

# Former SA cricket captain dies

By PETER MARTIN

FORMER South African cricket captain Peter van der Merwe, who died in Port Elizabeth aged 75 on Wednesday made history when he became the first South African captain to beat England in an away series, followed by a home series win against Australia.

In 1965 he led a team of young and talented players including Eddie Barlow, De-

## OBITUARY | Peter Lawrence van der Merwe (1937-2013)

nis Lindsay, Colin Bland and the Pollock brothers, Peter and Graeme, that beat England 1-0, and in 1966-67 he was at the helm when South Africa defeated Australia. The margin was 3-1, and it could easily have been 4-1 with the tourists hanging on grimly for a draw in a rain-ruined fourth test.

A studious, bespectacled player, Van der Merwe was

not a fluent or attacking batsman but had an excellent defence and never gave his wicket away. In two instances, his batting, in partnership with other stroke-makers, enabled South Africa to come out victorious.

In 1965 at Trent Bridge, Nottingham, South Africa were in deep trouble on the opening morning at 80 for five wickets. At one end Graeme

Pollock was batting majestically and Van der Merwe, keeping his end up, scored 38 in a valuable sixth-wicket partnership of 98.

Pollock went on to make 125, and South Africa won by 94 runs.

At the Wanderers in the opening test of the 1966-67 series Van der Merwe, with 76, his highest test score, partnered big-hitting Denis

Lindsay, 182, in a 221-run stand for the eighth wicket - a record which still stands to this day. South Africa scored 620 in their second innings - their record highest total at the time - after a first innings deficit of 126, eventually winning by 233 runs in an exciting match.

He is survived by his second wife, Rhoda, and his three sons from his first marriage to Margaret who died in 2002.

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