

Azharuddin joins elite Indian skippers' club Raju completes SL rout

AHMEDABAD, Feb 12: Left-arm spinner Venkatesh Raju swept aside Sri Lanka's third successive innings win and a clean sweep in the three match series on Saturday, reports Reuter.

Raju ended with six for 87 and career-best match figures of 11 for 135 as Sri Lanka were dismissed for 222 in their second innings, giving India victory by an innings and 17 runs.

It gave Mohammed Azharuddin his ninth win in 27 tests since taking over as captain in 1990, equaling the record of Mansur Ali Khan Pataudi who had nine victories in 40 Tests and Sunil Gavaskar who had nine wins in 47 Tests.

Beginning the fourth day on 154 for five and needing 239 to make India bat again, Sri Lanka were all out 32 minutes before lunch.

India won the first test in Lucknow by an innings and 119 runs, and the second at Bangalore by an innings and 95 runs.

Sri Lankan captain Arjuna Ranatunga blamed his sides poor batting for the whitewash.

The top did not click and every time we tried we seemed to go wrong, he said.

"We would like to forget the whole Test series and start the tour anew, with new hope for the one dayers."



RAJU ... 6 for 87

who had hit Raju for two fours in one over, for once pushed defensively forward to Rajesh Chauhan and edged a simple catch to Azharuddin at silly point.

Ranatunga hoisted Raju for a six over long on but in trying to repeat the stroke holed out to Navjot Sidhu.

Only wicketkeeper Pubudu Dassanayake put up any strong resistance and remained unbeaten with 21 as Don Anurasi.

Result: India won by an innings and 17 runs to take series 3-0.

Aussies start impressively

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 12: Australian batsmen hit early tour form on the first day of their four-day match against Northern Transvaal at the Centurion Park on Saturday, reports AP.

Opener Michael Slater, Matthew Hayden and Dean Jones hit half centuries to cap an impressive rain-shortened first day for the visitors as they made 274 for five.

Hayden and Jones sent the home bowlers on a leather hunt with a 126-run partnership for the fifth wicket.

Jones was unbeaten on 72 in 129 minutes with a six and nine boundaries when rain ended play with 33 overs still remaining.

Hayden was brilliantly caught behind minutes before rains came down for 50 runs, including seven fours.

The home side did the visitors a favour by sending them in to bat first. After a testing

India and Sri Lanka play a series of three one day matches, starting at Rajkot on Wednesday.

Sri Lanka's first objective on Saturday was to avoid another innings defeat and Ranatunga and Kalpagam boldly went for their shots.

But India had to wait only 15 minutes before getting the first breakthrough. Kalpagam

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fourth day of the third and final Test match between India and Sri Lanka today.

SHRI LANKA: First innings

119

INDIA: First innings 358

SHRI LANKA: Second innings (overnight 154 for five)

Mahanama 1bw b Raju 63

Samaraveera run out 20

Tillekeratne c Azharuddin b Raju 40

De Silva c Azharuddin b Chauhan 14

Ranatunga c Sidhu b Raju 29

Attapattu c Mongia b Chauhan 0

Kalpagam c Azharuddin b Chauhan 9

Dassanayake not out 21

Anurasi c Prabhakar b Raju 6

Wickremasinghe c Prabhakar b Raju

Muralidharan c Mongia b Raju 4

Extras: (11-lb, 4-b, 1-nb) 10

Total: (104.3 overs) 222

Fall of wickets: 1-67, 2-98,

3-149, 4-149, 5-153, 6-167,

7-193, 8-214, 9-214.

Bowling: O M R W

Prabhakar 5 2 11 0

Kapil Dev 5 1 12 0

Raju 32.3 9 87 6

Kumble 28 9 45 0

Chauhan 30 14 45 3

Tendulkar 4 1 7 0

Result: India won by an innings and 17 runs to take series 3-0.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of Australia's first innings at stumps on the first day of their four-day game against Northern Transvaal at Centurion Park.

AUSTRALIA: First innings:

Slater b Noordwyk 51

Taylor b Noordwyk 28

Boon run out 48

M Waugh c Rule b

Elworthy 8

Hayden c Rule b Smith 50

Jones not out 72

Healy not out 1

Extras: (1b-5, nb-10, w-1) 16

Total: (five wickets) 274

Fall: 1-62; 2-99; 3-141; 4-147; 5-273

To bat: Paul Reiffel, Merv Hughes, Tim May, Glen McGrath.

Bowling: O M R W

Elworthy 16 3 59 1

Smith 13.5 1 58 0

Bosch 14 4 33 0

Noordwyk 16 3 65 2

Pienaar 7 1 39 0

van Zyl 4 0 15 0

Result: Australia won by an innings and 17 runs to take series 3-0.

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