Hussey puts positive spin on taming Tigers

By JORDAN GERRANS

VETERAN Victorian batsman David Hussey has turned up the heat on Tasmania’s lack of success against spin bowling in recent times ahead of their Sheffield Shield clash at Alice Springs’ Traeger Park starting tomorrow morning.

The Traeger deck was spin-friendly the last time the Bushrangers visited with leading Shield wicket taker Fawad Ahmed, Jon Holland and Hussey, himself, among the wickets in the three-day win over Queensland last month.

Ahmed finished with seven wickets, while Holland snared three, Hussey a single victim while the Bulls Michael Philpott became the first off-spinner to take seven wickets in an innings for his state.

The Bushrangers likely look to again load up their spin attack with Holland returning to the side after missing the last round against South Australia to join Ahmed and Hussey.

Hussey, 37, who is coming off 142 against the Redbacks last week said he and his spin mates know what to expect on the Traeger Park track.

“I guess that’s what our advantage is, we have two spinners, a left arm off-spinner in Jon Holland and Fawad Ahmed the leg-spinner, who is the leading wicket taker in the competition,” said Hussey

“It probably is a little bit of an advantage to us.”

In the Tigers loss to NSW last week, first-choice Australian spinner Nathan Lyon took advantage of the Tasmanians perceived lack of experience to spin bowling, claimed six wickets for the match while Steve O’Keefe was able to snare four Tigers’ scalps.

“Traditionally the Tasmanians haven’t played spin too well so hopefully we can exploit that and we can come on top,” Hussey said.

“From being here and using the conditions from the last game to set the scene on the last game, we know what to expect, we are playing some good cricket but we still need to do the basics better than the opposition.”

The Tigers will land in Central Australia light on spin options with first-choice spinner Xavier Doherty away on World Cup duty.

Emerging orthodox spinner Clive Rose will lead their hopes while young off-spinner Beau Webster and usual wicket-keeper Ben Dunk has rolled the arm over recently with Tam Paine back in the side.

Hussey was not, however, about to take the Tigers spin division lightly.

“They have also got Beau Webster and Ben Dunk who can bowl a few off-spinners as well,” Hussey said.

Play starts tomorrow at 10.30am at Traeger Park.

By ANDREW DRUMMOND

SRI Lanka’s Kumar Sangakkara has become the first cricketer to make four successive ODI centuries, leading his side to a thundering 148-run World Cup victory over Scotland at Bellerive Oval in Hobart last night.

Already guaranteed a place in the quarter-finals, Sri Lanka’s win puts them second in the quarter-finals, Sri Lanka having made it to the World Cup knock out stage.

Sangakkara produced a thrilling, at times cheeky, contribution of 124 in his team’s total of 361-3.

Despite a 188-run partnership between Scotland skipper Preston Mommsen (60) and Freddie Coleman (70) the Scots were all out for 215 in the 44th over, and remain winless in their World Cup campaign.

Sangakkara’s dismissal sparked a quick succession of wickets and with 10 overs remaining the Scots needed 167 runs from 60 balls.

In Scotland’s innings, Sangakkara passed Adam Gilchrist (52 dismissals) at the top of the list of most dismissals by a wicketkeeper in World Cup matches, with 54.

The 37-year-old Sri Lankan also passed 500 one day international dismissals.

With the bat, Sangakkara wasn’t the only Sri Lankan to fire. He teamed with Tillakaratne Dilshan (104 off 99) for a 195-run partnership for the second wicket. And batting at No.5 captain Angelo Mathews smashed 51 off 21 balls.

The highlight of the skipper’s swashbuckling knock was four successive sixes off Matt Machan (1-46) in the 44th over.

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