

## Australia rout England by an innings to win Ashes 4-0

SYDNEY, JAN 8 /- Australia ruthlessly extinguished England's resistance to claim an innings victory in the fifth Ashes Test and complete a 4-0 series rout on the final day in Sydney on Monday. The beleaguered tourists, with skipper Joe Root weakened by a stomach bug and unable to continue batting, dissolved after lunch, losing their last four wickets for their fourth comprehensive defeat of the series.

"It has been a great couple of months. The cricket that we have played in the last couple of months has been outstanding," Australia skipper Steve Smith said. "We have just been able to get on top and win those key moments and not let them back in the game which is crucial." Pat Cummins led the Australian offensive in Sydney with four wickets for 38 to finish man-of-the-match and the leading wicket taker in the series with 23. "To get through the five Tests and end the series here at home, I couldn't ask for much more," said an ecstatic Cummins. England finished at 180 for nine off 98.1 overs as Australia won by an innings and 123 runs. It followed comprehensive losses on the troubled five-Test tour in Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth. The fourth Test was drawn in Melbourne. Stricken Root did not come out to bat after lunch as he continued to experience discomfort after his overnight stomach bug. "He is asleep. He has a gastro bug and he has not been too well through the night and the heat yesterday didn't help. He is asleep in the dressing room trying to recover," said vice-captain Jimmy Anderson, deputising for Root at the post-match presentations. "To be honest we have been outplayed in the key moments of each game," he added. "We have been in the games to an extent but just not been able to capitalise on any opportunities. Australia have played great in this series." Cummins struck twice in three balls after lunch, trapping Jonny Bairstow leg before wicket for 38 and having Stuart Broad caught behind off a brutish bouncer for four. Mason Crane got another Cummins bouncer which he gloved to wicketkeeper Tim Paine for two and Anderson was caught behind off Josh Hazlewood for two to end the innings. Root went to hospital overnight with England Cricket initially saying he had "severe dehydration" after fielding and batting in intense heat on Sunday. But team officials corrected earlier statements and said Root was instead weakened by the effects of a gastroenteritis bug. He came out to bat on the dismissal of Moeen Ali for 13 in an hour into the final day's play and reached his fifth half-century of the series, but was unable to convert any of them to a century.



Wriddhiman breaks

Dhoni's record, claims 10 victims behind the stumps Wriddhiman Saha created history on Monday in the second innings of the first Test match between India and South Africa at Newlands, Cape Town. His catch off Bhuvneshwar Kumar's bowling to get rid of Morne Morkel made him the first Indian wicket-keeper to effect 10 dismissals in a Test, going past the previous best of Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who had the distinction of a record nine dismissals against Australia in Melbourne in 2014. While all of Saha's dismissals came in the form of catches, Dhoni had one stumping to his credit. Saha also reached a personal milestone of taking five catches in each inning in a Test match for the first time. Most of the catches were regulation chances for a keeper but the one he took in the first innings to dismiss Kagiso Rabada off the bowling of Ravichandran Ashwin was the best of the lot. Ashwin bowled it quicker and Rabada went for the cut, got a thick outside edge and Saha held on to it. Not the easiest of catches for a keeper when there is a bit of deviation after the ball goes past the bat but Saha was up to the task.

## SA 1-0 up after 18 wickets fall in 64 overs

India crashed to a 72-run defeat on the fourth day of the first Test against SA at Newlands in Cape Town. Needing 208 to win on Monday, India's famed batsmen failed terribly against the South African bowlers, especially Vernon Philander who took 6/42, as a result of which they now trail the three-game rubber 0-1



Vernon Philander took three wickets in four balls to seal South Africa's win

CAPE TOWN, JAN 8 /- India's much-vaunted batting line-up fell apart in the face of a Vernon Philander-led pace attack's relentless aggression as South Africa emerged victorious by 72 runs in the first cricket Test here today. While South Africa grabbed a 1-0 lead in the three-match series, the visitors squandered a golden opportunity to script a memorable win outside the sub-continent. Needing 208 on day four for their third ever Test win on South African soil, the Indian batsmen let their team down for the second time in the match, getting skittled out for 135 in 42.4 overs. The game finished well inside three days despite a full day's play being washed out. There was no Dale Steyn in the second innings, yet the South Africa pace department had enough firepower to expose the visitors' batting line-up on a bouncy and seaming surface. Philander was simply outstanding with his pace and precision, ending with a career-best six for 42 and match haul of nine wickets. Mornel Morkel and Kagiso Rabada played the supporting role well, finishing with two wickets apiece in the second innings. With India reeling at 82 for seven, R Ashwin (37) and Bhuvneshwar Kumar saved them the embarrassment of being bowled out for under 100.

The duo shared a 49-run stand for the eighth wicket, the highest of the innings, but it folded quickly after Philander had Ashwin caught behind with the keeper standing up. Post lunch, India began in circus-spect fashion. Shikhar Dhawan (16) looked to make a quick start, but Murali Vijay (13) struggled against Philander. The latter

survived twice via DRS reviews for caught behind and lbw appeals. Vijay wasn't third time lucky though, caught behind off Philander in the 8th over as the slide began for India. Six balls later, Dhawan was caught pulling much like the first innings, only this time off Morkel (2-39). Four overs later, India were struggling at 39/3 as Cheteshwar Pujara (4) was caught behind off Morkel too. Virat Kohli (28) and Rohit Sharma (10) stemmed the slide by adding 32 runs for the fourth wicket. After drinks though, Philander returned from the other end and trapped Kohli in front of the wicket. India were desperately struggling thereafter. Keshav Mahara (0-12) dropped Sharma (on 9) off Rabada (2-41) in the 23rd over, but the batsman didn't make this chance count. An over later, he pulled off a gem as Philander's hero Hardik Pandya (1) then gave slip catching practice off Rabada as India lost eight wickets for 32 runs in this session. Wriddhiman Saha (8) fell at the stroke of tea, trapped lbw by Rabada. Post tea, Ashwin and Kumar looked to bat for time. They put on 49 runs for the 8th wicket to take India past the 100 mark and raised visions of an improbable win. However, they were misplaced as Quinton de Kock pulled off a smart catch standing up to Philander. Philander picked up his 12th five-wicket haul as Mohammed Shami (4) was caught at second slip two balls later. He finished things off in style as Jasprit Bumrah (0) was out in the same fashion on the very next ball. Philander improved on his previous best of 6-44 against New Zealand in March 2012. This was after Mohammed Shami and Jasprit

Bumrah shared six wickets as South Africa were bowled out for 130 runs (41.2 overs) in their second innings at the stroke of lunch. The hosts lost 8 for 65 in the morning session to lead by overall 207 runs. Shami took 3-28 while Bumrah had 3-38. Starting from day two overnight 65/2, the slide began in the second over of the morning. Shami had Hashim Amlat (4) caught at gully with Rohit Sharma taking a low catch. The decision went up to the TV umpire but he didn't find conclusive evidence to overturn the soft signal. Four overs later, Shami sent back Rabada (5), caught at second slip. In the 29th over then, when Bumrah had Faruq Plessis (0) caught behind off a snorter, South Africa were struggling at 82/5.

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C4000

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