

England's solid reply

Cricket

AFP, London

England captain Andrew Strauss was nearing the end of an 18-month century drought as his side strengthened their grip on the first Test against the West Indies at Lord's here on Friday.

Strauss was 78 not out in a total of 167 for one that left England just 76 runs behind West Indies' first innings 243 at tea on the second day.

The opening batsman was thriving in the familiar surroundings of his Middlesex home ground and together with Jonathan Trott (50 not out) had added an unbroken 120 for the second wicket.

Left-hander Strauss scored the last of his 19 Test hundreds against Australia at Brisbane in November 2010.

After Stuart Broad wrapped up the West Indies innings with the first ball of Friday's play, England made a steady start to their reply.

The only wicket to fall in their innings thus far came when Alastair Cook was out for 26 after inside-edging a cut off Kemar Roach into his stumps.

England, 80 for one at lunch, initially found runs hard to come by after the resumption, with the floodlights now switched on to counter the gathering gloom.

Indeed Trott was twice fortunate not to be out for his interval score of 17.

West Indies captain Darren Sammy saw an lbw appeal against Trott rejected by Pakistani umpire Aleem Dar and called for a review.

But as replays showed the ball would have only just clipped leg stump, Dar's original verdict was upheld.

Trott hadn't added to his total when there was a half-hearted appeal for a catch behind. Dar was not interested and this time there was no review request, even though replays indicated a nick.

Strauss meanwhile carried on in serene fashion against a willing, if largely unthreatening, West Indies attack.

His straight driven four off Sammy was a textbook shot and a leg-glanced boundary off his rival captain, the ninth of his innings, saw Strauss complete a 97-ball fifty.

Sammy brought on part-time off-spinner Marlon Samuels -- the tourists had omitted specialist spinner Shane Shillingford from their XI -- as his seamers struggled to make the ball swing.

But when Samuels dropped short, Trott eased him off the back foot through the covers for four and later an increasingly assured Strauss advanced down the pitch to loft him over mid-on for a four that saw the second-wicket partnership to a century stand.

Trott, after his double 'escape', was rarely troubled and completed a 105-ball fifty featuring six boundaries.

Earlier West Indies, who resumed on 243 for nine, saw No 11 Shannon Gabriel's maiden Test innings end in a golden duck when he edged Broad to Graeme Swann at second slip.

As a result, Shivnarine Chanderpaul remained stranded on his overnight score of 87 not. The left-hander, officially the world's best Test batsman, was in for more than four hours and

struck 12 boundaries.

Fast-medium bowler Broad's figures of seven for 72 were his best in Tests, surpassing his six for 46 against India at his Nottinghamshire home ground of Trent Bridge last year.

During the course of this return, Broad, son of former England opening batsman Chris, became only the seventh player in history to take both five or more wickets in a Test innings and score a Test century at Lord's.

Broad made 169 -- his highest Test score -- against Pakistan at Lord's two years ago.

SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES: First Innings
(overnight 243-9)

Barath c Anderson b Broad	42
Powell b Anderson	5
Edwards lbw b Anderson	1
Bravo run out	29
Chanderpaul not out	87
Samuels c Bairstow b Broad	31
Ramdin c Strauss b Broad	6
Sammy c Bresnan b Broad	17
Roach c and b Broad	6
Edwards c Prior b Broad	2
Gabriel c Swann b Broad	0
Extras: (b-6, lb-8, nb-3)	17
Total: (All out in 89.5 overs)	243
Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-32, 3-86, 4-100, 5-181, 6-187, 7-219, 8-231, 9-243.	

Bowler

O	M	R	W	
Anderson	25	8	59	2
Broad	24.5	6	72	7
Bresnan	20	7	39	0
Swann	18	6	52	0
Trott	2	0	7	0

ENGLAND: First Innings

Strauss not out	78
Cook b Roach	26
Trott not out	50
Extras: (b-9, lb-1, nb-3)	13
Total: (For 1 wkt in 51 overs)	167
Fall of wickets: 1-47.	
To bat: Pietersen, Bell, Bairstow, Prior, Bresnan, Broad, Swann, Anderson.	

Bowler

O	M	R	W	
Edwards	9	0	33	0
Roach	12	2	37	1
Gabriel	10	0	22	0



England fast bowler Stuart Broad (R) celebrates taking the last West Indian wicket during the second day of the first Test at Lord's yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Broad's unique double

AFP, London

Stuart Broad became only the seventh player in history to have taken five or more wickets in a Test innings at Lord's and scored a Test century on the ground, after completing bowling figures of seven for 72 against the West Indies here on Friday.

The complete list is as follows (first recorded instances in each case):

- Gubby Allen (ENG), 5-35 v IND 1936; 122 v NZL 1931
- Keith Miller (AUS), 5-72 v ENG 1956; 109 v ENG 1953
- Vinoo Mankad (IND), 5-196 v ENG 1952; 184 v ENG 1952
- Ray Illingworth (ENG), 6-29 v IND 1967; 113 v WIS 1969
- Ian Botham (ENG), 8-34 v PAK 1978; 108 v PAK 1978
- Andrew Flintoff (ENG), 5-92 v AUS 2009; 142 v RSA 2003
- Stuart Broad (ENG), 7-72 v WIS 2012; 169 v PAK 2010

LOCAL SNIPPETS

FROM PAGE 16
beating Bejgaon Union 3-2 in tiebreakers in the final yesterday. The match was tied 1-1 in normal time. Local member of parliament Shagufta Yasmin Emily witnessed the match and later distributed prizes among the winners.

MSC-BU share

FROM PAGE 16
saw Alfaz Ahmed squander a sitter from hand-shaking distance in the 51st minute. But, Nigerian Victory didn't fail to put Brothers ahead as he superbly volleyed a Jamal Hossain cross home from inside the box in the 59th minute. After conceding the lead, M o h a m m e d a c o a c h Ehma sent Rony in place of Alfaz and the former Sheikh Russel striker made an immediate impact as he scored with a close-range header on 71st minute. Mohammed were unlucky not to leave the field with full three points as a shot from Okalawon came off the bar just four minutes before the end of play.

Broad salutes Shiv

Cricket

AFP, London

Stuart Broad urged England to learn from the example of West Indies star Shivnarine Chanderpaul after the two men dominated the opening day's play in the first Test at Lord's here on Thursday.

Fast bowling all-rounder Broad took six for 72 as West Indies closed on a total of 243 for nine built upon 87 not out from Chanderpaul, officially the world's best Test batsman.

Broad's return meant he became only the seventh player in history to both take five wickets in a Test innings at Lord's and score a Test century at the ground -- his Test-best knock of 169 against Pakistan was achieved at 'the home of cricket' two years ago.

Now Broad, whose current Test-best bowling innings return of six for 46 came at his Nottinghamshire home ground of Trent Bridge last year, could take seven wickets for the first time if he dismisses either Chanderpaul or debutant number 11 Shannon Gabriel on Friday.

Broad is only the fifth Englishman to get his name on both Lord's batting and bowling honours boards, following in the path of Ian Botham and Andrew Flintoff.

"To follow Fred (Flintoff) and Beefy (Botham) in the England dressing room is a huge honour but more importantly we got nine wickets on the first day," Broad, the 25-year-old son of former England opening batsman Chris, said.

"But we talked at the start that Lord's is never like that and it's a bit of a patience game."

"We aimed for seven wickets in the day. We probably didn't start as well as we could have done by the standards we set -- certainly myself, I probably got driven too much -- but that probably came from the wicket being a lot slower than we imagined so we searched for a nick."

"As the wicket got a bit quicker you could settle into a better length and to pick up nine we are delighted, but Shiv has played very well and we don't want him to get a hundred."

Left-hander Chanderpaul, just the 10th man in history to score 10,000 Test runs, has so far batted for over four hours, facing 175 balls with a dozen fouls in a trademark display of obdurate defiance.

"He plays it so late in swinging conditions," said Broad. "That's something we can learn as a batting group although we have a great record here as a batting group. He's very hard to draw into a shot which is why he's No. 1 in the world... He gets to 20-30 without you really realising."

Adrian Barath's 42 was West Indies' second-top score Thursday and the 22-year-old opener, playing his first Test in England, was disappointed to have been caught in the slips off Broad shortly after lunch.

"Unfortunately I didn't carry on and get a bigger score," said Barath, 36 of whose runs Thursday came in boundaries.

"I need to take it step by step and carry on to the second innings and help West Indies win the game."

Trinidad's Barath said he had tried to learn from Guyana great Chanderpaul.

"He has talked about leaving the ball a bit later, picking the areas you are looking to score and having a lot of patience."

Reflecting on Chanderpaul's innings, Barath added: "It was fabulous to look at. While he is playing himself in, he still knocks the ball around and picks up singles, twos and so and before you know it he is 20 or 30."

"That is the sort of approach young guys have to look at and learn. Ninety percent of his game is mental."

"He does not want to come and blast the bowling around. It is waiting for the deliveries, and having the patience. He has the right set-up to make runs in these conditions. Everyone can take a page out of his book."

Liu seeks the sparkle

Athletics

AFP, Shanghai

Chinese superstar Liu Xiang faces a huge test of his Olympic credentials when he lines up against reigning 110m hurdles world champion Jason Richardson at Shanghai's Diamond League meeting on Saturday.

The 2004 Olympic gold-medallist has hit form as he bids to erase his injury heartbreak of 2008 and will be backed by his home crowd as he faces America's Richardson as well as Aries Merritt, the newly crowned world indoor champion.

Liu, who was forced out of the Beijing Olympics by an Achilles injury in front of a packed Bird's Nest Stadium, was second behind Merritt in March and cruised to victory at the World Challenge in Japan this month.

"I'm very happy to be on my home field for the Shanghai Diamond League competition,"

Liu, 28, told a news conference on Friday.

"This time, each athlete has very strong power. For me, I just want to give full play to my training for the best performance."

On Saturday, he can lay down an important marker against Richardson, who took gold in last year's highly contentious world championships final in Daegu, South Korea.

Liu finished second after he was obstructed by Olympic champion Dayron Robles, who was disqualified over the clash.

The Chinese heads a star-studded line-up in Shanghai, nearly two months before the Olympics get under way in London.

"It will be interesting to see how everybody performs," said Norwegian Andreas Thorkildsen, the 2008 Olympic javelin champion.

The women's 200m is shaping up as a duel between Jamaican Olympic champion Veronica Campbell-Brown and American Carmelita Jeter, the 100m world title-holder, in a preview of the two countries' rivalry at the Games.



Chittagong players celebrate after winning the Young Tigers U-14 District Cricket Championship title beating Mymensingh by seven wickets in the final at the Dhamondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

U-14 CRICKET Ctg emerge champs

SPORTS REPORTER

Chittagong team emerged champions in the Young Tigers U-14 District Cricket Championship beating Mymensingh team by seven wickets in the final at the Dhamondi Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Winning the toss, Mymensingh chose to bat first and put on 164 for the loss of six wickets, with Mominul Islam scoring 44 and Rajib Hossain adding 38. Mujahidul Islam took three wickets conceding only 16 runs.

Chittagong's reply was quick as they raced to the victory target in 29.1 overs losing only three wickets. Safayetuddin top-scored with 66 while Naemuddin added 44. Safayetuddin was adjudged the man of the match for his 66-run knock.

The U-16 and U-18 District finals will be played today. Narayananj will take on Mymensingh in the U-16 final at the Gulshan Youth Club Ground while Chittagong and Khulna will vie for the title of the U-18 at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

'Pakistan getting sharper'

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan's one-day and Test captain Misbahul Haq said Friday he was pleased with his team's progress in fielding and fitness as they prepare for next month's tour of Sri Lanka.

Misbah, who turns 38 later this month, is one of the best fielders in the team but Pakistan's overall standard is well short of top teams like Australia, England and their upcoming opponents Sri Lanka.

In March, Pakistan hired former Surrey fielding coach Julian Fountain to give them a lift in that department, but Misbah, replaced as Twenty20 captain by Mohammad Hafeez, insisted it had been a priority for some time.

"Whether it was under Waqar Younis (former coach) and Ijaz Ahmed (fielding coach) everyone did a good job and now Julian is doing a great job and I think we have shown good improvement in fielding and fitness," Misbah told reporters.

Misbah said Pakistan will have to be on top form to compete against Sri Lanka.

"We have to be at our best in all departments because Sri Lanka is a tough opponent no matter where you play them and in their own country they are even tougher," he said.

Aus cricketer in assault charge

AFP, New Delhi



Indian police on Friday arrested and charged Australian cricketer Luke Pomersbach with molesting a woman and beating up her fiancé

after a late-night party at a posh New Delhi hotel. The 27-year-old batsman, who has one international cap for Australia, is signed up in the Indian Premier League (IPL) for the Royal Challengers Bangalore team, which took on the Delhi Daredevils on Thursday night.

He faces up to three years in jail after being charged with molestation, assault and house-breaking after allegedly groping a 27-year-old American woman during an after-game party at the ITC Maurya Hotel, a police statement said.

"We have arrested Luke Pomersbach for assaulting a woman and beating up the fiancé who objected to his action," police spokesman Rajan Bhagat told AFP.

The powerfully built cricketer, wearing a heavy bandage on his right arm, later appeared in a central Delhi court where he fainted. He was granted bail until Saturday.

"My client is denying the charges against him," Pomersbach's lawyer Ajay Bhargava told AFP. "We have received interim bail and my client has to appear in court tomorrow."

Pomersbach has battled depression and drug problems and narrowly avoided a jail sentence in Australia after admitting to assaulting a police officer who was trying to arrest him for drink-driving.

He arrived in India saying he was now "on top of things", adding that he was determined to make the most of the money-spinning league in order to get his career back on track.

The alleged victim told the Times Now news channel that Pomersbach had "tagged along" with her and her Mumbai-based fiancé and had suddenly grabbed her while they drank together in their hotel room.

"My fiancé said, 'hey listen, you shouldn't treat any girl like that. Why don't you just leave...'"

"When he said that, he (Pomersbach) turned around and started hitting him. He hit him so many times, punched him on his face, that his ear, he got injured in his ear."

The man is in a stable condition in a private New Delhi hospital, but was complaining about losing hearing in his left ear, doctors said.

Royal Challengers Bangalore team manager Avinash Vaidya declined to comment on the incident.

Pomersbach has not featured for Bangalore in this season's IPL, which has

again hit the headlines for the wrong reasons and is being dubbed the "Indian Problem League" by some commentators.

Earlier this week, five Indian players signed to IPL teams were suspended after an undercover TV report alleged they were prepared to take money for spot-fixing, an illegal practice in which parts of the game are fixed.

On Wednesday night, Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, who is co-owner of the Kolkata Knight Riders franchise, was involved in an ugly late-night row with officials at Mumbai's main cricket stadium.

The annual IPL tournament also faces allegations of massive corporate corruption, money-laundering and tax evasion, as well as secret deals to hide teams' real owners and even links to India's criminal underworld.

Chargers sail past Royals

SPORTS DESK

Riding on some superb bowling from Dale Steyn the Deccan Chargers coasted to a 5 wicket win over the Rajasthan Royals in their IPL game at Hyderabad yesterday.

Steyn took 2-16 off his four overs as the Chargers restricted the Royals to just 126 from their 20 overs.

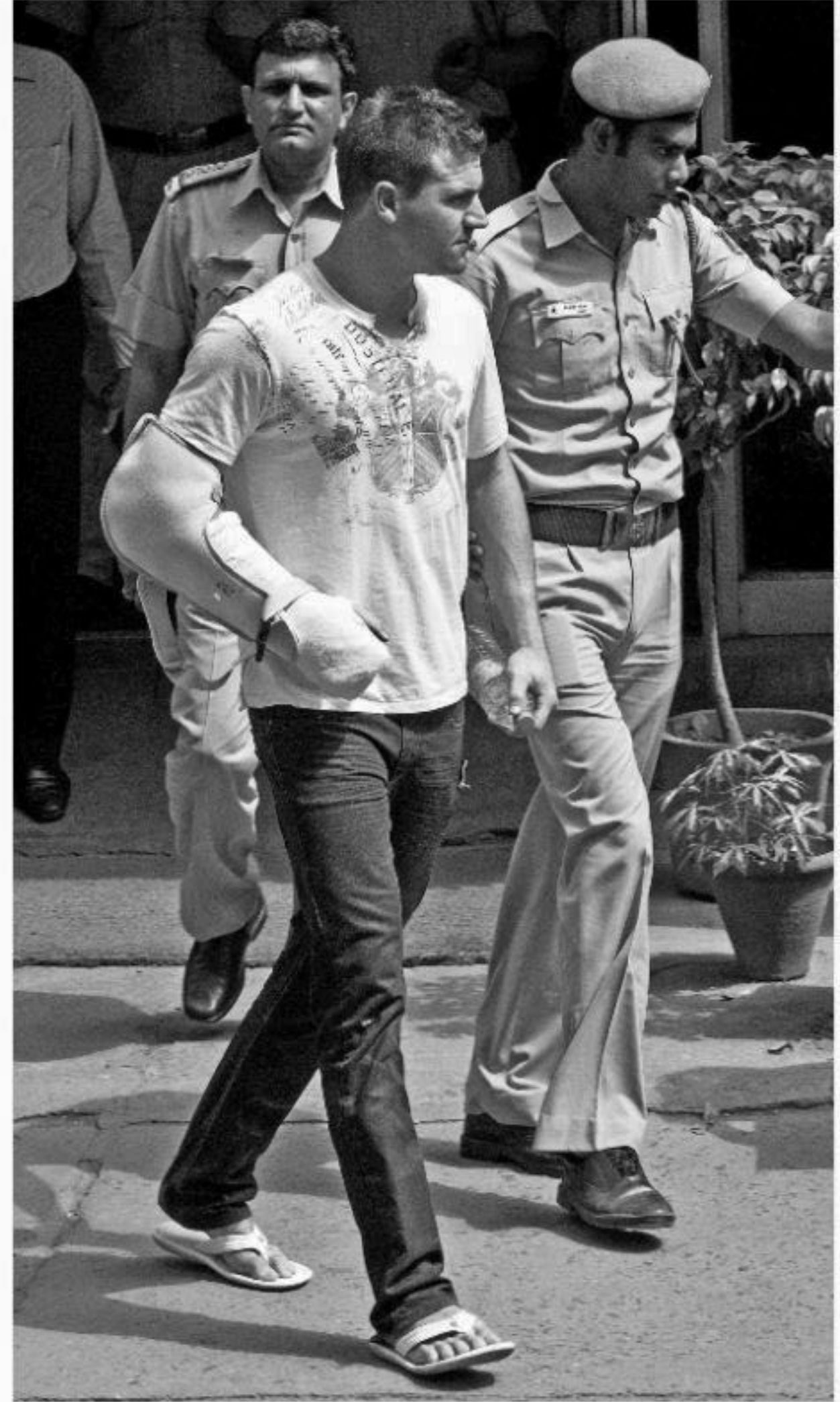
A good opening partnership of 63 from Akash Reddy and Shikhar Dhawan then set the tone for the Chargers win, despite a minor hiccup in the middle.

Batting first, the Royals were always struggling after Steyn struck an early blow to remove Ajinkya Rahane. Only his opening partner Rahul Dravid put up a modicum of a challenge with a typically fighting 39. Shane Watson had joined Dravid to repair the innings but some intelligent bowling from Amit Mishra sent the dangerous Australian back to the pavilion. The Royals never recovered and inched to 126 mostly due to some sensible batting from Owais Shah.

In reply, the Chargers started extremely well with both Reddy and Dhawan playing responsibly. However, after losing their first wicket on 63, the Chargers found themselves suddenly three down for 88 in the thirteenth over. But South African JP Duminy kept his nerve to see the Chargers through safely.

SCORES IN BRIEF
RAJASTHAN ROYALS: 126 for 8 in 20 overs (Dravid 42; Steyn 2-16)

DECCAN CHARGERS: 128 for 5 in 18.4 overs (Reddy 42; Trivedi 2-20)



Australia and Royal Challengers Bangalore batsman Luke Pomersbach (C) is escorted by police to a court in New Delhi yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP