



This brings to four the known instances of four wickets in five balls in Test cricket...

MJC Allom	NZ v Eng (1), Christchurch 1929/30	OW0WWW
CM Old	Eng v Pak (1), Birmingham (Edgbaston) 1978	WWnWW
Imran Khan	Pak v SL (2), Sialkot 1985/86	WW2WW
Wasim Akram	Pak v WI (3), Lahore (Gaddafi) 1990/91	WW1WW

Apart from Imran, the bowlers all took their wickets within the same over. Perhaps this helps explain why Imran's achievement, split over two overs late in the day, apparently went unremarked. There is no real hint in the reports in the *Karachi Dawn* newspaper or the Pakistan Cricket Magazine reports of the day's play. Reporters may have been distracted by the scoring of ten runs in the intervening over, bowled by Mohsin Kamal.

New discoveries like this are now rare. No new cases of hat-tricks have emerged even as more and more detail of old Tests comes to light. (It has been noted that George Lohmann took four wicket in four balls, and five in six, in 1895-96, but that was split over two Tests, and Lohmann played other cricket matches in between. Jason Gillespie took four in five and five in seven in Ashes Tests, but split over two matches more than two years apart, and Gillespie played eleven Tests against other countries in the interim.)

It is rather pleasing to know that discoveries of such notable incidents can still be made; let's hope that there are more out there to be found.

Shahzad Ali Khan

Charles Davis

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