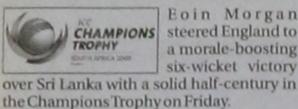


Eng cruise in the end

AFP, Johannesburg



Eoin Morgan steered England to a morale-boosting six-wicket victory over Sri Lanka with a solid half-century in the Champions Trophy on Friday.

England achieved a 213-run target on a lively track with five overs to spare in the day-night match, thanks to Morgan (62 not out), man-of-the-match Paul Collingwood (46) and Owais Shah (44).

South Africa and Sri Lanka now have one win apiece from two games in the four-team group, while England were playing their first match after being thrashed 6-1 by Australia in a recent home one-day series.

New Zealand have lost their opening match. The top two sides will make it to the semifinals.

"You can take a lot from victories like this. Our players played without fear and if we continue to do that we can be a good team," said England captain Andrew Strauss.

"Collingwood, Shah and Morgan played brilliantly. The key was not to lose too many early wickets. It was a sensible and professional chase."

Sri Lankan spinners Muttiah Muralidaran and Ajantha Mendis, who were expected to keep the pressure on England, could not make an impact on a pitch which hardly helped slow bowlers.

England's win was set up by pacemen James Anderson (3-20), Stuart Broad (3-49) and Graham Onions (2-58) who bowled well to restrict Sri Lanka on a seamer-friendly track.

They were struggling at 19-2 when they lost openers Strauss and Joe Denly, but Collingwood put the innings on the right track with a vigorous counter-attack.

Paceman Nuwan Kulasekara did the early damage when he removed Strauss (nine) and Denly (five) in his sharp opening spell. Strauss fell pulling, with Thilina Kandamby taking a superb one-handed catch at short mid-wicket.

Collingwood then eased the pressure with his attractive cameo, advancing down the pitch to swing Kulasekara over

mid-wicket for a six and then smashing the next two deliveries for boundaries.

He did not spare seamer Angelo Mathews, hitting two boundaries in an over and later swung Lasith Malinga for two sixes. His flourish ended when he inside-edged a Malinga delivery on to his stumps.

"It's good when you contribute to the team's victory. The way Anderson took wickets early on was crucial. Morgan did very well to see the boys home. We negated their spinners well," said Collingwood.

Shah was involved in two partnerships, adding 63 for the third wicket with Collingwood and 76 for the next with Morgan.

Morgan then batted steadily to see England home, hitting seven fours in his seventh half-century in one-day internationals.

Kandamby and Mathews earlier hit impressive half-centuries under pressure as Sri Lanka recovered from a horror start to post a competitive total.

Sri Lanka were struggling at 17-4 before Kandamby (53) and Mathews (52) led the fightback with an 82-run stand for the sixth wicket.

"It was a good total. Thilina Samaraweera, Kandamby and Mathews played well," said Sri Lanka skipper Kumar Sangakkara.

"We have a lot of homework to do before the next game. We played well, but need to be flexible. This wasn't a typical one-day track, but we had to build a good score."

It was a rare sporting gesture by Strauss that allowed Mathews to resume his innings after he was run out.

Mathews turned Onions to square-leg and completed the first run before colliding with the bowler going for a second, with wicketkeeper Matt Prior effecting the run out after receiving the throw.

The Sri Lankan batsman stood briefly at the pitch before walking back to the pavilion, but Strauss called the batsman back.

Mathews, who was then on 51, failed to make the most of the opportunity as he added just one run more to his score

before being caught behind off Luke Wright.

Kandamby added 64 for the fifth wicket with Samaraweera (30) and 82 for the next with Mathews.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Champions Trophy one-day international between England and Sri Lanka in Johannesburg on Friday:

Table with columns: Sri Lanka, Bowler, O, M, R, W. Includes players like Dilshan, Jayasuriya, Sangakkara, Strauss, Onions, Jayawardene, Broad, Mathews, Wright, Kulasekara, Muralidaran, Mendis.

Table with columns: England, Bowler, O, M, R, W. Includes players like Strauss, Denly, Sangakkara, Muralidaran, Collingwood, Malinga, Morgan, Prior, Extras.

Result: England win by six wickets. Man-of-the-match: Paul Collingwood. Toss: England. Umpires: Aleem Dar and Billy Bowden.

Safina won't give in easy

INTERNET, undated

Dinara Safina, yet to validate her status as world number one with a grand slam title, says she will not give up the top ranking without a fight.

The 23-year-old Russian promised to prove her point by successfully defending her Pan Pacific Open crown in Tokyo next week following an early exit from the US Open.

"If someone steals it from me, I will shake their hand and say 'well done' but I won't give it up easily," she told a news conference on Friday, after being introduced as 'Daniela' Safina.

Safina's status as the women's world number one has been a sore point after she repeatedly failed to make the breakthrough in the four grand slams.

A shock defeat by Czech teenager Petra Kvitova in the third round in New York earlier this month raised the stakes still further, but Safina was in bullish mood in Tokyo.

"I played the best tennis of my life here last year," she said before the 2-million-dollar event. "I plan to bring my best tennis again and give 100 per cent to keep (the ranking)."

World number two Serena Williams was a late withdrawal from Tokyo, citing knee and toe injuries.

A cricketers

FROM PAGE 17 The lone four-day game, slated for October 2 to 5 in Pune, which will also host two one-day and as many Twenty20 matches.

SQUAD Hannan Sarkar (captain), Shamsur Rahman Shuvo, Rajin Saleh, Ziaur Rahman, Nafis Iqbal, Nazmul Hossain, Talha Jubair, Imrul Kayes, Sahagir Hossain, Dollar Mahmud, Shahadat Hossain, Mohammed Soharwardi, Imran Ahmed and Faisal Hossain.

Bollinger South Wales, played all his three ODIs against Pakistan at Abu Dhabi after making his Test debut against South Africa at Sydney earlier this year.

All his five wickets came in his second ODI in the United Arab Emirates' capital where he finished with 5-35 in Australia's eight-wicket victory.

Franklin, the 28-year-old from Wellington, has played in 26 Tests and 65 ODIs taking 80 and 64 wickets respectively.

His last ODI was against Sri Lanka at Jamaica in the 2007 World Cup in the West Indies where he took 2-46 in his side's 81-run loss in the semifinals.

UEFA probes

FROM PAGE 20 Limacher told the World Sports Law Report conference that there were now 40 games where suspicious betting patterns had been identified, 15 of those in the last two years.

Macedonian club FK Pobeda were banned from European competition for eight years by UEFA in April after being found guilty of match-fixing against Armenian side FC Pyunik in 2004 - they lost 3-1 at home in a Champions League first qualifying round.

FK Pobeda's president Aleksandar Zabranev was banned for life from any football-related activity, as was the player Nikolce Zdravetski.

Belgium back big time

Tennis

AP, Tassenderlo

When it comes to women's tennis, all the buzz is in Belgium.

Kim Clijsters' US Open victory and the untirement of Justine Henin have pulled this nation of just 10 million from the edge of the tennis world back to the center.

"And don't forget Yanina," Clijsters said of Yanina Wickmayer, a teenager who came out of nowhere to reach the semifinals of the US open, riding the cry of "Whoopie!" each time she hit a ball in anger.

"The hype of Belgian tennis was created a little bit again," Clijsters said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Winning the US Open just three tournaments into her comeback shot Clijsters up to No. 17 in the world rankings, with Wickmayer climbing to 22nd. If Henin, who announced her return after 16-month retirement on Tuesday, plays somewhat to the form that made her a seven-time Grand Slam tournament winner, who knows how high the trio could go.

"It'd be great to have three Belgian girls in the top 20," Clijsters said.

And the groundswell of support at home is there again. Once Clijsters retired in 2007 and Henin followed one year later, tennis fell back to its normal place, well behind soccer and cycling in the hearts of Belgian sports fans.

"It is absolutely super. All this is alive again," said Billie Hemalsteens, a recreational player in Buizingen, who was often glued to the television set when Clijsters and Henin dominated Grand Slam events over the past decade. "Those are the kind of matches I would not miss for the world. When the Belgians play, I'll watch again."

With Henin's age of 27 and Clijsters' 26, they both could be competitive for years to come -- which also means keeping up their own, lively rivalry.

Henin's return had been anticipated for weeks, and took hold of the front pages as evermore rumours surfaced that she had started training hard again, much harder than necessary for the exhibition matches on her calendar.

But when Clijsters and Wickmayer kept on winning in Flushing Meadows, Henin decided to hold off an announcement about her own career.

I decided to postpone everything when I saw the results of Kim and Yanina coming in," she said.

preferring not to step on their moment of glory.

Now that everything is official, Clijsters only has one message. "Bring it on. I would say. She is obviously a great player and I think for women's tennis and for Belgian tennis, it is great," Clijsters said.

Even though Henin only leads Clijsters 12-10 in their head-to-head matches, she dominates Grand Slams 5-2 and has won the last five such encounters. And before Clijsters made her successful Grand Slam return in New York, Henin led 7-1 in Grand Slam titles.

"Just too bad she was often the better when it came to Grand Slams," Clijsters said.

Her former coach Marc Dehous thinks the rivalry might be renewed as soon as the Australian Open in January. "The fans can look forward toward another golden era. And why not start with a final during the Australian Open," he told VRT network.

Clijsters fully realizes Henin might have recovered her touch and stamina as quickly as she has. "I don't think she will need months to find her groove. She'll produce great tennis again when she gets to Australia," she said.

Henin and Clijsters started playing a decade ago, when Henin won the first match between the then-rookie teenagers. Soon they were playing the 2001 French Open semifinal. "It was as if a bomb had exploded," said Clijsters of the massive media and fan interest, as Belgian flags swarmed the stands in Paris. Two years later, even King Albert II travelled to Paris when Henin beat her compatriot in the final of the French Open.

Clijsters was always the happy-go-lucky player, a mix of mirth and mastery whose smile was just as wide after losing a final as winning one. Henin has always been the complicated one, having to recover from losing her mother at an early age and single-mindedly pursuing victory at almost any cost.

The same traits still come through so many years later. Happy in motherhood, Clijsters said she would take her career now, "one season at a time." Henin meanwhile is already looking at the 2012 Olympics with a determination that has marked her whole career.

And while the stars fight it out, Wickmayer will be able to develop in their shadows with less of the media hype Clijsters and Henin had to endure.

"It is perhaps a positive thing for her," said Clijsters. "There is only talk about me and Justine, but Yanina has performed great."

Jail racist fans: Harry

Football

AFP, London

Tottenham boss Harry Redknapp has demanded that racist supporters should be jailed, arguing that stadium bans are not a strong enough deterrent.

Redknapp said he was shocked by recent cases which saw black West Ham striker Carlton Cole claim that Millwall fans aimed monkey chants at him, while Blackpool's Jason Euell accused a fan of racial abuse.

"That is disgusting, there's no place for that in the game," Redknapp said. "When I was a player at West Ham we had that every week with Clyde Best because he was a black player. It was disgusting."

"Anyone who does it should be put to prison - not banned from football. Stick them where they belong in the nut-house somewhere. It's wrong."

Redknapp has a zero-tolerance attitude towards racism and also feels strongly about chants aimed at the family or personal life of players.

"There is other stuff that goes on as well that is sick," he said. "I hear things, I listen to the radio people talking about chants and singing songs to people at different clubs that just turns me over, I can't believe."

"You've got to be some kind of nutter to do that. That's not banter. They're sickos who've got to be locked up somewhere. Put them away and don't let them come to football anyway."

Redknapp has seen the emergence of black players in the top flight over the last 30 years, meaning racial abuse should be a thing of the past.

"It just can't happen any more because without the black players you wouldn't have teams - because they're full of fantastic black players, everywhere all through the leagues," he said.

"I mean, how can supporters give grief to black players on the other teams when they've got them in their team. It can't happen."

Strauss keeps feet on ground

INTERNET, undated

Captain Andrew Strauss stopped short of promoting his England team as potential Champions Trophy winners but was naturally buoyed by Friday night's opening win over Sri Lanka.

They currently top Group B after the floodlit six-wicket victory at the Wanderers, which was completed with a full five overs to spare.

"If we play like that we are a dangerous side. We are not going to be touting ourselves as the winners of the competition at this stage but if we keep getting better we will be hard to beat," said Strauss.

"This was a pretty professional performance with the bat and you take a lot of confidence from these sort of performances."

"Guys standing up, playing to their potential and not playing with fear."

Victory over hosts South Africa at Centurion on Sunday would send an England side walloped by Australia earlier this month into the semifinals with a game to spare.

Man of the match Paul Collingwood gave the chase of 213 impetus with a rapid 46 while Middlesex pair Owais Shah (44) and Eoin Morgan, who hit an unbeaten 62, played in assured fashion through the middle period of the innings.

James Anderson's new-ball spell, including two of his three wickets, set the victory up as Sri Lanka were reduced to 17 for four.

Kiwis' last

FROM PAGE 17

Fast bowler Nuwan Kulasekara may be number one on the ICC world rankings, but also needs to raise his game with two Champions Trophy wickets costing 86 runs.

Sri Lankan batsmen like opener Thillakaratne Dilshan found the switch from SuperSport Park in Centurion to the Wanderers difficult with his 106 against South Africa giving way to just two runs against England.

The grand old man of the team, 40-year-old fellow opener Sanath Jayasuriya, has even more to prove with a meagre 10 from his first outing followed by a duck in the second outing.

South Africa face England later Sunday at Centurion just off the highway between Johannesburg and Pretoria and if Sri Lanka and England emerge victorious they would qualify for the semifinals next weekend.

South Africa face England later Sunday at Centurion just off the highway between Johannesburg and Pretoria and if Sri Lanka and England emerge victorious they would qualify for the semifinals next weekend.

South Africa face England later Sunday at Centurion just off the highway between Johannesburg and Pretoria and if Sri Lanka and England emerge victorious they would qualify for the semifinals next weekend.

Trial changed

FROM PAGE 20

Gerrard was accused of being part of a group that injured businessman Marcus McGee at a nightclub near Liverpool, northwest England, last December as he celebrated his club's 5-1 win at Newcastle United.

"From now on, if we win 5-1, if I score two goals and we go top of the league, I won't try to enjoy it in a bar with my mates anymore," he said.

"I'll go for a meal and be in my house by half past ten. We get paid very well and there have to be sacrifices."

The judge in the trial told Gerrard that he could "walk away from this court with your reputation intact", but the Liverpool captain said he accepted that "some people will always see this as a blemish on my character".



Madan Lal

(Former India cricket coach) "We should all realise that our mandatory overs have begun and there is no point in nursing past grudges and animosities."

Talking about being in the final stages of life at a reunion of the 1979 Delhi Ranji-winning side.

PCB reveals Kiwi dates

Cricket

AFP, Karachi

Pakistan Saturday announced a programme of three one-day internationals and two Twenty20 matches against New Zealand in the United Arab Emirates next month.

The one-day series had to be reduced from four to three after New Zealand Cricket requested for a gap of two days between each match, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) said in a statement.

The first match of the series will take place on November 3 in Abu Dhabi. After two more one-day matches on November 6 and 9, Dubai will host two as the teams play two Twenty20 internationals on November 12 and 13.

It will be Pakistan's second one-day series at a neutral venue this year after they earlier hosted Australia in the UAE in April-May.

New Zealand refused to tour Pakistan over security concerns after terrorists targeted the Sri Lankan team bus in Lahore on March 3, leaving eight people dead. Seven Sri Lankan players and an assistant coach were also injured.

Even before the attacks on the Sri Lankan team, foreign teams voiced concerns over playing in Pakistan, where the army has been fighting a Taliban insurgency.

The International Cricket Council had to relocate the Champions Trophy and World Cup 2011 matches from Pakistan over security fears.

A three Test series between Pakistan and New Zealand, also scheduled to be played in Pakistan, will now be played in New Zealand in late November-December this year.

ITINERARY Nov 3 -- First one-day international -- Abu Dhabi Nov 6 -- Second one-day international -- Abu Dhabi Nov 9 -- Third one-day international -- Abu Dhabi Nov 12 -- First Twenty20 international -- Dubai Nov 13 -- Second Twenty20 international -- Dubai (all matches day-night)

Hamilton lashes Singapore track

INTERNET, undated

Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton took a swipe at Singapore's street circuit before qualifying on Saturday, calling the city-state's track "very dangerous."

The McLaren driver, out of contention for this year's title, complained that the road circuit was dusty and bumpy and that improvements promised last year had not been implemented.

"It's such a bumpy track and the ride on our car was quite poor," Hamilton told reporters in the paddock at the Singapore Grand Prix.

"It's shaking so much. The car is bumping and bouncing and sliding. It's still very bad. I don't really think it's changed at all to be honest."

Hamilton also hit out at changes made to the chicane on turn 10, where curbs had been built up.

"It's a lot worse than last year," Hamilton said. "Last year it was a weird little corner anyway but it was quite good -- a quick left, right, left. Now it's big, fat curbs and there's no runoff, so it's very dangerous."

"I'm sure in the race someone will crash there. If someone blew a tyre and had an over-steer moment and slid

England

FROM PAGE 17

innings, and Morgan did a great finishing job. I think we can take a lot of confidence from it."

The pitch here is not expected to be as seamer-friendly as at Johannesburg, which had pace and bounce.

"It's a complete different set of circumstances at Centurion on Sunday. It's a crucial game for both sides, so it should be a good game," said Strauss.

South Africa came back strongly after losing their rain-hit opening match against Sri Lanka by 55 runs, beating New Zealand by five wickets in their second game.

TEAMS ENGLAND (from): Andrew Strauss (captain), James Anderson, Ravi Bopara, Tim Bresnan, Stuart Broad, Paul Collingwood, Joe Denly, Eoin Morgan, Graham Onions, Matt Prior, Adil Rashid, Owais Shah, Ryan Sidebottom, Graeme Swann, Luke Wright.

SOUTH AFRICA (from): Graeme Smith (captain), Johan Botha, Hashim Amla, Mark Boucher, AB de Villiers, JP Duminy, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Albie Morkel, Makhaya Ntini, Wayne Parnell, Robin Peterson, Dale Steyn, Lonwabo Tsotsobe, Roelof van der Merwe.

Umpires: Steve Davis and Tony Hill.

Briatore promises party!

INTERNET, undated

Banned former Renault team boss Flavio Briatore said he had been betrayed by Formula One and promised to hold a big party when he eventually emerges victorious.

The flamboyant Italian was handed a life ban this week for his role in Nelson Piquet's deliberate crash in last year's Singapore Grand Prix.

Renault were handed a suspended permanent ban at their International Automobile Federation (FIA) hearing in Paris.

"In the end I will win and you will see, we will have a big party," he told La Repubblica.

Even going

FROM PAGE 17

Aamer, Gul, Ajmal Fall of wickets: 1-29, 2-53, 3-65

Table with columns: Bowler, O, M, R, W. Includes players like Nehra, RP, Sharma, Kohli, Yusuf, Harbhajan.

INDIA: Gambhir, Tendulkar, Dravid, Raina, Dhoni, Kohli, Yusuf, Harbhajan, RP, Nehra, Sharma

Toss: Pakistan. Umpires: Steve Davis and Simon Taufel.

Massa back in training

INTERNET, undated

Further to the revelation that he would test his fitness in a kart race in November, Ferrari has confirmed that Felipe Massa has been back in training for some time.

The Brazilian announced on Thursday that he intended to make his competitive comeback in an all-star event at the Florianopolis kart track in just over a month's time, prompting questions about the rate of his recovery to be directed at Scuderia team principal Stefano Domenicali during Friday's FIA press conference in Singapore.

Massa suffered life-threatening head injuries when he was hit on the head during qualifying for the Hungarian Grand Prix in late July, and has undergone several surgical procedures in the weeks since the accident.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes solution time: 25 mins.

Cryptoquip puzzle grid with letters and numbers.

CRYPTOQUIP GCCNPZ JVXJ TYMGJCO IH ACX MJNHMY-YIILNPZ HCOPG JIKXD AOIMZVJ AXTL BXPD HOIPK BCBIONCG Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF TWO IDENTICAL LENGTHS OF STRONG CORD WERE TIED TOGETHER, I'D CALL THEM SIAMESE TWINES. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals T