

## PATTINSON HAS TEAM SUPPORT IN NO-BALL STRUGGLE: LYON

**CHRISTCHURCH:** James Pattinson has the full support of the Australian team in his battle against over-stepping and they expect him to come out and "blow the game apart" in New Zealand's second innings, according to off-spinner Nathan Lyon.

The 25-year-old Pattinson, recalled for the second test at Hagley Oval after missing most of January due to shin soreness, had figures of two for 81 from 15 overs in New Zealand's first innings but he could have had a much better

day for his side. Pattinson had New Zealand captain Brendon McCullum brilliantly caught by Mitchell Marsh in the gully for 39, only to discover that he had bowled a no ball.

McCullum made the most of the reprieve to smash the fastest test century and combine in a 179-run partnership with Corey Anderson to set up New Zealand's first innings of 370.

Lyon, however, said the team had not let yesterday's error affect them even though McCullum and Anderson took

away all of their early momentum. "I think a lot of momentum swung their way and credit to Corey and Brendon they ran with it. They played a lot of shots. They rode their luck," Lyon said.

"We are all going to be right behind James and I have confidence that he will come out and blow the game apart in the second innings. "He is a talented bowler and his adrenaline got up too high and it overstepped the mark, but that's part of the game. I have all the faith in James that he will come out and

perform in the second innings."

It is the second time this summer that Pattinson has had wickets recalled for over-stepping the mark. He bowled West Indies batsman Carlos Brathwaite on 13 off a no ball, then had him caught at fine leg on 50 off another no ball at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in December.

Brathwaite then scored 59 in a 90-run partnership with Darren Bravo and it cost Pattinson a five-wicket haul on his home ground, and coach Darren Lehmann has reportedly spoken to the

fast bowler about the problem.

New Zealand captain McCullum said his side had worked hard to eliminate no balls from their game, particularly at training. "He has obviously had a few wickets this summer where he has overstepped the line and that's something we have worked on with our bowlers," McCullum said.

"It's one thing to do at training and get away with it, but it can have major consequences in the game so we worked quite hard on it." — Reuters

## MORRIS HEROICS WIN IT FOR SOUTH AFRICA

**CAPE TOWN:** For the second week in a row all-rounder Chris Morris conjured a victory for South Africa, taking the hosts to a three-wicket win over England off the last ball of the first Twenty20 international at Newlands on Friday.

England looked set to defend a modest total as Reece Topley started the last over, with South Africa needing 15 runs to win. Kyle Abbott stole a single to get Morris on strike. The tall Morris struck the next two balls for four and six. After a dot delivery, he hit twos off the last two balls. Topley had a chance to run out Abbott to force a tie and a super over but fumbled a throw from long-off.

Morris finished with 17 not out off seven balls. A week earlier his 62 off 38 balls was a match-winner in the fourth one-day international. The man of the match, though, was leg-spinner Imran Tahir, who took four for 21 to restrict England to 134 for eight after the tourists were sent in to bat.

"We let ourselves down with the bat," said England captain Eoin Morgan. "It is a huge credit to the bowling unit that we came close to defending that score."

England looked set for a big total as opening batsmen Jason Roy and the in-form Alex Hales hit 38 off the first 3.3 overs before Roy clipped Kagiso Rabada to Hashim Amla at mid-wicket.

Tahir came on to bowl after the six-over

power play had yielded 50 runs for Roy's wicket. He struck with his fourth ball when Hales top-edged a sweep to backward square leg. JP Duminy held the catch despite being knocked to the ground by Rabada, who was also running for the ball. Tahir followed up by dismissing Ben Stokes, Morgan and Moeen Ali. The latter two wickets were off successive balls and he narrowly missed a hat-trick when a googly went over Chris Jordan's middle stump. South Africa made a confident start, with Hashim Amla and AB de Villiers putting on 31 for the first wicket. But England bowled well on a slow pitch and no batsman was able to dominate.

All-rounder Ben Stokes and leg-spinner Adil Rashid were impressive in the middle overs, taking one for 19 and one for 24 respectively. It seemed to be England's match when Jordan dismissed David Miller and David Wiese in the penultimate over. But that merely set the stage for Morris. The Delhi Daredevils, who paid over US\$1-million for his services in the 2016 Indian Premier League, will feel they have made a good purchase. "Successful teams get over the line, even at times when they shouldn't," admitted South African captain Faf du Plessis. "It gives us a massive amount of confidence."

The second and final game is in Johannesburg today. —AFP



**CHRISTCHURCH:** New Zealand's Brendon McCullum batting against Australia on the first day of the second International Cricket Test match at Hagley Park Oval, Christchurch, New Zealand, yesterday. — AP

## MCCULLUM SMASHES FASTEST TEST CENTURY TO RESCUE NZ

**CHRISTCHURCH:** Brendon McCullum belted the fastest century the world has seen yesterday as he thrashed the Australian bowling in a landmark innings to celebrate his final 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 Misbah-ul-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. The 34-year-old, who retires from international cricket at the end of this Test, said that when he went to the middle on a seaming wicket, and with New Zealand in trouble at 32-3, he felt attack would be the best form of defence.

### 'AN ALMIGHTY, FILTHY SLOG'

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.

"When you're confronted with wickets like that and you know you're going to have to be pretty aggressive you need some luck along the way." When he was joined by the equally belligerent Corey Anderson (72) they put on 179 runs in 110 deliveries.

"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 and sliced Josh Hazlewood for four 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 Richard's name from the record books.

"He 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."

There were 21 fours and four sixes in McCullum's innings with the first six setting a new world record for total Test sixes, overtaking Australian Adam Gilchrist, who hit 100.

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.

"It was pretty amazing striking," said spinner Nathan Lyon. "He's been a credit to the game of cricket the way he's conducted himself for New Zealand for a long period of time and to see him come out there and do that was pretty amazing."

"He rode his luck and that's the way he's played cricket and I'm sure that's the way he will want to go down at the end of his career-as a person who took the game one."

There was one element of luck in McCullum's audacious display when he was on 39 and Mitchell Marsh pulled off a spectacular catch only for the wicket to be disallowed because the James Pattinson delivery was ruled a no ball. McCullum said that let-off inspired him to attack the bowling even harder. "It was fortu-

nate for the reprieve so it loosened me up a bit, just relaxes you a little bit more because you're probably not meant to be out there so you play with a little bit more freedom," he said.

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." —AFP

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the first day in the second and final Test between New Zealand and Australia yesterday in Christchurch, New Zealand.

New Zealand 1st innings		Australia 1st innings	
M. Guptill c Burns b Pattinson	18	D. Warner c Guptill b Boult	12
T. Latham c Smith b Bird	4	J. Burns not out	27
K. Williamson c Smith b M. Marsh	7	U. Khawaja not out	18
H. Nicholls lbw b Hazlewood	7	Extras	0
B. McCullum c Lyon b Pattinson	145	Total (for 1 wickets, 20 overs)	57
C. Anderson c Voges b Lyon	72	Fall of wickets: 1-25 D. Warner	
B. Watling c Burns b Bird	58	To bat: S. Smith, A. Voges, M. Marsh, P. Nevill, J. Pattinson, J. Hazlewood, N. Lyon, J. Bird.	
T. Southee c Hazlewood b Lyon	5	Bowling: T. Southee 7-1-21-0, T. Boult 6-1-18-1, M. Henry 6-2-18-0, C. Anderson 1-1-0-0.	
M. Henry c Khawaja b Lyon	21		
N. Wagner c Nevill b Hazlewood	10		
T. Boult not out	14		
Extras (lb-2 nb-2 w-5)	9		
Total (all out, 65.4 overs)	370		
Fall of wickets: 1-21 M. Guptill, 2-23 T. Latham, 3-32 H. Nicholls, 4-74 K. Williamson, 5-253 B. McCullum, 6-266 C. Anderson, 7-273 T. Southee, 8-297 M. Henry, 9-333 N.			

### FASTEST TEST CENTURIES

- 54 balls-Brendon McCullum, New Zealand vs. Australia, Christchurch, 2016.
- 56-Viv Richards, West Indies vs. England, St. John's, 1986.
- 56-Misbah-ul-Haq, Pakistan vs. Australia, Abu Dhabi, 2014.
- 57-Adam Gilchrist, Australia vs. England, Perth, 2006.
- 67-Jack Gregory, Australia vs. South Africa, Johannesburg, 1921.
- 69-Shivnarine Chanderpaul, West Indies vs. Australia, Georgetown, 2003.
- 69-David Warner, Australia vs. India, Perth, 2012.
- 70-Chris Gayle, West Indies vs. Australia, Perth, 2009. — AP



**KARACHI:** In this photograph taken on December 9, 2015, Pakistani bowler Irfan Shah (R) from the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) delivers the ball during a domestic match at the National Cricket Stadium in Karachi. They have lived under the shadow of drone strikes and lost loved ones to Taliban suicide bombers, but Pakistan's tribal zone cricketers refuse to be victims and are determined to make their mark on the field. — AFP

### PAKISTAN'S TRIBAL ZONE SIDE

#### FIGHT FOR LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

**KARACHI:** They have lived under the shadow of drone strikes and loved ones lost to Taliban suicide bombers, but Pakistan's tribal zone cricketers refuse to be victims and are determined to make their mark on the field.

While the Pakistan Super League, currently under way in the UAE, is grabbing headlines for its high-octane Twenty20 action that has been enriched by the addition of foreign stars, a quieter, historic success story appears to be unfolding at home.

Last month, a team from the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) — a semi-autonomous underdeveloped region of Pakistan that is governed according to local custom-defined the odds to qualify for the country's major tournaments, beating major sides such as Rawalpindi and Karachi along the way.

The area has been a hotbed of Islamist militancy since 2001 following the US-led invasion of neighbouring Afghanistan, and has long been regarded as an untameable

frontier by Islamabad, and British colonial powers before them.

The rugged mountains and small towns of these regions have historically been the setting for generations-long blood feuds between opposing clans, with boys learning to use Kalashnikovs at a young age.

But since the army widened its military operations in the region two years ago, a semblance of peace and normality is slowly returning—and some young boys are trading guns for cricket bats fashioned out of planks of wood.

Three years ago the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) accorded the region full member status, giving it a much-needed fillip.

### BATS NOT BAZOOKAS

FATA cricket head Noorul Haq said he was never in doubt that once security improved bat and ball would replace gun and grenade.

"I was always convinced that one day we will be recognised in national cricket," Haq told AFP.

"The boys of FATA have expressed themselves and once we get better facilities our team will show better results in the years to come." The results in the nation's qualifying rounds were encouraging.

FATA first defeated higher-ranked Abbottabad by nine wickets, then followed up with wins over established Faisalabad by 10 wickets and Karachi by 81 runs, all of which was enough to earn them a place in the Quaid-e-Azam trophy, the country's premier first-class tournament.

Playing in the big leagues FATA managed to win only one of their seven games—losing three and drawing the rest—but their flair and fight impressed everyone.

Their biggest moment came when they outlasted a much-fancied Rawalpindi attack, rebounding from a dismal four wickets lost without any runs on the board in the first innings, to reaching 180 in their second outing for a four-wicket victory.

Stocky right-hander Fawad Khan was the toast of the FATA batting, with 521 runs in seven trophy matches highlighted by a pair of centuries—a 108 against Lahore and an impressive 172 against Karachi.

"I used to play for Peshawar before FATA team was granted rights," said Bannu-born Fawad, who also previously played for Abbottabad. "But this is great to have a team of our own region and I tell you, we have the talent to go places."

Like others in the squad Fawad has experienced personal loss because of the region's troubles—his brother-in-law died in a suicide bomb attack in 2012.

Pace bowler Irfanullah Khan, a one-time member of Pakistan's under-19 squad, lost his brother, another promising cricketer, in the same attack.

"Sadly he lost his life and I am carrying on his mission to play," said Irfanullah.

FATA's cricketers are mostly on retainers amounting to hundreds of dollars per month as opposed to the tens of thousands some Pakistani players earn in the EPL. But coach Kamran Khan said the hard-knocks backgrounds of his team could work in their favour.

"The best thing about them is they don't give up," said Kamran, a former first-class player. "They fight till the end and that's in their blood. That will help them develop into a top side in the years to come." — AFP



**COLOMBO:** Sri Lanka's cricket team players watch as Sri Lankan Buddhist monks chant prayers for their success during a Buddhist ceremony in Colombo yesterday, prior to the team's departure for a cricket tour in Bangladesh to participate in the Asia Cup Tournament from February 20 till March 6. — AFP