

Fleming not coming to Pakistan

REUTERS, Auckland

Injured captain Stephen Fleming will not be considered for his team's one-day series in Pakistan, New Zealand Cricket (NZC) said on Wednesday.

Fleming was hoping to rejoin the side for their arrival in Lahore on November 27 but the abdominal injury that forced him to miss the final one-day tri-series match against India last week will not be healed in time.

NZC doctor Rob Campbell and medical coordinator Warren Frost examined Fleming on Wednesday, one day after he arrived back from Mumbai with the four players (Craig McMillan, Scott Styris, Ian Butler and Lou Vincent) who opted out of the Pakistan tour.

"Stephen requires physiotherapy treatment and rest over the next three weeks to help ensure he is fit for Pakistan's tour of New Zealand next month," Frost told reporters.

The tour to Pakistan was finally rubber-stamped by NZC on Tuesday after New Zealand had received a threatening e-mail from unknown sources advising them not to play during the holy month of Ramadan.

Rogers propels W Australia

AFP, Melbourne

Left-hander Chris Rogers smacked 103 as Western Australia reached a first innings 273 on the opening day of the Sheffield Shield clash with Victoria at the Junction Oval here Wednesday.

But Rogers and former Zimbabwe Test batsman Murray Goodwin (70) were let down by their team-mates after Western Australia, with 187 for two wickets just before tea, lost eight wickets for a mere 86 runs.

Victoria were 12 without loss at stumps, with Matthew Elliott eight and Matthew Mott four.

The Western Australian batting folded meekly after Rogers and Goodwin had hammered 136 for the third wicket.

Victorian all-rounder Andrew McDonald ripped through the middle order, finishing with 4-35 from 16 overs in his best in the competition.

Medium-pacer Allan Wise, in only his second game, captured 3-56.

In Adelaide, Mark Cosgrove (118) and John Davison (84) powered South Australia to a first innings 400, giving them a solid 133-run lead over New South Wales.

Beyond their imagination

Harmison unavailable for Tests

Cricket

REUTERS, undated

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The second match is in Colombo on Friday.

Meanwhile, England strike bowler Steve Harmison has been ruled out of the Test series against Sri Lanka with a back injury, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said on Wednesday.

England captain Michael Vaughan says his players face a true test of character after their 10-wicket hammering by Sri Lanka on Tuesday.

England scored just 88, their lowest total against Sri Lanka and the second lowest in their history. The home side romped home with 36.1 overs to spare.

"I said it was going to be tough before the series but we didn't expect it to be that tough," said Vaughan.

"There are no excuses and we can't blame anything we just played very poorly," he added.

"(Chaminda) Vaas proved he is very good in these conditions and we were never in the game after the first couple of overs.

"It will now be a big ask to bounce back from this in these conditions against a very experienced opposition it will be a true test of character."

Sri Lanka captain Marvan Atapattu singled out newcomers Nuwan Kulasekera and Dimush Fernando who did the early damage.

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The Oval changing

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

ground and better facilities for "extensive community use."

The Ken Barrington Cricket Centre, mainly used for coaching purposes, will also be refurbished.

Surrey have secured the necessary 22 million pounds to proceed with ambitious redevelopment plans at The Oval.

Capacity will be increased from 19,000 to 23,000 thanks largely to a new stand at the Vauxhall End.

A new media centre, plus conference and banqueting facilities, will also be provided.

Surrey chief executive Paul Sheldon said: "This is a gigantic milestone in the history of the club."

He confidently predicted: "The new stand will be an iconic structure not only in world cricket but also in South London."

"These new facilities are essential if The Oval is to maintain its pre-eminence as one of the world's leading Test venues."

Other improvements include new terracing at the east and west of the

ground and better facilities for "extensive community use."

The Ken Barrington Cricket Centre, mainly used for coaching purposes, will also be refurbished.

Surrey has had to borrow a substantial amount of cash to fund the redevelopment.

Support has also come from the Duchy of Cornwall, a Sport England Lottery grant and donations.

The first workmen will be on site in February, dismantling existing structures.

Between then and July, new foundations will be laid before a two-month hiatus when temporary stands will be in place for the international fixtures.

The Oval, though it hosts a huge amount of international cricket, has long been regarded as something of a sprawling, unloved ground.

October 2004 will see the main construction push with the new ground ready for its official opening before the 2005 Summer Test against Australia.

The case is due to be heard by the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration, was due to begin on November 19.

But the UCBSA says that is no longer the case. No date has been announced for the re-scheduled hearing.

A UCBSA spokesman said: "One of the lawyers is involved in another case so it cannot go ahead at the moment."

Klusener announced his intention to sue in early July.

The 32-year-old says the UCB told him he was "rested" for the tour to Bangladesh.

And he alleges he was promised a contract in time for South Africa's Test series against England.

Klusener says he would have pursued contracts with English counties if he had known he would not be re-employed by South Africa.

Klusener says he still "cares passionately" about South African cricket and the team.

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December 2.

Harmison, 25, suffered the injury after his man-of-the-match performance in the opening Test against Bangladesh in Dhaka. He will continue his rehabilitation at the academy which is based at Loughborough University.

The Durham paceman was sent home from Bangladesh last month after straining his back, missing the second Test.

"He bowed at the National Academy a week ago and he was sore for a few days afterwards," Peter Gregory, the ECB's chief medical

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