



PHOTO: INTERNET
WHEN YOU CAN'T WHACK THE BALL, WHACK YOUR MATE: Pakistan players Younis Khan (L) and Inzamamul Haq (2nd from R) are being separated by teammates after a dispute during training at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo yesterday.

Quarrelling Pakistanis

AFP, Bulawayo

Pakistan's premier batsman Inzamamul Haq stormed out of his team's practice session on Monday after a brawl with teammates ahead of Tuesday's key World Cup match against Zimbabwe.

The incident occurred while the squad was playing a game of football before the net session in which teammate Younis Khan argued with Inzamam over whether or not a goal had been scored cleanly.

When veteran opener Saeed Anwar intervened to separate the two, Inzamam pushed him to the ground, forcing coach Richard Pybus to call off the game and take the team back to the dressing room.

An angry Inzamam left the field and returned to the team hotel while the others resumed training after a short break.

Both captain Waqar Younis and coach Pybus played down the incident, but the pressure on the Pakistani players to qualify for the Super Sixes after losing their match to arch-rivals India was clearly evident.

Pakistan need a big win against Zimbabwe to qualify after being stranded on eight points from their first five matches.

A simple victory for Zimbabwe will see the co-hosts through, other

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It's swansong?

REUTERS, Johannesburg

He has not said it and nor has the Zimbabwe Cricket Union but everybody is thinking it.

All things being equal, Andy Flower, one of the best batsmen of his generation, will play his last game for his country against Pakistan on Tuesday.

His country? The words are apposite.

Zimbabwe has yet to call on Flower to surrender his passport following his World Cup protests against President

Robert Mugabe's government, but they have already disowned him. Nathan Shamuyarira, information secretary for the governing ZANU-PF party in Zimbabwe, put it simply during an interview with a Johannesburg radio station earlier in the tournament.

"Flower is... not a Zimbabwean," he said. "He is British."

Flower, Cape Town-born, Zimbabwe-bred and with an English wife, could end up being just that British or even Australian.

He seems set to divide his future between England and Australia, playing country he was a big success at Essex last year and state cricket.

Rarely can a player have made such a stressful, unhappy exit from the international game, teammate Henry

Olonga a Zambian, according to Shamuyarira finds himself in similar circumstances.

The two set their own agenda in protesting against human rights abuses and "mourning the death of democracy in our beloved Zimbabwe". They also wore black armbands and wristbands for a couple of World Cup matches before being pressured to desist.

Flower, in all probability, had accepted that his declaration would mean the end of his Zimbabwe career.

Aged 34 and still at the top of his game, he might have played on for several years more, as a specialist batsman rather than wicketkeeper after agreeing to groom Tatenda Taibu as his successor behind the stumps.

Flower will be remembered as a neat gloveman and a tenacious, flinty, formidable left-handed batsman who delved deep into the psychology of his art. No one sold his wicket more dearly.



PHOTO: STAR FILE

Andy Flower

If he does not play again, he will retire with a Test average of 51.54, his 4,794 runs coming from 63 matches.

But there is still time to improve on his first-class statistics of 54.75 runs for each visit to the crease.

Only four men currently playing Test cricket - Adam Gilchrist and Matthew Hayden of Australia, India's Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid - average more than Flower.

Flower, an articulate man who has played alongside brother Grant for most of his international career they often call in Afrikaans when batting together to confuse opponents made an immediate impression "for his country".

He scored 115 on his debut as an opener at the 1992 World Cup against Sri Lanka in New Zealand

while his Test career began almost as impressively, with half-centuries in each of his first two games and a century in his fourth.

His most notable exploits include an innings of 156 against Pakistan in Harare in 1995, when Zimbabwe recorded their first ever Test win.

He also averaged 270 in two Tests with India in 2001, making 183 and 232 not out as part of a series of seven consecutive Test innings where he passed 50.

Later that year, Flower made 142 and 199 in a Test against South Africa in Harare.

One more run and he would have become the sixth man in history to

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Waqar vows to grab the lifeline



HEAD TO HEAD

Pakistan v Zimbabwe

AFP, Bulawayo

Recent head-to-head record of Zimbabwe v Pakistan ahead of their World Cup Group A game at the Queens Sports Club here on Tuesday:

Dec 1 2002	Pakistan won by 70 runs	Harare
Nov 30 2002	Pakistan won by 8 wickets	Harare
Nov 27 2002	Pakistan won by 48 runs	Harare
Nov 24 2002	Pakistan won by 104 runs	Bulawayo
Nov 23 2002	Pakistan won by 7 runs	Bulawayo
Oct 31 2001	Pakistan won by 29 runs	Sharjah
Oct 28 2001	Pakistan won by 106 runs	Sharjah
April 15 2000	Pakistan won by 6 wickets	Grenada
April 5 2000	Pakistan won by 5 wickets	Antigua
June 11 1999	Pakistan won by 148 runs	The Oval
Total matches played: 29		

AFP, Bulawayo

Waqar Younis on Monday vowed not to let a favour done by defending champions Australia go to waste as Pakistan make a last-ditch effort to stay afloat in the World Cup.

Australia's last-over win over England at Port Elizabeth on Sunday threw a lifeline to Pakistan who must now defeat Zimbabwe by a very big margin here on Tuesday to sneak into the Super Sixes.

If England had won, Pakistan would have been knocked out even before taking the field at the Queens Sports Club, and Waqar was grateful to the Australians for showing them the light.

"Relief is hardly the word," Waqar said after Ricky Ponting's

men overcame England by two wickets to spare thanks to a 73-run stand for the ninth wicket between Michael Bevan and Andy Bichel.

"It has left the door open for us and we must go through it. Michael Bevan and Andy Bichel in particular have done us a big favour.

"Now we must work even harder given this chance. It might have been meaningless to train hard but now we can see it as well worth the while.

"There is a lot more work to do now, not least to get the disappointment of our defeat by India out of our systems."

The entire Pakistan team watched the closing stages of the Australia-England game on television and leaped out of their chairs in relief when Australia won with two balls to spare.

None cared that Zimbabwe only need a simple win on Tuesday to qualify against a dispirited Pakistani side still recovering from a six-wicket defeat against arch-rivals India on Saturday.

If Zimbabwe do not win, they can still knock Pakistan out of the competition by giving them a close fight. In that case England will join Australia and India in the Super Sixes.

Pakistan face a huge task to win well and take their net run-rate beyond England's.

According to official calculations, Pakistan must win in 13.2 overs if they bowl Zimbabwe out for 200.

If Pakistan bat first and score 250, they must dismiss Zimbabwe for

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IFS AND THENS

AFP, Bulawayo

Margins of victory Pakistan need to achieve in their World Cup clash against Zimbabwe here on Tuesday to advance to the Super Sixes at England's expense:

If Zimbabwe bat first and score:

- 100, Pakistan must win in 10.5 overs.
- 150, Pakistan must win in 12.1 overs.
- 200, Pakistan must win in 13.2 overs.
- 250, Pakistan must win in 14.2 overs.

If Pakistan bat first and score:

- 200, they must dismiss Zimbabwe for 13 or less.
- 250, they must dismiss Zimbabwe for 62 or less.
- 300, they must dismiss Zimbabwe for 112 or less.
- 350, they must dismiss Zimbabwe for 161 or less.

Zimbabwe will qualify if they defeat Pakistan by any margin or the match ends in a tie or is washed out.

England will qualify if Pakistan win but cannot achieve the required margin of victory.

Aussies walking tall

REUTERS, Port Elizabeth

Australia captain Ricky Ponting believes his record-breaking side can lift the World Cup without losing a single game.

Asked if the side could stay unbeaten throughout the tournament after the two-wicket win over England on Sunday, he said: "We are good enough to do that, I think we can."

"It will take a lot of hard work going into every game but with the dedication, will and desire to do just that in this side I am sure we will give ourselves every chance."

"We saw a lot of those qualities against England as we were written off at 48 for four but it says a lot about the team and the individuals



RICKY PONTING

in it that we could win."

The victory meant they passed the West Indies' mark of 11 consecutive one-day successes, set in the mid-1980s.

"Records like that sure mean a lot when you sit back and look at it in a little while," said Ponting.

"As a team we hadn't spoken about it in the meetings leading up to the game but it is a nice thing and is the result of playing good cricket over a long period of time."

Australia were indebted to Andy Bichel with the ball as he took seven for 20, the second best figures in World Cup history, and then Bichel again (34 not out) and Michael

Bevan (74 not out) as they added

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PHOTO: STAR FILE

Nasser Hussain

Anxious wait for Hussain

REUTERS, Port Elizabeth

Nasser Hussain says he will probably not watch the World Cup Pool A match which could decide his future as England captain.

Hussain faces an anxious wait to find out if his team's tournament is over, as the result of the clash between Pakistan and Zimbabwe in Bulawayo on Tuesday will determine the final group standings.

"I don't know if I'll be paying that much notice to that game as it's out of our hands," said Hussain, who will remain in Port Elizabeth with the England squad find out whether they have qualified for the Super Sixes.

"We will know at the end of Tuesday whether the result has gone our way, but we have enough problems with our own game without having to worry about winning games for other people."

Victory for Zimbabwe would eliminate England from the tournament but Hussain's side will advance to the next phase if Pakistan, as expected, win in Bulawayo without bettering England's run rate.

England already have the best run rate (0.821) of the three rivals and Pakistan would have to pull off

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Quips & Quotes

AFP, Johannesburg

Who's saying what at the World Cup:

"I believe that England allowed a lot of doubts to creep into their minds and asked themselves: 'Is this going to be another day when the Australians get up and steal the game away from us just like before?'"

Ricky Ponting on England's mental frailties as the world champions celebrated their 14th win in a row over the old enemy.

"Relief is hardly the word. It has left the door open for us and we must go through it. Michael Bevan and Andy Bichel have done us a big favour."

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PHOTO: INTERNET

HELLRAISER: Canadian batsman John Davison hits a six against New Zealand at Benoni yesterday.

Kiwis cruise and wait

REUTERS, Benoni

New Zealand threw caution to the wind here on Monday by hurtling to a five-wicket World Cup win over Canada and in the process knocking West Indies out of the tournament.

Chasing Canada's 196, the New Zealanders lost skipper Stephen Fleming, Nathan Astle and Craig McMillan early in a frenetic run chase before galloping home in 23 overs in a last-ditch attempt to increase their run rate in their final Group B outing.

Scott Styris, who made 54 not out off 38 balls, ended the game by hitting a four, a six, a four and a single off the final four deliveries from medium pacer Barry Seabaran.

That gave New Zealand 16 points, equal with Kenya who have already qualified for the Super Sixes, and Sri Lanka.

New Zealand will qualify automatically if Sri Lanka beat South Africa in Durban later on Monday.

South Africa will qualify if they win that day-nighter, leaving the third and final qualifying berth to be decided on run rate between New Zealand and the Sri Lankans.

"We've got a nervous evening ahead of us," Fleming said. "We're not sure which way the Durban game will go."

"We were always going to go hard at the start, we trusted the guys down at the bottom of the order. They can hit the ball well, and they did."

The West Indies, meanwhile, can already start packing.

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