

ONLY PAIN NEESHAM SHOWS IS IN DEFEAT

MELBOURNE: The first thing that went through all-rounder Jimmy Neesham's mind when he was struck by a Mitchell Starc bouncer was the words of former captain Brendon McCullum - "show no pain".

Neesham failed to pick up a 148kph delivery from the left-arm fast bowler in their second one day international in Canberra on Tuesday and was hit on the right forearm.

The 26-year-old, outwardly at least, showed little effect of the blow and

stared down Starc, who had come down the pitch to offer him some 'advice', before receiving treatment.

But the words of McCullum: 'Not to flinch, show no pain. Even if you think it's broken', were all he could think of, said Neesham, who scored 74 in the 116-run loss to Steve Smith's side that secured the three-match series for the hosts with a game to spare.

"That's something you were taught very quickly under Baz's captaincy, not to show much pain when that happens,"

Neesham told reporters on Wednesday. "Obviously he's still got a bit of that legacy holding on there."

The left-handed Neesham was on 57 at the time and said his big concern was whether he could continue to bat as the visitors attempted to chase 379 for victory after David Warner top scored with 119 in Australia's 378 for five.

"It was more seeing whether I could hold the bat with the top hand. I gave it a bit of a test and realised I might need couple of minutes to get feeling back in

my hand," said Neesham, who will have the arm examined before the final game in Melbourne on Friday.

"Batting wasn't all that easy after that." With the Chappell-Hadlee Trophy now lost, Neesham said the team had been given a dressing down by coach Mike Hesson and captain Kane Williamson.

"Hess and Kane came out and made it pretty clear they weren't all that happy with the performance and that's fair enough," Neesham said. "We know that's

not the sort of performances we want to be putting out on the park."

Neesham added they would need to work on their bowling at the back end of the innings, having conceded 126 runs in the final 10 overs at Manuka Oval. In the first game in Sydney, the bowlers conceded 113 runs in the final 10 overs. "We started quite well but going for 170 odd in last 15 overs is not what you want from a team that have shown they have the skills to bowl well at the death." —Reuters

RED CARDS TO BE INTRODUCED FOR UNRULY PLAYER CONDUCT

MUMBAI: Cricketers could be 'red-carded' by umpires and ejected from the ground for the duration of a match from next October after the sport's lawmakers yesterday recommended on-field sanctions to address declining standards of player behaviour.

The world cricket committee of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), the guardian of the game's laws, has recommended that a player should be removed from the field for threatening an umpire, physical assault or any other act of violence. Match officials currently report players or incidents to the match referee at the end of the day after which action is taken.

Following a two-day meeting in Mumbai, MCC world cricket committee chairman Mike Brearley said umpires needed to be empowered to impose on-the-spot sanctions, noting that there were more disciplinary problems in the lower-tier leagues.

"There was a survey done of the umpires and 40 percent said they are considering giving up the game or giving up umpiring because of verbal abuse," former England captain Brearley told reporters at the Wankhede Stadium.

"Anecdotal evidence from people who are familiar with leagues in parts of England say that the behaviour has got worse. "The umpires have to be respected and given the best possible chance and I think cricket is the only game in which there isn't this possibility of an in-match punishment or deterrent."

ROLE MODELS

The committee discussed sanctions like run penalties and sin bins but felt it would be hard to apply them consistently around the world.

"It got to the state where something had to happen to prevent those things happening on the international stage," former Australia captain Ricky Ponting, a member of the committee, said.

"The modern player now understands their role in society, about being role models, and want to play the game the right way for younger kids."

The committee also decided that no changes were required to the current ball-tampering laws despite recent incidents.

The age-old practice of shining the cricket ball has become a grey area for some cricketers who called for clarity after South Africa captain Faf du Plessis was declared guilty of ball-tampering by the International Cricket Council last month.

Television footage appeared to show du Plessis applying saliva to the ball while sucking on a sweet during the Hobart test against Australia leading to him being sanctioned and losing his entire match fee.

The committee also agreed that the game had tilted too far in favour of the batsmen and therefore recommended specific bat size limitations to the edges and depth of a bat.

The new laws will be implemented at all levels of the game from Oct. 1 next year, subject to approval by the MCC's main committee. — Reuters

JENNINGS TO BE COOK'S LATEST OPENING PARTNER FOR ENGLAND

MUMBAI: Keaton Jennings will make his England debut as captain Alastair Cook's latest opening partner in the fourth and penultimate test against India at the Wankhede Stadium today.

Left-hander Jennings will replace teenager Haseeb Hameed, who broke his little finger during England's defeat in the third test in Mohali and returned home to undergo surgery.

Jennings, the son of South African former wicketkeeper and coach Ray, arrived in India only on Monday after being called up from the England Lions squad in the United Arab Emirates.

"He's going to play. He's going to open the batting and another great opportunity for a guy to come in and play," Cook told reporters, adding he was reminded of his own debut in 2006 when he flew into India 48 hours ahead of the game and hit a century in Nagpur.

"He's in good touch, spending bit of time in the middle with the Lions, getting hundreds and stuff. Pretty special day for him tomorrow."

The 24-year-old Jennings, who scored six centuries for county side Durham last season, is Cook's 11th partner at the top of the order in the game's longest format since the retirement of Andrew Strauss four years ago.

Cook said the frequent changes of his opening partner did not impact his own batting. "It doesn't really affect me," the 31-year-old said. "You don't just bat with your opening partner, you bat with people at three, four, five as well."

"I will just make sure Keaton plays the

way he wants to play, keep him calm I suppose. Obviously it's disappointing about Has, we obviously found a player there.

"But if Keaton comes in and does well again, it's just adding to our top-order players." Fast bowler Stuart Broad, who suffered a foot injury during the second test in Visakhapatnam and subsequently missed the game in Mohali, was still doubtful for the Mumbai match, Cook added.

The Wankhede Stadium, overlooking the Arabian Sea, has been a happy hunting ground for England, who have won their last two test matches against the hosts at the venue in 2012 and 2006. England made a strong start to the series in Rajkot when they made India fight hard in their second innings to eke out a draw but lost the next two tests to trail 2-0 against the world's number one test side.

They drew lot of flak for defensive batting while chasing an improbable 405 to win the second test and coach Trevor Bayliss said it was time for the side to show more positive intent.

"It's a clear message I knew was coming out," Cook said. "We do have to take that second innings in Vizag out of it, where we played that way."

"But I wonder whether that did kind of tie into the third game and there was a bit of hangover and we did go back into our shells a bit."

"After chatting around a bit I think it was quite clear message that we wanted to play a little bit more aggressively and with a bit more intent." — Reuters



PHILADELPHIA: Philadelphia Flyers' Steve Mason (35) blocks a shot by Florida Panthers' Jussi Jokinen (36) as Shayne Gostisbehere (53), Nick Cousins (25) and Colton Sceviour (7) look on during the third period of an NHL hockey game, Tuesday, in Philadelphia. Philadelphia won 3-2 in overtime. — AP

VORACEK AND SIMMONDS LIFT FLYERS TO SIXTH STRAIGHT WIN

PHILADELPHIA: Jakub Voracek scored with 8.6 seconds left in overtime after Wayne Simmonds had two goals in regulation, leading the Philadelphia Flyers to their sixth straight victory, 3-2 over the Florida Panthers on Tuesday night. Steve Mason made 42 saves to help the Flyers to their longest winning streak in five years. Mason, who earned the NHL's First Star of the Week on Monday, won his fifth straight start. Aleksander Barkov and Jussi Jokinen scored for Florida, which completed a six-game trip with a 1-5-0 record. Mason turned aside Florida's best chance in overtime when he denied Aaron Ekblad's slap shot from close range.

ISLANDERS 4, RANGERS 2

Andrew Ladd scored in the second period and Jaroslav Halak stopped 36 shots to lead the Islanders over their crosstown-rival. John Tavares, Jason Chimera and Scott Mayfield also scored at the Barclays Center to help the last-place Islanders improve to 4-0-1 in their last five games. Jimmy Vesey and Marc Staal scored for the Metropolitan Division-leading Rangers and Henrik Lundqvist finished with 28 saves. The Rangers have alternated wins and losses in regulation in their last eight games. The Rangers went 0 for 6 on the power play, including a 6-on-3 advantage with Lundqvist pulled over the final 32 seconds.

BLUES 3, CANADIENS 2, OT

Jaden Schwartz got his second goal of the game in overtime, leading St. Louis over Montreal. Paul Stastny also scored for St. Louis, which has won four of five. The Blues rallied from a 2-0 deficit and have a point in their last 13 home games. Tomas Plekanec and Paul Byron scored for Montreal, which completed a five-game trip 2-3. Goalie Jake Allen made 28 saves to improve to 13-3-3. Schwartz lifted a backhand past goalie AI Montoya with 1:22 left in overtime.

DEVILS 3, CANUCKS 2

Taylor Hall scored a goal, set up a go-ahead tally by Kyle Palmieri and delivered a crushing check that knocked Vancouver defenseman Philip Larsen out of the game to lift New Jersey. Defenseman Ben Lovejoy also scored and Cory Schneider made 22 saves as New Jersey remained the NHL's only team not to lose at home in regulation. This is the first time the Devils have gone 10 home games without losing in regulation - they began 8-0-1 in 1987-88. This was also their first win in regulation in the last 11 games. Daniel Sedin scored a second-period power-play goal with the Canucks on a two-man advantage, and he set up his brother, Henrik, early in the third period when Vancouver closed the deficit to a goal.

PREDATORS 4, AVALANCHE 3

Roman Josi scored a power-play goal 1:04 into the third period to give Nashville a win over Colorado. Viktor Arvidsson, James Neal and P.K.

Subban also scored for Nashville, which ended a two-game losing streak. Matt Duchene scored twice and Nathan MacKinnon also scored for Colorado, which has lost six straight. At the tail end of 2-minute 5-on-3 advantage, Josi took a pass from Ryan Johansen at the top of the left faceoff circle and dropped to one knee as he fired a tiebreaking one-timer by goaltender Semyon Varlamov.

BLACKHAWKS 4, COYOTES 0

Marian Hossa had two goals, Scott Darling made 22 saves and Chicago beat Arizona to snap a two-game slide. Artem Anisimov and Dennis Rasmussen also scored to help Chicago maintain a three-point lead over St. Louis in the Central Division. Darling made a handful of tough stops but wasn't heavily tested in his first shutout this season and third of his career. He started his third straight game in place of No. 1 goalie Corey Crawford, who had an appendectomy in Philadelphia on Saturday. The 37-year-old Hossa scored his team-leading 13th and 14th goals in his 27th game - surpassing his total of 13 last season in 64 contests.

SABRES 4, OILERS 3, OT

Rasmus Ristolainen scored from the left circle 57 seconds into overtime and Buffalo beat Edmonton. The Sabres scored twice in a span of 86 seconds, with Evander Kane forcing overtime by scoring with 29 seconds left in regulation. Kane had two goals and Brian Gionta also scored as

Buffalo rallied after squandering a 2-0 first-period lead. Anders Nilsson stopped 34 shots, closing his legs to foil Edmonton star Connor McDavid on a short-handed breakaway in the third period. Leon Draisaitl, Milan Lucic and Jordan Eberle scored for the Oilers, who improved to 3-0-2 on the road despite the loss. McDavid had two assists.

RED WINGS 4, JETS 3, SO

Henrik Zetterberg backhanded in the deciding goal in the shootout and Detroit came back from a two-goal deficit to beat Winnipeg. Thomas Vanek also scored against goalie Connor Hellebuyck in the shootout, and Patrik Laine had Winnipeg's tally against Petr Mrazek. Tomas Tatar, Anthony Mantha and Vanek scored in regulation for Detroit, which has at least one point in seven of its last eight games (5-1-2). The Jets got goals from Andrew Copp, Dustin Byfuglien and Laine, whose 17th of the season tied him for the NHL lead with Pittsburgh's Sidney Crosby.

FLAMES 2, STARS 1

Sean Monahan scored on a power play midway through the third period, lifting Calgary over Dallas. Johnny Gaudreau passed to Monahan from behind the net into the slot, and he slid a wrist shot past goalie Kari Lehtonen. Monahan assisted on Gaudreau's goal that tied it at 1 in the second period. Flames goalie Chad Johnson made 29 saves. Lehtonen had 18. Dallas' Curtis McKenzie opened the scoring with an unassisted goal in the first period. —AP

NHL results/standings

Chicago 4, Arizona 0; Calgary 2, Dallas 1; St. Louis 3, Montreal 2 (OT); Nashville 4, Colorado 3; Detroit 4, Winnipeg 3 (So); Buffalo 4, Edmonton 3 (OT); New Jersey 3, Vancouver 2; NY Islanders 4, NY Rangers 2; Philadelphia 3, Florida 2 (OT).

Western Conference													
Central Division													
W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS								
Chicago	17	8	3	78	68	37	Ottawa	15	9	2	64	67	32
St. Louis	15	7	4	72	72	34	Boston	15	10	1	63	58	31
Winnipeg	13	13	3	77	85	29	Tampa Bay	14	11	2	77	72	30
Minnesota	12	8	4	66	51	28	Detroit	13	11	3	69	72	29
Nashville	12	9	4	75	69	28	Florida	12	11	4	65	70	28
Dallas	10	11	6	67	87	26	Buffalo	10	10	6	55	68	26
Colorado	9	14	1	52	73	19	Toronto	10	9	5	72	77	25
Pacific Division							Metropolitan Division						
Edmonton	14	10	4	83	74	32	Pittsburgh	16	7	3	88	80	35
San Jose	15	9	1	60	51	31	NY Rangers	17	9	1	97	69	35
Calgary	14	13	2	73	83	30	Columbus	15	5	4	77	53	34
Anaheim	12	9	5	67	67	29	Philadelphia	15	10	3	90	87	33
Los Angeles	13	10	2	66	66	28	Washington	14	7	3	61	55	31
Vancouver	11	13	2	60	78	24	New Jersey	12	7	6	66	68	30
Arizona	8	13	4	57	80	20	Carolina	10	10	5	58	65	25
Eastern Conference							NY Islanders	10	10	5	66	73	25
Atlantic Division							Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L)						
Montreal	17	6	3	76	59	37							



MUMBAI: England cricketers play football during the training session at the Wankhede stadium ahead of the fourth Test cricket match between India and England in Mumbai yesterday. — AFP