



The Sydney Morning Herald

Virtual batter up before Ashes

Jim Morton

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Not game to let England enjoy any advantage, Cricket Australia have equipped their misfiring batsmen with the latest technological breakthrough to hone their techniques.

Ricky Ponting and his teammates will use the baseball-inspired ProBatter training device when they start their Ashes preparations at Brisbane's Centre of Excellence on Monday.

Using the same Hawk-Eye technology as in tennis, ProBatter produces a projected image of a bowler running into the crease before a cutting-edge bowling machine unleashes the ball through the video screen.

England have been using the system in recent months and the manager of sport science at the Centre Marc Portus indicated the expensive new training tool had the potential to give Australia's cricketers great preparation.

"It's a very significant event, it's been three years in project work so it's fantastic to actually have it here and in time for such an iconic series," he said.

"England have been saying it's giving them a great advantage for the Ashes and well we've neutralised that for now."

ProBatter's computer archives vision of bowlers and their repertoire of deliveries which can then be selected and bowled in the nets.

Down the track, the technology will allow Australia to film any bowlers in action around the world but at this point none of the current English attack have been archived.

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