

Monday 3rd November, 2008

Kumble retires

NEW DELHI (AP) - India captain Anil Kumble, the third most successful bowler in Test history with 619 wickets, announced his retirement at the end of the third Test against Australia.

The drawn match was halted 15 overs early Sunday and India leads the four-test series 1-0.

Leg-spinner Kumble, who turned 38 last month, badly injured his left hand during the match, which would have ruled him out of the final test at Nagpur starting Thursday.

The captain split the webbing while trying to catch Matthew Hayden at mid-wicket on Friday and was taken to the hospital where he received 11 stitches.

"It was a very tough decision after playing 18 years of (Test) cricket," Kumble said. "My body gave me this decision, and this injury did."

Kumble said he had made the decision on Saturday.

"I had decided to leave after the series anyway," Kumble said. "Delhi has been special to me and I think it's fitting to finish here."

He also struggled with his shoulder injury at the beginning of the series and did not play in the second Test in Mohali.

Kumble's wicket haul has come in 132 Tests and only Muttiah Muralitharan (756) and Shane Warne

(708) stand ahead of him.

In 1999 Kumble became only the second bowler in test history behind England's Jim Laker in 1956 to take all 10 wickets in an innings when he swept through Pakistan with 10-74.

He claimed 35 five-wicket hauls and collected 10 wickets in a match eight times. In his final series he did not take a wicket in the first Test - for the only time in India - but bravely returned with his hand bandaged to take 3-112 from 43.3 overs in the first innings here.

Kumble's final Test wicket was to dismiss Mitchell Johnson caught and bowled on the fourth day.

At age 37 Kumble took over the captaincy in 2007 and was in charge of India's first win at home over Pakistan in 27 years.

Before the first Test Kumble said this would be his final Test on his home ground in Bangalore but refused to set a date for his departure.

A useful lower-order batsman, Kumble's highlight was scoring his only century with an unbeaten 110 against England at The Oval in 2007. His 45 in the first innings at the Feroz Shah Kotla stadium took his career tally to 2506 runs at an average of 17.77.

Kumble made his debut against England in 1990.



Indian cricket captain Anil Kumble is lifted up by Indian players on the final day of the third Test cricket match between India and Australia, in New Delhi, India, Sunday, Nov. 2, 2008. Kumble, the third most successful bowler in Test history with 619 wickets, announced his retirement at the end of the third test against Australia. (AP Photo)

Third test drawn, India leads Australia 1-0

NEW DELHI (AP) - India captain Anil Kumble retired with his side still leading Australia 1-0 in the series after the third test ended in a draw on Sunday.

Legspinner Kumble declared India's second innings at 208-5 shortly after tea and then opened the bowling in his farewell to the game.

When the match was halted 15 overs early, and a draw inevitable, Australia was 31-0 chasing a target of 245.

After Kumble won the toss, Gautam Gambhir and V.V.S. Laxman cracked double hundreds to boost India to 613-7. In reply, Michael Clarke scored a hundred as Australia made 577 all out.

SCOREBOARD	
India 1st Innings 613/7 decl	
Australia 1st Innings 577	
India 2nd Innings	
G. Gambhir lbw Johnson	36
V. Sehwag b Lee	16
I. Sharma c Ponting b Clark	1
R. Dravid b Lee	11
S. Tendulkar c Hayden b White	47
V.V.S Laxman not out	59
S. Ganguly not out	32
Extras: (4lb, 1w, 1nb)	6
Total: (for five wickets declared)	208
Overs: 77.3	
Fall of wicket: 1-29, 2-34, 3-53, 4-93, 5-145.	
Did not bat: M. S. Dhoni, A. Kumble, Z. Khan, A. Mishra.	
Bowling: Lee 17-3-48-2 (1nb), Clark 12-6-22-1, Clarke 20.3-7-56-0, Katich 1-0-5-0, Johnson 12-0-23-1 (1w), White 8-0-23-1, Watson 7-0-27-0.	
Australia 2nd Innings	
M. Hayden not out	16
S. Katich not out	14
Extras (1lb)	1
Total: (for no wicket)	31
Overs: 8.	
Did not bat: R. Ponting, M. Hussey, M. Clarke, S. Watson, B. Haddin, C. White, B. Lee, M. Johnson, S. Clark.	
Bowling: Kumble 4-0-14-0, Sehwag 2-0-14-0, Mishra 2-0-2-0.	
Umpires: B. Bowden (NZ) A. Dar (Pak)	
TV Umpire: S. Shastri (Ind)	
Match Referee: C. Broad (Eng)	
Toss: India	
Result: Draw	
Series: India leads 1-0.	

Ratnam and Air Force top of points table

by Roshen Steelman

Sri Lanka Air Force SC beat Java Lane SC by 1-0 and collected three points to share the top position of the points table with Ratnam SC in the Segment A-II. Both teams now have 12 points each.

In yesterday's match, Air Force scored through Imtiaz Raheem when he found the net in the second half after

both teams failed to find the net in the initial half.

Air Force have won four of their five matches while Ratnam too have won four of their five matches.

Old Bens beat Gold Star

Meanwhile in the Segment-B II match played at Kotahena yesterday, Old Bens SC

beat Gold Star SC 2-0.

The Old Bens collected their points in the second-half, but there were no goals scored in the first half of the game.

Sanjaya Silva made no mistakes with a penalty kick in the 67th minute and 19 minutes later with just two minutes to go on the clock, Chamila Perera put one through to seal a comfortable win for Old Bens.

Australia considering bowling shake-up for decider

NEW DELHI (AP) - Australia will consider calling up inexperienced bowlers for the must-win final test against India in Nagpur, after the visitors failed again to dismiss the hosts on Sunday's last day of the third test.

Australia only managed 12 wickets as India declared twice in the drawn third test, posting 208-5 to follow its 613-7 in the first innings.

Australia must win the fourth and final test if it is to retain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, and Australia captain Ricky Ponting said the inexperienced bowlers in the tour squad may be selected.

"We've proven in this game that our batting's certainly up to scratch in these conditions," Ponting said. "The challenge ahead is to take 20 wickets in Nagpur."

"We've got to look long and hard at the guys on the sidelines - Doug Bollinger, Peter Siddle, and Jason Krejza - and see if we think they can add anything to our bowling group."

Right-arter Siddle took four wickets in the second test in Mohali while Bollinger is an uncapped left-arm pacer.

Ponting said off-spinner Krejza would be looked at closely after missing out on selection in Delhi, with leg-spinner Cameron White preferred.

"Jason was named in the 12 and, believe me, he came very close to playing in this test, so with a bit more work this week he'd certainly come into consideration," Ponting said.

White, who has played three tests, was punished by India's experienced

batsmen in the first innings, but captured the wicket of Sachin Tendulkar on the final day to return match figures of 1-96 off 23 overs.

Australia started well in the morning session Sunday by removing Gautam Gambhir and Rahul Dravid, but it was a familiar story after lunch when the Indian batsmen controlled proceedings.

In the first test in Bangalore Australia failed to bowl India out on the final day and the lack of penetration has been a regular headache for the visitors, who are adapting to life after the recent retirement of two of the greatest bowlers of all time: Shane Warne and Glenn McGrath.

Ponting said his pacemen had improved since their displays in the first two games, particularly spearhead Brett Lee.

"Our whole approach in the second innings was a whole lot better with our fast bowlers and that certainly paid dividends for us early on," he said. "But it's probably a little bit late to be doing it in the second innings when there's 600 on the board."

"We need to be utilizing what we did in the second innings early on in the first innings and unsettling their batsmen as



Australian captain Ricky Ponting, left, helps Indian batsman Sachin Tendulkar get an irritant out of his eye during the third test match. The Australian captain has indicated that the tourists will have a different bowling line up for the final Test. (AP)

much as we can."

Ponting was pleased with Lee's performance - despite him picking up mediocre match figures of 3-167 from 47 overs.

"Brett Lee's intensity through this game, and his pace, was a lot better," he said. "He hit the crease a lot harder so there are a lot of good signs for him."

Rugby crisis gets out of control



Gamini Lokuge

by Rukshan Razak

Following the exclusion of Imran Bisthamin of Kandy Sports Club from the 24 member rugby squad ahead of the HSBC Asian-5-Nations Division 1 Tournament in Taiwan from 12th to 15th November 2008, informed sources told *The Island* of the possibility of several Kandy based players pulling out from the squad sighting medical reasons.

The alleged decision of the KSC players comes in the wake of the resignation of the national selectors led by Rohan Abeykoon on Saturday.

The game of rugby football with the intervention of the Minister of Sports Gamini Lokuge has continued to plunge into turmoil with each development jeopardizing the future of the game in the island.

When the Minister of Sports ratified the appointment of Duhsntha Luke of CR & FC early September, 12 players representing KSC boycotted national pool training in protest of the appointment of the captain. Notwithstanding, pool practices continued for six weeks with the remaining players representing Colombo clubs when the Minister intervened again.

Lokuge requested the rebel players from KSC to return for training, at a time the remaining players in the national pool had made a lot of headway even playing two test matches against Asian Dragons.

This decision of the Minister later transpired to lead to another crisis when the Colombo players threatened to pull out, but the Minister after a discussion with the Colombo players gave them an assurance that their grievances will be looked into and thus to return for training, which request was honoured by the players.

Later the Minister went onto dissolve the selection committee led by Brigadier Japuna Jayawardana on the 22nd of October. What followed was the appointment of a fresh set of selectors led by Rohan Abeykoon and they were assigned with the task of picking up the final squad of 24 players for the tour to Taiwan.

The selectors in the process picked up the team and the Minister of Sports ratified the same including two captains - Dushan Lewke and Dilanka Wijesekera for the first and the second games and if there was a third nominating Sanjeewa Jayasinghe for it.

Later it was reported that the Minister had suggested the selectors to drop Imran Bisthamin of Kandy Sports Club from the final list of 24 and replace him with Nilusha Fernando of Sri Lanka Police. This decision provoked the selectors to charge that it was the Minister who decided to nominate three captains and drop Bisthamin from the squad and in protest they relinquished their positions as selectors.

The crisis does not seem to be over and continues for the third successive month and it is learnt that with the latest situation many Kandy players are likely to pull out from national duty sighting injuries. The players are expected to make a statement today.