

Neil Wagner Retirement: A Tribute to New Zealand's Cricket Legend

1. Neil Wagner's Retirement from International Cricket:

- Neil Wagner, the New Zealand cricketer, has announced his retirement from international cricket at the age of 37.
- Wagner made this emotional decision following a conversation with coach Gary Stead, where it was conveyed to him that he wouldn't be part of the upcoming Test series against Australia.
- He retires after playing 64 Tests for New Zealand and taking 260 wickets at an average of 27.57.
- Wagner, originally from South Africa, has been a key figure in New Zealand's bowling attack and has made significant contributions throughout his career.

2. Reasons for Retirement:

- Wagner mentioned that he felt the time was right to step away from the Test arena and allow younger players to take over.
- Despite feeling emotional about the decision, he believes it's important to pass the baton to the next generation of cricketers.

3. Memorable Moments:

- Wagner reminisced about some of his favorite memories in Test cricket, including victories over India, England, and the West Indies, as well as the World Test Championship win over India and a thrilling one-run victory against England.

4. Reactions:

- New Zealand Test captain Tim Southee praised Wagner for his commitment and described him as one of the great team men.
- Coach Gary Stead acknowledged the difficulty of telling Wagner about his exclusion from the upcoming series but expressed gratitude for Wagner's contributions to the team over the years.

5. Continued Involvement:

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- Although retiring from international cricket, Wagner will continue to play first-class cricket.
- He has been invited to be with the team for the first Test against Australia as a gesture of appreciation for his contributions.

Neil Wagner's retirement marks the end of an era for New Zealand cricket, as they bid farewell to one of their most reliable and dedicated players.

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