

Kiwis bring in new face

AFP, Wellington

Batsman Neil Broom is the one new face in the New Zealand cricket side named Sunday for the first two one-day internationals against the West Indies.

The squad contains three changes from the Twenty20 side with Grant Elliott and Jamie Howrcalled to the team.

Broom comes in for the injured Scott Styris, who broke a thumb in the first Twenty20 match on Friday, while James Franklin and Ewen Thompson are the two players omitted.

The head of the selection panel, Glenn Turner, said Broom had shown his potential as an international batsman playing in Australia and India with the Emerging Players and New Zealand Asides.

The second and final Twenty20 match is to be played in Hamilton on Sunday evening with the first one-day international in Queenstown on Wednesday.

SQUAD

Daniel Vettori (captain), Neil Broom, Grant Elliott, Daniel Flynn, Mark Gillespie, Jamie How, Brendon McCullum, Kyle Mills, Jacob Oram, Jeetan Patel, Jesse Ryder, Tim Southee, Ross Taylor.



PHOTO: AFP
BACK ON SONG: Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene, who had a forgettable series in Zimbabwe and scored just three runs in the first innings, raises his bat after completing a hundred in his second knock on the third day of the first Test against Bangladesh at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

As good as Mashrafe gets

MOHAMMAD ISAM



It was breathtaking but the gasps grew louder with every delivery. The two-man slip cordon and wicketkeeper Mashfiqur Rahim would raise their hands in anticipation of something coming their way, but would end up clutching their heads in anguish, marvel the delivery and pass the ball around. You would lose count of the number of times this happened in Mashrafe Bin Mortaza's fourteen overs yesterday.

The country's pace bowling spearhead found little reward but in his three spells, the Sri Lankan batsmen were probed and questioned as if they were up against a harsh interrogator.

Michael Vandort was early in his sights. He was well beaten by a good length delivery that kicked up and moved away after landing on the seam. And this was just the first ball.

Mashrafe bowled. The tall left-hander played and missed a number of times in a 45-minute examination that was terminated when he left a huge gap between bat and pad. Mashrafe let out a loud yelp after seeing the stumps disturbed but that

was more in satisfaction than anything else.

By this time it became apparent that for the Sri Lankans to survive, they had to see Mashrafe off. But he kept coming at them for nine consecutive overs to make full use of the early morning conditions but it could be more to do with his perfect rhythm. His release was a purist's delight and kept hitting the seam time and again.

Mashrafe did err in line twice and was duly punished but he turned around and made sure his reply was just as quick. The man perceived off of touch by the commentators, Jayawardene, was initially troubled by Mashrafe and once the marathon spell was over, the experienced Lankan batted beautifully.

Midway through the second session, Mohammad Ashraful brought back his ace bowler for a breakthrough and although he did not get the wicket, the Sangakkara-Jayawardene pair shut up shop momentarily. So he was taken off and given the second new ball much later in the day and Mashrafe put the exclamation mark to his splendid day with the wicket of Thilan Samaraweera.

The right-hander came on strike after Jayawardene inside-edged the first ball of the 85th over for a single. Mashrafe kept

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Reduced run-up does wonders for Zaheer

PTI, New Delhi

India's pace spearhead Zaheer Khan has credited his return to form after months in wilderness to a reduced run-up, which he says has helped him become fitter and consistent.

"I think a major difference in my career has been my readiness to cut down on my run-up. My reduced run-up, without sacrificing on my leap at the point of delivery, has both improved my rhythm and fitness," Zaheer told PTI in an interview.

Zaheer has a new-found status of being a dreaded swing bowler and has his opponents numb with clever bouncers and one that straightens after pitching.

The left-arm paceman had successive averages of 37.40, 44.00 and 43.18 in his last three series prior to the recent one

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NZ, WI separated at last

Cricket

AFP, Hamilton

A 130-run onslaught by Jesse Ryder and Brendon McCullum led New Zealand to victory over the West Indies by 36 runs in their Twenty20 match here Sunday.

Man-of-the-match Ryder posted 62 and McCullum 59 in a record Twenty20 stand for New Zealand.

It came at a shade under 12 runs an over and ensured a formidable target as New Zealand reached 191 for nine, despite a meltdown after the opening partnership ended.

When the West Indies looked to their talisman Chris Gayle to save the day -- after he had dismissed both Ryder and McCullum -- they found his usually dependable batting talents were absent.

He was out for one in the second over and the West Indies never came close to the

required run rate, finishing at 155 for seven.

It was the first decisive result in the West Indies tour of New Zealand after the two Tests earlier in the month were drawn and the first Twenty20 went to a one-over tiebreaker, won by the West Indies.

It also snapped New Zealand's eight-game losing streak in Twenty20 fixtures.

New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori, who said he believed his side should have won the first match, was happy with this result, but had reservations.

"I was very pleased with the performance bar four or five overs of batting. It was an outstanding start from Jesse and Brendon," he said.

Gayle said the New Zealand pair's opening stand made the difference in the match.

"Brendon and Jesse batted really well and took the game away from us by setting it up for the batters to come," he said.

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