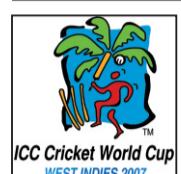


# Farveez stakes claim

AFP, St George's



Seamer Farveez Maharoof gave Sri Lanka a World Cup semifinal selection headache on Wednesday when he claimed four victims in his team's Super Eights eight-wicket win over Ireland.

Maharoof, playing in the side because of an injury to Lasith Malinga while Dilhara Fernando was rested, made a strong case to retain his place for next Tuesday's semifinal in Jamaica with a blistering performance with the ball.

He also ran out Ireland skipper Trent Johnston as Sri Lanka bowled out their opponents for just 77 before wrapping up victory comfortably before the lunch break at the Grenada National Stadium.

"It's a good headache to have," said Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene when quizzed if the 22-year-old Maharoof would start the semifinal which is likely to be against New Zealand.

"Everyone in this squad has put their hands up when it comes to performing. It would be a worse headache if we were not performing."

"We have achieved our goal of making the semifinals. When we left Sri Lanka we knew we had to concentrate hard, we knew we had the talent to make the last four but we just had to execute our plans. That was the hardest thing."

Maharoof finished with four for 25 in 10 overs, a spell that saw the pace bowler take three wickets in four balls in his first over.

Muttiah Muralidaran also took four wickets as Ireland were dismissed for just 77 -- the sixth lowest total in the competition's history.

The result was a disappointing end for Ireland's debut World Cup campaign which had peaked with famous wins over Pakistan and Bangladesh but had also seen a one-wicket defeat to champions Australia.

But they at least had the comfort of knowing that their performances had put them into 12th place in the international one-day rankings.

"It was another tough game,"

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Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene pulls one to the boundary during their World Cup Super Eights match against Ireland at the Grenada National Stadium in St George's on Wednesday.

## AND V SRI LANKA SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the World Cup Super Eights match between Ireland and Sri Lanka at the National Cricket Stadium at St George's in Grenada on Wednesday:

	R	B	4s	6s
IRELAND				
Jeremy Bray c Russel Arnold b Farveez Maharoof	20	29	4	0
William Porterfield c Sanath Jayasuriya b Farveez Maharoof	17	51	1	0
Andre Botha c Kumar Sangakkara b Farveez Maharoof	0	2	0	0
Eoin Morgan c Kumar Sangakkara b Farveez Maharoof	0	1	0	0
Niall O'Brien c Kumar Sangakkara b Muttiah Muralidaran	4	28	0	0
Kevin O'Brien c Sanath Jayasuriya b Muttiah Muralidaran	2	4	0	0
Kenneth Carroll c Muttiah Muralidaran	0	2	0	0
Trent Johnston run out (Farveez Maharoof)	0	4	0	0
Mike McCallan lbw b Muttiah Muralidaran	0	9	0	0
Dave Langford-Smith lbw b Chaminda Vaas	18	21	2	1
Boyd Rankin not out	7	17	1	0
Extras: (leg byes 5, wides 2, no balls 2)	9			
Total: (All out in 27.4 overs)	77			
Fall of wickets: 1-28 (Bray), 2-28 (Botha), 3-28 (Morgan), 4-46 (Porterfield), 5-53 (O'Brien), 6-61 (Carroll), 7-66 (McCallan), 8-71 (Rankin)				

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