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India rub it in

January 23, 2004

THE moment's silence in honour of David Hookes was the only peace Australia got in yesterday's tri-series game at the SCG as India continued their brilliant summer.

A day after the tourists came under attack for Rahul Dravid's use of a lolly to shine the white ball, India were rubbing it in against Australia last night.

There wasn't a sweet in sight this time -- just pure technical brilliance as India posted a sizzling 4-296 off their 50 overs.

Stunning centuries to VVS Laxman (106no off 130 balls) and Yuvraj Singh (139 off 122 balls, including 16 boundaries and two sixes) lifted India to the third highest score in a one-day international at the SCG.

Only Sri Lanka's 5-343 last year and Australia's 7-337 against Pakistan in 1999-00 had been greater.

But a thunderstorm last night delayed play and Australia had a target of 225 from 34 overs.

In an emotional pre-game tribute, the Australian players draped their arms around one another as they turned and watched on the big screen a replay of Hookes' famous five boundaries off Tony Greig in the Centennial Test.

India were 3-80 after 15.2 overs but from there it was the same old story, with Australia powerless to stop its nemesis, Laxman, while India unveiled yet another brilliant batsman in Yuvraj.

Brett Lee burst back to form with 2-46 off nine overs -- the best of the Australians. But Ian Harvey (0-68 off 10 including 22 off his last over) and Jason Gillespie (1-50 off 10) were expensive.

India's Dravid was booed as he came to the crease yesterday in the wake of the lolly rubbing incident on Tuesday. He made just 12.

But as India crashed boundary after boundary, one spectator's sign said it all for Aussie fans.

It read: "This sucks."

More coverage and pictures in today's Daily Telegraph



Close call . . . VVS Laxman lunges to the crease as Brett Lee takes off the bails last night. Laxman was given not out. Picture: PHIL HILLIARD

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