

## Smith to have elbow surgery

CRICINFO, undated

South African captain Graeme Smith will finally undergo surgery on his injured tennis elbow, after putting it off for months owing to South Africa's busy schedule. Smith will be out of action for 10 to 12 weeks but fortunately for him, South Africa do not have any international commitments in that period.

"I have left it too long, and it is now time to have the problem solved," Smith told Cricket365 after returning home from the ICC World Twenty20. "I will be out of action for 10 to 12 weeks, and should be fit again in time for the ICC Champions Trophy in South Africa in September."

Smith has had long-standing injury problems over the last 12 months. He first suffered the tennis elbow injury during the Indian Premier League in India last April and that forced him to miss the last three ODIs against England in August. He later broke his hand while facing Australia's Mitchell Johnson in the third Test in Sydney but he bravely batted in the second innings to try and save the game. He missed the subsequent ODI series and decided to delay the surgery till after the return series against Australians at home.

Smith had yet another encounter with Johnson during the Durban Test where he fractured his right hand. He missed the following Test but regained fitness for the one-dayers. South Africa's next assignment is the Champions Trophy at home.

Smith was exited about the upcoming South African Cricket Awards, for which he has been nominated for SA cricketer-of-the-year, Test player-of-the-year, and SA Players player-of-the-year.

"Well, it feels fantastic. When I first started here, there wasn't a proper rewards system and this is a great way for us to end the season," he said. "It's great to end off our most successful season with the awards. It's been such a great year for us and I'm so privileged to lead such a talented bunch of guys and me, as captain as well as their teammate, I'm honoured to be nominated three times over."

## T20 still young

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intends to help children suffering from rare diseases.

Talking to the media, Waugh admitted that presently no team was dominating in Test cricket presently and he did not see any side scoring 16 successive victories in another two years.

"It's very hard to dominate whether in sports, business or any endeavour. It takes a lot of skill and innovation to stay ahead. We have done very well and I think Australia are still pretty close to the best Test side in the world, though India and South Africa are there."

## Leave past

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Super Eights match against Sri Lanka, but made the semifinals after winning the remaining games against New Zealand and Ireland.

They booked their path to the Lord's final with a seven-run win over favourites South Africa at Trent Bridge on Thursday.

"It has been a team effort all the way," said Alam. "It is important to perform as a team and peak at the right time and we have done both."

"Younus Khan has been a very good captain and inspires others by personal example. Some others like Umar Gul and Shahid Afridi have also stood out, but the team has performed as a whole."

Gul, who claimed the first ever five-wicket haul in T20 internationals in the match against New Zealand, and off-spinner Saeed Ajmal are the tournament's joint leaders with 12 wickets each, the same as Sri Lankans Lasith Malinga and Ajantha Mendis.

Afridi powered Pakistan into the final with a half-century and two wickets against South Africa.



## Did U Know?

Welshman Billy Meredith played in an FA Cup semifinal when he was 49 years old.

## Afridi wants to be third time lucky

AFP, London



Shahid Afridi is desperate not to end up on the losing side for the third time in a row when he turns out for Pakistan in the World Twenty20 final at Lord's on Sunday.

Afridi still remembers the hurt he felt as a teenager 10 years ago when his team was mauled by Steve Waugh's all-conquering Australia in the World Cup final at the same venue in 1999.

The pain returned two years ago when India won the inaugural World Twenty20 title with a five-run win over Pakistan in the final in Johannesburg, even though Afridi was named the most valuable player-of-the-tournament.

The powerful all-rounder, 29, says he will not tolerate another failure.

"We have to win this one," said Afridi after leading Pakistan into the final with an attacking half-century and two top-order wickets in one over in the semifinal against South Africa at Trent Bridge on Thursday.

"I want to do it on my own if I could. This is our best chance to make up for the disappointment of the past," he said.

Afridi's 34-ball 51 against South Africa was his first half-century in 29 innings for Pakistan in any form of cricket. The one prior to that was 17 innings ago against Sri Lanka in Abu Dhabi in 2007.

Neither Pakistan nor he can afford to be unlucky a third time.

## Terrorism will lose

AFP, Karachi



Pakistan and Sri Lanka playing in the World Twenty20 final on Sunday will send a strong message to the world that cricket cannot be brought down by terrorism, former Pakistan captain Ramiz Raja said.

A militant attack on the Sri Lankan cricket team in Lahore on March 3 ended Pakistan's chances of hosting any international matches in the near future following earlier concerns about security.

Seven Sri Lanka players and their assistant coach were injured and eight Pakistanis were killed in the brazen attack. The Pakistan team escaped the incident by a mere five minute.

"It [Pakistan and Sri Lanka playing in the final] definitely is a message to the world that unfortunate circumstances can't pull them down, cricket will survive and has survived terrorism," Raja told AFP.

Raja, now a television commentator, said cricket was a passion in both countries.

"It is great news for the people of both the countries who have been hit by terrorism and that passion will not dwindle in adversity," said Raja.

"I would also want both the captains Younus [Khan] and [Kumar] Sangakkara to make strong comments before and after the match."

"There should also be a message to the cricket world that don't take Pakistan for granted and help live cricket in this country. Our cricket has suffered because of unfortunate circumstances."

## Bond ready to return

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Shane Bond has made himself available for New Zealand selection after cutting ties with the Indian Cricket League (ICL). Bond has not played for his country in 18 months, since joining the unofficial Twenty20 tournament, but told local media that he was fully fit and ready to go.

"I love Test cricket, it's the pinnacle, and it would be nice to have another chance to play," Bond told NZPA on Friday. "I'm available if they [NZC] want me."

Earlier this month NZC chief executive Justin Vaughan told the Sunday Star-Times he had received documentation from the legal representatives of Bond, Daryl Tuffey and Craig McMillan indicating they had cut ties with the ICL. New Zealand are due to tour Sri Lanka in August-September - the A team is expected to visit India around the same time - and Bond, 34,

has expressed his keenness to tour.

"I've spoken to [selection panel manager] Glenn Turner and said I'm available to be picked but I expect to be picked on merit, like everyone else," said Bond. "I hope that through my domestic cricket [for Canterbury last summer] it perhaps put me into consideration for an A tour. If it didn't then I'd try and do my time in first-class cricket and get back that way. But I've got to get cricket behind me and prove I can still perform."

"He's obviously had a rethink, now we have to see if the body will stand up to it. Time will tell," said Turner. "If he can produce the goods, that's great."

Bond performed strongly in last season's domestic tournaments, taking 19 wickets at 23.5 in the State Shield and 11 at 14.3 in the Twenty20. "I still felt I was the fastest bowler going around, but I wasn't in the best condition and have made a real concerted effort to pick my fitness up," he said. "I wanted to see if I still had it in me to do the training required, and was pleasantly surprised and feel rejuvenated."

for Dilshan. He is a pioneer stroke-maker in Twenty20.

"The best thing is that he understands his role and has become very responsible and mature. He has finally understood how good he is."

And as for Mathews, the captain said: "It's Mathews's first major international tour and you can't ask for much more than three wickets in the first over."

"Now we will take this confidence into the final against Pakistan."

Pakistan, who lost by just five runs to arch-rivals India in the inaugural 2007 World Twenty20 final in Johannesburg, are desperate to go one better this time.

The dark horses of this tournament, they have justified veteran coach Intikhab Alam's belief that they would be at their best when it mattered most.

"We want to make people back home happy," Pakistan explained.

## Rising from tragedy

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The West Indies' reply, which saw seam bowler Angelo Mathews take three wickets as Xavier Marshall, Lendl Simmons and Dwayne Bravo all played on for ducks.

Chris Gayle made 63 not out but none of the West Indies' captain's colleagues could stay with the left-handed opener long enough to mount a serious chase as Sri Lanka won with 14 balls to spare.

Dilshan decided not to employ the 'Dilscoop' shot where he flicks the ball over the wicketkeeper's head and settled for more orthodox strokes.

"Now we've one more match, hopefully I can stay strong. I think I'll keep the paddle for the final," Dilshan explained.

Sangakkara, who said he expected something special from veteran batsman Sanath Jayasuriya in the final, added: "I have run out of superlatives

captain Younus Khan said. "Winning the title will mean a lot to them and that will inspire us in the final. One more game and the World Cup will be ours."

West Indies captain Chris Gayle said: "You couldn't ask for a better final, they are two quality teams."

## TEAMS

PAKISTAN (probable): Kamran Akmal, Shahzaib Hasan, Shahid Afridi, Shoib Malik, Younus Khan (captain), Abdul Razzaq, Misbahul Haq, Saeed Ajmal, Fawad Alam, Mohammad Aamir, Umar Gul.

SRI LANKA (probable): Tillekaratne Dilshan, Sanath Jayasuriya, Kumar Sangakkara (captain), Mahela Jayawardene, Chamara Silva, Jehan Mubarak, Angelo Mathews, Lasith Malinga, Muttiah Muralidaran, Isuru Udana, Ajantha Mendis.

Umpires: Simon Taufel and Daryl Harper.

## Lanka fined for over-rate

AFP, London

Sri Lanka have been fined for a slow over-rate during their 57-run win over West Indies in Friday's World Twenty20 semifinal at the Oval, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced here Saturday.

Australian match referee Alan Hurst acted after Kumar Sangakkara's side was ruled to be one over short of its target at the end of the West Indies innings when time allowances were taken into consideration.

In accordance with the ICC Code of Conduct, players are fined five percent of their match fees for every over their side fails to bowl in the allotted time, with the captain fined double that amount.

As such, Sangakkara was fined 10 percent of his match fee while his players received five percent fines.

Sri Lanka, who have yet to lose a match at this tournament, made 158 for five thanks mainly to Tillekaratne Dilshan's 96 not out, before bowling out the West Indies for 101 with 14 balls to spare.

Pace bowler Angelo Mathews, who took three wickets in the first over of the West Indies innings, finished with three wickets for 16 runs.

Roger Federer admits he was disappointed with Rafael Nadal's withdrawal from Wimbledon because he would have relished the chance to take on his great rival in another epic final.

Nadal's decision not to defend his title leaves Federer as firm favourite to win Wimbledon for the sixth time and beat Pete Sampras's record of 14 Grand Slam titles.

But, although he could have been forgiven for letting out a yelp of joy when he heard the news, Federer insists he felt a slight sense of anti-climax as it meant a temporary end to the tournament.

"It's disappointing for me, of course, because I'd love to play him. He's my main rival," Federer said at a pre-tournament press conference on Saturday.

Chris Gayle targets India

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"Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka all accepted that if any of those 14 matches were to take place in their countries, then they would not be due any fee for hosting them," the governing body had said.

Pakistan had put legal proceedings on hold till the matter was resolved, but have now decided to go ahead with the cases following disagreement between the co-hosts.

There was no immediate reaction from the ICC or India's Pawan, the chairman of the World Cup organising committee, on the PCB's decision to resume its legal battle.

The contentious issue is expected to be discussed at the ICC's annual meetings at Lord's from June 22-26.

The ICC has ruled out switching the 2011 World Cup to Australia and New Zealand, the designated hosts of the 2015 event.

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