A long way to the 75th test match

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After over seven hundred games of cricket, I still get nervous before every game, but now I know what to expect. When I stop feeling nervous before a game, I'll know that it's time to retire. I consider nervousness to be an important experience to help me get motivated before every day's play.

Nishat Tasneem: Can you recall any special moments from matches in your career?

Daryl Harper: I have had so many special moments over the years; it is hard to think of just one. I can remember waiting for Patterson Thompson from the West Indies to bowl the ball to Pakistan's Moin Khan at the WACA in Perth one night. He ran past me and called, "No ball, man!" and didn't bowl the ball. I signalled dead ball to the scorers and found that the ball was still in my pocket! I had been talking so much to Wasim Akram that I had forgotten to give the bowler the ball!

On another day, I asked the West Indian all rounder Roger Harper if he thought we might be related! He considered the question and told me, "Maybe if you go way, way back in history!" Since that day, he has always greeted me with a high five and "Good day cousin!"

Nishat Tasneem: You have visited Bangladesh on several previous occasions. Do you know how many times you have umpired Bangladesh and in which countries you have supervised Bangladesh games?

Daryl Harper: I have umpired six Tests here in Bangladesh and I have officiated with your national team in England, India, New Zealand, South Africa and the West Indies.

Nishat Tasneem: Cricket is often referred to as a gentleman's sport. What is your view of sledging?

Daryl Harper: Sledging is common in some countries, including Australia where players have often commented to their opponents to unsettle them. It is not the regular practice to do it in the subcontinent, so players here are offended more easily by such comments. Many sledges are very humorous and the players often have a giggle, but sometimes the comments are personal and abusive and that is not acceptable in any country. That's when an umpire must intervene and if the incident warrants it, the offending player must be reported for breaching the code of conduct.

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