

Hollow Aussie victory

Cricket

REUTERS, Perth

Australia have beaten South Africa by 33 runs in a one-day match at the WACA but have missed out on a place in the finals of their annual triangular tournament for only the third time in 23 years.

Steve Waugh's world champions easily won the last pool match of the series on Sunday but failed to claim the bonus point they needed to get into next week's finals.

Instead, New Zealand and South Africa qualified for the best-of-three finals matches in Melbourne and Sydney.

All three teams finished the round-robin phase with four wins and four losses. South Africa ended up on top with 18 points after collecting two bonus points with Australia and New Zealand tied for second with 17 points.

Although Australia had the best run-rate of any team in the competition, New Zealand advanced to the finals because of their superior head-to-head record against Australia.

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming was heavily criticised after he ordered his players to allow South Africa to gain a bonus point in

their match on Friday to help his own team's chances.

The Australians did at least give themselves every opportunity to claim the bonus point when they amassed 283 for seven from their 50 overs -- the highest score by any team during the tournament.

There was a mini-collapse when Australia lost four for 45 to slump to 195 for seven before Darren Lehmann and Brett Lee steadied the innings with an unbroken eighth-wicket stand of 88 from just 64 balls.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the tri-series one-day international between Australia and South Africa at the WACA Ground on Sunday:

AUSTRALIA

	O	M	R	W
Gilchrist b Ntini	31			
M. Waugh c Kallis b Donald	34			
Ponting run	26			
Martyn c Boucher b Boje	29			
S. Waugh b Boje	42			
Bevan c Pollock b Ntini	1			
Lehmann not out	49			
Warne b Pollock	0			
Lee not out	51			
Extras: (b-1, lb-12, w-6, nb-1)	20			
Total: (for seven wkt in 50 overs)	250			
Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-66, 3-129, 4-172, 5-198				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
McGrath	10	3	21	1
Lee	10	1	66	1
Bichel	9	0	38	1
Warne	10	0	53	0
S. Waugh	4	0	26	0
Bevan	2	0	17	0
Lehmann	5	0	28	2
Result: Australia won by 33 runs.				
Man-of-match: Jacques Kallis (South Africa)				
Umpires: Steve Davis, Bob Parry, Darren Hair (TV replays adjudicator).				
Match referee: Hanumant Singh.				
STANDINGS				
Final standings in the triangular limited overs series between Australia, New Zealand and South Africa (tabulate as played, won, lost, bonus points, points):				
P W L B Pts				
M. Waugh	10	1	58	2

Fall of wickets: 1-47, 2-76, 3-117, 4-150, 5-157, 6-194, 7-195

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O M R W

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Ntini 10 1 58 2

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