

Murali warms up slowly

AFP, Hastings

Muttiah Muralitharan bowled his first overs in Australia this summer as Sri Lanka registered their first win on tour, beating a Victorian Country XI by 80 runs here on Sunday.

Murali bowled three gentle overs for 0-13 in his first spell since a hernia operation in Melbourne last month.

Muralitharan spent most of the day signing autographs and posing for photos, and his bowling further delighted the 8,150 crowd gathered 70km (40 miles) south-east of Melbourne.

His return put further gloss on the tourists' breakthrough win, after they made 219 for seven from 40 overs and bowled out the country selection out for 139 with one ball left.

Sri Lanka were hopeful of having Muralitharan return in early January but the off-spinner said his recovery was at too early a stage to predict a comeback date.

Sri Lanka captain Sanath Jayasuriya said Muralitharan was given a bowl to determine where his recovery was placed.

Thilan Samaraweera (58) and Chaminda Vaas (15 not out) took Sri Lanka past the 200-mark with 20 runs off their last over.

Smith, McKenzie

FROM PAGE 13

of the UCB, to the late sports minister Steve Tshwete in 1998 when the board were under pressure to pick a meaningful number of black players for the 1999 World Cup in England.

Only two were picked, Gibbs and Ntini, but Ntini was withdrawn after a rape conviction, which was later overturned on appeal.

Bacher told Tshwete that there were not enough players of colour ready to play at international level at the time but promised at least five would be picked on merit by 2003.

Sonn said: "That was a commitment made long ago. We gave a paradigm to the selectors early on. We followed a process and it seems to have worked. The selectors built these people up and they were given opportunities as we went along. Some people were given opportunities but didn't take them."

The team, to be led by Shaun Pollock, is packed with all-rounders. Fast bowler Allan Donald and batsman-fielder Jonty Rhodes will be playing in their fourth World Cups, having played in all three in which South Africa have participated since 1992.

Pollock, Gary Kirsten and Jacques Kallis will be playing in their third tournament, while Mark Boucher, Nicky Boje, Herschelle Gibbs and Lance Klusener played in the 1999 World Cup.

SQUAD

Shaun Pollock (captain), Mark Boucher (vice-captain), Nicky Boje, Boeta Dippenaar, Allan Donald, Herschelle Gibbs, Andrew Hall, Jacques Kallis, Gary Kirsten, Lance Klusener, Charl Langeveldt, Makhaya Ntini, Robin Peterson, Jonty Rhodes and Monde Zondeki.

Coach, Eric Simons; assistant coach, Corrie van Zyl.

Lara in WC

FROM PAGE 13

cial cricket in South Africa.

"In general, I believe it is a team of horses for courses because we have picked six fast bowlers knowing the kind of conditions that we may encounter in South Africa, where the pitches tend to offer plenty of bounce and movement."

Commenting on the fitness of Lara and five others who had been identified with injuries or medical concerns, WIBC president Wes Hall said all of them were declared eligible for selection on the basis of medical reports.

"Lara underwent medical tests in Britain, was given a clean bill of health, and cleared to take part in the World Cup by the doctors," Hall said.

"West Indies captain Carl Hooper underwent successful arthroscopic surgery on his knees and the medical reports submitted to the WIBC have also cleared him for World Cup duty."

"Meanwhile, fast bowlers Mervyn Dillon and Vasbert Drakes, as well as batsman Ramnaresh Sarwan all received treatment from medical specialists for varying ailments and were declared fit to resume training for duties at the World Cup."

All 14 countries taking part in the World Cup had to submit a provisional squad of 30 to the ICC by November 30 before naming their final 15 by December 31.

West Indies, world champions in 1975 and 1979, meet hosts South Africa in the opening match of the competition in Cape Town on February 9. The other five teams in Pool B are Sri Lanka, New Zealand, Kenya, Bangladesh and Canada.

SQUAD
Carl Hooper (captain), Ridley Jacobs (vice-captain), Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Pedro Collins, Corey Collymore, Mervyn Dillon, Vasbert Drakes, Chris Gayle, Wavell Hinds, Brian Lara, Jermaine Lawson, Nixon McLean, Ricardo Powell, Marlon Samuels, Ramnaresh Sarwan.



Grand Master Ziaur Rahman (R) ponders for his next move against Rezaul Haque during their fifth International Rating Chess engagement at NSC yesterday.

Pakistan pummelled

Cricket

AFP, Durban

South Africa cruised to a 10-wicket win on the fourth day of the first Test against Pakistan at Kingsmead Sunday, taking them to within one match of claiming the world's top ranking.

Pakistan were bowled out for 250 in their second innings, adding 32 runs for their last two wickets, leaving South Africa with 44 to win.

Graeme Smith and Herschelle Gibbs took South Africa to a comfortable win, with Gibbs hitting an unbeaten 25 off 17 balls.

The Pakistan attack was without captain Waqar Younis, who did not take the field after being struck on the right forearm while batting.

Waqar appeared after the match with his arm wrapped in bandages but said he was "fine".

Waqar said his team had failed to take advantage of winning the toss and sending South Africa in.

"We didn't put enough balls in the right place," he said.

He paid tribute to the South African bowlers.

"They obviously know how to bowl in these conditions."

Pakistan's batting was also disappointing. "Some of the batsmen played silly shots," Waqar said.

South African captain Shaun Pollock said it had turned out to be a toss that he was happy to have lost.

"We were thinking about sending them in but in the end we had to bat and our batsmen applied themselves. Then our bowlers were pretty clinical."

Unless Pakistan win the second and final Test which starts in Cape Town Thursday, South Africa will be world Test champions. They will overtake Australia on the International Cricket Council Test log, which is decided on average points gained in series.

Facing a hopeless situation, the Pakistan tailenders went for their shots Sunday, starting the day 11 runs ahead with two wickets standing.

Kamran Akmal hit two fours before being caught behind off Makhaya Ntini for 29 off the last ball

of the first over of the day.

Although the new ball was due, South Africa did not take it until Mohammad Sami slogged a six over long-on off Ntini in the fifth over.

In Ntini's next over, Waqar missed a pull and was hit on the right forearm. He was in visible pain and required treatment on the field before he continued batting.

He top-edged a six over wicketkeeper Mark Boucher three balls later but was out in the next over when he skied Shaun Pollock to midwicket, where Gary Kirsten held a good, sliding catch.

All five South African bowlers

men failed.

Younis Khan, Inzamam-ul-Haq and Yousef Youhana scored only 116 runs between them in the match.

Jacques Kallis, the South African all-rounder, was named man of the match. He scored 105 in South Africa's first innings of 368 and took two wickets in the second innings.

SCOREBOARD
Final scorecard on the fourth day of the first Test between South Africa and Pakistan at Kingsmead Sunday:

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 368
PAKISTAN: First innings 161
PAKISTAN: Second innings (overnight 218-8)

Umar lbw b Boje 39
Elahi c Smith b Ntini 18
Younis Khan c Boucher b Kallis 30
Inzamam c Gibbs b Boje 13
Youhana c McKenzie b Hayward 42
Faisal b Kallis 17
Razaq c Boucher b Hayward 22
Akmal c Boucher b Ntini 29
Saqlain c Boucher b Pollock 4
Waqar c Kirsten b Pollock 15
Sami not out 11
Extras: (lb-2, nb-7, w-1) 10
Total: (All out in 87.3 overs) 250

Fall of wkts: 1-50, 2-64, 3-88, 4-132, 5-156, 6-184, 7-199, 8-216, 9-226.

Bowler O M R W
Ntini 21 2 73 2
Pollock 17.3 4 29 2
Kallis 17 5 30 2
Hayward 13 1 63 2
Boje 19 2 53 2

SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings
Smith not out 13
Gibbs not out 25
Extras: (lb-1, nb-6) 7
Total: (No loss in 9 overs) 45

Bowler O M R W
Sami 5 0 36 0
Saqlain 4 2 8 0
Result: South Africa won by 10 wickets

Man-of-match: Jacques Kallis
Umpires: Steve Bucknor (West Indies), Srinivas Venkataraghavan (India).
Tv umpire: Ian Howell (RSA).
Match referee: Gundappa Viswanath (India).
Second and final Test: Cape Town, Jan 2-6

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Pakistan gave a disappointing performance, with their batsmen in particular letting them down. Inexperienced openers Taufeeq Umar and Salim Elahi put on 77 and 50 for the first wicket in the two innings but the side's senior bats-

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