

Windies waltz into final



BOMBAY, Mar 10: West Indies demolished South Africa by 96 runs with 15 balls to spare to storm into the final of the 90,000-pound sterling prize money World Masters (over 35) Cup cricket tournament at the Brabourne Stadium here today, reports PTI.

West Indies, opting to bat first, rattled up an imposing total of 289 for 7 in the allotted 45 overs — man-of-the-match Collis King top-scoring with 79 off just 50 balls with eight fours and four sixes — and then bowled out the South Africans for 193 in 42.3 overs to emerge triumphant.

West Indies will take on hosts India in the final of the tournament on Sunday with the champions of the inaugural edition taking home 50,000-pound sterling.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Masters Cup semifinal between West Indies and South Africa here today:

WEST INDIES

G Greenidge c and b Ebrahim 39

J Dujon c Rice b Hanley 5

A Logie c Smith b Rice	68	Fall of wickets: 1-11: 2-99:
I Richards b Ebrahim	40	3-145: 4-157: 5-261: 6-270:
C King st Smith b Ebrahim	79	7-278.
C Best st Smith b Ebrahim	32	Bowling: O M R W
A Greenidge lbw b Rice	2	Rice 9 0 41 2
E Moseley not out	7	Hanley 7 0 42 1
		Magiet 9 0 68 0
		Henry 9 1 56 0
		Ebrahim 9 0 58 4
		McKenzie 2 0 14 0

SOUTH AFRICA

H Fotheringham lbw b Clarke	13	Fall of wickets: 1-11: 2-99:
B A Richards c Richards b King	14	3-83: 4-93: 5-116: 6-145: 7-
T Smith c Dujon b Moseley	20	192: 8-192: 9-192.
G Pollock c Greenidge b		Bowling: O M R W
Richards	60	Rice 9 0 41 2
C Rice st Dujon b Richards	5	Hanley 7 0 42 1
K McKenzie c Logie b Richards	5	Magiet 9 0 68 0
K McEwan b Moseley	48	Henry 9 1 56 0
O Henry st Dujon b Gomes	10	Ebrahim 9 0 58 4
S Magiet b Moseley	0	McKenzie 2 0 14 0
B Ebrahim run out		
R Hanley not out	1	
Extras: [b-1, lb-7, nb-2, w-7]	17	
Total: (in 42.3 overs)	193	
Fall of wickets: 1-28: 2-47:		
3-83: 4-93: 5-116: 6-145: 7-		
192: 8-192: 9-192.		
Bowling: O M R W		
Garner 6 1 16 0		
Clarke 9 1 38 1		
Moseley 7 2 19 3		
King 4 0 27 1		
Richards 9 0 35 3		
Gomes 7.3 0 50 1		

Result: West Indies won by 96 runs.

COLLIS KING... m-o-m

S Clarke not out 4
Extras: [b-4, lb-6, w-3] 13
Total: (for seven wickets in 45 overs) 289

NZ-SL first Test begins today

Looking for change in trend



NAPIER, New Zealand, Mar 10: New Zealand go into the third part of their centenary summer still seeking something to celebrate when they play Sri Lanka in the first Test at McLean Park starting on Saturday, reports Reuter.

With four losses in their last five Tests, New Zealand are desperate for a change in fortune, and captain Ken Rutherford said he has his fingers crossed.

The Sri Lankans, in New Zealand for two Tests and three one-day internationals, were interested by standers earlier in the week when South Africa beat New Zealand by 93 runs in Auckland.

Captain Arjuna Ranatunga expressed surprise at New Zealand's failure to play for a draw when the top half of their batting order were dismissed.

"We were surprised that they left it so late to try and salvage the game," Ranatunga said.

"Still, they played positively, and from our point of view it does give us confidence that they were beaten by South Africa."

Both sides go into the match with only a core of players remaining from the last time they faced each other in a Test.

Sri Lanka beat New Zealand 1-0 in a revised two-Test series in 1992 when New Zealand's tour there was severely disrupted by bomb blast outside the team hotel in Colombo.

The conditions here are different and we have different personnel as do they," said Rutherford.

"Sure, we might take a little bit of motivation from the fact that we lost to them, but really we are still trying to seek some credibility for our game."

With nothing to lose after having lost to virtually every other Test nation they have faced this summer, New Zealand have decided to gamble on making at least two changes to the team which played South Africa.

Rookie Auckland fast bowler Kerr Walmsley, who stands 1.98 metres (6ft 5in) tall, is to make his debut in place of the out-of-form left-arm spin bowler Matthew Hart.

And burly left-hander Mark Greatbatch returns to fill the troublesome No 3 spot vacated

by the injured Martin Crowe.

Rutherford indicated that Shane Thomson, who did not play in Auckland, Dipak Patel or medium paced seamer Gavin Larsen would be 12th man.

Sri Lanka have named a squad of 13 and will pick their final side after inspecting the pitch.

Ranatunga hinted that spinner Jayatha Silva and middle-order batsman Sathas Jayasuriya could be left out of the playing 11 with the pitch likely to favour early seam movement.

TEAMS

NEW ZEALAND (from): Ken Rutherford (captain), Bryan Young, Darran Murray, Mark Greatbatch, Stephen Fleming, Adam Parore, Shane Thomson, Dipak Patel, Dion Nash, Gavin Larsen, Danny Morrison, Kerr Walmsley.

SRI LANKA (from): Arjuna Ranatunga (captain), Asanka Gurusingha, Dulip Samarawera, Sanjeewa Ranatunga, Aravinda de Silva, Hashan Tilakeeratne, Chamara Dunusinghe, Pramodika Wickremasinghe, Chaminda Vaas, Muttiah Muralidharan, Ravindra Pushpakumara, Jayathura Silva, Sathas Jayasuriya.

Sampras scrapes into Round 2

INDIAN WELLS, Mar 10: Pete Sampras, coming off a second-round loss in the US Indoor last month, struggled past Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden 6-3, 7-6 (7-5) Thursday in the second round at the dirs 1.8 million Newsweek Champions Cup, reports AP.

Andre Agassi, the second seed who is gunning for Sampras' No. 1 world ranking, has a considerably easier time, downing Thomas Enqvist of Sweden 6-1, 6-3.

"I came out here today to really lay it on the line," Agassi said. "My intensity was at an all-time high."

Sampras, ranked No. 1 in the world but looking for his first tournament victory of 1995, had eight aces in winning the first set in just 28 minutes. But he had to rally from a 4-1 deficit to win the second set.

Bjorkman, ranked 44th in the world, broke at love in the fourth game of the second set, then held before Sampras won three straight games to make

it 4-4. The players then held service before Sampras won the tie-breaker.

Sampras, the defending champion who is playing in just his fourth tournament of the year, lost to Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands 6-4, 6-4 at the US Indoor at Philadelphia.

"It felt good to finally win the tie-breaker," said Sampras, who won the final two points to end the 70-minute match. "I hadn't won one this year. I felt I hit the ball pretty well. The conditions with the air being so dry here, it's pretty fast."

He is a good player. He serves well, returns well, is one of the better doubles players in the world. I really needed to be at my best. I thought I played a pretty solid match. I lost a little concentration in the second, got down a break, but there was only one break. Then, I played a good break."

In the lone night match Thursday, Agassi made quick work of Enqvist, who had won their only two previous meetings, including the US Indoor last month.

This time Agassi was up 5-

0 just 19 minutes into the match, which he ended in 65 minutes.

"It wasn't me underestimate him before, he's just beaten me a couple of times," Agassi said.

The second round was completed earlier in the day with six matches including the Sampras-Bjorkman match, and there were two upset — No. 10 seed Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine lost to David Wheaton 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (7-4), and No. 13 Andrei Gaudenzi of Italy was beaten by Marcelo Rios of Chile 6-3, 6-0.

In other second-round play, No. 11 Stefan Edberg of Sweden beat Arnaud Boetsch of France 6-3, 6-4; No. 12 Magnus Larsson of Sweden topped Lionel Roux of France 6-2, 6-2; and No. 15 Patrick Rafter of Australia outlasted Tommy Haas 6-3, 2-6, 7-5.

In the first third-round match of the tournament, No. 7 Wayne Ferreira of South Africa breezed past Carlos Costa of Spain 6-3, 6-2. Costa had upset No. 9 Jim Courier on Wednesday.

Sampras, the defending champion who is playing in just his fourth tournament of the year, lost to Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands 6-4, 6-4 at the US Indoor at Philadelphia.

"It all boils down to our not want to lose to Italy with our fourth or fifth guy. If we are going to lose, they are going to have to beat our best and I am honoured to be considered one of them."

Jared Palmer and Richey Reneberg will be the US doubles team for the second-round series at Palermo, Italy, on March 31-April 2. The Palmer-Reneberg team is ranked No. 1 internationally.

Sampras said Agassi had asked him about playing some time ago and Sampras didn't think he would. But he changed his mind.

"Pretty much we are going to go there to win the Cup, so we plan on winning there and maybe playing Sweden or Austria at home," Sampras said. "We are in it to win the whole thing."

US team captain Tom Gulickson commended the pair, saying: "It is certainly great for American tennis and for tennis all over the world that Pete and Andre, both in pursuit of the No. 1 ranking, can come together to be part of the US Davis Cup team."

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