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**Friday 5 December 2025 Volume 454**



**LOZ THE STATS MAN**



**By: Lawrie Colliver**

It was another day of exciting Ashes cricket, as England ended on 9-325 on day one at the Gabba.

The Poms decided to bat first after winning the toss and must have been dreading the decision when they were 2-5, with both Ben Duckett and Ollie Pope out for ducks. But Zak Crawley worked out a plan and executed it well, showing far more patience than he did in Perth. He passed 30 and his record previously told us he averages 74, he ended up with 76 which was a key innings for England.

Joe Root was brilliant to finally get that coveted 100 in Australia on his four Test tour here. He was a bit scratchy in the 80s but powered to a 100, and it was well deserved. Now that he has reached the 100 mark there is no reason why he can't do it again in the series.

Mitchell Starc was brilliant again, taking 6-71 – to already have 16 wickets in the series. He did look a bit sore after play, hopefully today the Aussie batsmen will give him some rest so he can fire up in the second innings. The rest of the bowling wasn't quite a good as it could have been and leaving spinner Nathan Lyon appeared to be a wrong move, he would have been more than handy to wheel out some overs at a ground where he has a very good record.

When England were 9-264 they could have declared and had a late bowl at the Aussies, but elected to carry with the 59 added, pushed well past 300. If they can add a few more today and get up to 350 then the pressure will be on Australia.

Australia will start their innings in natural light and on what looks a good pitch should be able to match if not pass England's total. If the hosts give up a first innings lead like they did in Perth, they will be under pressure and England could well level the series.

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R2: 8, 2, 6, 7	2: 7, 2, 8, 3	2: 7, 1, 2, 4	2: 9, 15, 16, 8
R3: 4, 8, 1, 2	3: 1, 7, 8, 5	3: 7, 3, 9, 13	3: 11, 2, 1, 21
R4: 4, 1, 8, 7	4: 13, 15, 10, 4	4: 9, 4, 2, 5	4: 4, 2, 1, 10
R5: 7, 5, 1, 4	5: 8, 4, 7, 2	5: 4, 7, 9, 5	5: 11, 2, 1, 13
R6: 1, 4, 2, 5	6: 1, 4, 12, 2	6: 6, 2, 7, 4	6: 1, 6, 9, 12
R7: 5, 3, 1, 7	7: 9, 3, 12, 10	7: 13, 4, 12, 7	7: 1, 3, 2, 9
R8: 1, 2, 3, 11	8: 9, 2, 1, 10	8: 20, 11, 14, 9	8: 9, 1, 10, 2
R9: 11, 3, 8, 6	9: 2, 6, 3, 1	9: 3, 4, 5, 2	9: 13, 8, 3, 4
	10: 14, 6, 3, 4	10: 14, 10, 8, 2	10: 1, 14, 5, 4

Jimmy Olsen BR 6 # 6 Snitska BR 7 # 5 Fabulantes SR 10 # 3 Step Aside	The Mailman BR 2 # 9 Cosmo Centaurus SR 6 # 7 Crepe Myrtle BR 10 # 1 John Dory	Tower Of Knowledge MR 1 # 4 Mostly For Show AR 4 # 4 Light The Night AR 5 # 7 Zoupurring
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