

## Sport

# Ump says chuck it out

ROBERT CRADDOCK

AN Australian umpire who called Muttiah Muralidaran for chucking does not believe the Sri Lankan deserves to retire as the most prolific Test wicket-taker of all time.

"I haven't changed my view in 15 years, he doesn't deserve the record," said Ross Emerson, of WA, who was banished from international cricket after no-balling Muralidaran in a one-day game against England in Adelaide in January 1999.

Three years earlier, Emerson no-balled the Sri Lankan seven times in a one-day game at the Gabba.

## Murali's record 'not deserved'

"You couldn't compare his record to Shane Warne's, no one ever doubted the legality of Warne's action," Emerson said.

"Murali was a great competitor and a great bowler but a lot of the time he just didn't bowl within the limits of the law." Muralidaran has confirmed



**BAD CAREER MOVE:** Ross Emerson no-balls Muttiah Muralidaran in 1996.

his 17-year, 792-wicket Test career will end after the July 18 Test against India at Galle.

He will retire as the game's greatest Test wicket-taker with

a record that may never be beaten, given that shorter forms of the game are becoming an increasingly high priority in modern cricket scheduling.

Darrell Hair, the umpire most famously associated with Muralidaran after he no-balled the off-spinner in the Boxing Day Test of 1995 at the MCG, does not begrudge the record but nor does he regret calling Muralidaran for throwing.

"I have no angst over him holding the record but the fact that the rules had to be changed to handle bowlers like that vindicated my actions and the actions of other umpires

who called him," Hair said.

Cricket's law makers struggled to come to grips with Muralidaran's action.

After tests in 2004 revealed most bowlers illegally straightened their arms, the law was changed from allowing no straightening to a 15-degree tolerance.

"Once they changed the rules and made it legal for bowlers to bend their arm to 15 per cent, they gave an advantage to a couple of bowlers [including Muralidaran] who could get something extra from that rule.

"I would rather see the rule as it was where you couldn't bend your arm at all. That

would mean everyone was the same."

Emerson remains angry at being cold-shouldered by Australian authorities.

He said he was urged to no-ball Muralidaran by a senior Australian cricket official who then abandoned him.

"Darrell Hair and I were called the controversial ones yet the rule change proved us right," Emerson said.

"The controversial ones were the umpires who thought he was a chucker yet weren't brave enough to call him.

"A lot of umpires agreed with what we did but didn't have the courage to call him."

## Great game caught in the frame

**Our Great Game – The Photographic History of Australian Football**  
The Slattery Media group  
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THERE are few things more powerful in sport than the photographic image.

Television is for the here and now, the instant fix — but a good image frozen in time will dig into your subconscious, evoking decade-old memories and stir deep emotions.

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There have been dozens of pictorial tributes to the game published over the years but *Our Great Game* is one of the very best.

It is an outstanding pictorial tribute to all levels of the game throughout Australia, from the great MCG grand finals to excited schoolboys on distant Northern Territory ochre dust bowls that will draw you back to the book over and over again.

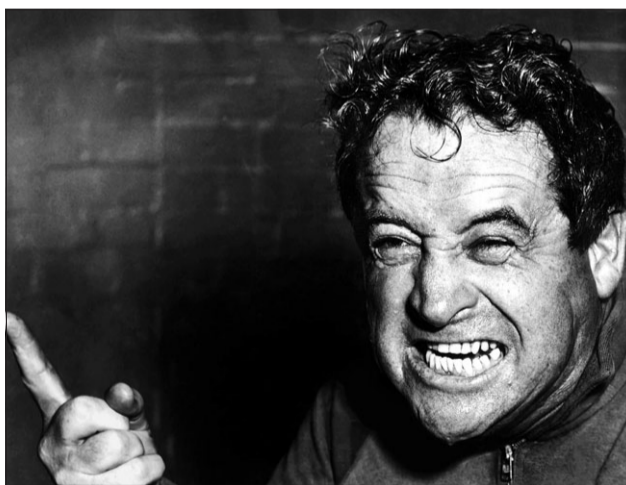
Many of the pictures will be familiar, like Dermott Breton's courageous return from injury after being felled at the opening bounce of the 1989 grand final, Ted Whitten's farewell lap, Nicky Winmar's historic "black and proud" gesture to a hostile Victoria Park crowd, Jack Dyer on the burst as well as the unforgettable marks of Alex Jesaulenko, Royce Hart, Michael Roach and Leo Barry.

It manages to perfectly represent the highs of Australia's most popular football code.

But it is much more than just another football picture



**ALMOST ANGELIC:** Adelaide player Brett "Birdman" Burton puts the Crows on centre stage.



**COACH'S REV-UP:** With perspiration dripping from his face, an emotional Alan "Killa" Killigrew stresses a point.



**WHACK:** An irate Geelong supporter lashes out and hits Hawthorn runner Norm Lord with an umbrella at Kardinia Park in 1978.

book. It is a fascinating look at how Australia and the game evolved in the 20th century, from the immaculately dressed crowds of the early 1900s

to the slick professional era of the 21st century.

The book has been neatly divided into seven sections, titled Team, Play, Despair,



**SECOND-BEST:** Exhausted St Kilda stalwarts Nick Riewoldt and Justin Koschitzke console each other after losing last year's grand final to Geelong.

Joy, Portrait, Coach and Fans.

It is not a book that should be read, admired and then tucked away on a bookshelf to gather dust but is the perfect

addition to the coffee table, where visitors can get the same enjoyment.

PAUL MALARSKI

## Semenya clear to run with women

Monaco

CONTROVERSIAL athlete Caster Semenya expressed her delight yesterday at being cleared to compete as a woman following nearly a year of speculation over her gender.

The 19-year-old South African 800m world champion was given the go-ahead to run again after a review by the International Association of Athletics Federations of gender-verification tests.

That clears the path for her to compete in the World Junior Championships in Canada from July 19 and October's Commonwealth Games.

"The process initiated in 2009 in the case of Caster Semenya has now been completed," the IAAF said in a statement.

"The IAAF accepts the conclusion of a panel of medical experts that she can compete with immediate effect.

"The medical details of the case remain confidential and the IAAF will make no further comment on the matter."

The furore over Semenya's sexuality first erupted after she lowered her personal best in the 800m by more than four seconds at the African Junior Championships, weeks before the 2009 World Championships in Berlin.

She went on to lower her personal best to 1:55.45 in winning gold in Berlin.

"I am thrilled to enter the global athletics arena once again and look forward to competing with all the disputes behind me," she said in a statement released by lawyers.

Her lawyer Greg Nott said the settlement resulted from protracted negotiations between medical teams of the IAAF and Semenya's own team, presided over by an international mediator.

Terms of the agreement will remain confidential, he said.

"We are delighted that Caster is finally being permitted to compete with other women, as is her legal and natural right," said lawyer Jeffrey Kessler.

"Hopefully, this resolution will set a precedent so that no female athlete in the future will have to experience the long delays and public scrutiny which Caster has been forced to endure."

AFP