

O'Keefe, Smith flatten India



Australia's Steve O'Keefe delivers a ball

Pune

Australian spinner Steve O'Keefe yesterday said he expected India to come back fighting after his career-best haul of 6-35 left the hosts on the ropes in the first Test in Pune.

An unbeaten half century from skipper Steve Smith helped the tourists reach 143-4 at stumps on day two, which saw a total of 15 wickets fall at Pune's Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium.

O'Keefe, whose six wickets came off just 24 balls, helped Australia bundle India out for 105 in the afternoon session before the visiting batsmen rammed home their advantage against the world's top Test team.

Smith was on 59 and Mitchell Marsh on 21 was also at the crease as Australia stretched their lead to 298 runs by the close on a turning track at India's newest Test venue.

"It's an exciting contest -- even with 300 on the board, it's still gettable. We have seen two guys bat well. Like Steve Smith, you can get runs on it," O'Keefe told reporters.

"I think they are going to get

back stronger and better in their second innings and they are going to put up a lot of fight as you would expect from this Indian unit.

Indian off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin claimed three wickets, including openers David Warner and Shaun Marsh.

Smith, who was dropped three times, went on to register his 21st Test half-century in his 51st match.

First innings top-scorer Matt Renshaw, who did not open the batting after being off the field with nausea during most of India's innings, hung on with Smith for a 52-run partnership.

Renshaw (31), who also had to temporarily retire ill with a stomach upset during his first innings knock on Thursday, once again found it hard to cope with the heat as he suffered from bouts of dehydration.

But the Indian fielders were also left feeling the heat as they dropped four catches.

Ishant Sharma finally clung on to a skier at long-off after Renshaw mistimed a hit off Jayant Yadav. Smith then steadied the innings with Mitchell Marsh as the duo tackled the spinners with aplomb.

Kohli's rare duck

But it was O'Keefe who stole

the show earlier in the day with a blitz of wickets after lunch that saw India's middle and lower order crumble as the hosts conceded a 155-run first innings lead.

O'Keefe was largely ineffective in the morning session but then bamboozled the Indians.

"I probably went into my comfort zone like I bowl in Australia but then I worked with Sri (Sriram Sridharan, Australia's spin consultant) in the break and it worked," said O'Keefe.

The 32-year-old's stunning spell put Australia firmly in charge in the opening contest the four-Test series but it was a day to forget for Indian captain Virat Kohli, who was dismissed for a rare duck. (AFP)

SCOREBOARD

Australia 1st innings (overnight 256-9)	
M. Vijay	c Wade b Hazlewood 10
L. Rahul	c Warner b O'Keefe 64
C. Pujara	c Wade b Starc 6
V. Kohli	c Handscomb b Starc 0
A. Rahane	c Handscomb b O'Keefe 13
R. Ashwin	c Handscomb b Lyon 1
W. Saha	c Smith b O'Keefe 0
R. Jadeja	c Starc b O'Keefe 2
J. Yadav	st Wade b O'Keefe 2
U. Yadav	c Smith b O'Keefe 4
I. Sharma	not out 2
Extras (nb1)	1
Total (all out; 40.1)	105

Football Scores:

Spanish La Liga:

Las Palmas 0 Real Sociedad 1

German Bundesliga:

VFL Wolfsburg 1 Werder Bremen 2

French Ligue 1:

Nantes 3 Dijon FCO 1

Nice 2 Montpellier 1



Kyrgios two wins away from title

Marseille

Nick Kyrgios kept on course to defend his Marseille Open title with a 6-3, 6-3 quarter-final victory over Slovak qualifier Norbert Gombos yesterday.

The 21-year-old Australian fired down 15 aces and lost just six points on serve in a ruthless display that lasted less than an hour.

In today's semi-final he will face Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who thumped compatriot Gilles Simon 6-4, 6-1.

"I thought I served and returned really well today," said Kyrgios. "All that matters is that I'm going out there and playing every point hard."

"I think I'm pretty aggressive on my returns, particularly here where I'm trying to get in the first big hit."

A year ago, Kyrgios beat Marin Cilic in the final.

Tsonga came through a



Nick Kyrgios

quarter-final between two twice former winners thanks to converting four of seven break points.

The 31-year-old, on a seven-match winning streak, is bidding to win a second tournament in successive weeks after triumphing in Rotterdam last week. (AFP)

Results:

Quarter finals

Nick Kyrgios (AUS x3) bt Norbert Gombos (SVK) 6-3, 6-3
Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (FRA x2) bt Gilles Simon (FRA x7) 6-4, 6-1

Rory McIlroy reveals interest in Trump's rise

London

Former world number one Rory McIlroy has revealed his fascination with Donald Trump after taking to the fairways with the controversial US President. Trump is a keen golfer and McIlroy accepted an offer from the commander-in-chief to join him for a round at the Trump International Golf Club in Florida last weekend.

Trump's contentious comments and actions have been criticised by some in the world of sport.

But while Northern Ireland's McIlroy refrained from offering his views on his latest playing partner's political policies, the former British Open, US

Open and PGA Championship winner did reveal he was intrigued by Trump's rise to power. "I really got into it once Trump ran because I knew him a little bit but at the same time I was intrigued how a successful businessman could transition into running for the highest office in the land," McIlroy told the *Guardian* on Friday.

"It is a totally different process from the UK. He obviously came at it from a completely different angle. 'I've said it to the man himself; on a Tuesday night at a tournament, if there was a live (political) debate, I would get room service, stick on CNN and just watch.' (AFP)

New putter helps Fichardt to lead

Johannesburg

A new putter helped South African Darren Fichardt to a 66 yesterday and a one-shot clubhouse lead in the rain-affected Joburg Open golf championship.

"New putter, new grip and I am very comfortable," said the 41-year-old seeking a fifth European Tour triumph and first since the 2013 Africa Open.

"Putting is scoring and it is nice to stand over a putt and feel like you are going to make it."

Pretoria-born Fichardt tops the leaderboard with an 11-under 132 after playing the east and west courses at a soggy Royal Johannesburg and



Darren Fichardt

Kensington Golf Club.

Torrential rain Thursday caused a backlog and there was a further delay Friday, meaning many competitors will only complete their second round Saturday.

South African Jacques Kruyswijk lies second, one shot behind, after adding a rollercoaster 70 to a first-round 63.

Title-holder Haydn Porteus (67) of South Africa, Anton Karlsson (68) of Sweden, Stuart Manley (67) of Wales and Aaron Rai (69) of England are a stroke further back.

Among those who will not make the halfway cut are former major winners Trevor Immelman (69) of South Africa and Darren Clarke (73) of Northern Ireland. Hot putting helped Fichardt to four birdies in the first six holes and an eagle three at eight saw him

Scoreboard:

132 - Darren Fichardt	66-66
133 - Jacques Kruyswijk	63-70
134 - Anton Karlsson (SWE)	66-68, Stuart Manley (WAL) 67-67, Haydn Porteus 67-67, Aaron Rai 65-69
135 - Merrick Bremner	68-67, Keenan Davidge 67-68, David Drysdale (SCO) 64-71
136 - Jens Fahrbring (SWE)	68-68, Mark Foster (ENG) 69-67, Scott Jameson (SCO) 69-67, Jake Roos 67-69, Pontus Widegren (SWE) 68-68
Selected	
143 - Trevor Immelman	74-69
148 - Darren Clarke (NIR)	75-73
Note: second round to be completed Saturday morning	