

SPORT



Viv Richards was my idol growing up. I'm almost embarrassed to go past him to be honest but hopefully he enjoyed a little bit of the stroke making. **Brendon McCullum**

HURRICANE 100
BALLS 54

1s	2s	4s	6s	Dots
6	3	16	4	25

FASTEST TEST TONS

NAME	OPPOSITION	DATE	BALLS
Brendon McCullum	Australia	Feb 2016	54
Sir Vivian Richards	England	Apr 1986	56
Misbahul Haq	Australia	Nov 2014	56
Adam Gilchrist	England	Dec 2006	57

WHAT THEY SAID

- Cheers to Brendon McCullum for an awesome weekend so far!
-Chris Gayle
- Extraordinary cricket being played by NZ! McCullum in T20 mode!
-Aaron Finch
- Congrats to Brendon McCullum on a brilliant 100. I'm sitting with Misbah clapping every shot! Great courage. Great Test cricket!
-Dean Jones
- Brendon McCullum take a bow! Awesome player!
-Jason Gillespie
- Great knock by Brendon McCullum on his last test match. Love the way he plays cricket, Simple and to his strength. Well done mate.
-Mahela Jayawardena
- Baz McCullum! Entertainer of note and champion bloke! Fitting end to a special career.
-Herschelle Gibbs
- Can't think of a better way to bow out of your sport. Baz McCullum has delivered what can only be described as a genius farewell.
-Michael Vaughan
- Unreal little bro. Amazing!! Boys loving watching it.
-Nathan McCullum

Brendon McCullum lived up to the truest essence of riding into the sunset. The New Zealand captain's 54-ball 100, which shattered a 30-year-old record held by his idol Sir Vivian Richards, was a special treat for the world audience in what is his final Test at Hagley Oval against Australia in Christchurch yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Baz's final masterstroke

TRIVIA

33 players have signed off their Test careers with a century, including four with double-centuries and a triple-century. Interestingly, two of those double-centuries were scored against Bangladesh -- Jason Gillespie of Australia hit 201 unbeaten in 2006 and Aravinda de Silva struck 206 in 2003.

McCullum also overtook Australian batsman Adam Gilchrist (100) for the most number of sixes in Test matches with **106**.

In yesterday's match, McCullum smashed as many sixes in **two hours** as Sir Donald Bradman did in his entire Test career.

The fastest century by a Bangladesh batsman is Tamim Iqbal's **94**-ball ton against England at Lord's in 2010. That is preceded by Mominul Haque's 98-ball ton against the Kiwis in 2013/14.

In terms of minutes, this was not the fastest century, taking 78 minutes. The fastest, scored by Australian Jack Gregory against South Africa in 1921, took **70** minutes.

This was the **fourth** time Baz scored a sub-100 ball century. Virender Sehwag has scored the most in this category, doing so seven times.

AGENCIES, Christchurch



Brendon McCullum belted the fastest century the world has seen on Saturday as he thrashed the Australian bowling in a landmark innings to celebrate his final Test.

Test.

At the end of his explosive 145-run innings, the popular New Zealand captain felt a mixture of pride in what he had achieved and embarrassment at breaking a record set by his childhood hero Viv Richards.

With a stream of sixes and fours, McCullum brought up his 100 in just 54 deliveries, two fewer than the previous record of 56 achieved by West Indies' great Richards 30 years ago and Pakistan's Misbahul-Haq in 2014.

With New Zealand fighting to save the series after losing the first Test, McCullum's aggression had set his side up for a first innings 370 and Australia were 57-1 at the end of the first day.

McCullum lost the toss and was sent into bat on a pitch both captains felt was soft. Martin Gupit left the first ball and scored from the third, and the already full house fatalistically

cheered both, as if they were the unexpected. Tom Latham made 4 from 40 balls, Kane Williamson 7 from 70 as the Kiwis toiled to 47 for 4. The ball stuck in the pitch, and in the hands of the Australians, brilliantly.

McCullum arrived to a guard of honour and a handshake from Steve Smith and immediately set about rearranging the furniture and the priorities with a swipe for four from his second ball and a drive for six from his fifth.

Everything about the day was amped up, including the turning point. McCullum, then on 39, was caught in gully from what proved to be another James Pattinson no-ball. From the time of his reprieve, McCullum hit 11 fours and two sixes, 56 of the next 61 runs to reach his century.

McCullum went to his hundred with 6, 4, 4, 4, in successive Josh Hazlewood deliveries, before lifting his arms in delight.

In two hours, McCullum did three things: he hauled his team back to their feet in a match they have to win to square the series; enabled himself to farewell New Zealand cricket on his terms; and gave his adopted city something to remember for the second time.

The 34-year-old said that he felt attack would be the best form of defence. And he

knew early on that luck was on his side.

"Probably second ball when I had an almighty, filthy slog and sort of managed to go over the slips cordon for four," he laughed.

"It's not easy," McCullum said when quizzed about the gumption it takes to arrive at the crease as captain of a team that's listing at 3-32 and start swinging like it's a game of beach cricket with the tide encroaching. "I've

"It was pretty good striking, pretty amazing striking really. That's the way he's played cricket and I'm pretty sure it's the way that he'd want to go down in his career -- as a person that took the game on."

Australia bowler Nathan Lyon

been on the other side many times and you walk off and think 'if I'd reined it in a little bit who knows what would have happened?'

"On that wicket, the feedback from the boys was that at any stage a ball could have your name on it. I just tried to be as positive as I possibly could. It's not always going to come off, but we got a little bit of luck and we're sitting here firmly in the Test.

"It was great fun and it was also instrumental in us being able to, hopefully, set the Test match up for us," McCullum said.

When he charged down the wicket to bring up his century, McCullum had no idea it was a record performance and after he found out he was slightly uncomfortable at removing Richards' name from the record books.

"I was trying to hit every ball for four or six. I wasn't aware of the record. He [Richards] was my idol growing up. I'm almost embarrassed to go past him to be honest but hopefully he enjoyed a little bit of the stroke making."

As McCullum pounded the boundaries, the Australian bowlers could only fire the ball down and hope, but when they finally claimed the wicket there was nothing but praise.

Asked what his approach would be in the second innings, which will be his final appearance after 101 Tests, McCullum had a succinct answer.

"Swing hard."

SCORES IN BRIEF

NEW ZEALAND: 370 all out (McCullum 145, Anderson 72, Watling 58; Lyon 3-61; Bird 2-66)

AUSTRALIA: 57 for 1 (Burns 27 not out, Khawaja 18 not out; Boult 1-18)

Afghans stay alive

SPORTS REPORTER



Afghanistan beat Oman in the third match of the Asia Cup Qualifiers at the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah yesterday and kept their hopes of making it through to the final round alive.

Yet again, Fatullah witnessed a tense encounter between the associate nations as the match was wrought with ups and downs. The Afghans bowled first and had done well to restrict Oman, who were buoyed by half-centuries from Zeeshan Maqsood and Adnan Ilyas, to 165 for 4.

Despite losing a wicket early on, Afghanistan seemed to have the chase in control. However, Oman had other plans as they scalped two wickets against the run of play in the 17th over.

Near the climax, with four overs remaining, Afghanistan were poised at 139 for 4 and needed just 27 runs off 24 balls from the settled Noor Ali Zadran, who scored 63 at the crease.

But the plot thickened as Oman's Bilal Khan trapped both Najibullah Zadran and Noor in front with two full-length deliveries and hence the Afghans once again found themselves under pressure, needing 21 runs of the last two overs.

Samuillan Shenwari smacked two powerful hits in the penultimate over



Afghanistan's Dawlat Zadran smacks one of his two sixes that took his side home in the last over of their game against Oman in Fatullah yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

to bring the equation down to ten runs off six balls.

Shenwari though, was caught in the deep while attempting another boundary in the first ball of the last over and the equation seemed to turn tricky again with ten runs required of five.

That's when Dawlat Zadran entered the playing arena. It was a nervous few moments for the Afghan dressing room considering the fact that their Asia Cup berth was on the line. Dawlat though, barely paid any heed to any of that and unleashed two huge sixes against spinner Ajay Lalcheta and finished the game in style.

Earlier, Adnan smacked a brilliant 28-ball 54, an innings which witnessed four sixes and three fours. He was well supported by Zeeshan who hit five fours and two sixes in his 42-ball 52. These were the knocks that helped Oman put on a decent total on board.

SCORES IN BRIEF

OMAN: 165 for 4 (Adnan 54, Zeeshan 52; Gulbadin 2-24)

AFGHANISTAN: 168 for 7 in 19.3 overs (Noor 63, Asghar 34; Mehran 3-18, Bilal 3-33)

Result: Afghanistan won by three wickets.

Betting in cricket should be legalised: Justice Mudgal

PTI, New Delhi

Justice (Retd) Mukul Mudgal, who has headed the IPL spot-fixing and betting probe, called for betting in cricket to be made legalised in India.

Asked about legalising betting in the sport, Justice Mudgal said he supports such a step as it would help prevent corruption in cricket.

"It will help in reducing spot-fixing and other illegal practices, the government will also be able to make money from it in the form of taxes," he said.

Mudgal said the BCCI is entitled to its opinion on the recommendations of the Supreme Court appointed Justice Lodha panel recommendations seeking sweeping reforms to its structure.

He added that he has received a letter from Delhi and District Cricket Association regarding the managing committee meeting where observations were made on the Lodha report.

"I have received a letter from the DDCA stating that no such committee exists and no decisions were taken on the Lodha Committee recommendations," Justice Mudgal said after his book titled 'Law and Sports in India' was launched in the capital.

The Justice spoke in support of the IPL and said it helps young players as they get an opportunity to rub shoulders with big stars.

Justice Mudgal has co-authored this book with Vidushpat Singhania, managing partner at Lodus Legal. The book touches upon topics including the IPL probe report and doping controversies.

BOA, swimming fed keen on Park

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Swimming Federation (BSF) and Bangladesh

Olympic Association (BOA) are apparently keen on handing a long-term contract to Korean coach Park Tae Gun after the swimming team's success in the recently-concluded South Asian Games. Bangladesh won 17 bronze and two gold medals in swimming events from these games -- the highest medal tally from one discipline for the country -- a feat which is attributed to the Korean as much as the swimmers themselves.

The BOA and the federation will reportedly sit for a meeting with the Korean coach on Monday where a long-term contract might be handed. Park has already arrived in Dhaka from Australia yesterday after being called up for the meeting.

Park had initially become a popular figure among the local swimmers during his time as the coach ahead of the 2010 SA Games in Dhaka. Later he returned to Dhaka in November last year to guide the swimmers for this year's

games and the results of his work are quite evident. In fact it was in his insistence that Mahfuza Khatun Shila -- the Bangladesh Army swimmer who won the two gold medals from these games -- got on board.

BSF's general secretary Rafizuddin Rafiz said that they are keen on keeping the Korean coach for a long-term basis and want to start camp as soon as possible.

"We are going to discuss with BOA to keep the Korean coach for a long period. Considering the next edition of the games, we are going to start long-term camp within a short time. So we need a foreign coach for training them, and since Park has proved his worth, we prefer to keep him," Rafiz said yesterday.

"Our secretary general [Syede Shahed Reza] will meet with the coach and federation on Monday to discuss over the long-term contract," BOA's training and development committee chairman Ashkur Rahma Miku said.

The BOA and the BSF jointly provided for the 2500-dollars-per-month salary for the Korean coach during last three months' training camp.