



Sri Lankan paceman Chaminda Vaas (C) celebrates with skipper Mahela Jayawardena (L) and Sanath Jayasuriya after taking the wicket of New Zealand's Hamish Marshall during the fourth one-day international at Eden Park in Auckland on Saturday.

Proteas clinch series



BBC ONLINE, undated

South Africa edged to a five-wicket victory in the final Test in Cape Town to seal a 2-1 series win over India.

The hosts began day five needing 156 and reached their target of 211 for the loss of five wickets despite the threat of rain and bad light.

Captain Graeme Smith and nightwatchman Shaun Pollock resumed on 55-2 and added 56 before a lengthy rain delay.

After an early lunch, Smith fell for 55 and Pollock for 37 but Jacques Kallis and Ashwell Prince set up the win.

The pair added 77 before Kallis holed out to Rahul Dravid in the deep off Zaheer Kahn for 32 with just two runs needed, leaving Prince (37 not out) and Herschelle Gibbs to finish the job.

Paceman Kahn was the pick of the Indian bowlers with final figures of 4-62.

Only 50 minutes of play was possible in the morning session but soon after the stoppage, Kahn removed Smith, courtesy of a stunning left-handed diving catch by wicket-keeper Murali Karthik.

Smith's replacement Kallis narrowly survived a virtual carbon-copy appeal on his first ball, and the Indian players immediately became more animated.

The increased pressure soon paid off as three overs later Khan lured Pollock into a trap, banging in two short deliveries before forcing the paceman to push a fuller-length ball to VVS Laxman at a wide first slip.

But Kallis and Prince were able to ride out the storm and guided South Africa to 162-4 at tea, still 49 runs adrift.

And with one eye on a brooding sky, and under full floodlights, the

pair edged cautiously towards the target before Prince hit the winning run.

India won the first Test in Johannesburg by 123 runs, while South Africa clinched the second Test in Durban by 174 runs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fifth day of the third and final Test between South Africa and India at Newlands on Saturday:

INDIA: First innings 414

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 373
INDIA: Second innings 169
SOUTH AFRICA: Second innings (overnight 55-2)

De Villiers c Karthik b Zaheer	22
Smith c Karthik b Zaheer	55
Amla lbw b Kumble	10
Pollock c Laxman b Zaheer	37
Kallis c Dravid b Zaheer	32
Prince not out	38
Gibbs not out	0
Extras: (b-11, lb-1, nb-5)	17

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South Africa's skipper Graeme Smith pushes the ball on the onside off S Sreesanth (not in picture) on the fifth and final day of the third Test at the Newlands in Cape Town on Saturday.



Did U Know?

Douglas Jardine, the captain of England in the infamous 'Bodyline series,' was born in Bombay's famous locality Malabar Hills.



Paul Ince

(Former England captain)
"Maybe black managers will have more of a chance with foreign owners coming into the game, people who don't really see this as an issue."

On racism in English football.



ESPN

India Premier Hockey League
Bangalore Lions v Hyderabad Sultans

Live at 5:00 pm

Chennai Veerans v Orissa Steelers

Live at 7:30 pm

Primera Liga

Deportivo v Real Madrid

Live at 11:55 pm

STAR Sports

FA Cup

Man United v Aston Villa

Live at 7:55 pm

Cardiff City v Tottenham Hotspur

Live at 10:00 pm

Old boys turn it on

Lankans thrash Kiwis by 189 runs



AFP, Auckland

New Zealand crashed to their worst ever one-day cricket loss Saturday in a humiliating 189-run defeat conjured by some magic from Sri Lankan veterans Sanath Jayasuriya and Chaminda Vaas.

New Zealand could only muster 73 runs — their second lowest ever one day total — in what skipper Stephen Fleming conceded was a "rubbish" performance in chasing the tourists' solid 262-6.

A whirlwind 70 off 44 balls by 37-year-old opener Jayasuriya provided the fireworks in the Sri Lankan innings.

Another important contribution came from the side's most consistent batsman Kumar Sangakkara, who held the Sri Lankan innings together with 79 from 103 balls after it threatened to go off the rails with the fall of three quick wickets.

In reply New Zealand had no answer to a great spell of in-swing bowling from 32-year-old Vaas. He trapped New Zealand skipper Stephen Fleming (0), Ross Taylor (0) and Hamish Marshall (3) in successive overs to finish with 3-10 from eight overs.

Speedster Lasith Malinga was also devastating: taking 3-14 from eight overs and master spinner Muttiah Muralidaran had 2-7 from his 2.3 overs at the tail of the innings.

The victory leaves the series tied at 2-2 with one match left to play on Tuesday.

New Zealand's longstanding batting weaknesses were again cruelly exposed with the World Cup only two months away.

"It's rubbish, that's what it was," said Fleming, returning to the side after being rested for the first three matches.

"I would certainly pay credit to some fine bowling by Chaminda at the top who swung the ball but there was some average batting."

He said the team was "pretty alarmed" by the performance and their recent history of failing to score runs in the top and middle of the batting order.

New Zealand were in trouble right from the start as wickets tumbled against Vaas. Sangakkara also took a spectacular wrong footed catch to dismiss opener Brendon McCullum off Farveez Maharoof and by the 7th over New Zealand's innings was already close to beyond repair at 25-4.

Batsman Craig McMillan, playing at the top level for only the second time in the last year, was the only New Zealand batsman to show significant resistance with an undefeated 29.

Jayasuriya brought the crowd alive earlier when in the space of 13 balls the veteran belied his age to pummel 43 runs in an extraordinary series of on-drives and pull shots. His innings included seven fours and five sixes.

He smashed three consecutive sixes off Michael Mason in the 11th over and another off the first ball of the next over from Mark Gillespie to score four sixes off five consecutive balls faced.

Gillespie brought the run feast to an end when Jayasuriya mis-cued him to fine leg in the 16th over. Another two quick wickets from Gillespie left Sri Lanka needing to rebuild which Sangakkara and Marvan Atapattu (34) patiently set about doing with a 91 run partnership.

For New Zealand, Gillespie was the most successful bowler with 3-39 off his 10 overs.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the fourth one-day international between New Zealand and Sri Lanka at Eden Park on Saturday:

SRI LANKA	
Tharanga b Gillespie	22
Jayasuriya c Mason b Gillespie	70
Jayawardene c Fleming b Gillespie	0
Sangakkara c Taylor b Bond	79
Atapattu c McCullum b Adams	34
Kapugedera not out	10
Maharoof c Adams b Bond	21
Vaas not out	5
Extras: (lb-11, w-6, nb-4)	21
Total: (For 6 wks in 50 overs)	262
Fall of wickets: 1-102, 2-102, 3-103, 4-194, 5-232, 6-256.	

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Clijsters conquers Hong Kong

AFP, Hong Kong

Belgian star Kim Clijsters' final year as a professional got off to a perfect start Saturday when she beat world number two Maria Sharapova in straight sets to win the Hong Kong invitational.

In a match seen as an indicator of form before the Australian Open, the world number five — who announced here she will retire at the end of the season — led from the start to beat Sharapova 6-3, 7-6.

The Russian glamour girl put in a dazzling display, with some tremendous passing shots and eight aces.

But Clijsters' big serve and

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Punter eyes Waugh feat



AFP, Sydney

Australia, fresh from crushing England 5-0 in their first Ashes whitewash in 86 years, have confirmed themselves as one of cricket's great "dynasties", reports here said, but are still hoping to break new records.

Ricky Ponting's Australians chalked up their 12th straight Test victory in overpowering the English tourists by 10 wickets before lunch on the fourth day of the Sydney Test Friday.

The Australian team, now facing life without their retired trio of greats Glenn McGrath, Shane Warne and Justin Langer, need five more

successive wins, at home to Sri Lanka and India later this year to break the record.

The record stands at 16 straight that highlighted Steve Waugh's captaincy, and began the tenure of coach John Buchanan, who also participated in his last Test Friday.

Since the 2005 Ashes defeat in England, Ponting's side has played 17 Tests, winning 16 and drawing one.

"Australia has hit back with unstoppable force after its shame in coughing up the urn it had come to regard as its own," The Sydney Morning Herald said Saturday.

Ponting said in the Herald report the Ashes whitewash would be made even more special if it ends up being part of a record-winning sequence.

"It's been a really good run for us. The Test cricket we've played has been first-class. It's not only this series, it is the 12 months that we've played outstanding Test match cricket," he said. "Everyone should be proud about that. Let's hope we give that record a shake."

The Daily Telegraph said Australia have built one of the top two dynasties in world cricket history.

Englishman Matthew Engel, editor of the "cricketing bible" Wisden, told the newspaper he is not sure whether the current Australian team is the best the world has seen.

But he believes after 11 years as the game's No.1 side Australia can rate their own era of domination

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Vaughan set to lead



AFP, Sydney

Andrew Flintoff's Ashes woes are expected to continue when he is stripped of the English captaincy and replaced by Michael Vaughan on Sunday, press reports said.

Vaughan, the 2005 Ashes-winning skipper, has made a strong recovery from knee surgery and proved his fitness in a practice match on Friday in Bowral, south of Sydney.

The England team has called a press conference with chairman of selectors David Graveney and Vaughan here on Sunday when he is expected to be named as skipper, the Daily Telegraph said.

Vaughan is expected to lead England in the Twenty20 match against Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Tuesday and the ensuing one-day tri-series against Australia and New Zealand, begin-

ning next Friday in Melbourne.

Vaughan has been out of international cricket since a recurrence of a long-term knee injury required more surgery through the northern summer.

His comeback plans intensified when he joined the English academy side in Perth last month, although he has struggled for runs.

Vaughan's form in one-day cricket has been a major concern since he replaced Nasser Hussain as skipper but the tourists are desperate to embrace his leadership, the newspaper said.

"I feel ready, mentally I am very fresh," Vaughan said earlier this week.

Vaughan's return completes a disastrous seven weeks for Flintoff, who will be remembered as only the second England captain ever to preside over a 0-5 Ashes wreckage, and the first in 86 years.

It will be the first major move of a comprehensive review into a disastrous campaign where the tourists

went from Ashes heroes to white-washed flops within 16 months.

Flintoff was unsure at his post-match press conference whether he would retain the top job.

"I enjoyed doing it and I couldn't ask any more of the lads. If I had the chance again of doing it, I'd jump at it," Flintoff said Friday.

"As captain, I think I've learned a lot throughout this trip.

"When you're making decisions out in the middle, you go with your gut feelings and do what you feel is right at the time and I stick by that."

Flintoff's Test performances were sub-par, but he denied the added burden of captaincy had weighed him down.

Asore ankle prevented him from being the bowling force he was in 2005, while his footwork when batting was sluggish until his 89 in the first innings in Sydney.

Flintoff finished the series with 254 runs at 28.22 with two half-centuries in 10 innings and 11 wickets at 43.73 off 137 overs.



Kim Clijsters of Belgium hits a double-fisted return towards Russian superstar Maria Sharapova in the final of the Watsons Water Tennis Championships in Hong Kong on Saturday.