

Know the Black Caps

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The New Zealand cricket team had hardly seen any success before winning the ICC Knockout World Cup in 2000. That triumph must have inspired Stephen Fleming and Co to look forward. Things have come out more positive for the Black Caps after former New Zealand international John Bracewell took over as coach.

Success is not something new to one of New Zealand's finest off-spinners. Bracewell changed the face of English county side Gloucestershire handing them seven trophies between 1999-2003. Before that, they had gone 21 years without a title.

The Midas touch continued as the Kiwis humiliated South Africa at home and recovered from a 3-0 defeat at England in the Test series by winning the triangular one-day series also

involving the West Indies. In his first year as coach, he has also made a name for making a number of about-turns. One of his major changes was to bring Fleming to open in Tests. He also loves to rotate his players to keep them fresh throughout the season.

That is why he could simply tell someone like Fleming, arguably the best captain in international cricket, he would not be playing in the one-day series against Bangladesh because he will be 'resting'. Like any wise coach, he gathered information about what to expect in Bangladesh and he was bold to tell it to the press on his arrival to the country.

"When I toured India and Pakistan, I noticed that your batters tend to make you want to bowl like the opposition. I think the best way is to actually bowl where you bowl and not try and change

on a short tour. So we'll get Paul (Wiseman) and Daniel (Vettori) to keep throwing the ball up and try and get them in the air," explained the 46-year-old.

"We are not great spinners of the ball off the wicket. In fast terms, we don't produce things that come out of the Asian continent but we do have guile, flight and we do get our guys to drift the ball away from or into the bat and that's what we'll be encouraging them to do." The New Zealand coach also believed that they have to guard against any surprises.

"My understanding through talking to the English players and management last year was that Bangladesh's ability to take the game to its length and not necessarily individuals involved in it. They want to hang in there for as long as possible forcing the pace of the opposition to make errors. I consider

that a strength.

"Talking to our Under 19 coach who came over here for the World Cup, he was quite impressed with the youth of Bangladesh cricket. The number of young players that are coming through from the Under 19s and he said that if some of those younger players get picked, especially some of their pace bowlers they look as though they are coming through. They can bowl and they will learn to bowl. We are weary of that and won't be complacent." When asked whether they opted for a weaker side to meet an otherwise under-strength opposition in Bangladesh, Bracewell said: This is the strongest side available. Of course we don't have Shane Bond who had a back operation and Darryl Tuffey has had some knee problems. So this was the strongest squad available for selection." He, however, does not believe that the absence of Bond and

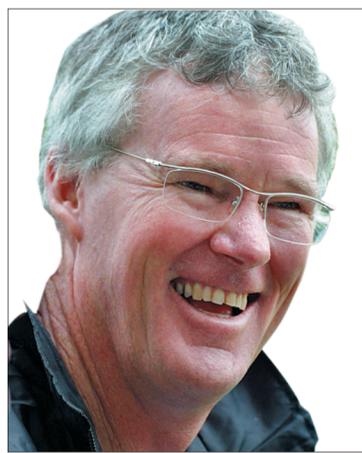
Tuffey has weakened his attack. "It depends on the conditions. It doesn't matter how fast your bowlers are. If you don't pick the right players for the right conditions they can be a waste of time. We have got two very good spin bowlers. We have also picked some swing bowlers as well who can also reverse swing the ball. I think we are adequately supplied in terms of balance."

Replying to a question about prolific batsman Craig McMillan's absence, he said he was looking for changes. "Craig has been batting extremely well in one-day cricket over the last six months. The side were slightly exposed in the middle-order against England in that they all batted very similarly and we want to break that up. Hamish Marshall, who has performed extremely well in the opportunities he has got in the last 12 months we want to look and see how he goes in Test match level."

The team's think-tank has decided to give Daniel Vettori the job to lead the one-day series against Bangladesh although Fleming's deputy in England Chris Cairns will join the side.

Explaining the situation, Bracewell said: "Chris Cairns is no longer available for Test match cricket. That's why what we are doing is we are trying to extend the leadership within ourselves. We know that Chris can captain in one-day cricket but he won't be with the unit up until the one-dayers. So, therefore, we want to have sort of continuity that passes over, somebody who understands the rhythm of the team. Vettori has extensive experience within the Black Caps as a leader, not necessarily as a captain.

We think he's our solution for the future. It's important to have continuity between your vice-captain and captain."



COACH: JOHN BRACEWELL



Stephen Fleming

Calm, composed, mature, intelligent the dream captain. Responsibility has brought the best out of him as a player as he is more confident in displaying his class these days. Took a while for New Zealand's longest-serving - and most successful - Test skipper to get his first hundred, but once the shackles had been broken, he has promptly gone on to better things. New Zealand have transformed under him from a side locked in mediocrity to one that his constant pushing for the top.

Full Name: Stephen Paul Fleming
Born: 1 April 1973, Christchurch, Canterbury
Batting Style: Left Hand Bat
Test Debut: New Zealand v India at Hamilton, Only Test, 1993/94
Latest Test: New Zealand v England at Nottingham, 3rd Test, 2004

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	St
	34	59	3	2685	145	47.94		37	74	4
	0	19	24	0						

O	M	R	W	Ave	BBI	5	10	SR	Econ
11	0	21	1	21.00	1-16	0	0	66.0	1.90



Mark Richardson

A compact opening bat who did not make his Test debut until he was a whisker away from his 30th birthday. But he rapidly started making up for the lost time and now has the best batting aggregate in the team.

Full Name: Mark Hunter Richardson
Born: 11 June 1971, Hastings, Hawke's Bay
Batting Style: Left Hand Bat
Bowling Style: Slow Left Arm Orthodox
Test Debut: New Zealand v Zimbabwe at Bulawayo, 1st Test, 2000/01
Latest Test: New Zealand v England at Nottingham, 3rd Test, 2004

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	St
	34	59	3	2685	145	47.94		37	74	4
	0	19	24	0						

O	M	R	W	Ave	BBI	5	10	SR	Econ
11	0	21	1	21.00	1-16	0	0	66.0	1.90



Mathew Sinclair

Scored 214 on his debut against West Indies at Wellington in 1999 and then cracked 204 not out against Pakistan in the following summer. But he has struggled since. Now with Craig McMillan out of favour in Tests and also an openers slot up for grabs, the onus is on him to make the best out of his recall to the side.

Full Name: Mathew Stuart Sinclair
Born: 9 November 1975, Katherine, Australia
Batting Style: Right Hand Bat
Bowling Style: Right Arm Medium
Other: Wicketkeeper
Test Debut: New Zealand v West Indies at Wellington, 2nd Test, 1999/00
Latest Test: New Zealand v South Africa at Wellington, 3rd Test, 2003/04

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	St
	21	36	5	1195	214	38.54		44	01	3
	17	0	0							

O	M	R	W	Ave	BBI	5	10	SR	Econ
4	0	13	0	-	-	0	0	-	3.25



Nathan Astle

A destructive batsman who can single-handedly change the course of a match. Has the record for the fastest double hundred in Test history when he scored that memorable 222 off 153 balls against England, at Christchurch in 2001-02. The most senior player in the team in terms of experience but the most adventurous also.

Full Name: Nathan John Astle
Born: 15 September 1971, Christchurch, Canterbury
Batting Style: Right Hand Bat
Bowling Style: Right Arm Medium
Test Debut: New Zealand v Zimbabwe at Hamilton, 1st Test, 1995/96
Latest Test: New Zealand v England at Nottingham, 3rd Test, 2004

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	St
	62	107	9	3730	222	38.06		49	20	4
	9	18	54	0						

O	M	R	W	Ave	BBI	5	10	SR	Econ	
77	5	267	17	11.1	36	47	52	2	22	0
0	0	128.9	2.21							



Scott Styris

A no-nonsense all-rounder who is becoming more important for the Black Caps by the day. Boasts one of the best batting averages in the team. Naturally attacking but can curb his instincts when required. More than a handy medium pacer.

Full Name: Scott Bernard Styris
Born: 10 July 1975, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia
Batting Style: Right Hand Bat
Bowling Style: Right Arm Medium
Test Debut: New Zealand v West Indies at St George's, 2nd Test, 2002
Latest Test: New Zealand v England at Nottingham, 3rd Test, 2004

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	St
	15	27	2	1072	170	42.88		50	51	4
	4	4	10	0						

O	M	R	W	Ave	BBI	5	10	SR	Econ
25	4	58	80	16	50.25	3	28	0	0
0	0	95.4	3.15						



Jacob Oram

For a towering 1.98m man, Oram is remarkably agile in the field courtesy some goalkeeping experience in school soccer. Bowls at fast-medium pace but the bounce he can generate from that height is the most disconcerting aspect for the batsmen facing him. His batting is improving all the time.

Full Name: Jacob David Philip Oram
Born: 28 July 1978, Palmerston North, Manawatu
Batting Style: Left Hand Bat
Bowling Style: Right Arm Fast Medium
Test Debut: New Zealand v India at Wellington, 1st Test, 2002/03
Latest Test: New Zealand v England at Nottingham, 3rd Test, 2004

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	St
	13	23	4	755	119*	39.73		52	46	1
	4	10	0							

O	M	R	W	Ave	BBI	5	10	SR	Econ
55	80	13	1357	137*	20.25	49	14	17	27
0	0	75.0	2.52						



Brendon McCullum

Possibly the best wicketkeeper-batsman for New Zealand since Adam Parore. Acknowledges that his first real challenge at Test level will come while keeping on the slow and low tracks in Bangladesh. Aggressive in batting like most of his teammates.

Full Name: Brendon Barrie McCullum
Born: 27 September 1981, Dunedin, Otago
Batting Style: Right Hand Bat
Other: Wicketkeeper
Test Debut: New Zealand v South Africa at Hamilton, 1st Test, 2003/04
Latest Test: New Zealand v England at Nottingham, 3rd Test, 2004

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	St
	6	11	1	347	96	34.70		52	65	0
	0	4	15	0						

O	M	R	W	Ave	BBI	5	10	SR	Econ
71	85	3	2667	602	158	38.14	7	37	78.7
0	0	71.85	2.68						



Daniel Vettori

The most versatile left-arm spinner in the world. Got selected in the New Zealand Test team at the age of 18 and was the fastest to reach 100 Test wickets. Has tantalising loop, clever change in flight and a dangerous armer, fancies his batting and has a Test hundred under his belt. Already accumulated 1000 Test runs and averages in the respectable 20s. Not bad for a man batting in number eight or nine mostly.

Full Name: Daniel Luca Vettori
Born: 27 January 1979, Auckland
Batting Style: Left Hand Bat
Bowling Style: Slow Left Arm Orthodox
Test Debut: New Zealand v England at Wellington, 2nd Test, 1996/97
Latest Test: New Zealand v England at Leeds, 2nd Test, 2004

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	St
	55	80	13	1357	137*	20.25	49	14	17	27
	0	0	0							

O	M	R	W	Ave	BBI	5	10	SR	Econ
22	48	2567	602	158	38.14	7	37	78.7	71.85
0	0	71.85	2.68						



Paul Wiseman

Has completed first part of his education by touring Sri Lanka and India. Now it is time for him to show what he has learnt in the spinner's craft. Could be quite effective bowling in tandem with Vettori on responsive wickets.

Full Name: Paul John Wiseman
Born: 4 May 1970, Auckland
Batting Style: Right Hand Bat
Bowling Style: Right Arm Off Break
Test Debut: New Zealand v Sri Lanka at Colombo (RPS), 1st Test, 1997/98
Latest Test: New Zealand v South Africa at Hamilton, 1st Test, 2003/04

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	St
	19	26	6	22	36	11.10		0	0	0
	29	79	0	0	0					

O	M	R	W	Ave	BBI	5	10	SR	Econ
705	163	2139	47	45.51	5-82	2	0	0	9.00



Ian Butler

The fastest New Zealand bowler behind the injury-prone Shane Bond. He also has an uncanny ability to extract troublesome lift from surfaces others are unable to exploit as was evident when he achieved his Test-best 6 for 46 against India on a doddle pitch in Mohali in 2003.

Full Name: Ian Gareth Butler
Born: 24 November 1981, Middlemore, Auckland
Batting Style: Right Hand Bat
Bowling Style: Right Hand Fast
Test Debut: New Zealand v England at Christchurch, 1st Test, 2001/02
Latest Test: New Zealand v Pakistan at Wellington, 2nd Test, 2003/04

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	St
	7	9	1	61	26	7.62		44	52	0
	0	4	0							

O	M	R	W	Ave	BBI	5	10	SR	Econ
212	33	842	24	35.08	6-46	10	53	0	3.97



Chris Martin

Made a memorable return to Test cricket after almost two years out of the side with 11 wickets and the Man of the Match award against South Africa at Auckland in 2003-04. Most effective in seaming conditions as he can move the ball both ways and with control.

Full Name: Christopher Stewart Martin
Born: 10 December 1974, Christchurch, Canterbury
Batting Style: Right Hand Bat
Bowling Style: Right Arm Fast Medium
Test Debut: New Zealand v South Africa at Bloemfontein, 1st Test, 2000/01
Latest Test: New Zealand v England at Nottingham, 3rd Test, 2004

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	St
	16	209	24	7	2.18	17.39		0	0	5
	0	0	0							

O	M	R	W	Ave	BBI	5	10	SR	Econ
499	1	115	1790	58	30.86	6	76	41	51.6
0	0	51.6	3.58						



Hamish Marshall

A fluent batsman with an assured technique. Made his Test debut against South Africa in December 2000 but surprisingly enough, never played a Test since. He has however impressed in ODIs and a second Test call could be just around the corner.

Full Name: Hamish John Hamilton Marshall
Born: 15 February 1979, Warkworth, Auckland
Batting Style: Right Hand Bat
Bowling Style: Right Arm Medium
Test Debut: New Zealand v South Africa at Johannesburg, 3rd Test, 2000/01

TEST STATS	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	100	50	St
	3	4	1	21	17	7.00		21	0	2
	0	0	0							

O	M	R	W	Ave	BBI	5	10	SR	Econ
98	19	313	13	24.07	4-26	0	0		