

Aussies opt for rawest of pace

By MALCOLM CONN and ROBERT CRADDOCK

AUSTRALIA will field its rawest pace attack in more than 25 years after the new selection panel dived headlong into the future.

Four uncapped players have been named for the first Test against New Zealand in Brisbane, beginning on Thursday, and at least three will make their debut.

Explosive opening batsman David Warner and pace trio James Pattinson, Mitchell Starc and Ben Cutting have all benefited from Australia's injury crisis as part of a 12-man squad. One of the new bowlers is expected to carry the drinks.

This will bring to at least nine the number of debutants Australia has blooded this year, along with Usman Khawaja, Michael Beer, Nathan Lyon, Trent Copeland, Shaun Marsh and Pat Cummins.

The new selection panel of chairman John Inverarity, captain Michael Clarke, coach Mickey Arthur, Rod Marsh and Andy Bichel deserve strong praise for their bold approach.

The selectors could have picked 17-Test veteran Ben Hilfenhaus as a steady option but have gone for broke.

"We have very much an eye to the future," Inverarity said. "It is disappointing we have so many injuries, but

TEST SQUAD

Michael Clarke (capt), Phillip Hughes, David Warner, Usman Khawaja, Ricky Ponting, Michael Hussey, Brad Haddin, Peter Siddle, Mitchell Starc, Nathan Lyon, James Pattinson, Ben Cutting (12th man to be named).

the... way ahead for Australia is to see how good these young players are.

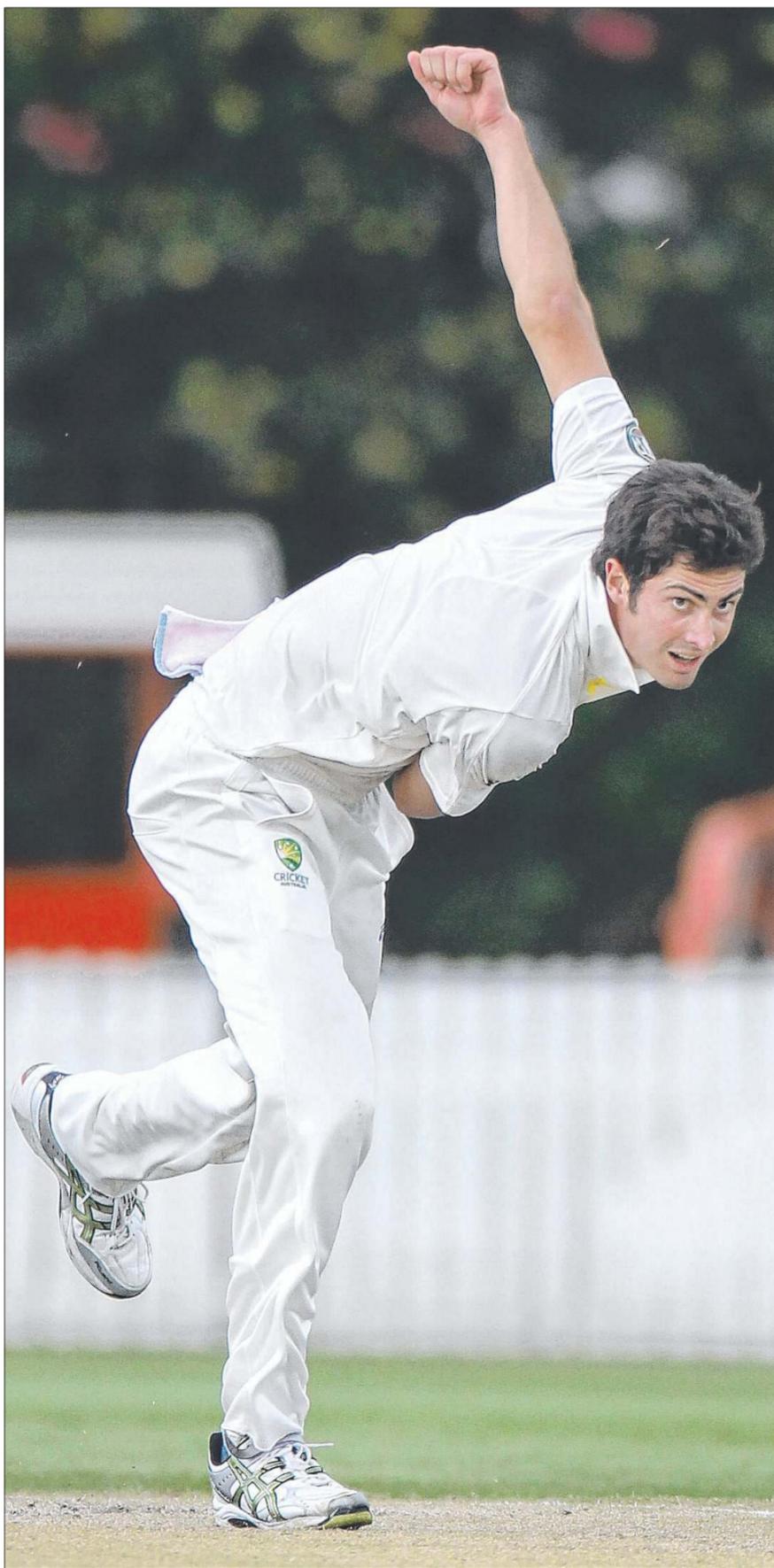
"I think it is a wonderful opportunity for these three young men, who are all in good form at the moment.

"We decided on three young new pace bowlers who have performed well in recent months. James Pattinson was away in Sri Lanka and South Africa. Mitchell Starc and Ben Cutting did well at the Gabba.

"It was a unanimous decision we arrived at very quickly to pick those three in the 12."

Inverarity said there had been no discussion over the selection of under-siege veterans Ricky Ponting and Brad Haddin but he did say he felt Australia was lucky to have two exceptional young wicketkeeper-batsmen in Tim Paine and Matthew Wade shining in the first class ranks.

Inverarity said David Warner was selected with confidence. "He is very skilful and very good with the bat in his hand," he said.



Ben Cutting, bowling for Australia A, has been selected in the Test squad Picture: JEFF CAMDEN

NZ pushing Australia A

NEW Zealand were 2-75 in their second innings at stumps on day three of the clash with Australia A in Brisbane yesterday.

Martin Guptill was 37 not out and Ross Taylor was unbeaten on 14.

Test call-ups Ben Cutting (1-19) and Mitchell Starc (1-9) were the wicket-takers.

The Black Caps hold an overall lead of 103 after an Ed Cowan-inspired Australia A were bowled out for 395 in their first dig earlier yesterday.

The home side's innings was built around Cowan's knock of 145 that lasted more than seven hours.

He shared a 150-run fifth-wicket stand with wicket-keeper Matt Wade (53).

Cowan resumed at 60 not out yesterday.

Doug Bracewell took 4-87 for New Zealand, backing up from his unbeaten 73 in the Black Caps' first dig of 423.

Christian ton sparks rally

QUEENSLAND finished on 0-44 against South Australia at stumps on day two of the Sheffield Shield match in Adelaide yesterday.

The Redbacks declared their first innings at 9-349 with Dan Christian top-scoring with 108 and captain Michael Klinger making 93.

The pair rescued SA from a wobbly 4-68 with a 166-run union for the fifth wicket.

All but seven of those runs in the partnership were scored on yesterday's second day after rain restricted the opening day to just 30 overs.

Queensland paceman Matthew Gale claimed 5-81 and was the only bowler to take multiple wickets.

In reply, Bulls opening batsmen Wade Townsend (22 not out) and Ryan Broad (21 not out) made a solid start until bad light stopped play with five scheduled overs remaining.

Ordinary day for Copeland

NSW seamer Trent Copeland had a day to forget as his state's fast-bowling cohort ripped through Western Australia in their Sheffield Shield match yesterday.

Copeland went wicketless on a green SCG pitch before learning at tea that he had missed out on a spot in Australia's injury-hit Test squad. Meanwhile, Josh Hazlewood and Josh Lalor combined to roll the visitors for 150 in their first innings.

At stumps on day two NSW was 2-84, needing a further 67 runs to claim first-innings points, with Phil Jaques (38) and Simon Katich (3) the unbeaten batsmen.

Hazlewood took 4-51, while left-arm debutant Lalor claimed 3-34, including two in two balls, as NSW pushed for vital competition points against the Warriors in the rain-affected match.

Warner's time to shine

By ROBERT CRADDOCK

DAVID Warner's Test selection comes just a year after he considered leaving his home state in frustration at not getting a game of first class cricket.

Warner's manager met Queensland officials in Melbourne last year to discuss a possible switch to the Bulls.

The Bulls had received a phone call from the Warner camp saying the dynamic shot-maker was frustrated at not being able to crack the NSW Sheffield Shield team and would consider playing interstate.

Negotiations fell down because it was felt Warner's batting career may not be enhanced playing on the occasionally viperous Sheffield Shield decks at the Gabba.

That same Gabba wicket will

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now host his Test debut against New Zealand on Thursday.

"I'm thrilled and over the moon," Warner said yesterday of his Test selection.

"I have tried to show people I am more than just a Twenty20 player or a one-day player. I have gone back to the drawing board and trained as hard as I can in the off-season, and worked with Justin Langer. I can't get the smile off my face.

"With retirements and spots being available and some guys out of form, and the team chang-

ing, it is exciting for the guys coming through like me. There are a lot of talented batsmen out there in domestic cricket.

"My natural instinct is if it is in my zone I've got to play my shots and I have to keep backing myself, and how I score my runs is how I go about playing my game. If it is a half volley I am still going to go after it.

"If it's short and it is there for me to hit, I am not going to change my game. I am there to score runs and that is what I want to do."

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WEEK 1