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Summer of Cricket

sport

as bad boy talks himself into more trouble

Wayward star not fit to face Proteas

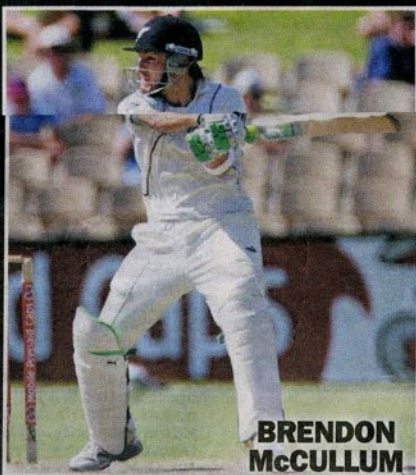
THOUGHTS OF CHAIRMAN ROY

On Matthew Hayden's cooking and his wife Kellie

I've always had an exceptional feed (at Matt's place). Mind you I have had the odd side glance at his wife which helps the meal go down, you know, amply. But he's never served me a bad meal is my answer to your question.

... on NSW's new Kiwi recruit Brendon McCullum

He is the lump of s***, sorry, the lump of cow dirt that um, that people are thinking of.



BRENDON McCULLUM

MATT HAYDEN ON ROY

The next time Roy comes around he will be on wash-up duty for dinner and he'll be on anchor duty the next time we go out on the boat



COMMENT

by Peter Badel

CRICKET Australia boss James Sutherland returns to his desk from annual leave on Wednesday.

The first thing he should do is order national selectors not to pick Andrew Symonds for Australia's upcoming tour of South Africa.

Treated in isolation, Symonds' stupefying six-minute rant on radio station Triple M on Friday night is not the crime of the century. But when placed in context, amid his slew of recent off-field indiscretions, Symonds' conduct should have alarm bells ringing at CA headquarters.

Symonds appears a soul in need of help.

For now, he can do without the pressure of top-level cricket.

If Cricket Australia has a modicum of care for his personal well-being, which presumably it does, then it will stand him down immediately and address whatever demons are eating away at his professional life.

Symonds is desperate to be fit to face South Africa but that country is no place for him right now. He cannot tour.

He is too fragile; too great a risk to team harmony in a region where South Africa's cricket-mad fans will needle Symonds, waiting for the time-bomb to explode.

And he has form. In 2006, Symonds was asked to leave a Cape Town nightclub after an apparent row involving a group of South African rugby union players.

In his book, Symonds said he wanted to fight a Cheetahs rugby player.

Symonds is a magnificent cricketer but he is not irreplaceable.

He should be sent back to the relaxed confines of grade cricket to get his head right, with a view to recalling him for the Ashes tour in June.

Symonds shouldn't be sacked for his Triple M ramble. But his head should be on the chopping block.