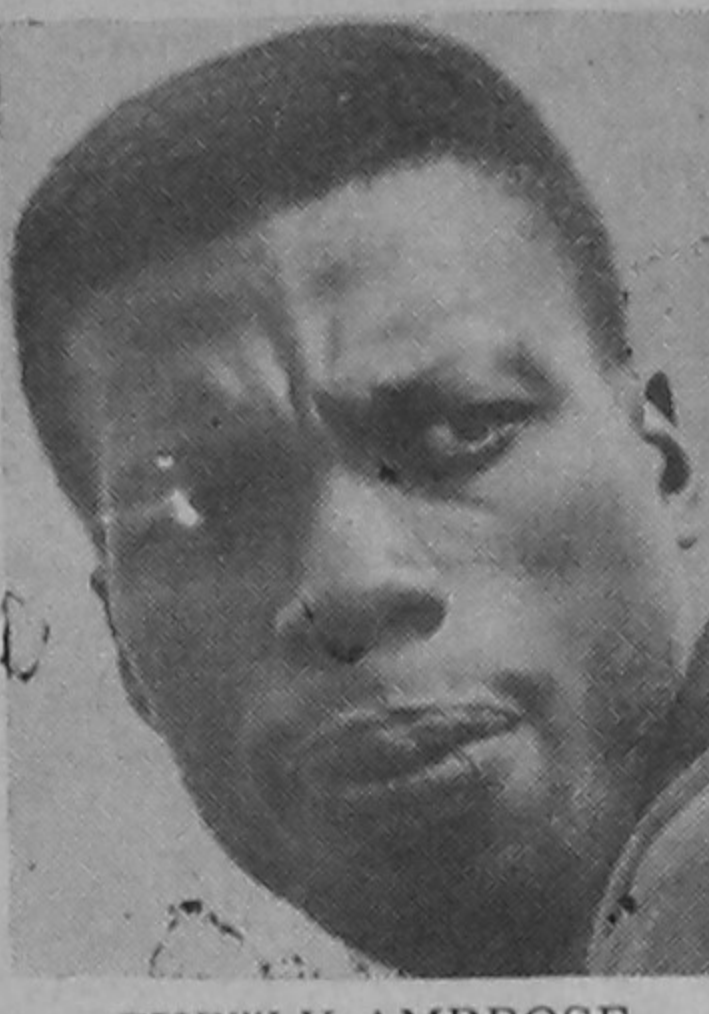
Walsh, who needs nine

wickets to break Kapil Dev's world record of 434 Test wickets, returned to Sabina Park on Thursday for the first time after

being confined to bed on Monday because of the flu. He is to resume light training on Friday.



COURTNEY WALSH



CURTLY AMBROSE

## Lara, Pollock leaders



LONDON, Mar 10 (Reuters): Former captain Brian Lara, set to miss West Indies' home Test series against Zimbabwe, remains top of the Pricewaterhouse Coopers batting rankings while South African Jacques Kallis shows the top 10.

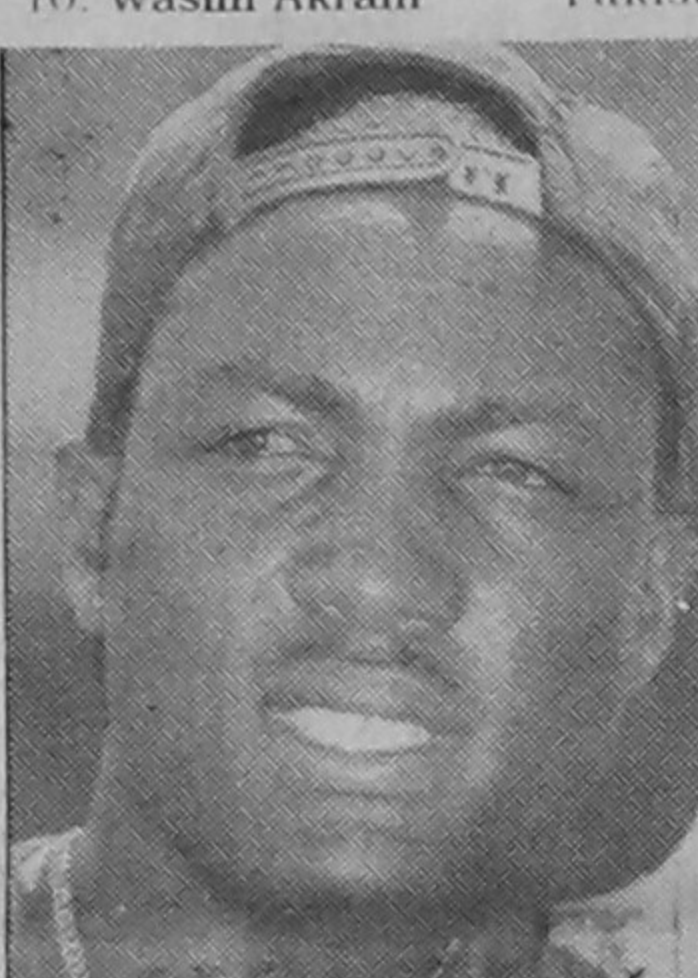
The rankings, released on Thursday, show South Africa's Shaun Pollock remains the top bowler ahead of Australia's Glenn McGrath.

## BATSMEN

Player	Team	Points	Career Average
1. Brian Lara	West Indies	900	51.60
2. Sachin Tendulkar	India	863	55.37
3. Steve Waugh	Australia	852	50.36
4. Ricky Ponting	Australia	829	47.51
5. Saeed Anwar	Pakistan	810	46.53
6. Aravinda de Silva	Sri Lanka	783	43.89
7. Nasser Hussain	England	750	39.13
8. Jacques Kallis	South Africa	747	43.16
9. Alec Stewart	England	738	40.78
10. Justin Langer	Australia	731	40.10

## BOWLERS

Player	Team	Points	Career Average
1. Shaun Pollock	South Africa	905	20.33
2. Glenn McGrath	Australia	901	22.42
3. Allan Donald	South Africa	877	21.59
4. Curtly Ambrose	West Indies	814	21.31
5. Muttiah Muralitharan	Sri Lanka	766	26.36
6. Chris Cairns	New Zealand	733	29.30
7. Anil Kumble	India	722	28.01
8. Damien Fleming	Australia	720	24.90
9. Courtney Walsh	West Indies	698	25.47
10. Wasim Akram	Pakistan	697	23.12



BRIAN LARA



SHAUN POLLOCK

## WC 2006

## England bidders in Tunisia

TUNIS, March 10: England stepped up their bid to stage the 2006 World Cup on Thursday when former British sports minister Tony Banks and 2006 campaign director Alec McGivern arrived in Tunis to promote their bid, reports AFP.

The two men, looking to drum up international support, are making their second visit to Tunisia.

They will stay until Saturday and will be meeting with top government officials as well as the newly-appointed president of the Tunisian Football federation Slim Aloulou, who is also a member of football's international governing body (FIFA).

England are competing with Germany, Brazil, Morocco and South Africa for the right to host the 2006 competition.

FIFA will announce the winner on July 6 in Zurich.

## Premiership preview

# Easy outing on paper for MU



LONDON, March 10: Manchester United will be looking to build on their Champions League success in midweek by stretching their lead at the top of the Premiership when they host strugglers Derby on Saturday, reports AFP.

The reigning champions are close to securing a place in the last eight of Europe's most prestigious trophy after coming from behind to win 2-1 away to French champions Bordeaux on Tuesday night.

And as they turn their attention to league matters this weekend, United will be expecting three points against a team which has won just seven games all season, while second-placed Leeds face a tricky trip to Bradford on Sunday.

The first-ever top flight meeting between the West Yorkshire neighbours ended in a 2-1 victory for David O'Leary's men back in November last year but Bradford are no longer the whipping boys of the Premiership.

The Premiership newcomers belie their lowly league position and against two top-five clubs to visit Villa Parade this season, Paul Jewell's side beat Arsenal 2-1 and held Chelsea to 1-1 draw.

Derby matches are traditionally great levellers and Leeds cannot afford any more slip-ups if they are to last the pace at the top of the league as the race for the title heats up.

Much will depend on how quickly Leeds recover from their exertions in the UEFA Cup clash at home to Roma on Thursday.

But having ousted the Italians they will surely be on a high.

Third-placed Chelsea host Everton, looking to extend their unbeaten league run to 12 games.

Gianluca Vialli has seen his side move back into a Champions League qualification spot after victory at Newcastle last week and will start red-hot favourites against the Merseysiders who will be without top striker Kevin Campbell.

Everton have been plunged into a striker crisis after Campbell was this week ruled out for at least another month.

Campbell has a knee injury and has been advised to rest by a specialist.

However, Stephen Hughes, Everton's 3 million pound (4.8 million dollar) signing from Arsenal, is expected to make his debut.

Everton have won only once at Stamford Bridge in the last eight visits back in November 1994.

Goal-shy Middlesbrough must find their shooting boots if they are to avoid being sucked into the relegation zone - but face a stiff test at home to fourth-placed Arsenal on Sunday.

Bryan Robson's side scored only their fifth goal in nine games in Saturday's 1-1 draw at Southampton - and that was from the penalty spot - while at home they have hit the net a paltry 11 times in 14 games, the second worst ratio in the Premiership, behind Sheffield Wednesday.

Liverpool, in fifth, are hopeful their Finnish defender Sami Hyypia will return at home to Sunderland after being forced to sit out the second-half in the 1-1 draw at Manchester United last weekend.

The Anfield skipper needed,

five stitches in an ankle wound after Ole Gunnar Solskjaer late challenge.

But fellow stopper Vegard Heggem, who suffered a hamstring injury in the same game, is not so fortunate and will be out for another three weeks.

The Anfield crowd hope they are in for a treat after news emerged Thursday evening that the Merseysiders have agreed an 11 million-pound (17.5 million dollar) fee for Leicester and England striker Emile Heskey, who was due to put pen to paper on Friday and could make his debut.

Sunderland are on their worst league run for 14 years - three points from a possible 27 - while Liverpool have lost just twice in 16 matches.

Peter Reid's men will be hoping 24-goal top-scorer Kevin Phillips can breach the Premiership's meaneast defence.

Newcastle get an immediate chance to redeem themselves after their 14-game unbeaten home run came to an end at home to Chelsea last Saturday when they host Watford.

Watford have the worst home and away record in the league and look doomed to relegation.

With just one win in 14 attempts, victory at St James's Park will be viewed as a giant-killing.

**FIXTURES (kick-off 1500GMT unless stated):**  
**Saturday:** Aston Villa v Coventry, Chelsea v Everton, Liverpool v Sunderland, Manchester United v Derby, Newcastle v Watford, Sheffield Wednesday v West Ham, Tottenham v Southampton, Wimbledon v Leicester.

**Sunday:** Bradford v Leeds (k/o 1600), Middlesbrough v Arsenal.



Veteran German footballer Lothar Matthaeus (background) and girlfriend Maren Mueller-Wohlfahrt are swamped by reporters at Munich Airport yesterday. — AFP photo

## No Ponting for six months

SYDNEY, Mar 10: Australian batsman Ricky Ponting will be out of cricket for six months after successful surgery revealed more damage to his right ankle than anticipated, reports AFP.

Although Ponting had originally expected to be out of action only briefly, surgeon Martin Sullivan Friday said the right hander had done enormous damage to the ankle and would be sidelined for a lengthy period.

"We gave him every opportunity to get better without surgery but we knew all along he needed surgery," Sullivan said.

"The guy's had major surgery. It was a terrible injury. The bottom line is he hit the fence at ferocious speed and did a lot of damage."

Ponting injured the ankle when sliding into the boundary fence at the Sydney Cricket Ground while fielding in a one-day match against Pakistan last month.

The one blessing is that the injury comes at a good time for the Tasmanian right-hander, who will only miss the current tour of New Zealand and a three-match one-day series in South Africa next month.

Australia play a return three-match home series against South Africa in August and then have no commitments until the home Test series against the West Indies starts in October.

"That's ideal, we're looking at getting him right for summer," Sullivan said.

Ponting said being out of the Australian team would fuel his desire to make a full recovery.

"It's not nice being on the outskirts and I don't intend being here for long," he said in a statement.

Sullivan expected Ponting to be fully recovered within five to six months.

## Twin tons put Tasmania on top

HOBART, Australia, Mar 10: Tasmania's Andrew Dykes and Shaun Young almost certainly snuffed out Victoria's faint hopes of hosting the Sheffield Shield cricket final this season with centuries here Friday, reports AFP.

Dykes hit a career high 153 and Young an unbeaten 104 as they transformed a match that Victoria had dominated through the morning session.

At the close, replying to Victoria's first innings of 279 for nine declared, Tasmania were 351 for five, a lead of 72 runs.

Earlier Tasmania had slumped to 37 for four in the face of a hostile attack led by former Test fast bowler Paul Reiffel.

In wet Sydney, Jo Angel, Ryan Campbell and Mike Hussey ensured that New South Wales' miserable season continued by putting Western Australia in a commanding position with two days left of their match.

NSW resumed on 205 for five but were rolled for 255 as Angel took a career-best haul of 6-64.

In reply, WA had motored to 239 for one by stumps with Mike Hussey unbeaten on 123 and Ryan Campbell scoring a breezy 93.

In Brisbane, South Australian Brett Swain was looking for a place to hide after explosive Queensland batsman Andrew Symonds savaged the SA bowling to rescue Queensland in their match at Allan Border Field.

Swain, who bowled well to take two wickets, was the villain after dropping Symonds off spinner Brad Young's bowling, putting down a sharp, head-

high chance in the gully before Symonds had scored.

Symonds, who should notch his 21st first class century Saturday, then proceeded to plaster the ball all around the ground.

Symonds and Geoff Foley smacked 12 fours and four sixes in a rapid-fire 91-run partnership.

The opening day was washed out.

## Agassi, Sampras depart

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona, Mar 10: World number one Andre Agassi was in a daze and Pete Sampras in pain after each was knocked out of the Franklin Templeton Tennis Classic on Thursday. Agassi by Francisco Clay and Sampras by a back injury, reports Reuters.

Agassi lost a lightning-fast, 6-1, 6-2, second-round match.

"I'm shocked," said Agassi after the 49-minute beating from the Spanish baseliner. "I haven't lost like this in a while and it didn't feel good. It just wasn't a good day out there."

The tournament was left without its two top seeds when less than an hour after Agassi's thumping, Sampras pulled out with a back strain.

It's not disk, it's a strained ligament on the lower side of my right back," said Sampras. "It's a little strained and you don't want to make this problem worse by playing on it. It's best to have some rest and treatment on it."

Spaniard Alex Corretja advanced on Sampras' withdrawal, and next will face countryman Juan Carlos Ferrero.

Agassi, riding high after winning the French and US Open last year and this year's Australian Open title, endured his worst outdoor hard court defeat since losing to Andre Gomes 6-2, 6-0 in 1987 at Tokyo.

# Trans-Tasman Test tussle



AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Mar 10: Steve Waugh's suggestion that an Australian team and their master leg-spinner Shane Warne begin a three-Test series with New Zealand here Saturday with new records in their sights, reports AFP.

Australia need to win the Eden Park Test to equal an 80-year-old record of eight consecutive Test wins, just days after the one-day world champions established a new record of 14 unbeaten matches in beating the Kiwis 4-1 in a limited-overs series.

Warne is confident of adding the Kiwis to their Test scalps. But looking for a positive slant, New Zealand team coach David Trist has hinted the strain of expectation could sidetrack the Australians as they strive for the records.

"There's a lot of fuss being made about it but, at this point in time, they haven't actually got (the record) yet," Trist said Friday.

"I'm suggesting they've got a fight on their hands."

Trist's belief hinges on the ability of spinners Daniel Vettori and Paul Wiseman to come up trumps on a wicket expected to turn significantly during the five days.

The 21-year-old Vettori is highly rated by the Aussies while Wiseman is still finding his international feet but Trist is confident the slow men can take the fight to Australia's aggressive batsmen.

"We are comfortable with the first Test being played here in Auckland and I think it will be a huge fight," said Trist.

"Daniel Vettori has established himself as a world-class left-arm, probably the best in the world at the moment, and Wiseman is coming along in leaps and bounds."

Australia have champion leg-spinner Warne to cash in on the spinning conditions - but he has preferred to play down the conditions as he contemplates taking his record-breaking five wickets.

"My outlook now is that if it happens (breaking the record), it happens and if it doesn't, then hopefully eventually it will."

But that's the way it goes. My mindset is to get on and bowl and get back to the things that are important - bowling maidens, bowling in partnerships and maintaining pressure."

Having whitewashed Pakistan and India 3-0 in home Test series and beaten Zimbabwe in Zimbabwe, the Aus-

trians are confident of adding the Kiwis to their Test scalps. But looking for a positive slant, New Zealand team coach David Trist has hinted the strain of expectation could sidetrack the Australians as they strive for the records.

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