

# Manager's more busy

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Steve Waugh's manager says he is fielding a barrage of calls as the Australian cricket captain's farewell tour reaches a crescendo with the Sydney Test starting on Friday.

Waugh is playing in his 168th and final Test here and has been on a national lap of honour around the Test venues during the series against India, which is locked at one-all heading into the series decider.

"It's like trying to hold a tidal wave back," manager Robert Joske said here on Wednesday.

"But we said from the outset we wanted to make this business as usual.

"Needless to say we are getting millions of media requests in the lead-up to Steve's final Test but I guess I'm running interference by trying to keep things normal.

"He needs to concentrate on what he has to do and that is win a Test."

As much as Joske hopes to create a comfort zone for 38-year-old Waugh, he's aware Waugh will be a long time retired and has already spoken of getting "maximum exposure" for his client.

There's been talk of a pilot for a television series on Channel Nine, cricket commentary, a book, a raft of speaking engagements and then there's Waugh's continued work

with various charities.

At least until the end of the Sydney Test however, Joske insists everything other than cricket remains on hold.

"Certainly all the business interests have been told he's a cricket player until the end of next week in fact until the end of the New South Wales (team) commitments.

"After that it will be helter-



STEVE WAUGH

skelter but right now I'm trying to maintain an even keel as far as that's concerned."

Joske said he's knocked back breakfast engagements, requests for Waugh to visit corporate boxes during the Test which he described as "quite amusing" and a throng of media outlets wanting exclusives.

Family and close friends will see the deciding fourth Test in a special

Steve Waugh corporate box at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Waugh said after Tuesday's nine-wicket win over India in Melbourne: "I'm just going to try and enjoy it. I know it's going to be difficult at times with a lot on, but these things only happen once in your life and I want to make it a positive experience as I can."

Steve's twin and former Test batsman Mark said he expected to make it out to the match on the first and fourth days but meantime was keeping his distance.

"I don't expect to catch up with him beforehand," said Mark, who played 108 Tests alongside his brother.

Mark said the fact the Test series was still alive might be a good thing in keeping his brother focused but even he wasn't sure whether 'The Iceman' could stay cool under the intense public and media scrutiny.

"I'm sure Stephen will be trying to put into the back of his mind the fact that this is his last Test match," said Mark, who retired from Test cricket in somewhat less glorious circumstances in 2002 after being axed from the national squad.

"Whether he can do that I don't know."

As for the future, Mark, who still plays state cricket, said he didn't expect a swansong season at NSW for the pair.

"To be honest I've got no idea what Stephen is going to do but I'd say this is likely to be the last season for both of us," he said.

# WAPDA in charge

FROM PAGE 13

WAPDA batted out the visitors having begun the day on 383 runs for four.

Right-arm pacer Alamgir Kabir was the most successful A team bowler picking up four wickets for 113 runs from 29 overs while left-arm spinner Manjarul Islam Rana captured three for 103 from 26.1 overs.

## SCORECARDS

Scoreboard on the third day of the four-day Patron's Trophy match between Pakistan WAPDA and Bangladesh A played at the OBL Ground in Karachi yesterday:

**BANGLADESH: First innings**

Hannan c Asif b Sarfraz	64
Shahriar c & b Sarfraz	15
Moniruzzaman c Tariq b Sarfraz	0
Ashraf c & b Naved-ul-Hasan	1
Ehsanul lbw b Naved-ul-Hasan	0
Selim b Naved-ul-Hasan	4
Jamal Uddin b Faisal	10
Mosaddek c sub b Farooq	26
Manjarul not out	18
Anwar lbw b Sarfraz	6
Alamgir b Naved-ul-Hasan	5
Extras: (b-4, lb-10, nb-3)	17
Total: (All out in 69.1 overs)	166
Fall of wickets: 1-23, 2-29, 3-40, 4-40, 5-46, 6-78, 7-135, 8-137, 9-158, 10-166.	

**Bowler**

	O	M	R	W
Naved	24.1	5	51	4
Sarfraz	21	8	31	4
Aqeel	10	1	42	0
Faisal	9	6	7	1
Farooq	5	1	21	1

**WAPDA: First innings**

Tariq lbw b Alamgir	5
Asif c Ashraf b Jamal	139
Zaman c Ashraf b Manjarul	27
Aqeel c Selim b Alamgir	5
Adil b Alamgir	157
Shoaib lbw b Alamgir	88
Adnan c Selim b Manjarul	19
Sarfraz not out	43
Naved c Ashraf b Manjarul	1
Extras: (b-13, lb-2, w-2, nb-1)	18
Total: (For 8 wickets in 124.1 overs, dec)	502
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-48, 3-66, 4-256, 5-412, 6-445, 7-501, 8-502.	

**Bowler**

	O	M	R	W
Anwar	20	2	76	0
Alamgir	29	4	113	4
Manjarul	26.1	3	103	3
Mosaddek	11	0	58	0
Jamal Uddin	33	4	122	1
Ashraf	2	0	3	0
Ehsanul	3	0	12	0

**BANGLADESH: Second innings**

Hannan c Naved b Aqeel	57
Shahriar c Zaman b Faisal	1
Moniruzzaman run out	26
Ashraf lbw b Naved	20
Ehsanul lbw b Aqeel	23
Selim b Aqeel	2
Jamal Uddin not out	17
Mosaddek not out	9
Extras: (b-19, lb-5, w-0, nb-4)	28
Total: (For 6 wickets in 71 overs)	183

To Bat: Manjarul Islam Rana, Anwar Hossain Monir and Alamgir Kabir.

# Proteas' lone worry

Cricket

AFP, Cape Town

South African captain Graeme Smith was "80 to 85 per cent fit" on Wednesday, team physiotherapist Shane Jabaar said two days before the third Test against the West Indies, which starts at Newlands on Friday.

Smith's fitness is the only major concern for the high-riding South Africans, who won the first Test in Johannesburg by 189 runs and the second in Durban by an innings and 65 runs.

Smith suffered an injury to his right hamstring when he slipped on a damp outfield on the first day of the Durban Test.

Although he continued to field in the first innings and then batted, he did not field in the second innings in what was described as a precautionary measure.

But the South African captain walked stiffly when he attended the after-match press conference on Monday and Jabaar confirmed on Wednesday he was in a race against time.

"We have worked on him this morning and we will do so more work after an optional practice this afternoon. I am hoping that he will be 100 per cent by tomorrow (Thursday)," said Jabaar.

If Smith cannot play, vice-captain Mark Boucher will take over the captaincy and Gary Kirsten, who has batted at number five in recent Tests, will probably move back to his former position as an opening batsman.

Martin van Jaarsveld would probably come into the middle order. Van Jaarsveld made 73 and 15 when he replaced Kirsten, who attended the birth of his first child, in the first Test.

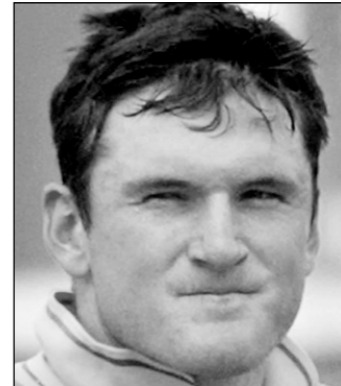
Left-arm spinner Paul Adams is expected to play at Newlands ahead of all-rounder Andrew Hall,

who was part of an all-seam attack in Durban.

Selection convener Omar Henry said: "History has shown that a spinner is essential at Newlands."

While South Africa can feel confident regardless of Smith's fitness, there are worries aplenty for the West Indians, despite captain Brian Lara's assertion after the second of four Tests there would be no repeat of the whitewash defeat the players from the Caribbean suffered in five Tests in South Africa in 1998-99.

There are fitness concerns over



GRAEME SMITH

batsmen Chris Gayle and Shivnarine Chanderpaul and bowler Corey Collymore but the biggest worry for Lara is the poor form of his bowlers.

Lara said the batsmen needed to be more consistent, but that he was encouraged by the form of his top order.

"Five years ago we were beaten in just over two days in Port Elizabeth and in five matches we didn't get a single century. We have three (centuries) already in this series."

He said the hundreds by Sarwan and Chanderpaul in the second innings in Durban had given the team heart.

But he acknowledged that bowling was a problem.

"Your backs are against the wall when the team batting against you is scoring at four runs an over. We've got to be able to pull things back and be more consistent in line and length."

Lara said bowling shortcomings were easier to solve than lack of form by batsmen.

"We've just got to work hard over the next few days to put things right," he said.

Other than bowling more steadily, it's difficult to see how the West Indies can come back.

The inexperience of promising fast bowler Fidel Edwards has been shown up against good batsmen on good pitches, while Mervyn Dillon, the most experienced bowler in the side, has lacked the pace to trouble the South Africans in the first two Tests.

The West Indies will probably want to play a spinner at Newlands but the only specialist slow bowler in the squad is uncapped left-armer Dave Mohammed, who was expensive and unimpressive in his only tour match, against Border.

The West Indian batting lacks depth. Opener Wavell Hinds has been hopelessly out of form during the tour and if either Gayle or Chanderpaul cannot play, the West Indies will have to choose between Carlton Baugh and uncapped Dwayne Smith as a batsman.

Baugh played in Durban without looking likely to play a long innings and both he and Smith are aggressive players whose techniques could be exposed by the South African bowlers.

The pitch at Newlands usually is good for batsmen, but with enough pace and bounce to keep fast bowlers interested, while spinners usually come into play towards the end of a match.

# Paes to miss home event

AFP, New Delhi

Leander Paes, recovering from a brain lesion, on Tuesday opted out of the 400,000-dollar ATP Indian Open to be played in Madras next week.

Paes told organisers he will not accept the wildcard for the singles, nor team up with compatriot Mahesh Bhupathi in the doubles of the January 5-11 season-opener.

"I was looking forward to play in the Indian Open, but now it looks like it will be the Australian Open that will herald my comeback," Paes said in a release issued from his home in Orlando, in the US state Florida.

"I have already talked on this with Mahesh. I have been practicing hard for tournaments lined up in the season starting January next. I am disappointed to postpone my return and realise that it is a long and hard road back to the professional circuit. "Five months off the circuit is a long time in this competitive sport but I am sure that I want to come and compete at the higher echelons of the game," Paes said.

The 30-year-old, who was diagnosed with a brain lesion in August after complaining of severe headaches, had hoped to resume his playing career in his own country's annual premier event.

Paes, one of the leading doubles players on the circuit, partnered Martina Navratilova to the mixed doubles title at Wimbledon this year to add to their mixed doubles title at the Australian Open in January.

Paes has won 27 men's doubles titles, his triumphs in the 1999 and 2001 French Opens and the 1999 Wimbledon with now estranged partner Bhupathi.

The duo had said they would

# Flemo looks to SA

Cricket

AFP, Wellington

New Zealand cricket captain Stephen Fleming was Wednesday casting an eager eye to February's three-Test tour by South Africa as a chance to redeem the Black Caps' flagging Test fortunes after failing against Pakistan.

Pakistan's one-nil series win completed this week inflicted New Zealand's first Test loss in 18 months and nine matches, and pushed the Black Caps down from three to five in the world rankings.

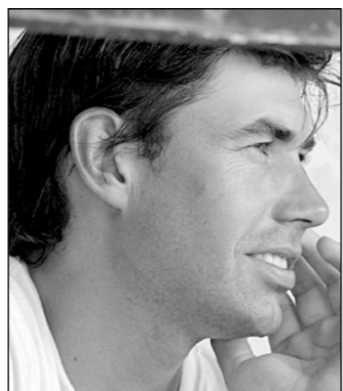
"It doesn't get any worse than this, losing a two-Test series for losing one session," Fleming said of Shoaib Akhtar's match-deciding bowling onslaught early on the fourth day of the second Test.

It demonstrated the sometimes cruel nature of two-Test series, which irk the players but are also accepted as part of life with a packed international schedule dominated by the money-spinning one-day matches.

"You feel so empty because you've been in a position of strength for so long, and to give it away so quickly and so dramatically is hard to fathom as a team," Fleming said.

"I'd love another crack at Pakistan now. We understand it's two Tests and the pressure's on for every session and we didn't come through."

"With three Tests we could go down 0-2 to Pakistan, but at least getting another shot would be great."



STEPHEN FLEMING

New Zealand's last four series have been two-Test rubbers, winning 1-0 in the West Indies, 2-0 against India at home, then drawing 0-0 in both Sri Lanka and India.

Fleming agreed the two-Test series wasn't always a fair reflection of the two sides, although they were on the right side of the ledger

for their first series win in the Caribbean.

In both New Zealand's previous three-Test series they won the final Test to square the series 1-1 in Auckland against England in 2002 and in Hamilton against Pakistan the previous year.

While New Zealand hope to improve their rankings in the upcoming three-Test series against South Africa, they are also aware that when South Africa won a three-Test series 1-0 when they last toured in 1999.

South Africa are currently second in the rankings behind Australia.

New Zealand also have to fight a growing reputation for choking when well in front.

In both Tests against Pakistan New Zealand held healthy first innings leads only to be crippled in the second innings.

"It seems a crazy situation to have a problem about. We just get a little bit tense when we're ahead, about how to win a match and put ourselves out of reach," Fleming said.

That also happened at the World Cup against Australia, when they had the world champions 84 for seven but lost the match when they let them get away to 208 for nine.

# Williams on way out?

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Brad Williams has been squeezed out of the Australian one-day team in a worrying sign for the speedster as he attempts to hold his place in the team for Friday's deciding Test against India here.

Williams and Michael Kasprovicz were omitted on Wednesday from a 13-man squad for the opening four matches of the triangular one-day series against India and Zimbabwe to make way for the return of Brett Lee and Jason Gillespie.

Lee and Gillespie, two of

Australia's leading front-line bowlers, missed Australia's recent limited-overs tour of India because of injury.

Lee, Nathan Bracken and Williams are fighting for two places in the Australian XI for the fourth Sydney Test against India and if Williams cannot make the one-day cut, his Test prospects also appear slim.

Michael Clarke, now a regular in the Australian one-day side as he homes in on Steve Waugh's Test place, said Williams had paid the price for the depth available to selectors.

"Brad is bowling well and has been bowling well for a long time," Clarke said on Wednesday.

"He's a great player but Brett Lee is back and Jason Gillespie is there and unfortunately for Brad, that is the strength of Australian cricket."

"That is also the advantage Australia has over a lot of other countries."

Fast-bowling berths will be even more scarce when Glenn McGrath returns from an ankle injury during the tri-series, which gets under way with Australia playing India at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on January 9.

Williams took 11 wickets in six matches at an average of 21.16 in the series against India and New Zealand, carrying the attack with

# Russell's chance

FROM PAGE 13

the two teams clearly tipped Sheikh Russell as favorites with their two Moroccan strikers looking quite capable of creating holes in any opponents.

While Sheikh Russell will be under the spotlight, their fellow promotees Wanderers will battle for survival against giant-slayers Victoria Sporting Club, who stunned Federation Cup and National League champions Muktijoddha 1-0, in the first match at 3pm.

# All's well

FROM PAGE 13

"Off the field we had to fight the misconception that Pakistan is not safe for cricket and we brought teams back which was a great achievement," he said.

In October, South Africa reluctantly became the first Western side to play in Pakistan after a suicide bomb blast outside New Zealand's team hotel in Karachi five months earlier. The blast killed 14 people.

The incident led to Australia refusing to tour and the series was played in neutral venues.

"We sighed a relief off the field and on the field we beat South Africa with our new corps of players," said Raja.

Controversial pacer Shoaib Akhtar is now Pakistan's match winner, taking 11 wickets in the Wellington Test to turn the match on its head.

"With Shoaib, Mohammad Sami, Mohammad Shabbir and Umer Gul, Pakistan boasts the best new ball attack and if we play to our potential we can beat even India and Australia," coach Miandad said.

Pakistan's first real challenge in the new year would be to host arch-rivals India after a gap of 14 years.

India severed bilateral ties with Pakistan over political tensions in 2000 but in October permitted its cricket team to tour across the border next March-April in a thawing of relations.

Pakistan also saw the exit of its cricket chief, Lt. Gen. Tauqir Zia this year. Zia's controversial four-year term ended a day after a row between the state-owned Pakistan Television Corporation and private channel GEO deprived millions of viewers of live coverage of the first one-day match against New Zealand earlier this month.



# CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Dusting powder  
5 Jam holder  
8 "Clue" weapon  
12 On the briny  
13 Raw rock  
14 Hip-bones  
15 Wrestling partner-ships  
17 Honey bunch  
18 See 26-Down  
19 Hypothesis  
21 Opened  
24 Neutral color  
25 On  
26 Prop for Bob Barker  
30 Hostel  
31 Curmudgeon  
32 Eggs  
33 Follower  
35 Witicism  
36 Old fogy  
37 Talk a blue streak?

**DOWN**

1 Make lace  
2 Simile center  
3 Limb  
4 Popular condiment  
5 "—"  
6 Another limb  
7 Fix a racquet  
8 Steak variety  
9 Bread spread  
10 Landing site  
11 Like pie?  
16 A billion years  
20 Cabbie  
21 Worm, often  
22 Sicilian spouter  
23 Amateur-night noise-maker  
24 Cum-salis  
26 With 18-Across, Biblical squanderer  
27 Go sight-seeing  
28 Hertz rival  
29 Stare open-mouthed  
31 Hoofbeat sound  
34 Respect  
35 Slake  
37 Prompt  
38 Blue material  
39 Moolah  
40 Writer James  
41 Dance lesson  
44 Spoon-bender Geller  
45 — chi  
46 Every last crumb  
47 Solidify

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11  
12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53

**CRYPTOQUIP**

D J R J P M C U E U Q J

S M U E J A A Y U Q P Z A R U J A R Y Q J M

D R U S M J E J M A L U N J

W P Z Z J C P " N U U L Y W Y P Q . "

Yesterday's Cryptiquip: I BET SOME PEOPLE CONSIDER FINE SLEIGHT-OF-HAND MAGICIANS TO BE SUPER DUPERS.

Today's Cryptiquip Clue: A equals S

The Cryptiquip 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.



BRAD WILLIAMS

Bracken to help Australia lift the trophy.

He has taken nine wickets in three Test appearances this summer, fielding like a demon and being one of the few players spared criticism by coach John Buchanan in his leaked letter.

Brad Hogg was chosen for the tri-series despite unconvincing form for Western Australia while Ian Harvey, forever trying to nail down a permanent berth, also hung on to keep his yellowcap.

# SQUAD

Ricky Ponting (captain), Adam Gilchrist (vice-captain), Michael Bevan, Andrew Bichel, Nathan Bracken, Michael Clarke, Jason Gillespie, Ian Harvey, Matthew Hayden, Brad Hogg, Brett Lee, Damien Martyn, Andrew Symonds.