

'Australia Hold The Edge': Nasser Hussain Issues Stark Ashes Reality Check To England



Former England cricketer Nasser Hussain has said that the Ashes defines English captains and coaches and the upcoming series will definitely do the same for Ben Stokes and Brendon McCullum, adding that Australia hold the edge in the season's most-awaited tie.

The English media has picked up on the age of the Australian team, labelling it 'Dad's Army' and 'Saggy Greens'. In a sign that age is catching up, multiple of Australia's senior cricketers

have lightened their white-ball loads to prolong their Test careers and that makes them even more dangerous at home. "England say it won't, but it will. This series usually defines England captains and coaches and this one will. You've got to add context. Australia are firm favourite. England have not won a single one of their last 15 Tests in Australia," Hussain said while speaking to The Athletic. "That's hard, cold facts. Fifteen Tests, drawn two, lost 13. It

shows how hard it is to go to Australia and win. So if they win it down there for the first time since 2010-11 and before then, you have to go back to Mike Gatting in 1986-87, of course, it will define this team," Hussain added. Since stepping into broadcasting 21 years ago, the former England cricketer has built a reputation as one of the most respected pundits and columnists in sport, admired by cricketers and fans alike for his firm opinions, sharp insight and consistent, balanced understanding of the modern game.

"This is going to be a special series because it does feel like the culmination for this regime. Not the end, but this is what they've built up to. They came in not long after an Ashes drubbing and the whole game plan for the last three and a half years has been about how to win in Australia," Hussain said.

Shubman Gill All Set To Miss Guwahati Trip, Remains Doubtful For Second Test: Report

Shubman Gill's neck injury may sideline him for India's second Test; B Sai Sudharsan and Devdutt Padikkal could replace him.

India's Test captain Shubman Gill will not travel to Guwahati with the rest of the team on Wednesday for the second Test and his participation in the game is shrouded in doubt, according to a report in PTI. Gill suffered a neck injury on Day 2 of the first Test at the Eden Gardens.

Having played continuously for the last few months, Gill's workload was always in question and one would assume that it has finally caught up with him. The team will have an optional training session on Tuesday.

"He has acute neck pain and we aren't allowed to go into details about the injury. He has to keep wearing the neck collar," a Cricket Association of Bengal source told PTI.

"He has been advised three days' rest and not to take flight. In this situation, he isn't advised to travel to Guwahati. But we are monitoring his progress daily and the picture will be clearer by Tuesday," the source added. The Indian team is scheduled to travel to Guwahati on Wednesday for the second and final Test, beginning Saturday, November 22.

Head coach Gautam Gambhir said in the post-match press conference that Gill is still under assessment, with the physio and medical team all set to hold another round of evaluations.

Gill's absence in the fourth innings left India a batter short as they slumped to a 30-run loss to South Africa, chasing a paltry 124.



Gill was taken to the hospital after the second day of the Kolkata Test, having retired hurt on four after facing only three deliveries in India's first innings. If Gill is ruled out, India could turn to B Sai

Sudharsan or Devdutt Padikkal. Sudharsan, who struck 87 against the Windies in Delhi, managed a highest score of 32 across four innings for India A against South Africa A.

Kylian Mbappe Sues PSG For €263m -- And PSG Countersues Real Madrid Star For €240m: Report

Mbappe sues Paris Saint-Germain for €263 million over alleged mistreatment, while PSG countersues for €240 million, escalating their bitter legal battle after his move to Madrid.

Kylian Mbappe's long-simmering fallout with Paris Saint-Germain has officially erupted into a full-blown legal war.

The France captain has filed a €263 million claim against his former club, accusing PSG of mistreating him and violating the terms of his final year at the Parc des Princes. PSG, unsurprisingly, has fired back with a counter-claim of €240 million, turning an already messy breakup into one of the most expensive football disputes in recent history.

Mbappe, now thriving at Real Madrid, first lodged his complaint in June, arguing that PSG froze him out at the start of the 2023-24 season after he refused to sign a contract extension.

He says he was isolated from the first-team group, forced to train with players the club wanted to ship out, and excluded from the club's profitable preseason tour of Asia.

The French players' union had already criticised



PSG last year for similar "punishment squads," which several players, including Mbappe, were placed in during contract standoffs. After missing the opening game of the season, Mbappe eventually returned to the squad following fresh talks with club leadership. But the relationship never recovered.

When his contract expired, he walked away on a free transfer and joined Real Madrid, where he reportedly earns €30m a year.

PSG's counterclaim centres on a blockbuster deal that never happened: the club alleges they lost out on a €300m transfer fee from Saudi club Al Hilal because Mbappe refused to go, and they now want at least €240m in damages.

Mbappe spent seven years in Paris, scoring 256 goals in 308 games, but the Champions League title he chased never arrived during his tenure. Ironically, PSG finally won it the season after he left.

India's New Batting Sensation Smashes Second Ranji Trophy Double Hundred In Three Games

Ravichandran Smaran scores his second double hundred for Karnataka against Chandigarh in the Ranji Trophy, climbing to fourth in the season's run charts.



Star Karnataka batter Ravichandran Smaran has scored a stunning double hundred against Chandigarh in the Ranji Trophy, marking his second double century in the ongoing tournament, continuing the tradition of run machines for the Karnataka team.

Having opted to bat first, Karnataka

were reduced to 13/2 in the eighth over before wicketkeeper Krishnan Shrijith and Karan Nair added 51 runs for the third wicket. After Shrijith was dismissed by Nishank Birla in the 28th over, Nair and Smaran built a 119-run partnership for the fourth wicket. Karnataka soon found

themselves at 210/5, before Smaran and Shreyas Gopal built a 141-run partnership for the sixth wicket.

After Gopal was dismissed by Vishu Kashyap for 62, Smaran and Vidyadhar Patil added 76 runs for the seventh wicket. Following the latter's dismissal by Jagjit Singh, Smaran and Shikhar Shetty built a 111-run partnership for the eighth wicket.

Karnataka finally declared on 547/8, with Smaran unbeaten on 227, smacking 16 boundaries and two sixes. This marked Smaran's second double hundred in three games and his highest first-class score as well.

He had earlier smashed an unbeaten 220 against Kerala and then scored 54 versus Maharashtra heading into this game.

In just his 13th first-class appearance, Smaran brought up his third double hundred, his first being a 203 against

Punjab back in January.

Smaran has now climbed to fourth on the Ranji Trophy run-scoring charts this season, with 595 runs at a stunning average of 119. He sits just behind Mizoram's Arman Jaffer (598 at 119.60), Nair (602 at 100.33) and Delhi's Sanat Sangwan (614 at 102.33).

Smaran, a left-handed batter, has been part of Karnataka's setup since his Under-14 days. He has featured for the Gulbarga Mystics and Shivamogga Strikers in the Maharaja T20 Trophy as well, the state's premier T20 tournament.

In seven List A innings, Smaran has scored 433 runs at a stunning average of 72.16. He has amassed 1,179 first-class runs at a brilliant average of 78.6, featuring four hundreds, three of them double centuries, alongside three fifties.

Kobbie Mainoo Wants Out! Man United Youngster Seeks Loan Move To Napoli

Kobbie Mainoo is frustrated with limited game time at Manchester United and may push for a January loan to Napoli, though United remain reluctant to let him leave even temporarily.

Manchester United increasingly expect Kobbie Mainoo to push for a January loan move, with the young midfielder growing frustrated by another season spent mostly on the fringes.

Despite early optimism that he'd force his way into the first-team picture, Mainoo's minutes haven't improved as the campaign has unfolded. Behind the scenes, figures close to the club believe he may soon begin agitating for a temporary exit in search of regular football.

United's stance has remained firm: keep training, take chances as they come, prove you belong. But from Mainoo's perspective, the season is slipping away, and patience

is wearing thin. According to Fabrizio Romano, Mainoo is very interested in joining Napoli on loan in January. The Serie A champions pushed for him in the summer but saw their move instantly rejected by United.

Now, with the 20-year-old still out of favour under Amorim, Mainoo is expected to ask again to leave on loan — this time with far more leverage. Any deal would be strictly temporary, with no option or obligation to buy.

Mainoo still sees his long-term future at Old Trafford, and United remain adamant they don't want to sell him. Historically, United have viewed loans, both incoming and outgoing, as offering



limited long-term value. The club rarely approves "dry loans" with no option to buy, believing they invest time in a player only to send him back without guarantees.

No Ronaldo? No Problem! Portugal Smash Armenia 9-1 To Seal 2026 FIFA World Cup Spot

Portugal Obliterates Armenia 9-1 to Seal 2026 World Cup Spot — Without Cristiano Ronaldo Portugal booked their ticket to the 2026 World Cup in outrageous fashion on Sunday night, dismantling Armenia 9-1 in Porto in a performance that bordered on merciless. And remarkably, they did it without their suspended captain, Cristiano Ronaldo, who watched from afar after his red card against Ireland three days earlier.

For Roberto Martinez's side, the mission was clear: respond to Thursday's shocking 2-0 defeat against Ireland — Portugal's first loss of the qualifying campaign — and do it emphatically. What followed was a spectacle of domination that left no doubt about their credentials as one of Europe's elite.

A Lightning Start, A Moment of Panic... Then the Floodgates Burst Renato Veiga opened the scoring early, settling Portuguese nerves with a crisp finish after fluid early pressure. But the hosts were momentarily stunned when Eduard Spertsyan fired Armenia level — their first goal in four matches — silencing the Dragão for all of ten seconds. That equaliser was the only real jolt Portugal allowed. From that moment on, the match evolved into a relentless, one-way parade of Portuguese goals, the kind of avalanche usually reserved for mismatched friendlies rather than World Cup qualifiers.

Hat-Tricks, Havoc, and Fernandes in Full Maestro Mode João Neves and Bruno Fernandes — two midfielders whose reputations continue to soar — each produced spectacular hat-tricks. Bruno Fernandes, the conductor, sliced Armenia open with vision, pressing, and that trademark ruthlessness around the box. João Neves, only recently integrated into the national team, played like a veteran star, scoring not just his first Portugal goal — but his second and third as well.

Gonçalo Ramos also joined the party, capitalizing on a disastrous Armenian back-pass to restore the lead before the scoreboard lit up like a pinball machine.

"We always want to win convincingly," Fernandes said after the match. "Tonight we were effective and got a great victory. The response was what we needed." Neves was beaming: "The most important thing was qualification. I'm happy to score my first, second and third goals for Portugal. It's a dream."

