

Ashes 2025-26: Australia's Predicted Playing XI for the 1st Test in Perth After Pat Cummins Ruled Out

The Ashes 2025-26 is just around the corner, but Australia has been handed a major setback ahead of the opening Test in Perth. Captain **Pat Cummins** has been ruled out due to a back injury, leaving the selectors with a crucial decision to make for the series opener. As the Aussies gear up to defend the urn on home soil, let's take a look at their **predicted playing XI** for the 1st Test at Optus Stadium.



Australia's Predicted XI for the 1st Test

1. Usman Khawaja (Opener)

The experienced left-hander remains the backbone of Australia's top order. His calm approach and ability to handle the new ball make him indispensable at the top.

2. Sam Konstas (Opener)

After impressing in domestic cricket, Konstas looks set to retain his spot. His attacking style complements Khawaja's stability perfectly, giving Australia a balanced start.

3. Cameron Green (All-rounder)

With Cummins unavailable, Green's dual ability with bat and ball becomes even more vital. His presence provides balance and flexibility to the lineup.

4. Steve Smith (Captain)

Smith is expected to lead the side in Cummins' absence. His leadership experience and world-class batting will be key in anchoring the middle order.

5. Travis Head (Middle-order Batter)

Known for his aggressive approach, Head's counterattacking style has often turned games in Australia's favor. Expect fireworks from him in Perth.

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6. Beau Webster (All-rounder)

Webster's inclusion adds depth to both batting and bowling departments. His ability to contribute with the ball will be crucial in maintaining pressure.

7. Josh Inglis (Wicketkeeper)

Inglis offers attacking intent in the lower middle order along with safe hands behind the stumps. Playing in his home city, he'll be eager to make an impact.

8. Mitchell Starc (Fast Bowler)

Starc's raw pace and ability to swing the ball make him a nightmare for batters in Perth's bouncy conditions.

9. Josh Hazlewood (Fast Bowler)

The ever-reliable Hazlewood will lead the pace attack in Cummins' absence. His consistency and control will be vital in applying pressure early on.

10. Scott Boland (Fast Bowler)

Boland is likely to fill the void left by Cummins. His accuracy and ability to extract bounce make him a strong choice for the Perth pitch.

11. Nathan Lyon (Spinner)

The veteran spinner completes the lineup, bringing experience and variation to Australia's bowling attack.

Conclusion

While Cummins' absence is a major blow, Australia's depth ensures they still head into the 1st Test with a formidable lineup. With Smith back as captain and a strong mix of youth and experience, the Aussies will look to set the tone early in the series.

The battle for the Ashes begins soon – and despite the setback, **Australia remains a powerful force ready to take on England under the Perth sun.**

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