

## Hoggard's prediction

AFP, Durban

Fast bowler Matthew Hoggard believes England will comfortably win the second Test against South Africa which starts here on Sunday.

Michael Vaughan's men clinched the first Test of the five-game series by seven wickets in Port Elizabeth on Tuesday to take their winning sequence to eight Tests.

Now opening bowler Hoggard insists there is more to come from the tourists.

"If we improve by 20 per cent, like I think we will, then we'll be comfortable winners again," Hoggard told the BBC.

"Before the first Test, they said they were going to come at us hard and be in our faces, but we didn't see that."

Despite his optimism, Hoggard still believes England should not underestimate Graeme Smith's South Africans.

"We're not writing them off yet," said Hoggard.

"They're going to make some team changes and come back at us, so they will be tough to beat in Durban."

"It will be interesting to see their selection for the second Test, but we can't worry about what they are going to do, only what we are going to do."

## V-Day Golf held

SPORTS REPORTER

KJ Yoon clinched the men's title while C D Hwang won the women's crown in the Victory Day Cup Golf Tournament at the Kurmitola Golf Club course yesterday.

Chief of Army Staff and president of Kurmitola Golf Club Lt Gen Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury gave away prizes among the winners.

## OTHER WINNERS

Senior winner: Brig Gen Jahangir Hussain; Junior winner: BS Park; Runner-up: Brig Gen SM Mafuzul Haque; Ladies runner-up: Mrs Shaheen Khan; 2nd Runner-up: Jang Pil Kim; 3rd Runner-up: Bong Su Park; Front Nine winner: Gp Capt Ashraf Azhar; Back Nine winner: Ejaz Ahmed; Best Point Per 4 Holes: Maj Gen M Kamal Uddin; Nearest to Pin: SN Khan; Longest Drive: Faisal Khan; Winner Nine Hole: Seraj Uddin Ahmed; Senior winner Nine Hole: Maj Gen M Muzammel Hussain; Runner up Nine Hole: Brig Gen M Abdur Rab.

## Ponting warns

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opens for New South Wales in one-day games.

Katich said his success in batting at number three in India, where he made 255 in five innings, would help him deal with Pakistani speedster Shoaib Akhtar firing down the new ball.

"It was probably a good thing for me because it gave me a chance to get settled before the spinners came on, which is always going to be a good thing in India, so it was probably a little bit of an advantage," he said.

The left-hander said he bore no grudges from his controversial omission from the Australian Test squad that thumped New Zealand earlier this summer, when he said he was "ready to snap" over his treatment.

"I'm over all the disappointment that happened a month or so ago, and I think I've gone back to state cricket and done my best and performed reasonably well, so I think I've dealt with that... it's just nice to be back," he said.

The final decision on whether Katich will replace Langer is expected to be made Saturday.

Pakistan are yet to name a team but captain Inzamamul Haq will play despite a long-term back problem.

"He'll have to play through it and we'll just try to manage him from here on, now that we know what it (the injury) is," said Woolmer.

The skipper was unable to field for part of Australia's second innings in Perth, then made a first-ball duck in the second innings, shuffling back to the pavilion in pain.

## Talent runs

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way through the representative ranks for Karnataka.

Others include Jogram Yadav, whose spin bowling father Shival took over 100 Test wickets, and Puraj Singh Rathore, the nephew of former opening batsman Chetan Chauhan.

Tendulkar's son Arjun is only five and it is far too early to tell how much of the family ability he has inherited.

"I play cricket with him and it's fun. Arjun is left-handed and enjoys batting, but I have never forced him. He just likes to have a great time, playing in the mud."

"He is the age when you live without any pressure on you," he commented.

Now, the focus is on Rohan to see whether he can live on the expectations arising from being a Tendulkar.

## Eng eye improvement

Cricket

AFP, Durban

England will seek to take advantage of an unsettled South African team in the second Test starting at Kingsmead Sunday.

A seven-wicket win in the first Test in Port Elizabeth gave England a significant edge in the five-match series. England went in short of match practice and lost the toss but still dominated most of the game.

England captain Michael Vaughan said he expected his team to improve. They had not played to their full potential in Port Elizabeth where some of their cricket had been "sloppy".

While England, who have won a record eight Tests in a row, have a settled team and are playing with confidence, South Africa are in a state of disarray at the end of a year in which they have plunged from second to sixth in the world Test rankings. Captain Graeme Smith bemoaned the lack of stability in South African cricket following several changes in key personnel, including a coach and convenor of selectors who are both interim appointees.

In a newspaper column Friday, Smith said: "We desperately need to share a common goal and purpose in everything from racial representation to playing style to administrative structures. As far as the team is concerned, we simply can't succeed with ever-changing views on who, and why, certain players should play ahead of others."

A squad of 14 assembled in Durban Friday with uncertainty over who would make the final

eleven. Herschelle Gibbs is likely to return to partner Smith as an opening batsman but will have to pass a fitness test after playing only one game, scoring just four runs, since suffering a right little finger ligament injury on November 17.

Another key fitness issue is whether Jacques Kallis will be able to bowl. He played as a batsman only in the first Test because of an ankle injury.

Selection convenor Haroon Lorgat said he was confident Kallis would be able to bowl but Smith was more cautious Friday, saying: "Jacques probably won't be 100 per cent by the start."

If Kallis can bowl, home town batsman Hashim Amla is likely to

bolster a batting order whose shortage of specialists was exposed by the disciplined England bowling attack in the first Test.

There is also expected to be debate about whether Thami Tsolekile or AB de Villiers will keep wicket. Tsolekile performed efficiently behind the stumps but De Villiers, 20, who opened the batting in Gibbs' absence in Port Elizabeth, is rated a much better batsman with the potential to develop into a wicketkeeper-batsman in the mould of Australia's Adam Gilchrist.

Swing bowler Charl Langeveldt, a match-winner for South Africa A when they beat England in the touring team's only first-class match leading into the Test series, is expected to make his Test debut, while left-arm spinner Nicky Boje could return to the side.

Smith said his team needed to play consistently well for five days, especially when they were under pressure.

Kingsmead is one of the most pace-friendly pitches in South Africa, although preparation has been affected by recent rain, which may mean the surface is not as hard as it sometimes is. Although conditions usually favour bowlers in the first few hours, the pitch tends to flatten out, enabling batsmen to play strokes with confidence.

While South Africa's final line-up is far from certain, England are likely to retain the team that won in Port Elizabeth.

The only key player who has not made a significant contribution on the tour so far is fast bowler Steve Harmison but he is likely to relish the bounce he will get in Durban, while his rhythm is likely to improve as the tour progresses.

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