

Australia claim four after Hussey ton

Cricket

AFP, Hobart

Four Sri Lankan wickets rewarded a Mike Hussey-induced declaration to have Australia in a powerful position after the second day of the first Hobart Test on Saturday.

Veteran Hussey's fifth century in six Tests against Sri Lanka enabled skipper Michael Clarke to call a halt to Australia's first innings at 450 for five off 131 overs, some 30 minutes before tea on a rain-interrupted day.

Clarke's call was backed by his bowlers who captured the wickets of Dimuth Karunaratne and the prized scalps of Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene and Thilan Samaraweera in the final session.

At the close, Sri Lanka were 87 for four with Tillakaratne Dilshan not out 50 with Samaraweera out in the day's final over.

Dilshan reached his 50 off 82 balls when he hooked Shane Watson for four in the penultimate over of the day.

Evergreen Hussey continued to flourish this southern summer with an unbeaten 115 for his 19th Test century and third in the last month to share in a 146-run stand with wicketkeeper Matthew Wade (68).

In his six Tests against Sri Lanka, Hussey has scored five centuries at 109.62.

Hussey, batting better than ever at the age of 37, audaciously raised his hundred with a pull off Shaminda Eranga. Angelo Mathews looked set to take the catch on the mid-wicket boundary ropes but fumbled the chance, allowing the ball to bounce



PHOTO: AFP

Australia batsman Mike Hussey (R) celebrates his century against Sri Lanka during the second day of the first Test in Hobart yesterday.

over for four to bring up Hussey's 100.

Hussey's knock came off 184 balls with eight fours and a six.

Wade, who had a life on 20 when he was dropped by fielding substitute Suraj Randiv at mid-wicket off Chanaka Welegedara near lunch, raised his second Test half-century.

Clarke was the only Australian wicket to fall out in the day's third over when he edged Eranga to Sangakkara low down at first slip. The Australian skipper's 74 off 145 balls took his tally to 1,432 runs this calendar year at 102.28 with a possibility of three more Test innings to come before year's end.

Clarke had been on track for his fifth century of 2012, three of them

double-centuries, along with his Test highest score of 329 not out against India in Sydney last January.

Sri Lanka began boldly but rookie opener Karunaratne was out for 14 in the 10th over when he nibbled at Ben Hilfenhaus and was snapped up by Wade. The Australians struck two killer blows late in the day with the key wickets of Sangakkara and Jayawardene.

Sangakkara, who scored 192 in his previous Test innings at Hobart five years ago, went cheaply for four when he sliced Peter Siddle to Hussey's safe hands in the gully to leave the Sri Lankans at 42 for two. It got worse for the tourists when Watson trapped Jayawardene leg before wicket for 12 in the 23rd over.

Bowler O M R W
Kulasekara 32 2 80 0
Welegedara 26 1 130 3
Eranga 25 5 90 1
Mathews 15 3 41 0
Dilshan 7 0 30 0
Herath 26 4 75 0

SRILANKA: First innings

Karunaratne c Wade b Hilfenhaus 14
Dilshan not out 50
Sangakkara c Hussey b Siddle 4
M Jayawardene lbw Watson 12
Samaraweera c Wade b Lyon 7
Extras: 0
Total: (For 4 wkts in 29.1 overs) 87

Fall of wickets: 1-252-42-704-87.
To bat: Mathews, P Jayawardene, Kulasekara,

Welegedara, Eranga, Herath.

Bowler O M R W
Starc 7 1 30 0
Hilfenhaus 9 3 18 1
Lyon 2.1 2 0 1

applauded warmly by the crowd in excess of 20,000 before he was trapped leg before by the England off-spinner in the first over after the drinks break.

The departure of Kohli was followed soon by that of debutant Jadeja who was trapped leg before by James Anderson, the wrecker-in-chief on Friday with a three-wicket haul, with a ball that jagged back sharply into the left-hander when the floodlights were on. Dhoni, 98 at the fall of Jadeja's wicket, lost his wicket in his eagerness to get to his sixth Test ton. He drove Anderson to mid off but just failed to beat counterpart Alastair Cook's accurate throw to the non-striker's end.

India lost next batsman Piyush Chawla too, Swann clean bowling the batsman for his third wicket to bring down curtains to a dramatic last hour's play in which India surrendered

fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-59, 3-64, 4-71, 5-269, 6-288, 7-295, 8-297.

Bowler O M R W
Anderson 26 5 68 4
Bresnan 26 5 69 0
Panesar 46 15 67 0
Swann 30.1 9 76 3

Zoar, Fahad shine in Delhi

SPORTS REPORTER

Zoar Haque Prodhon became 3rd in the U-17 open group and Mohammad Fahad Rahman finished 3rd in the U-9 group of the Asian Schools Rapid Chess Championship which was held in Delhi, India last Friday.

Fahad earned 5 points from 6 games while Prodhon earned 4 points from 6 games.

Meanwhile, the classical games of the Asian Schools Chess Championship began on Saturday where both the players won their opening round boards.

Rangpur 7th

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edition of the league.

Sinha in an earlier press conference had stated that while the payment of the foreign players were completed, the local players would be paid their dues by December 30.

Kohli, Dhoni claw India back

to bail the team out of trouble.

With two days left in the game, India will seek to take a decent first innings lead and put pressure on England who need only a draw to record their first series triumph on Indian soil in 28 years.

Spinner Graeme Swann broke the marathon partnership when he trapped Kohli leg before while debutant Ravindra Jadeja (12) and Chawla (1) fell soon after to peg India back a little bit by the end of the day.

Kohli faced 295 balls and his third Test ton in 14 games was laced with 11 fours, while Dhoni came up with a captain's rear-guard knock that was inclusive of eight fours and a six and during which he faced 246 balls.

Kohli completed his hundred with a square cut for four off Swann and then jumped up in joy to be

the initiative to the visitors to some extent.

At close, Ashwin was on 7 after a stay of 29 minutes but with only Ishant Sharma and Pragyan Ojha to come, the home side may not be able to take the lead.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND: First innings 330 (Trott 44, Pietersen 73, Root 73, Prior 57, Swann 56; Sharma 3-49, Chawla 4-69)

INDIA: First innings (overnight 87 for 4)

Gambhir c Prior b Anderson 37

Sehwag b Anderson 0

Pujara c Bell b Swann 26

Tendulkar b Anderson 2

Kohli lbw b Swann 103

Dhoni run out (Cook) 99

Jadeja lbw b Anderson 12

Ashwin not out 7

Chawla b Swann 1

Extras: (b-5, lb-5) 10

Total: (For 4 wkts in 130.1 overs) 297

To bat: Sharma, Ojha.

Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-59, 3-64, 4-71, 5-269, 6-288, 7-295, 8-297.

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Underprivileged children run during a sports competition held at the Basabo Baloor Math yesterday to commemorate Victory Day. The programme was jointly organised by Population Services and Training Centre (PSTC) and Plan Bangladesh.

BFF ropes in Prime Bank

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has roped in Prime Bank as their latest partner in a bid for its overall development, especially to get the ball rolling at the district level, it was learnt. The deal, worth Tk 3 crores, will be used for the development of football, a big chunk of which will go to the district associations to run their leagues. Already Tk 1 lakh has been dispersed to 61 districts.

Samaraweera was out in the final over when he was surprised by spinner Nathan Lyon's extra bounce and was caught behind for seven. The signs were not looking good for Sri Lanka, who were chasing their first Test win in Australia at 11 attempts.

Play was extended after a total of 130 minutes were lost to rain in two delays during the day.

SCOREBOARD

AUSTRALIA: First innings (overnight 299)

Warner run out 57

Cowan c Eranga b Welegedara 4

Hughes b Welegedara 86

Watson c M Jayawardene b Welegedara 30

Clarke c Sangakkara b Eranga 74

Hussey not out 115

Wade not out 68

Extras: (b-1, lb-3, w-1, nb-11) 16

Total: (For 5 wkts in 131 overs) 450

Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-97, 3-183, 4-198, 5-304.

Did not bat: Siddle, Hilfenhaus, Starc, Lyon.

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Welegedara 26 1 130 3

Eranga 25 5 90 1

Mathews 15 3 41 0

Dilshan 7 0 30 0

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