

# Warner blitz in Australia's day

Cricket

REUTERS, Perth

David Warner smashed the fastest Test century by an opening batsman as Australia humbled India on the first day of the third Test on Friday, dismissing the tourists for 161 before racing to within 12 runs of that tally.

Warner's 69-ball century was the joint fourth-fastest ever in Tests and, despite a knock on the head from a Umesh Yadav bouncer, he finished the day on 104 not out with Ed Cowan unbeaten on 40 and the hosts sitting pretty on 149 without loss.

The 25-year-old left-hander, playing his fifth Test, lit up the afternoon as he put the Indian bowlers to the sword and was cheered to rafters when brought up the hundred with a huge six, one of three in an innings which also included 13 fours.

"We had to capitalise on what the bowlers did," said Warner. "I've always said if the ball's in my zone, I'm going to go after it and that's what I did.

"Here at the WACA, you're going to get value for your shots. I just backed my game, backed my instincts and I'm a hundred not out."

After captain Michael Clarke had won the toss and sent India in to bat on a lively green wicket, Australia barely put a foot wrong throughout a hot and humid day at the WACA.

Pacemen Ben Hilfenhaus, Peter Siddie, Ryan Harris and Mitchell Starc, who was preferred to spinner Nathan Lyon, set the tone for a dominant day when they shared the 10 Indian wickets between them.

Already 2-0 down in the four-match series after heavy defeats in Melbourne and Sydney, India needed a much better showing to get themselves back into the series and their vaunted batsmen will again rue some poor shots.

"In my mind, I think they're



PHOTO: REUTERS

Australia opener David Warner shows delight after reaching his hundred against India on the first day of the third Test at the WACA in Perth yesterday. Warner's 100 off 69 balls is the fastest ever by an opener.

bowled over already," a confident Warner added. "Time will tell if we win 4-0 or if we win 3-0. Hopefully we can capitalise on the start we've got and get this Test out of the way."

Virender Sehwag, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar and Gautam Gambhir were all removed at the cost of 73 runs by lunch before Virat Kohli and VVS Laxman launched something of a fightback by putting on 67 for the fifth wicket.

Siddie (3-42) removed them both - Kohli for 44, Laxman for 31 - in a key spell before tea and the last four wickets tumbled for 17 runs in a little more than five overs after the second break.

"The wicket got easier to bat on as the day went by," said Kohli. "We needed to execute our shots better after that big partnership. These kind of things happen but unfortu-

nately it has happened a lot to us recently."

Hilfenhaus (4-43) had struck as early as the fourth over of the morning to despatch Sehwag for a duck and later returned to end the stubborn resistance of the other Indian opener, Gambhir, for 31.

Gambhir's departure was the second of two wickets just before lunch after Harris had trapped Tendulkar lbw for 15 to end the batting maestro's 22nd attempt to secure his century of centuries.

The morning session was punctuated with loud lbw appeals but Dravid continued his recent trend of being bowled out, this time for nine runs when a Siddie yorker breached his defences.

It was the fourth time in five innings in the series that Dravid had been bowled - the fifth if you count

the Siddie dismissal that was ruled out for a no ball in the first Test.

India also chose to go with four quicks, handing right-armers R Vinay Kumar his debut in place of spinner Ravi Ashwin in a side otherwise unchanged from the first two Tests.

Ashwin's batting was sorely missed after tea when Vinay Kumar (5) gave Starc his first wicket of the day with captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni following him to pavilion soon afterwards, caught in the slips off Hilfenhaus for 12.

Zaheer Khan (2) was Hilfenhaus's fourth victim with Starc (2-39) mopping up the final wicket when he had Ishant Sharma caught behind for three.

## SCOREBOARD

INDIA: First innings				
Gambhir c Haddin b Hilfenhaus				31
Sehwag c Ponting b Hilfenhaus				0
Dravid b Siddie				9
Tendulkar lbw Harris				15
Laxman c Clarke b Siddie				31
Kohli c Warner b Siddie				44
Dhoni c Ponting b Hilfenhaus				12
Vinay lbw Starc				5
Zaheer c Clarke b Hilfenhaus				2
Sharma c Haddin b Starc				3
Yadav not out				4
Extras: (b-2, lb-2, w-1)				5
Total: (All out in 60.2 overs)				161
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-32, 3-59, 4-63, 5-131, 6-138, 7-152, 8-152, 9-157.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Harris	18	6	33	1
Hilfenhaus	18	5	43	4
Starc	12.2	3	39	2
Siddie	12	3	42	3

## AUSTRALIA: First innings

Warner not out				104
Cowan not out				40
Extras: (lb-3, w-2)				5
Total: (For no loss in 23 overs)				149
To bat: Marsh, Ponting, Clarke, Hussey, Haddin, Siddie, Harris, Starc, Hilfenhaus.				

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Zaheer	7	1	44	0
Yadav	6	1	42	0
Vinay	4	0	31	0
Sharma	5	0	28	0
Sehwag	1	0	10	0

## AUSSIE OPEN DRAW Federer, Nadal in same half

AFP, Melbourne

Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal are in the same half of a grand slam draw for the first time in seven years in the selection made Friday for next week's Australian Open in Melbourne.

Defending champion Novak Djokovic will have world number four Andy Murray in his top half of the men's singles draw, while world number two Nadal and third seed Federer were placed in the bottom half.

It is the first time since the 2005 French Open that 16-time grand slam champion Federer and 10-time major winner Nadal have been pitted in the same half of a grand slam draw.

Djokovic, who won three of the four grand slams and five Masters titles in 2011, will begin his Australian Open title defence against Italy's Paolo Lorenzi.

Nadal and Federer will start against qualifiers, while Murray, bidding to become Britain's first male major-winner since Fred Perry in 1936, takes on American Ryan Harrison.

Djokovic is drawn to face Spanish fifth seed David Ferrer in the quarter-finals and Murray could face former finalist Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, the French sixth seed in the last eight.

The Australian Open gets under way on Monday.

# India need rub of the green

Cricket

AFP, Perth

It was another black day on what is proving to be a disastrous Australian tour, but Indian batsman Virat Kohli said Friday his embattled team were just a good side out of luck.

After being thrashed by 122 runs in Melbourne and then an innings and 68 runs in Sydney in the opening two Tests, it seemed things could not get any worse for the tourists.

However, the first day in the third Perth Test Friday saw the Indians plummet to new lows as they were routed for just 161.

They were then powerless to prevent rampant David Warner from belting a 69-ball century as the home side finished the opening day just 12 runs in arrears with all 10 wickets in hand.

Kohli topscored for India with 44 and combined for a 68-run fifth wicket stand with V.V.S. Laxman that temporarily revived the tourists' hopes.

He said his dismissal to break up that partnership was the pivotal point of the day for India.

Although Warner said he felt the Indians were already mentally "gone", Kohli said they were just having an extended run of bad luck.

"We had a big partnership and then lost two wickets just before tea," he said.

"Sometimes it doesn't go your way and sometimes it does.

"Luck is a very important thing in cricket, but unfortunately it hasn't been going our way in important phases.

"We have lost wicket before breaks, after breaks, just before lunch, just before tea, we have lost important wickets at important times," said Kohli.

"That is all that has been happening, it is not a matter of temperament or technique, things just haven't been going our way."

Six-Test veteran Kohli said it wasn't even the worst day of his short Test career, let alone his entire time playing cricket.

"It is just one day, there are still four days left of Test match cricket.

"I don't rate it as the worst day of Test match cricket I have experienced," he said.

## Lara bats

FROM PAGE 16

them," said Lara.

"But Sachin is a great player. Obviously, if he had wanted to score it (100th century) against the West Indies he would have played in the one-day series. We will have to wait for it and appreciate it. Even if it doesn't happen, it doesn't make him a lesser player."

"He has 99 centuries.

Anyone would love to have a record like that. For me, he is the best player in the world, at least the best batsman," said Lara, who was in the city to attend a function.

# Warner kills WACA demons

Cricket

AFP, Perth

After blasting the second-fastest Test century at the WACA Ground Australian opener David Warner said Friday he went into the third Test against India with serious doubts about his ability to perform in Perth.

The WACA Ground is renowned for its pace and bounce and Warner had little experience in Perth heading into the match, having not previously played a first-class game here.

His fears were compounded when he struggled for form in the nets before the match, culminating in being bowled by Mitchell Starc.

"I said 'I give up, I can't work in this environment'," he said of his reaction when Starc bowled him.

"I couldn't lay bat on ball.

"I also said to (teammate) Mike Hussey that I'd batted here a couple of times and not scored any runs."

Warner cast aside those form doubts to launch a blistering attack on the Indian bowlers, reaching his century in just 69 balls and less than a session at the crease.

He brought up his second ton in five Tests, and the equal fourth-fastest in Test history, with a booming hit over long-on from debutant Vinay Kumar for his third six of the innings.

The New South Welshman believes the turning point was his decision to have a bat during the optional net session on the eve of the Test.

"It wasn't the pace and bounce, it was my head and my balance and getting still," he said.

"JL (batting coach Justin Langer) and (coach) Mickey Arthur said I was falling away and over my front leg.

## FASTEST CENTURIES

Deliveries	Player	Team	Opposition	Date	Venue
56	Viv Richards	West Indies	England	1986	St John's
57	Adam Gilchrist	Australia	England	2006	Perth
67	Jack Gregory	Australia	South Africa	1921	Johannesburg
69	S Chanderpaul	West Indies	Australia	2003	Georgetown
69	David Warner	Australia	India	2012	Perth
70	Chris Gayle	West Indies	Australia	2010	Perth
71	Roy Fredericks	West Indies	Australia	1975	Perth
74	Majid Khan	Pakistan	New Zealand	1976	Karachi
74	Kapil Dev	India	Sri Lanka	1986	Kanpur
74	Md Azharuddin	India	South Africa	1996	Kolkata

"That is what I was working on this week.

"I found it in the last session, I wasn't going to have an optional net, I was going to stay at home and clear my mind.

"But I said to myself I really needed to go down there and have that last hit and I hit for two hours."

The only setback for Warner was when he was hit in the head by Umesh Yadav on 80 and appeared groggy as play was stopped for a few minutes for treatment.

However, it took him just seven more balls after the resumption to reach his century.

Warner said banter with Indians Virat Kohli and Ishant Sharma early in his innings only helped motivate him and his fellow opener Ed Cowan.

"Virat was saying to us 'you can talk about your averages and this and that but when we go to India it's going to be a different story'," Warner recounted.

"With myself and Ed, if you start having a go at us we actually enjoy that. "We love a little contest out there and we love to grind it back in their faces and that's what we've done today."

## Trott just misses out

FROM PAGE 16

fourth wicket stand of 71, lifting their team from a precarious 16-3 after being set 251 to win in a possible of 63 overs.

Onions dismissed Afaq Raheem (7) and Mohammad Ayub (0) and in between Tremlett accounted for Nasir Jamshed (0) before Alam-Salahuddin stand delayed the inevitable.

Alam, who hit a Test debut hundred in 2009 before being discredited, hit seven boundaries before mistiming a drive off Pietersen and was caught by Trott, to end any chance of PCB XI drawing the match.

Panesar mopped up the tail with figures of 3-46.

Alastair Cook hit a hundred and Panesar took 5-57 in the first innings to ensure the England players had a good work out before the Test series.

## SCORES IN BRIEF

ENGLAND: First innings 269

PCB XI: First innings 200

ENGLAND: Second innings 181 for 3 decl (Strauss 62,

Trott 93; Shah 3-38)

PCB XI: Second innings 150 (Salahuddin 32, Fawad 51,

Hasan 22; Tremlett 2-32, Onions 3-38, Panesar 3-46)

Result: England won by 100 runs.



PHOTO: REUTERS

Victoria Azarenka of Belarus kisses the trophy after beating Li Na of China at the Sydney International final yesterday. Azarenka won 6-2, 1-6, 6-3.

## Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 16

despite finishing in the sixth and seventh position respectively as the top finishers of the 10m Air Rifle had already earned their quota places through different tournaments.

Ismailov qualified for the shoot-off having scored 594 in the qualification and then struck 120.5 to score a combined total of 696.5 to earn the London Olympic quota spot.

Bayara scored a total of 695.8 593 in qualification and 102.8 in the shoot-off to finish seventh and earned the quota place.

## Amnesty

FROM PAGE 16

report approaches related to corrupt activities.

But the governing body, at a meeting Thursday, established a "window" until April 30 whereby players can report previous approaches without the threat of ECB punishment.

Chris Watts, information manager to the ECB's Anti-Corruption Commission for Education, Standards and Security (ACCESS), said: "Information is critical in addressing the threat posed by corruption in sport.

"The decision of the board to provide a window for retrospective reporting of alleged approaches will greatly assist the ACCESS unit in compiling a more complete picture of the source and focus of approaches which may have taken place in the past.

"Individuals may not have thought these approaches were worthy of reporting at the time and, prior to the decision of the board, may have been concerned that the fact that they did not report such activity may have put them at risk of disciplinary action. "I am working closely with the PCA (Professional Cricketers Association) to provide players and officials with this opportunity to work with our ACCESS unit to ensure that we work together to address the threat created by corruption in sport."

## Russel win

FROM PAGE 16

Tito's counterpart Maruful Haque, the Sheikh Russel coach, was less than ecstatic: "We were not concerned about Abahani, because we know any opposition is difficult in the knock-out stage. However, despite the victory I am not fully satisfied with the performance because we did not dominate the game."