

Warne looks to Healy's match

BRISBANE, Dec 12: Australia's greatest wicket-taker Shane Warne could use Ian Healy's testimonial match at the Gabba here next week to push his claims for a recall to the Boxing Day Test against the West Indies, reports AFP.

Initially Warne was happy to have a bat and a bit of fun in the former Australian Test wicketkeeper's testimonial bash but the leg-spinning great may bowl in the game to show he is fully recovered from finger surgery which has so far kept him out of the Test series.

Match promoter Paul Smith said Warne and injured Australian captain Steve Waugh had both confirmed they would play in Healy's match on December 21.

"Initially Warne was only looking to have a bat and maybe a bowl, but now he's keen to get as much bowling practice as possible," said Smith Tuesday.

Healy's team will include the Waugh twins, Steve and Mark, former Test captains Allan Border and Mark Taylor and appearances by popular retired stars David Boon, Merv Hughes and Craig McDermott.

His 12th man will be only time US Open tennis champion Pat Rafter.

The Rest of the World side will be led by two cricketing greats, Sir Richard Hadlee and Sir Vivian Richards.

Healy will donate all funds raised from the game to his charity foundation.

Gilchrist

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"It's just that one person happens to have the C next to their name and tosses the coin."

"There'll be nerves but probably more from being extremely proud and realising I'm very lucky and very fortunate to join an elite group of gentlemen to have captained Australia — with that aside it'll be business as usual."

But for past off-field indiscretions, Ponting could well have been the man accepting the captaincy today, but instead he sounded satisfied in the back-up role.

"Having done six or seven one-day games last year, I really enjoyed that challenge," Ponting said.

The Tasmanian's move to the first slip position meant captain and vice-captain will be side by side in the field.

"It'll make communicating that much easier and hopefully we can make the right moves when required," Ponting said.

Dujon

From page 13

five, showed the rest of the team that it was possible to turn things round from any position.

The other guys are definitely inspired," Harper said.

But doubts remain about the rest of the West Indies top order.

Apart from Wavell Hinds' streaky 40, they all failed in Hobart last the long West Indian injury list is starting to shorten.

Veteran bowler Courtney Walsh, a late withdrawal from this match with a sore back, will be okay for Adelaide, Harper said.

Fellow bowlers Nixon McLean and Mervyn Dillon should also be fit, though spinner Mahendra Nagamootoo and out-of-form batsman Ramnaresh Sarwan probably won't be.

This means 19-year-old replacement Marlon Samuels, who bowled a lot of tidy though unthreatening off spin but failed with the bat in his first match in Australia, will almost certainly be thrown into the Test cauldron.

The Australia A match was always going to end in a draw after the West Indies piled on 492 Monday for a first innings lead of 53 and Australian captain Damien Martyn determined to use the final day for batting practice.

During an irrelevant day, which ended an hour early, opener Jamie Cox atoned for his first innings failure with a patient 94 and fellow opener Jimmy Maher followed up his first innings 150 with an entertaining 46.

Martyn, who is taking Steve Waugh's batting place in the third Test team, had more than two and a half hours batting practice, remaining unbeaten on 58, as Australia A finished on 210 for three.

SCOREBOARD

Scorecard on the final day of the four-day tour cricket match between Australia A and the West Indies at Bellerrive here.

AUSTRALIA A: First innings 439 for 9 declared (J Maher 150, M Love 76; M Samuels 3-100, C Stuart 4-17).

AUSTRALIA A: Second innings

Mohr & Brown 2-49 46 Cox & Adams 2-49 94 Hodge & Brown 2-52 8 Martyn not out 58 Match not out 0 Extras (lb-2, nb-2) 4 Total (For 3 wkt in 78 overs) 210 Fall of wickets: 1-70, 2-87, 3-208

Bowler O M R W Black 15 4 49 0 Stuart 17 4 52 1 Jeremy 18 5 42 2 Samuels 14 2 34 0 Adams 11 2 29 0 Ganga 1 0 2 0 Jacobs 1 1 0 0 Campbell 1 1 0 0

Result: Match drawn.

Super Cup Al Hilal's



RYADH, Dec 12: Saudi Arabia's Al Hilal claimed the Asian Super Cup and a place at next year's FIFA World Cup, drawing the second leg with Japan's Shimizu S-Pulse 1-1 and taking the tie 3-2 on aggregate, reports AFP.

International midfielder Omar Al Ghamdi emerged as Al Hilal's hero, bringing to life the crowd at Riyadh's King Fahd Stadium with his 71st minute strike which clinched his club's second Asian Super Cup and their fifth AFC trophy.

Al Ghamdi's strike calmed the nerves of the 35,000 home fans who had been quietened by Daisuke Ichikawa's goal in the 29th minute that had left Shimizu needing one more goal to qualify.

With the exception of an early chance in the third minute, when Ricardo Tamayo couldn't head Ahmed Dukhi's half-cleared cross on target, the first half-hour was a relatively cagey affair.

Shimizu appeared reluctant to press forward too much too early and Al Hilal, equally seemed unwilling to commit to attack either.

That all changed with Ichikawa's goal in the 29th minute. Teruyoshi Ito chipped a cross towards the far post where Yasuhiro Yoshida had drifted away from his marker.

The striker's low header was well blocked by Mohammed Al Daeya but he could not clear the danger and Ichikawa pounced, drilling the ball into the far corner despite Mohamed Al Nazan's challenge.

Immediately the game opened up, Sanyo MVP Nawaf Al Temayi started on a storming run from close to the halfway line, trailing three defenders in his wake. The Saudi international drifted past Ryuzo Morikoshi with ease but his floated shot just grazed the top of the crossbar.

In the 38th minute Al Hilal came closer still when Mangut's bouncing cross eluded the Shimizu defence and was met by the diving Colombian Ricardo

Tamayo at the far post. Sanada did extremely well to get down to block the header and reacted quickly to sweep the ball away with his feet.

Shimizu had the last chance of the half, but the Brazilian 'Alex' shot straight at Al Daeya from a tight angle.

his way into the penalty area, but when he lost possession the ball dropped to Al Ghamdi whose shot deflected off Toshihide Saito into the top corner.

Shimizu's search for the goal that would have forced extra time produced two excellent chances for Japan's national

team captain Ryuzo Morioka.

The first, which came from a corner, the Shimizu sweeper managed to hook sideways across goal from just a yard out. The second, created by Ichikawa's run and low cross, was a diving header that flashed just near post.

The J.League team, however, could not make the breakthrough, leaving Al Hilal to celebrate their place in Seville alongside the 1999 Super Cup winners Jubilo Iwata.

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Yasuna Gasotaro Hmzu (L) of Japanese side Shimizu shielding the ball from Mohammed Shalhoub of Al Hilal, Saudi Arabia during their Asian Super Cup encounter in Riyadh on December 11. - AFP photo

The second half however returned to the pattern of the first 30 minutes, with few chances for either side.

Then after 70 minutes Al Ghamdi struck the goal that sends Al Hilal to the Club World Championship scheduled for July 29 to August 12 2001 in Spain.

Japanese club Jubilo Iwata, who won this event in 1999, will also be at the Spanish event.

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With a tour to Sri Lanka

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"While they've done well, I think they'll have some doubts about how they're going to go against Australia," he said.

Waugh singled out spinner Ashley Giles and left-handed batsman Graham Thorpe as English match winners but said former skipper Michael Atherton, who scored a first innings century in Karachi, would find the going a lot tougher next year.

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