

Australian to work with England's bowlers ahead of Ashes

Spinners put Sri Lanka close to victory against West Indies



Sri Lankan captain Dimuth Karunaratne plays a shot during the fourth day of their first Test cricket match against West Indies in Galle, Sri Lanka, on Nov. 24. (AP)

GALLE, Sri Lanka, Nov. 24, (AP): West Indies collapsed to 18-6 in its second innings before ending the fourth day on 52-6 as Sri Lanka took complete control of the first cricket Test.

Spin bowlers Ramesh Mendis and Lasith Embuldeniya moved Sri Lanka close to victory Wednesday after the hosts declared their second innings at 191-4 and set West Indies an unlikely 348 runs to win.

Sri Lanka is just four wickets away from victory on a turning pitch at Galle International Stadium, with West Indies needing another 296 runs to win, or trying to bat out the final day.

Sri Lanka won the toss and scored 386 in its first innings. West Indies replied with 230 - conceding a 156-run lead - after resuming Wednesday on 224-9. Sri Lanka then declared its second innings early.

CRICKET

Sri Lanka captain Dimuth Karunaratne scored 83 runs to follow his 147 in the first innings. Angelo Mathews hit two sixes and six boundaries for 69 not out.

West Indies' second-innings collapse began when offspinner Mendis trapped West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite lbw without scoring in the fourth over. Mathews took a brilliant catch diving forward at mid-on to dismiss Jermaine Blackwood (9) off left-arm spinner Embuldeniya.

When Mendis bowled Jason Holder in the first ball he faced with a delivery that went straight on, the West Indies plummeted to 18-6.

Nkrumah Bonner (18 not out) and Joshua Da Silva (15 not out) shared an unbroken 34 runs for the seventh wicket when play closed early because

of bad light.

Mendis had bowling figures of 4-17 while Embuldeniya took 2-18.

Also:

LONDON: An Australian will work as a consultant with England's pace bowlers ahead of the Ashes series against Australia that starts next month.

Troy Cooley will support the bowlers' preparations at their training camp in Brisbane and later assist the seamers in England's second-string Lions squad which is also in Australia, the England and Wales Cricket Board said Wednesday.

"Troy's understanding of what it takes to be successful in Australian conditions is second to none, and the players are sure to benefit hugely," said Mo Bobat, the ECB's performance director.



West Indies' bowler Rahkeem Cornwall appeals unsuccessfully for the wicket of Sri Lanka's Dimuth Karunaratne during the fourth day of their first Test cricket match in Galle, Sri Lanka, on Nov. 24. (AP)

Top-ranked Gonzaga mauls UCLA to win Empire Classic

Wisconsin holds off No. 12 Houston 65-63

LAS VEGAS, Nov. 24, (AP): Andrew Nembhard scored 24 points, freshman Chet Holmgren showed off his unique skill set and top-ranked Gonzaga overwhelmed No. 2 UCLA 83-63 to win the Empire Classic.

The Zags (6-0) played like Vegas headliners, showing there's a big gap between No. 1 and the current No. 2 with a dazzling display at both ends. Gonzaga rocked UCLA (5-1) with a huge early blitz and never let up to beat its second top-5 team this season.

Holmgren stole the show as a soloist at times, swatting shots, swooping for dunks and awing the crowd with his agility. The 7-foot-1, 195-pound freshman earned a deserved ovation early in the second half, when he blocked Myles Johnson's shot and went end to end - with a dribble behind his back to boot - for a two-handed slam.

BASKETBALL

Holmgren finished with 15 points, six rebounds and four blocked shots. Drew Timme was just as effective inside, scoring 18.

Jaime Jaquez Jr. tried to keep the Bruins in it, finishing with 19 points, but had to work for everything he got.

Wisconsin 65, Houston 63

In Las Vegas, Johnny Davis scored a career-high 30 points and Wisconsin beat Houston in the Maui Invitational semifinals.

The Cougars erased a 20-point half-time deficit and cut Wisconsin's lead to two on Kyler Edwards' 3-pointer with 40 seconds left. With the final possession, Jamal Sheard drove baseline and passed to Edwards, who wasn't expecting the feed, costing Houston a chance at a final attempt.

Davis finished 10 of 18 from the floor, including 4 for 7 from 3-point range,



Illinois' Jacob Grandison (3) gets past Kansas State's Ismael Massoud (25) to put up a shot during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game, on Nov. 23, in Kansas City, Mo. (AP)

and was 6 for 6 at the free throw line.

Tyler Wahl had nine points and seven rebounds for the Badgers (4-1).

Arkansas 73, Cincinnati 67

In Kansas City, Mo., Au'Diese Toney scored 19 points, including the go-ahead free throws with 1:23 left, and Chris Lykes was perfect at the foul line down the stretch to help Arkansas beat Cincinnati in the title game of the Hall of Fame Classic.

Lykes finished with 15 points and JD Notae overcame another cold-shooting night to finish with 13 for the Razorbacks (5-0), who made every crucial play in the closing minutes of a game

that neither team led by more than six.

Toney's free throws gave the Razorbacks a 68-67 lead, the fifth time it had changed hands in the final five minutes. Jeremiah Davenport missed at the other end for Cincinnati, and Arkansas grabbed three consecutive offensive rebounds before Lykes was fouled and made two more free throws with 21.8 seconds left.

Illinois 72, Kansas State 64

In Kansas City, Mo., Kofi Cockburn had 23 points and 13 rebounds, Alfonso Plummer scored 21 on seven 3-pointers and Illinois held off pesky Kansas State in the consolation game of the Hall of

Fame Classic.

Plummer finished 7 of 9 from beyond the arc and the Illini (3-2) went 12 for 26 from 3-point range as they bounced back from a 71-51 loss to Cincinnati in the semifinals and avoided their third consecutive loss.

It came at a cost, though: Trent Frazier, who scored 23 points against Marquette but was held scoreless by the Bearcats, hurt his left knee midway through the second half. The Illini guard was 0 for 5 from the field but had five assists at the time.

SC Upstate 82, SC State 78

In Orangeburg, S.C., Amir Langlais came off the bench to score 15 points to lead five players in double figures and South Carolina Upstate held off South Carolina State.

Langlais sank 5 of 6 shots and grabbed seven rebounds for the Spartans (2-3). Josh Aldrich finished with 12 points and eight boards. Mysta Goodloe and Bryson Mozone contributed 11 points apiece, while freshman Jordan Gainey scored 10.

Sacramento St 75, UC Davis 63

In Sacramento, Calif., Bryce Fowler had 21 points and 10 rebounds as Sacramento State topped UC Davis.

Zach Chappell had 13 points and six rebounds for the Hornets (3-2). Jonathan Komagum pitched in with 13 points and 12 rebounds.

Seattle 89, PLU 89-40

In Seattle, Rip Economou had a career-high 20 points as Seattle romped past Pacific Lutheran.

Economou made 6 of 8 3-pointers for the Redhawks (5-1), who won their fifth straight game. Darrion Trammell had 12 points. Joe Wall added 11 points, while Viktor Rajkovic scored 10.

Merrimack 75, Hartford 60

In North Andover, Mass., Jordan Minor and Mykel Derring both scored a career-high 25 points and Merrimack breezed to victory over Hartford.

Minor hit 8 of 11 shots and grabbed 12 rebounds for the Warriors (4-3). Derring nailed 7 of 9 from 3-point range. Mikey Watkins and reserve Malik Edmead scored 11 each.

Ohio St overwhelms Bellarmine

Dixon helps No. 10 Louisville women pound Cal Poly 72-32

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif., Nov. 24, (AP): Liz Dixon scored 15 points and No. 10 Louisville rolled in its first visit to California in seven years with a 72-32 rout of Cal Poly.

It was the first time a top-10 team has ever played at Cal Poly.

The reason for Louisville's first game in California since 2014 was Kianna Smith, whose father, John Smith, is the head men's basketball coach at Cal Poly.

Kianna Smith, a native of Moreno Valley, California, made three 3-pointers and finished with 11 points for the Cardinals (4-1). Her dad sat courtside as the men's team had the night off before playing a tournament game tomorrow in San Juan Capistrano, California.

Sarah Dumitrescu scored 12 points to lead the Mustangs (0-2), who shot 20% (12 of 59) overall.

Louisville outscored Cal Poly 20-7 in the second quarter, scoring the last seven points that included a Chelsea Hall 3-pointer for a 34-16 halftime advantage.

BASKETBALL

Louisville's previous game in California was a 70-57 win at No. 24 California on Dec. 21, 2014.

Ohio State 110, Bellarmine 58

In Columbus, Ohio, Jacy Sheldon scored 25 of her career-high 31 points in the first half and Taylor Mikesell added 18 points to help help No. 21 Ohio State beat Bellarmine.

Sheldon was 12 of 15 from the field to top her previous high of 29 points. She also had three steals as Bellarmine turned it over 28 times.

Ohio State set a program record for second-quarter points with 39. The Buckeyes were 16-of-24 shooting, going 5 of 7 from distance, in the quarter to help build a 70-33 lead at the break.

Sheldon led the way in the first half, hitting 10 of 12 shots, and Mikesell added 14 points with four 3-pointers. Sheldon scored 12 points in less than six minutes in the opening quarter.

Broncos win

Ball St qualifies for 'bowl' game

MUNCIE, Ind., Nov. 24, (AP): Drew Plitt threw a touchdown pass and ran for a score - in the first quarter - and Ball State became bowl eligible with a 20-3 victory over Buffalo.

It's just the third time in program history that the Cardinals (6-6, 4-4 Mid-American Conference) have qualified for a bowl game in back-to-back seasons. Ball State and Buffalo met for the MAC championship last season - a game the Cardinals won 38-28.

FOOTBALL

Ball State set the tone early when Malcolm Lee picked off Matt Myers on the Bulls' first series, giving the Cardinals the ball on Buffalo's 42-yard line. Eleven plays later Plitt scored on a 1-yard run for a 7-0 lead. Buffalo's next possession also ended in disaster when Hassan Littles blocked a punt by Jackson Baltar and Brandon Berger recovered, giving Ball State a first-and-goal at the 6. Plitt connected with Jayshon Jackson for a 7-yard score on third down and the Cardinals never looked back.

Plitt completed 19 of 31 passes for 176 yards. Jackson finished with nine catches for 103 yards.

Myers was 18-of-39 passing for 188 yards with four interceptions for Buffalo (4-8, 2-6). He led the Bulls with 78 yards on 16 rushes.

W. Michigan 42, N. Illinois 21

In Dekalb, Ill., Kaleb Eleby threw five touchdown passes, four of them to Skyy Moore, and Western Michigan defeated Northern Illinois.

Eleby completed 21 of 26 passes for 338 yards. Moore caught 12 for 206 yards. Sean Tyler had 17 carries for 115 yards and scored the Broncos' sixth touchdown.

Eleby and Moore connected for scores three times in the first half as Western Michigan took a 28-7 halftime lead.

Northern Illinois managed just nine first downs and 31 yards passing. The Huskies ran for 268 yards but lost two fumbles.

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