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Hollywood hitters fail to show

INTERNET, undated

The dream scenario was to have Russell Crowe firing down bouncers at Jude Law and Robbie Williams in the final over of the inaugural G'Day USA Hollywood Ashes cricket match in suburban Los Angeles.

But Crowe was a no-show to the game.

Law, Williams, Daniel "Harry Potter" Radcliffe had said they would play for the English team, but also did not turn up.

Oscar winner Mel Gibson did show, but opted to do the official coin toss and then retreat to the VIP tents sponsored by Qantas.

With or without A-List celebrity star wattage, organisers of one of the blue chip events of the Australia Week festival currently underway in the US did have a thriller ending to their 25-over celebrity cricket game between old rivals Australia, led by former test captain Steve Waugh, and England.

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Brown suggest knighthood for Tendulkar

PTI, New Delhi

Cricketing greats from the Commonwealth nations such as Sachin Tendulkar should be considered for traditional British honours like the knighthood, Prime Minister Gordon Brown has said.

Noting that cricket is one of the great things that binds the Commonwealth together, he said there was a time when top cricketers from the countries in the grouping would be recognised by the British people through its honoured system.

"It used to be the case that great cricketers from the Commonwealth would be recognised by the British people through our honoured system -- we think of Sir Don Bradman or Sir Gary Sobers," Brown, who is on an official tour of India, told reporters here on Sunday.

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Did U Know?

The first match to go on air on colour television of the Wimbledon Championships was in 1967. It was a BBC production.



Shane Warne
(Australian leg-spin legend)

"I'm not becoming a pro player, just a former sportsman who has a passion for the game."

Dismissing rumours that he's going to become a professional poker player.



What to Watch

STAR Sports
Australian Open
Men's / Women's Quarterfinals
Live from 6:00am
Men's Singles Quarterfinals
Live from 2:30pm

ESPN
Sportscenter India
Sports News
Live at 8:30pm



Pakistan's debutant opener Nasir Jamshed plays an uppish cover-drive during his sparkling 61 against Zimbabwe in the day-night first one-day international at the Karachi National Stadium on Monday.

5 fifties power Pakistan

Cricket

APP, Karachi

A record five half-centuries in a single innings propelled Pakistan to a thumping 104-run win over Zimbabwe in the first one-day international here.

Skipper Shoaib Malik hit a 56-ball 63 in Pakistan's mammoth total of 347-5 in 50 overs before capturing 3-34 with his off-spin to restrict the tourists to 243-7.

Opener Nasir Jamshed smashed a 48-ball 61 on his debut, while Younis Khan (79), Mohammad Yousuf (72) and Misbahul Haq (55 not out) made significant contributions after Pakistan were put into bat at Karachi's National Stadium.

It is the first time in one-day international history that five half-centuries have been scored in an innings and eight in a match.

The total was always beyond Zimbabwe's reach despite a bright start for the tourists, with an opening stand of 47.

Vusi Sibanda (59) and Chamu Chibhabha (52) added 56 for the second wicket but the tourists lost their rhythm against Pakistan's spinners.

Sean Williams was also among the runs, hitting an unbeaten 51, but the asking rate continued to climb and the task proved too much.

Earlier, the foundations for Pakistan's big total were laid by the 18-year-old left-hander Jamshed, who hit six boundaries and three towering sixes during his swash-buckling knock.

Jamshed, who broke into the team on the back of a brilliant 182 against the tourists in a four-day match here last week, made his more experienced partner Salman Butt (four) a mere spectator in a brisk 45-run stand for the first wicket.

Jamshed was finally caught off medium-pace Chibhabha in the 15th over.

Younis and Yousuf then put on 113 for the third wicket to further punish the hapless tourists' attack.

Younis hit seven boundaries and a six off 68 balls, while Yousuf's 74-ball knock included five boundaries and a six.

Left-arm spinner Ray Price, who finished with 2-61, dismissed both Younis and Yousuf before Malik and Misbah gave the innings fresh impetus.

Malik, who completed 4,000 one-day runs when he reached 16, put on a brisk 99 runs for the fifth wicket with Misbah. Malik hit two sixes and a four before he became Chibhabha's second wicket.

Misbah hit four boundaries and a six in his 38-ball knock as Pakistan totted up 52 in the last five overs.

The second encounter in the five-match series will be played at Hyderabad on Thursday.

SCOREBOARD
Complete scoreboard of the first limited-overs day-night international between Pakistan and Zimbabwe.

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SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

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SEE PAGE 18 COL 1

Injured Gayle returns home

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