

SPORT CRICKET BALL TAMPERING

David Warner sorry but self-interested, says body language expert

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Updated 31 March 2018 — 4:09pm, first published at 3:18pm



The former Australian vice-captain has apologised for his role in the ball-tampering crisis, saying he has betrayed the trust of those who have supported and inspired his journey as a cricketer.

His pain was palpable. As disgraced cricketer David Warner delivered a tearful apology over the career-threatening ball-tampering scandal, he took deep breaths, choked on words and hunched his shoulders.

The former Australian vice-captain apologised profusely in a scripted speech on Saturday for his role in the controversy during the third Test against South Africa in Cape Town last week.

But, on social media, hundreds of fans dismissed the press conference as "disgracefully handled" and "heavily stage-managed", pointing to the stream of non-answers when Warner took questions.



Former Australian cricket vice-captain David Warner fronts the media at Moore Park .

Photo: Brook Mitchell

In the eyes of speech and body language expert Michael Kelly, the cricketer's "hard face, pained eyes and outward breaths" indicated that he was deeply remorseful.

"You could see his body was unanimated; it was almost like he'd taken a punch. It shows this is taking a huge toll on him," he said.

"He was almost losing emotional control, his voice started breaking when he spoke about his family and the effect it has had on them, but it also happened again when he started speaking about his future, long-term career," he said.

Cricket Australia has banned Warner and former captain Steve Smith from international and domestic cricket for a year, while it has banned Cameron Bancroft, who applied sandpaper to the ball, for nine months.



Former Australian vice-captain David Warner during a press conference at the offices of Cricket NSW, Sydney.

Photo: AAP

Mr Kelly came away from the conference with the sense that Warner was most concerned about himself and his future cricketing career.

"I think his greatest interest is his self interest," he said. "He said at least three times that he might not be able to play for Australia again and it really hurt him."

Warner copped a barrage of criticism for not answering questions about who else might have been involved or whether he had engaged in similar cheating behaviour before.



David Warner struggles to contain his emotions.

Photo: AAP

"I take full responsibility for my part in what happened," he said in another non-answer, before a journalist shouted: "You haven't answered the question."

His wife, Candice, was sitting at the back of the room beside her PR manager Roxy Jacenko. Jacenko's arm was wrapped tightly around Candice's shoulders.

Mrs Warner later told News Corp: "He's just such an emotional wreck.

"I feel like it's all my fault and it's killing me — it's absolutely killing me.

"I haven't been much of a support because I've been a wreck. I'm really not well.

"If people could understand ... if they could just sympathise just slightly with the month that he's had."

Mr Kelly, meantime, said it was clear Warner had been coached to stonewall questions.



David Warner and his family arrived in Sydney on Thursday night.

Photo: AAP

"He was coached to not go there, to say this statement if you don't want to answer it. But people will be disappointed that he didn't talk much about the other players," he said.

Warner fails to appease fans

Viewers took to social media by their hundreds to express their outrage over Warner's deflection of legitimate questions.

Sports reporter [Bernie Coen](#) wrote on Twitter the conference was "disgracefully handled. Whoever instructed him to avoid answering pertinent questions has only inflamed this issue. If it was legal advice - it was poor advice."

Another commenter on Twitter said: "Same scripted answer to most questions, really lacking in any authenticity."

Another [said](#): "we [didn't] need him to be articulate. we expected honesty. now we will continue to question. who else was involved? how many times have they done this before? was he the 'ringleader'?"

Meanwhile, British television personality Piers Morgan posted on social media following the conference, saying “this may not be a popular opinion ... [Warner’s] cheating was appalling but his remorse seems painfully sincere & I hope he’s one day forgiven”.

Another user, Kiran Kadam, [responded](#) to Warner’s comments, saying: “You will be alright dude. We all are with you. We want to see the same David Warner that we know strong and confident. You are the man.”

Later in the day, Warner took to Twitter to explain why he had dodged questions at the press conference.

"I know there are unanswered questions and lots of them. I completely understand. In time I will do my best to answer them all. But there is a formal Cricket Australia process to follow," he wrote.

"I am taking advice to make sure I properly comply with that process and answer all questions in the proper place and at the proper time."



Video still showing Cameron Bancroft hiding the sandpaper.