

Sports

Captain Paine hails teamwork as Australia crush N Zealand

Australia winning all four home Tests so far this summer

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at the end of the second Test between New Zealand and Australia at the Melbourne Cricket Ground yesterday:

Australia 1st innings 467 (T. Head 114, S. Smith 85, T. Paine 79, M. Labuschagne 63; Wagner 4-38, Southee 3-103)
New Zealand 1st innings 148 (T. Latham 50; P. Cummins 5-28, J. Pattinson 3-34)

Australia 2nd innings (overnight 137-4)
D. Warner c Blundell b Wagner 38
J. Burns c Watling b Santner 35
M. Labuschagne run out (Santner) 19
S. Smith c Southee b Wagner 7
M. Wade not out 30
T. Head b Wagner 28
Extras (lb4, b4, w2, nb1) 11
Total (5 wkts declared, 54.2 overs) 168
Did not bat: Tim Paine, Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Nathan Lyon, James Pattinson
Fall of wickets: 1-62 (Warner), 2-100 (Labuschagne), 3-110 (Burns), 4-110 (Smith), 5-168 (Head)
Bowling: Boult 9-0-30-0, Southee 15-3-44-0, de Grandhomme 5-0-14-0 (lbw), Wagner 17.2-1-50-3 (lbw, lb), Santner 8-0-22-1

New Zealand 2nd innings
T. Latham c Paine b Pattinson 8
T. Blundell c Lyon b Labuschagne 121
K. Williamson lbw Pattinson 0
R. Taylor b Pattinson 2
H. Nicholls st Paine b Lyon 33
B. Watling c Warner b Lyon 22
C. de Grandhomme c Warner b Lyon 9
M. Santner c Paine b Lyon 27
T. Southee run out (Paine) 2
N. Wagner not out 6
T. Boult absent hurt -
Extras (lb7, nb1, w2) 10
Total (all out: 71 overs) 240
Fall of wickets: 1-32 (Latham), 2-33 (Williamson), 3-35 (Taylor), 4-89 (Nicholls), 5-161 (Watling), 6-172 (de Grandhomme), 7-212 (Santner), 8-214 (Southee), 9-240 (Blundell)
Bowling: Starc 15-3-59-0 (2w, lb), Cummins 18-4-47-0, Pattinson 12-3-35-3, Lyon 23-4-81-4, Labuschagne 3-1-11-1
Result: Australia won by 247 runs.

MELBOURNE: Captain Tim Paine pointed to teamwork yesterday as the crucial factor in Australia winning all four home Tests so far this summer — and all inside four days. After crushing Pakistan twice, they have now done the same to New Zealand, wrapping up their three-Test series against the Black Caps with a 247-run thrashing in Melbourne.

A first-innings Travis Head century, 85 from Steve Smith and 79 by Paine took the game away from the visitors after Australia lost the toss and were put into bat. Pat Cummins, James Pattinson and Nathan Lyon then led the attack in dismissing New Zealand twice.

Paine said it was all about players stepping up when others were having an off day. "I think it shows that we're starting to spread the load," he said. "When we work together as a team and build pressure — one day it's going to be Pat (Cummins), the next day it's going to be Nathan (Lyon), the next day it's going to be James Pattinson, another day it's going to be Mitchell Starc.

"We just keep driving that home to all our team," he added. "If we keep building pressure as a team we've got some absolute firepower and we know that all of them are going to have their day in the sun."

Paine said the same applied to the batting, where some fired in Melbourne and others didn't. "The same with the batting, trying to build partnerships, trying to take teams' bowlers really deep, make them bowl lots of overs," he said.

"At some stage we're all going to get a chance to score lots of runs as well." Australia, who retained the Ashes in England heading into the home summer, have one final Test against the Black Caps in Sydney later this week. Paine said he wanted the same intensity for that game, which meant muted celebrations in Melbourne with such a short turnaround. "We



MELBOURNE: Australia's wicketkeeper Tim Paine (R) stumps New Zealand batsman Henry Nicholls (L) on the fourth day of the second cricket Test match at the MCG in Melbourne yesterday.—AFP

want to win every Test match, there's no doubt about that," he said.

"We know we've wrapped up the series here today, which was pleasing, but with the (ICC) Test match

championship every Test is really important.

"So winning the series is almost less important until we wrap up next week hopefully with another good win." —AFP

South Africa see off stubborn England to claim 107-run victory

CENTURION: South Africa broke down stubborn England resistance to win the first Test of their World Test Championship series by 107 runs at SuperSport Park yesterday. England needed 376 to win but despite some committed batting were bowled out for 268 on the fourth day of the five-day encounter.

An enthralling contest swung South Africa's way when left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj bowled Ben Stokes to halt a brief flurry of strokes as Stokes and captain Joe Root tried to lift the scoring rate before the second new ball was due.

The new ball then had an immediate impact with Kagiso Rabada having Jonny Bairstow caught at gully before Anrich Nortje claimed the crucial wicket of Root, who made a fighting 48 before he was caught behind.

It was the second time in the day Nortje claimed a wicket with the second ball of a new spell after he made the first breakthrough of the day by dismissing top-scorer Rory Burns for 84.

The remaining wickets fell quickly, with Rabada finishing with four for 103 and fellow fast bowler Anrich Nortje claiming three for 56. Maharaj, who broke England's first wicket stand of 92 on Saturday when he dismissed Dom Sibley, took two for 37.

South Africa produced a disciplined bowling performance, making scoring difficult on a pitch which always offered something to the bowlers with some sideways movement and uneven bounce.

England added only 50 runs in 25 overs while losing two wickets during the morning.

Rory Burns took his overnight score of 77 to 84 before mistiming a pull against Nortje to be caught at mid-on, while Joe Denly was leg before wicket to Dwaine Pretorius for 31.

Burns and Denly saw off the threat of Vernon Philander and Rabada but found scoring difficult.

Philander conceded only one run in five overs. Rabada gave up 23 in six overs, which included two hooked sixes by Denly.

Burns, who faced most of Philander's bowling, adding only seven runs off 37 balls. The change to Nortje brought an immediate result for South Africa as Burns attempted to pull the fast bowler's second delivery and sent the ball looping to Rabada at mid-on.



CENTURION: South Africa's Rudi Second (L) throws the ball in an attempt to run out England's Rory Burns (R) during the fourth day of the first Test cricket match between South Africa and England at The SuperSport Park stadium at Centurion near Pretoria yesterday.—AFP

Nortje made a second crucial breakthrough when South African captain Faf du Plessis made an inspired bowling change. First innings destroyer Vernon Philander

sent down three overs with the second new ball but was not making the batsmen play many deliveries, so Du Plessis called on Nortje with immediate success. —AFP

SCOREBOARD

Centurion, South Africa: Final scores on the fourth day of the first Test between South Africa and England at SuperSport Park yesterday:

South Africa, first innings, 284	J. Archer c Van der Dussen b Nortje	4
England, first innings, 181	S. Broad b Rabada	6
South Africa, second innings, 272	J. Anderson not out	0
England, second innings (overnight 121-1)	Extras (b8, lb3, w1)	12
R. Burns c Rabada b Nortje	Total (93 overs)	268
D. Sibley c and b Maharaj	Fall of wickets: 1-92 (Sibley), 2-139 (Burns), 3-158 (Denly), 4-204 (Stokes), 5-222 (Bairstow), 6-232 (Root), 7-251 (Curran), 8-256 (Archer), 9-262 (Buttler)	
J. Denly lbw b Pretorius	Bowling: Rabada 24-3-103-4, Philander 20-8-35-0, Nortje 17-4-56-3 (lbw), Pretorius 16-6-26-1, Maharaj 16-3-37-2.	
J. Root c De Kock b Nortje		
B. Stokes b Maharaj		
J. Bairstow c Hamza b Rabada		
J. Buttler c Pretorius b Rabada		
S. Curran c De Kock b Rabada		
	Result: South Africa won by 107 runs	

Somerset agree personal terms with SA's Philander

LONDON: Somerset have agreed personal terms with South Africa's Vernon Philander, the club announced Saturday after the Proteas paceman had already confirmed he would be playing for the English county.

Somerset, runners-up in last season's first-class County Championship, will now look to complete the paperwork on a deal that would see the 34-year-old Philander heading to Taunton as a Kolpak player following South Africa's home Test series with England.

"Somerset County Cricket Club are today able to officially confirm that we have agreed personal terms with Vernon Philander for him to become a Somerset player in 2020," the county said in a statement.

"It has been widely reported over the last few days that the South African would be joining the county, but the official paperwork required to complete the deal is being finalised with the ECB, with the club

working towards the full procedure being completed successfully in the New Year."

Philander, who took four wickets as South Africa dismissed England for 181 in the first innings of the ongoing first Test in Centurion, confirmed on Friday he would be returning to Somerset, having previously played for the county in 2012.

"Everyone knows that," he told reporters. But the Proteas stalwart added it was incorrect he had signed a three-year contract. "We're going to go on a year-by-year basis and see how we go," he said.

Philander was speaking after the second day's play at Centurion in what he has announced will be his final series before retiring from international cricket.

The Kolpak ruling means citizens of countries who have signed European Union association agreements or who are lawfully working within an EU country, have the same free movement rights as EU citizens.

Kolpak signings, as well as cricketers with EU passports, are currently eligible to play in England without counting as "overseas" players. But both these employment rulings could be directly affected by Britain's withdrawal from the EU, now set to take place next month.

The ruling, allied to the low value of South Africa's rand currency, has seen several former Proteas internationals join English county clubs in moves that have effectively signalled the end of their international careers so they can be deemed 'home' players under the regulations.

And while Morne Morkel joined Surrey after a long career with the Proteas, fellow fast bowlers Kyle Abbott (Hampshire) and Duanne Olivier (Yorkshire) cut short their time in international cricket to sign Kolpak deals intensified concerns about a damaging talent drain from the South Africa set-up. —AFP

Williamson urges more fighting spirit from NZ

MELBOURNE: New Zealand captain Kane Williamson said his team need to mirror the fighting spirit of century-maker Tom Blundell if they are to bounce back from their second-Test thrashing by Australia.

Opener Blundell was the last man out in Melbourne after compiling a battling 121 as team-mates threw their wickets away in the improbable 488-run chase to save the match. Williamson called it a "magnificent" innings. "Obviously it was hard work out there, the task was immense. But you look at some small positives... that was a truly fantastic innings," he said after the 247-run defeat — their second Test loss inside four days.

"He led the way and it is important that we all take something from that. "The effort from the bowlers throughout was something that is inspiring to us as a team, that never-give-up attitude. "But at the same time if we are looking for areas to improve there are a few of them. We do need to try and put Australia under a bit more pressure before their first innings total gets past that point of control." Australia took the game away from New Zealand on day one after Williamson won the toss and took a gamble by putting them in to bat. It turned out to be a poor decision, but he insisted it was a reasonable one at the time. "I felt like there was enough in the surface to bowl first and it was obviously very important for us to be on top of our game and the surface did offer some sideways movement and swing," he said.

"But credit to Australia for getting through that first session and put 400 on the board." Williamson's team must now regroup quickly with the third and final Test in Sydney later this week. The series has been lost and they will be playing for pride only. "All round from our perspective we need to be better in all departments. We do need to be better come Sydney," he said. "We haven't been at our best, but it is important that we try and learn really quickly and improve in all areas." —AFP

Australia's Siddle announces retirement

MELBOURNE: Veteran Australian bowler Peter Siddle announced his international retirement yesterday after a 67-Test career, with national coach Justin Langer praising him as giving his "heart and soul" to the team.

The 35-year-old had been called up to the second Test squad in Melbourne but was not selected in the side to face New Zealand and decided to call it quits. "Just being able to play, to walk out, wear the baggy green — I'd watched guys like Punter (Ricky Ponting), Steve Waugh, guys like that wear it, represent Australia," he said.

"Every time I stepped out was amazing, I don't think I could pick one special one. "At the end of the day, to play one is amazing, to end up playing what I did is truly special." Siddle, who played a key role in helping Australia retain the Ashes in England earlier this year, went to the Australian dressing room at the Melbourne Cricket Ground to tell his teammates personally.

"The year after I retired from playing, Matty Hayden and Ricky Ponting were raving about this guy called Peter Siddle," Langer said. "If it came from them, you knew it was right and so it proved throughout his brilliant international career. "He is an unbelievable bloke and an extremely good cricketer. He is the everything of what a team player is. He has given his heart and soul to the Australian team and the game of cricket." Siddle took 221 wickets from his 67 Tests including eight five-wicket hauls.

He is the 13th highest Test wicket-taker among Australian bowlers and is best remembered for the hat-trick he claimed on his 26th birthday against England in Brisbane in 2010. —AFP