

Clarke new million dollar cricketer

PTI, Melbourne

Michael Clarke has replaced his skipper Ricky Ponting as the highest earning cricketer in the Australian team according to an estimate, which puts his salary to 1.01 million US dollars.

The calculations are based on 12 months of estimated earnings from December 1, 2007.

Last year, Ponting had emerged as the highest paid cricketer.

But it was only Clarke's workload that steered him ahead of Ponting, who is closely chasing him at 992,280 dollars for the year. Clarke featured in 36 out of 37 games Australia played.

Only Mike Hussey played all the games, and 329,970 dollars in match fees saw his payday get past Brett Lee, a man believed to be the number two rank but not so due to less number of matches.

According to Daily Telegraph, base salaries of the top 25 contracted Australian cricketers start at 160,000 dollars and end with Ponting at a sum believed to be 800,000 dollars.

"The base salaries drop at intervals of approximately 50,000 dollars according to rankings, and men who play in all forms of the game occupy the top tier," the newspaper said.

"On top of this, players are paid match fees that can boost their wage by more than 300,000 dollars a year if they play the majority of Tests, one-dayers and Twenty20 games. A Test is worth 12,750 dollars and 50/20-overs cricket pays 5100 dollars -- and both attract overseas loading." According to the report, most top Aussie batsmen pocket somewhere between 600 dollars and 700 dollars a run. Because of his workload, Hussey represents best value, costing CA only 619 dollars for every run.

Blow for Krejza

CRICINFO, undated

Australia off-spinner Jason Krejza's chances of playing the first Test against South Africa look slim after he failed to pass a fitness test for Tasmania.

Krejza missed the Adelaide Test against New Zealand with an ankle injury, but had resumed light running and hoped to play in his state's one-day match against New South Wales to prove himself available for Perth in a fortnight.

Tasmania's coach Tim Coyle told reporters that Krejza would not play on Sunday. "I wouldn't call it a setback, I'd call it a progression in fact," Coyle said. "He's very close to playing. If this was a four-day game he'd be playing because he could stand in the slips, he's not needed to run around as much. The intensity of the fielding effort in one-day cricket is the only thing we had a question mark on."

Coyle said he expected Krejza to be fit for Tasmania's one-day game against South Australia at Adelaide Oval on Wednesday. "We just think a little bit proppy still and he feels that as well," Coyle said. "It's not worth risking."

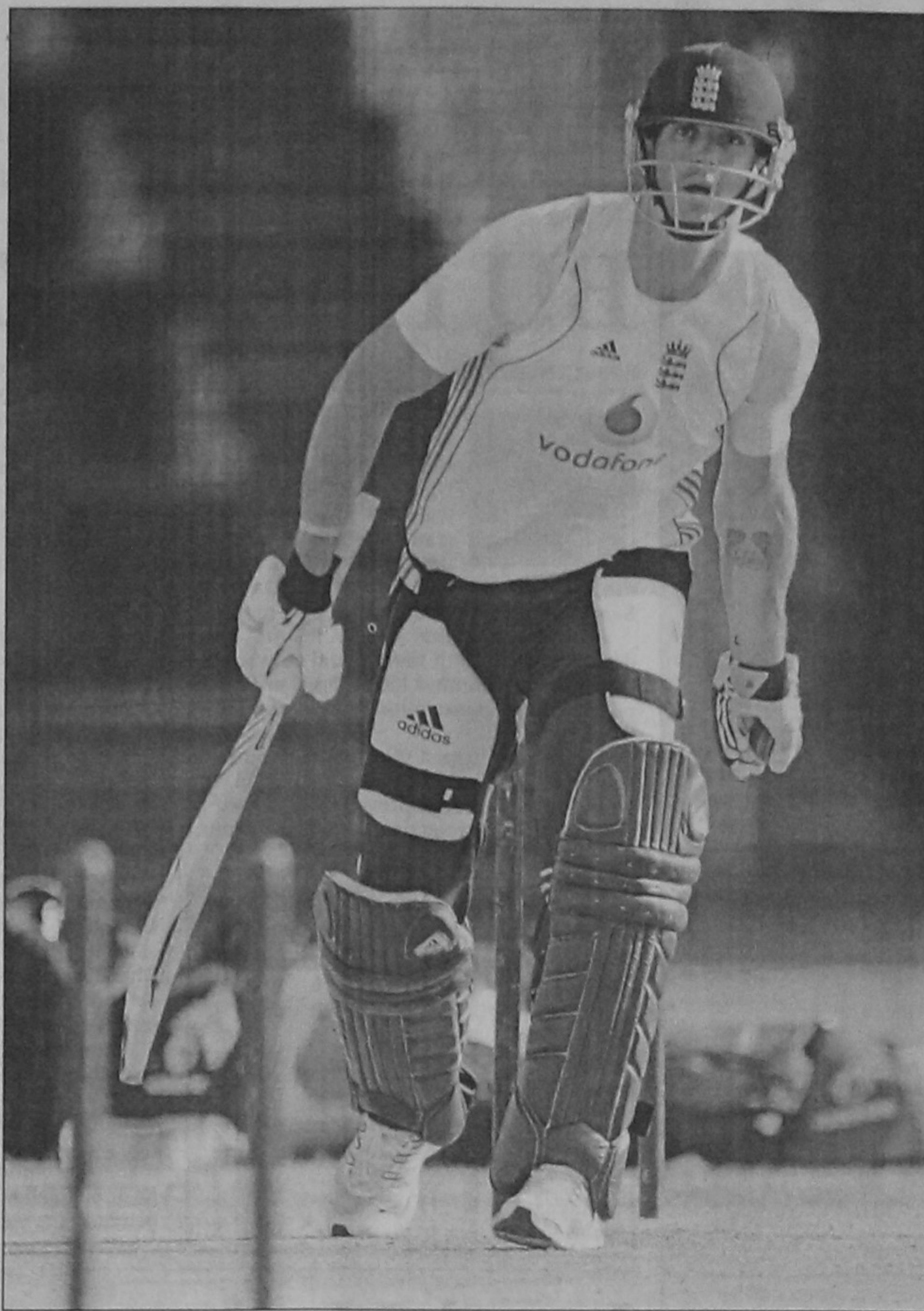
Although Krejza is now regarded as Australia's leading spin candidate, he has still only played one match after Ricky Ponting took an all-pace attack into the first Test against New Zealand at the Gabba. Despite Nathan Hauritz performing solidly in Adelaide Ponting said Krejza's remarkable debut in Nagpur, where he took match figures of 12 for 358, had earned him another opportunity.

BU ride on

FROM PAGE 17 The players will now enjoy a 12-day break to celebrate Eid-ul-Azha as the league will resume on December 18.

Yellow cards: Kabir Hossain, Ashraf Al Awad and Herok Joarder (Rahmatganj).

TEAMS
BROTHERS: Zia, Ashraf, Ariful, Divine, Shuvro, Arup, Tapu (Liton), Motiur Munna, Zahid (Parvez), Shakil and Henry.
RAHMATGANJ: Ali, Jahangir, Ashraf, Shipon, Imrose, Felix, Kabir (Ashraf Al Awad), Francis, Hanif, Idris and Herok.
Referee: Abdul Hannan.



England cricket captain Kevin Pietersen is about to throw the ball during a training session at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Friday.

Rain hampers Eng

CRICINFO, undated

England's preparations for the first Test against India were limited to just half a training session at their camp in Abu Dhabi owing to poor weather.

Heavy rain prevented the players from leaving their hotel until after lunch on, curtailing their much-needed training and keenness to concentrate on cricket after a turbulent few weeks. With the first Test just five days away, there is precious little time for England to hone their skills.

Not only have they been on and off long-haul flights in recent days but it is also more than three months since England last played a Test. With the warm-up match in Vadodara scrapped the squad will have to make do with nets and some middle practice between each other.

Hugh Morris, the managing director of England cricket, has flown to Chennai to assess security ahead of the Test on Thursday, and a decision is expected on Sunday over whether the tour party will get the go-ahead to return to India. Morris and his namesake, Sean, the Professional Cricketers' Association chief executive, along with security advisor Reg Dickason, are due to report back to the team on Sunday evening. All being well, England will travel back to India on Monday.

Dickason has already inspected Chennai and is due to visit Mohali, the venue of the second Test, on December 8. While the BCCI says it has responded to all the ECB's requests for extra security measures, reports from India on Thursday about airport alerts means the situation remains fluid.

An expanded England party of 38 -- including 24 players -- arrived in Dubai in the early hours of Friday morning before travelling to Abu Dhabi. They didn't check into their hotel

until 4.15am, but nine hours later headed to the Sheikh Zayed Stadium for a practice session.

"Obviously, the situation being the way it is, we have got to make best use of the facilities," Paul Collingwood told the Press Association on Friday. "Sunday is D-day, when we get the full security reports, and really, from a cricketing perspective, we have to be mentally right for starting on Thursday."

"We need to get the physical side back into our bodies -- batting for long periods of time, for example -- which is what we will get for the next three days here," he added. "What we've got to do as a group of players is be 100 per cent mentally attuned to starting on Thursday, take all the distractions out of the way and when it comes to Sunday night, talk about it again and make a decision."

"It is not an ideal situation, but the facilities in Abu Dhabi are excellent and, all being well, all of us should be on the plane to India on Monday morning," Collingwood said. "We all have concerns for obvious reasons but we are leaving it in the hands of the people who know what is going on. We have to trust the guys at the top: Reg Dickason, the ECB and BCCI to come up with the right decisions to make it safe for us to go."

The Test party is light on bowling resources -- Ryan Sidebottom is out of the series with a side injury and Stuart Broad ruled out of the first Test with the hamstring strain he picked up in the fifth ODI. Ten players from the Performance Squad have travelled to Abu Dhabi to help with preparations, including late addition Adil Rashid, the Yorkshire legspinner.

However, it is more likely that England will need to take an extra seamer to Chennai as currently there are just three fit frontline quicks -- Andrew Flintoff, Steve Harmison and James Anderson. Sajid Mahmood and Amjad Khan were added to the one-day squad after the fifth ODI but never had a chance to join up before the tour was suspended. They probably head the queue if reinforcements are required next week.

Coach accepts failure

CRICINFO, undated

John Bracewell admits he did not match up to expectations during his tenure as New Zealand coach. Bracewell, whose last series in charge saw New Zealand slip to a 2-0 defeat in Australia and No. 8 in the International Cricket Council Test rankings, on Friday said he would miss the team he coached for over five years.

"I feel as though I've given it a honest shot but in terms of pure statistics or results New Zealand Cricket wanted us to be No. 1 in world cricket in both forms of the game and we didn't reach that, so if you look at it like that I've been a failure," Bracewell told the Dominion Post. New Zealand won 61 of the 106 ODIs when he was coach, but only 13 of the 41 Tests and lost 20.

"In Test cricket our planning has been very, very good in that we often get ourselves in a position to win but often we run out of steam trying to fulfil that," he said. "That is disappointing, but there are not too many Tests that we don't put ourselves in a position to win at some stage. We just lose critical

moments too often." During his stint, Bracewell was also on the receiving end from the media. "At times both the media and myself weren't the best of friends but that is the nature of the business," he said. "If it's a kiss-arse business, you are in the wrong one, both from a media perspective and a coaching perspective."



JOHN BRACEWELL

"You've got to cop it and sometimes you've got to give it and you regret that you've given it because the media always have the last shot."

He believes the team he leaves in the hands of Andy Moles has the ability to

become world-beaters. "These guys are enormously talented and when they harness it and realise it and get into it they will play some really exciting cricket," he said. "They live in the high-lights, they play in the high-lights and that is what the public want to see."

"There will be some high and lows, I suspect, but, man, when they get it right some of these batters will be absolutely outstanding" he said. "I'm very close to them, it's been a long association. It's a family unit with extremely high team spirit. They are close to each other and I will miss them."

Eng decide

FROM PAGE 17 to put a foolproof security set-up in place for the team and support staff.

The trio would also inspect Mohali which hosts the second Test starting December 19.

After concluding their recce, the trio would then report back to the team management which will in turn inform the players about all the security arrangements that have been put in place.

Good start by West Indians

CRICINFO, undated

The West Indians made a watchful start with the bat after Auckland declared at 587 for 7 on Day Two of their three-day match at the Eden Park Outer Oval on Saturday. Xavier Marshall was on 45 and Sewnarine Chattergoon 31 as the visitors finished on 82 for 0, no doubt keen to get in useful practice on a good batting track in their only practice match ahead of next week's Test series. For the home side captain Richard Jones scored a double century and Gareth Hopkins an unbeaten 103 to go with half-centuries from Tim McIntosh, Reece Young and Kyle Mills.

The West Indians were kept in the field for 156.1 overs, more than half of this match. Auckland declared their first innings just before tea, after Hopkins -- who was dropped for the two Tests -- reached his century with a six. It was Hopkins' eighth first-class century. Jones had resumed the day on 186 and duly reached a career-best 201. Jones lost his overnight partner Young on 61, but Hopkins further frustrated the tourists, raising his century off 182 balls. Mills also chipped in with 50 and debutant Jeet Raval made 31. Auckland's total was their highest against a touring team.

Fidel Edwards was the best of the West Indian bowlers, returning figures of 3 for 125 from 29 overs. Lionel Baker, one of the hopefuls for the first Test, took 1 for 95 off 28 overs. The left-arm spinner Suleiman Benn bowled 48 overs and took 1 for 146.

Their openers then batted 31 overs untroubled. The West Indians will look to use the three sessions remaining in the match for batting practice.

Watch out

FROM PAGE 17 late but he has a solid record in Australia and Smith believes that he is due for a change of fortune soon.

Kallis has been working with former England coach Duncan Fletcher, who will travel to Australia as a consultant for the early days of the tour.

"The work he's been putting in has to pay off at some stage," said Smith.

While the batsmen will look forward to testing themselves against an Australian bowling line-up missing the retired Warne and Glenn McGrath, the bowlers can expect to be challenged on the true pitches of Australia.

Steyn has the ability to bowl out-swingers at high pace but he can be expensive, while the exciting Morne Morkel has been inconsistent.

At his best, the tall Morkel can produce balls good enough to dismiss the best batsmen in the world but he is also liable to have days when he struggles to find line or length.

Makhaya Ntini has lost pace but could have an important role to play.

Admitting he had needed a break after the England tour, he started the current season strongly and said he was looking to find the consistency and accuracy that made McGrath and compatriot Shaun Pollock valuable performers towards the end of their careers.

One big weakness for South Africa is the lack of a world-class spinner. But it's a problem shared by Australia.

Jewel

FROM PAGE 17 Mahmood, Al Amin Mia, Ariful Islam, Latiful Azam, Mohibullah, Kuntal Candra, Raihanuddin Arafat, Nazmul Islam. **Coach:** Mizanur Rahman Babul.

Shaheed Mushtaque XI: Rashedul Hoque (captain), Fazle Rabbi, Rasel Al Mamun, Nizamuddin Ripon, Suvagata Chowdhury, Anhoor Newaz, Shahriar Habib, Sadaf Sarkar, Aslam Khan, Niaz Morsheid, Iqbal Hossain, Rifatuzzaman, Mohammad Sokran, Nur Hossain, Ashiqul Islam. **Coach:** Golam Faruque Chowdhury

Security

FROM PAGE 17 Dhaka Police spokesman S N Pradhan on Thursday said that Dhoni had been given Z category security and he was rather unhappy over too many policemen guarding him.

Dhoni's former coach Chanchhal Bhattacharya, however, claimed the Z category security was provided to Dhoni just "on paper".

The Dhaka government last year announced the Z security for the dashing wicketkeeper-batsman following media reports that he might face threats from the naxals, who infested 18 of its districts.

NZ soup up squad

CRICINFO, undated

New Zealand's selectors have made sweeping changes to the squad that lost to Australia 2-0. Apart from fast bowler Chris Martin and batsman Aaron Redmond, those who have been dropped for the two-match series against West Indies that starts next week include Tim Southee, Gareth Hopkins, Peter Fulton and Grant Elliott.

The all-rounder James Franklin has been recalled after recovering from a career-threatening knee injury, while Tim McIntosh, the left-handed Auckland opener, has earned a maiden call-up. The 12-man squad also welcomes back Jacob Oram, who missed the Australia tour due to a back injury, and fast bowler Mark Gillespie.

Glenn Turner, head of New Zealand's selection panel, said the selectors felt Martin -- who managed six wickets in Australia -- would benefit from more cricket at the domestic level while rebuilding his fitness after injury. "Mark Gillespie has shown good recent form, bowling a lot of overs and taking eight wickets in his last match -- he becomes our strike bowler in this series," said Turner. "James Franklin's return to form as an all-rounder has also been good news. With Oram able to bat and returning after injury we're in the fortunate position of having

both our leading all-rounders available."

Franklin has been in impressive form on his return to domestic cricket. He made his first-class comeback last month for Wellington, scoring 69 and taking 4 for 56 in his team's innings victory over Canterbury. Already this season he has made 448 runs in three matches with two centuries and a fifty, including a career-best 219 against Auckland at Eden Park. Franklin last played a Test in December 2006 and has not appeared in ODIs since the 2007 World Cup.

McIntosh, 29, scored 78 on day one of Auckland's match against the West Indians to take his tally to 418 runs at 69.00 this summer. He replaces Redmond, who scored 115 runs at 28.75 in Australia, at the top of the order. Oram declared himself fit this week and his next assignment is a four-day match against Otago in Napier starting on Saturday.

Jeetan Patel has been retained as the second specialist spin bowler. "His inclusion gives us the option of a stronger spin attack, depending on pitch conditions at University Oval," said Turner.

The first Test in Dunedin begins on December 11, with the second in Napier starting on December 19.

SQUAD

Daniel Vettori, Jamie How, Tim McIntosh, Daniel Flynn, Ross Taylor, Jesse Ryder, Jacob Oram, Brendon McCullum, James Franklin, Mark Gillespie, Iain O'Brien, Jeetan Patel.

McIntosh thanks Horne

CRICINFO, undated

Tim McIntosh has credited former New Zealand opener Matt Horne for his recent batting form that earned him a call-up to the Test side for the series against West Indies.

McIntosh, who opens for Auckland, is his side's leading run-getter this season with 349 at 69.80 and said he was "over the moon" at being picked. "I've been working closely with Matt Horne, who's on Auckland Cricket's coaching board this year," McIntosh told the New Zealand's Sunday News.

"He's been very successful, opened the batting for New Zealand and he knows my game having played with me. We worked out a strategy on how to approach good bowling, we have persisted with that for a couple of seasons and I think we're seeing some

benefits."

McIntosh felt he had a consistent base to his game which was important in succeeding at the highest level. "You reach an age and you always feel like if you persist with something long enough you'll get rewarded at some



TIM MCINTOSH

point. That's how I feel about my game. You work out what works for you and if you stick

to that you see some success come your way."

McIntosh felt playing the West Indians in the tour game in which he scored 78 helped him gain some experience ahead of the first Test next week. "They [West Indians] are missing a couple of their stronger bowlers but it is nice to get out there and have a crack against them and I think that will help."

Glenn Turner, the New Zealand selector, said McIntosh had justified his selection with his form in the State Championship.

"We're keen to select players who are in form and you can do that in a home series," Turner said. "Obviously, those positions haven't been solved yet and we just believe in giving people an opportunity, so let's just find out. If you post the numbers you deserve a chance. He's also a left-hander which obviously helps, when you've got the left hand-right hand combination opening."

Kallis warns Aussies

CRICINFO, undated

Jacques Kallis has on Friday said Australia can expect a few surprises from a South African think-tank that includes Duncan Fletcher during their upcoming three-Test series.

Fletcher was England's coach when they won the Ashes in 2005.

"We have worked well with Duncan and he has got some new ideas to beat Australia," Kallis told the Herald Sun. "He's got some thoughts from the 2005 Ashes... but he has quite a few fresh plans for Australia this time around."

England's victory during the 2005 Ashes revolved largely around a four-man pace attack, with the likes of Simon Jones and Andrew Flintoff troubling the Australian batsman with reverse-swing, so much so that Australia hired Troy Cooley, England's bowling coach during the 2005 contest.

It was during Fletcher's tenure, though, that England were blanked 5-0 in Australia, in 2006-07, and Australia have not lost a home series since 1992-93, when they were beaten 2-1 by West Indies in a

five-Test series. Their record since that series reads: won 26, drawn 2.

"I obviously can't say much more on that... but our bowling is going to be quite crucial for us," Kallis said.

"There will be key moments in this series and we want to take advantage of them," he said. "Australia have had a good couple of years and we are looking at this series as a huge challenge for us. We want to win any series but this one is particularly crucial for us."

"Australia have been the benchmark and really dominant for the past 12 or 13 years and that is something we aspire to." South Africa are yet to win a Test series in Australia, and have not won a contest against them since their readmission in 1991.

They head to Australia unbeaten in their last nine Test series -- winning eight of those -- and are currently ranked No. 2 in the ICC rankings. Their last series loss was in Sri Lanka in 2006, with their only draw since then coming away against India earlier this year. Australia recently lost 2-0 to India but are still No. 1, a spot Ponting is confident they will maintain even if they lose against South Africa.

The three-Test series begins in Perth on December 17, and will be followed by a return three-Test series from February.

Dizzy fears

FROM PAGE 17 to the BCCI marks a worrying time for Test cricket, Gillespie felt.

"I can see a time where countries will be bypassing Test cricket altogether," he said. "With more Twenty20 Leagues, it will go the way where representing your country will take a back seat. For Australian and English players it will always be the pinnacle, but I'm not sure it's the pinnacle for any other countries."

"All other countries don't see Test cricket as the be-all and end-all any more. Test cricket is in trouble, there's no doubt about that."

Now 33, Gillespie is turning his attention to coaching, but even that may be restricted by CA. "I was talking to Troy Cooley [Australian head bowling coach] before and he's keen to get me into the Centre of Excellence but I'm hoping these ridiculous rules of Cricket Australia don't extend to coaching because I think that would be quite sad."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS		DOWN	
1	Draft in an apartment	2	Carbon compound
6	Pleistocene	3	Jellied entree
12	Snatch money	4	Old French coin
13	One who isn't greedy	5	Stress Capri or Wight
14	Brace	6	Capri or Wight
15	Highway	7	Twitter
16	Bamako's country	8	Corrode
17	Farmer, at times	9	Through street
19	Curvy character	10	The Bee —
20	Burn somewhat	11	Blunders
22	Standard	12	Spinning
24	Mag.	13	meas.
		14	Ven-ezuelan river
		15	Har-rumph!
		16	Carina

27 Largest of the seven
29 Actor
32 Nail re-handled
35 Home of Oberlin
36 Dover —
37 Aristocrat article

45 Newspaper page
47 Suit
48 Coddies
49 Have bills
51 Try the tea
53 Flower

CRYPTOQUIP
BKUOB RAIQD DFEKA D ZKEMW
SDQO WOIT SOAC ACY
DFOTOAZ AK BCDMW QKJUR

"TOAATY UKIGCOM" DMMOY
Yesterday's Cryptique: THESE DAYS I PREFER SCULPTURE OVER PAINTING. I GUESS YOU COULD SAY I'VE HAD A CHANGE OF ART.
Today's Cryptique Clue: A squall