

SA finish seventh

England, Pakistan & India win

CRICINFO, *undated*

South Africa crushed Sri Lanka by nine wickets to take seventh place in a battle between the two teams without a win in the ICC Women's World Cup at the North Sydney Oval yesterday. Only two Lankan batswomen made it to double-digits as their side folded for 75, a total South Africa sauntered past with more than 21 overs to spare.

After choosing to bat, Sri Lanka were tied down by the South African new-ball bowlers. Opener Chamari Polgamola was bowled in the first over, and only 18 runs came off the next 11. Charline van der Westhuizen then struck twice in successive overs, before a run-out and a wicket for Alicia Smith left Sri Lanka reeling at 35 for 5. Suwini de Alwis resisted with a 24 but fifteen-year-old leg-spinner Dane van Niekerk's blows and some more poor running from Sri Lanka meant South Africa had a modest target to chase.

There was an early hiccup for South Africa when opener Yolandi van der Westhuizen was bowled for a duck. However Trisha Chetty and Creda Brits, South Africa's highest run-getters in the tournament, put on an unbroken 72-run stand to end their side's run of eight games without a win.

South Africa had finished in seventh place in the 2005 World Cup as well, and Sri Lanka had been sixth.

Meanwhile at the Drummoyne Oval in Sydney, a brisk 43 from Armaan Khan helped Pakistan (134 for 6) prevail over West Indies (132 for 9) in a low-scoring Super Six encounter by four wickets. In a match in which almost everyone else struggled to score fluently, Armaan slammed two sixes and three fours in a 48-ball innings to

guide Pakistan to the target with 2.1 overs to spare.

Pakistan's chase was halted at the 30-over mark -- they had plodded to 55 for 5 before Armaan and captain Urooj Mumtaz cobbled together a 61-run stand to revive their team's chances. The final touches were provided by Qanita Jaffi, who hit a 13-ball 15.

Left-arm medium-fast bowler Almas Akram had sparked a collapse earlier in the match when West Indies were sent in. She dismissed Pamela Lavine, Cordel Jack and Stacy-An King in quick succession to leave the opposition reeling at 24 for 4, and finished with impressive figures of 3 for 7 in seven overs.

Opener Stafanie Taylor top scored with a measured 55, but with only one other batsman making it past 12, West Indies could only muster an inadequate 132.

Pakistan's next match will be against Australia on Monday, while West Indies have a tough game against an in-form England on Tuesday.

During the second World War, a secret bunker in Bankstown was used as the base for Australia's air-force operations. At the nearby Bankstown Oval on Saturday, Charlotte Edwards' England (201 for 5) forced New Zealand (170) to take shelter as they charged to a 31-run victory and further towards the final.

The sides had headed into the first round of the Super Sixes unbeaten, and so began the process of wresting the momentum from each other. It was a display replete with quality in all disciplines for each team, but ultimately England held the hard edge, and all seven catches.

Still, it was the England batsmen who had to batten down the hatches in the early stages, when they were in trouble on 4 for 96, on a true pitch under a golden sun.

Australia's defence of the World Cup is virtually over after they were out-played by

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