

Rudolph, Smith steer SA

Cricket

AFP, Southampton

Jacques Rudolph's unbeaten 69 guided South Africa to a seven-wicket triangular series victory over Zimbabwe in the first-ever international match staged at The Rose Bowl here Thursday.

Chasing a meagre 174 for victory, Rudolph got South Africa home with 14.4 overs to spare as they warmed up for Saturday's Lord's final against England and bounced back from their four-wicket defeat by the hosts at Edgbaston on Tuesday.

Rudolph faced 97 balls and hit 12 fours in his innings while Mark Boucher was 13 not out at the close.

Zimbabwe's last match of the tournament was a 'dead' contest, with the finalists already decided.

But after their poor batting display they had South Africa in trouble at eight for two before Proteas captain Graeme Smith (69) shared a stand of 137 with fellow left-hander Rudolph spanning 25 overs.

Smith fell when a loose cut against Travis Friend was caught by Dion Ebrahim at point. He faced 80 balls and smashed 10 fours.

But by then South Africa, chasing 174 to win, were all but home at 145 for three in the 29th over.

Then Rudolph, on 61, was dropped at third man by Raymond Price after top-edging a cut off Friend.

Earlier Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak, who won the toss, top scored with 50 not out in his team's below par total of 173 for eight.

Fast bowler Makhaya Ntini, who reduced Zimbabwe to 18 for three, finished with four for 45.

But Zimbabwe quick Douglas Hondo responded in similar fashion, taking two wickets for one run in seven balls at the start of South Africa's innings.

Herschelle Gibbs (two) made his fifth single figure score in six

series innings when he chopped Hondo onto his stumps.

Hondo then struck again when Martin van Jaarsveld (five) was caught spectacularly by wicketkeeper Tatenda Taibu,

Earlier Zimbabwe collapsed to 74 for six before Streak and Sims (24) put on 54 for the seventh wicket.

SCOREBOARD

Gibbs b Hondo	2			
Van Jaarsveld c Taibu b Hondo	5			
Rudolph not out	69			
Boucher not out	13			
Extras: (b-3, lb-4, w-6, nb-3)	16			
Total: (For 3 wks in 35.2 overs)	174			
Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-8, 3-145				
Did not bat: H Dippenaar, A Hall, M Boucher, S Pollock, P Adams, A Nel, M Ntini.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Streak	7	1	27	0
Hondo	7	2	25	2
Blignaut	6	0	31	0
Price	7.2	0	33	0
Sims	3	0	18	0
Friend	5	0	33	1

Toss: Zimbabwe
Result: South Africa won by seven wickets.
Man-of-the-match: M Ntini.
Umpires: Billy Bowden (NZL) and David Shepherd (ENG)
TV umpire: Neil Mallender (ENG)
Match referee: Clive Lloyd (WIS)



South African cricket captain Graeme Smith plays a stroke on his way to scoring a half-century during one-day match against Zimbabwe on July 10.

diving well to his right.

South Africa were then eight for two inside four overs.

However, Smith and Rudolph stopped the rot although they had a fortunate escape when, on 104 for two, Taibu missed a stumping chance off spinner Richard Sims with Rudolph on 40.

Scoreboard of the NatWest Series one-day international between South Africa and Zimbabwe on Thursday:

ZIMBABWE: 173 for eight in 50 overs.
SOUTH AFRICA: Smith c Ebrahim b Friend 69

Federer on course

AFP, Gstaad

After crossing a major threshold with his weekend Wimbledon title, Switzerland's Roger Federer got past a minor one Thursday as he blazed into the quarterfinals of the 550,000-euro Swiss Open for the first time.

On his sixth try, the 21-year-old finally reached the last eight at his home tournament held on the fast, bouncy clay of this elite alpine resort.

The top seed's 6-1, 6-2 rout of 99th-ranked Frenchman Jean-Rene Lizard put him into a Friday match-up against Spain's David Sanchez, who knocked out three-time champion Alex Corretja, the veteran seventh seed, 6-4, 6-4.

StanChart chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Three players shared the lead in the class Six to Ten Group with maximum five points after the fifth round of the Standard Chartered Bank School Chess Tournament at the Bangladesh Chess Federation auditorium yesterday.

The joint leaders were national sub-junior champion Minhazuddin Ahmed Sagar and Indians Rahul Sangma (Bihar) and Debanjan Das (Kolkata).

Tawsiuzzaman was in second position with 4.5 points.

Shamima Akhter Liza and Shamin Sultana Shirin were on top of the girl's section securing 4.5 points each after the fifth round. Kishowara Shazrin Evana was in second with 4 points.

Indronil Chatterjee of Kolkata took solo lead in the Class One to Five category bagging maximum five points.

The sixth round of matches will be held today at the same venue starting from 3pm.

Patel propels India A

AFP, Leeds

Parthiv Patel hit a maiden first-class century here on Thursday to leave India A's tour match against Yorkshire at Headingley poised for a thrilling final day.

The 18-year-old's 129 included 22 fours and he faced just 146 balls.

Patel came in with India struggling despite Wasim Jaffer hitting 67, including 15 boundaries.

But Patel took India off their shaky position of 113 for 4, which was less than half Yorkshire's score of 246, combining impressively with Rohan Gavaskar (16) and Murali Kartik (13) before piling on 69 for the seventh wicket with Amit Mishra, who was 52 not out.

After India A declared with a 90-run lead, Yorkshire opener Chris Taylor gave SS Das a catch off Amit Bhandari with the total on just five.

School kabadi

SPORTS REPORTER

Maniknagar High School, Maniknagar Gov. Primary School, Khilgaon Gov. High School and Ansar VDP High School won their respective matches in the School Kabadi Competition at the Kabadi Court adjacent to the Moulana Bhasani National Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Maniknagar High School outplayed Islamia High School 80-46, Maniknagar Gov. Primary School beat Bashantek High School 47-35, Khilgaon Gov. defeated Islami Adarsha High School 38-23 and Ansar VDP thrashed Bramhanchir Gov. Primary School 53-23.

Paceman revive

FROM PAGE 13

NTCM's XI: First innings 189 all out in 90.1 overs.

BANGLADESH: First innings	
Hannan b Redpath	34
Javed c Treumer b Hatton	2
Bashar c Treumer b McAdam	2
Ashraf c Hatton b Hauritz	8
Al Saharir c Redpath b Hauritz	16
Kapalish c Treumer b Dent	21
Mashud run out	0
Mahmud c Treumer b Hatton	2
Mashrafe c Treumer b Hatton	20
Baisya lbw b Berry	11
Rafique not out	10
Extras: (b-2, lb-6, w-1, nb-4)	13
Total: (All out in 79.1 overs)	139
Did not bat: Manjural Islam.	
Fall of wks: 1-7, 2-11, 3-32, 4-40, 5-86, 6-7, 7-87, 8-97, 10-139.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Hatton	12	5	20	2
McAdam	10	6	7	1
Skewes	6	1	13	0
Dent	10	3	18	1
Hauritz	21	8	37	2
Hatton	12	2	29	1
Redpath	7	4	3	1
Berry	1.2	0	4	1

NTCM's XI: Second innings

Redpath b Mashrafe	0
Berry b Manjural	0
Williams not out	13
Clark b Manjural	1
Vowles not out	16
Extras:	2
Total: (3 wickets)	32

(Incomplete)

Selection calling

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 That's why the BCB is looking for former players who are still actively involved with cricket.

It was learnt that another former Bangladesh captain Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu was another candidate in the BCB's list but some of the advisors expressed their reservations about Ashraf. Meanwhile, Golam Nowsher has kept his candidature open for consideration and he still might sneak into the committee for a second stint as Faruque reportedly is not interested in the job and rather prefers to continue with his present status.

But Athar Ali Khan told the Daily Star Sport yesterday that he is relishing the challenge if it comes.

"Frankly speaking, I am interested to involve myself with the Board in any capacity," said Athar.

When asked whether he had got any proposal from the Board, Athar said that he has only received hints so far.



Scene from yesterday's fifth round engagements of the Standard Chartered bank school chess tournament at the NSC.

Muralitharan Academy!

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka is to honour its top wicket taker, Muttiah Muralitharan by naming the country's main cricket academy after him, a press report here said Friday.

The government decided on the naming to honour one of the most prolific wicket-takers in the modern game, the island newspaper quoted Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe saying.

The champion off-spinner with 459 Test scalps was given permission earlier this month by the cricket governing body's executive committee to play six weeks of county cricket with Kent in England.

Eager and ready

Cricket

AFP, London

England one-day skipper Michael Vaughan admitted Friday his first experience of leading the team this season had whetted his appetite for the Test captaincy.

"I've enjoyed it," said Vaughan after leading England to a 2-1 one-day series win over Pakistan and the final of the NatWest triangular series against South Africa at Lord's here on Saturday.

"I've only been four weeks in the job," Yorkshire batsman Vaughan, 28, added.

"But if the full job became available, I'd like my name to be considered," he also told reporters at Lord's on Friday.

After Saturday's final Vaughan will return to the ranks with Nasser Hussain, who retired from international one-day cricket following England's first round World Cup exit, resuming the captaincy for the five Test series at home to South Africa.

But Vaughan said he had no problem with becoming just a player again.

"After tomorrow, we'll hopefully have picked up a trophy and that's my stint over."

Vaughan said he had not talked to Hussain during the triangular series.

"I'm my own man and he's his own man."

However, he added that he had tried to learn from the examples of skippers he had observed at close quarters.

"I've played under a lot of good captains, Nasser, Alec Stewart, David Byas and Martin Moxon at Yorkshire and Adam Hoolioake."

Asked what had pleased him most about his first spell in charge, Vaughan replied: "We beat

Pakistan and we've shown a lot of character in this series to come back from the disappointment of losing our first match against Zimbabwe and then beat a good South Africa side twice."

He added that victory on Saturday would not have a huge bearing on the Test series but admitted: "It's always good to get one over the opposition, even if it's only a one percent advantage."

Vaughan said he had tried to instill his own relaxed approach to cricket throughout the rest of what

how many overs his bowlers had left. "In the field sometimes, Marcus Trescothick and Andrew Flintoff have come up to me and said you've got this wrong."

As well as praising Flintoff's tactical input, Vaughan also said the 25-year-old Lancashire all-rounder's contribution with both bat and ball had been vital to the team's success.

"He had the winter off with injury (hernia). He's back, he's fit and he's bowling as well as he's



England one-day captain Michael Vaughan practises in the nets at Lord's yesterday. England will play South Africa in the NatWest triangular final today.

was a mainly inexperienced side.

"Especially with a young team, when you are playing in front of big crowds and there's a lot of media pressure, you want to make them feel as relaxed as they can and enjoy playing."

"They are entertainers after all and they are there to enjoy it."

He added that the hardest part of captaincy had been working out

ever done.

"We've given him the opportunity to bat at five and it's always handy when you have a guy who can hit boundaries in the middle of the innings."

"I've no doubt he can score more Test hundreds if he continues the same way."

Tri-series final today

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mances with both bat and ball have been central to England's march to the final.

"It does get difficult doing well with both bat and ball. I've been lucky on the batting side," explained Pollock, who classed himself as a bowling-all-rounder.

"Fred (Flintoff) is batting at number five and bowling well. He's doing a great job for England. Let him get on with it and do what he does best."

"There's always a lot of pressure on him being talked about as the new Ian Botham."

South Africa lost to England by four wickets at Edgbaston on Tuesday but Smith said he was banking on his team's developing resilience to put things right on Saturday.

"On the field there have been ups and downs, and I'm sure they'll be many more," Smith insisted.

"The way we bounced back,

we've spoken about things and then the next game it's come right. It's about putting our team sessions into our game, playing to our ability and getting our basics right."

"Hopefully, we can get those things right tomorrow."

England will delay a decision on pace Richard Johnson's fitness until the morning of the match.

Somerset seamer Johnson, 28, suffered a groin strain during England's four-wicket win over South Africa at Edgbaston on Tuesday and was unable to complete his quota of 10 overs.

"He (Johnson) had a decent bowl in the nets and a bat but we'll have to see how he wakes up," England one-day captain Michael Vaughan told reporters at Lord's on Friday.

"He's been an invaluable member of the team since he came in," added Vaughan of Johnson who took five wickets on his Test debut against Zimbabwe at the Riverside last month.

But throughout his career Johnson has suffered persistently from injuries, a knee problem earlier this season the latest before Tuesday's groin trouble.

"It's a worry if you are picking up injuries," Vaughan admitted while refusing to label Johnson 'injury-prone'.

"Maybe he's just unlucky. Hopefully, tomorrow he will play."

If Johnson is unfit Durham fast bowler Stephen Harmison would be the most likely replacement.

PROBABLE TEAMS
ENGLAND: Marcus Trescothick, Vikram Solanki, Michael Vaughan (captain), Andrew Flintoff, Anthony McGrath, Rizki Clarke, Chris Read, Ashley Giles, Richard Johnson, Darren Gough, James Anderson.

SOUTH AFRICA: Herschelle Gibbs, Graeme Smith (captain), Jacques Kallis, Jacques Rudolph, Martin van Jaarsveld, Mark Boucher, Shaun Pollock, Andrew Hall, Andre Nel, Paul Adams, Makhaya Ntini.

The timeless great

FROM PAGE 13

Brown and Morris, who both played with Bradman, and current Test captain Waugh, Australia's most capped player, believe Bradman was so good he would have dominated any era.

Waugh nodded to the suggestion Bradman's average would be 100-odd, saying: "If he dominated his era, I think it's fair to say he'd dominate any era, including ours, to a similar. A genius is a genius. That's probably the most simple way you can put it."

Brown agreed. "He would have been successful whenever he played, one-day cricket, anything," said Australia's oldest Test survivor, 91 later this month.

"He was just the complete player who seemed to be able to bat as long as he wanted to. He would just go on, 100, 200, 300 and on one occasion 400. That's just unbelievable to the average bloke."

"His record would be little different, I think."

The last cap worn by Bradman, sold last month for 285,235 dollars but Waugh says his is priceless.

Waugh's cap has been soaked in beer and blood and is badly faded but he wears it with pride every time he plays.

"It makes us feel special and I think it can intimidate the opposition. It gives us strength and it unites us and shows that we're committed unit."

The tradition of the baggy green cap began with Australia's first Test, against England, in 1876-77 and has continued ever since with some minor changes.

Players were once given a new cap every time they toured but now they just receive one on debut. The cap was originally part of a parcel of gear given to them on debut until Waugh's predecessor, Mark Taylor, came up with the idea of presenting the cap to debutants from the mid 1990s.

Most players prefer to wear a wide-brimmed, floppy hat during matches but Taylor encouraged everyone to wear their baggy green caps during the first session in the field of every Test -- a tradition that survives today.

Taylor, who famously declared when he was unbeaten on 334 because he didn't want to pass Bradman's record score by an Australian, usually wore the more practical wide-brimmed hat during his career but wore the cap on his final appearance.

"It is a wonderful keepsake and it draws all Australian cricketers from every era together," he said.

Ban will work wonders

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Shane Warne Friday put a positive spin on his 12-month drug suspension, saying it will add another year to his cricket career.

Australia's leading Test wicket-taker tested positive to a banned diuretic last February and was suspended from cricket for a year.

Hinting there might be few new mystery balls in his repertoire when he returns next year, 33-year-old Warne said his enforced lay-off should prolong his career.

"I think it will help me in the long run," said Warne as the majority of Australia's living Test cricketers assembled for a replica baggy green cap ceremony here on Friday.

"I think I've still got two or three years left in the game. Having this year off is probably going to help me add on another year at the end of my career," Australia's greatest Test leg-spinner said.

"The year I miss now is hopefully one I'll get back at the end."

"I've set out a plan. I've been speaking to Terry Jenner a fair bit and working on a few different things."

"I'm going to catch up with (former Test spinner) Johnny Gleeson while I'm in Sydney and talk about a few different things. We've got a few different things that hopefully when I come back, they'll be okay."

Jenner has been one of Warne's long-time mentors, while Gleeson, who bowled with an unorthodox bent-finger grip, played 29 Tests for 93 wickets in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Asked about the current state of his bowling, Warne said: "I've only done it once since then (the suspension). I'm a little bit rusty. Hopefully I'll pick it up quickly."

Australian Test captain Steve Waugh said Warne, looking as slim as he was just before his doping offence, was more than capable of extending his 107-Test, 491-wicket career.

"I've talked to him quite a bit in

this enforced absence and I know he's very keen to come back," Waugh said.

"He loves the big stage and the big opportunities and the big challenge, and all three of those will be happening next year."

"It's up to Shane. He's got the talent. If he's got the desire, there's no reason why he can't be successful."

Warne said rubbing shoulders with so many of Australia's former Test players had further fuelled his ambition to force his way back into Waugh's all-conquering team next year.

"It's like anything - if you love what you're doing, and you're passionate about it and it's taken away from you, you obviously miss it," he said.



Australian master leg-spinner Shane Warne (L) poses with an unidentified cricket fan for a photograph as others queue for his autograph in central Sydney during a promotional visit to a store yesterday.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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