Lawson could be back against England

CRICINFO, *undated*

England could face Jermaine Lawson, the West Indies fast bowler, in the first match of their tour next week.

Lawson has not played a Test since May last year, in which he took seven for 78 against Australia. He has since been out of action because of a suspect bowling action, on which he has been having remedial work, and back problems.

However, Jamaica's selectors are reportedly considering picking Lawson, 22, for a three-day warm-up match next week after watching him back in practice.

"He bowled with some pace, the only problem was his accuracy," Robert Haynes, the coach, told the Jamaica Observer.

Rush for online

FROM PAGE 13

Visitors to the web site are presented with stadium layouts to book their preferred seats.

PCB expects the series to generate more than 1,200 million rupees in revenue, excluding ticket sales.

India are due to tour Pakistan for the first time in 14 years, beginning next month. It opens with a warm-up one-day match a day after landing in Lahore on March 10.

The first of five one-day matches will be played in Karachi on March 13.

Another report from Islamabad adds, Pakistan's interior ministry announced Wednesday 8,250 short-stay visas would be made available to Indian cricket fans for the five one-day matches scheduled next month, official said.

Vast swathes of Indian fans are expected to apply for visas to witness their country's first tour across the border in a long time.

"We have worked out the details with the PCB and have decided to give around 8,250 visas to Indian fans to watch this historic series," Interior Ministry secretary Tasneem Noorani told this news agency.

Noorani said that 2,500 visas would be issued for each of the two one-day games in Lahore, 1,500 for Karachi, 1,000 for Rawalpindi and 750 for Peshawar.

"The fans will first buy the tickets through the PCB sites and then produce confirmation of their booking to our consulate in New Delhi to get visas," he said.

The number of visas for the Test matches would be decided later, he added.

The meeting was attended by foreign affairs secretary Riaz Khokar, PCB chairman Shaharyar Khan and officials of the interior ministry. The meeting also reviewed security arrangements.

McGrath already

FROM PAGE 13

stepped up another cog, he was, in my view, better than before he had his injury.

"He seemed to be back to the form of about a year before he had his break with the injury.

"I truly believe he is 98 per cent back to his best and his bowling in the second innings was really, really good.

"I know Glenn came through the match well, he had no ill effects and he's very fit, he's had this ankle surgery but has maintained the rest of his body in a pretty superb state of fitness."

McGrath will be one of several internationals returning to the NSW line-up with one-day representatives Michael Clarke, Michael Bevan and Brad Haddin returning from Australia's series in Sri Lanka.

Fourth-placed NSW could still make the Shield final if they beat third-placed Queensland outright and competition leaders Victoria do likewise against second-placed Tasmania in Hobart.

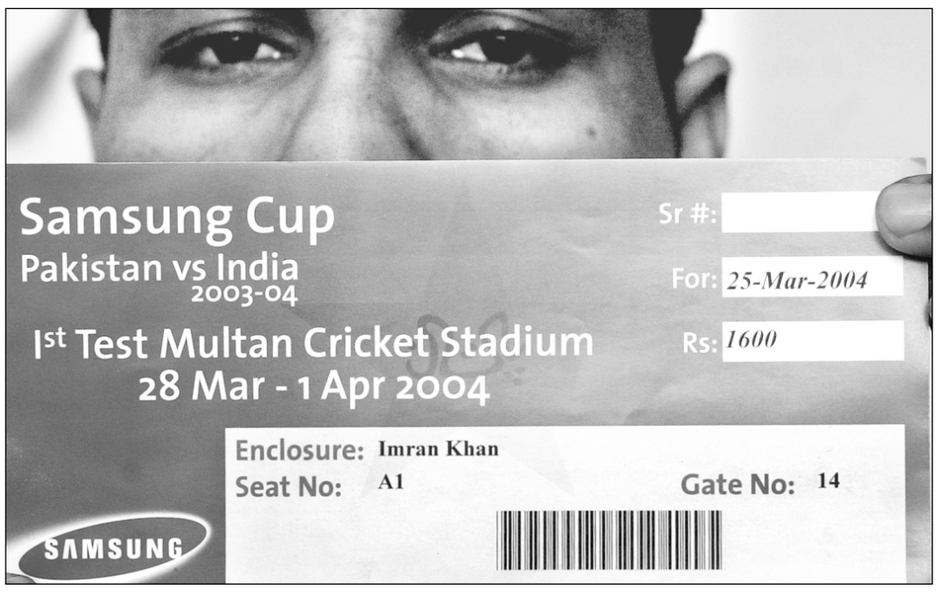


PHOTO: AFP

A Pakistani employee of CricInfo, the online firm responsible for the sale of tickets for the forthcoming Pakistan-India cricket series, displays the final ticket design in Lahore yesterday.

Srinath leads the pack

AFP, *New Delhi*

Javagal Srinath, former spearhead of the Indian cricket team's pace bowling attack, is the frontrunner to take over as the team's bowling coach on next month's tour of Pakistan, officials said on Thursday.

Srinath's name was being considered after Australian Bruce Reid, who did the job during the recent Test and one-day series in Australia, declined to accompany the team to Pakistan for personal reasons.

"Bruce has told us he will not be free during March and April because of previous commitments," an official of the Board of Control for Cricket in India said.

"We are looking at an alternative. It could be Srinath or someone else. The board will decide on Sunday."

Srinath, 34, retired in November as India's second most successful pace bowler with 236 wickets from 67 Tests. Only Kapil Dev, with 434 wickets, took more.

Srinath also played in 229 one-day internationals in which he took an Indian record of 315 wickets, including 16 in the last World Cup in southern Africa.

Indian captain Sourav Ganguly confirmed on Thursday that a bowling coach would accompany the team when it leaves for Pakistan on March 10 but insisted it would not be Pakistani great Wasim Akram.

JAVAGAL SRINATH

Akram helped out Indian bowlers including youngster Irfan Pathan during the Australian tour, a move that drew loud protests in the Pakistani media.

Ganguly, asked at a media conference if a Pakistani fast bowler would be India's bowling coach, said: "If you are referring to Wasim Akram, it is no. It will be an Indian."

Ganguly admitted the upcoming series against Pakistan would be a big challenge for his team.

"Playing Pakistan is not the same as playing another country," the Indian captain said.

"It has a different charm. We can't shy away from the fact that the expectations from fans will be immense. They obviously want us to win. It is up to the cricketers to take the pressure and play their best."

Ganguly dismissed suggestions that Indian batsmen would find it difficult to handle reverse swing, an art mastered by Pakistani fast bowlers such as the retired Akram and the ageing Waqar Younis, who is not in the current reckoning for the forthcoming series.

"Pakistan does not have bowlers of the class of Akram and Waqar," he said. "You worry about reverse swing when the ball moves both ways like Akram was able to do.

"I don't think there is any bowler in the current Pakistan attack who can make the ball reverse swing both ways."

Raja's cause for concern

REUTERS, *Karachi*

Pakistan are concerned that India could call off their Test tour next month at the first hint of crowd trouble.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chief executive Rameez Raja told Reuters on Thursday that the board had asked their Indian counterparts to amend a memorandum of understanding which included a condition allowing India's players to return home if there was an off-field incident.

"We have asked them to soften this clause, since it also states that in the condition of an aborted tour on security grounds the Pakistan board cannot claim any compensation from them, as per International Cricket Council rules," Raja said.

"If the tour is called off under any pretext it will be disastrous for Pakistan cricket."

India's players have already expressed security concerns over the visit. They have also refused to play Tests in the volatile cities of Karachi and Peshawar.

The Indian board refused to respond to Raja's comments. President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India Jagmohan Dalmiya said: "It is a board document, not a public one. There will be several things which might be changed. This (type of discussion) happens between all boards."

'Symonds deserves Test membership'

Cricket

REUTERS, *Colombo*

Australia captain Ricky Ponting believes all-rounder Andrew Symonds is ready to make his Test debut after another professional display in the third one-day international against Sri Lanka on Wednesday.

Symonds, 28, scored a calm 45 not out to steer Australia to a comfortable five-wicket win, also bowling a useful nine-over spell to complete figures of one for 48.

Symonds, yet to be dismissed in the series, was recently included in the Test squad for the first time and Ponting hinted that his prowess against spinners could help clinch a place in the side for the first match in Galle starting on March 8.

"He is playing beautifully at the moment and it is exciting to think that he could be in the Test line-up," Ponting told reporters.

"He plays the spinners well and if they bowl a bad ball he is going to hit it. To have someone like him around is really good for the team."

Ponting is also delighted with the way his batsmen have played Muttiah Muralitharan in the last two games, with the demon off spinner failing to take a wicket and conceding 92 runs in 20 overs.

"I don't think he is bowling that badly I just think we are playing him pretty well," Ponting said.

"Our approach to him has been spot on so far.

ANDREW SYMONDS

"Most of our batsmen are picking him and playing him pretty well and hopefully we can do that again on Friday."

Sri Lanka skipper Marvan Atapattu rued his team's poor start when they slumped to 54 for four after fast bowler Jason Gillespie took three wickets.

"It all went wrong at the start and we should have ended up with 30 or 40 more runs on a good batting track," Atapattu told reporters.

"It was a great innings though by Mahela (Jayawardene) and the lower order batsmen to get us to 226 at the end.

"It was great start by (Chaminda) Vaasy to get us those two early wickets and at that moment we had a sniff but (Damien) Martyn and Ponting then batted superbly."

Ponting made 63 and Martyn 62 to set up the world champions' comfortable victory, which put them 2-1 up in the five-match series.

Warne to bowl

FROM PAGE 13

Warne has taken 491 wickets from 107 Tests, while Muralitharan has 485 wickets to his name from 85 Tests.

Both are chasing the current record of 519 Test wickets, held by retired West Indies paceman Courtney Walsh.

Warne was banned for 12 months in February 2003 after testing positive at the World Cup in South Africa for a banned diuretic in an out-of-competition test.

He was selected for the three-Test series in Sri Lanka next month after limited appearances for the Victoria state side in the Australian domestic competition.

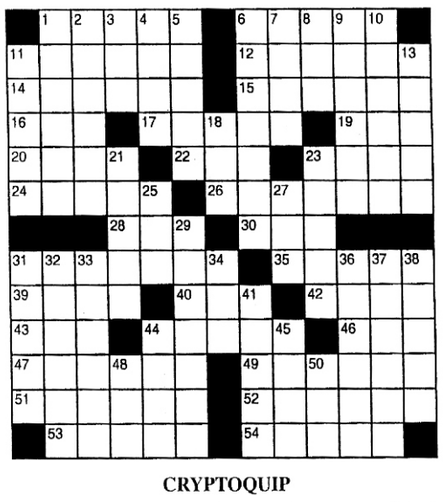
CROSSWORD *By Eugene Sheffer*

ACROSS
1 Measured in 3-D
6 Type of heel
11 Neighbor of Arizona
12 Obscuring
14 Big-enough fish
15 Pass
16 Zsa Zsa's sis
17 Time period
19 Wrestling victory
20 Nasty stinger
22 Poorly
23 Strike repeatedly
24 "A gentle thing," said Coleridge
26 Ripens
28 "Go, team!"
30 Dot follower, often
31 Stuff you haven't done yet
35 Memorable time
39 Eve's grandson
40 City legislator (Abbr.)
42 Unfailing
43 In olden days
44 Gators' kin
46 1773 castoff
47 Copies, for short
49 Climactic move
51 Record jacket
52 Unceremoniously curt
53 "As You Like It" setting
54 One of V-8's eight

DOWN
1 Contemporary
2 Misgiving
3 Cyndi Lauper's "She —"
4 Raises one's hackles
5 Wrist bones
6 Defeat decisively
7 Dosage, maybe
8 Mrs. McKinley
9 Smoked salmon
10 Store grain
11 Distorts
13 Fellows
18 Freddy's street
21 Fringe benefits
23 High heels, often
25 One of the gang
27 Place-kicker's pride
29 Lose mellifluence
31 Storybook trio
32 Ms. Lansbury
33 Barrel-smith
34 Day- — colors
36 Product
37 Heebie-jeebies
38 "Damn Yankees" song
41 1983 movie featuring Mr. T
44 Inlet
45 "Quien —?"
48 Visine target
50 Ante-

Solution time: 27 mins.

A	D	D	L	E		T	A	P		P	I	P
M	O	R	A	L		A	L	E		I	R	A
P	E	A	T	S		C	A	R	T	O	O	N
		W	H	I	S	K	S		H	U	N	T
C	H	I		E	E	L		S	A	S	S	Y
A	U	N	T		T	E	S	T	Y			
R	E	G	R	E	T		W	E	E	P	E	R
			A	L	O	H	A		R	I	G	A
B	A	G	G	Y		U	M	A		C	O	W
U	G	L	I		K	N	I	G	H	T		
T	R	A	C	I	N	G		L	O	U	T	S
Y	E	N		F	I	R		O	P	R	A	H
L	E	D		S	T	Y		W	E	E	D	Y



CRYPTOQUIP

G S D I N L D Q F X N P P B Z F B R D V U I X R N K N Q K D Q V S R E, G U P P S D Q D H D U L D N H Z X N K R L D X S D Q D V X ?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AT LUNCH I CAME CLOSE TO MAKING A SCRAMBLED EGG, BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO WHISK IT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals B

The Cryptoquip 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.

Koreas to march as one at Athens

AFP, *Athens*

North and South Korea agreed Wednesday to march together at the opening ceremony of the Athens Olympics next August as they did at the Sydney Games four years ago.

Jo Sang Nam, North Korea's National Olympic Committee Secretary General, said that agreement had also been reached to begin talks about fielding a unified team for the 2008 Games in Beijing.

"Yes, we will march in the stadium in Athens together, like in Sydney," Sang Nam told reporters on Wednesday on the sidelines of a meeting of national Olympic committees.

"Then there will be discussions about one common team in four years time in Beijing," he added without disclosing when the talks would start.

South and North Korean athletes have marched together at the opening ceremonies of the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, the 2002 Asian Games in Busan and three other international events.

The two Koreans formed a unified team for the World Table Tennis Championships in 1991.

Shabbir ready for Pak recall

REUTERS, *Karachi*

Pakistan are confident that quick bowler Shabbir Ahmed will be available for India's visit next month after undergoing corrective work on his action.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) spokesman Samiul Hasan told this news agency on Thursday that the first reports from Perth in Australia, where Shabbir has been working on his action, suggested there was no cause for major concern.

"He is working with experts like Daryl Foster who have helped Shoaib Akhtar in the past," Hasan said.

"We are confident Shabbir's action will be cleared by the experts and we can send an all-clear report to the International Cricket Council."

Shabbir, who has played six Tests and 19 one-dayers, was reported in January after the fifth and final one-dayer against New Zealand. Foster is one of the world's leading bowling coaches and has previously accompanied Pakistan on foreign tours.

Hasan said the bowler had been asked to return home by the end of February.

Shabbir has been reported three times for a suspect action, including once after his one-day debut against West Indies in 1999.

Magura soccer

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Sunrise Sporting Club trounced Satyapur-Juba Sangha 8-1 in the First Division Football League at the Magura Stadium yesterday.

The winners dominated the first half 4-1.

Both Kanak and Shahrier scored hattricks for Sunrise while Ahad managed to find a consolation goal.

Nuruzzaman pilots

FROM PAGE 13

Mortuza not out 16
Extras: (b-11, lb-1, w-2) 14
Total: (For 5 wkts in 125 overs) 348
Fall of wkts: 1-29, 2-38, 3-218, 4-243, 5-310.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Russell	18	4	46	1
Al-Amin	8	6	19	0
Razzak	38	12	85	1
Shafiul	9	1	29	0
Jamal	20	1	80	2
Bashir	27	5	61	1
Hasanuzzaman	5	2	16	0

Result: Match drawn.

This can

FROM PAGE 13

Pakistan should play each other more often.

"It will definitely help to reduce tension and hype over cricket," he said. "I don't think the crowds and tension in Pakistan are going to be that bad."

Meanwhile another report from New Delhi says, former skipper Krishnamachari Srikkanth has backed India to register their maiden Test-series win in Pakistan next month.

"India have got a very strong batting line-up. The players are at their peak and I'm very confident this will be the first Indian team to win a series on Pakistani soil," Srikkanth, who led India on their last tour to Pakistan 14 years ago, told reporters on Thursday.

Sachin Tendulkar, who made his debut as a 16-year-old on that tour, is the only member of the current team to have played Test cricket in Pakistan.

India play five one-day internationals, starting in Karachi on March 13, followed by three Tests.

Srikkanth's side drew all four Tests in 1989-90 and he was sacked soon after. India have never won a Test in Pakistan, losing five and drawing 15.

Henin sails, Jennifer falls

Tennis

AFP, *Dubai*

World number one and defending champion Justine Henin-Hardenne was back in form after bronchitis forced her out of the Antwerp tournament last week, scoring a straight sets win over Tunisia's Selima Sfar in the 585,000-dollar WTA Dubai Open on Wednesday.

The top seed came away a 6-1, 7-5 winner over the top Arab women's player as former world number one Venus Williams also bounced back from her injury worries with a straight sets win over Australian No 1 Alicia Molik.

But there was no fairytale return for former world number one Jennifer Capriati who lost her comeback match against Greece's Eleni Daniilidou.

Williams, the second seed, was the recipient of a first round bye and came away a 6-3, 6-4 winner in her second round tie against unseeded Molik.

The 23-year-old Williams had withdrawn from last week's event in Antwerp because of a strained lower right leg suffered in Tokyo three weeks ago. She had returned to competitive tennis at last month's Australian Open following a six-month lay-off caused by an abdominal injury.

Afterwards the former Wimbledon and US Open champion celebrated as though she had won another major title.

"It was the second most exciting opening match of a tournament I have ever played," Venus said.

"The first was my first first round match. And this one was the next most exciting because I have had a lot of injuries which have hampered my performances and I haven't really prepared enough to play well."

Williams next meets rising Russian teenager Svetlana Kuznetsova, who later defeated Germany's Anca Barna 6-4, 6-3, for a place in the semi-finals.

But Capriati, the third seed, who has been sidelined for three months with a back injury, was not so fortunate and lost her wind-affected match to Daniilidou 6-4, 7-6.

The American had lost a little speed and was less sure of herself on the big points, but was nevertheless not far below her best against an opponent who looked to be building up well to the biggest moment of her career at the Olympics in her homeland in August.

"I was not displeased with the way I played," said Capriati.

Daniilidou used her height and reach to attack the net and also scored well with some fluent and varied backhand drives. Most of all she grew in confidence after Capriati played an indifferent game when serving to save the first set.

Snatching that advantage helped Daniilidou to attack even more boldly whenever Capriati opened up the court with diagonal drives, and when the unseeded player broke serve and consolidated to 5-2 it looked all over.

It was then that Capriati's fighting instincts surfaced once more. She saved three match points on the Daniilidou serve at 3-5, broke back, and then broke again to lead 6-5, at which stage she was serving for the second set.

But Daniilidou did excellently to prevent her opponent generating any further momentum. She pressured the Capriati second serve, broke back for six-all, and played two solidly forcing rallies from the baseline in the tie-break to grab decisive mini-breaks at 4-2 and 5-2.

Daniilidou next meets the Japanese fifth seed Ai Sugiyama in the quarterfinals, as Henin-Hardenne plays former Wimbledon champion Conchita Martinez, and unseeded American Meghann Shaughnessy plays fourth-seeded Russian Anastasia Myskina.

PHOTO: AP

American tennis star Venus Williams rides a camel at the Aviation Club in Dubai on February. 24.

Dancing with Dhawan

FROM PAGE 13

that included seven fours and a six. Beadle was however left stranded on 49 when victory was achieved in 36.2 overs.

Scotland defeated Papua New Guinea by seven wickets at the MA Aziz Stadium to join the Australians in the last four from the group.

The young Highlanders bowled PNG out for 114 in 32.2 overs and then raced to victory in 26.4 overs. Opener Young and Iqbal each scoring 30.

Both Australia and Scotland now await the outcome of today's match between Bangladesh and Ireland to know their semifinal opponents.

SCOREBOARD

Scorecards of the four ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup matches at different venues yesterday:

SUPER LEAGUE

India vs Sri Lanka
Venue: Bangabandhu National Stadium

INDIA
Uthappa c Kulasekara b Chanaka 9
Dhawan run out (de Zoysa) 146
Solanki c Vithana b Chanaka 9
Rayudu b Chanaka 1
Raina c Silva b Maharoof 54
Karthik not out 70
Dhiman not out 14
Extras: (lb-1, w-10, nb-2) 13
Total: (For 5 wkts in 50 overs) 316
Did not bat: P Gupta, R Singh, P Waghela, A Sharma.
Fall of wkts: 1-19, 2-37, 3-39, 4-173, 5-288.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Maharoof	10	0	68	1
Chanaka	10	2	63	3
Kulasekara	8	1	48	0
Suraj	10	1	5	6
Ratnayake	8	0	50	0
de Zoysa	1	0	1	0
Vithana	3	0	2	0

SRI LANKA
Tharanga b Singh 61
Vithana c & b Gupta 37
Kulasekara c & b Gupta 15
De Silva c & b Rayudu 26
Maharoof run out 0
Navela run out 20
Ratnayake st Karthik b Rayudu 24
Silva not out 28
Suraj c Wahgela b Gupta 24
Chanaka c Dhawan b Raina 8
De Zoysa run out 0
Extras: (b-4, lb-4, w-9) 17
Total: (All out in 46 overs) 260
Fall of wkts: 1-83, 2-101, 3-142, 4-146, 5-158, 6-185, 7-201, 8-251, 9-260, 10-260.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Dhiman	5	0	51	0
Singh	6	0	40	1
Raina	10	0	37	1
Gupta	8	0	25	3
Sharma	9	0	52	0
Rayudu	8	0	47	2

Result: India won by 56 runs.
Man-of-the-match: S Dhawan.
Toss: India

South Africa vs West Indies
Venue: Fatullah Cricket Stadium, Dhaka

WEST INDIES
Marshall run out (Alexander) 106
Maraj run out (Philander) 34
Simmons run out (September) 30
Fudadin c Bowyer b van der Merwe 8
Ramdin c van Jaarsveld b September 16
Augustus b van der Merwe 33
Khan not out 26
Rampaul not out 12
Extras: (b-1, lb-11, w-5, nb-2) 19
Total: (For 6 wkts in 50 overs) 284
Did not bat: L Sebastien, R Bachan, L Baker.
Fall of wkts: 1-93, 2-161, 3-178, 4-196, 5-213, 6-267.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Alexander	4	0	21	0
Philander	6	1	21	0
Africa	5	0	4	2
September	10	0	57	1
Pennazza	10	0	57	0
Bowyer	10	0	4	4
Van der Merwe	5	0	3	0

SOUTH AFRICA
Van Jaarsveld c Simmons b Baker 40
Bowyer c Khan b Sebastien 32
Van Wyk st Ramdin b Bachan 41
Booysen b Sebastien 17
Philander st Ramdin b Bachan 2
Van der Merwe b Rampaul 15
Africa run out (Ramdin) 14
Silwana b Rampaul 42
Pennazza b Rampaul 27
September run out (Khan) 3
Alexander not out 0
Extras: (b-4, lb-1, w-3, nb-9) 17
Total: (All out in 50 overs) 250
Fall of wkts: 1-67, 2-95, 3-129, 4-132, 5-153, 6-163, 7-185, 8-238, 9-246, 10-250.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Rampaul	10	0	41	3
Baker	6	0	29	1
Sebastien	10	0	46	2
Khan	10	0	51	0
Bachan	10	1	46	2
Augustus	4	0	32	0

Result: West Indies won by 34 runs.
Man-of-the-match: X Marshall
Toss: West Indies

PLATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Australia vs Nepal
Venue: Chittagong Divisional Stadium

NEPAL
Chaugai c Crosthwaite b Henriques 9
Regmi c Beadle b O'Keefe 14
Gauchan c Crosthwaite b O'Keefe 6
Vesawkar c Beadle b Henriques 0
Khadka c Doropoulos b Paine 33
Chaudhari c Skewes b Beadle 19
M Shrestha c Crosthwaite b Paine 11
Rauniyar b Huckett 8
Katuwal not out 16
Lama b Huckett 7
R Shrestha not out 0
Extras: (lb-8, w-23) 31
Total: (For 9 wkts in 50 overs) 154
Fall of wkts: 1-22, 2-48, 3-48, 4-52, 5-101, 6-105, 7-115, 8-140, 9-154.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Putland	3	0	12	0
Huckett	6	0	30	2
Henriques	9	1	26	2
O'Keefe	10	2	19	0
Paine	9	2	24	2
Beadle	3	0	13	1

AUSTRALIA
Paine c Katuwal b M Shrestha 13
Doropoulos lbw b M Shrestha 17
Harrison c Katuwal b Lama 16
Henriques c Katuwal b M Shrestha 9
Crosthwaite not out 50
Beadle not out 49
Extras: (w-4)