

Ishchenko keeps world title

AFP, Rome

Reigning champion Natalia Ishchenko of Russia retained her title in the technical solo synchronised swimming event at the World Championships here on Monday.

The 23-year-old matched her preliminary round score of 98.667 to beat Spain's Gemma Mengual (97.833) into second, for the second World Championships in a row.

Canadian Marie-Pier Boudreau-Gagnon came third with a score of 96.000, denying hosts Italy their first medal of the tournament as Beatrice Adelizzi (94.667) finished fourth.

Japan's Yumi Adachi finished fourth with 93.334 points.

"I was a little bit nervous but finally everything worked well. I managed to do my exercise very well and I won my second gold medal in this event," said Ishchenko.

"Now it's time to start preparing for the London 2012 Olympic Games."

Ishchenko won Olympic gold with Russia at the 2008 Games in Beijing, where Mengual was a silver medalist in the team and duet disciplines.

It was Russia's second gold medal in synchronised swimming at these championships having won the team technical event on Sunday.

They are second behind China in the overall medals table with three gold compared to three gold, three silver and three bronze.

Doudreau-Gagnon was delighted with her third place finish, her first medal at this level.

"I am so proud, it is really an honour for me to be on the podium with the best swimmers in the world," she said.

"These girls have always been an example for me, I used to watch videos of them and tried to reach their level. I'm so excited."

Krirajagat turns 33

UNB, Dhaka

The 33rd founding anniversary of the country's oldest fortnightly sports magazine Krirajagat was held yesterday with festivities at the National Sports Council.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Ahad Ali Sarkar, who is also a patron of the magazine, was present as chief guest.

Sarkar said Krirajagat has to be popularised and made more readable by sports fans across the country.

As NSC is publisher of the magazine, the government has certain responsibility for continuation of its publication. That he will do, added Sarkar.

The NSC chairman assured of steps for improving the quality of the magazine.

Earlier, a one minute silence was observed in memory of Krirajagat's executive editor Salma Rafiq who died recently.

Crowe tries

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dismiss Phillip Hughes. The batsman started to walk off the field but was told to stay put by Australia captain Ricky Ponting.

However, this time there was no referral with South Africa's Koertzen and West Indies' Doctrove deciding Hughes was out without calling in English official Llong, even though replays again made it seem uncertain if the catch had been taken cleanly.

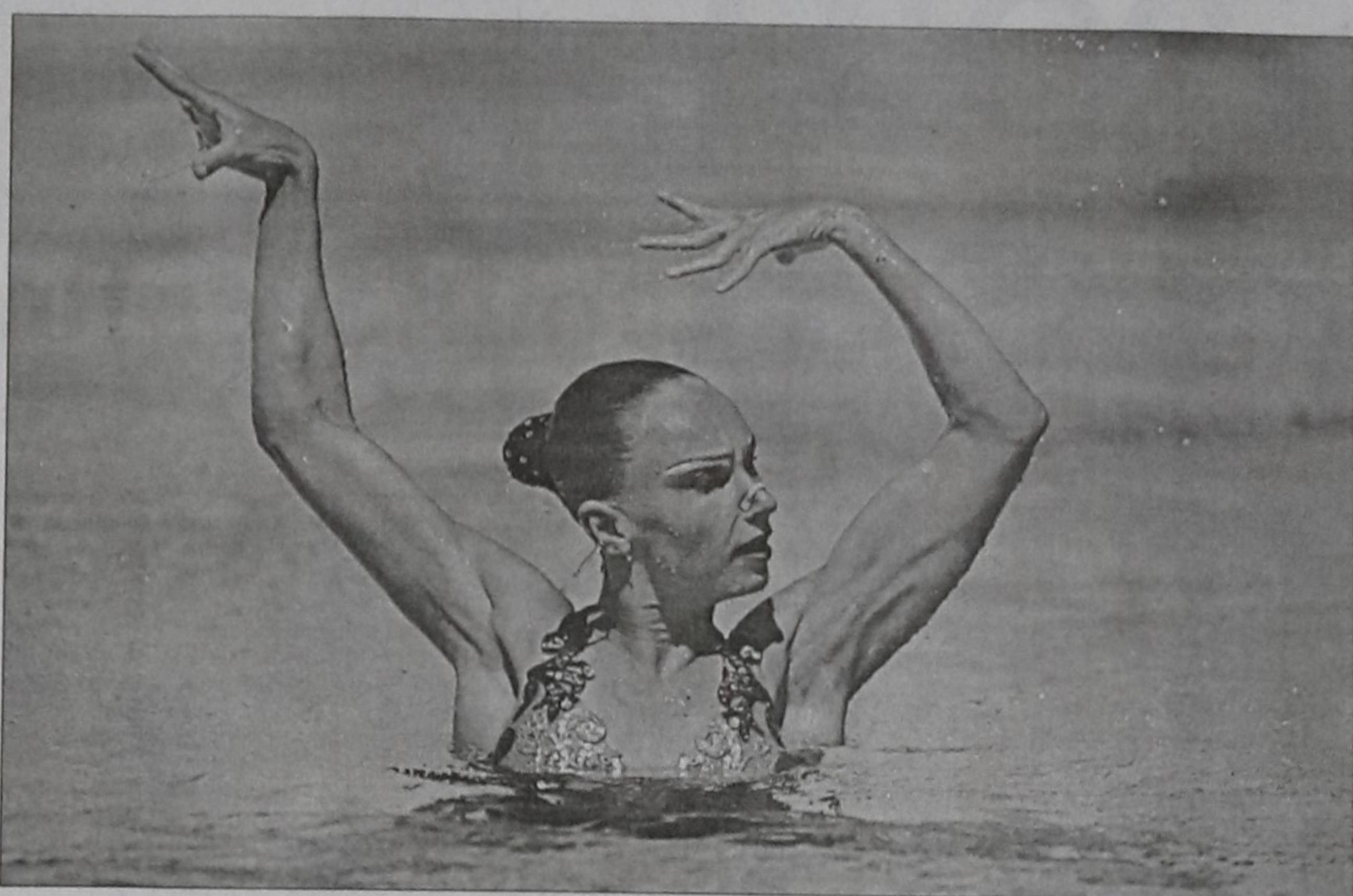
International Cricket Council (ICC) Test-match playing regulation state "the umpire at the bowler's end shall be entitled to refer an appeal for a caught decision to the third umpire if both he and the square-leg umpire are unable to decide whether a catch was taken cleanly".

Crowe, explaining the difference between the two incidents, said in an ICC statement: "In the first instance, when Nathan Hauritz was the fielder, the on-field umpires consulted and neither was able to decide if the catch was taken cleanly so they referred the decision to the third umpire."

KP may miss

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be a a miracle cure, or prove completely ineffective. But the most likely result is that it will give temporary relief, ideally for three or four weeks and that could allow him to avoid surgery in the short term. If Pietersen opts for surgery it will take him six months to get back on field.



Russia's Natalia Ishchenko performs during the synchronised technical solo final at the FINA World Swimming Championships in Rome yesterday. Ishchenko won gold.

Aus press blast ump's

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Umpiring controversies were a burning issue in the Australian media Monday as the Aussies kept alive their faint hopes of victory in the second Ashes Test against England at Lord's.

Michael Clarke and Brad Haddin held England at bay with an unbroken sixth-wicket stand of 185 to leave Australia at 313 for five and needing a further 209 runs to achieve an improbable victory on Monday's final day.

But there was raging debate in Australia's newspapers and blogging sites over three controversial umpiring decisions that went England's way on Sunday's fourth day.

Commentators said Simon Katich was caught off a no-ball from Andrew Flintoff which umpire Billy Doctrove failed to call and England captain Andrew Strauss claimed a catch at slip off Phillip Hughes that appeared to bounce.

Hughes stood his ground, the umpires conferred, and the other match official Rudi Koertzen ruled that the catch had carried without referring it to the video umpire.

The Aussie press also contended that Doctrove gave Mike Hussey out caught at slip by a delivery from spinner Graeme Swann which appeared to miss the edge of his bat.

"Australian anger is now likely to bubble over at Hughes's controversial dismissal -- especially as the umpires had referred Nathan Hauritz's contentious diving catch to the third umpire earlier in the match," The Daily Telegraph's Ben Dorries said.

"Replays appeared to show the ball touching the ground before Strauss's fingers curled around the ball and the Australians were entitled to feel aggrieved that the (Hughes) decision was not referred," The Sydney Morning

Herald's Chloe Saltau said.

The Telegraph's Robert Craddock called for Koertzen to be sacked.

"I can forgive Billy Doctrove -- just -- for failing to detect that the ball which dismissed Katich was a no-ball and the fact that Hussey hit the ground and not the ball when he was given out," he said.

"But there was absolutely no excuse for Koertzen not to go to the third umpire to decide whether Strauss has correctly caught Hughes at slip."

"Amazingly, he [Koertzen] is still at large making major blunders which shape the results of series and if he was the chief executive of a major company he would have been sacked on the spot years ago."

The Australian's Malcolm Conn said cricket continues to make a fool of itself over its reluctance to fully utilise technology to adjudicate in dismissals.

"Umpires Koertzen and Doctrove have proved with a series of terrible blunders at Lord's that no amount of technology can improve a game if those in charge can't won't use it," Conn said.

Former Test legspinner Stuart MacGill said umpires needed to show fair and consistent application and interpretation of the laws and playing guidelines.

"That clearly did not happen today (Sunday)," MacGill said on SBSTV.

Fellow panellist and former Test cricketer Greg Matthews said he detected a little fear creeping into the England camp as Australia kept their hopes flickering.

"It is undeniable to say that England looked just a little bit shaky," Matthews said.

"How many times in the history of Test match cricket do you see a captain pull his boys into a huddle with an hour to play? I could just smell a bit of fear."

Manzoor, Yousuf rescue

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point boundary off successive deliveries.

Yousuf, a century-maker in the first Test in Galle, surpassed his 29th half-century soon after.

It was left to the retiring Chaminda Vaas to break the stand after tea when he had Manzoor edging a catch to Mahela Jayawardene in the slips with a delivery that moved away from the batsman after pitching.

Vaas, 35, who was ignored for the first two matches, replaced spinner Ajantha Mendis in the team a day after saying he will retire from Test cricket once the series has ended.

Yousuf himself departed three overs later in unfortunate circumstances when he was run out attempting a second run following an over-

throw.

Yousuf drove Thushara to mid-off and easily completed a single -- his 7,000th Test run from 82 matches -- even as the throw from the fielder missed the mark and the ball sped to the outfield.

Yousuf tried to take a second run, but this time failed to beat Vaas' return into the wicketkeeper's gloves as Misbah mistimed mid-pitch.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the opening day of the third and final Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground in Colombo on Monday:

PAKISTAN: First innings Manzoor c Jayawardene b Vaas 93 Fawad c Dilshan b Thushara 16 Yousuf b Thushara 2 Yousuf run out (Vaas/Dilshan) 90

Misbahul c Dilshan b Kulasekera	27			
Malik lbw b Thushara	45			
Akmal not out	1			
Gul b Kulasekera	2			
Kaneria not out	1			
Extras: (b-10, nb-2)	12			
Total: (For 7 wks in 86 overs)	289			
To bat: Ajmal, Aamer				
Fall of wickets: 1-34, 2-36, 3-203, 4-210, 5-285, 6-285, 7-287				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Vaas	20	6	43	1
Kulasekera	14	1	43	2
Thushara	19	2	77	3
Herath	23	4	76	0
Mathews	8	2	31	0
Jayawardene	2	0	9	0

Ganguly

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first Chief Executive David Richards will come together to reflect upon the big issues they had to deal with during their times at the helm of the global game.

The ICC began as the Imperial Cricket Conference in 1909 with just three members - Australia, England and South Africa.

A century later it has 104 members and its development over those 100 years will be charted by a host of experts including Sir Hilary Beckles, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Principal and Professor of Economic and Social History of the University of the West Indies and Brian Stoddart, the former Vice-Chancellor of La Trobe University, Australia.

Women's cricket past and present will be represented by former England captain Rachael Heyhoe-Flint, who lifted the inaugural women's World Cup in 1973, as well as current captain Charlotte Edwards and teammate Ebony Rainford-Brent, the latter duo part of the squad that holds the ICC Women's World Cup, Twenty20 World Cup and the Ashes.

School chess

SPORTS REPORTER

Abdullah Al-Saif of South Bonosri Model School and Debotpal Dey of

Ramkrishna School of Tripura improved their tally to 6.5 points to share the lead after the end of the seventh round games of Class VI to X Group in the 11th Standard

Chartered School Chess tournament at the NSC tower auditorium yesterday.

Zoar Haque Pradhan of Mohammadpur Model High School followed the leaders with six points while Ikramul

Haque Siam of Motijheel Model School, Saiful Islam of Vashantek High School, Emon Hossain of Aporajeyo Bangladesh, Souvik Roy Chowdhury and Rupesh

Jaiswal of Nepal were sharing the third spot with 5.5 points each.

Tanzina Akter Tani of Motijheel Govt. High School maintained her solo lead with maximum 6.5 points after end of the 7th round games in Girls Section.

Shanta Thapa of Nepal followed the leader with 6 points.

Debbeeb Das of Kolkata took solo lead with 6.5 points after seventh round game in the Class KG to V Group. Abigyan Mukherjee of Kolkata followed the leader with six points.

Gabtolli XI champs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Bogra Gabtoli XI clinched the title of the Gobindaganj Khelovar Kalyan Gold Cup football with a 3-2 win over Gobindaganj Akbar Ali Smriti Sangsad at the Gobindaganj High School ground yesterday.

Gobindaganj upazila chairman Principal Abul Kalam Azad witnessed the final as chief guest and gave away prizes.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	34 Female deer	54 Greek consonants	19 Ph. bk. data
1 Read quickly	35 Roscoe	55 Admit, with "up"	21 DDE predecessor
5 The whole shebang	36 Falafel holders		
8 Eastern potentate	37 Meccas for shoppers	DOWN	23 Ex of The Donald
12 Author Morrison	40 Break suddenly	1 Impale	24 Notion
13 Halloween shout	41 Pearl's home	2 Caffeine-rich nut	25 "Hogan's Heroes" group
14 Easter emblem	45 \$50, in "Monopoly"	3 — instant	26 Probability
15 Winged	47 Sportage maker	4 Sainthood prerequisite	27 Laugh-a-minute
16 Early bird?	49 Black-and-white treat	5 Perpendicular to the keel	28 Distaste
17 Gilligan's home	50 Lotion additive	6 Journal	32 Cinderella's coach, really
18 Bicycle-seat style	51 Charged bit	7 Sane	33 Casual dismissal
20 Restaurant acronym	52 Sensed	8 "Cats" inspirer	35 Coll. transcript stat
22 "Dilbert" or "Garfield"	53 Proper bloke	9 Typo	36 Thickness
26 Face-to-face exams		10 Ailing	37 Cove
29 Cistern		11 Pumpernickel alternative	39 Bank trans-actions
30 Altar affirmative			42 Genealogy chart
31 Jackknife, for one			43 Morays, e.g.
32 Crony			44 Deteriorates
33 Had more than a hunch			45 Satchel
			46 Hearty brew
			48 Debtor's letters

Solution time: 25 mins.



All-time Aussie XI

Gilchrist, Warne & McGrath in, Ponting out

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Three members of Australia's all-powerful side of this decade, Shane Warne, Glenn McGrath and Adam Gilchrist, have been voted into an all-time Australian XI by a Cricinfo jury, but there is no room for Ricky Ponting.

In June, Cricinfo announced the definitive search for the all-time greatest teams from all the Test-playing countries, starting with Australia. The Australia jury, which comprises cricket historians and print and radio journalists -- among them Peter Roebuck, Gideon Haigh, David Frith, Warwick Franks and Jim Maxwell -- were faced with the task of picking 11 from a shortlist created by Cricinfo's editors from the 410 wearers of the baggy green.

Australia's all-time opening pair was agreed to be Victor Trumper, whose average of 39.04 from 48 Tests belies his art, and Arthur Morris, part of Don Bradman's Invincibles on the 1948 tour of England. "[Victor] Trumper was the prototype of an expressive Australian batsmanship based on boldness, instinct and natural talent," said Haigh. Honourable mention was made of Matthew Hayden, arguably the most aggressive opener of the modern era, who averaged over 50 in Tests, but failed to make the XI.

At No. 3 is Bradman himself, whose selection Franks called "axiomatic". The middle order is bolstered by Greg Chappell and Allan Border. The Waughes, Steve and Mark, were strong contenders but missed out. Jury member Mike Coward's reasoning for the inclusion of Border was that "the sustained success of Australia over the past two decades or so is the direct result of his bravery, commitment and leadership".

Keith Miller and Adam Gilchrist were unanimous picks for the allrounder and wicketkeeper slots, while contrasting legspinners Shane Warne and Bill O'Reilly both found a place, edging out Clarrie Grimmett and Bert "Dainty" Ironmonger.

The fast-bowling spots went to Dennis Lillee and Glenn McGrath, takers of 355 and 563 Test wickets respectively, who beat out the likes of the legendary Alan Davidson (186 wickets at 20.53), Ray Lindwall (228 at 23.03) and Garth McKenzie (246 at 29.78). This was the most difficult part of selecting an all-time Australian XI, because this group had the longest list, indicative of the massive depth in that department for Australia.

Cricinfo also asked readers to vote for their own favourites. Many did so, and in their view, Hayden, Ponting, and Steve Waugh were chosen over Trumper, Morris, Greg Chappell and Border. The bottom half, however, remained the same.

Flintoff ends England's

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But starting again is never easy and they were unable to add to a stand worth 185 with Haddin out for his overnight score.

Haddin edged the 10th ball of the morning, fast bowler Flintoff's fourth, straight to Paul Collingwood who took a good low catch at second slip.

Flintoff was now fired up and hit Clarke on the head with a bouncer, as the batsman took his eye off the ball, before beating him on the outside edge.

New batsman Mitchell Johnson was fortunate on a four, after being completely deceived by a Flintoff slower ball that struck him on the pad, that veteran umpire Rudi Koertzen, standing in his 100th Test, had correctly called no-ball.

But it was Swann who, with his second ball Monday, took the wicket England craved when he beat Clarke in the air as the batsman went down the pitch and bowled him off-stump to end the Australia vice-captain's innings of more than five hours.

Flintoff then bowled

Nathan Hauritz for one as the batsman shouldered arms and Australia were 363 for eight.

Flintoff, the star of England's 2005 Ashes series win, though then completed only the third five-wicket haul of his Test career when he bowled Peter Siddle, and celebrated by going down on one knee with his arms outstretched after leaving his side on the brink of victory.

Fast bowler Johnson, who'd struggled with the ball, defied England with a 62-ball fifty.

But Swann, who dropped a difficult caught and bowled chance off Johnson, bowled him for 63 to seal England's victory.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the second Ashes Test between England and Australia at Lord's in London on Monday:

ENGLAND: First innings 425 (Strauss 161, Cook 95; Hilfenhaus 4-103, Johnson 3-132)

AUSTRALIA: First innings 215 (Hussey 51; Anderson 4-55, Onions 3-41)

ENGLAND: Second innings 311-6 declared (Prior 61, Collingwood 54; Hauritz 3-80)

AUSTRALIA: Second innings (overnight 313-5)

Hughes c Strauss b Flintoff 17

Katich c Pietersen b Flintoff 6

Ponting b Broad 38

Hussey c Collingwood b Swann 27

Clarke b Swann 136

North b Swann 6

Haddin c Collingwood b Flintoff 80

Johnson b Swann 63

Hauritz b Flintoff 1

Siddle b Flintoff 7

Hilfenhaus not out 4

Extras: (b-5, lb-8, nb-8) 21

Total: (All out in 107 overs) 406

Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-34, 3-78, 4-120, 5-128, 6-313, 7-356, 8-363, 9-388

Bowler O M R W

Anderson 21 4 86 0

Flintoff 27 4 92 5

Onions 9 0 50 0

Broad 16 3 49 1

Swann 28 3 87 4

Collingwood 6 1 29 0

Result: England won by 115 runs and lead five-Test series 1-0.

Man-of-the-match: Andrew Flintoff.

Third Test: Jul 30-Aug 04, Edgbaston.

Freddie very happy

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Flintoff, who was magnificent this morning.

"To win an Ashes Test match at Lord's is something many guys have dreamed of doing over the last 50 or 60 years or so and to be the guys who pulled it off is pretty special."

Off-spinner Graeme Swann provided excellent support to Flintoff with a return for four for 87, including the key wicket Monday of Australia vice-captain Michael Clarke whose 136 threatened to spoil England's party.

"It's unbelievable," said Swann. "Everybody was a little bit nervous and apprehensive this morning. Fred (Flintoff) getting that wicket (of Haddin) calmed everyone down."

Swann, who bowled Clarke with his second delivery Monday, a well-flighted ball,

added: He held them together I think so to get him out was probably the key wicket.

"So I'll take all the glory," he added with a grin.

Australia captain Ricky Ponting, who in 2006/07 led Australia to a 5-0 Ashes whitewash of an England team captained by Flintoff, had no complaints.

"England have been the better side from the first ball -- and not only in the big moments," he said. "We just have to bounce back now."

Ponting's men were on the wrong end of several questionable umpiring decisions during the game but he said: "They are all irrelevant now."

"At the end of the day we've been beaten by more than 100 runs in a Test match. We can't change anything that hap-

pened."

There had been reports in the British press that this could be the last test for Flintoff, who has most recently been struggling with a knee problem.

But Flintoff, the star of England's 2005 Ashes series win, insisted: "I've got three more Tests left and will obviously give my all in them. It's going to be hard to get through them but I'm confident I'll do it."

However, England coach Andy Flower warned that neither Flintoff nor star batsman Kevin Pietersen (Achilles) would be picked if they could not get through the full five days.