



New Zealand batsman Dean Brownlie raises his bat after being dismissed for 109 on the third day of the first Test against South Africa in Cape Town yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Brownlie ton delays inevitable

Cricket

AFP, Cape Town

Dean Brownlie hit a maiden Test century for New Zealand but could not prevent a South African victory on the third day of the first Test at Newlands on Friday.

South Africa won by an innings and 27 runs as New Zealand were bowled out for 275 in their second innings. But the tourists made the South Africans toil almost until tea as they recovered some pride after a disastrous first innings of 45 all out.

Brownlie made 109 before falling to the second new ball four minutes before lunch. New Zealand lost their last six wickets for 46 runs.

Morne Morkel took the key wicket of Brownlie. There was more resistance from wicketkeeper BJ Watling and James Franklin before man of the match Vernon Philander struck twice in successive overs.

Dale Steyn took two more wickets and Chris Martin was run out without facing a ball as New Zealand's resistance finally crumbled.

Brownlie reached his century with two sixes in successive overs off left-arm spinner Robin Peterson.

The Australian-born batsman earned a congratulatory tweet from former captain Ross Taylor, who was unavailable for the tour after a controversy over his captaincy. "Great fight and well deserved mate," tweeted Taylor.

South Africa took the second new ball immediately it was due and Morkel made the

breakthrough with his fifth delivery when Brownlie cut a short ball to Peterson at deep backward point.

Watling provided doughty support as he and Brownlie defied the South African bowling attack for more than two and a half hours in a partnership of 74.

Brownlie and Watling showed superb discipline as they blunted some tight, hostile bowling.

Only 63 runs were added in 30 overs before lunch but it gave New Zealand hope of avoiding an innings defeat - which seemed a distant prospect after the first morning.

Brownlie, whose previous highest Test score was 77 not out against Australia in Brisbane in 2011/12, played a contrasting innings.

His first fifty was scored off only 44 balls, during which time he was twice dropped at gully. His second half-century was far more measured. His hundred was raised off 160 balls with 13 fours and two sixes.

With his score on 92, Brownlie took advantage of a short ball from Peterson to pull it for six over midwicket. In the next over he went down the wicket and hit the spinner for a straight six to raise his hundred.

He was dismissed after batting for 272 minutes. He faced 186 balls and did not add to his boundary tally.

Watling made 42 in 211 minutes off 151 balls before he edged an outswinger from Philander to Graeme Smith at first slip, virtually sealing New Zealand's fate.

Steyn was South Africa's most successful bowler, taking three for 67.

SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 45
SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 347-8 declared

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings (overnight 169-4)

Guptill c Amla b Steyn	0
McCullum lbw b Peterson	51
Williamson c Petersen b Kallis	15
Brownlie c Peterson b Morkel	109
Flynn c De Villiers b Kallis	14
Watling c Smith b Philander	42
Franklin b Steyn	22
Bracewell c Petersen b Philander	0
Patel b Steyn	8
Boult not out	2
Martin run out	0
Extras: (b-1, lb-8, w-3)	12
Total: (All out in 102.1 overs)	275
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-29, 3-118, 4-155, 5-229, 6-252, 7-252, 8-265, 9-274.	

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Steyn	30	6	67	3
Philander	24	8	76	2
Morkel	21	6	50	1
Kallis	11.1	3	31	2
Peterson	16	6	42	1

Result: South Africa won by an innings and 27 runs and lead the two-match series 1-0.

Wins for Young Cricketers, Indira Road

SPORTS REPORTER

Young Cricketers beat Dhanmondi Progati Sangho by three wickets in a First Division League match that took place at the Jahangirnagar University Ground

yesterday. Batting first, the Dhanmondi based club were bowled out for 209. Rowshan Mahmud top-scored with 78. In reply, Young Cricketers scored 215 and accomplished the target with three balls to spare.

Mainuddin Rubel scored 57 where as Mithu scored 36.

In the day's other game, Indira Road Krira Chakra beat BKSP by 44 runs at the Dhanmondi Cricket Stadium.

SCORES IN BRIEF
DHANMONDI PS: 209 all out in 49.5 overs (Rowshan 78; Hafiz Al Hasan 3-51) v Young Cricketers : 215 for 7 in 49.3 overs (Rubel 57; Mithu 36, Naim 33; Shahabaz Chowhan 2-37)

INDIRA ROAD KC: 196 all out in 50 overs (Sadman Islam 92; Salehin Rifat 3-50) v BKSP: 152 all out in 42.5 overs (Tariqu Islam 55; Sajjad Hossain 3-33)

Sk Russel

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shot which took a deflection on its way to goal. Another substitute Rajon made it 4-0 five minutes later.

Mithun then struck his second of the game with a fabulous chip after being set up by Moroccan Tarik El Janabi in the 82nd minute.

Zahid completed the rout in the stoppage time by finishing off a one-two with Rajon.

Aus work hard for lead

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Australia made hard work of grabbing a narrow lead over tenacious Sri Lanka on a second day tarnished by reckless run outs and rash shot-making in the third Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

The home side, with the series already clinched after wins in Hobart and Melbourne, edged Friday to a 48-run lead over the tourists.

But it proved tough going and the Australians failed to get away to a bigger lead after a run-a-minute start.

At the close, Australia were 342 for six with Matthew Wade on 47 and Peter Siddle not out 16.

Wade lived dangerously late in the day, surviving two reviews and a dropped catch close in while on 22.

Australia self-destructed with two run outs while David Warner, Phil Hughes and Michael Clarke threw away their wickets with false strokes.

The top order carelessness was accentuated by Australia's decision to go into the third Test with four pace bowlers and promote wicketkeeper Wade to number six ahead of an elongated tail.

"Today we could look back and feel we could have been in a better position, it would have been nice to have a couple of wickets less," Hughes said.

"We're 40-odd runs ahead now. It would be nice to get 100 or so more ahead. We're well balanced in this game."

Warner and Hughes both missed out on centuries and Clarke, aghast at his part in the run out of the retiring Mike Hussey, was out attempting to slog sweep left-arm spinner Rangana Herath for 50.

Free-scoring Warner perished when he took on part-time spinner Tillakaratne Dilshan only to be well caught by Dhammika Prasad, back-peddalling at long-on, for 85 off 84 balls.

Hughes followed Warner back to the pavilion seven overs later, caught behind attempting to cut Herath for 87.

"A bit of mixed feelings in a way," Sri Lanka coach Graham Ford said of his team's position.

"It's been a much better performance

than at Melbourne and a number of young players have come in and shown that they've got some guts and the desire to play at this level.

"On the other hand, perhaps it would have been better to get another 40 or 50 last night and then if one or two chances had stuck today we might have been in a better position."

Sri Lankan players gave Hussey a guard of honour to the crease amid acclaim from the SCG crowd in his 79th and final Test after announcing his retirement from international cricket.

The 37-year-old veteran lasted 51 balls before he was needlessly run out in possibly his final Test innings for 25 when he could not make his ground as Clarke took off for a quick single.

Karunaratne scored a direct hit with his throw at the striker's end and a diving Hussey failed to make his ground.

Clarke looked back in horror from the bowler's end as he sacrificed the wicket of his batting partner amid the emotion of his farewell Test.

Opener Ed Cowan ran himself out for four inside the opening half hour when he hesitated going for a second run and was beaten to the bowler's end by Nuwan Pradeep's throw.

It was the third time in Tests that Cowan has been involved in a run out and twice he himself has been run out.

Warner put on 130 runs for the second wicket with Hughes in just 122 minutes.

Hughes also looked on course for his fourth century in his 20th Test before he went for the cut shot once too often.

The diminutive left-hander, who faced 143 balls, played at Herath away from his body and edged to wicketkeeper Dinesh Chandimal.

Clarke, back at the SCG where he scored 329 not out against India a year ago, also looked in fine touch, lofting Herath for six and next ball went aerial again for four before his false stroke.

Mitchell Johnson, selected in an all-rounder role at number seven after his unbeaten 91 in Melbourne, was out caught behind off Pradeep for 13.

Pradeep halved his bowling average from 406 to 203 with his second Test wicket.

SCOREBOARD

SRI LANKA: First innings 294 (Thirimanne 91, M Jayawardene 72; Bird 4-41)

AUSTRALIA: First innings Warner c Prasad b Dilshan 85 Cowan run out 4 Hughes c Chandimal b Herath 87 Clarke c Karunaratne b Herath 50 Hussey run out 25 Wade not out 47 Johnson c Chandimal b Pradeep 13 Siddle not out 16 Extras: (lb-5, w-7, nb-3) 15 Total: (For 6 wks in 88 overs) 342 To bat: Starc, Lyon, Bird.

Fall of wickets: 1-36, 2-166, 3-195, 4-251, 5-271, 6-307.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Lakmal	20	4	63	0
Pradeep	14	0	83	1
Prasad	11	0	53	0
Mathews	2	0	11	0
Dilshan	19	2	58	1

Run outs need to be checked

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Run outs continued to haunt Australia's batting as they edged 48 runs ahead of Sri Lanka with four first innings wickets remaining on the second day of the third Test in Sydney on Friday.

The Australians threatened to bat the hapless tourists out of the Test, only for Ed Cowan and Mike Hussey, playing in his farewell Test match, to be run out in chaotic mix-ups between the wickets.

That made it four run outs in the three-Test series against the Sri Lankans and topscorer Phil Hughes said it was a glitch that would have to be addressed going forward for Australia's coming series against India and England this year.

"There were two run-outs today. I think that's four in the series. That's something we've got to look at going forward," said Hughes, who scored 87.

"It's never nice to be run out, especially in Test cricket, the big moments. That's something we've got to address going forward."

Hussey was given a guard of honour by the applauding Sri Lankan players as he came out to bat in his 79th and final Test after announcing his retirement from international cricket.

But the 37-year-old veteran lasted 51 balls before he was needlessly run out in possibly his final Test innings for 25 as Michael Clarke took off for a quick single.

Dimuth Karunaratne scored a direct hit with his throw at the striker's end and a desperate Hussey failed to make his ground.

Clarke looked back in horror from the bowler's end as he sacrificed the wicket of his batting partner amid the emotion of his farewell Test.

Opener Cowan also ran himself out for four inside the opening half hour when he hesitated going for a second run and was beaten to the bowler's end by Nuwan Pradeep's throw.

It was the third time in Tests that Cowan has been involved in a run out and twice he himself has been run out.

"It's never nice to get run out but we know that's cricket at the end of the day," Hughes said of the Hussey dismissal.

"You could tell even looking from the side, Pup (Clarke) was obviously disappointed."

Asked what could be done to rectify the self-destructing running between wickets, Hughes said:

"Call louder and clearer? Seriously though, it's something we'll talk about after the series."

"Three (run outs) for the top three and four in the series. It's something we've got to look at going forward and stop that."

Serbia in Hopman Cup final

AFP, Perth

World number one Novak Djokovic bounced back to his imposing best as Serbia advanced to the Hopman Cup final on Friday.

The Serbian pairing of Djokovic and Ana Ivanovic beat Germany 3-0 to finish their round robin ties unbeaten and earn the right to face the Spanish pairing of Fernando Verdasco and Anabel Medina Garrigues in Saturday's mixed teams final.

It is the third time the Serbian duo have played together at the Hopman Cup and the second time they have reached the final.

They also qualified for the title decider in 2011, but didn't take their place in the final after Ivanovic suffered an abdominal strain.

Serbia have only played in the final once before, when Djokovic and Jelena Jankovic were beaten by the American pairing of Serena Williams and Mardy Fish in 2008.

Djokovic, surprisingly beaten by local youngster Bernard Tomic on Wednesday, gave the Serbians the lead in the tie with a dominant performance against German veteran Tommy Haas in their singles clash, before Ivanovic secured the tie by demolishing Tatjana Malek.

The durable Haas is ranked 21st in the world, but he had no answer to the shotmaking of Djokovic, who took just over an hour to win 6-2, 6-0.

Haas duly withdrew from the dead mixed doubles rubber, citing a toe injury.

Djokovic said it had taken a few days to acclimatise to Australian conditions, but that he was back on track for his Australian Open title.

Ivanovic continued her superb form by taking just 37 minutes to beat Malek 6-0, 6-1, hitting 16 winners to the German's one, and was thrilled to reach the final.

Razaq allays PCB fears

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Razaq claimed that the PCB would still have the 'final word' in the matter. "I still have one or two more years of international cricket in me. I'll never go against the PCB's decision," said Razaq. "But as of now, there hasn't been any such statement from the board," he added. The all-rounder isn't a part of Pakistan's ongoing series against India. The last time he played a ODI for his side was in November 2011 against Sri Lanka in Dubai.

Razaq though is hopeful of a revival. "Our chief selector said that I was dropped not because of my performance but because of the conditions in India. So I am looking forward to playing in the future," he said.

With regard to the security situation in Pakistan, the all-rounder stated, "I think Pakistan is safe...there may be some problems in the outer areas but the main cities

are safe."

The president of the BCB, Nazmul Hassan Papon, in a press conference last week postponed Bangladesh's two-day tour of Pakistan, which was scheduled to take place on January 12 and 13 on security grounds. Papon had said that the board would continue observing the security situation in Pakistan and would go ahead with the tour if the scenario in the country 'improves'.

The postponement raised a question regarding the participation of the Pakistani players in this year's BPL as the PCB had reportedly wanted to use the league as a 'bargaining chip' for a home series against Bangladesh.

Media cricket

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Maasranga TV (118/4) thrashed Diganta TV (99/3) by 19 runs while Channel 1 (103/2) overwhelmed ETV (42/5) by 61 runs.

Hussey just falls short

AFP, Sydney

Australia's Mike Hussey was run out for 25 in what could be his final Test innings against Sri Lanka at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Friday.

The 37-year-old batsman, who was given a guard of honour by the Sri Lanka players as he came out to bat, could not make his ground as batting partner and team captain Michael Clarke took off for a quick single.

Dimuth Karunaratne scored a direct hit with his throw at the striker's end with a diving Hussey failing to make his ground as Clarke looked back in horror from the bowler's end.

Hussey was given a huge ovation as he left the playing arena in his 79th and final Test after facing 51 balls.

Hussey's dismissal left Australia 251 for 4 in reply to Sri Lanka's 294 in the third and final Test.

Streaky Murray into semis

Tennis

AFP, Brisbane

Defending champion Andy Murray moved into the semifinals of the Brisbane International on Friday when he downed a tenacious Denis Istomin of Uzbekistan 6-4, 7-6 (7/3).

Murray, back on court after playing the late match on Thursday night, took his chances against Istomin on a few key points, edging out the world number 43 in two tight sets in just over an hour and a half.

The Scot broke Istomin once in the first set -- his only break point of the match -- then came from 1-3 down in the tie-break to win the next six points and take the match.

By contrast, Istomin had two break points on Murray's serve but was unable to convert either.

Murray, who had a tough three-setter against Australia's John Millman in the previous round, was happy with his form this early in the season.

Murray now plays occasional training partner Kei Nishikori, the Japanese number one, whom he beat in the quarterfinals of last year's Australian Open.



Andy Murray of Britain celebrates after beating Denis Istomin of Uzbekistan in their quarterfinal match at the Brisbane International yesterday. PHOTO: AFP