

# Pak bowlers ruin Smith's big day

Cricket

AFP, Johannesburg

Two part-time bowlers spoiled Graeme Smith's big day as South Africa were bowled out for 253 on the first day of the first Test against Pakistan at the Wanderers Stadium on Friday.

South Africa were dismissed after Smith, celebrating 100 Tests as captain and his 32nd birthday, won the toss and decided to bat in what were always likely to be challenging conditions on a pitch with pace and bounce.

Pakistan survived two overs at the end of the day, finishing on six for no wicket.

The South African batsmen did well enough against Pakistan's front line bowlers, but lost five wickets to part-timers Younis Khan and Mohammad Hafeez and another to a run-out.

Younis took only his eighth wicket in an 80-Test career to dismiss Hashim Amla with his third delivery of the match, while off-spinner Hafeez did even better, taking four for 16 after only being introduced in the 71st over.

Hafeez, who had taken 29 wickets in 29 Tests before Friday, had AB de Villiers caught behind off his first ball.

Remarkably, Hafeez was given the second new ball and struck again four balls later when Robin Peterson padded up and was bowled by a straight delivery.

He then had Dean Elgar caught behind playing

down the legside and wrapped up the innings by bowling Morne Morkel.

The other four wickets fell in more conventional fashion, with opening bowlers Umar Gul and Junaid Khan taking two each.

South Africa's last five wickets fell for 21 runs.

The build-up to the match was dominated by Smith's feat of becoming the first player in history to achieve 100 captaincies.

But he did not have long to dwell on the landmark as he and Alvaro Petersen had to survive some accurate, hostile bowling from Junaid and Gul.

Smith and Petersen saw off the initial threat but a switch of ends brought the wickets of both openers.

The left-armed Junaid squared up Petersen and had him caught at third slip for 20 with the total on 46. Four balls later, without addition to the score, Smith was caught behind for 24 when he tried to work Gul to the leg side.

Jacques Kallis hit 50 in a third wicket stand of 79 with Amla before he mistimed a pull against Gul and fell to a superb diving catch by Asad Shafiq at deep midwicket.

With Junaid and Gul having had a heavy workload, Pakistan captain Misbahul Haq brought on Younis Khan to bowl his occasional medium-pacers.

Amla slashed hard at Younis' third ball and Azhar Ali took a blinding catch at gully, prompting joyous celebrations from the Pakistan players.

## Di Venuto new Aus coach

AFP, Sydney

Former one-day international opener Michael Di Venuto was Friday appointed Australia's new batting coach ahead of their tour to India, replacing Stuart Law.

The 39-year-old will quit as assistant coach for the Tasmanian Tigers and Hobart Hurricanes to take up his new role, Cricket Australia said.

Australian coach Mickey Arthur said Di Venuto brought a wealth of knowledge with him, along with sound coaching credentials.

"We wanted a batting coach who was working within Australian cricket and who had also represented Australia as a player and Michael certainly brings those two aspects to the table," he said.

He replaces Law, who held the interim position for the past five Tests after fellow former Test batsman Justin Langer stepped down to coach Western Australia.

Dean Jones also held the position briefly during the recent one-day series against Sri Lanka.

Australia play two warm-up matches before the first Test in Chennai on February 22, followed by Tests in Hyderabad, Mohali and Delhi.

Di Venuto's appointment follows Dennis Lillee being drafted in this week to provide guidance and coaching advice to the pace bowlers.

## 50 foreigners in Pak T20 league

AFP, Karachi

More than 50 foreign players have so far signed up for Pakistan's first major Twenty20 league, organisers said Thursday, despite a warning from the international players' association not to take part.

Salman Sarwar Butt, managing director of the Pakistan Super League (PSL), gave the figure and said more overseas players were "likely to sign up shortly", in a Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) statement.

He revealed neither any players' names nor their nationalities but said the overseas interest showed the league, due to start on March 26, was "attractive both in terms of cricket and financial gains".

No international cricket has been played in Pakistan since militants attacked the Sri Lankan team bus during a Test match in Lahore in 2009 and the country is still rocked by almost daily bombings and shootings.

Adding to the difficulties for the PSL, the head of the Federation of International Cricketers' Associations warned players last week not to take part in the two-week tournament.

Cricket Australia and Cricket South Africa have also hinted they might not allow any players to feature in the PSL.

However, Pakistan last week confirmed South Africans Mike Proctor and Rudi Koertzen along with Zimbabwean Russell Tiffin had signed up as match officials.

PCB chairman Zaka Ashraf has offered foreign players insurance worth \$2 million and up to \$100,000 tax free income to play in the league.



Australia fast bowler Mitchell Starc (L) pumps his fist after taking the wicket of West Indies batsman Kieron Pollard during the first one-day international at the WACA ground in Perth yesterday.

# Starc leads Windies rout

Cricket

AFP, Perth

Australia's Mitchell Starc claimed five wickets as the West Indies were bundled out for just 70 on their way to an embarrassing defeat in the first one-day international in Perth on Friday.

Australia made light of the feeble score -- the West Indies' third-lowest ODI total -- romping to victory in just 9.2 overs for the loss of one wicket.

Left-armed Starc took five wickets for 20 runs in a devastating spell as the tourists imploded after winning the toss and electing to bat in the first game of the five-match series.

The paltry score was well short of Australia's 91 against the West Indies at the same venue in 1987, the previous lowest total at the WACA Ground.

The home side put their opponents' performance

into context when they came out to bat, with Glenn Maxwell smashing 51 off 35 balls as they raced towards their target. Usman Khawaja, dropped before he scored, was unbeaten on eight.

When the West Indies slumped to 19-5 after Starc claimed his fourth wicket in eight balls, they appeared in grave danger of falling short of their lowest ever ODI tally of 54, against South Africa in 2004.

Darren Bravo's dismissal for 11 left them floundering at 39-7 before captain Darren Sammy put on 26 for the eighth wicket with debutant Jason Holder.

Sammy, with 16 runs, was the top-scorer with the bat, his tally only eclipsed by the 17 extras Australia conceded.

The West Indies skipper said the low total was more a result of good Australian bowling than poor West Indian batting, vowing to

rebound back quickly with the second match at the same venue on Sunday.

Clint McKay (3-10) started the rot for the tourists when he claimed the prize scalp of big-hitting opener Chris Gayle, caught by Aaron Finch at second slip for just four.

The match was effectively over as a contest when Starc used his combination of pace and swing to destroy the West Indian top order.

He claimed the wickets of Kieran Powell (11) and Ramnaresh Sarwan, Dwayne Bravo and Kieron Pollard, all for ducks, in the space of eight balls.

West Indies paceman Holder took his first one-day wicket in Australia's reply, when he had Finch caught behind for 10 but the home side cantered to victory.

Starc said it was almost a perfect performance by the Australians, who would have bowled first had they won the toss.

SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES			
Gayle c Finch b McKay	4		
Powell c Clarke b Starc	11		
Sarwan b Starc	0		
Darren Bravo c Clarke b Faulkner	11		
Dwayne Bravo c Hughes b Starc	0		
Pollard b Starc	0		
Thomas c Clarke b Faulkner	3		
Sammy c Bailey b McKay	16		
Holder b Starc	7		
Narine c Wade b McKay	0		
Roach not out	1		
Extras: (w-8, lb-3, w-6)	17		
Total: (All out in 23.5 overs)	70		
Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-18, 3-19, 4-19, 5-19, 6-28, 7-39, 8-65, 9-68.			

AUSTRALIAN			
Maxwell not out	51		
Finch c Thomas b Holder	10		
Khawaja not out	8		
Extras: (w-2)	2		
Total: (For one wkt in 9.2 overs)	71		
Did not bat: Hughes, Clarke, Bailey, Wade, Faulkner, Johnson, Starc, McKay.			
Fall of wickets: 1-39.			

Bowler			
McKay	7	3	10
Starc	6.5	2	20
Faulkner	5	1	14
Johnson	5	0	15

Bowler			
Roach	2	0	29
Holder	4.2	0	18
Narine	3	0	24

# India will pull-out over DRS

Cricket

CRICINFO, Dew Delhi

India have again struck down the latest attempt to bring more consistency to the implementation of the DRS by threatening to pull out of any tour in which the host country insisted on using the technology.

At the ICC executive meeting in Dubai the ECB, represented by chairman Giles Clarke, was the only board that spoke in favour of a policy change where the approval of the host country would be enough to implement the DRS. N Srinivasan, the BCCI chief, shot down the proposal and ESPNcricinfo understands that the remaining boards did not make a stand.

Srinivasan's concerns are understood to still centre on a belief that the technology could be easily manipulated and is unreliable. It has been learnt that he made the claim that India would pull out of bilateral series if a system was in place where the home side could insist on the DRS.

Though the DRS issue was not even listed on the agenda, or in the post-meeting press release dispatched, it was discussed at length in the wake of a renewed push during the ICC chief

executives committee (CEC) meeting last month, for universal implementation of the referral system. At that meeting, held on December 4, every member with the exception of India had backed a change in the DRS implementation policy.

The existing playing conditions require the approval of both countries on DRS during a bilateral series, but the CEC suggested a change in policy that would see the home board having the right to choose the use of the DRS regardless of what the opposition wanted. The CEC recommended that the issue should be resolved via a vote during the executive board meeting.

In the end there was no vote as most of 13-man strong board (10 Full Members plus three Associates) failed to stand up to Srinivasan. Only Clarke, who supported the CEC recommendation, felt it warranted a discussion this week again.

This is not the first time the BCCI has opposed the rest of the members on the DRS. At the ICC's last annual conference in Kuala Lumpur, the CEC had passed the resolution to make the DRS mandatory for all events. The move was then passed to the executive board which had to ratify the decision. But despite the push from the CECs, the head of the Full Member boards refrained from putting the issue to vote.

## India tour probable

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"I explained everything and my understanding is that everybody understood our problems. There is doubt about ICC sending their officials, so it's not possible to tour Pakistan at this moment. We have to be hundred percent satisfied with security and only then can we think about tour. We are yet to take any decision about our players' participation in the PSL (Pakistan Super League) but as I said we have to be hundred percent satisfied with the security," said Papon, adding that they were in no way on the back-foot despite PCB's refusal to give their players NOCs for participating in the ongoing Bangladesh Premier League (BPL).

"Actually the Pakistan tour is not in our mind at this moment because we have the Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe tour in the line and we want to try our best so that we can make sure that Bangladesh will visit India for a full series by the end of this year," said Papon.

The non-payment issue in the ongoing second edition of BPL and he was hopeful that everything will be solved by February 5, their latest deadline for the franchises to solve all the financial issues.

"In the ICC meeting everybody highly praised the BPL. And it's nice that the tournament is going great and the fans have also started to come. I know there is talk about the non-payment issue and one of our local players also talked about the issue but what I want to say is that everybody should talk with the BCB before making any comments. Owais Shah admitted his mistake after he had provided the wrong account number.

"We made all the payments from last year and I can assure everybody that they will get their money this season also. We have the latest deadline till February 5 and the franchises will make a big mistake if they don't clear their dues. They (franchises) will suffer heavily for broken promises this time," warned Papon.

# Taylor back in business

Cricket

AFP, Wellington

Sacked New Zealand captain Ross Taylor returned to the Black Caps' fold Friday when he was named in the one-day and Twenty20 squads to face the touring England side this month.

Taylor, New Zealand's best batsman, sat out the Black Caps recent trip to South Africa after being dropped as captain in favour of Brendon McCullum in early December.

Coach Mike Hesson, a key figure in Taylor's axing, said he was pleased to welcome the 28-year-old back to the national side.

"Ross is a world-class batsman who is a key part of the Black Caps side," he said. The limited overs squads contained only one new cap, Otago batsman Hamish Rutherford in the T20 line-up, with chief selector Kim Littlejohn saying he was looking for stability.

"There are a couple of changes that have been forced through injury but essentially we want to be seen to provide continuity from one series to the next," he said.

Allrounder Andrew Ellis returns after an injury lay-off, while Grant Elliott was

called in to replace Corey Anderson, who was sidelined with a fractured thumb.

New Zealand will play three ODIs and three T20s against England, with the first T20 on February 9.

A squad for the three-Test series against England in March will be announced separately.

SQUADS

ODI: Brendon McCullum (captain), Trent Boult, Grant Elliott, Andrew Ellis, James Franklin, Martin Guptill, Mitchell McClenaghan, Nathan McCullum, Kyle Mills, Colin Munro, Ross Taylor, BJ Watling, Kane Williamson.

TWENTY20: Brendon McCullum (captain), Trent Boult, Ian Butler, Grant Elliott, Andrew Ellis, James Franklin, Martin Guptill, Roneel Hira, Mitchell McClenaghan, Nathan McCullum, Colin Munro, Hamish Rutherford, Ross Taylor

FIXTURES

Twenty20 series  
Feb 09: 1st Twenty20, Eden Park, Auckland  
Feb 12: 2nd Twenty20, Seddon Park, Hamilton  
Feb 15: 3rd Twenty20, Wellington Regional Stadium, Wellington  
ODI series  
Feb 17: 1st ODI, Seddon Park, Hamilton  
Feb 20: 2nd ODI, McLean Park, Napier  
Feb 23: 3rd ODI, Eden Park, Auckland

## Gladiators

FROM PAGE 16  
Dhaka's wicketkeeper batsman Anamul Haque.

Earlier Owais Shah guided Dhaka towards a decent total after Mashrafe Bin Mortaza had decided to bat first. Soumya Sarker and Anamul provided the foundation sharing a 51-run stand for the second wicket. And Shah followed that up by hitting four boundaries and a six during his unbeaten 40-ball 43.

## Negre calls

FROM PAGE 16  
hold the top international tournament once in a year to take the game to new heights and thus FIH could help Bangladesh awarding the international tournaments for the next four to five years.

Negre was visibly impressed having seen the national hockey stadium and also visited Armanitola School in old Dhaka, an establishment which produced a number of hockey stars.

# Sterling in hot water

Football

AFP, London

Liverpool's teenage winger Raheem Sterling has been charged with assaulting a woman, a court heard on Friday.

The 18-year-old England international did not attend the hearing at Liverpool Youth Court in

northwest England and was represented by his lawyer, Mick Hogan.

Police said that a 27-year-old woman, known to Sterling, received "slight" facial injuries after an alleged incident involving the player in Liverpool in November.

Hogan told the court that Sterling denies the allegation and added that, as the alleged offence occurred when the player was 17, the case should be

moved to an adult court.

"I do have instructions to the effect that Mr Sterling will be pleading not guilty to this charge," Hogan told the court.

"He is aware of today's hearing and the club are very supportive."

The prosecution said they supported the proposal to move the case to the adult courts and the matter was adjourned until February 22.