

Pietersen may skip IPL

INTERNET, undated

England batsman Kevin Pietersen has admitted he could pull out of the Indian Premier League if security experts warn him against playing.

The former England captain will make his decision after consulting his IPL team, Bangalore Royal Challengers, following the ongoing fifth Test against West Indies.

Pietersen also intends to take advice from England and Wales Cricket Board officials before making a final decision on whether to take up his lucrative contract.

The terrorist attack on the Sri Lanka cricket team in Pakistan has heightened concern about the security of the world's top players who have been tempted to the IPL by the riches on offer.

Pietersen was bought by the Royal Challengers for USD 1.55 million (£1.1 million) last month, and is due to spend three weeks with the team.

He told the News Of The World: "If I don't think it's right then I'll not be going."

After this final Test against the West Indies I'll be speaking to Bangalore, to the ECB, to my agent, and to security advisers.

"Hopefully the security will come right for India but if everybody pulls out of the IPL then it would be a disaster, a catastrophe, and world cricket would really be on a down."

Although terrorists in India have not targeted cricketers, the co-ordinated attacks in Mumbai which occurred during England's tour of India in November prompted the team to fly home.

They agreed to return after being promised high levels of security during their two Test matches.

Sachin should play 2011 WC: Ganguly

PTI, Patna

Master batsman Sachin Tendulkar, despite being dogged by injuries, should play in the 2011 World Cup, feels former India skipper Sourav Ganguly.

"Sachin is quite capable of playing in the 2011 World Cup and he should play in it though the decision has to be entirely his," Ganguly told reporters at a promotional programme here.

Ganguly expressed concern over the recent terrorist attack on the Sri Lankan cricket team in Lahore.

Asked whether Pakistan should be denied hosting rights of 2011 World Cup matches, Ganguly said, "The terror strike on the Sri Lankan team in Lahore proves that Pakistan as of now is not safe for the game."

The Kolkata Knight Riders captain, however, dismissed apprehensions of any terror threat to the Indian Premier League (IPL), saying, "It is completely safe and preparations are already underway for holding the matches."

"The Knight Riders will begin practice from March 16," he said.

Describing the current Indian team led by Mahendra Singh Dhoni as a 'balanced' one, Ganguly said when he was captain, he often suggested the gifted wicketkeeper-batsman to go up in the batting order.

Hertha go

FROM PAGE 20

shot the visitors into the lead though Bayern were soon back on level terms when Belgian defender Daniel van Buyten headed home six minutes later.

By the break, Munich had scored another two goals through Miroslav Klose and Hatim Altintop before Lukas Podolski hit his fourth goal of the season on 73 minutes before Martin Demichelis finished off the scoring with a minute to go.

Hoffenheim, however, yet again failed to show their early-season form in a goalless draw at home to Werder Bremen.

Hamburg meanwhile suffered their second successive defeat, losing 4-1 at Borussia Monchengladbach who moved off the bottom of the table with the win.

Tevez propels

FROM PAGE 20

in the 35th minute.

The Argentine collected the ball just inside the Fulham half and with the home defence backing off, advanced towards the edge of the box where he unleashed a powerful right foot drive that flashed into the top corner.

Tevez's moment of brilliance meant that Rooney's earlier astonishing miss - the striker turned Park's low cross against the post from just five yards out - was quickly forgotten as United took total command.

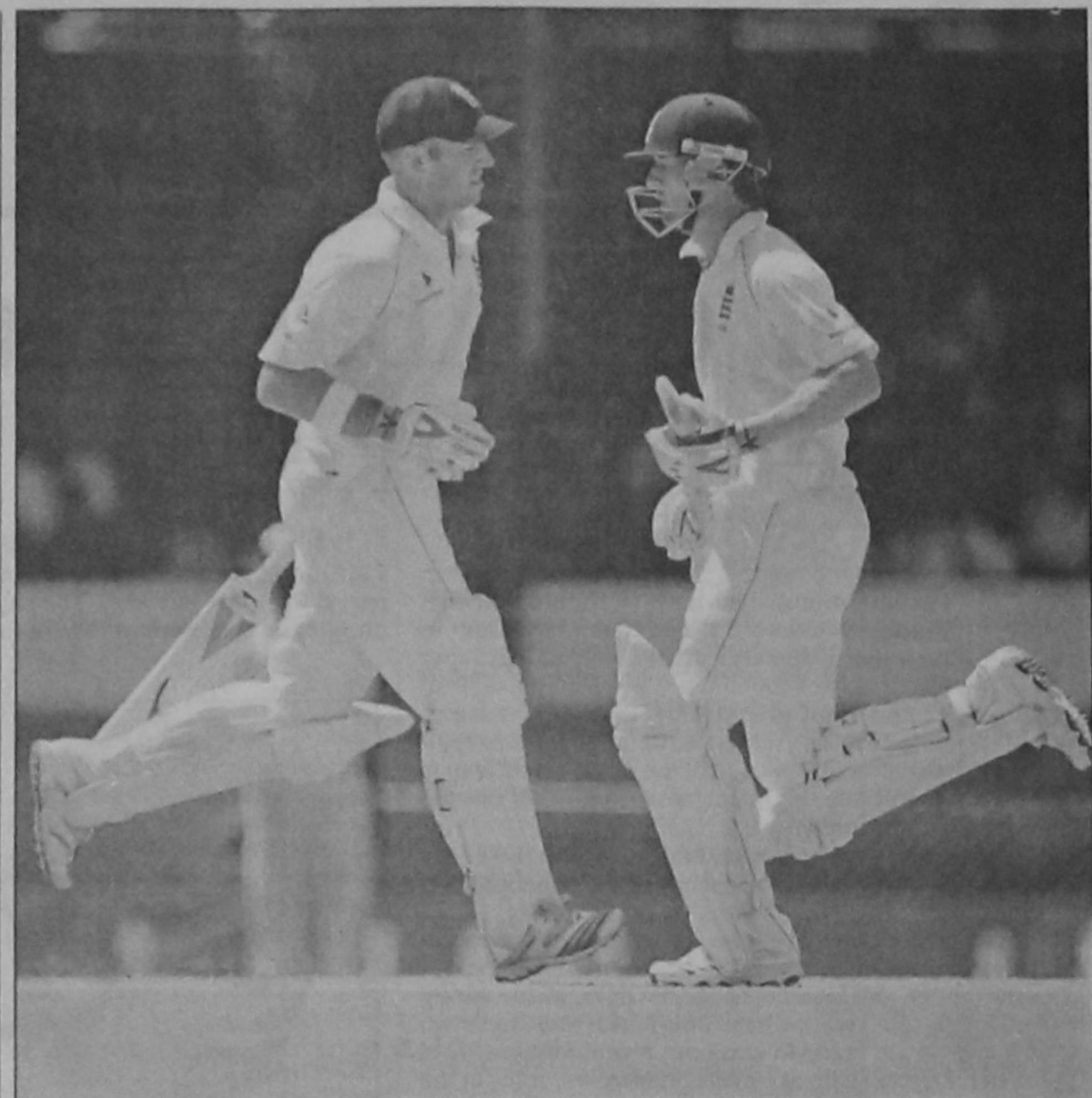


PHOTO: AFP
English batsmen Matt Prior (L) and Paul Collingwood cross while scoring a run during the second day of the last Test against West Indies at Queen's Park Oval in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad on Saturday.

Prior, Collingwood

FROM PAGE 17

Collingwood batted steadily, but it was Prior, playing his first innings after his week of paternity leave, that led the counter-attack, reaching his 50 from 52 balls, when he cut Hinds to deep cover for a six.

The pair were brought together with England on 268 for four, and West Indies felt justified about their decision to take the second new ball immediately.

Strauss was bowled around his legs for 142, when he moved too far inside the line to flick Fidel Edwards, following an innings that lasted close to 6-1/4 hours in which he struck 11 boundaries from 271 balls.

Shah was bowled around his legs for 142, when he moved too far inside the line to flick Fidel Edwards, following an innings that lasted close to 6-1/4 hours in which he struck 11 boundaries from 271 balls.

Shah, who had retired hurt on 29 with severe cramps in his hands the previous day, returned to continue his innings with a scintillating straight drive for four off Lionel

263, 4-268, 5-486, 6-530.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Edwards	24	5	63	1
Powell	16	1	79	1
Baker	23	4	77	0
Nash	23	3	77	0
Gayle	26	1	80	0
Hinds	39.5	2	126	1
Smith	1	0	3	0
Simmons	6	0	26	0

WEST INDIES: First innings

Gayle not out	49
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Smith b Panesar	28
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Powell not out	0
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Extras: (b-6, nb-9)	15
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Total: (For 1 wkt in 19 overs)	92
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Total: (For 6 wkt in 19 overs)	92
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To bat: Sarwan, Simmons, Chanderpaul, Nash, Hinds, Ramdin, Edwards, Baker	
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Fall of wickets: 1-90.	
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Bowler	O	M	R	W
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Anderson	4	0	13	0
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Broad	5	0	19	0
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Amjad	4	0	27	0
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Swann not out	11			
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Extras: (b-8, lb-7, w-1, nb-11)	27			
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Total: (For 6 wkt in 50 overs)	546			
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To bat: Anderson, Amjad, Panesar.				
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Fall of wickets: 1-26, 2-156, 3-				
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WEST INDIES: First innings				
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Second innings				
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Third innings				
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Fourth innings				
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Fifth innings				
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Sixth innings				
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Seventh innings				
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Eighth innings				
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Ninth innings				
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Tenth innings				
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Eleventh innings				
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Twelfth innings				
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Thirteenth innings				
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Fourteenth innings				
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Fifteenth innings				
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Sixteenth innings				
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Seventeenth innings				
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Eighteenth innings				
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Nineteenth innings				
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Twentieth innings				
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Twenty-first innings				
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Twenty-second innings				
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Twenty-third innings				
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Twenty-fourth innings				
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Twenty-fifth innings				
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Twenty-sixth innings				
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Twenty-seventh innings				
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Twenty-eighth innings				
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Twenty-ninth innings				
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Thirtieth innings				
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Thirty-first innings				
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Thirty-second innings				
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Thirty-third innings				
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Thirty-fourth innings				
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Thirty-fifth innings				
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Thirty-sixth innings				
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Thirty-seventh innings				
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Thirty-eighth innings				
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Thirty-ninth innings				
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Fortieth innings				
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Forty-first innings				
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Forty-second innings				
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Forty-third innings				
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Forty-fourth innings				
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Forty-fifth innings				
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Forty-sixth innings				
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Forty-seventh innings				
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Forty-eighth innings				
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Forty-ninth innings				
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Forty-tenth innings				
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Forty-eleventh innings				
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Forty-twelfth innings				
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Forty-thirteenth innings				
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Forty-fourth innings				
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Forty-fifth innings				
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Forty-sixth innings				
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Forty-seventh innings				
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