



Cloud over T20 League



CRICINFO, undated

by early May every ICL player who had signed with a county side was free to play.

Counties are increasingly concerned that if they do as Modi demands and omit ICL players then they risk being sued. If they don't, Mod will block them from taking part. "If they ban the counties, about 15 out of 18 will be ineligible," Tom Sears, Derbyshire's chief executive, told The Guardian. "I can't see the ECB agreeing to a tournament on those terms."

The ECB appears to be caught in the crossfire -- keen to cooperate with Modi and the ICL but under increasing pressure from the counties. On Sunday Giles Clarke, the ECB chairman, insisted that the counties were aware of the board's position that ICL players may be banned from participating in the final. They counter that the ECB has failed to offer clear guidance at any stage of the process.

The chairman also want clarification over Modi's statement that ICL contracts take precedence over any others in the case of a player who represents more than one side involved in the tournament. Again, that contradicts what Cricinfo has been told, and it seems that it could all come down to a power struggle and Modi seeks to increase the ICL's control.

While the issue will not arise until the autumn, counties need to know that the side they pick in matches which start this week will be the one they can turn out later in the year should they qualify.

The outcome will not only give the counties an idea of where they stand and what they need to do, it will clarify just how powerful Modi and the Indian board are in terms of the global game.

A panoramic view of a portion of the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium adorned with fans during the India-Pakistan clash yesterday.

ANOTHER IPL SEASON Wessels will decide later



REUTERS, Buenos Aires

Kepler Wessels, the coach of the Chennai Super Kings who helped guide the team to the final of the inaugural Indian Premier League (IPL), has said he has not yet decided on committing to another season with the franchise.

Wessels said the stress and intensity of the 45-day tournament, during which his team played 16 Twenty20 matches across India, had prompted second thoughts about a second stint.

"They [the franchise] are satisfied with what we accomplished in the series but I have asked for a month's grace before I decide on the next tournament," Wessels told Rapport, an Afrikaans weekend paper.

Wessels is in charge of the South African second-string team for the Emerging Players tournament in Australia in July, also featuring squads from India, Australia and New Zealand, South Africa, led by Ahmed Amla, who won the title the past two seasons.

SA EMERGING PLAYERS

Ahmed Amla (captain), Yusuf Abdullah, Werner Coetse, Henry Davids, Cl de Villiers, Dean Elgar, Imraan Khan, Wayne Parnell, Daryl Smit, Blake Snijman, Thandi Tshabalala, Lonwabo Tsotsobe, Vaughan van Jaarsveld.

IPL salary cap to stay: Modi

CRICINFO, undated

Latit Modi, the Indian Premier League (IPL) commissioner, has insisted the 5-million-dollar salary cap on franchisees will remain in place for at least the next two years. Modi said in a statement that the players are legally bound by their three-year contract with franchises.

The three-year contractual clause was made public to both the franchisees and players prior to the auction (on February 20 this year) and the player's participation, he said. "All the players will abide by the terms and conditions laid down by the governing council and it is only up to the franchisee to trade players as and when the trading window opens next year."



Rigobert Song of Cameroon is the only player to have been red-carded in two different FIFA World Cups, against Brazil in 1994 and against Chile in 1958.

Riquelme, Veron recalled



REUTERS, Buenos Aires

thumped 3-0.

Veron's recall is a reward for his consistently strong performances for Estudiantes, where he pulls the strings in midfield.

The two were among five locally-based players added to the squad which faced Mexico and United States in friendlies last week. Argentina hammered Mexico 4-1 and were held 0-0 by the U.S.

Riquelme has not played for Argentina this year because of club commitments with Boca Juniors and was criticised for his performance last week when Boca were knocked out of the Libertadores Cup semifinals by Brazil's Fluminense.

Basile also called up Boca Juniors midfielder Sebastian Battaglia, striker Rodrigo Palacio and River Plate goalkeeper Juan Pablo Carrizo.

Argentina host Ecuador on Sunday and visit Brazil in Belo Horizonte three days later, having lost their previous three meetings against their arch-rivals by three-goal margins.

Basile's team have taken nine points from their opening four games in the South American qualifying group and are second, one point behind Paraguay.

SQUAD

Goalkeepers: Roberto

Abbondanzieri (Getafe), Oscar Ustari (Getafe), Juan Pablo Carrizo (River Plate)

Defenders: Gabriel Heinze (Real Madrid), Fabricio Coloccini (Deportivo Coruna), Pablo Zabaleta (Espanyol), Javier Zanetti (Inter Milan), Nicolas Burdisso (Inter Milan), Martin Demichelis (Bayern Munich)

Midfielders: Fernando Gago (Real Madrid), Maximiliano Rodriguez (Atletico Madrid), Gonzalo Rodriguez (Villarreal), Jonas Gutierrez (Real Mallorca), Ever Banega (Sevilla), Esteban Cambiasso (Inter Milan), Jose Sosa (Bayern Munich), Javier Mascherano (Liverpool), Juan Sebastian Veron (Estudiantes), Juan Roman Riquelme (Boca Juniors), Sebastian Battaglia (Boca Juniors)

Forwards: Sergio Aguero (Atletico Madrid), Lionel Messi (Barcelona), Julio Cruz (Inter Milan), Lisandro Lopez (Porto), Fernando Cavenaghi (Gironde Bordeaux), Rodrigo Palacio (Boca Juniors)

All about

FROM PAGE 17

4-231, 5-269, 6-271, 7-322, 8-324.
Bowler O M R W

Gul 10 0 61 3

Tanvir 9.4 0 57 1

Riaz 9.2 0 86 2

Iftikhar 10 0 63 0

Afridi 10 0 52 2

Younis 1 0 2 0

PAKISTAN

Butt e Rohit b Kumar 9

Akmal c Yusuf b Kumar 38

Younis c Dholi b Kumar 0

Yousuflbw b Kumar 11

Misbahul c Dholi b Ishant 24

Malik c Raina b Chawla 53

Afridi c Dholi b Chawla 23

Tanvir c b Chawla 6

Iftikhar not out 7

Riazlbw b Chawla 16

Yuvraj 0

Extras: (lb-3) 3

Total: (All out in 35.4 overs) 190

Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-14, 3-26, 4-

81, 5-94, 6-138, 7-156, 8-169, 9-180.

Bowler O M R W

Kumar 9 1 53 4

Ishant 6 0 28 1

IPathan 6 0 38 0

Chawla 8.4 0 40 4

Yuvraj 4 0 17 1

YPathan 2 0 11 0

Result: India won by 140 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Virender Sehwag.

Toss: India

Umpires: Asoka de Silva (SRD) and Enamul Haque (BAN)

TV umpire: AFM Akhtaruddin (BAN)

Match referee: Jeff Crowe (NZL)

Next match: India v Bangladesh (Thursday)

Perfect education for a player with such exceptional individual talent. There he has learned to enjoy his football as a complete professional.

"This means we would get a Cristiano who would arrive here with his lessons learned."

Ronaldo, who is under contract at Old Trafford until 2012, has continued to send out mixed messages about his future and has refused to state publicly that his future lies with United.

But he has said he will not comment on his future and has vowed not to discuss the subject further until after Euro 2008 in Austria and Switzerland, where he is representing his country.

A Real spokesperson said: "We know nothing of this matter at this time and we have no comment to make on the topic."

Bangalore want Jennings as coach?

CRICINFO, undated

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"The precise content and nature will remain confidential."

A FIFA spokesman said: "I can confirm that we have received an official request from Manchester United to look into the matter."

"We have only just received the documents so we need some time to analyse them before we can make any decision."

United manager Sir Alex Ferguson has slammed Real's public pursuit of Ronaldo and is adamant the player will not be leaving Old Trafford this summer.

Real coach Bernd Schuster has said that the winger, who scored 42 goals last season and was named Player of the Year by both the Professional Footballers' Association and the Football Writers' Association, was his club's number one summer transfer target.

Schuster said: "There are other players we have been looking at but everything has slowed down a little due to all this Cristiano Ronaldo business, seeing as he is the big priority for the club."

"The English way has been a

perfect education for a player with such exceptional individual talent. There he has learned to enjoy his football as a complete professional.

"This means we would get a Cristiano who would arrive here with his lessons learned."

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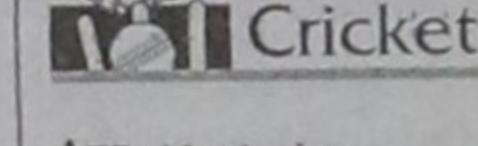
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Peter awaits tougher NZ



AFF, Nottingham

England coach Peter Moores expects New Zealand to be a far tougher proposition in the upcoming one-day series than they were in a lopsided Test campaign.

England cruised to a 2-0 Test series victory with an innings and nine run win, achieved with more than a day to spare, at Trent Bridge here Sunday -- a result that was ahead of Friday's one-off Twenty20

cup games as a warm-up for the Old Trafford fixture.

They also won both Twenty20 internationals that follow should see the Black Caps at their best.

New Zealand beat England 3-1 in a one-day series on home soil in February and are ranked third in the world in the 50 over game.

Last year they reached the semi-finals of the World Cup in the Caribbean after beating England in the pool phase.

And on their previous tour of England, four years ago, New Zealand won a triangular one-day series also featuring the West Indies.

"I think they'll come really hard at us in the one-dayers because they pride themselves on being a good one-day side," said Moores.

"They've played well away from home in the past and they'll really want to try to bounce back and it will be quite tough."

"As a one-day side we're still

finding out some roles and settling a bit as a team, so we've got plenty to concentrate on and we're going to have to play very well to win the one-day series."

All the members of England's one-day squad, except the Nottinghamshire trio of Stuart Broad, Ryan Sidebottom and Graeme Swann, whose team do not have a match, have been released to play for their counties in Wednesday's domestic Twenty20 Cup games as a warm-up for the Old Trafford fixture.

New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori, whose squad will be boosted by the inclusion of all-rounder Scott Styris, now a one-day specialist, also expects a marked improvement from the Black Caps in the limited overs format.

"We're a lot more confident in that form, maybe because it's shorter and we don't have to perform for very long periods," Vettori said.

But the left-arm spinner added: "We know we have to pick it up though, because England do have the momentum. Their squad doesn't change much and neither does ours."

New Zealand will prepare for the Twenty20 clash with a one-day warm-up game against Worcestershire at New Road on Wednesday.

Vettori's side could find themselves facing fast bowler Simon Jones, one of the stars of England's 2005 Ashes series.

The former Glamorgan quick is currently on his way back from a succession of injuries and has taken 13 wickets in his last two County Championship matches.

However, it has become increasingly common for counties to rest their leading players for what are frequently regarded as 'meaningless' matches against touring teams.

Pioneer League

SPORTS REPORTER</div