



Australia fast bowler Brett Lee (C) bowls during a practise session as he recovers from injury ahead of the fourth day's play of the third Ashes Test against England at Edgbaston on Sunday.

Flintoff fires

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wicket for 12 runs in five overs.

Prior, who made a brisk fifty at Lord's, revived the innings.

Flintoff followed up by cover-driving Ben Hilfenhaus, who before lunch had dismissed England captain Andrew Strauss and Paul Collingwood, to the boundary.

Australia captain Ricky Ponting, with England 201 for five, brought all-rounder Shane Watson into the attack for the first time this match after an impressive spell of two for 38 in 14 overs from Hilfenhaus.

Watson, recalled after opener Phillip Hughes was dropped, had top-scored with 62 in Australia's firstinnings.

However, the medium-pacer was driven for three runs in seven balls by rival all-rounder Flintoff.

Prior succumbed to fast bowler Peter Siddle when, on 41, he muscled a pull to substitute fielder Hughes at mid-on, with England six runs shy of Australia's total. The wicket-keeper faced 59 balls with six fours.

Flintoff then levelled the scores in style with a six-aights off Hauritz before sweeping the bowler for his seventh four to take England into the lead and bring up his own fifty in just 53 balls.

Broad, a left-hand bat, kept the runs coming from both ends with several stylish boundaries as England went from 200 to 300 in just 90 balls.

England resumed on 116 for two.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at tea on the fourth day of the third Ashes Test between England and Australia at Edgbaston on Sunday:

AUSTRALIA: First innings 263 (Watson 62; Anderson 5-80, Onions 4-58)

ENGLAND: First innings (overnight 116-2)

Strauss c Manou b Hilfenhaus 69

Cook c Manou b Siddle 0

Boopathy b Hilfenhaus 23

Bell lbw b Johnson 53

Collingwood c Ponting b Hilfenhaus 13

Prior c sub (Hughes) b Siddle 41

Flintoff c Clarke b Hauritz 74

Broad not out 20

Swann not out 4

Extras: (b-2, lb-4, w-6, nb-7) 19

Total: (For 7 wkt/s in 83 overs) 316

To bat: Anderson, Onions.

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-60, 3-141, 4-159, 5-168, 6-257, 7-309.

Bowler O M R W

Hilfenhaus 25 6 83 3

Siddle 20 2 88 2

Hauritz 18 2 57 1

Johnson 17 1 59 1

Watson 3 0 23 0

BFF asked

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"A few days earlier, I met the Prime Minister (Sheikh Hasina) and she asked me to give an extra care at the grassroots level football as well as introduce additional inter-school football tournament beside the existing tournaments," the BFF boss informed. "And today we shared the idea with the sports minister."

The sports minister said that they were planning to introduce Sheikh Russel Smriti Tournament comprising school kids.

City lack

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insisting they will not sell the England international defender, even for 30 million pounds.

Moynes continued: "I've always tried to contact the managers and show respect to them in terms of transfers - and no matter how much money I might have to spend I would always want to keep that up."

"It goes back to the managers having a drink together after the game, to the fact managers would still phone each other up when they are looking for a player. That is part of the way it should be done."

Lee targets fourth Test

Cricket

AFP, Birmingham

Australia fast bowler Brett Lee is contemplating a return in next week's fourth Test against England after missing the first three matches of this Ashes series with a rib injury.

Lee, the most experienced quick bowler in Australia's squad with 310 wickets from 76 Tests, has been a frustrated spectator while England have taken a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

The 32-year-old looked poised to complete a successful return from ankle surgery when he suffered the rib problem during a tour match before the first Test in Cardiff.

However, he has been bowling in the nets for over a week and is planning to hit top speed by the end of the ongoing third Test here at Edgbaston.

"I want to be going flat out by day five here so I've got two more days," Lee told CA (Cricket Australia) TV after Saturday's third day was washed out without a ball being bowled.

"It feels good so far we'll just see how it goes."

Venus-Marion final

Tennis

AFP, Stanford

Venus Williams and France's Marion Bartoli meet Sunday for the title at the WTA Bank of the West Classic in a repeat of the 2007 Wimbledon final.

Third seed Williams reached her 65th career singles final Saturday with a 6-0, 6-1 rout of fourth seeded Russian Elena Dementieva. Bartoli won a roller-coaster match against Samantha Stosur 6-3, 1-6, 6-1.

Harvey has old scores

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not available. It will be their decision if I don't play for England again, not mine. I would like to get some idea of their thinking.

"Before the Oval Test I would like to sit down with Andrew Strauss and Andy Flower and ask them for their honest thoughts. If it turns out I've got nowhere to go other than walking away, if they say, 'At the end of the Ashes, we're going to go in a different direction to plan for a couple of years' time', then fair enough."

Harvey said he did not see himself in England's one-day plans for the future despite being named in the 30-man probables for the Champions Trophy. "But if they turn round to me and say, 'Because Fred's gone, we're keen on you going to South Africa to play Test matches because of the option

you give us once Fred's not there', then I'll make every possible effort to go to South Africa six weeks before," Harvey said he would then consider playing for a South African franchise before England's tour to the country.

"I think they will have to drag Fred away from Leeds by his hair to stop him playing at Headingley, but in the event that he or they are unhappy with his knee I feel the fire-power I bring to the table gives them a solid option."

Andy Flower (England coach) said to me the other day, 'We would never draw a line under you'. My response to that was, 'I would never let you draw a line under me'. Until I felt it was right for them and for me, I would never voluntarily let him, the captain or the ECB draw a line under my name."

second in 8:16.66 and Italy's Alessia Filippi was third in 8:17.21.

Olympic champion and world record-holder Rebecca Adlington was shut out of the medals in fourth.

Australia's Marieke Guehrer won the women's 50m butterfly in 25.48. China's Zhou Yafei was second in 25.57, barely edging Norway's Ingvild Snidal who took bronze in 25.58.

One more world record fell in semi-final action, as Briton Liam Hancock clocked 24.08sec to lead the way into the final men's 50m backstroke.

The night's four world records took the tally for the week to 39 with one day remain-

Handle Aamer with care, Zahid

CRICINFO, undated

Former Pakistani fast bowler Mohammad Zahid has urged the Pakistan selectors, captain and coach to handle young pace sensation Mohammad Aamer with care.

"I'm very impressed with Aamer, he is a very talented cricketer, but I worry a lot about him," Zahid told Pakpassion.net. "He's a very young man, only 17 years of age, and he's bowling at 90 mph plus. Also, physically he doesn't look strong enough yet to be playing so much international cricket, especially Test cricket."

"They (the selectors) are selecting him for all three forms of the game, which I think is too much for him. I'd rather they didn't play him in a lot of Test cricket at this stage of his career which is physically so demanding especially for a fast bowler."

Zahid's reservations are justified after a serious back injury cut short his own international career. He represented Pakistan in five Tests and 11 ODIs, and was recognised as one of Pakistan's quickest ever bowlers.

Forgoing IPL start was tough for Kiwi duo

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Jacob Oram and Brendon McCullum, who are among the six New Zealand players who will miss the beginning of the Indian Premier League (IPL) next year to play the Test series against Australia, have admitted signing the national contracts last month had been a difficult decision.

The players said while they were now fully committed to their national side, it had been hard to choose New Zealand contracts over the money they had to forgo for missing a large part of the IPL.

"You can criticise us for our hesitation but we have all signed," Oram said. The Sunday Star-Times. "We're not getting paid any compensation; we're not leaving after day three of the second Test against Australia. We've thought about it long and hard and we want to keep playing for New Zealand. You cannot begrudge us the time to think about it and discuss with our wives, families, mentors."

McCullum hoped the delay in signing would not affect his chances of captaining New Zealand in the future. "I'm not going to lie to you, it was tough," McCullum told New Zealand's Sunday News. "The cold, hard facts are there for anyone to see. It wasn't that I didn't want to play cricket for New Zealand but I guess the immediate financial security that sort of money can provide for your family was a factor. It was difficult knowing how much money I was turning down and I

also had to think about the captaincy at Kolkata. I would have liked to have had the opportunity to turn around what happened earlier this year after our disappointing tour."

"In the end, I feel very comfortable with the decision I made and I feel that it was the right one to make."

McCullum and Oram said New Zealand's performance at the World Twenty20, where they only won matches against Scotland and Ireland, had been disappointing and it was important for senior players to step up and lead the way.

"If those of us in the New Zealand team at the moment want to leave any sort of legacy behind when we retire, we have to start fronting up in the big tournaments and start trying to get some silverware in the cabinet," McCullum said.

He also said New Zealand's aim for the upcoming tour to Sri Lanka was to win at least one Test. "... drawing games would not be considered a success in my mind," McCullum said. "I'd much rather see us losing to try and achieve something special like winning a Test over there."

Oram, who has returned to the Test squad after a spate of injuries, was keen to get 100 wickets and a couple more Test centuries as an all-rounder. He said his Test batting average of 37.04 and bowling average of 31.18 did not bother him for he just wanted to do as well as he could. "I learned from an early age that statistical goals and averages were a peripheral pressure I didn't need; I have other ways to get up for a match," Oram said.

"I'm very keen to start turning us into a winning unit and the 2011 World Cup for me is an absolute must-win, or at least we cannot stumble at the second-last hurdle like we have at recent ICC tournaments, or at the quarterfinal as was the case at the World Twenty20."

In contrast to the IPL players, Shane Bond, the fast bowler who quit the ICL to return to the national team, said he couldn't wait to sign the contract and get his chance to play for New Zealand again. "That was the one thing I wanted -- to just come back into the fold and have another chance to play for New Zealand, so the decision was pretty easy for me," Bond told the Sunday Star-Times.

Bond said he had worked hard on his fitness and on avoiding injuries in preparing for the comeback. "But the first thing is actually getting back in the team and playing that first game, that will be incredibly exciting for me and I'll take it from there if I can make it into the team for the Champions Trophy that's another big event and I'll take it as it comes. I know what's coming up after that but I'm experienced enough not to get too far ahead of myself."

Bond, who will be touring India with the A team before heading to Sri Lanka, said some IPL franchises had expressed interest in signing him. "... but officially there's nothing forthcoming until the boss [Lalit Modi] sets the rules around the ICL players."

New Zealand play three Tests against Sri Lanka and an ODI tri-series, which includes India, between August 18 and September 14.

Coventry gets it back

Cricket

AFP, Rome

Kirsty Coventry of Zimbabwe regained the women's 200m backstroke world title in a world record of 2min 04.81sec here on Saturday.

Coventry lowered her own previous record of 2:05.24, set in winning gold at the Beijing Games last August 16, her second straight Olympic title in the event after her triumph in Athens.

"I am very excited. I went

into the race knowing it would be tight, and it was," said Coventry, who won the world title in Montreal in 2005 but surrendered it to American Margaret Hoelzer in Melbourne in 2007.

While Coventry led at every turn, Russian Anastasia Zueva was second in 2:04.94 -- also under Coventry's previous record -- and American Elizabeth Beisel third in 2:06.39.

It was the second time in the championships that Zueva swam inside a world record and settled for silver, the first

coming in her runner-up finish to Gemma Spofforth in the 100m back.

Coventry's was the 36th world record of the championships, a tally that stood at a whopping 39 by the end of Saturday night.

She said she tried not to think about the records -- and the controversy over the polyurethane suits that have fuelled the outburst.

"For me, the biggest thing was staying focused and keeping the suit debate out of my mind," Coventry said.

"I am really looking towards January when we will have a fresh start and I am excited about that challenge," she added of the new swimsuit regulations to take effect next year.

Zueva said she went out a little too fast, but she was pleased to hold on for the silver.

"I had a lot of strength until the end," she said.

British coach for archers

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with British archery coach Richard John Priestman for six months ahead of the SA (South Asian) Games in Bangladesh.

Priestman, who reached the capital on July 31, will train the archers until the SA Games, scheduled over January 29-February 9, 2010.

Priestman grabbed bronze medal in both 1988 Seoul and 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Snare, 5 Wager, 6 Blue, 12 Apiece, 13 Jamie, 14 Christmas tree, often, 15 Labyrinth beast, 17 Initial stake, 18 Military freshman, 19 Choice, 21 The same, in a bibliography, 24 In medias res, 25 Cougar, 26 Passport endorsement.

DOWN 20 Entreat, 22 Mephisto, 23 Capital of Belarus, 25 Omega, 26 Coffee vessel, 27 Mosque towers, 29 Ollie's pal, 31 Ump's call, 32 Itty-bitty, 34 Repast, 38 Michael Jackson hit, 40 "Imitation of