

Dilshan dropped from Tests

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lankan selectors Friday dropped seasoned middle-order batsman Tilakaratne Dilshan from their 16-man squad for the two-Test tour of Australia starting later this month.

Thilan Samaraweera replaced the 30-year-old, who has been struggling with his Test form in the last two years.

Dilshan, has however been kept on standby and named skipper for the A team which will tour Zimbabwe beginning October 15.

The selectors also picked 26-year-old uncapped left-arm seamer Chanaka Welegedera and leg-spinner Malina Bandara after he was overlooked for the ongoing one-day series against England.

Veteran Sanath Jayasuriya retained his opening berth after former skipper Marvan Atapattu opted out.

Selectors had asked Atapattu to consider a return to the side last week but Atapattu declined the offer.

Ace spinner Muttiah Muralidaran, nursing a bicep injury and needing just eight wickets to level Shane Warne's world record of 708 wickets, has been named in the squad.

The first Test will be played in Brisbane from November 8 while the second will be held at Hobart (Nov 16-20).

FIA clears Hamilton

AFP, Shanghai

World Championship leader Lewis Hamilton will not be punished for erratic driving behind the safety car in the Japanese Grand Prix last week, the FIA confirmed on Friday.

Formula One race stewards conducted an enquiry into Hamilton's driving in Fuji and cleared him of improper conduct.

Despite protesting his innocence, Hamilton, who is currently 12 points clear in the standings, had feared that he would be penalised and his title chances would be affected.

But the 22-year-old British rookie has now been cleared of any wrongdoing and can concentrate on Sunday's Chinese Grand Prix where he could seal the driver's championship with a win.

Geoff faces angry

FROM PAGE 17

in assessing that Pakistan fought back well enough, though firmly behind the eight-ball as they were, it was futile. Not having played first-class cricket since January didn't help (though it didn't hurt South Africa) and switching from Twenty20 took some time, but Lawson wasn't using them as excuses.

"We showed some tickers, some heart," he argued. "The lower-order batted well in that first innings. We showed we're not going to fold and are tough to beat. The rub of the green didn't go our way distinctly our way. If we had a bit of luck here we could've done well. We're not very far from where we need to be. Two dropped catches might have cost us the Test."

There are a lot of positives to take. (Abdur) Rehman took eight wickets, (Danish) Kaneria bowled well, Misbah-ul-Haq batted well. Coming off Twenty20, we showed we're fit enough to play Tests. We fought back after being behind on day one and showed a lot of courage. We were still in this game with a little chance till the first over after lunch. That's because we showed a lot of courage and fortitude which is a very good sign for Pakistan."

As a batsman, Malik showed both a steady but futile 30 followed a gritty 73 in the first innings. It's difficult to judge his leadership from just five days, but Lawson saw some good things. "He's a young captain and he's learning. He did some really good things out there and he did some things we will discuss. He's a young than finding his way in a country that expects a lot from his leader. With the bat, he batted like a leader."

Lawson will hope the good signs convert into good performances. There is only a three-day break before the second and final Test begins in Lahore and some tricky selection issues to work with. The Test has been officially dubbed the "Inzamam Test", it being the former captain's final international match. Mohammad Yousuf is also likely to play, but could the focus, as Graeme Smith questioned, on Inzamam be a distraction?

Lawson paused before answering, optimistically again. "It's a fascinating selection. Yousuf is training very hard at the moment. David Dwyer has given him a really good workout and he has come a long way in the space of a week."

"It will be hard to handle that (the Inzamam send-off). Inzy deserves a great farewell, because he's been a great player. But we have worked hard over the last few weeks and we will do what we have to do to win the game. The game is not a testimonial and we're going to try and win it. I hope Inzy scores two hundreds."

If that happens and Pakistan do win, Lawson may find Lahore a more welcoming venue than Karachi.



National football coach Syed Nayeemuddin (C) briefs his players during half-time of their warmup match against Dhaka XI at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Paul's eyes on series

Cricket

BBC ONLINE, undated

Skipper Paul Collingwood was thrilled by England's first one-day win in Sri Lanka since 1982 but said it will count for little if they do not build on it.

Owais Shah's 82 proved the difference between the sides as England claimed a 65-run day-night victory in Dambulla.

"There's no point coming out here and only winning one game. We want to win a series," said Collingwood.

"This set the benchmark, the standards we want to keep for the rest of the series and go even higher if we did," he said.

Despite slumping to 61-4 after choosing to bat first, England rallied to 234-8, before bowling out the home side for 169.

It was only the second time England have won a one-day match in Sri Lanka, with the previous win being under the captaincy of Ian Botham in 1982.

But although he was keen to revel in an impressive win, Collingwood was impressed with what he saw from the Middlesex player.

"He was very patient and managed to find the areas that he could score in," said Collingwood.

"To get that kind of total, we knew if we took early wickets we could put them under pressure and that's what we did."

Despite slumping to 61-4 after choosing to bat first, England rallied to 234-8, before bowling out the home side for 169.

It was only the second time England have won a one-day match in Sri Lanka, with the previous win being under the captaincy of Ian Botham in 1982.

But although he was keen to revel in an impressive win, Collingwood was impressed with what he saw from the Middlesex player.

"He was very patient and managed to find the areas that he could score in," said Collingwood.

"To get that kind of total, we knew if we took early wickets we could put them under pressure and that's what we did."

Despite slumping to 61-4 after choosing to bat first, England rallied to 234-8, before bowling out the home side for 169.

It was only the second time England have won a one-day match in Sri Lanka, with the previous win being under the captaincy of Ian Botham in 1982.

But although he was keen to revel in an impressive win, Collingwood was impressed with what he saw from the Middlesex player.

"He was very patient and managed to find the areas that he could score in," said Collingwood.

"To get that kind of total, we knew if we took early wickets we could put them under pressure and that's what we did."

Despite slumping to 61-4 after choosing to bat first, England rallied to 234-8, before bowling out the home side for 169.

It was only the second time England have won a one-day match in Sri Lanka, with the previous win being under the captaincy of Ian Botham in 1982.

But although he was keen to revel in an impressive win, Collingwood was impressed with what he saw from the Middlesex player.

"He was very patient and managed to find the areas that he could score in," said Collingwood.

"To get that kind of total, we knew if we took early wickets we could put them under pressure and that's what we did."

Despite slumping to 61-4 after choosing to bat first, England rallied to 234-8, before bowling out the home side for 169.

It was only the second time England have won a one-day match in Sri Lanka, with the previous win being under the captaincy of Ian Botham in 1982.

But although he was keen to revel in an impressive win, Collingwood was impressed with what he saw from the Middlesex player.

"He was very patient and managed to find the areas that he could score in," said Collingwood.

"To get that kind of total, we knew if we took early wickets we could put them under pressure and that's what we did."

Despite slumping to 61-4 after choosing to bat first, England rallied to 234-8, before bowling out the home side for 169.

It was only the second time England have won a one-day match in Sri Lanka, with the previous win being under the captaincy of Ian Botham in 1982.

But although he was keen to revel in an impressive win, Collingwood was impressed with what he saw from the Middlesex player.

"He was very patient and managed to find the areas that he could score in," said Collingwood.

"To get that kind of total, we knew if we took early wickets we could put them under pressure and that's what we did."

Despite slumping to 61-4 after choosing to bat first, England rallied to 234-8, before bowling out the home side for 169.

It was only the second time England have won a one-day match in Sri Lanka, with the previous win being under the captaincy of Ian Botham in 1982.

But although he was keen to revel in an impressive win, Collingwood was impressed with what he saw from the Middlesex player.

"He was very patient and managed to find the areas that he could score in," said Collingwood.

"To get that kind of total, we knew if we took early wickets we could put them under pressure and that's what we did."

Despite slumping to 61-4 after choosing to bat first, England rallied to 234-8, before bowling out the home side for 169.

It was only the second time England have won a one-day match in Sri Lanka, with the previous win being under the captaincy of Ian Botham in 1982.

But although he was keen to revel in an impressive win, Collingwood was impressed with what he saw from the Middlesex player.

"He was very patient and managed to find the areas that he could score in," said Collingwood.

"To get that kind of total, we knew if we took early wickets we could put them under pressure and that's what we did."

Despite slumping to 61-4 after choosing to bat first, England rallied to 234-8, before bowling out the home side for 169.

It was only the second time England have won a one-day match in Sri Lanka, with the previous win being under the captaincy of Ian Botham in 1982.

But although he was keen to revel in an impressive win, Collingwood was impressed with what he saw from the Middlesex player.

"He was very patient and managed to find the areas that he could score in," said Collingwood.

"To get that kind of total, we knew if we took early wickets we could put them under pressure and that's what we did."

Despite slumping to 61-4 after choosing to bat first, England rallied to 234-8, before bowling out the home side for 169.

It was only the second time England have won a one-day match in Sri Lanka, with the previous win being under the captaincy of Ian Botham in 1982.

But although he was keen to revel in an impressive win, Collingwood was impressed with what he saw from the Middlesex player.

"He was very patient and managed to find the areas that he could score in," said Collingwood.

"To get that kind of total, we knew if we took early wickets we could put them under pressure and that's what we did."

Despite slumping to 61-4 after choosing to bat first, England rallied to 234-8, before bowling out the home side for 169.

It was only the second time England have won a one-day match in Sri Lanka, with the previous win being under the captaincy of Ian Botham in 1982.

But although he was keen to revel in an impressive win, Collingwood was impressed with what he saw from the Middlesex player.

"He was very patient and managed to find the areas that he could score in," said Collingwood.

"To get that kind of total, we knew if we took early wickets we could put them under pressure and that's what we did."

Despite slumping to 61-4 after choosing to bat first, England rallied to 234-8, before bowling out the home side for 169.

It was only the second time England have won a one-day match in Sri Lanka, with the previous win being under the captaincy of Ian Botham in 1982.

But although he was keen to revel in an impressive win, Collingwood was impressed with what he saw from the Middlesex player.

"He was very patient and managed to find the areas that he could score in," said Collingwood.

"To get that kind of total, we knew if we took early wickets we could put them under pressure and that's what we did."

Despite slumping to 61-4 after choosing to bat first, England rallied to 234-8, before bowling out the home side for 169.

It was only the second time England have won a one-day match in Sri Lanka, with the previous win being under the captaincy of Ian Botham in 1982.

But although he was keen to revel in an impressive win, Collingwood was impressed with what he saw from the Middlesex player.

"He was very patient and managed to find the areas that he could score in," said Collingwood.

"To get that kind of total, we knew if we took early wickets we could put them under pressure and that's what we did."

Despite slumping to 61-4 after choosing to bat first, England rallied to 234-8, before bowling out the home side for 169.

It was only the second time England have won a one-day match in Sri Lanka, with the previous win being under the captaincy of Ian Botham in 1982.

But although he was keen to revel in an impressive win, Collingwood was impressed with what he saw from the Middlesex player.

"He was very patient and managed to find the areas that he could score in," said Collingwood.

"To get that kind of total, we knew if we took early wickets we could put them under pressure and that's what we did."

Despite slumping to 61-4 after choosing to bat first, England rallied to 234-8, before bowling out the home side for 169.

It was only the second time England have won a one-day match in Sri Lanka, with the previous win being under the captaincy of Ian Botham in 1982.

But although he was keen to revel in an impressive win, Collingwood was impressed with what he saw from the Middlesex player.

"He was very patient and managed to find the areas that he could score in," said Collingwood.

"To get that kind of total, we knew if we took early wickets we could put them under pressure and that's what we did."

Despite slumping to 61-4 after choosing to bat first, England rallied to 234-8, before bowling out the home side for 169.

It was only the second time England have won a one-day match in Sri Lanka, with the previous win being under the captaincy of Ian Botham in 1982.

But although he was keen to revel in an impressive win, Collingwood was impressed with what he saw from the Middlesex player.

"He was very patient and managed to find the areas that he could score in," said Collingwood.

"To get that kind of total, we knew if we took early wickets we could put them under pressure and that's what we did."

Despite slumping to 61-4 after choosing to bat first, England rallied to 234-8, before bowling out the home side for 169.