

Lee sends NZ tumbling

Cricket

AFP, Auckland

Speedster Brett Lee stepped up in the absence of Glenn McGrath to inspire Australia to an overwhelming 147-run win over New Zealand in a one-day cricket international at Eden Park here Saturday.

After Australia were sent in to bat first and made 252 for eight in the opening match of the Chappell-Hadlee Trophy series, a blistering spell of pace bowling by Lee helped reduce New Zealand to 33 for six by the 13th over.

They were eventually dismissed for 105 in the 28th over, their sixth lowest score in one-day international history.

Lee was simply too quick for the New Zealand top order, sending the ball down around 155 kilometres per hour (96.3 miles per hour), and his three for five off six overs broke the back of the innings. He conceded just one scoring shot and three of the runs were for wides.

Backing Lee were fellow pacemen Nathan Bracken and Stuart Clark, and their performances quashed pre-match suggestions the Australians would miss the rested Glenn McGrath.

Only Chris Cairns offered any real resistance, posting a 41-run partnership with Jacob Oram for the seventh wicket and finishing not out.

Earlier, Ponting cracked a rapid 63 at a run-a-ball pace to set his side up

for what seemed a challenging target of 252 for eight.

His early appearance at the crease came after the usually reliable Adam Gilchrist was back in the pavilion for three as the Australian batsmen struggled to find their rhythm on the slow New Zealand pitch.

But once he had settled in, Ponting let rip in a 118-run partnership with Simon Katich, posting five fours and three sixes before New Zealand fought their way back into the game with three quick wickets.

Displaying their new lollipop green-and-yellow kit for the first time, Australia crawled to 18 for one after six overs before Ponting blasted 15 off one James Franklin over to force the New Zealand left-arm quick out of the attack, and Australia rapidly reached 46 for one off 10 overs.

Franklin, who claimed the prize scalp of Gilchrist for three in his opening over, was a late addition to the New Zealand starting XI after Shane Bond was ruled out with a hamstring injury.

SCORECARD

Scorecard of the opening match of the one-day Chappell-Hadlee cricket series between New Zealand and Australia at Eden Park Saturday:

AUSTRALIA

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Gilchrist c Astle b Franklin	3			
Katich c Vettori b Styris	54			
Ponting lbw Vettori	63			
Hodge by Styris	13			
Symonds b Vettori	44			
Clarke c Franklin b Cairns	31			
Hussey not out	21			
Lee b Cairns	0			

Total: (All out in 28.4 overs) 105

Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-16, 3-19, 4-20, 5-28, 6-33, 7-74, 8-82, 9-105

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Lee	6	4	5	3
Bracken	8	0	40	2
Clark	7	1	19	3
Symonds	5.4	1	32	2

Result: Australia won by 147 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Brett Lee.

Hogg c Vettori b Mills	4
Bracken not out	1
Extras: (lb-6, w-9, nb-3)	18
Total: (For 8 wkts in 50 overs)	252
Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-121, 3-136, 4-148, 5-207, 6-230, 7-231, 8-249	

Did not bat: S Clarke

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mills	10	1	35	1
Franklin	4	0	29	1
Cairns	9	0	54	2
Oram	7	0	54	0
Styris	10	0	45	2
Vettori	10	1	29	2

NEUZELAND

Vincent d Bracken	4
Astle c Clarke b Clark	14
H Marshall lbw Lee	5
Syris c Clarke b Bracken	1
J Marshall lbw Lee	1
McMillan c Hussey b Lee	0
Cairns not out	37
Oram b Clark	23
McCullum c White b Clark	2
Vettori c Ponting b Symonds	8
Franklin c Gilchrist b Symonds	0
Extras: (b-4, lb-1, w-5)	10
Total: (All out in 28.4 overs)	105
Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-16, 3-19, 4-20, 5-28, 6-33, 7-74, 8-82, 9-105	

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Muktijoddha atop again

SPORTS REPORTER

Defending champions Leonine Chess Club overcame a hurdle in the Dutch-Bangla Bank First Division Chess League when they won their seventh round board against Bangladesh Biman 3.5-0.5 at the federation hall room yesterday.

The match outcome helped Muktijoddha Sangsads to regain the lead with 23.5 points. Muktijoddha beat Friends Chess Power 3.5-0.5.

This victory however enabled Leonine to share the second spot with Biman as both secured 22 points each.

In the day's other matches, Destiny 2000 beat Dhaka University Chess Team 4-0, BJMC beat Anushilan DKC 3.5-0.5, Titas beat Dolphin CC 3.5, Narayanganj CCC beat Faith CC 3.5-0.5, Shahid Multif KDD beat Farashganj 2.5-1.5 and Sonali Bank beat Mohakhali PS 2.5-1.5.

Maiden J- League triumph for Gamba Osaka

AFP, Osaka

Gamba Osaka won the J-League championship for the first time Saturday after the title hopes of cross-town rivals Cerezo Osaka were ruined by an injury-time equalizer on the season's final day.

Gamba, trailing Cerezo by one point heading into the final match, battled back with two late goals from Yasuhiro Endo and Brazilian Araujo for a 4-2 away win over Kawasaki Frontale.

Cerezo flirted with their first-ever league title before home supporters until the final minute when FC Tokyo scored an equalizer to close the match at 2-2.

Abahani win

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other hand routed Khulna Town Club 5-1 in the league opener.

Yellow cards: Abdullah Parvez and Ibrahim (Abahani).

TEAMS

ABAHANI: Nizam, Prodip, Marshal, Faisal, Obaidur, Parvez (Tushar), Edem, Iqir, Parvez Chowdhury (Nurul Amin), Ibrahim and Bulbul (Anwar).

MOHAMMEDAN: Shakil, Ronny, Hasan, Pitter, Biplob, Mintu, Dibain, Sharif (Nayan) (Santu), Emeka, Nakib and Francis.

Referee: Mansoor Azad.

"Danish has been tremendous in the last two years and Shoai's really serious about his cricket now and working really hard."

"But Mohammad Sami, Navedul Hasan and Shoai Malik also worked hard on a slow track although they didn't get many wickets."

"To break the partnership was crucial and once Kaneria provided us the breakthrough we knew we were there."

The Pakistan captain, named man-of-the-series for scoring 431 in three Tests, said he was happy to lead from the front.

"I am happy I scored runs when the team needed them most. It is always satisfying when you lead from the front and I think this is one of the biggest wins of my career," he said.

This was Pakistan's first Test series win since beating New Zealand in January 2004.

"We bowled well before lunch but were unlucky not to get the wickets."

"At lunchtime we said we needed just one wicket, I knew if we'd take one or two it would be difficult for them to survive three hours," Inzamam said.

"After lunch Shoai and Danish bowled very well, there was a lot of pressure on England and after we got the first wicket they came regularly."

"It was a tremendous effort from the boys, they really worked hard."

the gates. His double-strike was the turning point of the match," said Inzamam.

England's slide began when Kaneria dismissed well-set Paul Collingwood (80) with his fourth ball after the lunch-break before accounting for Ashes stars Kevin Pietersen for one and Andrew Flintoff for duck.

Collingwood and Ian Bell (92) had sustained England's hopes of drawing the match with a 175-run stand for the third wicket.

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Pakistan bring

FROM PAGE 12

session, tasted instant success when he came back over dismissing Collingwood with his fourth delivery a toll the b a k .

Collingwood, who scored 96 in the first innings, struck 12 fours in his second successive Test half-century and was involved in a 175-run stand with Bell before edging to Hasan Raza in the slips.

Kaneria then removed Ashes heroes Pietersen and Flintoff off successive balls in his next over to put England in deep trouble at 212-5.

Pietersen was caught by Raza while Flintoff was bowled off a googly.

Geraint Jones survived the hattrick ball, but not before a confident appeal for leg-before.

Akhtar also kept up the pressure from the other end, dismissing Bell and Jones in his opening spell after the lunch-break.

Bell hit 13 fours in his 189-ball knock before being trapped leg-before.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the third and final Test between Pakistan and England at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore on Saturday:

ENGLAND: First innings 288 (Collingwood 96, Vaughan 58, Trescothick 50; Malik 3-58)

PAKISTAN: First innings 636-8 declared (Yousuf 223, Akmal 154, Inzamam 97; Hoggard 2-106, Plunkett 2-125)

ENGLAND: Second innings (over-night 121-2)

Trescothick lbw Akhtar 0

Vaughan c and b Akhtar 13

Bell lbw Akhtar 92

Collingwood c Raza b Kaneria 80

Pietersen c Raza b Kaneria 1

Flintoff b Kaneria 0

Jones lbw Akhtar 5

Udal c Butt b Sami 25

Plunkett lbw Akhtar 0

Hoggard b Kaneria 0

Harrison not out 0

Extras: (b-13, lb-9, nb-9, w-1) 32

Total: (All out in 77.1 overs) 248

Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-30, 3-205, 4-212, 5-212, 6-212, 7-227, 8-227, 9-248

Bowler

O M R W

Akhtar 19 3 71 5

Naved 16 3 55 0

Sami 16 4 39 1

Malik 4 2 9 0

Kaneria 22.1 8 52 4

Result: Pakistan won by an

innings and 100 runs and clinch

the 3-Test series 2-0.

Man-of-the-match: Mohammad Yousuf.

Man-of-the-series: Inzamamul Haq.

displace Australia as number-one Test side.

"We now go to India in February and March and make sure that the mistakes that were made here were not repeated. It's hard work playing in the sub-continent and players have to realise that," he said.

"A real