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LOZ THE STATS MAN



By: *Lawrie Colliver*



The Australian Test cricket team is seriously under the pump now that India has gone one-up in the battle for the Border/Gavaskar trophy. The top order was shell-shocked by the India pace attack and just could not cope with Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj. **Bumrah was incredible, swinging the ball at pace in both directions and being impossible to pick out of the hand. Throw in the unorthodoxy of his unique action and you have a very difficult bowler to face.**

The young genius opener Yashasvi Jaiswal turned it on with the bat in the second innings, showing great patience and that he is a very fast learner and has maturity much beyond his 22 years. When he was set and the game was all but under control, the young man also showed his power taking his sixes tally for the year to 35. Now he has his tail up he will be hard to stop.

Jaiswal's opening partner, KL Rahul deserves a lot of credit also, for his determined batting in both innings. Throw in the class of Virat Kohli with his second innings 100 – it was memorable performance by the visitors, **who can only improve their team with the likely returns of skipper Rohit Sharma and Mohammad Shami.**

A number of the Australian players have a lot to think about. Marnus Labuschagne looks completely out of sync, with seven scores under 10 in his last eight innings. He could well be on his last chance. Steve Smith was out first ball and struggled in the first innings, while Usman Khawaja was below his best, his dismissal from a top edged pull not a shot he would be proud of. One bright spot was that two of the SA contingent did well, as Travis Head peeled off 89 in style in the second dig and Alex Carey batted well in both innings. Nathan McSweeney found the going tough and hopefully can bounce back in Adelaide next week. **There is still a week to go to get their mojo back, which will be a big one for many in the Aussie team.**

Around the Traps by Jimmy Olsen – Well there you go AFL fans did it really shock you so soon that John Longmire handed the Sydney Swans coaching reins over to Dean Cox, well just think back to when Paul Roos handed them to Longmire in 2011. Longmire has enjoyed a 63% strike rate and tasted the world's best Havana after winning the 2012 AFL Premiership and also tasted four Stogie's in the years 2014, 2016, 2022 and now 2024. Longmire quoted "Whilst my head was trying to talk myself into keep going to the end of next year (2025), my gut was saying 'that's about enough'. Anyway good luck to John for the future and he is a good AFL footy bloke indeed but don't be shocked if he is part of the 2027 Tasmanian Devils coaching staff !! See you around the traps

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Jimmy Olsen SR 2 # 6 Spirit Catcher BR 7 # 5 Jemona Alpilage MR 10 # 11 Regal Vow	The Mailman BR 1 # 7 Metal Art MR 3 # 12 Alva Rise SR 4 # 10 She's Unusual	Tower Of Knowledge AR 3 # 4 Kentucky Nick AR 8 # 6 Whatsanamegeorge AR 9 # 4 Zombie Missile
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AT THE BARRIERS Podcast by Gary Newton is on Wednesday & Saturday Mornings.

Race 1. McEvoy has a first starter Barrelling he has only had 1 trial and was not asked to extend. PRESS EXPRESS has been runner-up in both runs back from a break. Selections: **2 from 10.**

Race 2. PYROIS was scratched from Caulfield and in this small field looks an each-way chance. Top weight FLYING MIKKI came from behind the speed to win at Moe looks the danger. Selections: **6 from 1**

Race 3 : PROVEN CORRECT is rising to this trip for the first time. Blinkers off and gets a 4kg drop from his last win. DOLCE-MENTE has won his previous two and the extra 150m should suit. Selections **5 to win from 7 .**

Race 4. SPIRIT OF CAMELOT according to her trainer is a top class race horse and should win again. The McEvoy's have a big team at Morphettville and ALECTRONA who finished a close third to Floozie at Bendigo at her first run back from a break. Selections **4 from 1**

Race 5. SWYCHO has made our BLACK BOOK and since has won twice before finishing third to Bon Mistress at Flemington last time and she'll wear blinkers for the first time. MORRIS MINOR rises in trip after running third behind Great Maximus at his second run back from a spell. Selections: **4 to win from 1**

Race 6 : VINTAGE STAR returned from a break with an easy win over 1100m and gets Manoel Nunes this week. THE GOV beat subsequent winner Howl last start.. Selections: **10 from 8**

Race 7 VEXATIOUS DANCER was beaten in a photo when resuming. She's likely to have taken benefit from that run. VOLCANIC EXPRESS won with authority at Murray Bridge when resuming. Selections: **5 from 2**

Race 8: TEWKESBURY is back in distance after finishing a close second at Ballarat over 2600m but has been accepted at Moon-ee Valley on Friday night if he comes to this race will be hard to beat despite dropping back in distance. BADONKIDONK seems to have raced himself back into form after hitting the line well last week, finishing third. Selections: **2 from 4**

Race 9 ZOMBIE MISSILE is back in SA after finishing runner-up in both runs this time in. Would have gone close his latest if he'd got out earlier. NASHO is an on-pacer who had to work to lead last week, is racing well. Selections: **4 from 12**