

BCCI withdraws Sachin, Dinesh

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

The Indian team management has withdrawn Sachin Tendulkar and Dinesh Karthik from Friday's Masters Twenty20 match in Wellington because they would have played alongside Hamish Marshall, the former New Zealand batsman who featured in the unauthorised ICL last year.

Tendulkar was to turn out for the New Zealand Cricket Players' Association (NZCPA) while Karthik was to play for the Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA) Masters in a game billed as a curtain-raiser to the second Twenty20 between India and New Zealand later on Friday.

Marshall, who played for the Royal Bengal Tigers in the ICL, was part of the NZCPA squad. The BCCI has shunned official contact with ICL players and last year, refused to let VVS Laxman appear for Nottinghamshire because the county had ICL players in its ranks.

official cricket and barred them from using any of its facilities. The BCCI also used its influence within the ICC to ensure that other national boards banned ICL cricketers and officials alike.

Heath Mills, the New Zealand Players' Association chief, called the whole business "a bit silly" and said the BCCI had known of the team make-up beforehand. "When I learnt about the BCCI's decision from Justin Vaughan, the CEO of New Zealand Cricket, I went back and tried to find a solution by explaining that Hamish is no longer an ICL player and we want him to play (in the match)," Mills said.

"I was hoping for a change in their position but I understand I would have to speak to the right people in Mumbai and so we had to run with their decision last night.

Mills claimed Marshall was no longer a contracted player with the ICL and said his omission from the match was never considered as an option. He further called for the ICC and BCCI to resolve the ICL issue, which he said was depriving the international game of big stars like Shane Bond.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

Manikganj Government Boys High School defeated Bandunia High School by 248 runs to emerge Manikganj regional champions in the under-14 National Cricket Championship at the Shahid Miraz-Tapan Stadium in Manikganj yesterday.

Batting first, the Manikganj boys were all out for 320 in 49.5 overs. Rabbi smashed 141 from 104 balls and Atik Imran made 63 from 50 balls for the winners. Rana Ahmed Sujan of Bandunia took five wickets while Durjoy Sohag took two.

In reply, Bandunia were bundled out for just 73 in 16.2 overs. Selim Khan top scored with 20. Anjum Navid took four wickets while Rabbi, Jony and Zahid took two wickets each for Manikganj.

Rabbi was adjudged man of the final for his 141 and two wickets. He was also adjudged man of the tournament.

Dhaka Divisional Sports Association official Khorshed Alam Chowdhury distributed prizes among the winners.

DIVISIONAL FOOTBALL BKSP crushed Dhaka Juniors 6-1 in the Citycell Metropolis 3rd Division Football League at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

In the day's other match, Jirabo SC and Dilkusha SC drew 2-2.

Pak-Aussie series in UAE

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan on Friday rescheduled the itinerary of their neutral venue cricket series against Australia, in which they play five one-day and a Twenty20 match.

"On the request of Cricket Australia (CA) we have rescheduled the series," said the chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), Ijaz Butt.

"Now the series will be played from April 22 to May 7 as we have pushed back the date of the first match by two dates," he added.

Australia will fly from South Africa to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on April 18 and play the first two matches in Dubai on April 22 and 24.

The series then moves to Abu Dhabi where the next three one-day matches will be played on April 27, May 1 and 3, said Butt.

The Twenty20 match is scheduled for Dubai on May 7.

The PCB was forced to play the series at neutral venues after the Australian government refused permission for its team to tour Pakistan.

In March last year, Australia refused to tour Pakistan over security fears. They agreed to reschedule the tour into two visits, however -- one-day matches in 2009 and Tests in 2010.

But security fears once again prompted the Australians to play matches at neutral venues.

Australia had not toured Pakistan since 1998. They also forced Pakistan to play a three-Test series at the neutral venues of Colombo in Sri Lanka and Sharjah in the UAE in 2002.

But hoped Pakistani and Indian expatriates will come to watch the matches in the UAE.

WI greats in Hall of Fame

PTI, Bridgetown

Acknowledging the island's immense contribution to the world cricket, the International Cricket Council has inducted six Barbados giants, including Sir Garfield Sobers and the three Ws, into the Cricket Hall of Fame at the Kensington Oval.

Frank Worrell, Everton Weekes, Clyde Walcott, Garfield Sobers, Gordon Greenidge and Malcolm Marshall were inducted in the panel at a special ceremony during the tea interval on the first day of the fourth Test between the West Indies and England.

Commemorative caps were presented to the players, family members and representatives by the West Indies Cricket Board President (WICB) and International Cricket Council (ICC) director Dr Julian Hunte in front of a large and appreciative crowd.

Remarkably, the six players represent just over 10 per cent of the total initial intake of 55 players into the Hall of Fame, a joint venture between the ICC and the Federation of International Cricketers' Associations (FICA).

Elated with the honour, Sobers said, "I totally enjoyed my playing days and I am thrilled to be honoured here today in my home country."

Strauss leads England

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fellow left-handed opener Alastair Cook.

The England vice captain fell six runs short of his eighth Test hundred and has not scored a Test hundred since reaching the landmark in Sri Lanka a little over a year ago.

This was his third straight score between 50 and 100 in the series and he has now scored 11 half-centuries since his last hundred.

"It is one of those things that is clearly a bit of a mental

issue for him (Cook) at the moment," Strauss said.

"It is not something I am overly worried about as a captain because he continues to make very important contributions to the team and he will get over that line and get that hundred."

"Then he will be back to square one and feel a lot more relaxed about the way he's playing."

"It is better to have the problem in the 50s and 60s than the single figures and teens."

McCullum will remain same in ODI series

PTI, Wellington

As the two Twenty20 games against India prove, Brendon McCullum has evolved from a slogger to a finisher and the star Kiwi stumper-batsman says he will maintain the same approach in the forthcoming ODI series against Mahendra Singh Dhoni's team.

In both the ODIs, the Kiwi stumper played mature unbeaten knocks to guide the hosts to victory and was rewarded with the man-of-the-match award on both occasions.

Happy with the way he batted on Friday for an unbeaten 69 off 55 balls, McCullum said, "tonight was more satisfying for me than the other night, though any time you finish a game for your country you are incredibly satisfied. Today was just a little bit better in how I got my runs. It was a little more aggressive up front and was able to work around through the middle and try and create some partnerships."

"So there's definitely something there for the one-dayers so hopefully I can try and carry that sort of approach to it," said McCullum.

The new responsibility may have curbed his natural strokeplay but the dashing wicketkeeper-batsman insists he was enjoying it.

"I had to work a little bit harder. The responsibility of trying to bat through the innings was on my shoulders. Thankfully I have been able to do it in both games," he said.

Shah c Smith b Benn 7
Pietersen not out 32
Collingwood not out 11
Extras: (b-5, lb-1, w-5, nb-4) 15
Total: (For 3 wks in 90 overs) 301
To bat: Bopara, Ambrose, Broad, Swann, Sidebottom, Anderson
Fall of wickets: 1-229, 2-241, 3-259

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Rows include Taylor, Edwards, Powell, Benn, Gayle, Hinds, Nash, WEST INDIES: Gayle, Smith, Sarwan, Hinds, Chandernaul, Nash, Ramdin, Taylor, Benn, Powell, Edwards, Toss: England, Umpires: Aleem Dar and Rusel Tiffin.

McGain exclusion surprises Warne

CRICINFO, undated

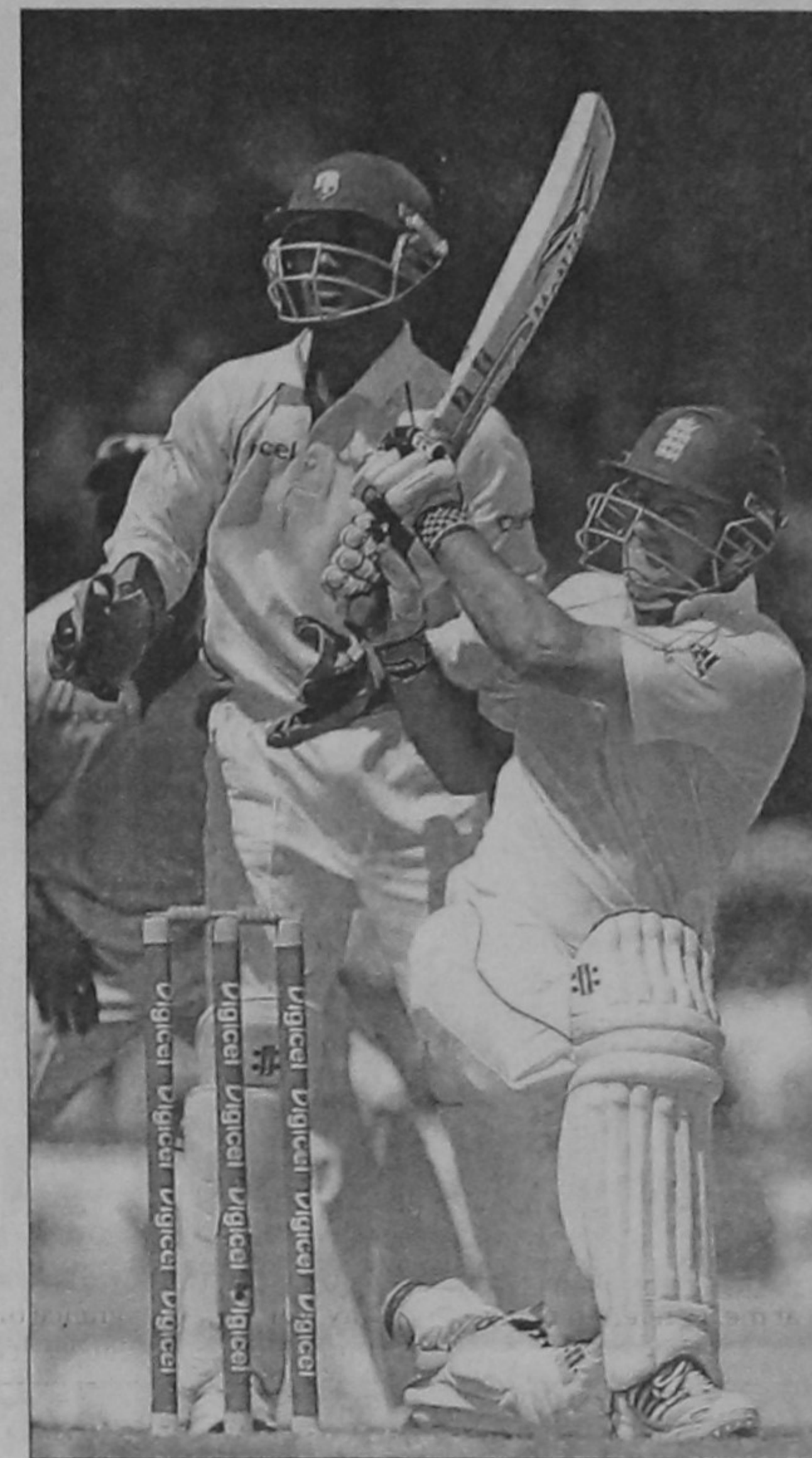
Shane Warne has expressed disappointment at the omission of Bryce McGain for the first Test against South Africa in Johannesburg, and implored Australia's selectors to show more patience with their slow bowlers in future. The Australians have trialled five specialist spinners in the 19 Tests since Warne's retirement and, of those, only Cameron White has managed more than three consecutive appearances.

Warne, like many pundits, expected McGain to debut on Thursday, but a green Wanderers pitch convinced the selectors to field an all-seam attack for the crucial series opener. The move will presumably do little for the already fragile confidence of Australia's emerging spinners, although they can take heart from the fact that, with Warne signing on to commentate the Ashes for Sky Sports, they no longer need look over their shoulders in fear of a comeback.

Warne believes the time has arrived for Andrew Hilditch's panel to show faith in McGain. "Bryce McGain is clearly the best spinner in Australia," Warne said. "I was disappointed that he was not picked for the first Test in South Africa. The South Africans don't play wristies well."

"The hardest thing is that when you're losing and the spinners are not having a big impact, they can be made the scapegoat. If they were winning they probably could have carried a McGain or a Casson or a Krejza. It's a tough situation for the spinners. I would stick with one (spinner) ... and that would be Bryce McGain."

Warne believes that bowling will prove the key issue for both Australia and England throughout the Ashes. Australia's difficulties in taking 20 wickets were well documented throughout 2008, and England's spin concerns have been highlighted with the recent omission of Monty Panesar, of whom so much has been expected since his debut in 2006, in preference to the Nottinghamshire offspinner Graeme Swann.



England captain Andrew Strauss slog-sweeps on his way to a century against West Indies on the first day of the fourth Test at the Kensington Oval in Barbados on Thursday.

Intikhab happy with pitch

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Pakistan coach Intikhab Alam says he is pleased with the pitch for the second Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, starting Sunday at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore. "The wicket is firm and looks good to me," he said. "We want a pitch that helps fast bowlers on the first day and benefits the spinners in the second innings, with the ball coming

on to the bat. Nowadays, with one-day cricket being played so often, people expect a result in five-day matches with 90 overs being played a day."

Intikhab was among the many critics of the pitch during the drawn first Test, which witnessed a run-fest with four-and-a-half dreary days dominated by the bat. It was tough going for the bowlers on the docile track at the National Stadium in Karachi as Sri Lanka, batting first, scored 644 with Mahela Jayawardene and Thilan Samaraweera posting double-centuries. Pakistan's reply was equally weighty, with Younis Khan hitting 333 and Kamran Akmal scoring an unbeaten 158 before they declared on 765 for 6.

Intikhab refused to be drawn into further comments about the Karachi Test and hoped the Lahore wicket would be similar to those used for the one-dayers. "We always have a positive approach. I don't want to comment more on the Karachi wicket. It was a challenge for every player. If we played like the way we did

in Karachi, with every player taking on the pressure, it will be a good match."

He believed the positives from the first Test would spur the players to winning the two-Test series, having lost the ODI series 1-2. He said the leadership of the new captain Younis Khan in the first match gave his side the momentum.

"We will try to win this Test match," Intikhab said. "The comeback in the last match showed we have a lot of character and courage, especially the way the captain batted. There was a plan that was well-executed and every player took up the responsibility. It was a great achievement and towards the finish, we took five wickets in the second innings on the flat track."

"The credit goes to all the players, especially Younis. His triple hundred was a fantastic performance. He is a positive and committed man, and we needed such a captain who is enthusiastic and leads from the front. And the way he led, with commitment, is very good for the team."

Flintoff going

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could feature in the Twenty20 match and five one-day internationals that follow the Test series.

But, the longer his injury takes to heal, the more scrutiny will be placed on Flintoff's lucrative deal with Chennai Super Kings in the Indian Premier League, which runs for three weeks in April.

England would prefer that Flintoff concentrate on reaching peak fitness for this year's Ashes.

Reds' chance to cut gap

AFP, London

Buoyed by their Champions League victory at Real Madrid in midweek, Liverpool this weekend have a chance to breathe new life into a Premier League title battle that most pundits have already awarded to Manchester United.

With United otherwise engaged by a League Cup final date with Tottenham on Sunday, the Reds have the chance to cut the champions' lead at the top of the table back to four points, provided they can collect three on their trip to Middlesbrough.

Recent history suggests that may be a tall order for Rafael Benitez's men (Liverpool have not won at the Riverside under the Spaniard) but there is no doubt that morale in their camp has been greatly bolstered by the relative ease with which they secured a precious away win in the Bernabeu.

Benitez's attempts to quash speculation that he is set to leave the club have also lifted spirits, even if some of his ambiguous comments

have only served to further encourage the rumours that prompted bookmakers to stop taking bets on him quitting before the end of this month.

Benitez is due to hold further contract talks with Liverpool's American owners, George Gillet and Tom Hicks, in the aftermath of the Boro clash although the Spaniard's players appear far from convinced that the uncertainty over his future will be resolved by him signing a new long-term deal.

"I cannot say what is going to happen, but with him Liverpool is doing a great job," said the Argentine midfielder Javier Mascherano. "If we want to keep going in the Champions League and Premier League it is important to have him with us."

FIXTURES

Table with columns: Day, Match, Time. Rows include Saturday (Arsenal v Fulham, Chelsea v Wigan, Everton v West Brom, Middlesbrough v Liverpool) and Sunday (Aston Villa v Stoke, Bolton v Newcastle, Hull v Blackburn, West Ham v Manchester City).

North's ton

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diately after skipper Graeme Smith handed them the second new ball before the drinks break in the first session.

Haddin was removed for 63 and five balls later all-rounder Andrew McDonald was dismissed for nought to leave the Australians on 351 for seven at lunch.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard after Australia's innings at tea on the second day of first Test between South Africa and Australia at Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg on Friday: AUSTRALIA: First innings (overnight 254-5) Hughes c Boucher b Steyn 0, Katich c McKenzie b Steyn 3, Ponting b Ntini 83

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Rows include Steyn, Ntini, Morkel, Kallis, Harris, Duminy, SOUTH AFRICA: Smith, McKenzie, Amla, Kallis, de Villiers, Duminy, Boucher, Morkel, Harris, Steyn, Ntini.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার. মিলিটারী ইঞ্জিনিয়ার সার্ভিসেস. সিএমইএস (আর্মি) সার্ভার. সার্ভার সেনানিবাস. দরপত্র আহবান. বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ৬০০৭/বিজ্ঞপ্তি/৪৫/ই-৬. তারিখ: ১৬ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০০৯ইং.

KHULNA SHIPYARD LIMITED BANGLADESH NAVY, KHULNA. INVITATION FOR INTERNATIONAL TENDER. BAFE(F)-36/2008-2009. 18 February 2009.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Local Government Engineering Department. Community Based Resource Management Project. Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Dhaka-1207. Memo: LGED/DP/CBMR/R-7(part-4)/2003/2-2. Date: 25/02/09. Expression of Interest for Resource Mapping.