

Gunaratne keeps SAA in check

AFP, Pachelstroom Sri Lankan opening bowler Pulasthi Gunaratne dismissed four South Africa A top-order batsmen before the home side fought back in a 50-over match at the North West Stadium on Saturday.

All-rounder Robin Peterson led the recovery, making 61 in a South Africa A total of 221.

Gunaratne, 29, who joined the Sri Lankan side for the five-match one-day international series which starts in Johannesburg on Wednesday, sent South Africa A tumbling to 68 for five after they won the toss and batted on a slow pitch.

Gunaratne dismissed Daryll Cullinan, Martin van Jaarsveld, skipper Neil McKenzie and Lance Klusener, all full international players. He finished with four for 44.

Fellow seamer, Prabath Nissanka, another one-day specialist, took two wickets as South Africa A slid to 124 for eight. But Sri Lanka were unable to finish off the South African second string in windy, overcast conditions.

The left-handed Peterson and tail-ender Charl Langeveldt put on 57 for the ninth wicket before Peterson fell to a spectacular diving catch at short fine leg by Jehan Mubarak, who earlier held another remarkable catch when he flung himself high to his left to dismiss McKenzie at backward point.

Langeveldt (33 not out) and last man Monde Zondeki (23) added 40 for the last wicket.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the South Africa A innings against Sri Lanka in their one-day tour match at the North West Stadium on Saturday:

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Lists bowlers like Kirsten, Cullinan, Jayasuriya, etc.

Series 'final'

FROM PAGE 13 hopes of clinching the series even with an experimental side.

The hosts began the series without batting star batsman Sachin Tendulkar (hamstring injury) and fast bowler Zaheer Khan (shin) before resting Ganguly and leg-spinner Anil Kumble.

Their replacements served India well as all-rounder Sanjay Bangar and left-arm spinner Murali Kartik both cashed in on the opportunities to stake their claims for the upcoming tour of New Zealand with excellent performances.

The Indian squad for next month's tour will be picked at Bombay on Monday.

West Indies captain Carl Hooper said he expected another disciplined effort from his bowlers in order to contain a strong Indian batting line-up despite playing seven matches in 19 days.

"The travelling in this series has been tiring," said Hooper. "But I was pleased with our bowling in the last match. We bowled straighter and were more consistent than in previous games."

Pacemen Vasbert Drakes, Pedro Collins and Corey Collimore shared seven wickets at Jodhpur to raise the West Indies' hopes of defending a modest total of 201 before Bangar took the match away from them with a crucial 32 not out.

"Bangar is a cricketer who can adapt his game to any situation," said Hooper. "Still, we'd like to finish the series the same way we had begun - on a winning note."

Australia about to win



AFP, Adelaide

England face a desperate battle to avoid going two down in the Ashes cricket series after Australia gave them a roasting at the Adelaide Oval on Saturday.

The Australians, who comprehensively won the opening Brisbane Test by 384 runs inside four days, looked poised for another massive win on the fourth day here on Sunday after declaring with a huge first innings lead of 210 runs.

Australia called a halt to their run spree at 552 for nine late on a long, hot day in the field for England and then had the tourists in strife in the 12 remaining overs.

At stumps, England were on the ropes at 36 for three with captain Nasser Hussain bowled by a super Andy Bichel delivery four balls from the end of the day's play. First innings centurion Michael Vaughan was 17 not out.

"It's a very tough period to bat and that's the reason why we declared when we did to get 12 overs at them tonight and so far it's worked out well for us," said Ricky Ponting, the star of Australia's big first innings.

"Our bowling attack is very strong, (fast bowlers) Gillespie and McGrath are as good as anyone going around at the moment and if there is anything in the conditions they'll exploit it and I think they've done that already tonight."

"There's just enough doubt in the batsmen's mind with the cracks and the dryness of the pitch and I'm sure they'll be bowling well on that wicket tomorrow."

Australia batted themselves into an impregnable position on a baking day with Ponting scoring 154, his fifth century in his last seven Tests.

He shared in a record third-wicket stand of 242 runs with Damien Martyn (95) to establish the platform for some lusty hitting by Adam Gilchrist and Andy Bichel.

Bichel crashed 48 off 56 balls and the ever-dangerous Gilchrist smacked 54 off 67 deliveries with four fours and two sixes. Their eighth-wicket partnership yielded 77 runs in 61 minutes.

Gilchrist was throwing his bat at everything when he was caught behind signalling an innings closure by Steve Vaughan in order to have a crack at the weary Englishmen on a day when the temperature peaked at 37C (99F).

There was instant reward for Australia with Jason Gillespie trapping Marcus Trescothick lbw for a duck and Mark Butcher (4) lasted four balls before he fell lbw to Glenn McGrath in the third over leaving England at 17 for 2.

Just when England looked like they could get to stumps without further damage Bichel came on for his first over and with his second ball clean bowled Hussain. He also got the crucial first innings wicket of Vaughan in the last over of Thursday's opening day.

"It's not an ideal situation to lose three wickets at the end, the people who got out are pretty down," said England all-rounder Craig White.

"We have to front up tomorrow, it's another day, and we have to stay as positive as we can. There's a massive challenge ahead of us and hopefully we'll be trying our best to do well."

England's calamities were in sharp contrast to Australia's turn at

the crease with Ponting and Martyn steadily accumulating runs up until the 36th over of the day when Martyn fell five runs short of his sixth Test hundred.

His stand with Ponting eclipsed the previous highest by an Australian pair in Adelaide of 189 by Arthur Morris and Lindsay Hassett against England in 1946-47.

When Martyn departed at 356 for three, Australia were 14 runs ahead but the objective was to grind England out of the Test and the runs kept ticking over against an undermanned English bowling attack.

Pace spearhead Andy Caddick left the field with back problems and did not return for the afternoon session leaving Hussain with just four bowlers to rotate in the stifling heat.

England had some moments, grabbing three wickets for 67 in the hour before tea.

Ponting's unusually-restrained innings came to an end when he top-edged a pull shot off White to be caught by Richard Dawson.

He batted for 349 minutes, faced 269 balls with only nine fours for his

slip off White.

White, who delighted in dismissing his brother-in-law Lehmann, finished with 4-106 off 28 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the third day of the second Ashes Test between Australia and England at the Adelaide Oval here on Saturday: ENGLAND: First innings 342 (M Vaughan 177, N Hussain 47; J Gillespie 4-78, Warne 4-93)

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Lists bowlers like Langer, Stewart, Dawson, etc.



WHEN THINGS GO WRONG! England paceman Andrew Caddick shows his frustration after an appeal for lbw against Ricky Ponting was turned down on the third day of the second Ashes Test yesterday.

14th Test century

Hussain showed contempt for opposing captain Steve Waugh by setting a spread field to encourage Ponting to hit a single and get Waugh on strike.

But Waugh had the last laugh. He was dropped by Hussain on one at short leg. The English skipper injured his left thumb in botching the catch and left the field for a short time for treatment.

Hussain's field placement to exploit a perceived Waugh weakness to short-pitched deliveries rebounded when the Australian skipper began to blossom and scored 34 before he fell to a great catch at point by Mark Butcher off White.

Local hero Darren Lehmann only lasted 22 balls before he returned to the dressing room for five, edging to substitute Andy Flintoff at second

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Lists bowlers like Caddick, Hoggard, Harmison, etc.

ENGLAND: Second innings Trescothick lbw b Gillespie 0 Vaughan not out 17 Butcher lbw b McGrath 4 Hussain b Bichel 10 Extras: (lb-4, nb-1) 5 Total: (For 3 wks in 11.2 overs) 36 Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-17, 3-36

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Lists bowlers like McGrath, Gillespie, Warne, etc.

Umpires: Steve Bucknor and Rudi Koopman.

First time in J-League

AFP, Tokyo

Jubilo Iwata made J-League history on Saturday, beating Tokyo Verdy 1-0 with a golden goal to become the first team to win both stages of the Japanese season.

Midfielder Takashi Fukunishi's goal in the 119th minute gifted Iwata their third J-League title and the first double-stage win since the competition started in 1993.

Iwata, the 1999 Asian club champions, are an unbeatable five points clear of second-placed Gamba Osaka with one game to play. They have 12 wins against two defeats for 32 points.

Gamba beat Kyoto Purple Sanga 2-1 in extra time, also on Saturday.

"I'm really pleased that this is a victory we clinched by ourselves, never thinking of the results of other matches," said a jubilant Masashi Nakayama, Japan's only goal scorer in the 1998 World Cup in France.

"I'm also happy to become the first team to win the first and second stages in the same year. We needed to keep our team balance, we needed the strength to do so. I think we've matured as a team by experiencing many tough matches."

Iwata coach Masakazu Suzuki said: "We've become very tenacious as today's game shows. That's what we've improved a lot this year. My players did very well in tough games."

"Everybody, me, my players and staff, were very disappointed last year, so I'm really happy that we proved we are the best team in Japan."

Iwata won the first stage last year and finished top in the overall standings, but they lost to Kashima Antlers in a playoff for the championship.

It was also a sixth stage title for Iwata, who joined the first division in 1994.

Meanwhile, Sanfrece Hiroshima defeated Kashiwa Reysol 2-0 to keep alive their slim hopes of remaining in the first division.

Kobe crashed to JEF United Ichihara 2-0.

Vegalta Sendai, newcomers to the top division this season, kept their seat in the top league when they whipped bottom-placers Consadole Sapporo 2-0, while Yokohama Marinos defeated Nagoya Grampus Eight 1-0.

Masterful Youhana

FROM PAGE 13 Younis not out 33 Extras: (lb-4, w-10, nb-1) 15 Total: (For 4 wks in 50 overs) 302 Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-127, 3-236, 4-241

Did not bat: Azhar Mahmood, Waqar Younis, Wasim Akram, Kamran Akmal, Shoaib Akhtar

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Lists bowlers like Blynaut, Ervine, Olunga, etc.

ZIMBABWE: Grant Flower, Alistair Campbell, Stuart Matsikenyeri, Andy Flower, Tatenda Taibu, Andy Blynaut, Richard Sims, Craig Evans, Henry Olunga, Sean Ervine, Barney Rodgers.

Ponting thru'

FROM PAGE 13 was still satisfying.

"It's always nice to score a Test match hundred, especially in an Ashes series, so I was very happy but it was a lot of hard work, even with the mistimed shots that went into it," he said.

"So it wasn't the best innings I've played, but the end result was pretty good."

At stumps, England were on the ropes at 36 for three in their second innings with captain Nasser Hussain bowled by a super Andy Bichel delivery four balls from the end of the day's play. First innings centurion Michael Vaughan was 17 not out.

Board on

FROM PAGE 13 agents to negotiate with different sponsors. But this time we are talking to them directly and the response is very good," said secretary of the ticket committee Khandaker Jamiluddin.

He also hoped that more people would come to see the matches this time because of the reasonable pricing of tickets. The gallery tickets will be on sale from different branches of Prime Bank on November 27.

Although the Board looked very much focused on the financial aspects, but the delay in finalising new contract for the players created a sense of discomfort among them.

Board president Ali Asghar on Friday said that he would announce new salary package in a day or two. But he was out of the town yesterday and would not be available before Saturday afternoon, which is going to delay the signing of the contract for another couple of days.



Manchester United's Ruud van Nistelrooy (R) heading in his hat-trick goal against Newcastle United during their Premiership clash at Old Trafford yesterday.

Rude van Nistelrooy



AFP, Manchester

Ruud van Nistelrooy grabbed a classic poacher's hat-trick as Manchester United defied talk of a crisis with a five-star demolition of Newcastle at Old Trafford on Saturday.

Ravaged by injury and written off as title contenders after a string of stuttering displays this season, United responded with a blistering display of flowing, attacking football to win a thrilling encounter 5-3.

As well as clipping the wings of a Newcastle side that had been flying high after their advance to the second stage of the Champions League, the win will have given Alex Ferguson's side a huge confidence boost with crucial matches against Liverpool and Arsenal to come over the next two weekends.

Despite scoring three times - including a stunning strike from Alan Shearer that brought up his 100th Premiership goal for the club - Newcastle were never really in the match.

United went into the match with four key players - Rio Ferdinand, Roy Keane, Nicky Butt and David Beckham - sidelined by injury.

And with Juan Sebastian Veron confined to the bench after an exhausting midweek trip to Japan with Argentina and Phil Neville

suspended, United took to the field with South African winger Quinton Fortune in central midfield and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer in Beckham's slot on the right.

But from the outset it was clear Ferguson had managed to instill his makeshift side with a burning desire to win a match they simply could not afford to lose.

With Ryan Giggs looking dangerous every time he touched the ball, Newcastle were quickly on the back foot and one of his runs created a good chance for Paul Scholes, who dragged his shot wide after 11 minutes.

The United faithful did not have long to wait however. In the 25th minute Solskjaer nutmegged his marker and burst into the right hand side of the Newcastle box before cutting the ball back for Scholes, who finished perfectly from the penalty spot.

It was all United at this stage but Newcastle got back on level terms in the 35th minute when Fabien Barthez misjudged Olivier Bernard's cross from the left and allowed it to sail over into him into the far top corner.

Barthez's blushes had barely faded before United were ahead again, thanks to good work down the left by his international teammate Mikael Silvestre.

The leftback's cross took a deflection that left Van Nistelrooy with a simple close-range header.

Another Silvestre run was behind United's third, in first-half stoppage time. His cutback found Diego Forlan, whose mishit shot fell perfectly for the Dutch striker to stab home another close-range effort.

Solskjaer might have made it four within a minute of the restart but sliced wide after another scintillating Giggs run had opened up the Newcastle defence.

Shearer's 100th goal for Newcastle was a fitting strike to mark the milestone he also achieved with Blackburn. Gary Speed touched a free-kick to the right and the Newcastle captain sent an absolutely unstoppable drive swerving up into the top corner of Barthez's net.

The fightback though proved short-lived. Barely a minute later Forlan jinked his way to byline to set up Van Nistelrooy to complete his hat-trick with his 50th goal in only his 67th appearance for United.

Solskjaer sprinted clear of a static Newcastle back four to slot home Silvestre's long ball to make sure of the points three minutes later.

And although Craig Bellamy took advantage of some slack defending to score the visitors third, it will undoubtedly be United who begin the second phase of the Champions League next week with greater confidence.

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Nantes worsen PSG



AFP, Paris

League strugglers Nantes left the French capital with the honours in a 1-0 win here Friday to leave Luis Fernandez's Paris Saint Germain side still in search of their first win in four games.

Nantes, who were unlucky not to come away with more goals, jump up the table from 13th to ninth after taking their first league win in a row thanks to Sylvain Armand's freekick on the half hour mark.

PSG, who started the match with World Cup star Ronaldinho on the bench, stay in fourth place after a forgettable match in which they missed a penalty.

Nantes started liveliest, Gregory Pujol forcing a diving save from Lionel Letizi after he was given time to shoot from the edge of area.

Pujol was again given a free shot on goal after some good work by midfielder Stephane Ziani, but his curled shot slipped past Letizi's post.

PSG midfielder Hugo Leal picked up the first yellow card of the match for his manhandling of Frederic Da Rocha who was on a threatening run up the right wing.

Seconds later PSG won a free kick 30 yards out. Andre Luiz

stepped up and his left-foot drive was heading directly for the top corner until Landreau threw himself to his right and palmed the ball away.

Nantes' goal came after an attempted overhead kick clearance almost decapitated a Nantes player. Armand then stepped up and fired the ball through the wall to dupe Letizi.

The PSG 'keeper made up for his error minutes later when he prevented a sure goal after grabbing the ball from the head of Pujol.

PSG were awarded a penalty for a Nantes foul on Tunisian midfielder Selim Benachour for the weakest of challenges. Justice appeared to have been done when Martin Cardetti missed the spot kick, although Landreau saved well.

Paris put the visitors under plenty of pressure after the break before the game descended into semi-anarchy with a player being sent off from each team.

However the hosts failed to convert any of their scoring chances, invariably falling on a solid Nantes defence.

PSG coach Luis Fernandez finally succumbed and soon signalled a double substitution, sending on Ronaldinho and Talal El Karkouri in the 56th minute.

Ronaldinho was being spared, Fernandez had hoped, after playing a full match for Brazil in South Korea

only two days previously. However the appearance of the Brazilian, with newly braided hair, was certainly welcomed by the fans.

Ronaldinho finally got a touch three minutes later, firing the ball goalwards from the edge of the area only to see his low shot blocked by a defender.

His influence was immediately felt, however Ronaldinho's soft free kick from the edge of the box in the 63rd minute gave Landreau no problems.

Ronaldinho was again involved when Nantes were reduced to ten men. Nantes' Cameroonian midfielder Jean-Hughes Ateba, who had been involved in an earlier tussle, was shown the red card for a foul on Ronaldinho.

PSG however failed to capitalise on their man advantage - their only ray of hope came when El Karkouri's header in a crowded area floated dangerously towards the goaline before being cleared.

The hosts were then also reduced to 10 men when Hugo Leal was cautioned then sent off for a silly foul on a Nantes player who was simply running out the area with the ball.

Experience vs spirit



AFP, Paris

Russia have the upper hand in experience with two Grand Slam winners on board - but France have home advantage and unbending team spirit going into next week's

Davis Cup final at the Bercy stadium here.

Russia lead 3-0 in terms of Grand Slam titles with Yevgeny Kafelnikov having landed the 1996 French Open and 1999 Australian Open and Marat Safin the 2000 US Open.

Arnaud Clement reached the 2001 Australian Open final - but that is the best showing in a major the French defending champions can

offer.

However, a fanatical crowd and their renowned team spirit could propel the French to their tenth title, while last year they were strong enough to beat Australia Down Under.

If the French can win it will be the first time they have managed to retain the trophy since 1932 but skipper Guy Forget says he believes if his men can transfer their form in training to the real thing they can rise to the challenge.

"Everything is going as planned - we are on schedule to launch the rocket," Forget said Friday.

The United States and Australia have dominated the tournament to date with the Americans stacking up 31 victories and the Aussies 27 - but both had to take a back seat this year, falling to France and Argentina respectively.

To date, the finalists have never met, but in the days of the old Soviet Union the French won two of three encounters.

The French, who proved too strong for an Australian squad led by world number one Lleyton Hewitt in Melbourne 12 months ago, should on paper retain the cup.

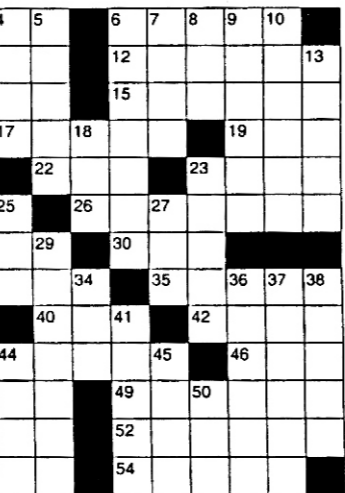
But they have not forgotten their 1999 final defeat to the Australians on home territory in Nice and will be wary of a repeat as the final comes to Paris for the first time since 1933, when the French lost 3-2 at the hands of Great Britain.

The French, who trade Cedric Pioline for Clement compared with last year's squad, have played their last three home finals outside the capital, scoring an emotional victory over the USA in Lyon in 1991 to avenge a 1982 loss in Grenoble before their Nice setback.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 39 Refugee 40 Uncivilized 6 Pyramid 11 Necktie 12 Danes or Forlani 14 Michener book 15 Klondike gold rush city 16 Type units 17 Nolan or Bridges 19 Bygone 5-Across king 20 Garbage barge 22 Part of UNLV 23 Have a long face 24 Spotted agent 26 Aging 28 Twitch 30 Prepared 31 Wedding VIP 35 Burrito-like entrees

DOWN 1 Spanish leader 2 TV chef 3 Eggs 4 Sandbox toy 5 Unmoving 6 Shedding of skin 7 Pleased 8 Deviate off 9 Detroit athlete 10 Touring company 11 Karpov's game 13 Stage direction 18 Rowboat need 21 Section of Los Angeles 23 Paris underground 25 Edge 27 Church perch 29 Continue 31 Angler's choices 32 Proof-reader's woes 33 Spit in the food 34 Dundee denial 36 Sock type 37 Discussion groups 38 Speaks unclearly 41 America's Most Wanted host 44 La - Tar Pits 45 Facts 48 Desiccate 50 Method



CRYPTOQUIP C D P H O K Z C E H I K Z B P E H P H K L Y K Z B X Z H G I Z E I F K H Y E L J X F G J

ID P D Z H V L P V O E L V E B D Yesterday's Cryptquip: NEW SPACE FLICKER FEATURES ODD RACE OF WINEMAKING HUMANOIDS: "PLANET OF THE GRAPES." Today's Cryptquip Clue: P equals E

The Cryptquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.