

## Flintoff going back home

AFP, London

England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff will fly home from the tour of the West Indies due to a hip injury, the England and Wales Cricket Board confirmed on Friday.

Flintoff, 31, has a muscle strain in his right hip which he sustained in the drawn third Test at St. John's last week, but he hopes to be fit in time to return to the Caribbean for the one-day series.

The problem kept him out of the fourth Test, which got underway in Barbados on Thursday, and he will now miss the fifth and final Test in Trinidad as well.

He will continue his rehabilitation in England and is scheduled to join up again with the squad, fitness permitting, on March 10.

Flintoff will be supervised by his own fitness guru Dave Roberts, with England's chief medical officer Nick Peirce overseeing the process from Loughborough.

"We feel as though his rehabilitation would be best served by him going back home," said Hugh Morris, managing director of England Cricket.

"It is something we have done with Andrew before when he was recovering from his ankle injury."

"Being around the England team environment can be something of a goldfish bowl and by returning home he can concentrate on receiving some intensive treatment."

"Clearly getting him fit for the one-day internationals is our priority and focus. A muscle tear is a muscle tear and time is a key ingredient in this."

Flintoff had also suffered a left-side strain in the opening week of the tour and England called up all-rounder Ravi Bopara from the England Lions' tour of New Zealand as cover.

If Flintoff does recover he

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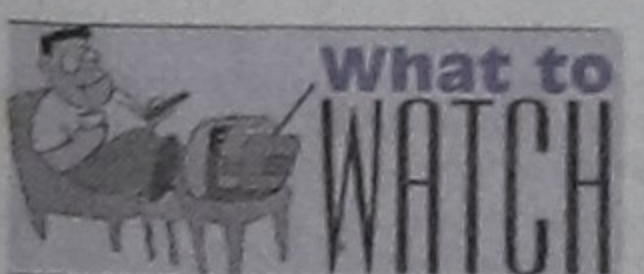
## Did U Know?

American star James Blake has never won a five-set match in his professional tennis career.



## Daniel Vettori

(New Zealand cricket captain) "Skinny white men with glasses shouldn't do haka." Explaining why he didn't welcome the new team manager Dave Currie with the haka.



## TEN Sports

South Africa v Australia  
First Test, Day Three  
Live from 2:30pm

## ESPN

English Premiership  
Everton v West Brom  
Live at 6:40pm  
Chelsea v Wigan  
Live at 8:55pm

## STAR Sports

English Premiership  
Middlesbrough v Liverpool  
Live at 8:55pm  
Arsenal v Fulham  
Live at 11:25pm

## ZEE Sports

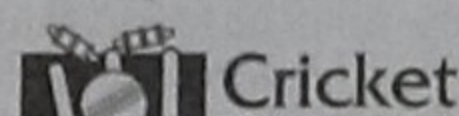
West Indies v England  
Fourth Test, Day Three  
Live from 8:00pm



New Zealand's Brendon McCullum raises his bat after hitting the winning runs in their Twenty20 clash against India in Wellington on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP

## McCullum lifts NZ



APP, Wellington

Brendon McCullum carried New Zealand to a five-wicket win over India with an unbeaten 69 in a gripping Twenty20 cricket international decided on the last ball here Friday.

With the scores tied, McCullum skied the final delivery from Irfan Pathan and scampered through for the winning single.

Rohit Sharma made a desperate attempt to catch the ball running backwards at mid-off but was unable to get a hand to it.

The win gave New Zealand a clean sweep over the Twenty20 world champions with man-of-the-match McCullum batting the full 40 overs in the two games.

He scored an unbeaten 56 in the first match in Christchurch on Wednesday which New Zealand won by seven wickets.

New Zealand went into the final over here needing 12 runs and after McCullum and his brother Nathan picked singles off the first three balls the momentum was with India.

But the patient McCullum had other ideas as he belted consecutive fours off the next two balls and then calmly produced the winning run.

He faced 55 balls and hit eight boundaries and one six, and said the crucial last over was more good luck than good management.

"You've got to try and take it as it comes. You need a little bit of luck and we had luck off that last ball, so thankfully that got us across," he said.

Indian captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni was unfazed by the losing the first two games on tour.

"There would have been more

joy for us if we'd won," he said.

"The approach was good but we could have played better."

The match followed a similar pattern to the first Twenty20 with the Indian batsmen exploding into action at the start of their innings before they were reigned in by disciplined New Zealand bowling.

Virender Sehwag was his usual flamboyant self, racing to 24 off 11 balls before he fell to Irfan O'Brien and India were one for 29 in the fourth over.

Suresh Raina, the most disciplined Indian batsman in the first game with 61 not out, failed to get off the mark this time and with Gautam Gambhir falling for 10, India were quickly three down for 47.

Yuvraj Singh patiently moved to 31 off 26 balls before producing his own fireworks as he raced to 50 with three sixes and a single when he was dismissed by O'Brien.

New Zealand also opened at a brisk pace with McCullum and Jesse Ryder putting 53 on the board for the first wicket before Ryder went for 26 in the fifth over.

Martin Guptill added a rather pedestrian 10 in 19 balls, but with his dismissal the pace accelerated when Ross Taylor came to the wicket.

With three overs remaining and 28 runs to get, New Zealand appeared on course to wrap the game up comfortably.

But Irfan Pathan had other ideas as he bowled Taylor with a yorker for 27 and then had big-hitting Jacob Oram out first ball.

Neil Broom avoided the hat-trick but only faced three balls before he was caught by Pathan off Yuvraj Singh.

The Indian fightback ended there as Nathan McCullum partnered his brother through to the finish.

The Indian tour of New Zealand now progress to five

one-day internationals to be followed by three Tests.

## SCOREBOARD

Complete scoreboard in the second and final Twenty20 international between New Zealand and India at Westpac Stadium in Wellington on Friday:

INDIA				
Gambhir c McCullum b Butler	10			
Sehwag c Vettori b O'Brien	24			
Raina c Southee b Butler	0			
Yuvraj c Oram b O'Brien	50			
Dhoni not out	28			
Yusuf b Vettori	0			
Jadeja c Guptill b Southee	19			
Irfan not out	15			
Extras: (lb-2, w-1)	3			
Total: (For 6 wks in 20 overs)	149			
Fall of wickets: 1-29, 2-36, 3-47, 4-92, 5-94, 6-121				
Did not bat: Harbhajan, Zaheer, Ishant				

NEW ZEALAND				
Ryder b Zaheer	26			
McCullum not out	69			
Guptill lbw b Harbhajan	10			
Taylor b Irfan	27			
Oram c Dhoni b Irfan	0			
Broom c Irfan b Yuvraj	5			
McCullum not out	1			
Extras: (b-1, lb-6, w-5)	12			
Total: (For 5 wks in 20 overs)	150			
Fall of wickets: 1-53, 2-69, 3-125, 4-125, 5-134				
Did not bat: Vettori, Butler, Southee, O'Brien				

Bowler				
O	M	R	W	
Southee	4	0	36	1
O'Brien	4	0	30	2
Butler	4	0	42	2
Vettori	4	0	21	1
Ryder	4	0	18	0

NEW ZEALAND				
O	M	R	W	
Irfan	4	0	41	2
Zaheer	4	0	30	1
Ishant	2	0	19	0
Harbhajan	4	0	15	1
Jadeja	4	0	21	0
Yuvraj	2	0	17	1

Result: New Zealand won by five wickets.

Man-of-the-match: Brendon McCullum.

Toss: New Zealand.

Umpires: Gary Baxter and Tony Hill.

## Dhoni asks mates to be upbeat

PTI, Wellington

India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni on Friday asked his teammates not to sulk after losing both the Twenty20 Internationals against New Zealand and gear up for the forthcoming ODI cricket series against the hosts.

Dhoni said the Twenty20 matches gave them a fair idea about the conditions and the opponents and the players should now focus on the five-match ODI series starting March 3.

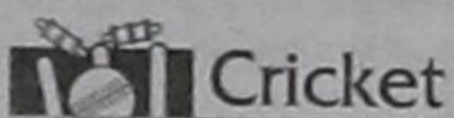
"It is great to play a few Twenty20 games before the one-dayers. There is no point in sulking and complaining that we lost two games," Dhoni said.

"I am happy with the preparation and the effort. Most of the guys have spent reasonable time at the wicket. They know how the wickets will behave and this will be of great help when the one-day series comes around," he said.

The Indian captain said despite conceding their second straight defeat, he was proud of the team.

"I am really proud of the side. The way we came back after the first three or four overs was encouraging. I thought Harbhajan (Singh) and (Ravindra) Jadeja were fantastic. It was sad to lose Ishant (Sharma) to a shoulder injury. Zaheer's (Khan) second spell was amazing. He gave his full effort and was at his best. Irfan (Pathan) too came back well in his last two overs. However, we can do better in the batting. We are a much more talented batting unit than them," Dhoni said.

## Strauss leads England



AFP, Barbados

Andrew Strauss believes it was his responsibility to set England on the right path in their bid for a series-levelling victory over West Indies in the fourth Test which opened on Thursday.

The England captain hit 142, his 16th Test hundred, to carry his side to 301 for three when stumps were drawn on the opening day at Kensington Oval.

It was Strauss' second hundred of the series and followed his 169 in the first innings of the previous Test at the Antigua

Recreation Ground.

"It is important as captain to lead by example and I suppose if you want a team to play in a positive way then you show you are able to do that yourself," he told reporters.

"I am fortunate at the moment that I am feeling in good form and that makes it easier to go out and be positive." Strauss admitted his rich vein of form owed as much to the true nature of the pitches as to his own ability.

"The last couple of pitches we've played on, the ball has come onto the bat pretty well," he said.

"After seven or eight overs here, it became apparent that the percentages were slightly

in our favour. In those circumstances it is important to be positive and take the game to the opposition.

"You get a rhythm to your batting on any given day and certainly I felt that continuing to be positive was the best way for me to go in this instance."

"It is great to be playing with freedom, but I personally believe you need to earn the right to play with that freedom, and maybe the grafting innings I played last summer have helped me get enough confidence to be able to play with more freedom."

Strauss shared an England record opening stand in Tests against West Indies of 229 with

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## Shirin stays ahead

SPORTS REPORTER

Sharmin Sultana Shirin crossed a major barrier in the 30th Parachute National Women's Chess Championship when she defeated last year's runner-up WFM Shamima Akhter Liza in the sixth round at the federation hall-room yesterday.

Shirin, yet to lose a match, stayed atop the table with six points. Playing with white pieces against Liza's Sami-Slav Defence, Shirin won the board at 38 moves.

Reigning champion IWM Rani Hamid and Masuda Begum shared second place with five points each while Liza stuck to 4.5 points.

In other matches, Rani beat Rokshana Titli, Masuda beat Nazrana Khan Eva, WFM Zakia Sultana beat Farjana Hossain Anne, Jahanara Haque Runu beat Amena Khatun and Protiva Talukder drew with Ahely Sarkar.

## C'nawabganj last in line

SPORTS REPORTER

Hosts Chapainawabganj became the last team to qualify for the final round of the Under-13 Football Festival with a thrashing 5-1 victory against Naogaon yesterday.

Shantoo slotted a hat-trick in the zonal final while Reza and Bakar added the rest for the winners. Naogaon pulled one back through Saif.

Earlier, Satkhira, Chittagong, Bogra, Jhalokathi, Chuadanga, Tangail and Narayanganj made the finals.

An Aston Villa side packed with reserves lost 2-0 to Russian side CSKA Moscow, who progress 3-1 on aggregate. Martin O'Neill's side went into their second-leg clash in Moscow with the tie finely poised at 1-1 but fell behind after 66 minutes when Yuri Zhirkov played a one-two with Alan Dzagoev before firing past goalkeeper Brad Guzan.

Tournament top scorer Vagner Love made it 2-0 in injury time to register his 10th UEFA Cup goal of the season.

Tottenham Hotspur also failed to make it to last 16 after a 1-1 draw saw Shakhtar Donetsk progress 3-1 in aggregate but a Craig Bellamy brace saw Manchester City beat FC Copenhagen 2-1 to win 4-3 on aggregate.

Holders Zenit St Petersburg remain in the hunt to defend their title as goals from Igor Semshov and Viktor Fayzulin ensured a 2-1 victory over VfB Stuttgart to move into the next round 4-2 on aggregate.

Metalist Kharkiv beat Sampdoria 2-0 to move into the last 16 thanks to a 3-0 aggregate win. The



Werder Bremen striker Claudio Pizarro (C) rises above Milan defender Paolo Maldini (R) and heads past goalkeeper Dida during their UEFA Cup match at the Weser Stadium in Bremen on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Pizarro heads Milan out Villa crash too

INTERNET, undated



Claudio Pizarro scored twice as Werder Bremen came from two goals down to knock AC Milan out of the UEFA Cup Thursday while Aston Villa also failed to make it past the round of 32 stage.

Bremen have been struggling in the Bundesliga this season and looked to be on their way out of the UEFA Cup when an Andrea Pirlo penalty and a goal from Brazilian Pato gave the Serie A side a 2-0 lead at the break.

However, a second-half brace from Peru international Pizarro stunned the home crowd at the Giuseppe Meazza stadium and levelled the tie at 3-3 on aggregate with Bremen progressing on the away goals rule.

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Ukrainians held a one-goal lead from their first-leg tie in Italy and promptly took full control against Sampdoria thanks to a strike on the half-hour mark from Serhiy Valayev and a free kick from Brazilian Jaja five minutes before the break.

SV Hamburg booked their place in the next round with 1-0 victory over Dutch side NEC Nijmegen. Holding a comfortable three-goal lead from the first leg, Croatia international Ivica Olivic secured the 4-0 aggregate win when he scored the only goal of the game after just nine minutes.

Peguy Luyindula netted a brace as PSG enjoyed a 3-1 victory over VfL Wolfsburg to progress 5-1 on aggregate, while Turkish side Galatasaray suffered a major fright against Bordeaux before eventually prevailing 4-3 on the night and on aggregate thanks to a last-minute goal from Sabri Sarioglu.

David Bellion gave the visitors the perfect start, firing Bordeaux ahead after just one minute but goals from two goals from Arda Turan - with a Harry Kewell effort sandwiched in between - saw Galatasaray race into a 3-1 lead.

However two goals in two minutes from Fernando Cavenaghi and Marouane Chamakh looked to have booked Bordeaux's place in the next round on the away goals rule until Sarioglu's strike.

Marseille progressed on penalties to make their way past Dutch side Twente Enschede after the tie finished 1-1 on aggregate at the end of extra time.

Ben Arfa scored the only goal of the game for Marseille to set up the tense finale, with Marseille prevailing 7-6 in the shootout after Slobodan Rajkovic missed his spot kick.

A 1-1 draw against Fiorentina was enough for Ajax to progress 2-1 on aggregate while St Etienne go through 5-2 on aggregate after a 2-1 win over Greek side Olympiakos.

Braga beat Standard Liege 1-0 to progress 4-1 on aggregate while a 2-1 victory for Udinese ensured a 4-3 aggregate victory over Polish side Lech Poznan.



Australia batsman Marcus North guides one down to third-man during his debut century on the second day of the first Test against South Africa at the Wanderers in Johannesburg on Friday.

PHOTO: AFP