



Chennai Super Kings team members celebrate after beating Kings XI Punjab in the second semifinal of the Indian Premier League at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Saturday.

Flintoff feared for his career

CRICKINFO, undated

Andrew Flintoff has admitted he feared his England days were over last year when he was limping through the one-day series against India and the ICC World Twenty20.

Although his ankle stood up well in the early stages of the season, when he bowled some quick spells for Lancashire, he is again recovering from another injury, this time a side strain.

In an opening and honest interview with the Mail on Sunday, Flintoff says he knew he had major problems when his ankle was still causing problems after his third operation last June.

"I'd had a third operation on my ankle last June, which forced me to miss both the Test series against West Indies and India," he said.

MacGill calls

FROM PAGE 17 He will finish his career with 44 Tests and at the time of making his announcement, he had 207 wickets at 28.43.

He was the man Australia turned to after Shane Warne's retirement and although he celebrated his return to the international setup with his 200th Test wicket, achieved against Sri Lanka in November, he battled with hand and knee problems during that series and was forced to re-evaluate his future.

"Over the past six months I have experienced enough highs and lows to fill a lifetime," MacGill said. "My 200th Test wicket couldn't have been scripted any better. I will never forget the happiness I felt when my family welcomed me at the hotel that night, yet the very next week I was filled with the pain and disappointment of injury."

Although I considered retirement at the time, I decided to prove to myself that I could rise again and trained privately harder than I have done in years. When I bowled Brad Hodge in the Pura Cup final I knew that despite the often suffocating public scrutiny I loved my job. I also knew that I was ready to play Test cricket again.

"Unfortunately now my time is up. One of the treats for a bowler playing Test cricket is that you have a champion bowling up the other end. Bowling with some of crickets all time greats such as Glenn McGrath, Shane Warne, Jason Gillespie and Brett Lee has made my job a lot easier. I want to be sure that exciting young bowlers like Mitchell Johnson enjoy the same privilege."

"As I said many times last summer, there is no way I will ever walk onto a cricket field unless I can guarantee that I can dismiss top-order batsmen consistently. The prospect of letting myself and the team down is simply not an option. I have worked way too hard for too long to sabotage my achievements by playing Test cricket for the wrong reasons."

Hayden wants to bat on

CRICKINFO, undated

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Injured Australian opener Matthew Hayden said Sunday he has no intention of retiring from one-day cricket to ensure he plays on to next year's Ashes series in England.

The 36-year-old left-hander returned home from the West Indies tour with an Achilles tendon problem.

There has been speculation that Hayden will give up limited-over cricket to nurse himself through to next year's Ashes series.

But Hayden said he would feel he was a lesser Test batsman without playing in the one-day game

and believed staying within the Australian team was important to his fitness and form.

"I always maintain the best players play all forms of the game and that includes Twenty20 cricket as well," Hayden told reporters.

"There's a workload issue that you have to manage on a daily basis but the thing you have to understand is my one-day game drives my Test game as well."

"I find a lot of inspiration playing one-day cricket and because you are in and around the support structure as well on a consistent basis."

"It's the inconsistencies of cricket that tend to lead to more injuries than anything."

Now the most experienced member of the world champion outfit

following the retirements of a string of senior players, Hayden's presence will be crucial as skipper Ricky Ponting strives to ensure his team remains at the top of world cricket.

With the Champions Trophy in Pakistan four months away, Hayden believes he will quickly be back at the top of the order.

Hayden said he will seek advice from a tendon expert about treating his injury.

"I feel like I'm definitely in the right place, especially considering I've tried a few different methods in the last few weeks and nothing's really worked," he said. "I feel I can heal and get well again."

Hayden has scored 8,242 runs in 94 Tests since his debut in 1994 at an average of 53.52.

Rajasthan IPL Royal

FROM PAGE 17 Jadeja snapped up a sharp catch diving forward.

Raina and Patel, the duo who took Chennai to victory last night, put on a useful 25-run stand but it was more accumulation than attack. Parthiv's dismissal, edging to the wicketkeeper and watching Kamran Akmal juggle before completing the catch, allowed Albie Morkel to inject some urgency into the innings.

His two sixes over midwicket livened the atmosphere but Yusuf ensured there was no extended fireworks. Akmal held on to a skier from Morkel but the bad news for Rajasthan was that he collided with Mohammed Kaif, who had to leave the field with an injury.

Raina motored along, before holding out to long-off, but it was strange to see Chamara Kapugedera being sent ahead of S Badrinath. Kapugedera pottered around for a 12-ball 8 and it was down to Dhoni to up the rate.

Shane Watson's 17th over, where he conceded just 3 and picked up a wicket, appeared to tilt the scales but a few mighty hits from Dhoni took them past 160. Mumbai's match-winning 162 against Delhi has been the highest score on this ground and Dhoni might just think that his side have done enough to put up a serious fight.

**SCORES IN BRIEF**  
**CHENNAI SUPER KINGS:** 163 for 5 in 20 overs (Raina 43, Parthiv 38, Dhoni 29 not out, Yusuf 3-22)  
**RAJASTHAN ROYALS:** 164 for 7 in 20 overs (Yusuf 56, Asnodkar 28, Watson 28; Morkel 2-25, Muralidharan 2-39)  
**Result:** Rajasthan Royals won the final by 3 wickets and lift the inaugural IPL.  
**Man-of-the-final:** Yusuf Pathan.  
**Man-of-the-tournament:** Shane Watson.  
**Toss:** Rajasthan Royals.  
**Umpires:** Billy Bowden and Rudi Koertzen.

WC SILVER JUBILEE BCCI will invite Dev

CRICKINFO, undated

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) will hold a felicitation function in New Delhi to mark the silver jubilee of India's triumph in the 1983 World Cup. Kapil Dev -- the captain of the victorious side -- who is now chairman of the unofficial Indian Cricket League's (ICL) executive board, will also be invited, board president Sharad Pawar told PTT.

"The felicitation function for the members of the 1983 World Cup winning team will be held at Taj Palace in New Delhi on June 22," Pawar said. "Yes, Kapil Dev will be invited to attend it as he was the captain." On June 25, 1983, India had pulled off an improbable win over two-time defending champions West Indies at Lord's.

Earlier, PR Man Singh, the manager of India's 1983 World Cup-winning squad, had criticised the BCCI for not organising a function to honour the players.

Clarke's all-round show

FROM PAGE 17 Haddin made a handy 33, but Lee blitzed eight fours and one six in 63 from 82 balls and Johnson scored 29 not out to extend Australia's innings to the tea break with an unbroken stand of 65 for the eighth wicket.

Both Aussie lower-order batsmen benefited from sloppy West Indies fielding that saw Fidel Edwards floor Lee on 28 at mid-on off Sammy, the same bowler who suffered when Dwayne Bravo dropped Johnson on 15 at deep extra cover.

But Clarke batted with aplomb from the time he arrived at the crease about 45 minutes before the scheduled close the previous evening.

He stroked the ball with crisp assurance with his classical driving, particularly through the arc between extra cover and mid-off, where he has gathered the majority of his runs.

Jerome Taylor was the most successful West Indies bowler with three for 95 from 27 overs.

Australia lead the three-Test series 1-0, after they completed a 95-run victory in the opening Test last Monday at Sabina Park in Kingston, Jamaica.

Australia have now won 13 of the last 14 Tests they have contested against West Indies and need only a draw to secure their hold on the Frank Worrell Trophy -- symbol of Test supremacy against West Indies. The Aussies have not lost a Test series in the Caribbean since 1991.

The third and final Test between the two sides starts on June 12 at Kensington Oval in Barbados.

visitors lost the wickets of century-maker Simon Katich and Andrew Symonds.

Katich was caught down the leg-side, when he feathered his 248th delivery from Taylor in the same over that Clarke reached his half-century.

Symonds arrived and looked set to play in much the same style that he did in the opening Test, but he tried to glance a delivery from Edwards and was also caught down the leg-side for 18.

Haddin joined Clarke and they added 64 either side of lunch before a slower delivery from Taylor deceived him and he was caught at extra cover for 33 to leave Australia 360 for six.

Lee came to crease and they continued to build on the platform of the earlier batsmen, as West Indies wilted under the pressure before a fatigued Clarke lost his wicket.

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SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of the second Test between West Indies and Australia at the Vivian Richards Cricket Ground in Antigua on Saturday:

Table with columns: AUSTRALIA: First innings (overs), batsmen, runs, wickets.

WEST INDIES: First innings

Table with columns: batsmen, runs, wickets.

LOCAL SNIPPETS

SPORTS REPORTER

A brace each by Rashed and Ashiq helped Lalbagh Tarun Sangha trounce Ramjan Football Kishore Ekadash 7-0 in a west zone match of the Pioneer Football League at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

In south zone, Rubel fired twice in GBHB's 6-2 victory against Baden Powell SC at the Mohammadpur Ekadash ground while Gazipur Ekadash beat East Maniknagar Unnayan KC 4-1 in north zone at the Mohakhali T&T ground.

In east zone, Power Sun Gandaria drew 2-2 with East End Juniors at the Jagannath University ground in Dhupkhola while the other match between Adamjee KC and Titu Smriti Sangsad ended in a goalless draw.

The central zone match between Khilgaon Jubo Sangha and Lufar Rahman FA at the Basabo Tarun Sangha ground also ended in a draw.

**KARATE**  
Hosts Moulvibazar clinched the top slot with five gold, two silver and one bronze in the 3rd Samsung Sylhet Division Karate competition which concluded at the Moulvibazar Jana Milan Kendra on Saturday.

Sylhet finished a distant second with two gold, two silver and five bronze medals.

Deputy Commissioner of Moulvibazar Al Kamal Siddique distributed prizes as chief guest at the closing ceremony of the two-day meet.

General secretary of Bangladesh Karate Federation Moazzem Hossain Sentu and general secretary of Sylhet Divisional Sports Association Imran Chowdhury were present.

**RANGAMATI SOCCER**  
Kutukchhari Union emerged champions in the Rangamati Sadar Upazila Zone Commander Inter-union football tournament beating Moghban Union 3-0 in the final at the Rangamati Stadium on Saturday.

Shahid opened the account in the first half while Sujon scored two more goals in the second half to guide Kutukchhari to a comfortable victory.

Regional Commander of Rangamati Col Mostafa Ahmed Shaker distributed prizes as chief guest.

Six union teams of Rangamati Sadar upazila took part in the nine-day meet.

England stay same

Cricket

AFP, London

England selectors on Sunday named an unchanged 12-man squad for the final Test against New Zealand at Trent Bridge starting on Thursday.

Michael Vaughan's team have a 1-0 lead in the series after winning the second Test at Old Trafford last week by six wickets.

England's ability to fight back after conceding a 179-run first-innings deficit was enough to convince the selectors to retain the same squad when they assemble in Nottingham on Tuesday.

"We were delighted with the way the team fought back to win the second Test at Old Trafford and there were some excellent individual performances from Andrew Strauss and Monty Panesar which helped turn the game our way," explained national selector Geoff Miller.

"There are still areas in which we can improve on as a side. We are aware of the need to post bigger

first-innings totals on a more regular basis and that we have to bowl well as a unit in order to counter the strength of the New Zealand middle order.

"But overall we are pleased with the progress the team is making and have chosen the same group of players for this Test match."

"We have won three out of our last four Test Matches and we will be looking to win again at Trent Bridge and take that momentum into the Test series against South Africa later in the summer."

With Matthew Hoggard still recovering from a broken thumb, Hampshire seamer Chris Tremlett keeps his place in the squad.

Tremlett, who has not featured since the final Test of last summer

SQUAD  
Michael Vaughan (captain), Alastair Cook, Andrew Strauss, Kevin Pietersen, Ian Bell, Paul Collingwood, Tim Ambrose, Ryan Sidebottom, Stuart Broad, Monty Panesar, James Anderson, Chris Tremlett.

against India, could press his claims to play at Trent Bridge over the next week.

And Miller insisted that the positions of under-fire England batsmen Paul Collingwood and Ian Bell are not under threat.

"They're not under threat, we know what their qualities are and they're averaging big scores in Test cricket," Miller said.

"(England's form) is far from disastrous, we've just won three Tests out of four and we want to go on and win at Trent Bridge. It's vital to keep the momentum going for the future."

Epson bridge

SPORTS REPORTER

The worldwide Epson Pairs Bridge Championship will begin at the Bangladesh Bank Club on June 6.

Interested players are requested to register their names by 4:00pm on the same day with taka 300 per pair. Bangladesh Bridge Federation will organise the meet.

League race wide open

FROM PAGE 17

hit from the top of the box gave Usha keeper Shakil no chance.

At the other end, goalkender Kiran made an important save when he stopped Usha's Pakistani midfielder Tarik Aziz's push from a close range before Irfan made a goalline save.

Sabir had another great run but failed to beat the onrushing Shakil while Usha spoiled a great chance to equalise when Rajan fired the ball just over the bar before the break.

With Pakistani playmaker Akhter Ali having a day-off, Usha never dominated the midfield and the situation worsened as they committed a series of miss-passes near the 25-yard zone.

Masum squandered a chance early in the second half while Usha striker Habul's pass toward an unmarked Kamal was intercepted by Kiran before the old-Dhaka outfit levelled the score in the 57th minute.

Rajan set up the chance with a rising pass from the left and veteran Kamal, who will retire from domestic hockey next Friday, flicked the ball into the far corner.

Usha, a man down after Sohail was given a temporary marching order, lost possession to Sabir in the middle two minutes later and Abdus Sajjad John's darting and powerful long pass from the left flank was flicked in by Masum as Mohammed restored lead.

Masum was celebrating his hat-trick after a 64-minute penalty corner but the goal was disallowed before Shakil made a twin save, denying efforts by Rana Mohammed and Sabir.

Masum finally sealed the victory in the 68th minute with his third goal, this time tapping the ball into an empty net after Asim's angular pass from the left

beat the rival goalie. Kamal set Habul to reduce the arrears a minute later but it was too late for Usha, who even failed to win a single penalty corner throughout the 70 minutes due to inspired defending by Mohammed duo Issa Mia and Imran.

Tendulkar all

FROM PAGE 17

and money-centric. The veteran right-hander said despite playing the game for the past 19 years, he still gets child-like excited every time he steps out to bat in an international game, especially at his home ground -- the Wankhede.

"It's a special place. That is what I've dreamt of as a kid and then I'm living that dream and that's just fabulous. Every time I walk out, you hear the crowd going crazy, I mean it's just a special feeling."

Chance again

FROM PAGE 17

performance in the National League and the Premier League. However, I accepted it and mentally prepared to come back to the national side after playing good cricket with the A team," he explained.

But the question is how good his performance in the domestic circuit is, for which he deserved a place in the national side. Alok's average was just above 34 in the National and Premier Cricket League, which definitely does not look something special.

Alok agrees. "If one can manage 60 average in domestic competition then he would be able to make it 30 in international level," he admitted.

Djokovic cruise

FROM PAGE 17

Gubis admitted that he is surprised as by his progress in Paris but was happy to see his decision to skip the Rome and Hamburg Masters, in favour of practice, pay dividends.

"Going into Roland Garros, I didn't think the French Open would be where I'd have my best Grand Slam result," he said.

"But I practiced well for three weeks and worked on my physical condition and I changed some tactics."

Later Sunday, triple champion Rafael Nadal attempts to reach the quarterfinals when he faces Spanish compatriot and fellow left-hander Fernando Verdasco.

The winner will face either French wildcard Jeremy Chardy or Spain's Nicolas Pietrangolo for a place in the semifinals.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with a key and a message to be deciphered.

CRYPTOQUIP

QDXOSVD M ZHE MKT VEOMKV  
HK YF VYOWW HSEAHL  
ZLMWW, AHDV EJOE YOTD  
ME O QWHEXJF IMQOJX?  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A PHONY GOVERNMENT AGENT BECAME VERY CONGESTED, I BELIEVE HE COULD USE SOME PSEUDO-FED.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals L