

KHAWAJA, PATTINSON LOCKED FOR EDGBASTON OPENER

Langer confirms Usman to bat at 3 in 1st Ashes Test as Pattinson set to play first red-ball game since Feb 2016



AFP ■ BIRMINGHAM

Australia coach Justin Langer says Usman Khawaja and James Pattinson are set to play in the Ashes opener as the selectors prepare to make several crunch decisions in Birmingham.

Langer confirmed Khawaja passed a fitness test on his hamstring on Monday and will bat at No 3 in the first Ashes Test at Edgbaston starting Thursday, while only a last-minute setback will prevent Pattinson from playing in his first Test since February 2016.

"Usman Khawaja will definitely be in," Langer told reporters in Birmingham.

"He's fit, ready to go, he's playing well."

"He's a seasoned pro for us, he averages 40-odd in Test cricket, his hammy (hamstring) is good, he's running well, he's passed all the fitness tests so he's ready to go. He'll bat No 3."

Commenting on Pattinson, Langer said: "It's a great story isn't it, coming back from where he was as a young bowler, the back surgeries, to more than likely being selected for this Test match, it's a great story."

While those two pieces of the selection puzzle have been locked in, Langer and his fellow national selectors — Trevor Hohns and Greg Chappell — now must fill in the rest of the gaps.

David Warner, who Langer says is "fine" after copping a nasty blow above his left knee in the nets on Monday afternoon, Steve Smith, captain Tim Paine, Pat Cummins, Nathan Lyon and now Khawaja and Pattinson appear the certainties in the XI to take on England.

Langer says deciding who will open the batting with Warner and the third specialist fast bowler are at the forefront of the selection panel's minds.

Marcus Harris is the incumbent Test opener, Australia's leading run-scorer against world No1 India last summer and posted a century against Sussex on the Australia A tour two games ago.

Cameron Bancroft was Australia's Test opener before he was suspended, has been in solid form for Durham in Division Two of the County Championship and scored a match-winning 93 not out on a challenging pitch in last week's intra-squad clash in Southampton.

As for the third quick, it is hard to split Josh Hazlewood, Mitch Starc and Peter Siddle.

Hazlewood is finding his groove after returning from a back injury he suffered in January, Starc continues to adjust to the red Dukes ball after finishing the World Cup as the leading wicket-taker for the second-straight tournament, while Siddle is purring along

with plenty of wickets and match experience in English conditions this season under his belt.

"Like in all these selections, there's literally a case for 17 bokes to play," Langer said.

"The opening partnership's going to be really tough, between Cameron (Bancroft) and Marcus Harris, really hard.

"They've both got a really strong case, and then the fast bowling spots.

"There's probably three to be fair, (Mitch Starc), Peter Siddle and Josh Hazlewood for one spot.

"Three pretty good players to try to find a spot for, I reckon."

Whoever of the pace trio misses out, they will likely get a game throughout the campaign as the selectors look to assemble a fast bowling attack to suit each specific venue.

But do not mistake the chopping and changing as rotation, says Langer.

"They (the fast bowlers) won't be rotated as such," he said.

"Like in the World Cup we'll pick the best three or four for every game we play. "Lord's is very different to here (Edgbaston), Old Trafford's going to be different, so that's how.

"We won't rotate them per se, but we'll just pick the best three, probably not four, but

three for every game.

"It won't be different opposition, certainly different conditions."

The selectors also have to settle on a middle order, with incumbent No 6 Kurtis Patterson missing selection in the Ashes squad.

Tasmania's Matt Wade and Queenslanders Marnus Labuschagne appear to be the main contenders, but Langer did not rule out allrounder Mitch Marsh making his Test return.

"Time will tell," Langer said with a wry grin.

HOSTILE RECEPTION

Australia coach Justin Langer says an Ashes return for Cameron Bancroft would be "a great story" but knows he will face a hostile reception from England fans after his ball-tampering ban.

Bancroft, 26, is set to open the batting in Thursday's first Test at Edgbaston, with Australia's top order also likely to feature David Warner and Steve Smith.

If that is the case, it would mean all three players who were banned for their roles in the ball-tampering scandal in South Africa last year would be in Australia's XI.

Smith and Warner have already experienced plenty of boos from English crowds during the recent World Cup.

Bancroft, not selected for the one-day tournament, will almost certainly experience more of the same given he was the one who actually applied sandpaper to the ball during a Test away to South Africa in a blatant flouting of cricket's rulebook.

"It would be a great story if he comes back into the team," Langer said at Edgbaston on Tuesday.

"His development after what happened in Cape Town

has been extraordinary."

Langer, a former Australia opener, said: "We know what the reception is going to be. There's nothing we can do about it. We don't know (how he will cope) actually, but we'll find out.

"He's a good kid and as tough as anyone you could meet. To endure the scrutiny of the past 14 months, especially the first part of it, I think he's had a pretty good dress rehearsal."

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| 3 | 2019_MCL_145061_1 | PROCUREMENT OF AUTOMATIC FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM FOR BH60T DUMPER. | 1221404.00 |
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| 13 | 2019_MCL_145456_1 | Construction of Temporary sand bandha on the bed of IB River near Deogaon (near Rajpur Village) under IB Valley Area under CSR head for the year 2019-20. | 721052.00 |
| 14 | 2019_MCL_145472_1 | Construction of foundation/platform for placement of unitized transformer at GM Complex, IB Valley Area. | 711629.00 |
| 15 | 2019_MCL_145462_1 | Hiring of one no. Pick-up Van having seating capacity 4 plus 1 on 24 hrs duty basis with deployment of three nos. of drivers, max run 3500 km/month for 02 years (682 working days) for Belphar OCM, Lakhampur Area, MCL. | 1750694.00 |
| 16 | 2019_MCL_145465_1 | Hiring of one no. Pick-up Van having seating capacity 4 plus 1 on 24 hrs duty basis with deployment of three nos. of drivers, max run 3500 km/month for 02 years (682 working days) for Belphar OCM, Lakhampur Area, MCL. | 1750694.00 |
| 17 | 2019_MCL_145467_1 | Hiring of one no. Pick-up Van having seating capacity 4 plus 1 on 24 hrs duty basis with deployment of three nos. of drivers, max run 3000 km/month for 02 years (682 working days) for EnM Department, Lakhampur Area, MCL. | 1750694.00 |
| 18 | 2019_MCL_145528_1 | Hiring of one no. AC running covered jeep (Bolero or equivalent) having seating capacity 6 plus 1 on 16 hours duty basis with deployment of two nos. of drivers, max run 3500 km/month, for 02 years (682 days) for Lakhampur OCP, Lakhampur Area, MCL. | 1353770.00 |
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| 28 | 2019_MCL_145434_1 | Repair and calibration of 7 nos. of Fuel Injection Pumps (FIPs) and Injectors/ Nozzles suitable for BS6D-140/BSA6D170 engines applicable to BEML make BG-825 Motor grader/ WS-28-2 Water Sprinkler and BD-355/ BE1000 Excavators. | 991200.00 |
| 29 | 2019_MCL_145520_1 | Procurement of different sizes of M.S Electrodes. | 129316.00 |
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| 31 | 2019_MCL_145558_1 | SUPPLY OF PICKS FOR LNT SURFACE MINER. | 364800.00 |
| 32 | 2019_MCL_145710_1 | Repairing, reconditioning and straightening of 08 nos. of UJ assembly of 50/60T Dumpers of Samaleswari OCP, IB Valley Area. | 254942.00 |
| 33 | 2019_MCL_145693_1 | Running and Maintenance of Triveni Club (VIP Guest House), Shanti Vihar Officers Guest House and JET Hostel, Lakhampur Area. | 22620065.00 |

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Amir's Test exit was on cards

PTI ■ LAHORE

Pakistan head coach Mickey Arthur is not surprised by Mohammed Amir's decision to retire from Tests at the age of 27 as he feels the pacer's career in the longest format was considerably damaged by the spot-fixing ban he served.

Amir was banned for five years for his involvement in the 2010 spot-fixing scandal in England. He returned to all formats of the game in 2015 but announced his retirement from Tests on Friday after having played 36 Tests with 119 scalps in his chequered career.

"He (Amir) had five years out of the game...In those five years, he didn't do anything. His body was not up to the rigours of day in, day out Test cricket," Arthur told ESPNcricinfo.

"We pushed him as much as we could during the England and South Africa series, because he is such a good bowler whom we wanted during those tours. We've tried everything we possibly could with Amir."

"He could have managed those five years better. He'd be the first one to acknowledge that. But I understand where he was in his whole life, so it was a tough period for him. I understand all that," Arthur said.

Arthur felt Amir would have been one of the best Test fast bowlers in Pakistan's history had he not lost those five years to the spot-fixing ban.

"The Amir hype all those years ago was justified because he is a quality bowler. When the ball swings there's not much



better. But he's not the bowler now that he was in 2009 and 2010. He was different, his body was different," he said.

"Making a connection between the bowler now and then would be wrong. But had he not had those five years out of the game, I think he would be up there with the very best Pakistan have ever had," he

said.

The South African said that the left-arm fast bowler had been thinking about it for over a year.

"It was on the cards for a long while. Amir had been speaking to me about it with me for some time now. His Test career was taking a strain on his body," Arthur said.

Tough Cardiac procedure at AMRI Hospitals Bhubaneswar

DR. CHANDRABHANU PARIJA, MS, MCH

SR. CONSULTANT CARDIOVASCULAR & THORACIC SURGERY, AMRI HOSPITALS FELLOW ADULT CARDIAC SURGERY, EMORY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, ATLANTA, USA



It was a moment of great relief for Mr Ramanath Sahoo (name changed) when he was taking his father back to his native village after a very high risk open heart surgery.

When asked he was more than eager to share his side of the story and how his sick father has recovered after cardiac surgery

performed on his father at AMRI hospitals, Bhubaneswar.

Mr. Sahoo mentioned his father Mr. Brundaban Sahoo (name changed) gradually worsening breathing problem and was taken immediately to S.C.B.

Medical College, Cuttack and admitted to ICU. On further evaluation it was detected that he has got blockages in his arteries of the heart along with leakage from the prosthetic valve that was put 4 years back . He

was intimated that his condition is very critical and the required surgery can not be done there. Then he started running from one hospital to the other as no one was willing to operate on his father in view of higher risk.

Then he was advised to meet Dr. Chandrabhanu Parija at AMRI Hospitals, Bhubaneswar, who after explaining the detailed procedure and higher risk involved, took up his father for surgery.

As per Dr. Parija

since the patient had undergone a previous surgery on the heart the second surgery is always challenging and carries a higher risk as the heart is adherent to the sternum, and in this particular patient the risk was even higher due to leak from the sides of the prosthetic valve resulting in heart failure.

The patient was admitted to the ICU and was stabilized and then taken up for Redo Mitral Valve replacement and Coronary Artery Bypass

Grafting, and recovered well although needed little longer hospital stay.

As per Dr. Parija this kind of surgery is not uncommon but involves more experience and skill. The higher risk involved makes many to refuse the requisite treatment resulting in delay and consequent higher mortality and lesser patient benefit. AMRI hospital is loaded with advanced equipments with modern facilities and has got the expertise to deal with this kind of challenging procedures and helps relieve suffering patients.

