

Pak camp

CRICINFO, undated

A special 19-day camp for fast bowlers and opening batsmen will be held at the Pakistan National Cricket Academy from May 16th onwards, under the auspices, among others of fast bowling champion Wasim Akram.

Twenty-two of the country's leading fast bowlers, including the likes of Shoaib Akhtar, Umar Gul, Mohammad Asif and Mohammad Sami, will attend the camp as well as 13 opening batsmen, including Imran Farhat, Mohammad Hafeez and Imran Nazir.

Aaquib Javed, former Test fast bowler and chief coach of the academics, will work with Akram as well as Mudassar Nazar, the former Test opener and current director, game development.

Eight players taking part in the ODI series in Abu Dhabi against Sri Lanka will join the camp from May 25th onwards.

Fast bowlers to attend: Shoaib Akhtar, Mohammad Asif, Umar Gul, Mohammad Sami, Rao Iftikhar, Najaf Shah, Abdul Rauf, Mohammad Irshad, Mohammad Khalil, Junaid Zia, Uzair-ul-Haq, Anwar Ali, Kashif Daud, Shakil-ur-Rehman, Muhammad Amir, Rahat Ullah, Akhtar Ayub, Jamshed Ahmed, Farhan Ayub, Wahab Riaz, Sohail Tanveer, Mohammad Junaid Khan.

Opening batsmen to attend: Salman Butt, Imran Nazir, Mohammad Hafeez, Imran Farhat, Khurram Manzoor, Babar Naeem, Khalid Latif, Shan Masood, Agha Sabir, Wajid Ali, Nasir Jamshed, Ahmed Shahzad, Asif Zakir.

Farhat fined for dissent

APP, Karachi

Pakistan opener Imran Farhat has been fined and reprimanded for a phone call he made to the chief selector after he was not picked for a one-day series against Sri Lanka, officials said Friday.

Chief selector Salahuddin Ahmed complained to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) about 24-year-old Farhat's behaviour after he was overlooked for the three-match series to be played in Abu Dhabi next week.

"The Pakistan Cricket Board has taken strong notice of the incident regarding the telephone call made by Imran Farhat to chief selector Salahuddin Ahmed," the PCB said in a statement.

"After the complete review of the matter, the board has sanctioned Imran Farhat with 50 per cent of his match fee for the first match that he now plays for Pakistan.

"Furthermore, Imran will also be on six months probation in which he will be constantly monitored for his behaviour and attitude."

Farhat, who has played 27 Tests and 33 one-day internationals for Pakistan, was also axed from the Pakistan's World Cup squad after he performed poorly on the team's tour of South Africa in January-February.

Pakistan were ousted in the first round of the World Cup held in the West Indies in March-April, following losses to the hosts and to Ireland.

Farhat was on the comeback trail and had performed well in a domestic one-day competition last month.

"The punishment has been kept lenient considering the fact that this was only the first offence committed by Imran Farhat and he also submitted a written apology for this to the board," the PCB statement added.

Lloyd thinks

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them to hold their own when things get tight. If they can draw or get close to doing well in one of the test matches, that's what we'd be looking for," Lloyd told The Guardian.

"Lara has left, so there's not a lot of experienced batting. They don't have guys to set the world alight," Lloyd also felt that the West Indies players have to show professionalism to bring back its lost glory.

"We are taking too long to get back to the level we would all like. There are some very tough decisions to be taken."

"These guys have a comfort zone and they have to get out of that to reach the heights of other countries. We used to be very athletic and we have to get that work ethic back," he said.



Did U Know?
Table tennis is the world's most popular racket sport and it became an Olympic sport in 1988.



Moores's debut today

Cricket

GUARDIAN UNLIMITED, undated

England's first Test squad since Peter Moores's appointment as coach will be unveiled on Sunday, for the first Test against West Indies at Lord's on Thursday, and it will give the clearest indication yet of the power that Moores possesses as he tries to use it.

The most notable decisions may include immediate forgiveness for Steve Harmison, the chance of an overture second Test cap for Owais Shah and the inclusion of Matt Prior as wicketkeeper. All of them had fallen out of favour under the previous coach, Duncan Fletcher, and all have good, if not irresistible, arguments in favour of a recall.

Another recent England tradition will be re-enacted: the inclusion of the captain, Michael Vaughan, to be followed by days of indecision about his fitness and a re-airing of the debate about whether Andrew Strauss or Andrew Flintoff should deputise. The odds are that Vaughan, who fractured a finger bating last week, will accept he is unfit and that Strauss will be named captain at about Tuesday lunchtime.

The increasingly authoritarian reign of Fletcher, who is now in brief enforced retirement and scowling at the lounge curtains in Cape Town, should not encourage the assumption that the squad will be entirely of Moores's own choosing. England Test squads are not chosen only by the coach but by a selection committee also involving the chairman, David Graveney, and the former England all-rounder Geoff Miller. Whereas Fletcher used to fold his arms at the first sign of dissent, Moores, a relative novice, is likely to be amenable. It may yet be that the impending Schofield report recommends that the selection committee should be a thing of the past.

So far Moores has shied away but until that happens we will have to forgo dictatorship and make do with democracy.

Vaughan's doubtful fitness is an unfortunate beginning for Moores, who is anxious to establish his own faith that the Yorkshireman can have a prolonged international future. As things go, the Vaughan faith is a bit like the Church of England, involving no real desire for proof, merely a creeping feeling that he may be sharper for it. But Kevin Shine, the bowing coach, remains, and nowhere has England's decline been more apparent. Under Troy Cooley England became the chief exponents of reverse swing; under Shine they can barely hit the cut.

Harmison has never been a contented tourist but it was his disillusionment with the Fletcher-Shine axis which tipped him into retirement from one-day cricket at 28, highlighting England's collapse of spirit after winning the Ashes. Afraid of the negative effect that the retirement would bring, England hid the paceman's decision for three months.

Harmison regarded Fletcher as severe and inflexible and his apathetic return to the North-east infuriated the coach. But Fletcher has departed, Harmison has begun his Durham season with zest and his replacements, led by Sajid Mahmood and Liam Plunkett, have looked far from the finished article.

Leicestershire's seamer Stuart Broad is highly regarded by Moores but he is injured again with a knee problem and has seen a specialist. At least Matthew Hoggard had a perfect workout for Yorkshire against Leicestershire yesterday.

Moores's view on England's wicketkeeper is also keenly awaited, with the assumption that he will favour a Test debut for Prior, who has been a mentor to a wicketkeeper and then coach for Sussex. The replacement so soon of Paul Nixon is regrettable because he is a character and he can take pride in his World Cup exploits, but he is 36 and was chosen as a one-day specialist. "The Badger" worked hard to plug the leaks but it is now time to divert the river.

that it is preferable to the abandonment of hope.

At least Vaughan's injuries are getting smaller. The major knee reconstruction has been followed by a fractured finger. If the pattern continues he will miss Headingly with a migraine, at which point he will be miraculously restored to full health.

Whereas Fletcher gradually became convinced that Vaughan's presence around the squad when injured would be counterproductive, Moores will welcome his involvement at Lord's if, as expected, he is ruled unfit. That would give Vaughan security about his future and dissuade him from playing at Lord's before his finger was fully healed.

So far Moores has shied away

Vaughan 'won't be ready' for first Test

APP, London

Injured England captain Michael Vaughan is set to miss the first Test against the West Indies. Yorkshire teammate Deon Kruis claimed Saturday.

The selectors, who are due to announce their squad on Sunday for the opening match of a four-Test series, due to start Thursday at Lord's, have said they will give batsman Vaughan as much time as they can to recover from having his finger broken facing Hampshire's Australia pace bowler Stuart Clark last week.

But Kruis said Vaughan had felt pain during batting practice.

"He has been in the last couple of days trying to test the finger," Kruis told Sky Sports.

"He's had an X-ray and had some strapping on the finger but he won't be ready for the first Test. But he feels pretty confident of being ready for the second Test match."

"I suppose he was looking at playing but he was still feeling some discomfort," the pace bowler added.

Vaughan last played a Test for England 17 months ago, in Pakistan, since when he has been ruled out with a persistent knee problem and a hamstring injury.

Ancelotti

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players who would improve any squad," added the Coach.

"Franck Ribery is also a player I like very much. He is a dynamic figure and had a great World Cup."

They must qualify for the Champions League before making big money signings and that means securing a top four finish in Serie A.

"We have to focus on the League and sealing our position so it's not a problem on our minds ahead of Athens."

Gough wants a chance

Cricket

SPORTINGLIFE, undated

Darren Gough believes he could be the man to get England's struggling pace attack firing again.

The fast bowler, currently captain of Yorkshire, insists he would have the support of the players and could put a smile back on their faces after a long, hard winter.

"Unfortunately I'm not very good with computers and unless you have a level-four coaching certificate you can't coach around England."

"But I'd love to put something back into the game and I love representing my country."

"Kevin Shine is an excellent communicator and a good coach but Troy Cooley was a big loss. He had a great relationship with the players."

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BANGLADESH-INDIA 2ND ODI SCOREBOARD

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Mohammad Ashraful b Piyush Chawla	12	13	1	0
Habibul Bashar st Mahendra Dhoni b Piyush Chawla	43	88	0	2
Mushfiqur Rahim c Dinesh Karthik b Yuvraj Singh	35	43	3	1
Mashrafe Bin Mortaza c Virender Sehwag b Yuvraj Singh	42	22	1	5
Mohammad Rafique c sub (Uthappa) b Piyush Chawla	13	19	0	1
Abdur Razzaq not out	9	11	1	0
Syed Raseel not out	4	7	0	0
Extras: (b-4, lb-2, w-8, nb-3)		17		
Total: (For 9 wickets in 49 overs)		238		
Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-51, 3-60, 4-86, 5-92, 6-151, 7-177, 8-193, 9-231.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Zaheer Khan	7	0	32	2
Munaf Patel	7	0	34	0
Piyush Chawla	10	0	37	3
Ramesh Powar	10	1	32	1
Dinesh Mongia	8	0	57	0
Yuvraj Singh	7	0	40	2
				w-2

Result: India won by 46 runs and lead the 3-match series 2-0.

Man-of-the-match: Gautam Gambhir.

Toss: India

Umpires: Asoka de Silva and Enamul Haque

TV umpire: AFM Akhtaruddin

Match referee: Roshan Mahanama.

Scoreboard

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injury, and we were trying to bring him back, and at that time he was perhaps well short of where you would want a player (to be) at that stage of a series. But it was important for him to get some game time and he did well.

He went on to identify a few areas. "Now that you have the wicketkeeper coming up... you look at the catcher in baseball, and I think there is great synergy there for the same thing to occur. It gives the bowler more options when the batsmen are trying to hit every ball."

"We are also trying some of the guys a bit differently from what you would do normally. So there were a lot of things going on at the time. We knew there were things happening which would help us when we came here."

"We are in good spirits because we are having good results. This happens to every team. We must continue along the same path because it is important for us to have a good atmosphere -- it makes us work better."

"I have done a few things this time which were an advance on what we did last time, and that has made a difference. And there is a whole concept of professionalism, and understanding what that is, and how it can impact the game. If you understand what that concept is and put it in place, that can significantly change the game."

"Mikel has three years of his contract to go but we want to reward him because he has done very well for us and Mikel knows we will get down to that in the next week or so."

"There was no concern for Mashrafe as he only suffered cramps and not a strain as he struggled out there when he smashing sixes."

Scoreboard

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