

# Morkel destroys Aussies

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

JP Duminy and Neil McKenzie set up South Africa's sixth win from six ODIs against Australia at the MCG before Albie Morkel finished the job with a magnificent unbeaten 40 from 18 balls. The loss of Morkel and Duminy left South Africa in big trouble, as they needed 50 from six overs with three wickets in hand, but Morkel and Johan Botha used the batting PowerPlay to perfection to get them home with three balls to spare.

The PowerPlay was taken at the start of the 45th over and Morkel used it to destroy Australia, particularly Ben Hilfenhaus, with four fours and a six. They picked up 51 from the PowerPlay and it was a frenetic end to a chase that had meandered through the middle overs, when Duminy showed more self-control than some Trappist monks, as he compiled 71 without a boundary.

He nudged and guided while Ricky Ponting relied on the medium and slow offerings of James Hopes, David Hussey and Michael Clarke through the middle overs, yet somehow he maintained a healthy strike-rate of 76.34. Duminy was pumping out singles like a record label, producing 44 such hits as he registered the sixth highest ODI score not to feature a four or six.

When he finally fell, clipping Nathan Bracken's offcut to midwicket, it looked like for the third time this week Duminy's efforts would go in vain. That was especially so when McKenzie also fell for 63, having put forward his one-day credentials after a five-year absence. Their 123-run stand for the fourth wicket had taken a slightly shaky beginning -- they came together at 3 for 90 -- and turned it into a solid platform.

McKenzie, who last turned out in an ODI in Rawalpindi in October 2003, came in at No. 5 and showed the sort of intent that was severely lacking during his Test innings this season. He struck six boundaries, including a pair of consecutive fours over midwicket off David Hussey.

South Africa's chase had started poorly when Shaun Tait proved far too quick for Hashim Amla in the second over. Amla tried to leave Tait's second delivery but the ball rushed onto him faster than expected and he couldn't get the bat out of the way, playing on to leave South Africa at 1 for 4. The loss of Herschelle Gibbs and Jacques Kallis after they made starts was frustrating, but had South Africa fallen short they would have more regretted their below-par fielding effort.

Vaughn van Jaarsveld's debut was an inauspicious affair as he dropped both David Hussey and Ponting, while a series of missed run-out opportunities also proved costly. The most frustrating occasion was when van Jaarsveld fluffed two chances from one delivery. Ponting was on 33 when he clipped Kallis to square leg, where van Jaarsveld spilled a gettable chance above his head and then missed with his attempt to hit the stumps

from side on with Marsh haring through for a single.

Ponting was fluent but only added 13 to his score, but Shaun Marsh's 79 meant it was an expensive delivery. Amid the entire hullabaloo over David Warner during the past week, his Twenty20 opening partner Marsh had been all but forgotten. Marsh posted his third half-century from his past four ODI innings and it came at the right time for a man who had been struggling at domestic level.

He was scratchy early but gained confidence with some punchy straight drives, before slowly starting to show glimpses of the man who took the IPL by storm last year. His half-century came from 66 deliveries and there were a couple of crowd-pleasing strikes -- a six over long off from Botha was the most popular -- but much of his scoring came from nudged ones and twos.

Marsh had been one of several beneficiaries of the

failed run-out attempts and one of them could have brought an embarrassing end to his innings: Ponting pushed to Botha at mid-off and an accurate throw to the striker's end would have had a lazy Marsh caught short, seemingly unaware the ball was coming his way.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the first one-day international between Australia and South Africa at Melbourne Cricket Ground on Friday:

**AUSTRALIA**  
Marsh c Boucher b Morkel 79  
Hussey c Boucher b Steyn 6  
Ponting c Boucher b Botha 46  
Clarke c Amla b A Morkel 19  
Hussey b A Morkel 52  
White b Botha 21  
Haddin run out (A Morkel) 19  
Hopes c Van Jaarsveld b Morkel 2  
Bracken not out 12  
Hilfenhaus not out 1  
Extras: (b-2, lb-3, w-9) 14  
Total: (For 7 wks in 50 overs) 271  
Did not bat: Tait.

Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-102, 3-146, 4-174, 5-223, 6-231, 7-254, 8-259.

**Bowler O M R W**  
Steyn 10 2 49 1  
A Morkel 9 0 58 2  
Kallis 10 0 35 0  
M Morkel 10 0 68 2  
Botha 10 0 50 2  
Duminy 1 0 6 0

**SOUTH AFRICA**  
Gibbs b Hilfenhaus 22  
Amla b Tait 1  
Kallis b Clarke 41  
Duminy c White b Bracken 71  
McKenzie c Ponting 63  
b Hilfenhaus 63  
Boucher b Tait 0  
Van Jaarsveld run out (Ponting) 4  
A Morkel not out 40  
Botha not out 12  
Extras: (lb-10, w-8) 18  
Total: (For 7 wks in 49.3 overs) 272  
Did not bat: Steyn, M Morkel.  
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-36, 3-90, 4-213, 5-215, 6-219, 7-221.

**Bowler O M R W**  
Bracken 10 2 49 1  
Tait 10 0 43 2  
Hilfenhaus 9.3 1 55 2  
Hopes 10 0 51 0  
Hussey 5 0 35 0  
Clarke 5 0 29 1  
Result: South Africa won by 3 wickets.  
Man-of-the-match: A Morkel.  
Toss: Australia.  
Umpires: IJ Gould (England) and BNJ Oxenford  
Match referee: RS Madugalle (Sri Lanka)



South Africa's Albie Morkel drives off the backfoot during the first ODI against Australia at MCG yesterday.

# Delhi owes me money: Asif

INTERNET, undated

Pakistan fast bowler Mohammad Asif claims he is owed money by the Delhi Daredevils in the Indian Premier League and will leave for India on Thursday to try and resolve the issue.

"I will be meeting with Delhi Daredevils officials because some of my dues were not paid," Asif told The Associated Press.

Asif represented the Daredevils in the inaugural IPL last year before he became embroiled in two drugs controversies.

Asif was first detained at Dubai Airport for 19 days after 0.24 grams of opium were found in his wallet, and he later acknowledged using the drug in Pakistan four months before he visited the United Arab Emirates.

He then tested positive for the steroid nandrolone while competing in the IPL.

However, the fast bowler appealed his ban at an IPL drug tribunal and his next hearing is due on January 24 in Mumbai, India.

# Graceful in defeat

FROM PAGE 17  
his another spin option in Mahmudullah Riyad but Ashrafal found no reason to bring the off-spinner into the attack.

"All the bowlers bowled very well so there was no scope for me to try Riyad in any stage," he said.

Ashrafal was understandably disappointed by the outcome as they lost another chance to rewrite the history. The Tigers hardly have the reputation that they can play good cricket against big opponents on the trot but they proved it wrong in the tournament after the way they fought back following a 38-run defeat in the first match against Zimbabwe.

"We are really frustrated. It's true that it could not be possible to win a match after making only 152 runs but we started to believe once Shakib (Al Hasan) brilliantly caused the damage in the very first ball with a run out. And then our bowlers did an excellent job and the fielding was also brilliant but in the end we could not make it," said a frustrated Ashrafal.

He was not ready to accept that inexperience played any

part in their defeat but man-of-the-series Shakib admitted that they had hardly any experience to go through in such situations.

"We don't face such a situation so often, so we might have been nervous. Actually Murali made the difference and I think people will remember Murali as a batsman in the series because he was not a threat too much as ranked," said Shakib, who was ranked the best spinner of the season by the ICC.

Like his captain, the all-rounder also believed that people only remember victories.

"Nobody will remember how good my performance was as we lost the match," he said adding that they have learned a lot from this game.

Both Bangladesh captain and the best performer in the tournament may have uttered this out of frustration but without any doubt, it was a match for any cricket lover to remember for life.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the triangular one-day series final between Bangladesh and Sri Lanka at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur on Friday:

**BANGLADESH**  
Tamim c Sangakkara b Kulasekara 18  
Zunaed c Sangakkara b Kulasekara 1  
Mushfiqur b Kulasekara 4  
Ashrafal c Sangakkara b Maharooof 13  
Shakib c Sangakkara b Thushara 9  
Rokibul not out 43  
Mahmudullah b Muralidaran 26  
Nayem c Mubarak b Mendis 21  
Mashrafe c Kapugedera b Mendis 0  
Nazmul lbw b Muralidaran 0  
Rubel c Kapugedera b Mendis 0  
Extras: (b-4, lb-2, nb-1, w-10) 17  
Total: (All out in 49 overs) 152  
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-12, 3-34, 4-42, 5-54, 6-98, 7-151, 8-151, 9-151, 10-152.

**Bowler O M R W**  
Kulasekara 8 1 19 3  
Thushara 7 2 20 1  
Maharooof 8 0 33 1  
Mendis 9.4 0 24 3  
Muralidaran 10 1 33 2  
Jayasuriya 7 1 17 0

**SRI LANKA**  
Tharanga c Mushfiqur b Nazmul 2  
Jayasuriya run out 0  
Sangakkara c & b Shakib 59  
M Jayawardene c Mushfiqur b Nazmul 0  
Kapugedera c Zunaed b Mashrafe 1  
Thushara b Nazmul 16  
Mubarak run out 38  
Maharooof not out 3  
Kulasekara b Shakib 30  
Muralidaran not out 3  
Extras: (lb-2, w-1) 3  
Total: (For eight wks in 48.1 overs) 153  
Did not bat: Mendis  
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-4, 3-4, 4-5, 5-6, 6-51, 7-114, 8-114.

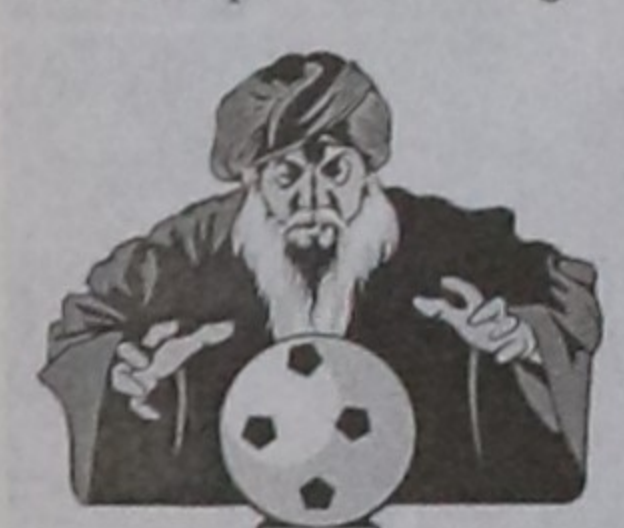
**Bowler O M R W**  
Mashrafe 10 1 18 1  
Nazmul 10 3 30 3  
Shakib 10 2 22 2  
Rubel 9 2 52 0  
Nayem 9.1 2 29 0  
Result: Sri Lanka won by 2 wickets.

**Man-of-the-match: Kumar Sangakkara.**  
**Man-of-the-series: Shakib Al Hasan.**  
**Toss: Sri Lanka**  
**Umpires: Billy Doctrove (WIS) and Enamul Haque (BAN)**  
**TV umpire: Sharafudoulla Shahid (BAN)**  
**Match referee: Alan Hurst (AUS)**

# Ctg Abahani

FROM PAGE 17  
the Chittagong goal made outstanding saves to deny Idris Kaseryi, the Ugandan striker who is the second highest scorer of the league with 12 goals.

Idris made a first-time flick from seven yards in the 39th minute but Thuan stretched to left to pull off the ball from the line and two minutes from time, the young custodian brilliantly held Idris's powerful drive from point-blank range.



# Did U Know?

Going swimming is very relaxing and has been compared to yoga and meditation in terms of its soothing effect on the mind and body.

# Mumbai claim Ranji crown

AFP, Hyderabad

Sachin Tendulkar-inspired Mumbai won India's premier first-class tournament for the Ranji Trophy on Friday, thrashing Uttar Pradesh by 243 runs in the five-day final here.

Tendulkar, the world's leading run-getter in both Test and one-day cricket, made a rare domestic appearance in the semifinal and final following the cancellation of India's tour of Pakistan in the wake of the Mumbai terror attacks.

Tendulkar scored a century against Saurashtra in the semifinal, but managed only zero and four in the final at the Rajiv Gandhi stadium in this southern city.

Mumbai rode on a century in each innings by Rohit Sharma and a seven-wicket haul in the first innings by Test star Zaheer Khan to win the Ranji Trophy for the 38th time in the 75-year history of the tournament.

Uttar Pradesh, captained by former Test batsman Mohammad Kaif, had also lost last year's final to Virender Sehwag's Delhi.

# SLC announces India schedule

AFP, Colombo

India will arrive in Sri Lanka on January 26 to play a hastily-arranged series of five one-day matches and a Twenty20 international, Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) said on Friday.

The first two one-dayers will be played in the central town of Dambulla on Jan 28 and 30, while the remaining three games will be held in Colombo on February 2, 5 and 8.

The Twenty20 international is to be played in Colombo on Feb 10, according to an SLC media release.

All matches will be played under lights apart from the fifth one-dayer on Feb 8, the release said.

The series was finalised to partly fill the gap created by India's cancelled tour of Pakistan in January-February following the Mumbai terror attacks in November.

India last toured Sri Lanka in July-August of 2008, losing the Tests 2-1 before winning the one-day series 3-2.

### SCHEDULE

Jan 28: First one-dayer, Dambulla  
Jan 30: Second one-dayer, Dambulla  
Feb 2: Third one-dayer, Premadasa Stadium, Colombo  
Feb 5: Fourth one-dayer, Premadasa Stadium, Colombo  
Feb 8: Fifth one-dayer, Sinhalese Sports Club, Colombo  
Feb 10: Twenty20 international, Premadasa Stadium, Colombo

# Saif, Siam lead jointly

SPORTS REPORTER

Holder Abdullah Al Saif shared the lead with Ikrumul Haque Siam in the 29th National Sub-Junior Chess Championships table with five points after yesterday's fifth round at the BCF hall-room.

Saif beat Sharietullah and Siam defeated Ahely Sarker to open a half-a-point gap with Shahidul Alam Abir and Papel.

In other matches, Abir beat Zoar Haque Pradhan and Papel beat Tanzina Akhter Tani.

# Lord's spaceship designer dies

CRICINFO, undated

Jan Kaplický, the Czech architect who designed the futuristic media centre at Lord's, has died aged 71.

What started out as a hugely controversial project at the most venerated cricket ground in the world has long since been accepted as a stunning addition to the venue's varied architectural styles.

Kaplický's eclectic style also realised the iceberg-shaped Selfridges department store in Birmingham, as well as a host of unbuilt ideas including, according to his obituary in the Guardian, a phallic pink skyscraper, twice as high as New York's World Trade Centre.

Few could have imagined that the traditionally-minded MCC could have got involved with such a radical thinker, but nevertheless, they commissioned his company, Future Systems, to design and build the spaceship-shaped media centre in time for the 1999 World Cup.

# Sehwag, Steyn awarded Shakib best spinner

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Virender Sehwag's match-winning 201 not out against Sri Lanka, and Dale Steyn's 5 for 67 at the MCG, which helped South Africa win a series in Australia for the first time, have been voted the best Test performances of 2008 by the Cricinfo jury. Sehwag's double-hundred won the prize for the Test Batting Performance of the year by a whisker from Graeme Smith's series-winning 154 not out against England at Edgbaston.

Bangladesh left-arm spinner Shakib Al Hasan took the best Test spinner award. Ajantha Mendis, with 26 wickets, missed the cut-off, which gave Bangladesh's Shakib a chance to grab the prize.

Shakib had an amazing year, taking 30 wickets in eight Tests at 25.76, slightly ahead of Muralidaran's 33 at 26.12. The Magura lad took five-fours against New Zealand, South Africa and Sri Lanka during the latter part of 2008.

The winning ODI performances both came from the same match, the Asia Cup final between Sri Lanka and India: Sanath Jayasuriya's 125 off 114 balls and Mendis's 66 for 13.

"It was a breathtaking double-century and it came against a remarkable spin attack," Tony Greig, one of the members of the jury that voted on the awards, said of Sehwag's innings. "Sehwag is, and will be for a while, the most dangerous batsman in world cricket."

The rest of the jury comprised Ian Chappell, Sanjay Manjrekar, David Lloyd, Ramiz Raja, Daryll Cullinan, and five of Cricinfo's senior editors.

The lists of nominees, announced in the first

week of this year, were compiled by Cricinfo's global staff. The winners were selected on the basis of a ranking of the performances by the jury, with the players who fetched the most points winning the respective awards. Smith's Edgbaston effort, a favourite, lost out by a single point.

Mendis has been hailed as one of the most exciting new talents in the game, and his win underlines his growing reputation. "Players like him are difficult to find. He is great for the game and we all want his magic to last," Raja said.

Sachin Tendulkar missed out on the jury awards, but he was clearly the favourite with Cricinfo's readers, winning in the Test and ODI batting categories in the Readers' Choice segment of the awards. Tendulkar's match-winning 103 not out in Chennai against England was voted the best Test innings, while his unbeaten 117 against Australia in the first final of the CB Series won the ODI title. The readers agreed with the jury in the bowling awards, though, with Steyn and Mendis taking the prize for Tests and ODIs.

Sehwag also won a number of titles in the Statsguru Awards, which are based on detailed data analyses of the year's performances. In both Tests and ODIs he was the batsman with the highest strike-rate in the year, and the one with the highest boundary percentage. Shivnarine Chanderpaul was the other big winner in the Statsguru Awards, taking the titles for Batsman of the Year, Most Consistent Batsman in Tests, and the one for highest percentage of team runs scored by a single batsman in Tests.

This is the second edition of the Cricinfo Awards. Last year's winners were Kumar Sangakkara and Zaheer Khan in Tests and Adam Gilchrist and Lasith Malinga in ODIs.

# Critics slam itinerary

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

India's schedule for next month's New Zealand series, announced Thursday, has raised questions over the lack of any practice match through the 48-day tour. An extra Test was included in the revised schedule -- comprising three Tests, five ODIs and two Twenty20 matches -- in place of the practice game that was originally scheduled, leaving no opportunity for India to acclimatise to unfamiliar conditions.

Former India captains Dilip Vengsarkar, the previous chief selector, and Bishan Bedi, who was manager of the team that lost the 1990 series in New Zealand, criticised an itinerary that will not allow the team to acclimatise to the conditions -- cold, windy and conducive to swing bowling, and vastly different from those in the subcontinent, where the team played for most of last year -- in a match situation.

"It is very important to play not one but at least two practice games to acclimatise to the conditions and the pitches because it takes time to settle," Vengsarkar said. "Practice is different compared to spending time in the middle. In New Zealand, the weather conditions and pitches are different to what we experience here. The ball moves around a lot, the pitch is spongy and you take time to adjust to that. The Test players could have done with at least a two-day practice game."

Bedi said the current schedule presented a no-win situation for India. "A practice game is meant for the visiting team to get familiar with the local conditions before the real contest," he said. "So, it (scrapping the practice game) is not a very healthy development. New Zealand is very much like England, and it is very cold. Going from the comparatively dry weather in India to New Zealand is always difficult. It is a no-win situation for India. If they do well, it will be deemed as expected, and if they don't, it will be said that they are not professionals."

Sanjay Bangar, a member of the Indian team that lost both Tests on their last tour of New Zealand, in 2002-03, said the players, particularly the Test specialists, needed more time to adapt to the extreme conditions there. "The last time, the conditions were pretty extreme and I guess they

will be similar this time too," he said. "The Test-only players will need more time to adapt."

Lalchand Rajput, who was coach of the Indian team in Australia last season, said a similar lack of match practice during the 2007-08 series, after rain marred the team's only three-day warm-up game, contributed to the 337-run defeat in the first Test in Melbourne.

"Not even one full day's play was possible (India batted for 48 overs against Victoria) and that had a role in our subsequent defeat in the first Test," Rajput said. "The practice game allows you to get used to the prevailing conditions as quickly as possible and to do that, you require at least one or two games."

Ratnakar Shetty, the BCCI's chief administrative officer though, said due diligence had been carried out before the schedule was finalised. Asked whether the players were consulted on the schedule, he said: "We looked at all issues before finalising the itinerary."

New Zealand Cricket (NZC) said it was committed to providing the best practice facilities for the Indian team, especially the Test players, under the supervision of John Wright, the former India coach. Justin Vaughan, the NZC chief executive, said the extra Twenty20 game was added after a request from the New Zealand side.

"I spoke to the BCCI and made a very strong commitment that we will provide, particularly for the Test-only players, the very best practice opportunities in New Zealand," Vaughan said. "John Wright, the former Indian coach, who now works with NZC, will take the responsibility to make sure that the players get adequate practice arrangements."

India played one practice match in Sri Lanka last year, one in Australia before the Melbourne defeat, and two in England a few months before that. In fact, the only away bilateral series in the recent past in which India did not play a warm-up game, was in Bangladesh in 2007.

The original New Zealand tour schedule did have a practice match but that was later scrapped to accommodate an extra Test on a request from the BCCI after it was forced to cancel its January tour to Pakistan following a government directive.

India have not won a Test in New Zealand in over three decades, and apart from the loss in the Test series last time, they were beaten 2-5 in the ODIs.

# Hard lessons for all 'ICC has no regard for greats'

PTI, New Delhi

Appalled at the International Cricket Council's all-time greats' list, the legendary Kapil Dev Friday said the ratings made a mockery of players like Sunil Gavaskar and Sachin Tendulkar who "served the game with unmatched devotion".

"I am appalled at the International Cricket Council's methods of devising the best batsman and the best bowler. It is all the more disappointing when I see that the names of Sunil Gavaskar and Sachin Tendulkar do not figure on the top," Kapil told PTI.

"The ICC has mocked at the greatness of those who served the game with unmatched devotion. When batsmen like Gavaskar, Tendulkar and (Rahul) Dravid and bowlers like (Dennis) Lillee and (Wasim) Akram languish at the bottom there must be something seriously wrong with the judgment."

"It is similar to the Duckworth-Lewis, who came up with a device that only they understand," he added.

The ICC came out with its list of all-time greats of the game with Matthew Hayden at 10th and 18th places in the Tests and ODIs list while Tendulkar and Gavaskar languished at lower rungs.

any secret".

"It was a case of just batting and trying to get as close to the score as possible. We rarely see that sort of collapse in our batting line up because we have some of the best batsmen in world cricket today but you get off-days and when that happens, other guys who take start must get the job done. Finally, who scores the runs doesn't matter," Sangakkara opined.

Sangakkara had a rather quiet tour with the bat but he is prepared to take things as it come.

"You get a couple of good balls, that's way cricket goes. I think the key is to fight it out, bat for a long time and make a good innings of it. Hopefully that innings would be in a game that we won."

"But today, I believe Murali should have been man of the match without doubt. He was amazing, fantastic. He changed the entire game, Bangladesh just came back with two wickets but he scored 30 odd runs off just two overs and we won. Not just his bowling, he has now won us a game with his batting."

Sri Lanka will definitely start soul searching as Sangakkara admits: "We had to fight the whole tournament. These were games we should have won a lot convincingly. It was hard lessons for both sides. In the end our experience made the difference."