

# Cowan lapse leaves Warriors in box seat



LET DOWN: Ed Cowan shows the way for Tasmania with a century during the Sheffield Shield match between Western Australia and Tasmania at WACA yesterday. But his dismissal triggers a collapse.

Picture: GETTY

CHRIS PIKE

ED Cowan compiled a century but his dismissal signalled a Tasmanian batting collapse to leave Western Australia on the brink of an outright Sheffield Shield win at the WACA.

Western Australia requires 103 runs for victory at 1-2 at stumps after Tasmania was out for 242 in its second innings.

Former Test opener Cowan scored his 18th first-class century but when he fell on 100 it sparked a collapse as his team lost 8-69.

Despite looking so fluent, he couldn't help but be frustrated with his dismissal that sparked Tasmania's free fall.

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and I was in and, set so it was a meek dismissal off the face of the bat when I could have hit it anywhere," Cowan said.

"My dismissal has caused us going from a position of strength to one we are going to have to take everything that comes our way."

WA faced two overs to be 1-2 at stumps after first innings century-maker Cameron Bancroft (1) was caught behind off Sam Rainbird. Marcus Harris and nightwatchman Jason Behrendorff are not out.

WA started the third day at 7-317 and added 36 to finish

with a first innings lead of 138.

Andrew Fekete claimed 5-80 and Rainbird 4-83.

Tasmania started with a 74-run opening stand between Cowan and Jordan Silk (24).

Captain George Bailey made 11 before miscuing a hook off Nathan Coulter-Nile. Cowan and Jonathan Wells (43) gave Tasmania a sniff in a 66-run stand.

Cowan brought up his century in a knock that lasted 166 balls and included 17 boundaries but the next delivery he was caught at short leg by Bancroft off Ashton Agar.

Coulter-Nile took 3-34 with Nathan Rimmington, Michael Hogan and Agar all claiming two wickets each.

AAP

## TASMANIA V WA

FOUR-DAY CLASH AT WACA  
Tasmania 1st innings 215  
WA 1st innings 353

### Tasmania 2nd Innings

Cowan c Bancroft b Agar	.....100
Silk c Voges b Hogan	.....24
Bailey c Klinger b Coulter-Nile	...11
Wells c Whiteman b Hogan	.....43
Michael b Coulter-Nile	.....20
Gulbis c Bancroft b Coulter-Nile	...0
Paine c Agar b Behrendorff	.....6
Kingston c Klinger b R'ton	.....0
Doherty c Whiteman b R'ton	.....8
Rainbird not out	.....18
Fekete c Marsh b Agar	.....9
Sundries (2lb 1w)	.....3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>242</b>
<b>Fall:</b> 74, 106, 173, 181, 191, 204, 205, 207, 221, 242	
<b>Bowling:</b> N Coulter-Nile 14-4-34-3, J Behrendorff 15-4-47-1 (1w), N Rimmington 17-4-52-2, M Hogan 17-6-48-2, A Agar 16.5-3-59-2.	



CENTURY: South Australia's Callum Ferguson keeps racking up the runs.

## Ton-up Ferguson sends a message

STEVE LARKIN

SOUTH Australian Callum Ferguson hopes his latest century reminds national selectors that he's still depositing the currency they most value — runs.

The seemingly forgotten Ferguson struck an unbeaten ton against Queensland on Sunday's third day of the Sheffield Shield match in Adelaide.

The Bulls, with Joe Burns not out 88, are 2-128 at stumps — 203 runs ahead of the Redbacks.

SA declared its first innings 75 runs behind the visitors, calling a halt one ball after Ferguson registered his 10th first-class ton, a neat 100 not out.

Ferguson was rated a Test contender five years ago, the same year he made his one-day international debut, and has averaged a healthy 41.43 in his 30 ODIs.

But he's still without a Test and his last appearance in the national strip was in April 2011.

The 29-year-old covets another Australian call-up but believes all he can do is keep scoring for the Redbacks to remind selectors of his talents.

"We have seen plenty of guys debut well into their 30s. I feel like I've got plenty of time to get some scores on the board and hopefully push for a baggy green," he said.

Ferguson, who topped SA's Shield batting averages last season, said his composed knock against the Queenslanders showed the growing maturity in his game.

Ferguson and Tom Cooper (75) put on an 140-run partnership before emerging bat Travis Head produced an eye-catching cameo — his first scoring shots were four consecutive boundaries from Ryan Le Loux's leg spin.

Head was bowled for 52 the ball after Ferguson reached his milestone and the Redbacks declared to try and breathe life into the game.

Queensland's batsmen initially found the going tough against Chadd Sayers, who took 2-21 from his first 11 overs.

But Burns later found some fluency with Peter Forrest (38 not out) in an unbroken 96-run stand.

## Handscomb makes dream come true with MCG ton

PETER Handscomb yesterday ticked off the milestone he'd yearned for all his life, scoring a century at the MCG as Victoria took control of its Sheffield Shield match against NSW.

The Bushrangers boasted a 141-run lead when they

declared at tea on day three, with Dan Christian and Handscomb both posting tons in an unbeaten 206-run stand.

The visitors were 2-106 in response at stumps, having lost Nick Larkin (25) and Ryan Carters (58) after both openers made promising starts.

It was Christian's first Shield century since joining Victoria last year and an obvious thrill for Handscomb.

"It's an amazing feeling to get one at the G," the 23-year-old said. "It's a childhood dream. A lot of kids grow up wanting to do that. It was

unbelievable to get that single, get up the other end and take a second to enjoy the moment."

For the most part, Handscomb (108no) and Christian (105no) were far more interested in boundaries than singles as they raced to 5-507 knowing a declaration

was imminent. Handscomb was on 12 when Christian trotted to the middle following David Hussey's morning dismissal by Blues paceman Gurinder Sandhu for 129.

With NSW holding a 65-run lead, the match was well poised.