

Sidebottom

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wickets in a Test if the ball is not swinging and Harmison's raw speed would give the attack a different dimension.

At Edgbaston, England didn't have a spare batsman after 28-year-old Trotter's Warwickshire colleague Ian Bell was recalled after Kevin Pietersen's series-ending Achilles injury.

Trotter, like Pietersen born in South Africa, found his only previous experience of international cricket tough going, scoring 11 runs in two Twenty20 internationals against the West Indies at the Oval three years ago, but he has impressed at county level.

"Jonathan Trotter has also performed really well for Warwickshire this season and his place in the squad is fully deserved," Miller said.

"His inclusion will provide us with the option of playing six batsmen if we feel this is appropriate."

Left-arm spinner Monty Panesar, in the squad at Edgbaston but not selected for the match, was left out on Tuesday.

"We decided to omit a second spinner as Headingley is not usually a ground where two spinners are required and therefore Monty Panesar misses out on selection this time," Miller explained.

SQUAD

Andrew Strauss (captain), Alastair Cook, Ravi Bopara, Ian Bell, Paul Collingwood, Matthew Prior, Andrew Flintoff, Stuart Broad, Graeme Swann, James Anderson, Graham Onions, Stephen Harmison, Ryan Sidebottom, Jonathan Trotter

Phelps

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"We're going to go back and work on the 200 free, that's a big motivator for him if he wants to race this," Bowman said.

And if Biedermann's victory inspired any doubts about Phelps's abilities, his scintillating victory over Cavic silenced them.

"When I was contemplating coming back, I remember watching some of the videos. I thought about the excitement I have when watching a race and after a race and the emotions that were going through my head."

"I wanted to get back to that, and this meet has brought me back to that. I think it's going to help me over the next few years," he said.

Bowman wasn't surprised to see his swimmer rise to the occasion against Cavic, who had needed Phelps over the swim suit issue, snatched the American's recently achieved 100m fly world record in the semifinals and told anyone who would listen that he still believed he had deserved gold in Beijing.

"He loves the big races, loves the energy," Bowman said. "He sort of thrives on that, while some other swimmers don't."

And Bowman was delighted to see what he'll have to work with as Phelps gets down to the serious build-up to London.

Indian soccer

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quoted unnamed sources as saying.

Patel, the federal aviation minister, belongs to the Nationalist Congress Party, which is headed by International Cricket Council vice-president and former BCCI chief Sharad Pawar.

BCCI officials declined to comment on the report, saying any decision in this regard can only be taken by the body's working committee.

The BCCI, the richest sports body in the country, which earned around 222 million dollars in fiscal 2007-2008, has already set aside a consolidated fund of 11 million dollars for the promotion of other sports.

BOA reveals

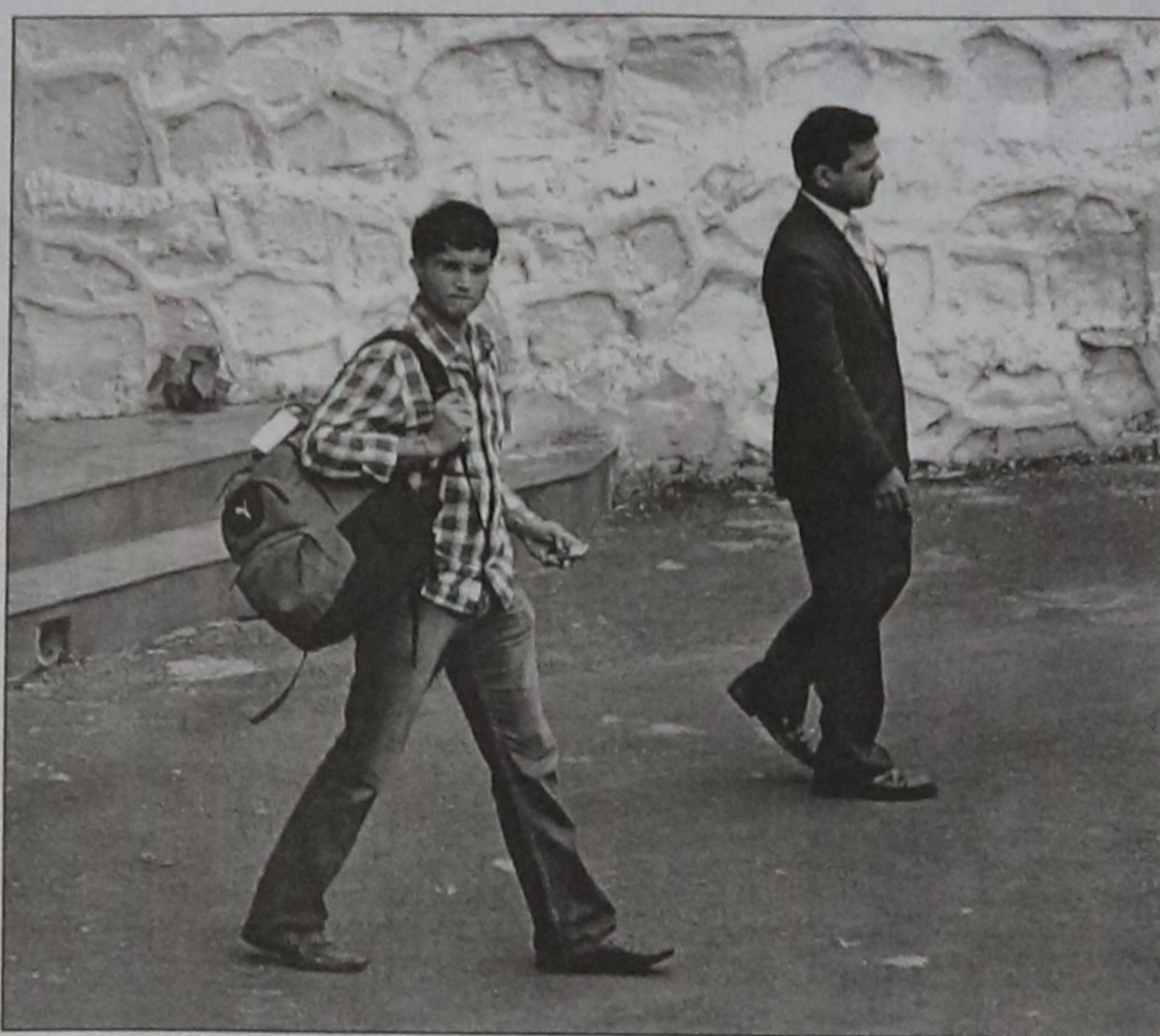
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Col. Wali Ullah, four from BOA's patron sports minister's quota -- Obaidul Quader MP, AHM Mostafa Kamal MP, Badal Roy and Dewan Shafiqul Arefin Tutul -- while the immediate past BOA president and the incumbent secretary general are also included as councillors.

However, a few executive committee members of the association were not placed on the 74-member list. Among them are vice-presidents Mizanur Rahman Manu, Mushfeka Iqat, deputy secretary general Aleya Ferdousi, treasurer Sanaul Haq Bakul, members Anisur Rahman and Qamrunnahan Dana are notable.

As per the election schedule, nomination forms will be distributed on August 10 and the submission date is August 12.

Scrutiny of the nomination papers will take place on August 16 while the date for withdrawal of candidacy has been fixed on August 18.

The final list of candidates with ballot numbers will be published on August 18.



Former India and Kolkata Knight Riders captain Sourav Ganguly (L) arrives at the Mumbai Airport on August 4. Ganguly was slated to meet team owner Shah Rukh Khan later.

Draw gives Ponting hope

Cricket

AFP, Birmingham

Australia captain Ricky Ponting saluted the resilience shown by batsmen Michael Clarke and Marcus North to guide his side to a draw here in the third Ashes Test at Edgbaston.

Vice-captain Clarke made 103 not out, his 12th century in 50 Tests and second in as many matches and shared a stand of 185 with North (96) to make the game safe.

The duo had come together with Ashes-holders Australia just 48 runs in front at 161 for four and still in danger of defeat after Michael Hussey was caught behind for 64 off paceman Stuart Broad before lunch.

But by the time a draw was agreed Australia had moved on to 375 for five in their second, a lead of 262, with no time left for England to bat again in a match where bad weather effectively took out two days' worth of play.

This result still left England 1-0 up in the five-match series with two to play ahead of the start of Friday's fourth Test at Headingley but Ponting said: "We knew what job we had in hand this afternoon, we knew it would be hard work but the North and Clark partnership was pretty special."

"It was good to get through the game the way we did."

"After we lost all that time it was pretty evident there was only one team that could win but full credit to our bowlers, they stuck at it and stopped England getting too far ahead."

Ashes holders Australia are not used to being behind this far into a series against England but Ponting said: "All the guys in our dressing room don't mind this. I've always said about the Australia team that we play our best cricket in adversity."

England came into this match without star batsman Kevin Pietersen, out of the series with an Achilles problem and while key all-rounder Andrew Flintoff starred with the bat in their only

innings at Edgbaston, the bowling hero of the 115-run second Test win at Lord's went wicketless in this match.

The injury-prone Flintoff, who has said this will be his last Test series, appeared to be struggling with a longstanding knee injury in the latter stages of this match.

Ponting said: "The injury was more visible over the past two days than at Lord's, I don't know what to make of it. He was their best bowler at Lord's, the wicket and conditions here didn't suit his style as much."

"Having Pietersen and Flintoff out of their side would leave two pretty big gaps on the side. He went downhill pretty quickly in the course of this game with his injury."

But England captain Andrew Strauss said: "There's obviously some soreness there but nothing deteriorated. He needs to rest-up well because back-to-back Tests are hard for any bowlers."

England are due to name their fourth Test squad on Tuesday and Strauss added: "If he's fit to play we want to play him, if not not."

"The Headingley Test is a massive Test. If we win there, we win the Ashes, the same goes for both these last two games."

Reflecting on the match at Edgbaston, Strauss said the lack of swing, which had helped England bowl Australia out for 293 in their first innings, on Monday had proved decisive.

"We came to the ground optimistic we might be able to force a result. But the conditions didn't help us. We thought it would swing more and, as we've seen all match, when the ball's not swinging it's hard to take wickets."

Clarke, who made a century in a losing cause at Lord's, was delighted his latest hundred had a more positive impact upon Australia's fortunes.

"It was disappointing when I got out at Lord's, it was good to be here at the end."

He did have a moment of good fortune on 92 when the ball brushed his stumps without disturbing the bails and Clarke said: "I have seen the ball hit the stumps and the bails not come off."

Eng bowling in question

Cricket

AFP, London

British media sounded a nervous warning Tuesday about the effectiveness of England's bowlers after the side drew the third Ashes Test against Australia at Edgbaston.

Newspapers raised questions about the fitness of key all-rounder Andrew Flintoff who, although starring with the bat, went wicketless in the crucial match against the Ashes-holders.

"For all his huff and puff, his bowling had no persistent thrust. By mid-morning he looked more like Forlorn Fred," columnist Simon Hughes said in the Daily Telegraph.

After leading England to victory in the second Test, the injury-prone Flintoff, who has said this will be his last Test series, appeared to be struggling with a longstanding knee injury in the latter stages of the match.

Former England captain Nasser Hussain said serious questions must be asked in the England camp about Flintoff's position in the side for the fourth Test.

Hussain said Flintoff should remain if he and the medical team were confident that he could play as well as his outstanding performance in the second Test.

"But if he feels his role is likely to be limited again I would consider bringing in Steve Harmison for Stuart Broad," he wrote in the Daily Mail.

"England will need a hit-the-deck bowler and, if Flintoff is unable to be that man, then his

great friend Harmison must be."

Former England captain Mike Atherton singled out captain Andrew Strauss, saying his decision making on the final day was at times "puzzling".

"(Bowler James) Anderson was ignored for the first hour of the day which was strange given his five-wicket haul in the first innings," Atherton wrote in The Times newspaper.

Monday's draw left England 1-0 up in the five-match series with two to play ahead of the start of Friday's fourth Test at Headingley.

"England of course still have the upper hand and a 1-0 lead, but this is the time when the fingernails start to get chewed down," columnist and former England cricketer Mike Selvey said in the Guardian newspaper.

"There have been signs in this game that the Australian bowling, particularly Mitchell Johnson, is starting to slip into gear."

"The batting looks solid, unless the ball moves laterally. This series could still be touch and go."

Selvey concluded that "England have three days to shuffle the pack and look for a winning hand."

England are due to name their fourth Test squad on Tuesday.

But former England bowler Ian Botham was upbeat about England's chances of snatching the Ashes, and insisted Australia were still the side under pressure in this series.

"They are still the ones under the cosh, still the ones without a win this summer and still the ones who have yet to bowl us (England) out twice," Botham wrote in the Daily Mirror.

Aussies find weak link

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Australia's battling draw in the third Test has exposed weakness in England's bowling attack and given Ricky Ponting's men a fighting chance of retaining the Ashes, media here said Tuesday.

Australian commentators hailed a 185-run fifth-wicket partnership between Michael Clarke and Marcus North that prevented England taking a 2-0 lead in the five-Test series.

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation's Joe O'Shea said the draw "keeps the series well and truly alive" while former Test off-spinner Greg Matthews asked: "Is the series turning again?"

Matthews, in his blog for Ashes broadcaster SBS, said England's attack looked "a bit toothless" when conditions did not produce swing and talisman Andrew Flintoff was not firing due to injury niggles.

"If the ball doesn't swing England look average, especially with Flintoff on one leg," he said.

Rosicky not

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improve on last season's fourth place finish.

"I don't think the best players have left," Rosicky said. "We have still got (Andrey) Arshavin, (Cesc) Fabregas and they are still great players."

"I don't see it this way. I don't see why we should be afraid of anyone. I see the potential and think we need to focus on what we have got."

"We have got plenty of options and that is why I feel we will be stronger than last season because the boss will have more options."

"We know what we have to do better and we are not blind. I can see the positives."

"I hope we can achieve something together and we will fight for trophies this year."

Roddick ready to return

Tennis

AFP, Washington

Andy Roddick declared himself mentally and physically ready for his return to competition after a month off following his heartbreaking loss to Roger Federer in the Wimbledon final.

The fifth-ranked US star will be back on the court Wednesday after a first-round bye at the 1.4 million-dollar ATP Washington Classic, having found perspective about the Swiss star's historic marathon five-set victory.

"Heartbreaking for me, but at the same time not a lot of people get a chance to play for that title. That was not lost on me," Roddick said Monday.

"Was it the greatest loss I've had as far as afterward? Yeah, that hurt. But at the same time it's still a pretty good existence to play matches like that."

"I don't sit back and cry in my Cheerios."

Federer won his sixth Wimbledon title and career record 15th Grand Slam crown 5-7, 7-6 (8/6), 7-6 (7/5), 3-6, 16-14. Roddick pushed him for four hours and 16 minutes, holding 37 service games in a row before dropping the last in the July 5 epic.

Asked how he got over the loss, Roddick replied, "I'll keep you posted."

Putting the defeat in perspective has proven elusive as Roddick, whose only Grand Slam title came at the 2003 US Open, sees himself differently than before.

"It changes daily. I don't think I really understand," Roddick said. "For me it's probably not the same but I understand it might be a good story."

"I've been a pretty good player throughout my career regardless of what has taken place in the last six weeks."

A day after the longest fifth set in Grand Slam final history, Roddick withdrew from a US Davis Cup quarter-final tie at Croatia with a right hip flexor, an injury Roddick said no longer troubles him.

"I feel great. I decided not to make the error of coming back until I was physically ready to play an event," Roddick said. "It's not the type of injury where I expect anything lingering."

The only thing Roddick expects to linger from the thriller loss to Federer as he begins hardcourt matches ahead of the US Open is the emotional lift brought by the entire Wimbledon fortnight's work.

"It does help my confidence going into the US Open that I was able to navigate my way through a major tournament," Roddick said.

"I'm not going to come in expecting to pick up where I left off a month ago. It's a process. This is the start of the process for the US Open. It would be presumptuous of me to expect that in my first match back

after a month."

Roddick, who turns 27 on the eve of the US Open, will play fellow American Robby Ginepri or Germany's Benjamin Becker in his first match. Hot-handed US rival Sam Querrey, the champion Sunday at Los Angeles, could await after that.

Roddick has worked to keep his emotions in balance better than in the early days of his career, saying his normal evolution has played out before the world step by step.

"I've pretty much been portrayed as every style thing you can be," Roddick said. "After Wimbledon you are Andy Everyguy, who everybody is cheering for. I think the meat and potatoes of who I am hasn't been covered yet."

Roddick, 39-9 this year and two wins shy of 500 career ATP triumph, won his 27th career title at Memphis in February. He won titles at Washington in 2001, 2005 and 2007.

Roddick, who married model Brooklyn Decker on April 17, credits improved nutrition and fitness for better position on the court to enable superior shotmaking.

"It was just a matter of what avenues hadn't I explored," Roddick said. "Once confidence is there, it makes the decision-making process a lot easier when you want to pull the trigger on shots."

"I wasn't playing amazing at Wimbledon until the semis and final. There's still a lot of work to be done."

Clarke

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yielded a wicket when Clarke, on 38, pulled fiercely only for the captain to drop the tough chance at short mid-wicket with Australia 106 ahead.

And that was as close as England came to reigniting their victory bid with the new ball not providing any breakthroughs.

Left-hander Hussey (18 not out overnight) fell to Broad's 12th ball of the innings -- and first from around the wicket -- when he edged to wicket-keeper Matthew Prior after two-and-a-half hours at the crease.

Barlier, Anderson -- with his sixth ball Monday -- had Shane Watson caught behind for 53. It was the makeshift opener's second fifty of the match after he'd come in for dropped left-hander Phillip Hughes.

SCOREBOARD

Final scoreboard on the fifth and final day of the third Ashes Test between England and Australia at Edgbaston on Monday:

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

ENGLAND: First innings 376 (Flintoff 74; Strauss 69, Broad 55, Bell 53; Hilfenhaus 4-109, Siddie 3-89)

AUSTRALIA: Second innings (overnight 88-2)

Watson c Prior b Anderson 53
Kitch c Prior b Onions 26
Ponting b Swann 5
Hussey c Prior b Broad 64
Clarke not out 103
North c Anderson b Broad 96
Manou not out 13

Extras: (b-4, lb-6, w-2, nb-3) 15
Total: (For 5 wts in 112.2 overs) 375
Did not bat: Johnson, Hauritz, Siddie, Hilfenhaus.

Fall of wickets: 1-47, 2-52, 3-137, 4-161, 5-346.

Bowler O M R W
Anderson 21 8 47 1
Flintoff 15 0 35 0
Onions 19 3 74 1
Swann 31 4 119 1
Broad 16 2 38 2
Bopara 8.2 1 44 0
Collingwood 2 0 8 0

Result: Match drawn.

Man-of-the-match: Michael Clarke.

REMAINING

FIXTURES

Aug 07-11: Fourth Test, Headingley

Aug 20-24: Fifth Test, The Oval

Mokoena ready for WC

Football

AFP, Portsmouth

Aaron Mokoena has revealed he was forced to quit Blackburn and join Premier League rivals Portsmouth to preserve his dream of captaining South Africa at the 2010 World Cup.

Mokoena will have the honour of leading out the Bafana Bafana when the competition is played on African soil for the first time next year.

The former Ajax midfielder feared staying at Ewood Park would put his place in Joel Santana's line-up in jeopardy after starting only nine league games last season.

Mokoena, who has signed a three-year contract with Portsmouth, said: "South Africa staging the World Cup is a dream come true but it starts now with Pompey."

"I need to do the business with the team and move onto the national team."

"I need to work hard to earn my place, we all do. We cannot take our places for granted just because we are the host nation."

"The World Cup is coming. I need to be playing as much as I can. It's all about working hard and showing the manager that I really want to be in the team."

The South African FA and government have spent 8.4 billion pounds building five new stadiums and improving the five other venues since being announced as host nation in 2004.

But question marks have been raised about the country's ability to stage the world's most famous tournament.

There were even rumours they would be axed as hosts after FIFA executives including Germany legend Franz Beckenbauer expressed concern over the planning, organisation and pace of South Africa's preparations.

Mokoena, who led the side to the semi-finals of this year's Confederations Cup, expects the competition to be a resounding success and has called on South Africa's neighbours to show

their support.

"We are not only representing South Africa, we are representing the African continent," he said.

"It's not only about South Africa, we need all the support we can get from African countries. This is important for all of us, we are carrying the flag."

"We realise the world is watching - but I'm sure we'll be ready to make sure it becomes a successful World Cup in Africa."

"We have all seen the World Cup, it is our chance to be part of that now and to host it is fantastic. It is a great challenge both on and off the pitch."

No African nation has ever lifted the World Cup and South Africa failed to get beyond the group stage in their two previous appearances at the finals in 1998 and 2002.

Mokoena, who has gone on to become South Africa's most capped player with 90 appearances since replacing the popular Lucas Radebe as captain, said: "As a football team, we'll be going out there and showing the world we have talent."

"We did well in the Confederations Cup and next year we will be going out there to compete with excellent players."

"It's a World Cup - we know it is a totally different ball game to the African Cup of Nations and the Confederations Cup."

"But we are the hosts. This is a boost for us and it's going to be hard - so we must go out there and do the business."

Mokoena has joined a Portsmouth team who are facing a battle to hold onto their top flight status after losing star players Glen Johnson, Sol Campbell and Peter Crouch during the close-season.

But the 28-year-old is relishing the challenge, saying: "I have been waiting a long time to play for this club."

"A few of the established players have gone but Pompey are an established team. It is going to be a challenge but I am sure we can do well."

Massa back in Brazil

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son would just undergo check-ups at the hospital but would not be admitted for a lengthy stay, and that he would return to his Sao Paulo home for convalescence.

The Brazilian driver was struck by a suspension spring which had worked its way off Rubens Barrichello's Brawn GP resulting in Massa crashing his Ferrari into a tire barrier during a qualifying lap in Budapest on June 25.

He underwent emergency surgery in Budapest's A&E hospital for a fractured skull,

but within days was able to get up and walk around.

Seven-time world champion Michael Schumacher has agreed to return from retirement to fill in for his friend at Ferrari, starting with the European Grand Prix in Valencia on August 23.

Ferrari conducted an interview with him in the Budapest hospital before his release and made it available to media.

Asked about the accident, Massa said he did not remember anything.

"I know that something happened to me, but I didn't

feel anything when it happened. They told me that I lost consciousness at the moment of the spring's impact on my helmet and I ran into the barriers, then I woke up in hospital two days later," he said.

He added that he was feeling better and "I want to recover as soon as possible to get back behind the wheel of a Ferrari."

As soon as he returned to Brazil, he said, "I want to get back to a normal life. I want to get back into the best possible condition, doing things you do every day."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 37 Ella's style 56 Tummy muscles 10 Star-in-the-making 11 "Gypsy" composer 17 "Fuhgeddaboutit!" 19 Shoelace tip 21 S.A. nation 22 Round Table address 24 "I — Camera" 26 Big — (hot shot) 28 Wan 30 Heat source 32 Rapture 33 Knock vegetable 34 Pigs' digs 36 Triads, e.g. 1899 fighters 39 Host 40 Measure 42 Be nosy 45 Nitwit 46 Sea flock 48 Genetic stuff 50 Sleuth (SI.) 51 Ordinal suffix

DOWN 1 Scepter topper 2 Chart format 3 Blackout of a sort 4 Keep in check 5 Gladiators' venue 6 Fairy tale sister 7 Pleasant 8 Japanese 9 Scent 10 OTIS TAG 11 PARE ONE BARE 12 EXIT AIR ICON 13 DISOWN MODEMS 14 RIFF FACEMASK 15 ETTA RDA ROE 16 FACEBOOK IDOLY 17 ERR EMS 18 BALAAM WOODEN 19 ISIS ABA BITE 20 LIFE GEL ANNA 21 LATS INK REAL

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