



Irish players celebrate their stunning victory over Pakistan in their Group D encounter of the World Cup at Sabina Park in Kingston on Saturday.

## Ireland KO Pakistan

AFP, Kingston



Ireland gave their countrymen a St. Patrick's Day to remember, when they clinched a sensational three-wicket victory over Pakistan to send the former champions crashing out of the World Cup at Sabina Park on Saturday here.

Chasing a revised target of 128 from 47 overs in gloomy conditions, Ireland held their nerve to hit the jackpot with 32 balls to spare, when captain Trent Johnson smashed Azhar Mahmood over long-on for six.

The Irish victory handed Pakistan their second straight defeat in the competition, following their 54-run loss to hosts West Indies last Tuesday.

The win also provisionally puts Ireland in the lead of Group D with three points – one more than West Indies and two ahead of Zimbabwe (both have a match in hand) – leaving Pakistan at the bottom of the table with no points.

West Indies face Zimbabwe on Monday in a match which could make them the first side to reach the Super Eights.

Pakistan contest their final match on Wednesday against Zimbabwe, and the Irish and West Indies close the group stage on Friday.

Niall O'Brien hit a one-day international career best 72 from 107 balls to be the backbone of the Irish chase.

He shared valuable partnerships of 47 with William Porterfield for the third wicket, and 38 with his brother

Kevin for the fifth wicket to consolidate for Ireland.

Mohammad Sami was the pick of the Pakistani bowlers with three wickets for 29 runs from 10 overs, and Rao Iftikhar supported with two for 29 from 10 overs.

Ireland had bowled and fielded with purpose in helpful conditions to dismiss the Pakistanis for a modest 132 in 45.4 overs, but they wobbled at the start of their innings.

Boyd Rankin, a century-maker in Ireland's first match against Zimbabwe, was adjudged lbw to Sami in the fourth over, and Eoin Morgan was dismissed for two after suffering a similar fate in the sixth over to leave Ireland 15 for two.

Niall O'Brien came to the wicket and took control of the situation to keep Ireland ahead of the scoring rate with Porterfield simply prepared to bat defiantly at the other end.

Porterfield was dismissed in the 21st over however, when Mohammad Hafeez bowled him for 13, but Ireland were already safe, and the equation got easier when a 35-minute stoppage for bad light rain sent the players off the field in the 28th over.

On resumption, Pakistan showed the break had revitalised them, and snared three wickets – including Niall O'Brien – in the space of seven balls to raise hopes of a late fight-back.

Niall O'Brien was stumped off Shoaib Malik in the 34th over, and next over, Iftikhar struck twice to remove Andrew White and Kyle McCallan next ball.

That left Ireland rocking at 113 for seven from 35 overs.

Johnston joined Niall's brother Kevin at the crease and they kept their composure take their side over the line.

Earlier, Ireland, playing in only their second World Cup match ever, got St. Patrick's Day celebrations off to a rousing start, when they won the toss, chose to field, and gutted the Pakistani batting.

Boyd Rankin was the most successful Irish bowler with three wickets for 32 runs from nine overs, Andre Botha supported with the flattening figures of 8-4-5-2, and McCallan collected two for 12 from 5.4 overs.

Only four Pakistani batsmen got into double-figures – Kamran Akmal scored 27, Imran Nazir got 24, Mohammad Yousuf made 15, and Sami gathered 12.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the World Cup Group D match between Pakistan and Ireland at Sabina Park in Kingston on Saturday:

#### PAKISTAN

	O	M	R	W
Nazir c Morgan b Botha	4			
Younis Khan c Botha b Rankin	0			
Yousuf c Porterfield b Johnson	15			
Inzamam c Morgan b Botha	1			
Malik c N O'Brien b K O'Brien	9			
Akmal c Johnston b Rankin	27			
Mahmood c Johnston b Rankin	2			
Sami c Bray b McCallan	12			
Iftikhar not out	8			
Gul c Mooney b McCallan	1			
Extras: (lb-3, w-22, nb-4)	29			
Total: (All out in 45.3 overs)	132			
Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-15, 3-56, 5-66, 6-72, 7-103, 8-105, 9-130.				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Langford	10	1	31	1
Rankin	9	1	32	3
Botha	8	4	5	2
Johnston	7	1	20	1
K O'Brien	6	0	29	1
McCallan	5.4	1	12	2

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## Latest giantkillers

AFP, Gros Islet



This World Cup was widely derided in advance for having too many minnow nations.

debutants Ireland chased a revised target of 128 from 47 overs to win with 32 balls to spare, when captain Trent Johnson smashed Azhar Mahmood over long-on for six after Niall O'Brien had made 72.

However, three of the four heaviest defeats in the history of the World Cup came during the first three days of the 2007 tournament.

Sri Lanka beat Bermuda by 243 runs, South Africa romped to a 221-run win against the Netherlands, in a match reduced to 40 overs each because of rain, while Scotland lost by 202 runs to Australia.

Ironically, Pakistan coach Bob Woolmer, formerly the head of the International Cricket Council's high performance unit which exists to improve the standard of leading junior nations, had warned Ireland could cause an upset just hours before they embarrassed his side.

Ex-England batsman Woolmer, in his [www.cricinfo.com](http://www.cricinfo.com) column published earlier Saturday, said Ireland were "a serious banana skin fixture".

Ireland's victory handed Pakistan their second straight defeat in the competition, following their 54-run loss to hosts West Indies last Tuesday.

There was also joy for Bangladesh with left-handed opener Tamim Iqbal, who turns 18 on Tuesday, making 51 for his maiden half-century as his team successfully chased a 192-run target.

After a shock-free first World Cup in 1975, Sri Lanka posted the first real upset win four years later when they beat India by 47 runs at Old Trafford.

Sri Lanka made 238 for five thanks to fifties from Siddarth Wettimunayake, Duleep Mendis and Roy Dias.

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## Joyous Johnston goes to hospital

AFP, Kingston



Ireland captain Trent Johnston was seeking medical treatment for an injured shoulder, just hours after his side completed a stunning victory over Pakistan in the World Cup at Sabina Park.

Johnston smashed Azhar Mahmood over long-on for six to seal a famous three-wicket victory to put the 1992 champions out of the competition, but he had injured his shoulder while fielding earlier in the day.

"I've got some sort of rotator cuff problem in the left shoulder, after I injured it diving for a ball," said Johnston. "It's an old injury. There's quite a bit of pain there – I'm going to hospital to get an MRI scan."

"Hopefully, I can get it right in the next six days, so I've got to take it easy, and watch the rest of the boys chase."

Ireland face hosts West Indies in the final group match on Friday, and he is anxious to be fit for that contest, after his side made St. Patrick's Day one to remember for the scores of Irish supporters in the stands.

"Everyone is going to be disappointed with this, there is no doubt about it. We haven't played well. But there is nothing much we can do about it. We can only learn lessons from this game."

"I didn't do too well in English at school, so I don't have a word for it," Johnston said.

"It's amazing. We had a huge advantage in winning the toss. We bowled the ball in very good areas, and we were lucky they snicked off, and we held our catches, and we had a total of 133 to chase which was unbelievable."

"It's magnificent. The support out

there also was amazing for us. That was another thing which carried us to the victory. It was those 1,500 Irish supporters up there in the stands."

Johnston felt his teammates deserved a night to indulge in themselves in a celebratory drink, after the way they played.

"I just think we kept plugging away, and I never thought Pakistan gave up," he said.

"With the quality of their bowling attack, and the experience which they have in one-day international cricket, 130 on that pitch is like 270 on a flat pitch, and they always had the bowlers to bowl the balls in good areas and get us out."

"We are not used to that sort of pressure, but they are accustomed to it day in, day out, but our guys just stood up, and I can't say enough about the two O'Brien brothers, and how they batted – it was outstanding. Their guts and courage got us over the line."

Niall O'Brien hit a one-day international career best 72 from 107 balls to be the backbone of the Irish chase.

He shared valuable partnerships of 47 with William Porterfield for the third wicket, and 38 with his brother Kevin for the fifth wicket to consolidate for Ireland.

"These two games in the World Cup have helped us to put our experiences at the World Cricket League in Kenya to bed because we lost four close games there," Johnston said.

"To come back against Zimbabwe (a tied match last week)

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be coming out and playing in order to spread cricket all over the world."

Woolmer indicated his side's performance ranked pretty highly as one of the worse days of his life

as a coach.

"I think the worse was at Edgbaston in 1999 (when he was

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## India in uncharted area

AFP, Port of Spain



India find themselves in a must-win situation after just one horrible day at the office as they prepare to take on debutants

for the next Super Eight stage. "I think it is pretty clear from now on. We have got to win the next two games and we have got to win them well. That's pretty clear," said India skipper Rahul Dravid.

"We have got our task cut out. It's about winning. The boys just have to knuckle down now. We have got our backs to the wall and we have got to keep fighting and do our best."

Sri Lanka and Bangladesh have posted one win in the four-team group, while Bermuda and India are winless after one game. Sri Lanka thrashed Bermuda by 243 runs in their opening game here on Thursday.

Dravid did not believe that his

team were outplayed by Habibul Bashar's side in all departments of the game. They could manage just 191, a total comfortably surpassed by their rivals.

"It's really disappointing to lose. We have had some disappointing defeats, but this probably is a big disappointment," said Dravid.

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