



INSTANT IMPACT: England paceman James Anderson appeals against Tim de Leede of Holland at East London yesterday.

More clarity, please

REUTERS, London

England captain Nasser Hussain wishes his team's actions had been as "clear and courageous" as the protest made by Zimbabwe's Andy Flower and Henry Olonga, who launched an attack against the running of their country.

"We talked about going to Harare and making a gesture, like wearing black armbands, or taking a bag of grain as one of the media suggested," Hussain said in his Sunday Telegraph column.

"It might have been a brave statement but was it a precedent for us to set? What would happen if all cricketers, and other sportsmen, made such statements in every country they didn't approve of?

"But... we must not hide from the fact that this is a political and moral issue as well, and we haven't made a real gesture of support for the people of Zimbabwe.

He added: "Deep down I wish our actions had been as clear and courageous as those of the two Zimbabweans."

Batsman Flower and black teammate Olonga launched an unprecedented attack on the running of Zimbabwe as they opened their World Cup campaign on Monday.

Former skipper Flower and pace bowler Olonga, in a joint statement released just before Zimbabwe's Pool A game against Namibia, said

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An adopted hero!

INTERNET, Sydney

Australian all-rounder Andrew Symonds was adopted as a national hero last Tuesday night back home after his exploits against Pakistan in Johannesburg, some 26 years after he was adopted by his parents.

Ken and Barbara Symonds don't like to make a big deal out of any part of their lives, especially the fact that they adopted a 15-month old boy when they lived in England.

"We were having trouble having a child so we adopted," explained Barbara.

"And we couldn't be happier with Andrew or our other children."

Ken didn't want a fuss made about Andrew being an adopted child.

"He is no different to our other kids," he said. "Look, to be honest, it wasn't easy to start with. We were a mixed-race family in Britain in the mid 1970s and that made things interesting, but he has always been a great kid. And he still is.

"We are a very close family. He is over all the time and right now he's got us looking after his dog."

Ken, an assistant school principal, taught Andrew at school. He also coached him from a very young age as a cricketer.

"We spent hours practising, I'd throw balls for him and just get him driving in the 'v'," he said.

"He used to mimic cricket shots I'd play when he was about two-years-old. By the time he was about

nine, it was clear he had a talent for the game.

"I think he started wearing the zinc cream on his lips at around that same age, when we used to drive him to Townsville to play, and he still wears it today."

When a leading Australian newspaper had spoken to Ken on Friday afternoon, he still hadn't seen Andrew's career-saving innings of 143 not out.

Like the rest of Australia, Ken knew Andrew needed a big dig to justify his position in the one-day side after a lean trot. It was only the influence of his biggest supporter, Ricky Ponting that got Andrew a place in the side.

"We know that Andrew was under pressure but you've got to be philosophical about the whole situation," said Ken.

"We don't really talk about cricket that much, but like any parents we follow him closely.

"I was at state hockey practice for our daughter on Tuesday night and a couple of people told me that Australia lost a few early wickets.

"I was too nervous to watch the game, so I was happy to be somewhere else.

"Then as I was leaving for the 40-minute drive home, someone told me that Andrew was in and was on about eight.

"I still couldn't bring myself to

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ANDREW SYMONDS

Anderson downs Dutch

AFP, East London

James Anderson's career-best one-day international haul of four for 25 set up a six-wicket win over The Netherlands as England finally got their World Cup campaign underway here at Buffalo Park on Sunday.

Anderson's wickets helped restrict The Netherlands to 142 for nine from 50 overs and completed a remarkable year for the 20-year-old Lancashire fast bowler, England's find of the Ashes series.

"I came here 12 months ago with Lancashire on a pre-season tour. It's been a fantastic year - I had a good summer, then the academy and now the World Cup," said Anderson.

For England captain Nasser Hussain there was just relief at getting started after the team chose to boycott Thursday's opener against Zimbabwe in Harare and so forfeited the four points on offer for a

win to the Africans.

"It was a good workout for us and nice to get some cricket under our belts at last," Hussain said.

Although England made harder work than they should have done of reaching their victory target, a pair of stylish 51s from Michael Vaughan and Nick Knight were the cornerstones of a win that came with more than 25 overs to spare.

"Getting the runs in 23 overs was also good and it was important to get the run-rate beefed up because I think it will come down to that in this group," Hussain added.

But the Netherlands, beaten by India in their opener, could take heart from middle-order batsman Tim de Leede's unbeaten 58 and part-time leg-spinner Daan Van Bunge's return of three for 16.

Netherlands captain Roland Lefebvre said they had fallen short of a competitive total.

However, he was pleased the

innings went all the way - something which should worry England as they prepare to face stronger batting line-ups.

"I would have preferred a score of 220," former Somerset fast bowler Lefebvre admitted. "We never really got going early on and it's harder when you are five or six wickets down.

"But we batted for 50 overs which is pleasing and it's all part of a learning curve."

Hussain, meanwhile, defended his attack: "We lack a killer player like Brett Lee but we do have great discipline."

After a steady start, Anderson struck in the sixth over when he had van Bunge caught in the gully by Craig White for four.

His second victim came in the 10th over when left-hander Luke van

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Kenya edge home

AFP, Cape Town

Giant-killers Canada's dreams of a second World Cup win at this year's tournament were finally snuffed out by Kenya under the Newlands floodlights here on Saturday.

Despite Ian Billcliff's 71, the first one-day international fifty by a Canadian and South Australia off-spinner John Davison's superb spell of three for 15 in his 10 permitted overs, Kenya still won by four wickets.

"It could have been closer," said rueful Canada captain Joseph Harris.

"But I'm glad we fought all the way. Davo's a fantastic off-spinner and he did a great job.

"We've won one game at the World Cup, we'd never done it before and I hope we keep on com-

peting well."

Kenya skipper Steve Tikolo admitted the result had been "too close for comfort."

He paid tribute to Ravindu Shah (61) and man-of-the-match Thomas Odoyo (four for 28 and 27 not out) for their contributions.

"Ravindu batted well and Thomas finished it off," he said.

It was another fine performance in the field by Canada, the last of the 14 teams to qualify for the tournament after finishing third on home soil in the International Cricket Council (ICC) Trophy event for minor nations in Toronto last year.

But whereas their bowlers had helped them beat Bangladesh, a Test nation, by 60 runs after they'd been dismissed for just 180 three days earlier in Durban, they could not quite pull off the same trick twice

when defending a total of 197 against Kenya.

However Odoyo, who saw Canada home with nine balls to spare, admitted: "Credit to the Canadian boys, they gave us a hard time."

Shah looked to be guiding Kenya to a comfortable victory, before he chipped a catch off burly paceman Sajayan Thuraisingam to mid-on to leave the Africans 116 for three in the 31st over.

Shah's 95 ball innings included nine fours.

Together with Tikolo, he put on 84 for the second wicket after Thuraisingam made opener Kennedy Otieno play on for four.

Tikolo, long regarded as Kenya's best batsman, justified that status with a stylish 42 from just 49 balls

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CUP DIARY

INTERNET, undated

Security has been at the heart of this World Cup and understandably so. But that doesn't mean to say it hasn't been utterly ridiculous at times. A 64-year-old lady had a toy whistle ("for entertaining her grandchildren") confiscated upon entry to the Harare Sports Club while spectators in South Africa have been denied access for the most extraordinary reasons. How dangerous is a pair of nail clippers attached to car keys?

NOTHING BRANDED

Ambush marketing has also been a concern resulting in a man being denied access to Kingsmead because the plastic bag in which he was carrying his lunch was branded. But the ICC have been forced to back down on the rules which banned fans from bringing any drinks or any form of shade into stadiums that have hit 35 degrees.

EXTRA CAUTIOUS

Journalists in Durban were surprised to have their notebooks searched ahead of an 'open session' with the Indian squad. "You never know," was the policeman's explanation. Indeed. One local journalist combined parental duties with work and brought his children, aged four and seven, to the media day along with Snakes and Ladders. The kids were fine -- the game was confiscated.

POPULAR QUESTION

Allan Donald has been asked about that run-out in Edgbaston in 1999 more than anything else in his life, but he knows what to do next time: "I'll get longer spikes," he says, "glue the bat to my hand and run faster!"

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Dutch plan short trip

REUTERS, East London

The Netherlands cricket World Cup squad are considering shortening their trip to Zimbabwe later this month because of safety concerns.

The team have ruled out following England's lead in refusing to travel for their February 28 Pool A match in Bulawayo.

But captain Roland Lefebvre said on Saturday: "The less time we spend there the better, we don't agree with the situation there, we don't agree with the political climate but again that is something the politicians must decide on.

"We are here to play cricket and that is what we are going to do. If the ICC (International Cricket Council) can guarantee our safety we are quite happy to travel to Zimbabwe.

"We might shorten our trip but we will go there and try and enjoy the game."

Some Dutch politicians have argued the team should not play in Zimbabwe because of social and political unrest in the country.



positive to diuretics, a substance banned because of its ability to conceal performance-enhancing drugs.

Vanity has been widely touted as a reason why Warne may have taken a pill supplied by his mother which he says caused the positive test and forced him home from the World Cup in southern Africa.

Warne has revealed in an interview with Inside Sport magazine conducted before his test result became public that it was encouragement from Lee that started his fitness kick.

Australian coach John Buchanan was thought to have initiated it when he publicly criticised Warne's fitness after the second Test loss to India in Calcutta in 2001.

"It's to do with physical fitness -- it's no secret that Warne's probably not one of the fittest characters running around in world cricket," Buchanan said at the time. But Warne told Inside Sport it was Lee's insistence in the Sydney Cricket Ground dressing rooms last summer that Warne join him for extra fitness sessions that sparked his weight loss.

He slashed his junk food intake and the physical changes continued on the tour to South Africa early last year as he realised he needed the extra fitness once Steve and Mark Waugh were dropped for that one-day series.

"It felt strange," Warne said in the magazine article that hit the streets before the World Cup started. "I thought: Geez, I'm the only one left, I'm the oldest bloke here so I'm probably next.

"If I wanted to ensure that I kept playing I had to do the right things."

Warne and his family have faced enormous scrutiny in the past week, but that is nothing new for the troubled superstar.

"My life has sort of been a soap opera," he told the magazine. "There's always been a twist. "My life's evolved in front of the public. It's been on show for everyone, the mistakes I've made, the good things I've done -- they've been there for all to see.

"What it has been is interesting. I think in life and the journey you

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JASON GILLESPIE

Dizzy stats

REUTERS, Johannesburg

Sadly but almost inevitably, Jason Gillespie's World Cup bowling display for Australia against India is doomed to sink without trace.

Cricket's statistical record books are merciless.

You need to take at least five wickets to feature in the list of best bowling analyses, and you need to concede barely a run an over to impress in terms of economy.

As always, however, there are lies, damned lies and statistics.

Gillespie's figures of 10-2-13-3 at Centurion at the weekend, put simply, should stand among the greatest of all displays since the first World Cup 28 years ago.

First of all, it came against a batting line-up boasting the best batsman in the world in Sachin Tendulkar, as well as such names as Saurav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid and Virender Sehwag.

Secondly, it was on a good batting strip.

If Gillespie bowled a bad ball, it was probably his first. Dravid helpfully chopped his wide, short, rising delivery straight into his stumps off an inside edge.

Gillespie's line and length barely wavered thereafter. After three overs, he had two wickets for two runs.

'Dizzy', as he is nicknamed, then took the wicket-of-all-wickets as Tendulkar fell lbw for 36. With Tendulkar went India's hopes of a salvage operation.

For the rest of the game, Ganguly's batsmen simply couldn't get him off the square.

An unlikely name tops the World Cup economy table.

Dermot Reeve, an England 'bits-and-pieces' slow-medium swinger, conceded just 0.40 runs an over against Pakistan in Adelaide in taking one wicket for two runs in five overs.

Winston Davis is not a household name either but his seven for 51 for West Indies against Australia at Leeds in 1983 has never been matched.

Few people, however, have ever matched Gillespie's overall display.

If there was a combined 'wicket-taking and economy' statistic, he would be close to the top.

Nearly all the most miserly performances in World Cup history

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'Bravo Brett'

REUTERS, Centurion

Australia's Brett Lee bowls fast but learns even faster.

On Saturday, the 26-year-old celebrated his elevation to the new ball by laying waste to India's batting in the World Cup Pool A match at Centurion.

Lee took two for 17 in a hostile six-over bombardment to set the tone of a one-sided game. He returned to finish with three for 36 as India crumbled to 125 all out.

But for some streaky shots by the tail-enders, his statistics would have looked even prettier.

Lee's showing vindicated the faith captain Ricky Ponting placed in him by asking him to open proceedings with Glenn McGrath.

Lee, who vies with Pakistan's Shoaib Akhtar for the tag as the world's fastest bowler, was almost unplayable, mixing short balls with yorkers and swinging deliveries.

Former Australia fast bowler Jeff Thomson had nothing but praise.

"Lee has just bowled better and better this season," said Thomson, himself regarded as one of the fastest bowlers in history.

"Lee has thought about what he is bowling rather than just run in and bowl fast. He is bowling a better length, he is sharp, charging in and he is fit."

Despite his sheer pace, Lee had struggled for a permanent one-day slot until late last year. He was simply too expensive and a luxury.

Modest form since his comeback from elbow surgery in early 2001 also saw him sit out the first two Ashes tests against England.

On his return, though, he looked a different bowler.

Lee also took 18 wickets to inspire Australia's victory in the one-day tournament which followed and was named man of the series.

England and Sri Lanka simply couldn't stomach his pace and newfound accuracy and India added themselves to that list of sufferers on Saturday.

Lee's sudden transformation from mere pace machine to consistent wicket-taker has pleased Ponting.

"The work Brett has done in the last 12 months in all cricket suggests he is improving all the time," he said.

"His one-day bowling in Australia was fantastic. He did a job with the new ball and at the death and he has learnt a lot about what it takes to be a good one-day bowler.

"He has got smarter all the time and he is executing what he can do. Better and better all the time."

Lee's improved success rate has not meant any let-up in his pace as he showed on Saturday by consistently clocking around 150 kph.

The most frightening thing about Lee on Saturday was that even his bad balls turned out good.

Saurav Ganguly and Virender Sehwag were both dismissed after snicking wide, short deliveries behind.

After being tied down by Lee's accuracy, they both felt they had to attack the bad ball only to find themselves beaten by pace and unable to get their feet into position in time.