



Marsh signs with Sri Lanka

SRI Lanka have appointed former Australia batsman Geoff Marsh as their national cricket coach. Sri Lanka Cricket said in a statement that Marsh had been offered a two-year contract starting on September 27. The 52-year-old played 50 Tests and 119 one-day internationals for Australia and coached the Australian and Zimbabwe teams. Marsh replaces fellow Australian Trevor Bayliss, who stepped down after the team's World Cup final defeat to India.



SA, NSW hot to trot in T20

SOUTH Australia and NSW are both brimming with confidence heading into the Champions League Twenty20 cricket tournament in India this weekend. The Blues, who won the inaugural tournament in 2009, start their campaign against South Africa's Cape Cobras in Chennai tonight. SA, who reached the semi-finals of the 2010 Champions League, start their challenge tomorrow in Hyderabad against South Africa's Warriors.



Old Trafford pads up again

TEST cricket will return to Old Trafford in 2013 after England cricket chiefs awarded an Ashes Test to the famous Manchester venue. The home of Lancashire cricket has been used sparingly by England in recent years, playing host only to one Test – against Bangladesh in 2009 – since 2008. The other four Tests of the 2013 series will take place at Lord's, Trent Bridge, Chester-le-Street and The Oval. England is on a roll in Test cricket, now ranked No. 1.



Aussie superfish Ian Thorpe is looking forward to his competitive return

Thorpedo all set for Cup

SWIMMING
BY GUY HAND

IAN Thorpe will make his long-awaited return to swimming in November at a World Cup meet in Singapore.

The five-time Olympic gold medallist has not swum competitively since announcing his comeback from retirement in February.

Thorpe and fellow comeback swimmer, Libby Trickett, were yesterday named in the Australian team for three World Cup meets starting with an event in Singapore on November 4 and 5.

They will also swim at the event in Beijing on November 8 and 9 and Tokyo on November 12 and 13.

Both have had to sit out international competition for a minimum of nine months to comply with drug-testing protocols since announcing their comebacks.

It will be Thorpe's first competition since retiring in 2006, while Trickett has not raced internationally since the 2009 world championships in Rome.

Trickett, who announced her comeback in August last year, competed at the Austral-

ian shortcourse titles in July. Thorpe has been training in Switzerland with new coach Gennadi Touretski.

"I'm excited about being part of an Australian swim team again after all these years," Thorpe said.

"The reality for me is I'm now at the next stage of my preparation and getting ready to race competitively, and I'm really looking forward to catching up with everyone in Singapore."

Thorpe has earmarked the 100m and 200m as his target events for the London 2012 Olympic Games.

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