

Renshaw, Starc revive Australia

Pune
Australia's Matt Renshaw admitted he feared he had let his teammates down by leaving the fray with an upset stomach before returning to hit a gritty half-century in the first Test against India yesterday.

In the opening day of a four-match series between the world's top two sides, Renshaw's innings and some late Mitchell Starc fireworks pulled Australia back from the brink as they reached 256 for nine at stumps.

Starc has so far made 57 off 58 balls and Josh Hazlewood was with him at the crease on one at Pune's Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium.

Indian seamer Umesh Yadav claimed four wickets while the spinners Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja took two each.

The left-handed Renshaw was the anchor of the innings, top-scoring with 68, although it was Starc who provided the entertainment and caused a rethink in assessments of who had the better of the day.

All had seemed calm with Renshaw for most of the morning session but when David Warner fell with the scores on 82, the English-born batsman caused a stir by following his opening partner back to the pavilion.

As news filtered out that he had an upset stomach, the 20-year-old Renshaw became the talk of social media with even the famously tough former Australian captain Allan Border weighing in.

"Hope he's lying down half-dead, because as a captain I wouldn't be happy," Border wrote on Twitter as Renshaw lay on his sick-bed.

But after Australian skipper Steve Smith fell for 27 just before the tea break, Renshaw then strode back to the crease to register his second Test fifty in his fifth game.

Renshaw said he had been feeling unwell for most of the morning and had tried to tough it out before deciding he had to leg it off the pitch.

"It was tough. I wasn't too sure on the ruling. I didn't know you could retire ill so I thought I just had to get out there and make sure I batted till lunch," he told reporters.



because as an opener you just go straight out there and bat."

Renshaw admitted his captain Smith "wasn't too thrilled" about his retirement just before the break.

"But he understands that when you need to go to the toilet, you need to go to the toilet," he said.

"It was probably a couple of hours before I came back but I felt bad knowing that I could be letting the team down -- that's why I went back out there.

"I wanted to do my bit for the team and try and make sure we had a pretty good day." (AFP)

"It wasn't an ideal situation and coming back it was probably a bit strange for me, waiting to bat

Australia's Mitchell Starc plays a shot

Australia 1st innings	
D. Warner b U. Yadav	38
M. Renshaw c Vijay b Ashwin	68
S. Smith c Kohli b Ashwin	27
S. Marsh c Kohli b J. Yadav	16
P. Handscomb lbw b Jadeja	22
M. Marsh lbw b Jadeja	4
M. Wade lbw b U. Yadav	8
M. Starc not out	57
S. O'Keefe c Saha b U. Yadav	0
N. Lyon lbw b U. Yadav	0
J. Hazlewood not out	1
Extras (lb 6, nb 9)	15
Total (9 wickets; 94 overs)	256
Fall of wickets: 1-82 (Warner), 1-82 (Renshaw retired not out), 2-119 (S. Marsh), 3-149 (Handscomb), 4-149 (Smith), 5-166 (M. Marsh), 6-190 (Wade), 7-196 (Renshaw), 8-205 (O'Keefe), 9-205 (Lyon)	

Pacquiao, Amir Khan eye fight in UAE

Manila
Philippine boxing hero Manny Pacquiao yesterday said he was "in negotiations" to face British fighter Amir Khan, after weeks of conflicting reports over his next bout.

"My team and I are in negotiations with Amir Khan for our next fight. Further announcements coming soon," Pacquiao, 38, said on his official Twitter feed.

Pacquiao's Tweet follows various accounts from different sources over who he will be facing next and where the fight might be held.

Pacquiao's promoter, Top Rank's Bob Arum, told ESPN sports network that he was sceptical about a Khan



Manny Pacquiao

fight. "Manny seems to believe they will come up with the money. I have some reservations whether it will happen or not," American Arum was quoted as saying on the ESPN website.

Arum had been seeking a deal with Duco Events, a New Zealand promotional company he has close ties to, for Pacquiao to defend the 147-pound belt against Australia's Jeff Horn in Brisbane, Australia.

"The Australian deal is not going to happen now, because Manny is trying to get a fight done in the United Arab Emirates, and the people there favour him fighting Amir Khan," Arum reportedly said. (AFP)

Wayne Rooney to stay at Manchester United

London
Wayne Rooney said yesterday he was staying with Manchester United following persistent speculation he could make a lucrative move to the Chinese Super League.

British media reports said Rooney's agent, Paul Stretford, had been in China speaking to interested clubs but the United and England captain insisted he was remaining at Old Trafford.

"Despite the interest which has been shown from other clubs, for which I'm grateful, I want to end recent speculation and say that I am staying at Manchester United," the 31-year-old Rooney said in a statement released to Britain's Press Association.

"I hope I will play a full part in helping the team in its fight for success on four fronts.

"It's an exciting time at

the club and I want to remain a part of it," added Rooney, whose current United contract runs until mid-2018, with the club holding the option to extend it by a further year.

Speculation over the experienced forward's future has intensified in recent weeks with Rooney often sidelined by United manager Jose Mourinho.

Chinese clubs said to be interested in Rooney, United's all-time leading scorer, included Guangzhou Evergrande, Beijing Guoan, Jiangsu Suning and Tianjin Quanjian.

British media had reported that he could earn up to \$1 million a week, making him the world's best paid player, but Rooney's statement has at least ended the debate over his future ahead of the closure of

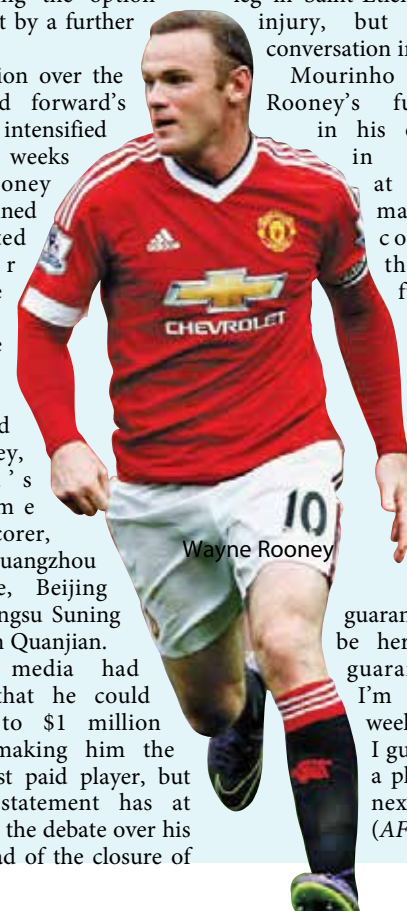
the CSL transfer window next Tuesday.

Rooney missed Wednesday's Europa League last-32 second leg in Saint-Etienne through injury, but dominated conversation in France.

Mourinho said that Rooney's future was in his own hands in comments at his pre-match press conference that only fuelled the speculation.

"You'll have to ask him," Mourinho said. "You have to ask him. Of course I can't guarantee (he will be here). I can't guarantee that I'm here next week, how can I guarantee that a player is here next season?"

(AFP)



Wayne Rooney