



Did U Know?

Makhaya Ntini of South Africa took 5/21 in the Champions Trophy match against Pakistan at the Punjab Cricket Association Stadium on October 27, 2006. It was the tenth time that he has taken four ODI wickets or more in a match, second against Pakistan.



David Beckham
(Real Madrid's England star footballer)
"Every day I feel sad and very frustrated as a footballer because I am not playing for my country or for my club."



SET Max
ICC Champions Trophy
India v Australia
Live at 2:45 pm
ESPN
English Premier Football League
West Ham United v Blackburn Rovers
Live at 9:55 pm
STAR Sports
Primera Liga
Atletico Madrid v Zaragoza
Live at 1:55 am (Monday)

Javed for more power to coach

REUTERS, Karachi

Former Test captain Javed Miandad has called for the Pakistan team coach and selectors to be given more power after the side's humiliating 124-run defeat against South Africa in the Champions Trophy.

Pakistan were dismissed for just 89 runs in the must-win tie against South Africa, who moved into the semifinals with the win in Mohali, India on Friday.

"The cricket board must give more authority to the coach and selectors to have a say in all matters to reduce the influence of the players," Miandad told Reuters on Saturday.

Miandad, who played 124 Tests, 233 one-day internationals and coached the team three times after his retirement in 1996, said there was also a need for appointing a former player as an advisor.

"The West Indies have done well since Clive Lloyd was named team advisor. We should also follow their example to support the coach," the 49-year-old added.

Miandad bemoaned that successive boards had failed to put an emphasis on team discipline and this had encouraged a culture of "player power".

"What happened against South Africa is a culmination of different episodes in the last few months which exemplify the urgent need to address disciplinary issues," he said.

"The players need to learn from their mistakes and be more professional and committed in their approach to the game."

Teenage stars for NSW

AFP, Brisbane

Australian under-19 skipper Moises Henriques claimed 5-17 off 13 overs to bowl New South Wales to innings points over Queensland in their Sheffield Shield cricket match here Saturday.

Henriques, in only his second first-class match, turned the game as Queensland (307) fell 16 runs short of NSW's first-innings total of 323.

NSW will start day three ahead

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Yuvraj blow for India

REUTERS, Mohali

Indian middle-order batsman Yuvraj Singh was ruled out of Sunday's crucial Champions Trophy Group A tie against Australia after suffering a knee injury.

The 24-year-old left-hander twisted his left knee during a training session on Saturday and needed to be helped off the field.

"An MRI scan suggests a tear of his cruciate ligament and some bone bruising within the knee," a team spokesman told Reuters.

"It is too early to say how long he will take to recover," he said, adding Yuvraj would travel to Mumbai to see a specialist.

The injury to Yuvraj, a nominee for the ICC one-day player-of-the-year award, would be a huge setback for India, both because of his batting and superb fielding.

Yuvraj could also be ruled out for the early stages of the South Africa tour following the Champions Trophy. The first one-day is scheduled for November 19.



A combo picture shows (from L-R) Indian star Sachin Tendulkar hitting a ball as his teammates look on during a training session on Friday while Australian all-rounder Andrew Symonds has a round of batting practice in the nets at the Punjab Cricket Association Stadium in Mohali on the same day.



PHOTO: AFP

Gayle, Bravo power WI



AFP, Ahmedabad

Chris Gayle and Dwayne Bravo cracked centuries to help the West Indies post a challenging 272-4 against England in the Champions Trophy here on Saturday.

Left-handed Gayle hit 101 for his 14th hundred and all-rounder Bravo slammed an unbeaten 112 for his maiden century as the West Indies boosted chances of winning their third successive match in Group A.

The West Indies have already qualified for the semi-finals with two wins in as many matches in the four-team group, while England are out of contention after losing their first two games against India and Australia.

South Africa and New Zealand have advanced to the last-four from Group B. The last semifinalists will be the winners of the India-Australia match at Mohali on Sunday.

England, looking for a consolation win ahead of next month's Ashes series in Australia, captured an early wicket before running into Gayle and Bravo who added 174 for the second wicket to put their team on course for a big total.

Skipper Andrew Flintoff returned as the first time in six months, giving away 27 runs in five overs. But his side could never put pres-

sure on Gayle and Bravo.

The 23-year-old Bravo initially outscored Gayle, reaching his half-century off just 60 balls with 10 fours before his senior partner dominated the England attack with handsome shots on both sides of the wicket.

The 27-year-old Gayle curbed his strokes in the first part of his knock, completing his half-century off 80 balls. He exploded with a flurry of boundaries immediately after reaching his fifty.

He hoisted left-arm spinner Michael Yardy for a six and a four off successive deliveries before pulling seamer Sajid Mahmood for a boundary. He took 47 more balls to complete his second hundred of the tournament.

Gayle, who scored an unbeaten 104 against Bangladesh at Jaipur in the qualifying round, hit one six and 10 fours in his 128-ball knock before

being run out in the closing overs.

But there was no stopping Bravo, who continued to bat comfortably against both pace and spin. He reached his hundred in style, flicking fast bowler James Anderson for his 12th four.

Bravo survived a stumping chance on 79 off spinner Jamie Dalrymple when Chris Read failed to gather the ball properly. He went on to add 50 for the third wicket with Ramnaresh Sarwan (29).

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the West Indies innings in the Champions Trophy Group A match against England at

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AFP, Mohali

Favourites Australia hope to revel in the pressure of sudden-death play when they clash with under-performing hosts India in a key Champions Trophy match here on Sunday.

The winner of the day-night international will take the last semifinal spot alongside South Africa, New Zealand and defending champions the West Indies.

The loser will have an early ride home, but Australian captain Ricky Ponting believes the desperate situation will hold his team in good stead ahead of the World Cup in the Caribbean next March.

"We know we are going to find ourselves facing a sudden-death scenario at some stage during the

World Cup, so the more we can test ourselves under those circumstances, the better off we will be," said Ponting.

"We have managed to play really well in bigger games and this is going to be a very big game, having to defeat India on home soil to keep alive our chances to win the Champions Trophy for the first time."

Australia, the undisputed world champions in both forms of the game, have never qualified for the final of the biennial Champions Trophy despite winning back-to-back World Cup titles in 1999 and 2003.

The Aussies find themselves in a must-win after being stunned by the West Indies in their opening match in Mumbai before bouncing back to whip old foes England in Jaipur on October 21.

"We have to play better than India in their own backyard," said Ponting. "We have had an unusually long break of eight days between

matches, but that means we should be better prepared for this game."

Ponting underplayed fears about the excessive evening dew on the ground which makes bowling second a hazardous task even though South Africa thrashed Pakistan by 124 runs here on Friday.

"A lot of teams could have been psyched out by the pitches and conditions at different times," he said, adding he had noted how New Zealand beat Pakistan here on Wednesday.

"We took a close look at that game and we know this ground is going to get very wet and very dewy. We are prepared for that."

Australia were more worried about the fitness of young batsman Michael Clarke, who has not trained for a week due to fever and chest infection.

But all-rounder Shane Watson has recovered fully from a bout of severe gastritis that saw him rushed to hospital on Tuesday with chest pains.

Indian captain Rahul Dravid, meanwhile, urged his team to start performing after crashing to their sixth defeat in seven matches against Brian Lara's West Indians in Ahmedabad on Thursday.

"It's not nice losing. We have to perform," said Dravid. "We need to play well in the critical moments of the game. We need people to stand up and be counted."

"I concede we have not done well because the batsmen have not performed. But this is their chance to come good."

"You can plan tactics and have a strategy but at the end of the day cricket matches are won by performing on the field. We need to do that."

India received a scare when middle-order batsman Yuvraj Singh injured his knee during training and was uncertain of taking the field on Sunday.

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Sreesanth in for Agarkar

CRICINFO, undated

Shanthakumaran Sreesanth will replace Ajit Agarkar in the Indian squad for the remainder of the Champions Trophy after Agarkar sustained a hairline fracture on his left thumb during the match against West Indies.

Sreesanth will arrive in Mohali -- the venue for India's last group stage match against Australia -- later Saturday afternoon, and will be available for selection for Sunday's match.

Agarkar apparently suffered the injury trying to stop a full-blooded drive from Runako Morton during Thursday's game. With Munaf Patel also doubtful due to a wrist sprain and Rudra Pratap Singh clearly out of his depth, India face a serious predicament ahead of the Australia game.

PCB to submit chargesheet against Hair

PTI, Karachi

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) plans to submit a detailed chargesheet against Australian umpire Darrell Hair to the International Cricket Council (ICC) and initiate an inquiry into his controversial conduct during the forfeited Oval Test.

"We will make sure we submit a strong chargesheet against him with the ICC," a PCB official told PTI on Saturday.

"The chargesheet, which will outline all the violations Hair has made of the Code of Conduct for umpires, is in the final stages and will be sent to the ICC within a week," he said.

The chargesheet was being prepared after the ICC rejected an earlier request from the PCB to hold an inquiry into the conduct of the umpire in the Oval Test.

"They have told us they can't do anything or hold any investigation until and unless we provide them with specific cases where Hair was deemed to have violated the umpires Code of Conduct," he added.

The PCB is contesting a compensation claim from the England and Wales Cricket Board for lost revenues in the Oval Test on the grounds that Hair was responsible for triggering the trouble.



PHOTO: AFP

Suspended Pakistani pacemen Shoaib Akhtar (R) and Mohammad Asif (L) leave the Gaddafi Cricket Stadium after a hearing on doping charges in Lahore on Saturday.

Inquiry summons Woolmer



AGENCIES, Lahore

Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer has been summoned to appear at the inquiry investigating doping charges against fast bowlers Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif, an official said Saturday.

Team physiotherapist Darryn Lifson will also appear before the three-member inquiry here on Wednesday.

"To meet all the requirements of justice we have now summoned coach Woolmer and physio Lifson for the next hearing," tribunal chief barrister Shahid Hamid told reporters.

"Before submitting our recommendations to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) we would like to hear Woolmer and Lifson, as we feel that without hearing their point of view it would be tough to reach a conclusion," he added.

Woolmer and Lifson are expected to return on Saturday after Pakistan bowed out of the elite Champions Trophy in India, losing against South Africa by 124 runs on Friday.

Akhtar and Asif, who were pulled out of Pakistan's squad for the Champions Trophy last week, were cross-examined by medical experts on Saturday, Hamid said. The bowlers were questioned by the members for more than two hours.

The bowlers said Friday they would not challenge the results of their positive tests for nandrolone carried out in a WADA (World Anti-doping Agency) laboratory in Malaysia, and declined to have their 'B' samples examined.

"Akhtar and Asif have accepted the results of the dope tests and when we offered them to have tests on their B samples they refused to have another test," Hamid said.

"We offered both the players to have retests on B samples which they declined, which implies that they are not questioning their failed dope tests," Hamid said.

"They had explained their point of view and we are now going to take medical opinion to examine the situation," said Hamid.

When asked whether the players have admitted taking banned drugs, Hamid refused to comment.

"The tribunal today took the expert views of two doctors after Shoaib and Asif forfeited their right

to have their B samples tested for confirmation of the earlier report," spokesman Shakeel Khan said.

Woolmer, who took charge of the Pakistan team in July 2004, has accepted responsibility for initiating the dope tests of 17 players after they returned from the tour of England in September.

The two pace bowlers have already recorded their statements on Friday and have denied taking the banned steroid knowingly.

Akhtar, who returned to cricket only last month after missing Pakistan's Test series in England with an ankle injury, said that he did not cheat.

"I have not knowingly taken any performance enhancing drugs and would never cheat my teammates or opponents in this way," the 31-year-old said.

The pair faces a two-year ban, the minimum for a first offence under International Cricket Council doping rules. However, the PCB said it will make its own decision on any punishment since the tests were conducted internally.