

Q'land on top

FROM PAGE 13
Symonds was run out for 23.
Stuart Clark (3-31) claimed every wicket to fall to the Blues' bowlers, removing Jimmy Maher (10), Jerry Cassell (12) and Martin Love (12).
Earlier, Michael Kasprovic took 5-44 and medium-pace Symonds 3-30 as Queensland ran through the NSW batting order.
In Adelaide, South Australia's youngest player Paul Rofe got his first five-wicket haul in first-class cricket as Western Australia were dismissed for 227 on day one of their match at Adelaide Oval.
The 20-year-old former Australian under-19 team member bowled 23 tight overs, including 11 maidens, for figures of 5-30, the best of his eight-match first-class career.
Brad Hogg was WA's top-scorer with a dotted innings of 56 not out from 146 balls.
South Australia were no wicket for six at stumps after three overs.

'Kandy Man'

FROM PAGE 13
over with a probing line and length.
Earlier, the hosts declared their second innings closed at 224-6 after having resumed at 128-1.
Sri Lanka plundered 96 in 20 overs on the last morning, with opener Marvan Atapattu (84) and Sangakkara (45) going for quick runs.
The Sri Lankan opener added 26 to his overnight score before being stumped by Ridley Jacobs off leg-spinner Dinanath Ramnarine while trying a big shot.
Sangakkara hammered 35 off 30 balls he faced before losing his wicket in a bid to step up the run-rate.

SCOREBOARD
Final scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the second Test between Sri Lanka and the West Indies at the Asgiriya Stadium in Kandy on Sunday:
SRI LANKA: First innings 288 (M Jayawardene 88, H Tillakaratne 87; P Collins 4-84, M Dillon 3-55, D Ramnarine 3-75)
WEST INDIES: First innings 191 (B Lara 56, C Gayle 44; M Muralitharan 4-55, C Vaas 4-57)
SRI LANKA: Second innings (over-night 128-1)
Atapattu st Jacobs b R'rine 84
Jayasuriya c Gayle b R'rine 55
Sangakkara c R'rine b Dillon 45
Jayawardene c Stuart b Dillon 16
Arnold c Dillon b R'rine 1
Tillakaratne not out 7
Vaas c Ganga b R'rine 0
Samaraweera not out 3
Extras: (b-3, lb-6, w-2, nb-2) 13
Total: (For 6 wkts decl in 67 overs) 224
Fall of wickets: 1-89, 2-176, 3-204, 4-206, 5-215, 6-215

Bowler O M R W
Dillon 19 2 61 2
Collins 11 0 52 0
R'rine 16 2 65 4
Stuart 8 1 20 0
Hooper 13 4 17 0
WEST INDIES: Second innings
Ganga b Muralitharan 8
Gayle c Sangakkara b Vaas 0
Sarwan c Arnold b Muralitharan 47
Lara c Tillakaratne b B'tilleke 45
Hooper lbw b B'tilleke 4
Samuels lbw b Muralitharan 54
Jacobs c Sangakkara b Vaas 5
Dillon b Muralitharan 19
Ramnarine not out 0
Collins b Muralitharan 0
Stuart b Muralitharan 0
Extras: (b-3, lb-2, nb-3) 8
Total: (All out in 83.5 overs) 190
Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-25, 3-83, 4-107, 5-110, 6-126, 7-185, 8-190, 9-190

Result: Sri Lanka beat West Indies by 131 runs and take an unassailable 2-0 lead.
Man-of-the-match: Muttiah Muralitharan.
Third Test: Nov 29-Dec 3, Colombo.
Umpires: John Hampshire (England) and MG Silva (Sri Lanka).

More rain at Hobart



AFP, Hobart

Rain continued to dog Australia's Test series against New Zealand with the second cricket Test almost certainly condemned to a draw after a third successive day of frustrating weather interventions here Sunday.
The first Brisbane Test finished in a stalemate almost a fortnight ago despite the efforts of rival captains Steve Waugh and Stephen Fleming to contrive a thrilling finish with a series of imaginative declarations.
After playing 23 Tests without a draw up to Brisbane, Australia now face the likelihood that the first two Tests of their trans-Tasman series will end in a stalemate heading into Friday's final and potentially decisive Test in Perth.
Only 51 overs were possible on Sunday's fourth day following 35 overs on Saturday and 34 on Friday as rain wrecked playing schedules.
When play was abandoned at 6.40pm local time (0740 GMT), New Zealand were 197 for four with Fleming on 71 and Craig McMillan not out 51.
There is unlikely to be a similar gripping scenario to the Brisbane Test with New Zealand still 162 runs behind the follow-on target of 359 to make Australia bat a second time.
The Kiwis crawled along at a rate of 2.4 runs an over Sunday against tight Australian bowling, so with more rain forecast for Monday's fifth and final day a result is most unlikely.
Fleming completed his 31st Test half-century as New Zealand inched along in reply to Australia's massive first innings 558 for eight declared.
The Kiwi skipper was pinned down on 49 for 28 minutes and 19 balls before he brought up his 50 in 177 minutes off 135 balls.
The left-handed Fleming has had an inability during his Test career to convert his half-centuries into three-figures and on Monday will get another opportunity to reach only his third century in his 62nd Test match.
New Zealand lost two wickets in the slow morning session on Sunday.
Mark Richardson was lbw to Jason Gillespie for 30 and Nathan Astle was out to a great sprawling right-handed catch by Shane Warne at slip off Mark Waugh's offspin for 11, leaving the Kiwis at 100 for 4.
But Fleming and McMillan, playing watchfully, shored up their team's position with an unbeaten 97-run partnership in between the rain interruptions.
McMillan was gifted his 14th Test half-century when a scampering single on 46 became five as Ricky Ponting's throw at the stumps went for four overthrows.
Australia's maintained a clamp

on the visitors' run-scoring throughout the day with Glenn McGrath taking 0-22 off 18 overs and Gillespie 2-29 off 19 overs.
The Kiwi bowling stocks took another hit Sunday with news that fast bowler Daryl Tuffey was likely to return home with a hamstring injury and Chris Drum would be flown in to Perth as backup for the third Test.
Fast-medium bowler Drum, 27, has played one Test for his country.
Tuffey's setback follows injuries to other fast bowlers, Dion Nash (abdomen) and Shayne O'Connor (knee), who have been sent home.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard at close of play on the fourth day of the second Test between Australia and New Zealand at the Bellerive Oval Sunday:
AUSTRALIA: First innings 558 for 8 declared (R Ponting 157 not out, J

Langer 123, M Hayden 91; D Vettori 5-138)
NEW ZEALAND: First innings (overnight 71-2)
Bell c Gilchrist b Warne 4
Richardson lbw b Gillespie 30
Sinclair b Gillespie 23
Fleming not out 71
Astle c Warne b M Waugh 11
McMillan not out 51
Extras: (lb-1, nb-6) 7
Total: (For 4 wkts in 86 overs) 197
Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-53, 3-76, 4-100

Bowler O M R W
McGrath 18 10 22 0
Gillespie 19 9 29 2
Warne 24 3 70 1
Lee 18 5 45 0
M Waugh 7 1 30 1
Umpires: Steve Bucknor (West Indies) and Steve Davis (Australia).



OUCH! New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming is in pain after being hit by a Brett Lee (not in picture) bouncer during the fourth day's play of the Hobart Test yesterday.

Hall for more consistency

REUTERS, Part of Spain

West Indies Cricket Board president Wes Hall has called for greater consistency by Test umpires and match referees following the Mike Denness controversy.
"Anything that brings the game into disrepute should be discouraged and barred, but there must be consistency in treatment," Hall said.
South Africa's United Cricket Board, facing an Indian boycott, barred ICC-appointed match referee Denness from standing in the third and final Test between the two countries after he imposed penalties on six Indian players, including Sachin Tendulkar.
The ICC responded by stripping the Centurion match, which began on Friday, of Test status.
Hall raised the case of West Indies paceman Colin Stuart barred from bowling during the first innings of the second Test against Sri Lanka after he sent down two beamers in three balls.

Hall, a former Test great, said he was surprised that the umpires decided to suspend the bowler.
"Stuart was running around in the outfield when, unprepared and with no warm-up, he was suddenly called to complete an over. He bowled two full tosses which did not threaten the batsman...and he was banned from bowling again in the innings," he said.

"Does the umpire have no discretion,?" he asked "There had been no confrontation, no animosity on the part of any of the players, the match had just started."
"Yet the umpire decided that Stuart should be banned for the innings. If the panel is consistent then there can be no dissatisfaction," he said.

Pabna soccer
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna
Ambagan Kirra Chakra defeated Madhupur Kirra Chakra 4-0 in the Radhuni Second Division Football League tournament at the local stadium yesterday.
Shamsul, Khokon, Adison and Kabir netted one each for the winners.

Twin-ton
FROM PAGE 13
the mark, with as many as nine fielders in deep positions.
It was a bad day for India from the start of play when they surprisingly did not claim the second new ball, which was due. Acting skipper Rahul Dravid called for it only after Kallis and Lance Klusener had added 36 runs. The pair took their partnership to 60 before Klusener was caught at second slip off Javagal Srinath in the fifth over with the new ball.
Kallis, whose Test scores this season have included two centuries and two half-centuries, moved confidently to another century, his 22nd in first-class cricket, off 223 balls with 16 fours.
He pounded two more boundaries before he was bowled by leg-spinner Anil Kumble when he drove over a yorker-length ball.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the unofficial Test between India and South Africa at Centurion Park Sunday:
INDIA: First innings 232 (S Das 46, D Dasgupta 36, Harbhajan S 29; M Hayward 4-74, J Kallis 2-15)
SOUTH AFRICA: First innings (overnight 261-4)
Gibbs c Harbhajan b Srinath 59
Kirsten c Dravid b Nehra 90
Rudolph run out (sub-Agarkar) 21
Kallis b Kumble 110
McKenzie c Laxman b Tendulkar 33
Klusener c Laxman b Srinath 33
Boucher b Nehra 19
Pollock not out 113
Boje st Dasgupta b Harbhajan 20
Ntini not out 34
Extras: (b-11, lb-2, nb-14, w-2, pen-5) 34
Total: (For 8 wkts in 157.1 overs) 566
Fall of wickets: 1-135, 2-171, 3-195, 4-261, 5-321, 6-395, 7-395, 8-445
To bat: M Hayward

Bowler O M R W
Srinath 27 3 94 2
Nehra 30 5 123 2
Prasad 21 6 71 0
Harbhajan 34.1 10 104 1
Kumble 34 4 102 1
Tendulkar 11 0 54 1
Umpires: Rudi Koertzen and Dave Orchard (both South Africans).
Match referee: Denis Lindsay (South Africa).

It was their first big title since they won the 1989 World Cup, earning themselves the top prize of 400,000 dollars.
Since the 1989 victory, the best finishes of the Cuban spikers were as runners-up places in the 1990 World Championships and the 1991 and 1999 World Cups.
Cuba were the bronze medalists twice in the inaugural 1993 Grand Champions Cup and the 1997 one.

jumping Cuban spikers in the 65-minute match.
Leonel Marshall again emerged as the best scorer of the match, winning 18 points, 15 of them from his devastating attacks, while Angel Dennis also fired 14 winners off his attacks.
"We worked really hard for this tournament and it paid off. I think I accomplished my responsibility in my new position," said Alain Rocca, who hit two unstoppable aces.
"I'm really glad because we had been far away from a big title for a long time," he said.
Dennis said: "We will return to our country and take a rest for a while. But we will soon start training hard for the world championships next year. Hopefully, we can take a medal there."

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ICC issues warning



REUTERS/AFP, London

The International Cricket Council (ICC) says it will win its power struggle with India and could even suspend its national cricket board if they continue to defy the sport's world governing body, according to the Sunday Times.
The newspaper said ICC president Malcolm Gray suggested he would not allow India board chief Jagmohan Dalmiya to continue challenging his authority.
"We have the power to expel a member country. It is in our articles of association and is the only power available to us in disciplinary terms," Gray was quoted as saying.

The controversy began when six Indian players were censured by ICC-appointed match referee Mike Denness in the second Test against South Africa.
Gray, however, told the Sunday Times that he was confident he would win the support of the majority of the ICC's 15-man executive board.

"I have spoken to every director, and all but one supports the ICC stance that a match referee cannot be withdrawn," he was quoted as saying.
"Even South Africa, who originally supported India in order that the match at Centurion could go

ahead, have come round."

The ICC's executive board is only due to meet again in March but could be reconvened for an emergency meeting if the stand-off

could descend into anarchy." It continued: "The ICC has made it very clear that it wants to see improved standards of on-field behaviour for the good of the game as a whole."

"All Test captains were notified of this intention, in writing, by chief executive Malcolm Speed."
"The captains in the South Africa versus India series were reminded of their responsibilities by Mike Denness before the series began."

And the ICC went on to defend Denness' actions.
"It is also important to understand that Mike Denness did not make these decisions in isolation: with the exception of Sachin Tendulkar and Sourav Ganguly, the other four players were reported by the umpires, one a South African, the other a Zimbabwean."

"It would have been very easy for the ICC to have replaced Mike Denness with an alternative referee and thereby ducked this issue, but that would have set a very dangerous precedent."

"Thereafter, any country not happy with an umpire or referee for whatever reason, could have chosen to refuse to play a match. Clearly this would be an untenable situation."

"The ICC will not speculate on future developments, but is determined that the disciplinary action will stand."

"Without this right, the sport

sure from its own government, to sack Denness for the third and final Test without ICC permission.
The ICC responded to what it saw as a challenge to its authority by stripping the match of its Test status, a decision Dalmiya has since declared unconstitutional.
If Tendulkar, an icon in India and without a previous blemish on his reputation, and Denness were the key figures of the past week, Sehwal will be the central protagonist in the days to come.
Sehwal, accused of excessive appealing in only his second Test, was the one Indian player to be given an immediate one-match ban by Denness.
The Indians, by not selecting him for the third Test against South Africa, argue the ban has been

starting on December 3.
India's selectors are expected to name a squad for that game on Tuesday. If Sehwal, who only made his Test debut earlier this month, is selected, the situation could further spiral out of control.
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England team coach Duncan Fletcher tried to sidestep the issue on Saturday, arguing: "We have got nothing to do with it. We have got no control over it. Why should I worry us and concern us?"
He may not, however, be able to maintain that position if India, whose politicians have suggested former England captain Denness's decisions were prompted by racism, do not take a step back.
Dalmiya, the previous ICC president and the current head of the Asian Cricket Council, appeared to try to defuse the situation by suggesting in a BBC radio interview: "We are respecting, we will respect in future all decisions of the ICC." He also denied trying to lead an Asian cricket breakaway.
India's position, meanwhile, appeared increasingly isolated on Sunday, as the South African media attacked its own board for caving in to Indian demands and allowing the third Test to go ahead without Denness.
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Cloud over English tour



REUTERS, London

England's tour of India could be cast into doubt as India's power struggle with the International Cricket Council (ICC) threatens a fresh crisis within the next few days.
If India select banned batsman Virender Sehwal for the first Test against England at Mohali starting on December 3, cricket's world governing body is likely to declare the Test null and void, just as it did the third Test between South Africa and India.
That would leave England with the stark choice of either abandoning the series before a ball is bowled, or taking the field against the ICC's wishes.
The London-based Sunday Times predicted Nasser Hussain's team would have no option but to pack their bags, arguing: "The English authorities have always supported the ICC, so the latter opinion is unthinkable."
The 23-year-old Sehwal, barely known outside India a week ago, has unwittingly become the central figure of a controversy that is threatening to split the world of cricket.
The affair began when six Indian players, including Sehwal, were censured by ICC-appointed match referee Mike Denness in the second Test against South Africa.
Indian cricket board head Jagmohan Dalmiya, indignant over the decisions and particularly over Sachin Tendulkar being reprimanded for ball tampering, threatened a match boycott before persuading South Africa, under pres-

sure from its own government, to sack Denness for the third and final Test without ICC permission.
The ICC responded to what it saw as a challenge to its authority by stripping the match of its Test status, a decision Dalmiya has since declared unconstitutional.
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