

Ricky coming to India

CRICINFO, undated

Ricky Ponting will remain with the Australian squad for the seven-ODI tour of India beginning in the last week of September even though he was ruled out of the remainder of the ICC World Twenty20 Championship with a hamstring strain.

Ponting strained his hamstring while running between the wickets in Australia's Super Eights' match against Pakistan and completed his innings with the help of a runner. Alex Kountouris, the physio, said that Ponting's recovery was progressing well and was hopeful that he would take some part during the one-day series in India.

"Ricky Ponting is making excellent progress following his hamstring strain in the game against Pakistan on Tuesday. Ricky will be coming on the tour of India and will resume playing as soon as he is medically cleared," national selection panel chairman, Andrew Hilditch said.

Brad Haddin has been added to the touring squad and will take part in the Indian tour until such time as Ricky recovers. Although Ricky's injury is very disappointing it gives us an opportunity to recognise the outstanding performances of Brad Haddin domestically and in his limited opportunities for Australia in the past 12 months."

Shane Watson was another injury concern for Australia after he left the field with a sore hamstring during their Super Eights' clash against Sri Lanka. Watson had come into the match as a replacement for Ponting.

"Shane felt some soreness in the left hamstring during today's game and we will continue to assess this over the next 48 hours before any decision is made regarding his availability," Kountouris said.

Australia are scheduled to leave South Africa for India on September 25 and would play the first ODI on September 29 in Bangalore.

Div 3 cricket qualifiers

SPORTS REPORTER

Dhanmondi Cricket Academy will take on Battalion Boys Club in the opening match of the 3rd Division Qualifying Cricket League at the Dhaka University Ground tomorrow.

Former National Cricket Coach Syed Altaf Hossain will declare the meet open as chief guest of the inaugural opening.



Did U Know?

Some unique research discovered that four out of every five boxers have sustained brain damage.



Paul Collingwood

(England cricket captain)
"I made a mistake, that's what it comes down to. The friends that I was with were not massively close friends, to be honest, and they took me to the bar. I realise it was inappropriate and I'm disappointed with myself."

Regretting his visit to a lap-dancing club in South Africa a couple of nights back. He was subsequently fined 1,000



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DEBUTANT'S DELIGHT: Bangladesh opener Zunaed Siddique acknowledges the crowd's applause after reaching his maiden half-century during the ICC Twenty20 Super Eights match against Pakistan at Newlands yesterday.

Aussies storm into semis

AFP, Cape Town



Australia's pace bowlers sent Sri Lanka crashing out of the World Twenty20 championships at Newlands Thursday.

"We're rising to the occasion," said stand-in Australian captain Adam Gilchrist. "We are more experienced in the big games."

Sri Lanka tumbled to 101 all out in 19.3 overs after being sent in.

Australian opening batsmen Adam Gilchrist and Matthew Hayden needed only 10.2 overs to take their side racing to a ten-wicket win in a Super Eights match that was effectively a knockout encounter.

Australia made sure of joining Pakistan in the semi-finals while Sri Lanka were eliminated.

Gilchrist admitted there may have been a feeling of injustice in the Australian camp going in to the 20-overs tournament.

"As a team who have dominated the other two forms of the game for a long while it could have been a feeling that it was not right that teams were brought closer to us,"

he said of the short format.

But Gilchrist said that if any such feelings existed they had been quickly removed. "We're not owed anything in cricket. It's a very real part of cricket now and I think we have made that adjustment as the tournament has gone on."

"There was some juice in the wicket," said Sri Lankan captain Mahela Jayawardene. "The first six or seven overs were very vital but we didn't have the application to adapt."

Jayawardene said the tournament had been a valuable experience.

"This is something new for us. Most of the national cricketers haven't played Twenty20 cricket. If this is going to be a part of international cricket we will have to look seriously at ways of improving."

The match was effectively decided in the first few overs after Australia's stand-in captain, Adam Gilchrist, won the toss.

Stuart Clark took four for 20, the best figures by an Australian bowler in Twenty20 internationals.

Clark built on early breakthroughs by Brett Lee and Nathan Bracken, who took advantage of aggressive batting.

Hayden hit his third half-century of the tournament, making 58 not out off 38 balls with seven fours and two sixes.

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'Bowl more, Yuvu'

PTI, Chandigarh

After his blitzkrieg against England in the ICC World Twenty20 Championship match in Durban, Yuvraj Singh now also wants to concentrate on his bowling.

"I called him up early this morning and congratulated him for his heroic innings. Apart from wanting to continue his fine touch which he has rediscovered now, Yuvraj is also keen to improve his bowling," Yuvraj's father and former cricketer Yograj Singh told PTI here.

He said once Yuvraj returned to Chandigarh, he will work towards improving his bowling.

"We have decided that we will work together on his bowling. He has got a good height and there is no reason why India should not get a genuine left-arm bowler as well," he said.

He said that 25-year-old Yuvraj had been "feeling down a bit" after being hit for five sixes in a row by Dimitri Mascarenhas in the sixth ODI against England earlier this month at The Oval.

Just before last night's Super Eights match, the left-handed batsman had called up his father and expressed his desire to play a big innings.

"He telephoned me and said 'Dad, I have been getting out to wrong shots.' He also said that he was not feeling good about being hit for five sixes."

"He said he wanted to win for the country and play a big innings," said Yograj, who himself once donned the India cap.

U-19 camp begins

UNB, Dhaka

The residential camp of the under-19 national booters began yesterday morning at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in preparation for the 2nd Indo-Bangladesh Bangla Games.

All the 35 booters, including five standbys, made some warm-up practice on the opening day under assistant coach Ujjal Chakrabarty Shibu in absence of head coach Hasanuzzaman Babloo, who is expected to join the camp on Saturday.

Yuvraj no Sir Gary

AFP, Durban



Yuvraj Singh on Thursday dismissed comparisons with West Indian legend Gary Sobers after his six sixes in an over kept India alive in the ICC World Twenty20 Championship.

"A lot of people tell me I bat like him (Sobers), but I'm not even halfway there," the left-hander said. "But it's a great feeling when people tell you that."

Yuvraj smashed English fast bowler Stuart Broad for 36 runs in an over at the Kingsmead here on Wednesday night as India romped home by 18 runs in a match they had to win to remain in the semi-final race.

India must now beat South Africa in the last Super Eights match here on Thursday night to join the hosts and New Zealand with two wins each in group E, the three-way tie to be broken by net run-rates.

India's first two balls were

swung over fine leg, the third over long-off, the fourth cut over point, the fifth pulled to mid-wicket and

the last into the stands at long-on.

It was only the fourth instance in top cricket that six sixes were hit in an over after Sobers and Ravi Shastri did it in first-class cricket and Herschelle Gibbs in the World Cup earlier this year.

Yuvraj revealed the fifth six was a mishit. "The first one was the longest one. Second one was, I think, square; third one was long-off; fourth was over point; fifth was a mishit over midwicket and sixth was again to long-on," he said.

The left-hander said he thought about six sixes only after the fifth one sailed over the boundary.

"After the fourth six I thought, if I use the crease much better, I'm sure I can hit one more," he said. "After the fifth I thought that I had to go for the sixth. It's a great feeling."

Yuvraj said he was reminded of the five sixes England's Dimitri Mascarenhas hit off his bowling during the sixth one-day international at the Oval in London earlier this month.

"If we play as well as we did against England we can win. We are positive."

Yuvraj's six sixes' feat in the 19th over gave him the fastest 50 in the tournament off just 12 balls, eight deliveries less than what Bangladesh captain Mohammad Ashraful achieved against the West Indies.

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