

# DESPITE THE ACCENT, I FEEL ENGLISH: JENNINGS

**MUMBAI:** Batsman Keaton Jennings was born and bred in South Africa and captained the Proteas under-19s but insisted yesterday ahead of his expected England debut that he feels "very English".

The 24-year-old opener is tipped to make his international bow for his adopted country in England's do-or-die fourth Test against India, which starts at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai tomorrow. The tall left-hander was a late call-up for England's two remaining

must-win matches after Haseeb Hameed injured his hand during the third Test and was ruled out of the rest of the series. Jennings said joining up with his new teammates had been "surreal" but that he would relish the opportunity to open the batting with captain Alastair Cook this week if picked.

"At the moment I'm feeling very comfortable and very English, despite my accent," he joked to reporters at a news conference following a training

session in India's financial capital. Jennings, whose mother is English, was born in Johannesburg and went on to captain South Africa at under-19 level.

But after leaving school he moved to England in 2011, committing himself to four years there so he could become eligible to play for the national side.

"The opportunity, the professionalism, I don't know if I can put my exact finger on it but there was a combination of feeling really welcome, feeling loved, feeling pushed as well," he said of

his decision to make himself available for England instead of South Africa.

His impressive scoring for Durham captured the attention of England's selectors and Jennings, who owns a house in the northeast English town, says he feels very much settled in his new life. "I suppose the more time you spend in the country the more you feel local. I'm blessed that they've welcomed me with open arms," he said. England trail 2-0 in the five-match series and anything less than a victory would see

India seal the rubber. Jennings, however, welcomes the pressure. "I have always been taught that pressure is a privilege. It's the sort of a thing my dad tried to infuse into me as a kid," said Jennings, whose father Ray played for South Africa during the apartheid era. "I like to think that I bring positive energy and a smile to the group. I am generally quite a happy guy. We're 2-0 down and it's a tough position. Hopefully we can throw a few jibes and throw some punches back," he added. — AFP



**MUMBAI:** Indian groundstaff scrub the surface of the pitch after the team training sessions at the Wankhede stadium ahead of the fourth Test cricket match between India and England in Mumbai yesterday. — AFP

# WARNER CENTURY AS AUSTRALIA RECLAIM SERIES OVER N ZEALAND

**CANBERRA:** David Warner slammed his sixth one-day century of the year to lead Australia to a crushing 116-run victory and reclaim the Chappell-Hadlee Trophy series off New Zealand yesterday. Warner smashed 119 off 115 balls to propel the Australians to an imposing 378 for five after being sent into bat. They then bowled out the Black Caps for 262 off 47.2 overs at the bat-friendly Manuka Oval. New Zealand had to win in Canberra to keep alive their hopes of retaining the trophy after losing by 68 runs in the opening game in Sydney on Sunday. Warner led the way in Australia's third-highest ODI total and was supported by skipper Steve Smith's 72 off 76 balls and Travis Head's 57 from 32 balls, while Mitchell Marsh bludgeoned seven sixes in an unbeaten 76 off just 40 balls. The Black Caps made a spirited attempt to chase Australia's hefty total and were 177 for three when Jimmy Neesham fell in the 31st over for 74, ending a 125-run stand with skipper Kane Williamson.

Williamson was dismissed nine overs later for 81 off 80 balls with five fours and two sixes, and with him went New Zealand's faint hopes of reeling in the Australian target.

Williamson's gamble on sending the Australians into bat backfired spectacularly when the home side feasted on a perfect batting wicket. The pugnacious Warner set the tone with his 10th ODI century—the third century in his last five ODI innings and his first against New Zealand. Only three other Australian batsmen have scored more hundreds in ODIs—

Ricky Ponting (30), Mark Waugh (18) and Adam Gilchrist (16). "It was a fantastic wicket and once you keep wickets in hand you can make 100 runs in the last 10 overs," Warner said.

### WICKETS TUMBLE

"It was great batting with the skipper (Smith) and running between the wickets. This year is going great," Warner was out to a low catch from Williamson at cover off medium-pacer Colin de Grandhomme in the 37th over, ending a 145-run partnership with Smith. Smith followed up his career-best ODI score of 164 in Sydney with 72. The Australian skipper, who was struck a painful blow in the groin by a de Grandhomme delivery on 56, sliced to Mitchell Santner at deep point. Head hit his second half-century of the series before he was caught off Tim Southee.

Marsh provided late fireworks with some prodigious hitting, including three consecutive sixes off Matt Henry in a lusty cameo. Smith said: "330, 340 runs was probably par. 380 was a big total. You need a lot of things to go right to chase it down." The Black Caps lost both openers by the ninth over, with Tom Latham caught and bowled by Josh Hazlewood for four and Martin Guptill caught behind off Pat Cummins for 45.

Neesham looked in good touch with 74 off 83 balls before he was caught in the deep by Mitchell Starc off Josh Hazlewood in the 31st over. James Faulkner got Colin Munro to hole out on 11 to long-on, where Marsh took a safe catch, and Starc had de Grandhomme caught behind for 12. Williamson was deceived by a Pat Cummins slower ball and found Warner in the covers to leave the Black Caps on 232 for six. Wickets tumbled among the lower order, with Cummins finishing with four for 41 as Australia cruised to victory ahead of Friday's third and final ODI in Melbourne. "Australia is one of the best sides in the world and at home they are the best side in the world," Williamson said. "The 'death' overs really hurt us, and Australia have been showing us how to build partnerships." —AFP



**CANBERRA:** Australia's batsman Steven Smith (R) plays a shot as New Zealand's wicketkeeper BJ Watling looks on during the second game of the One Day International Cricket series between Australia and New Zealand in Canberra yesterday. — AFP

### SCOREBOARD

**CANBERRA:** Completed scoreboard in the second Chappell-Hadlee Trophy one-day international between Australia and New Zealand at Manuka Oval in Canberra on yesterday.

Australia		New Zealand	
D. Warner c Williamson b de Grandhomme	119	K. Williamson c Warner b Cummins	81
A. Finch b Santner	19	J. Neesham c Starc b Hazlewood	74
S. Smith c Santner b Southee	72	M. Munro c Marsh b Faulkner	11
T. Head c Munro b Southee	57	C. De Grandhomme c Wade b Starc	12
M. Marsh not out	76	M. Santner b Starc	2
M. Wade b Boulton	11	B.J. Watling c Warner b Faulkner	17
G. Bailey not out	0	T. Southee c Bailey b Cummins	2
Extras (lb11, w10, nb3)	24	M. Henry c Faulkner b Cummins	7
Total (5 wickets, 50 overs)	378	T. Boult not out	2
Fall of wickets: 1-68 (Finch), 2-213 (Warner), 3-248 (Smith), 4-319 (Head), 5-357 (Wade)		Extras (lb1, w4)	5
Did not bat: J. Faulkner, P. Cummins, M. Starc, J. Hazlewood		Total (all out, 47.2 overs)	262
Bowling: Henry 10-0-91-0 (2nb, 2w), Boulton 10-0-80-1 (3w), Santner 10-0-47-1 (1w), Southee 10-0-63-2 (2w), De Grandhomme 9-0-74-1 (1nb, 1w), Neesham 1-0-12-0.		Fall of wickets: 1-40 (Latham), 2-52 (Guptill), 3-177 (Neesham), 4-191 (Munro), 5-229 (de Grandhomme), 6-232 (Williamson), 7-236 (Santner), 8-243 (Southee), 9-254 (Henry), 10-262 (Watling)	
		Bowling: Starc 10-0-52-2 (2w), Hazlewood 9-1-42-2 (1w), Cummins 10-0-41-4 (1w), Head 7-0-31-0, Faulkner 8-2-0-69-2, Marsh 3-0-26-0.	
		Result: Australia won by 116 runs	
		Series: Australia 2-0	
		Man of the match: David Warner (AUS)	

# ENGLAND BID TO KEEP INDIA SERIES ALIVE

**MUMBAI:** England are bidding to keep the India series alive with victory in this week's fourth Test in Mumbai but defeat will raise further questions about Alastair Cook's future as captain. The visitors must win at the Wankhede Stadium to stop top-ranked India from sealing the five-Test series with a match to spare following two consecutive defeats.

Virat Kohli's side won by eight wickets in Mohali last week to take an unbeatable 2-0 series lead after victory in Viskhapatnam followed a draw in the first Test at Rajkot.

Anything less than a victory for England would see India exact revenge for their 2012 home series loss to Cook's men and add to uncertainty surrounding the English skipper.

His future as captain has been in doubt since he admitted just before the tour that he could quit at the end of the Test series because he was finding it hard to be apart from his family for long periods. After becoming a father for a second time last month, the 31-year-old left-handed opener said he found the long England tours difficult, while insisting he remained deeply proud of captaining his country. Despite England's travails in India, coach Trevor Bayliss said he expected Cook to be in charge for the Ashes tour at the end of 2017. "He's talking about the next Ashes series and being out in Australia," Bayliss told BBC Sport.

"Sometimes there are little comments made along the way and they get blown out of all proportion. He's certainly up for the fight. I haven't had any discussion with him any other way and that's what we've been working towards," the Australian coach added.

Cook also received the backing of batsman Joe Root who hailed his skipper as a "brilliant leader".

"Hopefully, we get these results we want in the last two games and we can put right what has been quite a frustrating last couple of weeks," Root, 25, told reporters last week. England's chances of salvaging the series were dealt a blow however when teenage batting sensation Haseeb Hameed was ruled out of the remaining two match-

es after injuring his hand during the Mohali match.

### UNCAPPED JENNINGS

The 19-year-old's absence could mean a Test debut for opener Keaton Jennings. The 24-year-old South Africa-born left-handed batsman has been called up as Hameed's replacement.

All-rounder Liam Dawson is also in contention for a place after being drafted in to replace left-arm spinner Zafar Ansari, who is struggling with a back injury he sustained in the second Test in Visakhapatnam. England will be boosted by the likely return of fast bowler Stuart Broad who has recovered from a strained tendon in his foot. India are expected to be able to call upon the services of opener Lokesh Rahul who has recovered from the injury that kept him out of the Mohali Test, according to India media reports.

His return threatens the involvement of Karun Nair who endured a disappointing Test debut in Mohali. Wicketkeeper Parthiv Patel, who impressed with both bat and gloves in Mohali after eight years in the Test wilderness, is expected to keep his place as Wriddhiman Saha has yet to recover from a high strain. Former Indian batsman Virender Sehwag expects India to be too strong for England but believes the visitors will not give up the series without a fight. "I think we will win 3-0 as I expect England to show some resistance and that's why I won't predict 4-0," he told the Press Trust of India news agency. The final Test begins in Chennai on December 16.

India (from): Virat Kohli (capt), Murali Vijay, Lokesh Rahul, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane, Ravichandran Ashwin, Parthiv Patel, Ravindra Jadeja, Jayant Yadav, Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav, Amit Mishra, Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

England (from): Alastair Cook (capt), Joe Root, Jos Buttler, Moeen Ali, Ben Stokes, Jonny Bairstow, Adil Rashid, Chris Woakes, Steven Finn, James Anderson, Jake Ball, Gary Ballance, Gareth Batty, Stuart Broad, Liam Dawson, Ben Duckett, Keaton Jennings. —AFP



# KIB SPONSORS KUWAITI JET SKI CHAMPION ABDULLAH AL-FADEL

**KUWAIT:** In a continuation of the Bank's ongoing efforts to support local talents across all areas, Kuwait International Bank (KIB) sponsored Kuwaiti national Jet Ski champion, Abdullah Al-Fadel, who recently took part in the King's Cup World Jet Ski Championship in Thailand, competing against international contenders from more than 30 nations.

On his part, Manager of the Corporate Communications Unit at KIB, Nawaf Najia, congratulated the young champion on winning third place, adding: "Our sponsorship stems from our strong belief in Al-Fadel's talents and abilities, and we are supremely confident that he will continue to garner titles and awards that will raise Kuwait's profile in this arena both regionally and internationally. At KIB we are always committed to supporting social initiatives of all kinds, and we are especially focused on supporting youth initiatives that aim to foster a strong, healthy and well-prepared future generation."

Najia also added: "KIB continues to

devote its resources and efforts to connect with people across the community in Kuwait. Given the popularity of sports amongst youth, this has been a key area that we have been particularly focused on. In addition to supporting and sponsoring local sports initiatives, we also are keen on sponsoring talented Kuwaiti athletes who are taking part in various local and international competitions."

As part of its leading social responsibility program, KIB strives to encourage youth in Kuwait to harness their skills and enhance their capabilities across all personal and professional areas. The Bank is particularly keen on inspiring youth to become more active, aiming to promote the sports culture in Kuwait. Within this vein, sports continues to be one of the biggest platforms under KIB's social responsibility program, as the Bank strongly believes that sports and physical activity are an integral part of a modern, healthy lifestyle, enhancing both physical and mental well-being.

