



Steve Smith reached the mark in his 126th Test innings, bettering Wally Hammond's 73-year-old record by five innings. *File*

# Smith fastest to 7,000 runs in Tests

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
ADELAIDE, NOVEMBER 30

STEVE SMITH on Saturday became the fastest man to score 7,000 Test runs, shattering a record that had stood since 1946, while moving past Donald Bradman to become Australia's 11th highest scorer. The 30-year-old took a single off Muhammad Musa during the second Test against Pakistan in Adelaide to reach the milestone and take possession of a record held for 73 years by English great Wally Hammond.

Hammond reached the mark in 131 innings, while Smith, who played his first Test nine years ago, made the grade in his 126th. India's Virender Sehwag is the third fastest in 134 innings.

"The fastest to 7K -- you're a star Steve Smith!," tweeted Cricket Australia.

Smith also passed the legendary Bradman's 6,996 Test runs. It took Smith 70 Tests to do so, while Bradman needed only 52. The 30-year-old's heroics at the Ashes in England this year saw him widely labelled the best since Bradman, considered Test cricket's greatest ever, when he scored a mammoth 774 runs in just seven innings.

He had the opportunity to pass both Bradman and Hammond in the first Test against Pakistan in Brisbane, but fell for just four in a rare failure. In an insight into Smith's determination to be the best, he said after missing out in Brisbane that he punishes himself when the runs do not flow.

"I always punish myself when I get no runs, just like I reward myself when I score runs with a chocolate bar at the end of the night if I get a hundred," he said. "So yeah, if I get no runs I always like to have a run or go to the gym or do something just to give myself a bit of a punishment." Smith still has 10 other Australian players above him in total Test runs scored.

Greg Chappell (7,110) is his next target, but he has a mountain to climb to reach Ricky Ponting, who amassed 13,378 runs in his 168 Tests.

# Sheetal wins national title, now eyes Olympic berth

NITIN SHARMA  
JALANDHAR, NOVEMBER 30

SHEETAL TOMAR continued her dominance over Nirmala with a 7-3 verdict in the women's 50 Kg final at the Senior National Wrestling Championships on Saturday. It was Tomar's fourth meeting with Nirmala in recent years with her only loss coming in the World Championship trials, which meant she missed the showdown against Seema Bisla, who booked a spot in the major event. But after becoming national champion, the Rajasthan Police inspector expressed confidence of winning a quota for the 2020 Olympics in her weight category.

"Nirmala *didi* was in good form here. Before losing to her in the trials for the world championships, I had defeated Nirmala *didi* three times and knew I can do the same today. I had worked upon my leg attacks, which helped me gain control in the final. It's a dream for any wrestler to qualify for the Olympics and today's win will add to my confidence," shared Tomar.

Hailing from Pachgaon village near Meerut, Tomar started wrestling under coach Jabar Singh Saum at the akhada in Chaudhary Charan Singh University with her father Sompal Singh dropping her daily. Her father died following a heart attack six months later

**'Sheetal can surprise any wrestler in the 50 kg category and her strength is her speed. This weight category is the most competitive in India as Seema, Anju and now Nirmala have been doing well.'**

# Higher, Stronger, Warner

Australian opener puts banishment, poor Test form behind; surpasses Bradman with an unbeaten 335 against Pakistan

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
NOVEMBER 30

DAVID WARNER walked off the Adelaide Oval with his bat held aloft in one hand and his helmet in the other, forming the shape of a big V for victory. He'd already taken a theatrical bow after reaching a triple-century for the first time, and had leaped in his customary celebration of every 100.

Former Test captain Mark Taylor and tens of thousands of fans stood and applauded his unbeaten 335 against Pakistan in the second Test on Saturday.

Warner, who missed the last southern summer while serving a 12-month ban and entered the series against Pakistan after a poor Ashes return in England, beat the great Donald Bradman's record of 299 -- set against South Africa in 1931-32 -- for the highest test score at the Adelaide Oval. The 33-year-old left-hander opener is putting runs on the board, physically and metaphorically, in his rehabilitation with the Australian public.

Warner overhauled Bradman's highest test score of 334 with a single before his captain Tim Paine declared Australia's first innings at 589-3 on Saturday evening to give the bowlers a chance to get wickets before the main interval on day two of the match. It worked in favor of the team, with Australia's pacemen having Pakistan reeling at 96-6 at stumps on day two.

There was a strategic time limit for the declaration, Warner knew, so he wasn't upset at all at not getting the chance to take on Brian Lara's world record of 400 not out. Regardless, Warner's score is the 10th-highest in Test cricket and second only to Matt Hayden, who scored 380 against Zimbabwe in 2003, among Australian batsmen.

That was a position previously shared by Bradman and Taylor, who declared when he was on 334 against Pakistan at Peshawar in 1998.

Taylor was in a broadcasting box on Saturday when Warner surpassed his record. He applauded Warner, saying he had no problem with the Aussie opener taking a chance to surpass 334 runs. Bradman died in 2001 but his legacy lives on at his long-time home ground.

Warner knew the key numbers, "100 percent I was aware of it," he said. "You grow up knowing what those milestones are. You look at the history books and say, 'How did they get there?' It's a long time in the middle. It takes a lot of patience, which I surprised myself."

Warner walked through a guard of honour his teammates formed on the boundary as he went back to the dressing rooms for a well-deserved break. Warner's innings lasted 418 balls and contained 39 fours and one six -- which he whacked on 302 to surpass Pakistan skipper Azhar Ali's record for the biggest innings in a day-night Test.

"Around 280. I wasn't teary, but I was thinking 'this could actually happen,'" Warner said in an interview on Fox Sports.

When he reached 300, the TV cameras panned onto his wife, Candice, wiping away tears from behind her sunglasses. It's been an emotional ride for Warner, his wife and their three daughters. Shane Warne, who endured plenty of attention on and off the field in his record-setting career, told a national TV audience about the toll that being an international cricket star can have on a family.

## Rise after fall from grace

Warner was widely perceived as the ar-



## FULL CIRCLE AT ADELAIDE OVAL

David Warner celebrates after bringing up his triple hundred on Day 2 of the second Test against Pakistan. *AP*

**8** Australians account for more than a quarter of the 31 individual scores of 300 or more in Test cricket. David Warner's became the seventh Aussie to reach the mark with Don Bradman having hit a triple century twice.

**3** It's only the second triple ton in Day-Night Tests, after Azhar Ali's 302 vs WI in 2016. It is also the first triple century in Tests anywhere in the world in almost three years, after Karun Nair hit 303 not out against England in Chennai in December 2016.

**162** Warner hit 39 fours and a six in his marathon innings, meaning he scored 162 runs in boundaries. Hence, as many as 173 of his runs were scored by sprinting between the wickets, testament to his fitness and stamina.

# England wobble after NZ post 375

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
HAMILTON, NOVEMBER 30

ENGLAND LOST two early wickets in reply to New Zealand's 375 as their hopes of saving the series faded after another Black Caps defining partnership involving BJ Watling in Hamilton on Saturday. When New Zealand had the wobbles, their first-Test hero partnered debutant Daryl Mitchell in a 124-run stand for the sixth-wicket to get them up to a respectable total.

England were then in immediate trouble with Dom Sibley and Joe Denly removed as they reached stumps at 39 for two. With only three days remaining England appeared to have little chance of building a big enough total to win the Test and square the series Sibley was out for four, not long after he ducked into a Tim Southee delivery and was hit on the helmet, Joe Denly was also out for four, caught off Matt Henry while Rory Burns made it to stumps unbeaten on 24 after being dropped twice. Joe Root, who has been out of form in the series, was not out six.

While Southee and Henry had England under pressure the tourists had struggled to exert the same dominance while in the field for nearly two full days. They removed both overnight batsmen early on day two and then lost the initiative as Watling and Mitchell staged their repair mission before Stuart Broad removed both batsmen either side of the tea break.

Watling, whose double century set New Zealand up for a comprehensive victory in the first Test, was out for 55 on the last ball before the interval while Mitchell departed in the fourth over after play resumed. New Zealand's last four wickets added a further 60 runs, with Broad finishing with figures of four for 73 and Chris Woakes three for 83.

All-rounder Mitchell, the son of former All Blacks coach and now England assistant rugby coach John Mitchell, was unruffled in



England's Stuart Broad picked up four wickets for 73.

**All-rounder Mitchell was unruffled in his maiden Test performance. He brought up his 50 pulling Ben Stokes through mid-wicket for four in a 159-ball innings.**

his maiden Test performance. He brought up his 50 pulling Ben Stokes through mid-wicket for four in a 159-ball innings which included eight boundaries and one six.

An even more cautious Watling, who reached his 18th half century with an elegant cut to the cover boundary off Sam Curran, faced 192 deliveries for his 55. It was

slow going by the pair, but from New Zealand's viewpoint their innings lasted almost two days which left England with only a remote chance of winning the Test to square the series.

England had their tails up at the start of the day when overnight centurion Tom Latham added only one boundary to his total before he misjudged a Broad delivery seaming back at him and was bowled for 105. Broad stayed in the action to catch Henry Nicholls for 16 off Sam Curran, which brought the untested Mitchell to the middle to join Watling and bat New Zealand to a position of strength.

**BRIEF SCORES:** New Zealand 375 in 129.1 overs (Latham 105, Mitchell 73, Watling 55, Taylor 53; Broad 4/73, Woakes 3/83) lead England 39/2 in 18 overs by 336 runs.

**One hundred percent I was aware of it (the history). You grow up knowing what those milestones are. Forever you talk about Donald Bradman. I remember Michael Clarke at the SCG declared on 329 not out. They're things that you look at the history books and say, 'how did they get there -- that's a long time in the middle'. I managed to go out there and do that but it takes an incredible amount of patience which I surprised myself."**

DAVID WARNER  
AUSTRALIA OPENER

chitect of a clumsy plan to tamper with the match ball in a Test match in Cape Town against South Africa in March of last year. The episode made Warner one of the biggest outcasts in Australian sport. His fellow opener Cameron Bancroft was caught by TV cameras rubbing the surface of the ball with sandpaper, and got a nine-month ban. Steve Smith was banned for 12 months for not doing enough to foil the tampering plot.

All three accepted their bans, by far the harshest ever imposed in cricket for such an infraction, and each faced a grilling at news conferences on their returns to Australia. Warner returned in good one-day form at the Cricket World Cup in England, where he and Smith were constantly booed by the crowds until Australia lost in the semifinals.

But he only scored 95 runs in 10 innings in the subsequent Ashes series in August and September -- 61 and 11 were his only scores in double-digits -- casting doubt over his status as Australia's premier opener. He has answered any doubters with a rapid return to form in home conditions. He scored 100 not out, 60 not out, 57 not out, 2 not out, 20 and 48 not out in six Twenty20 internationals.

Then he opened the series against Pakistan with 154 in Australia's victory by an innings and five runs at the Gabba.

"I've prided myself on contributing," to Australia's cause, said Warner, who now has 23 centuries in 81 Tests. "Games are so close these days, you sort of lose what's just happened. You don't really get much time to celebrate because the schedule is so tight. When I've retired, having a beer with my mates, I'll reflect on it then."

Cricket Australia chief executive Kevin Roberts acknowledged in a radio interview before play on Saturday that there'd be people who can't forgive Warner for bringing the national team into disrepute.

"But," he told SEN radio, "hopefully there is a level of human respect for what he is doing and what is trying to contribute to his team and to the game."

Roberts said he understood there were people who told him Warner "is not their cup of tea".

"Dave is a street fighter," Roberts said. "And we get the best of that and, at times, you get the shadow side of that because like the rest of us he is human. What we're seeing is a fresh David Warner after his time out... the break has done him the world of good and we're seeing David Warner at his best."

**BRIEF SCORES:** Australia 589/3 declared in 127 overs (Warner 335 not out, Labuschagne 162; Shaheen Afridi 3/88) lead Pakistan 96/6 in 35 overs (Babar Azam 43 batting; Starc 4/22) by 493 runs

# BCCI AGM set to water down cooling-off clause

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
KOLKATA, NOVEMBER 30

THE BCCI AGM in Mumbai on Sunday is expected to focus on some proposed amendments in the existing cricket board constitution, including a relaxation in the cooling-off clause for office-bearers. The existing BCCI constitution sends an office-bearer to a mandatory three-year cooling-off after serving six years either consecutively at the state association or the BCCI, or a combination of both. The proposed amendment seeks to look at the six-year periods separately, at the BCCI and state level.

"We will take the approved amendments to the Supreme Court and will seek the court's approval," said a BCCI official.

The BCCI constitution allows the provision of amending the Rules and Regulations "by a 3/4th majority of the members present" at the AGM or a Special General Meeting (SGM). But to put them into effect, the Supreme Court's approval is required. For any further amendments in the future, the BCCI has sought an amendment to the constitution which, if approved, will not require the court's intervention.

The cooling-off amendment, if approved, will allow Ganguly to continue as BCCI president for six years at a stretch. Going by the present constitution, he will have to step aside for a three-year cooling-off in July next year, because he has already served as a Cricket Association of Bengal office-bearer for over five years.

Meanwhile, the BCCI is likely to wait till December 3 before appointing the Cricket Advisory Committee. With the next court hearing scheduled that day, the board has decided to play a waiting game. The CAC is authorised to appoint all cricket committees, including selection committees. But the Board is finding it difficult to form the CAC because of the conflict-of-interest issue.

