



Pitch-er perfect

Aussies take strike for international one-dayer

A PRISTINE pitch and lush outfield are assured for Friday's much awaited international one-day clash between Australia and Zimbabwe at Bradman Oval.

Country as well as national pride will be on the line when the Australian Country XI pads up against the African raiders keen to draw first blood after a disappointing start to the world series summer.

And the home team won't be taking a backward step either, draw-

ing from the most talented country cricketers in the nation.

Following the recent Australian Country Cricket carnival in Albany, selectors have settled on a team to take on the visitors.

Craig Haworth (c): Classy left handed batsman who led the NSW Country XI to victory in the recent Australian Country Cricket Championships making 76 and 80 in his first two innings. Strong skipper and integral part of the team.

Anthony McQuire: Won the Bradman trophy at the Country Championships for compiling an impressive 382 at 76.4 av. The right handed opener from the ACT also played a critical role in the Prime Minister's XI's win over the West Indies earlier this summer. One to watch.

Cade Brown: McQuire's opening partner put in a strong showing at the Country Championships. Seasoned campaigner who has played Mercantile Mutual Cup and will no doubt make a bold showing on Friday.

Brian May: The fifth highest run scorer in Country Championships history. Form in Albany was impeccable and made three centuries at 74.8av. Was also voted player of the series.

David Todd: Queenslander that has performed well at grade level. Should equip himself well in the big match if he can handle the step up in class.

Brad Campbell: An impressive athlete and all-round cricketer. One of Victoria's best in Albany averaging 60 and snaring 14 wickets at 20. Could deliver the knockout blow.

Brad Glenn: Rock solid wicketkeeper and determined lower order batsman that has captained Victoria and also enjoyed a distinguished grade career. Won't take a backward step against Zimbabwe.

John Robson: The veteran of the team and a genuine all rounder. Captained the Aussie Indoor cricket team and won't be overawed by the big occasion.

Andrew Starr: Economical medium pace bowler from NSW who should go well in his home state.



Right on track... Head Curator at Bradman Oval Josh Woodcock is confident of a good pitch for Friday's big match.

Mark Cameron: Right arm quick from the north coast of NSW that will no doubt take wickets. An exciting prospect and very athletic type.

Doug Ellis: Was the pick of the bowlers in Albany taking a brilliant 8/84, the second best figures in the history of the ACCC. Will be hard to hold out.

Graeme Smith: (12th man) Wollongong local who was desperately unlucky not to make the starting line up.

With the teams finalised head curator at Bradman Oval, Josh Woodcock claimed the pitch was also shaping up

well for Friday's big match.

"At the moment the pitch is looking good with a nice even cover," he said.

"Providing we have no rain it will certainly be a good wicket.

"This is a long term process and we have been gearing up for this match since October 1."

Curator of Bradman Museum Richard Mulvaney said despite a sluggish start to ticket sales, he was confident locals would get behind the big event.

"Ticket sales are still slow and I think one of the reasons is because Zimbabwe has just

arrived and not a lot is yet known about them," he said.

"But they are one of the strongest international teams ever to play on the oval and I urge local residents to get behind this match.

"Public support is vital and goes a long way to attracting ongoing fixtures like this.

"It is such a beautiful ground and a very magical place to watch cricket.

"There has been a lot of behind the scenes work to get this match and I'd like to think locals would show their support."