

AUSTRALIA V. INDIA BOXING DAY TEST



DECEMBER 27, 2018
FACT SHEET - DAY 2

The MCC library fact sheets for each day of this Test match highlight outstanding individual performances that determined the course and result in Test matches at the MCG between Australia and India, as well as in the context of their impact on the series. Each will also include a brief account of the respective player's career. Today's sheet reviews the Second Test of the 1967/68 series as well as profiling Ajit Wadekar, who sadly passed away earlier this year.

The 1967/68 tour

Twenty years had elapsed since India's inaugural tour of Australia. In the interim the two countries had met 11 times on the subcontinent, Australia winning five Tests and India, two. India recorded its first Test victory over Australia at Kanpur in 1959/60, when little-known off-spinner Jasu Patel spun his team to victory with figures of 9/69 and 5/55. Their second was at Bombay (now Mumbai) in 1964/65 when leg-spinner Bhagwat Chandrasekhar's eight wickets proved decisive in a tight contest.

India's second tour of Australia comprised 16 matches, which included four Tests, six other first-class matches (the match against Queensland was abandoned without a ball bowled) and six, mostly one-day, up-country fixtures. The 17-man party was captained by the Nawab of Pataudi, whose father had made a century at Sydney on his Test debut in the opening Test of the 1932/33 Bodyline series and subsequently led India on its 1946 tour of England.

INDIA'S CAPTAIN

Mansur Ali Khan, the ninth and last Nawab of Pataudi (princely titles were abolished in 1971), emulated his father by leading India in Tests. A daring and entertaining batsman, he struck the ball with surprising power for one of his relatively slight frame and was more interested in the effect of his strokes rather than their style. He lacked nothing in courage and was also a brilliant cover fieldsman.

Widely known as 'Tiger', a nickname bestowed by his parents from a young age, Pataudi learned and developed his cricket in England while completing his education at Winchester College and Oxford University, for which he made a hundred in 1960 against Cambridge in the annual inter-varsity match at Lord's. He had previously made his first-class debut at 16 in 1957, for Sussex in the County Championship. In July 1961, however, he lost the sight in his right eye from injuries received in a serious car accident, but demonstrated his determination to one day represent India in Test cricket by returning to net practice after little more than a month.

Pataudi returned to India for the 1961/62 season and, after only three relatively modest first-class appearances, he was included in the Indian side for the Third Test against England. After being dismissed for only 13 on debut, he contributed 64 and 32 to India's 187-run victory in the Fourth Test and 103 (162 minutes, two sixes, 16 fours) to its 123-run win in the Fifth. He was then named vice-captain for India's ensuing tour of the West Indies and assumed the leadership for the last three matches of the five-Test series following the loss of skipper Nari Contractor, whose skull had been fractured by a Charlie Griffith bouncer in the Second Test.

Retaining the captaincy, Pataudi compiled 203 not out (430 minutes, two sixes, 23 fours) at Delhi in the fourth of the drawn five-Test series against England in 1963/64, then 128 not out (343 minutes, 17 fours) at Madras (now Chennai) in the first of three Tests against the 1964 Australian team on its way home from England, and inspired the victory over New Zealand at Calcutta (now Kolkata) in March 1965 with a stirring 153 (265 minutes, 29 fours). After a poor home series against the West Indies in 1966/67, he was again on the losing side in all three Tests against England in England, during which he struck a defiant 148 (348 minutes, 348 balls, one six, 15 fours) at Leeds in the first contest.

On arrival in Australia, his Test record stood at 1613 runs at 40.07, including six centuries, in 24 matches (21 as captain).



Second Test Match, December 30 1967, January 1,2,3 1968

India Cricket Team 1967-68



Sitting - FM.Engineer, R.F.Surti, M.L.Jaisimha, C.G.Borde (V.Capt) Nawab of Pataudi (Captain), R.G.Nadkarni, R.B.Desai, D.N.Sarasai, E.A.S. Prasanna.

Standing Ghulam Ahmed, (Man.) A.N.Ghose (Treas.), U.N. Kulkarni, B.S.Chandrasekhar, B.S.Bedi, S.Abid Ali, R.Saxena, K.S.Indrajitsinhji, A.L.Wadekar, V.Subramanya.

Australia won the First Test at the Adelaide Oval by 146 runs, after leading by only 28 runs in the first innings. Set 398 to win, India lost its first four wickets for 49 and only half-centuries from Rusi Surti and Syed Abid Ali delayed the home side's victory. The Australian selectors saw no need for change in their side but injuries to 'Bapu' Nadkarni and Umesh Kulkarni forced India to make two changes, bringing in Ramakant Desai and skipper Pataudi, nursing a

torn hamstring which had prevented him from playing at Adelaide. Although still restricted in his movements, Pataudi was needed to bolster his side's fragile batting line-up.

The result of the Second Test was virtually determined on the opening morning, when Graham McKenzie took full advantage of a lively pitch and humid conditions. He took 6/28 in the pre-lunch session, including a wicket in each of his first five overs to have the visitors reeling at 5/25. As if that wasn't bad enough, Surti had also been forced to temporarily retire at 3/25, when struck in the ribs by a delivery from Dave Renneberg. The innings was partially rescued by a courageous knock from Pataudi, with staunch support from Surti (30 in 135 minutes from 110 balls, two fours). Pataudi's innings was all the more meritorious as he had not played since badly tearing his hamstring in the opening first-class match of the tour. Rain interrupted play for an hour and a half in mid-afternoon and later poor light led to stumps being drawn a few minutes ahead of time, with India at 8/156, Pataudi 70 and Erapalli Prasanna yet to score.

The dismissal of Pataudi (75 in 228 from 194 balls, eight fours) early on the second day ended India's resistance within the first half-hour. Australian openers, skipper Bob Simpson (109 in 220 minutes from 186 balls, eight fours) and Bill Lawry (100 in 178 minutes from 148 balls, eight fours) then combined to pass the Indian total before the latter's departure at 191. Although the home side remained well in control by the end of the day, Paul Sheahan and Bob Cowper had failed to take full advantage of the openers' work and Ian Redpath was run out just before the close of play by a swift, accurate return from Ajit Wadekar at point. Australia 5/329, with Ian Chappell (45) and Barry Jarman (0) at the crease.

Next day, Chappell (151 in 252 minutes from 224 balls, 21 fours) registered a maiden Test century, having displayed a wide range of attractive shots and being aided by chances at 16, 52, 82 and 138. He and Jarman (65 in 118 minutes from 94 balls, eight fours) added 134 for the sixth wicket in better than even time, but there was little resistance from the remaining batsmen. Off-spinner Prasanna bowled well throughout the innings, while left-armer Surti, with his mixture of medium pace and orthodox spin, was persistence personified. McKenzie again struck early when India began its second innings midway through the afternoon, only to be met with spirited resistance from 'keeper Farokh Engineer (42 in 52 minutes from 37 balls, three fours). His aggression inspired Wadekar, who unleashed a superb array of strokes off either foot to reach 50 from only 64 deliveries. He and Surti (43 in 108 minutes from 121 balls, four fours) added 116 for the third wicket, before the latter was reportedly unfortunate to be given out caught behind the wicket. At stumps India was 3/190, Wadekar on 97 and nightwatchman Prasanna yet to score.



Bishan Singh Bedi (left), Abid Ali, Mayor of Melbourne RT Talbot, Erapalli Prasanna and skipper Tiger Pataudi during India's tour of Australia in 1967/68

India began the fourth day still 166 runs in arrears and was immediately set back on its heels by Simpson's early dismissal of Wadekar (99 in 169 minutes from 146 balls, 12 fours), whose high-class innings had deserved the recognition of a century. Prasanna hung on for a time but, apart from a gesture of defiance from Syed Abid Ali, the rest of the innings belonged to skipper Pataudi (85 in 155 minutes from 157 balls, 12 fours). Severely handicapped by his leg injury, he batted with the aid of a runner (generously allowed by the Australian captain) and revealed an amazing range of improvised strokes until mistiming a wrong'un from Simpson. Bhagwat Chandrasekhar's dismissal six runs later left India four short of forcing Australia to bat again. As in the case of Wadekar, Pataudi's heroics were worthy of a century.

India lost both the remaining Tests, by 39 runs at the Gabba and 144 runs at the SCG, as well as the series four-nil. Unlike the first tour 20 years earlier, when it managed to record two-first class victories, the 1967/68 team failed to win a single first-class match. Despite this, several players emerged from the tour with credit: Pataudi, although restricted by injury, batted courageously, Surti was a consistent and gritty all-rounder, Prasanna revealed himself to be a world-class off-spinner and Farokh Engineer was a fine wicketkeeper and opening batsman.

1967/68	
AUSTRALIA v. INDIA	
Second Test Match	
Played at Melbourne Cricket Ground on December 30, 1967, January 1, 2 & 3, 1968.	
Australia won by an innings & 4 runs. Toss: India.	
India	
D. N. Sardesai b McKenzie.	1 - b McKenzie. 5
† F. M. Engineer c Connolly b McKenzie.	9 - c Chappell b Renneberg. 42
S. Abid Ali c Jarman b McKenzie.	4 - (8) lbw b Cowper. 21
A. L. Wadekar c Connolly b McKenzie.	6 - (3) c Sheahan b Simpson. 99
R. F. Surti lbw b Simpson.	30 - (4) c Jarman b McKenzie. 43
C. G. Borde c Redpath b McKenzie.	0 - c Redpath b Renneberg. 6
* Nawab of Pataudi jnr c Jarman b Renneberg	75 - c Redpath b Simpson. 85
V. Subramanya b McKenzie.	5 - (9) lbw b McKenzie. 10
E. A. S. Prasanna c Chappell b Renneberg.	14 - (5) c Chappell b Simpson. 21
R. B. Desai not out.	13 - c Simpson b Connolly. 14
B. S. Chandrasekhar c Jarman b McKenzie.	0 - not out. 0
B 8, lb 2, nb 6.	16 B 1, lb 4, nb 1. 6
1/2 2/10 3/18 4/25 5/25 6/47	173 1/11 2/66 3/182 4/194 5/217 352
7/72 8/146 9/162 10/173	6/227 7/276 8/292 9/346 10/352
Bowling: <i>First Innings</i> — McKenzie 21.4-2-66-7; Renneberg 15-4-37-2; Connolly 13-3-33-0; Gleeson 5-0-9-0; Chappell 1-0-7-0; Simpson 2-0-5-1. <i>Second Innings</i> — McKenzie 19-2-85-3; Renneberg 14-1-98-2; Connolly 11.7-2-48-1; Gleeson 14-5-37-0; Chappell 4-0-14-0; Simpson 14-3-44-3; Cowper 8-2-20-1.	
Australia	
* R. B. Simpson b Surti.	109 J. W. Gleeson c Borde b Prasanna. 13
W. M. Lawry st Engineer b Prasanna.	100 A. N. Connolly c sub (B. S. Bedi)
A. P. Sheahan c Engineer b Surti.	24 b Prasanna. 5
R. M. Cowper b Prasanna.	12 D. A. Renneberg not out. 8
I. M. Chappell c Wadekar b Surti.	151 B 3, lb 10, nb 3. 16
I. R. Redpath run out.	26
† B. N. Jarman b Prasanna.	65 1/191 2/233 3/246 4/274 5/329 529
G. D. McKenzie c sub (B. S. Bedi)	0 6/463 7/463 8/500 9/508 10/529
b Prasanna.	0
Bowling: Desai 12-0-63-0; Surti 29.3-4-150-3; Abid Ali 20-0-106-0; Chandrasekhar 7-0-35-0; Prasanna 34-6-141-6; Subramanya 3-0-18-0.	
Close of play scores: <i>1st day</i> — Ind (1) 8/156 (Pataudi 70, Desai 3); <i>2nd day</i> — Aust 5/329 (Chappell 45, Jarman 0); <i>3rd day</i> — Ind (2) 3/190 (Wadekar 97, Prasanna 0). 8-ball overs.	
Umpires: C. J. Egar & L. P. Rowan.	

Vale Ajit Wadekar 1941-2018

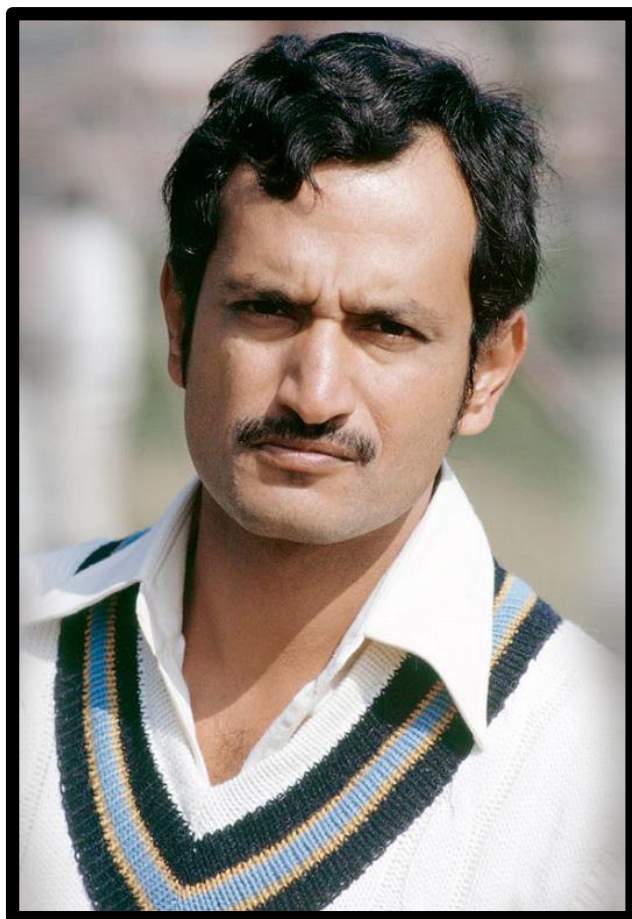
A gifted left-hand batsman, Wadekar was overlooked for Test selection until his mid-20s despite a most impressive record in inter-varsity and domestic first-class cricket. Tall (183cm) and even tempered, he built his game around a sound defence and a range of elegant strokes which he executed selectively and judiciously according to the state of the game. By no means a prolific run-scorer at Test level, he earned greater kudos for his thoughtful leadership and tactical acumen, after succeeding the Nawab of Pataudi as India's captain.

Wadekar played no serious cricket until he was 17, but immediately attracted attention by scoring 688 runs for Bombay University in the 1958/59 Rohinton Baria Trophy competition at an average of 172.00, with three centuries, which included an epic match-winning 324 not out (351 minutes, 48 fours) in the final against Delhi University. His first-class debut followed a month later and, over the next seven seasons, he totted up 4138 runs at 53.05, including 14 centuries, to press his claims for higher recognition.

He finally made his Test debut in 1966/67 against the West Indies, contributing an important 67 in the second innings at Madras (now Chennai). A little over a month later, he compiled a first-class career-best 323 (484 minutes, 40 fours) for Bombay against Mysore and became an indispensable member of the Indian side during the ensuing tour of England, only Pataudi (269 runs at 44.83) shading his 242 at 40.33 in the Tests. As mentioned in the match commentary earlier in the fact sheet, he missed a maiden Test century by a single run in the 1967/68 series against Australia, something he rectified two months later in New Zealand when scoring 143 (371 minutes, 12 fours) at Wellington.

Having headed the Test aggregates in home series against New Zealand and Australia in 1969/70, he led India to a 1-0 series away win against the West Indies next season, followed a few months later by the nation's first-ever Test and series win in England (also 1-0). Back home in 1972/73, he steered his side to a 2-1 victory over England and remains the only Indian captain to have won three successive Test series.

Wadekar made the last of his 37 Test appearances (16 as captain) in 1974, announcing his retirement at the end of the tour of England, finishing up with 2113 runs at 31.07, with one hundred. He also departed first-class cricket after the next domestic season, leaving a record of 15,380 runs at 47.03, including 36 centuries, from 237 matches.



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