

## Awful English batting

Cricket

AFP, Hobart

Steve Waugh wanted Jimmy Maher, the Australia A captain, to keep England on the ropes and that's exactly what the second-best Australian team continued to do here on Saturday.

England planned to use the three-day match to rebuild after their 384-run First Test thrashing and raise form and morale before the second match of the Ashes series in Adelaide next week.

Instead, England's batsmen produced a display as limp as their bowlers did on Friday's opening day.

They've already suffered the embarrassment of being forced to follow on and are in serious danger of losing a three day game no-one had thought was likely to produce a result.

England, facing a disciplined pace attack, were dismissed in their first innings just before tea for 183, 170 runs behind Australia A's 353 for three declared.

At stumps on Saturday, it was faring little better in the second innings at a precarious 96 for three and still 74 runs behind.

One statistic underlines the Australian dominance -- Martin Love scored 201 in only 19 minutes more than the entire English team needed to produce 18 fewer runs.

Another emphasises the fragility of the English batting. In two completed innings in this match, the Test top three of Marcus Trescothick, Michael Vaughan and Mark Butcher have totalled only 105 runs, most of them to Butcher.

John Crawley, the one English batsman to show resistance, acknowledged that the team was playing way below par.

"Obviously, we're not performing anywhere near as well as we can," he said.

Crawley said it was not easy to explain the Australian dominance, but it had bowled extremely well while the English attack was inexperienced in the conditions.

"We'll have to get everything as right as we can before Adelaide," he said.

Brad Williams, who took 5-52 in the English first innings, said the Australians bowled to the areas

much better than the English, who were too short and loose.

Williams, who described his approach as "controlled aggression", said the English batsmen folded under pressure.

England resumed on Saturday at 50 for one, but were in trouble from the moment Trescothick fell in the second over.

Williams and fellow quicks Stuart Clark and Ashley Noffke gave the

pace attack could not be maintained and Maher had to call on the medium pace of Greg Blewett and the off-spin of Nathan Hauritz earlier than he would have liked.

Butcher and Robert Key handled them with few alarms.

Just as the pair looked safe to go through to the close, Butcher nicked a catch trying to cut Blewett on 25.

Key (38) and Crawley (6) will continue the battle for English pride and survival on Sunday.

**SCOREBOARD**  
Scoreboard after the second day of the three-day cricket tour match between Australia A and England at Bellerive Oval here on Saturday.

**AUSTRALIA A:** First innings 353 for three declared (M Love 201 not out, M Clarke 50; C White 1-70, R Dawson 1-70)  
**ENGLAND:** First innings (overnight 50-1)

Trescothick b Haddin b Williams	5
Vaughan b Williams	8
Butcher c Love b Clark	42
Key c Hauritz b Noffke	36
Crawley not out	43
Flintoff b Clark	1
White c Clarke b Clark	4
Foster c Love b Noffke	7
Tudor lbw b Williams	12
Dawson lbw b Williams	0
Harmison lbw b Williams	3
Extras: (b-6, lb-9, w-3, nb-4)	22
Total: (All out in 70.2 overs)	183
Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-51, 3-85, 4-108, 5-109, 6-122, 7-131, 8-173, 9-179	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Williams	18.2	5	52	5
Clark	24	7	60	3
Noffke	17	4	31	2
Blewett	3	0	6	0
Hauritz	8	2	19	0

**ENGLAND:** Second innings  
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Vaughan b Clark 14  
Butcher c Haddin b Blewett 25  
Key not out 38  
Crawley not out 6  
Extras: (nb-2) 2  
Total: (For 3 wks in 36 overs) 96  
Fall of wickets: 1-16, 2-28, 3-74

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Noffke	7	3	15	1
Clark	9	3	26	1
Williams	4	1	19	0
Blewett	7	1	17	1
Hauritz	9	3	19	0

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## Ganguly glad

REUTERS, Ahmedabad

Captain Sourav Ganguly attributed India's sensational 325-run chase against West Indies on Friday to the team's newfound fighting spirit.

It was the second time in recent months that India had successfully chased a target of this magnitude after they scored 326 to beat England at Lord's in July in the final of a triangular one-day tournament also involving Sri Lanka.

"This is an indication of our new fighting spirit and of the fact that this team doesn't give up," Ganguly told reporters.

"We believe we can win whatever the situation and someone always stands up and delivers. At Lord's it was Yuvraj and Kaif and here Dravid and Bangar."

Vice-captain Rahul Dravid slammed 109 not out for his eighth one-day century and swung the game around in an unbroken 94-run stand with Sanjay Bangar, who struck a 41-ball 57.

The partnership was reminiscent of how Mohammad Kaif and Yuvraj Singh had rescued India at Lord's against England.

"Rahul played very well, he batted till the end. There was any way we could have won the game without him," Ganguly said.

## Zim succumb

FROM PAGE 13

Waqaq handled his bowlers well and the fielding was tight. The only problem he has is the fitness of Shoaib Akhtar, who appeared to have a sore knee but he brushed concerns aside.

Pakistan's Taufeeq Umar and Saleem Elahi have opened the first innings batting. Taufeeq scored a century and 75 in the first Test at Harare while Elahi failed twice. If he does so again, there is still plenty of batting to come.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the close of the Zimbabwe first innings on the first day of the second Test against Pakistan at Queens Sports Ground in Bulawayo on Saturday:

**ZIMBABWE:** First innings  
Ebrahim lbw b Waqaq 5  
Vermeulen lbw b Akhtar 2  
Campbell c Akmal b Saqlain 46  
G Flower lbw b Saqlain 54  
A Flower c Inzamam b Akhtar 30  
Masakadza c Akmal b Saqlain 30  
Taibu c Akmal b Saqlain 15  
Blignaut c Umar b Saqlain 0  
Price b Saqlain 1  
Nkala not out 10  
Olonga b Saqlain 8  
Extras: (lb-3, nb-3, w-1) 7  
Total: (All out in 71.5 overs) 178  
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-8, 3-94, 4-119, 5-119, 6-155, 7-159, 8-161, 9-170

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Waqaq	13	6	20	1
Akhtar	16	3	39	2
Sami	15	3	38	0
Saqlain	25.5	2	66	7
Umar	2	0	12	0

**PAKISTAN:** Waqaq Younis, Saleem Elahi, Taufeeq Umar, Younis Khan, Inzamamul Haq, Yousof Youhana, Hasan Raza, Kamran Akmal, Saqlain Mushtaq, Shoaib Akhtar, Mohammad Sami.

**Umpires:** Srinivas Venkatraghavan (India) and David Orchard (South Africa).

## Seniors

FROM PAGE 13

David survived two run-out chances and a loud caught-behind appeal early in his innings before going on to play a match-winning knock. He hit just eight fours off 124 balls.

Earlier, Gayle held centre-stage as he smashed five sixes and 12 fours off 127 balls for his third one-day century to hammer the Indian bowling in an awesome display of big-hitting.

The aggressive left-hander put on 80 for the opening wicket with Wavell Hinds (26) off nine overs,

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the second day of the four-day Challenge Trophy final between Bangladesh national team and the A team at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium yesterday:

**BANGLADESH A:** First innings (overnight 280 for 6 in 90 overs)  
Ehsanul c K Mashud b Rafique 38  
Ashraf c Rafique b Talha 23  
Mazharul lbw b Taposh 56  
Aminul c Tushar b K Mahmud 135  
Akram c K Mahmud b Kapali 31  
Minhazul c Bashar b Talha 16  
Naimur c Rafique b Talha 0  
Anwar not out 49  
Enamul c K Mahmud b Taposh 1  
Hasibul lbw b Taposh 4  
Alamgir c K Mahmud b Taposh 0  
Extras: (b-2, lb-6, nb-4, w-1) 13  
Total: (All out in 124 overs) 366  
Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-86, 3-149, 4-225, 5-256, 6-256, 7-335, 8-362, 9-366

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Taposh	26	2	85	4
Talha	26	6	72	3
K Mahmud	14	3	32	1
Rafique	33	9	62	1
Kapali	17	1	71	1
Sanwar	3	0	15	0
Bashar	5	0	21	0

**NATIONAL TEAM:** First innings  
Hannan c Anwar b Enamul 25  
Al-Shahriar lbw b Naimur 43  
Bashar c Anwar b Ashraf 16  
Sanwar b Naimur 33  
Tushar batting 18  
Kapali batting 17  
Extras: (lb-1, nb-6, w-1) 8  
Total: (For 4 wickets in 55 overs) 160  
Fall of wickets: 1-66, 2-76, 3-109, 4-131

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Vaas	8	2	17	0
Gamage	9	2	33	0
D Fernando	6	0	21	2
Muralitharan	7	1	8	0
H Fernando	4	2	2	0

**Umpires:** Daryl Harper (Australia) and Russell Tiffin (Zimbabwe).

## Hewitt, Ferrero face-off

Tennis

AFP, Shanghai

Lleyton Hewitt used every ounce of his fighting spirit to hold off an equally courageous Roger Federer in a pulsating Masters Cup semifinal here on Saturday.

The Australian baseliner and world number one emerged a 7-5,

fought off three match points in the second and third sets before finally succumbing to the relentless pressure.

In the first set, Hewitt staved off five set points, most with courageous winners from the baseline.

He was then forced to fend off five break points while serving for the set at 6-5. Finally, after exactly one hour, Federer hit a forehand long for Hewitt to take the set 7-5.

In the second set, it was

the players. At one stage in the second set, Federer was forced to block his ears with his fingers as the crowd roared their delight.

It was the perfect atmosphere for Hewitt, who thrives on the cauldron-like atmospheres of Davis Cup ties and Grand Slam finals.

In the earlier match, Ferrero stormed into his first Masters Cup final with a typically dogged tussle against Moya.

Ferrero, who will finish in the world's top five for the second consecutive year, proved too consistent from the baseline.

The man nicknamed the "Mosquito" for his tenacity from the back of the court took the semi-final with a rare foray into the net on his first match point, hitting a delicate drop volley winner that brought Moya to his knees.

Ferrero could climb to a career high world ranking of number three if he wins Sunday final against Hewitt, who this week claimed his second consecutive year-ending number one ranking.

Moya, who had gone into the semi-final undefeated after three round robin victories over Hewitt, number three Marat Safin and countryman Albert Costa, took the first set with an ace at 6-7 in the tie breaker.

Ferrero had looked in control of the first set after breaking to go up 4-2, but then double-faulted on break point while trying to serve it out at