

India worried with Zaheer

CRICINFO, undated

India received a further jolt at the end of the Old Trafford one-day international with news that Zaheer Khan had twisted his ankle while batting. It was a potential knockout blow for India after the three-wicket loss left them trailing the seven-match series 3-1.

Zaheer, India's bowling spearhead throughout the tour, suffered the injury to his left ankle during his cameo of 20 from 19 balls. He pushed the final ball of the 47th over to the off side but pulled up as he reached the other end. He did not show any signs of discomfort during his first bowling spell but struggled when he returned for his final three overs.

"He came through fine and got through the game," Rahul Dravid said about the injury. "Now it's a question of waiting and watching, seeing how it is in the morning and putting some ice on it. We have got a couple of days (before the next match) and it's a good sign for us that he went through the game and bowled. It might be a bit sore after the game."

Zaheer has put in the most number of overs (228.2) among the Indian bowlers so far on this tour. He had suffered a groin strain before the start of the tour but came through the Tests, ending it as the Man of the Series. He missed the second ODI at Bristol due to a bout of flu but recovered to take part in the next two games.

There was also a minor concern over Yuvraj Singh, who top-scored with 71 and bowled two overs. He appeared in pain towards the end of the game and was well below his athletic best. He seemed to have recovered the next morning, with Rajeet Shukla, the administrative manager, saying, "He's absolutely fine. There is no problem."

India are set to leave for Leeds on Friday afternoon. The fifth ODI is to be held at Headingley on Sunday, a match that they need to win to stay alive in the series.

Lara in Bears' all-time side

BBC ONLINE, undated

Record-breaker Brian Lara is one of four overseas stars named in Warwickshire's greatest ever team.

Lara made 501 not out against Durham in 1994, the highest first-class score in cricket history.

He was joined in the eleven, drawn up from votes by club members, by fellow West Indians Alvin Kallicharran and Rohan Kanhai and South Africa's Allan Donald.

The late Bob Woolmer, who died during the World Cup in March, was honoured by being named the club's greatest coach.

And Tom Dollery was announced as Warwickshire's best captain for his achievement in leading the team to the Championship title in 1951.

More than 1,000 supporters submitted their personal greatest elevens, with the overall side announced at a dinner at Edgbaston on Friday evening.

Among notable players to miss out were Norman Gifford, MJK Smith, Bob Willis, John Jameson and Geoff Humpage.

WARRICKSHIRE'S GREATEST TEAM

Dennis Amiss, Nick Knight, Alvin Kallicharran, Rohan Kanhai, Brian Lara, Dermot Reeve, Keith Piper, Allan Donald, Gladstone Small, Eric Hollies, John Bannister.

Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 17

rattle the Pakistani defense.

Imran Warsi, Imran Khan and Muhammad Imran were beaten quite regularly by the speedy Japanese forwards led by Ono Tomonori with two field goals in the 29th and 50th minute.

Yamabori Takahiko scored the other goal for Japan in the 42nd minute from a penalty corner while Shakeel Abbasi found the net for Pakistan in the 47th minute with a field goal.

In the day's other match, Malaysia crushed Hong Kong 13-1.

Hall ends

FROM PAGE 17

Cricket Union's (KZNCU) chief executive said on Saturday, "Why else would he want out of his CSA contract? He would still be paid by them even if he was only playing franchise cricket."

Hall was attached to the KZNCU's Dolphins franchise, but he only played one match for them last season because of international commitments. He also represented Kent in the county season and recently toured Zimbabwe with the South Africa Aquad.

Meanwhile Damien Martyn, the former Australian batsman, has also been linked to the ICL and an official announcement is expected soon. Martyn retired from international cricket midway through the Ashes last year.

Antigua in his mind

Cricket

AFF, Manchester

Ravi Bopara had said the bitter memory of just failing to guide England home in a World Cup run chase inspired him to help steer the side to a thrilling win over India.

Essex all-rounder Bopara, 22, struck an unbeaten 43 and shared an England record eighth-wicket stand of 99 with the 21-year-old Stuart Broad (45 not out) as their side, who'd collapsed to 114 for seven chasing 212 to win, beat India by three wickets in the fourth one-day international here at Old Trafford.

The victory put England 3-1 up in the seven-match series, which they will claim if they win again at Headington on Sunday.

Thursday's success was all the more heartening for England as it was secured by the two youngest players in their team, both Bopara and Broad appearing in just their 13th one-day international.

But Bopara's display was not the first time he'd been involved in a run chase on England duty.

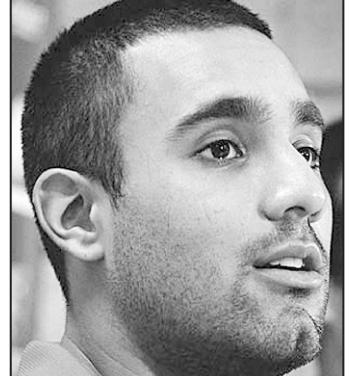
One of the few highlights of England's otherwise dismal World Cup campaign came in April when Bopara announced himself by scoring 52 off 53 balls against Sri Lanka in Antigua only to be bowled off the last ball of the match in a nail-biting two-run defeat.

"I've never really been in a run chase situation like that with

Essex, but I have with England in the World Cup and I used that," said Bopara.

"I thought out there that this was a similar situation and I didn't want to go through the disappointment of not finishing it off this time -- you learn from your mistakes I guess and I didn't want to fall short again."

RAVI BOPARA



"I had a brief chat with him during the Lions game and he gave me good advice," Bopara recalled. "He gave me 25 minutes of his time and I know that's a precious commodity for him; he's a very nice man."

"As a kid growing up you look at guys who excite you and he was the one, he plays the perfect shots plus the amount of runs he scores... he was the guy, he was the No 1 in the world."

"I tried to copy his style when I was young, who wouldn't? I guess some of that has carried on now, but I've added my own style to the way I bat."

Someone else Bopara has looked up to has been Essex great Graham Gooch, the former England opening batsman and captain.

"He's been a big, big influence, still is," Bopara said. "Since I first met him at 15 he's given me good advice, told me to work on my bowling so that if it comes down to a choice between me and another batsman I would get the nod."

"I even spoke to him before play on Thursday, he was in the middle doing a pitch report I think and he told me to play straight, do the basics right and get in before I started to try to whip it around. He was dead right."

Now Bopara, also a medium-pace bowler, hopes to break into England's Test team. "Any cricketer is looking to make that step but these are exciting times for me and I'm not looking too far ahead."

under Waugh's uncertain leadership, Australia struggled to square a series in the West Indies, a series in which Warne was dropped for the deciding Test. Then there was drama at the World Cup as Australia faltered early and hovered on the brink of first-round elimination. Such an outcome would have spelled the end of Waugh as captain.

At this time, I reported from England on information I'd obtained suggesting there was a division between Waugh and Warne over the leadership. Although both angrily denied that it was so, I have no doubt there was an issue and it was affecting the team.

That Australia fought its way back was a tribute to the qualities of both men. Warne recaptured his best form. Waugh found a way to unify his troops, then, at Headington, played one of limited-over cricket's greatest innings against South Africa to keep the campaign alive. While Warne's assessment of Waugh describes him as "a match-saver rather than a match-winner", this was no match-saving knock.

Waugh's list is significant. It will be cited through the years by historians and others who follow the game as the judgement of one of cricket's most significant figures.

It will stand clearly that Warne regarded a contemporary Australian great as being flawed.

Alas, such skewed comparisons between Waugh and players of clearly inferior records expose the man making them as being less than completely objective.

Chappell desperately wanted Warne to be made captain when a successor had to be found for Mark Taylor in early 1999. He was bitterly disappointed when Waugh got the nod.

For a time, it appeared he was right. In the months that followed,

"I had a brief chat with him during the Lions game and he gave me good advice," Bopara recalled. "He gave me 25 minutes of his time and I know that's a precious commodity for him; he's a very nice man."

"As a kid growing up you look at guys who excite you and he was the one, he plays the perfect shots plus the amount of runs he scores... he was the guy, he was the No 1 in the world."

"I tried to copy his style when I was young, who wouldn't? I guess some of that has carried on now, but I've added my own style to the way I bat."

Someone else Bopara has looked up to has been Essex great Graham Gooch, the former England opening batsman and captain.

"He's been a big, big influence, still is," Bopara said. "Since I first met him at 15 he's given me good advice, told me to work on my bowling so that if it comes down to a choice between me and another batsman I would get the nod."

"I even spoke to him before play on Thursday, he was in the middle doing a pitch report I think and he told me to play straight, do the basics right and get in before I started to try to whip it around. He was dead right."

Now Bopara, also a medium-pace bowler, hopes to break into England's Test team. "Any cricketer is looking to make that step but these are exciting times for me and I'm not looking too far ahead."

under Waugh's uncertain leadership, Australia struggled to square a series in the West Indies, a series in which Warne was dropped for the deciding Test. Then there was drama at the World Cup as Australia faltered early and hovered on the brink of first-round elimination. Such an outcome would have spelled the end of Waugh as captain.

At this time, I reported from England on information I'd obtained suggesting there was a division between Waugh and Warne over the leadership. Although both angrily denied that it was so, I have no doubt there was an issue and it was affecting the team.

That Australia fought its way back was a tribute to the qualities of both men. Warne recaptured his best form. Waugh found a way to unify his troops, then, at Headington, played one of limited-over cricket's greatest innings against South Africa to keep the campaign alive. While Warne's assessment of Waugh describes him as "a match-saver rather than a match-winner", this was no match-saving knock.

Waugh's list is significant. It will be cited through the years by historians and others who follow the game as the judgement of one of cricket's most significant figures.

It will stand clearly that Warne regarded a contemporary Australian great as being flawed.

Alas, such skewed comparisons between Waugh and players of clearly inferior records expose the man making them as being less than completely objective.

Chappell desperately wanted Warne to be made captain when a successor had to be found for Mark Taylor in early 1999. He was bitterly disappointed when Waugh got the nod.

For a time, it appeared he was right. In the months that followed,

Afridi blitzes Uganda

CRICINFO, undated

Pakistan began their preparations for the Twenty20 World Championship in South Africa in spectacular fashion by beating Uganda by 148 runs in the first match of the Twenty20 Quadrangular in Nairobi. Shahid Afridi's blistering 57 off 15 balls propelled Pakistan to 226, a target that proved too great for Uganda as they were restricted to 78 for 7.

Afridi hit seven sixes and three fours and helped blast 82 runs off only 26 deliveries with Salman Butt for the fourth wicket as Shoaib Malik's decision to bat first paid dividends. Though Pakistan lost Imran Nazir in the first over, Butt and Kamran Akmal, who was promoted up the order, kept the run-rate at around nine per over as they raced to 200 in the fifth over. They added 70 before Akmal was bowled for 31.

Afridi hit seven sixes and three fours and helped blast 82 runs off only 26 deliveries with Salman Butt for the fourth wicket as Shoaib Malik's decision to bat first paid dividends. Though Pakistan lost Imran Nazir in the first over, Butt and Kamran Akmal, who was promoted up the order, kept the run-rate at around nine per over as they raced to 200 in the fifth over. They added 70 before Akmal was bowled for 31.

Afridi hit seven sixes and three fours and helped blast 82 runs off only 26 deliveries with Salman Butt for the fourth wicket as Shoaib Malik's decision to bat first paid dividends. Though Pakistan lost Imran Nazir in the first over, Butt and Kamran Akmal, who was promoted up the order, kept the run-rate at around nine per over as they raced to 200 in the fifth over. They added 70 before Akmal was bowled for 31.

Afridi hit seven sixes and three fours and helped blast 82 runs off only 26 deliveries with Salman Butt for the fourth wicket as Shoaib Malik's decision to bat first paid dividends. Though Pakistan lost Imran Nazir in the first over, Butt and Kamran Akmal, who was promoted up the order, kept the run-rate at around nine per over as they raced to 200 in the fifth over. They added 70 before Akmal was bowled for 31.

Afridi hit seven sixes and three fours and helped blast 82 runs off only 26 deliveries with Salman Butt for the fourth wicket as Shoaib Malik's decision to bat first paid dividends. Though Pakistan lost Imran Nazir in the first over, Butt and Kamran Akmal, who was promoted up the order, kept the run-rate at around nine per over as they raced to 200 in the fifth over. They added 70 before Akmal was bowled for 31.

Afridi hit seven sixes and three fours and helped blast 82 runs off only 26 deliveries with Salman Butt for the fourth wicket as Shoaib Malik's decision to bat first paid dividends. Though Pakistan lost Imran Nazir in the first over, Butt and Kamran Akmal, who was promoted up the order, kept the run-rate at around nine per over as they raced to 200 in the fifth over. They added 70 before Akmal was bowled for 31.

Afridi hit seven sixes and three fours and helped blast 82 runs off only 26 deliveries with Salman Butt for the fourth wicket as Shoaib Malik's decision to bat first paid dividends. Though Pakistan lost Imran Nazir in the first over, Butt and Kamran Akmal, who was promoted up the order, kept the run-rate at around nine per over as they raced to 200 in the fifth over. They added 70 before Akmal was bowled for 31.

Afridi hit seven sixes and three fours and helped blast 82 runs off only 26 deliveries with Salman Butt for the fourth wicket as Shoaib Malik's decision to bat first paid dividends. Though Pakistan lost Imran Nazir in the first over, Butt and Kamran Akmal, who was promoted up the order, kept the run-rate at around nine per over as they raced to 200 in the fifth over. They added 70 before Akmal was bowled for 31.

Afridi hit seven sixes and three fours and helped blast 82 runs off only 26 deliveries with Salman Butt for the fourth wicket as Shoaib Malik's decision to bat first paid dividends. Though Pakistan lost Imran Nazir in the first over, Butt and Kamran Akmal, who was promoted up the order, kept the run-rate at around nine per over as they raced to 200 in the fifth over. They added 70 before Akmal was bowled for 31.

Afridi hit seven sixes and three fours and helped blast 82 runs off only 26 deliveries with Salman Butt for the fourth wicket as Shoaib Malik's decision to bat first paid dividends. Though Pakistan lost Imran Nazir in the first over, Butt and Kamran Akmal, who was promoted up the order, kept the run-rate at around nine per over as they raced to 200 in the fifth over. They added 70 before Akmal was bowled for 31.

Afridi hit seven sixes and three fours and helped blast 82 runs off only 26 deliveries with Salman Butt for the fourth wicket as Shoaib Malik's decision to bat first paid dividends. Though Pakistan lost Imran Nazir in the first over, Butt and Kamran Akmal, who was promoted up the order, kept the run-rate at around nine per over as they raced to 200 in the fifth over. They added 70 before Akmal was bowled for 31.

Afridi hit seven sixes and three fours and helped blast 82 runs off only 26 deliveries with Salman Butt for the fourth wicket as Shoaib Malik's decision to bat first paid dividends. Though Pakistan lost Imran Nazir in the first over, Butt and Kamran Akmal, who was promoted up the order, kept the run-rate at around nine per over as they raced to 200 in the fifth over. They added 70 before Akmal was bowled for 31.

Afridi hit seven sixes and three fours and helped blast 82 runs off only 26 deliveries with Salman Butt for the fourth wicket as Shoaib Malik's decision to bat first paid dividends. Though Pakistan lost Imran Nazir in the first over, Butt and Kamran Akmal, who was promoted up the order, kept the run-rate at around nine per over as they raced to 200 in the fifth over. They added 70 before Akmal was bowled for 31.

Afridi hit seven sixes and three fours and helped blast 82 runs off only 26 deliveries with Salman Butt for the fourth wicket as Shoaib Malik's decision to bat first paid dividends. Though Pakistan lost Imran Nazir in the first over, Butt and Kamran Akmal, who was promoted up the order, kept the run-rate at around nine per over as they raced to 200 in the fifth over. They added 70 before Akmal was bowled for 31.

Afridi hit seven sixes and three fours and helped blast 82 runs off only 26 deliveries with Salman Butt for the fourth wicket as Shoaib Malik's decision to bat first paid dividends. Though Pakistan lost Imran Nazir in the first over, Butt and Kamran Akmal, who was promoted up the order, kept the run-rate at around nine per over as they raced to 200 in the fifth over. They added 70 before Akmal was bowled for 31.

Afridi hit seven sixes and three fours and helped blast 82 runs off only 26 deliveries with Salman Butt for the fourth wicket as Shoaib Malik's decision to bat first paid dividends. Though Pakistan lost Imran Nazir in the first over, Butt and Kamran Akmal, who was promoted up the order, kept the run-rate at around nine per over as they raced to 200 in the fifth over. They added 70 before Akmal was bowled for 31.

Afridi hit seven sixes and three fours and helped blast 82 runs off only 26 deliveries with Salman Butt for the fourth wicket as Shoaib Malik's decision to bat first paid dividends. Though Pakistan lost Imran Nazir in the first over, Butt and Kamran Akmal, who was promoted up the order, kept the