

With 18,521 runs, David Warner is Australia's second-highest run-scorer in international cricket. The left-handed opener is only behind Ricky Ponting, who boasts a formidable record of 27,483 runs.

Warner also has the second-most centuries for Australia in international cricket. Warner's 49 tons in 372 games is only bettered by Ricky Ponting's 70 in 559 matches.

In 2022, Warner became one of two batters to achieve the remarkable feat of scoring a double century in his 100th Test match during a game against South Africa at the MCG. Ponting is the other batter in this list.

Warner's 335 not out -- his career-best Test score -- against Pakistan in 2019 in Adelaide is the second-highest individual score by an Australian player. Matthew Hayden's 380 against Zimbabwe in Perth in 2003 is the highest by an Australian.



PHOTO: AFP

'Entertainer' Warner signs off in style

AGENCIES

The fairytale farewell David Warner wanted went almost perfectly to script as the opener bowled out with a match-winning hand in his final act in Test cricket, scoring a brisk half-century to ice what could otherwise have been a nervous fourth-innings run chase against Pakistan in the third Test in Sydney on Saturday.

Warner, out lbw to Sajid Khan after a 75 ball 57, might have been denied hitting the winning runs but the almost 25,000 strong SCG crowd sent off their hometown hero with a rousing ovation as Australia clinched a commanding eight-wicket victory to complete a 3-0 series sweep over Pakistan on Day 4.

It was a highly impressive career for an opener who was considered a limited-overs specialist before he forced himself into the Test team in late 2011 and stayed there for more than a decade by virtue of his run-scoring.

"I just want to be remembered probably as an entertainer. Somebody who came on the scene from white-ball Twenty20 cricket, somebody gave it his all," Warner told reporters after bidding adieu to the longest format after 112 Tests.

"I've been authentic. I've never changed. I've said it how it is, and I still will. I believe in that, being true to yourself."

"Playing Test cricket, I've been brave, I've been bold. I've had to play the same way and just take it

From being an explosive T20 batter to becoming a resilient Test player, @davidwarner31's journey exemplifies adaptability and grit. His transition and evolution in the game has been remarkable, showcasing aggressive intent while mastering the art of pacing an innings.

SACHIN TENDULKAR
INDIA LEGEND

Brilliant Test career @davidwarner31. Love sports people that play on the edge and you have done that throughout.

MICHAEL VAUGHAN
FORMER ENGLAND SKIPPER

opener -- but also the pace at which he has scored them.

With 26 centuries, Warner signs off from the format with an average of 44.59. Of Test players with at least 2,500 runs, the only others to have averaged over 40 and held a strike-rate above 70 are Adam Gilchrist, Virender Sehwag and Viv Richards.

But he will also be remembered for his central role in the "Sandpapergate" ball-tampering scandal of 2018 and was a polarising figure.

There was, however, no mention in the press conference of the scandal that led to Warner being banned by Cricket Australia from elite cricket for a year, and from leadership positions for life.

But Warner did allude to it when he was asked for his reaction to the ovation he received from the crowd at his home Sydney Cricket Ground when he left the field for the final time in a Test match. "I've had a lot of ups and downs through my career. I've had to come back and overcome adversity. I've done that, I think, very, very well," he said.

"I think today just showed to me that I do have a lot of support, and I'm very, very grateful for that."

The day was all about Warner, but this was Australia's 17th consecutive Test win against Pakistan, having secured the current series in Melbourne over Christmas.

Warner was also congratulated by the Pakistan players, who had given him a guard of honour as he came out for his final innings.

on. I'd just like to be remembered as someone who took the game on. Proud, passionate, and left no stone unturned," he added.

Warner leaves a hole to fill not just in terms of runs scored -- 8,690 of them, the most ever by an Australian

The unmatched legacy of Brazil's eternal champion

AGENCIES

The first person to win the FIFA World Cup as both a player and coach, Mario Zagallo was as instrumental a figure as any in Brazil's rise to prominence as a global football power.

Zagallo, who died Friday at the age of 92, was the only surviving member of the Brazil team that lifted the 1958 World Cup trophy, the country's first title and one that eased the pain of a traumatic defeat by Uruguay at the Maracana eight years prior.

"I was at the Maracana for that fateful loss to Uruguay. I was a soldier and it was my job to keep people off the pitch," said Zagallo of a result that prompted national mourning.

"I'll never forget the silence, the sadness and the disappointment of that defeat." While that memory remained vivid, Zagallo would do his utmost to relieve the anguish by leaving his fingerprints on four of Brazil's five World Cup triumphs.

Emerging from the amateur ranks during the 1950s, Zagallo, a diminutive left winger, embodied Brazil's quest to blend attacking flair with defensive solidity.

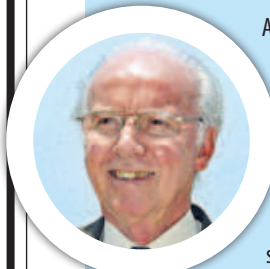
Nicknamed the Old Wolf, was born on August 9, 1931, in Maceio.

His first dream was to be an airline pilot but he was forced to abandon that due to poor eyesight. Instead, he studied accountancy and played football in his spare time with local side America, then one of the biggest clubs in the city.

Zagallo started off as a left midfielder, but intuition told him he was in the wrong place at the wrong time. "I saw it would be hard to get into the Brazil side wearing the No. 10 shirt. So I moved from left midfield to left wing."

His first World Cup came in Sweden in 1958, where he started all six matches and played alongside Garrincha and Pele, who was then just 17.

Mario Zagallo was instrumental as a player in Brazil's first two World Cup triumphs in 1958 and 1962. He then coached them to the most coveted trophy in football in 1970 and was the assistant coach in 1994.



As coach, he also won two Copa Americas (1997, 2004) and two FIFA Confederation Cup titles (1997, 2005).

Zagallo also ventured into coaching in the Middle East and won the Saudi Arabian Championship in the 1978-79 season with Al-Hilal.

Zagallo was known to be highly superstitious and believed the number 13 brought him luck. He liked to coin phrases that contained 13 letters and also got married on the 13th of the month.

Four years later, Zagallo played every single minute as a Garrincha-inspired Brazil overcame an injury sustained by Pele in the group stage to retain their crown, coming from behind to beat Czechoslovakia 3-1 in Santiago.

As coach, Zagallo led a string of Brazilian clubs, but he made his mark when he was drafted to replace the controversial Joao Saldanha as Brazil coach just months before the 1970 Mexico World Cup. Brazil's form had been erratic and they were not fancied, but Zagallo pulled the star-studded team together, capping a tremendous show with a memorable 4-1 triumph over Italy in the final.

He was an assistant to Parreira in 1994, when Brazil won their fourth title, and in 2006. He was in charge in 1998 when Brazil lost 3-0 to hosts France in the final.

After the 2006 denouement, he gave up management.

Footballer Zahirul passes away

SPORTS REPORTER

Former national team footballer and Mohammedan Sporting Club captain Zahirul Haque passed away yesterday at the age of 89.

Having suffered from old age complications for a few years, Haque had a heart attack on Thursday and was since admitted at the Ibn Sina Medical Hospital in Dhaka where he breathed his last at 7:00 am on Saturday.

He was laid to eternal rest at the Banani Graveyard after separate namaz-e-janasas in Paikpara and Manipuri Para.

Having started his football career for Tejgaon Friends Union Club in 1954, Haque played for Central Printing and Stationary, Police and later spent 17 years for Mohammedan Sporting Club before calling time on his career in 1976.

The defender was one of the few footballers from the erstwhile East Pakistan to have represented Pakistan national team in various tournaments and tours at home and abroad throughout the 1960s. He had played in the Asian Games and the Merdeka Cup during those years. He had later represented Bangladesh national team after liberation.

Zahirul was felicitated with the national sports award in 2001 and also received various other awards from different organisations for his contribution to football. Haque left behind his wife, two sons, two daughters and a host of well-wishers to mourn his death.

Arteta expects another 'incredible' Liverpool clash

AGENCIES

Neither Arsenal nor Liverpool would have preferred to play each other in the third round of the FA Cup but the north London club's manager Mikel Arteta hopes the "incredible clash" signals the start of another good run in the competition.

Arteta won the FA Cup in his first season with Arsenal in 2019-20, beating Manchester City and Chelsea to lift the trophy for a record 14th time, while The Reds have won the cup eight times.

The Spaniard said on Friday he expects another humdinger of a match against the Premier League leaders after the two sides played out a thrilling 1-1 draw at Anfield just before Christmas.

"We have a great history in this competition with our two clubs. We have a big opponent to start with and again make another beautiful

journey," Arteta told reporters.

"The draw is the draw. We played two weeks ago in the league (1-1 at Anfield). It was an incredible match and I am sure it will be again."

"We don't have a choice (on the draw). I am sure both teams would have been expecting or hoping for something different, but we have this incredible clash in the third round and we have to cope with it," he added.

Arsenal squandered the chance to end a second successive calendar year at the top of the table after a 2-1 loss to Fulham and have been bumped down to an unsightly fourth position amid their festive plight, which has seen the Gunners claim just one win from their last six games.

Since last lifting the trophy aloft in front of an empty Wembley in 2020, Arsenal have failed to advance beyond the fourth round.

Liverpool, however, have come up short in each of their last three

FA Cup showdowns with Arsenal - who sunk the Reds 2-1 at the Emirates en route to the 2013-14 title - and December's chaotic 1-1 Anfield draw stretched the Gunners' unbeaten streak against the Reds to a respectable three games.

On the other hand, Liverpool are on a mission to add FA Cup number nine to the cabinet, although the defence of their 2021-22 crown ended with a premature fourth-round exit to Brighton & Hove Albion last term.

Liverpool will have a few key players missing the clash. Forward Mohamed Salah left to lead Egypt in the Africa Cup of Nations, while inform midfielder Dominik Szoboszlai suffered a hamstring injury last week against Newcastle which has ruled him out. An interesting choice will have to be made by Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp as both his left-backs - Andy Robertson and Kostas Tsimikas -- are unavailable due to injury.

Arteta also has the same issue on the left flank as left-back Aleksander Zinchenko will miss the contest due to a calf concern.



Bangladesh Under-19 cricket team players pose for a selfie following an official photo session at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. The Mahfuzur Rajman Rabby-led side will leave tonight for South Africa, where they will participate in the ICC U-19 World Cup, beginning on January 19, with the aim of regaining the title that their predecessors had won back in 2020.