



Nannes switch baffling

15th Aug'09

The Australians have come back as only they can in the Ashes series winning the fourth Test comprehensively and are now looking good to retain the urn. The England camp is in total disarray and blame is being heaped on the Chief of England Cricket Hugh Morris whose head is being demanded for allowing Pietersen and Flintoff to play in the IPL. India also lost the services of the explosive Virender Sehwag through an injury in the IPL but nobody has moaned about it for people know that sport has its hazards and injury can be round the corner. Apart from these three, there aren't any injuries to any other players and when one considers that there were about 100 players or so who played in the IPL then it's a minor statistic indeed. Maybe England should ask why its players are so delicate and not blame the IPL.

The IPL also brought to the fore some unknown players like Dirk Nannes who played for Holland in the ICC Twenty20 immediately after the IPL concluded and now finds himself in the Australian team for the T20 matches against England. How a player who played in June for another country can play in August for another country is hard to understand. There is a restriction of 4 years for a player of a Test country to transfer to another Test country but how Nannes was allowed to play for Holland would be interesting to find out especially if he has an Australian passport and has not stayed in Holland for the required length of time to qualify. In fact it would be interesting to know how a player who plays for Scotland or Ireland in the year can play for England in the same year. After all Scotland and Ireland are separate members of the ICC along with England. Whatever commentators may say about India's clout in world cricket, the old powers are the wily ones who have things going their way.

In the fourth Test some of England's players showed clear dissent against umpires decisions yet there was nothing in the papers to suggest that they had been hauled before the match referee for doing so. Somehow the match referees seem to turn a blind eye to infringements of the ICC code by players of the old powers so its easy for their captains and media to take the high moral ground and claim that since they haven't been reported they couldn't be doing wrong. Instances are too numerous to give here but suffice it to say that some get away and some don't but have a look at those who don't and see where they come from.

Young Stuart Broad is one who has trod the fine line between dissent and disappointment on more than one occasion especially when called for no-balls or wides. But he is young and youngsters have a naturally rebellious streak in them so its understandable to an extent. He is a fine cricketer and a top allrounder in the making as his deeds in the lost cause of the fourth Test showed and for that he is this week's CEAT International Cricketer of the Week.