

Pollard seals T&T win

CRICINFO, undated

Airtel CHAMPIONS LEAGUE TWENTY20

It's said that you can win or lose a Twenty20 game in a blink and Kieron Pollard, batting like a man possessed, proved the adage right by engineering a stunning win against New South Wales, at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium in Hyderabad on Friday night.

"It's not over until it's over" is another of those cricketing clichés that is not always held to account but tonight was the night for clichés - in a Hyderabad minute, everything changed.

NSW unleashed their two dynamites, David Warner and Phillip Hughes, who propelled them to 170, which seemed more than enough at one stage but Pollard, with a violent 18-ball 54, crafted a remarkable comeback in Twenty20 history.

The chase never seemed to be going anywhere after the top order had combusted and when Darren Bravo was run out, the equation read: 80 from 42 balls. Game over, surely? But everything changed in stunning fashion as first Denesh Ramdin and then Pollard played out of their skins to turn the game on its head.

It all began in the 14th over, bowled by Stuart Clark. Ramdin pinged the midwicket boundary twice before he lifted the spinner Steven Smith in the next over for a boundary over extra-cover and a slog-swept six over midwicket. However, Ramdin fell in the next over and once again, NSW were the favourites or so one thought.

If it started in the 14th over, the game-breaker was the 17th over in which Pollard simply went berserk against the medium-pace of Moises Henriques and looted 27 runs.

The second ball disappeared to long-off, the third was sliced over point, the fourth, a full toss, was collected by a spectator beyond midwicket boundary, the next, another nervy full toss, was picked up from behind deep square-leg boundary, and the last delivery flew to third man. Game almost over.

If there was any doubt, it



PHOTO: INTERNET

Trinidad and Tobago players celebrate their four-wicket victory over New South Wales Blues in the Champions League Twenty20 in Hyderabad on Friday.

vanished when Simon Katich handed Henriques the responsibility of bowling the 19th over and Pollard finished off the chase with a couple of bludgeoned sixes.

NSW had done everything that they could till Pollard's whirlwind innings. The bowling was disciplined and the batting was led from the front by Warner and Hughes. With only a few deliveries into the contest it was clear that pace on the ball was going to be fodder for both batsmen, especially when T&T didn't possess anyone with real speed. Warner and Hughes stayed adjacent to the line and threaded the off-side with their punches, cuts, and muscled drives.

They knew Ganga had to change his bowlers at some point and the opportunity to break free came in the 12th over against the legspinner Samuel Badree. Unlike Sherwin Ganga and Mohammed, Badree was guilty of overpitching his flighted deliveries and Warner took full toll: Two disappeared over long-on and long-off and as Badree, in trying to adjust his length, slipped in long-hops, Warner crashed them to square-leg and swung the last

T&T had to switch to plan B and Daren Ganga quickly brought on the spinners and medium-pacers with the ability to take pace off the ball. It worked initially as NSW slowed down from 50 in 6 overs to 77 in 11. The two spinners in operation at that period were the chinaman bowler Dave Mohammed and the accurate offspinner

one over midwicket. Twenty-four runs were looted in that over and the run-rate had shot up again.

Ganga did the obvious by taking out Badree and bringing back his two best spinners. Mohammed picked up Warner's wicket and teased Hughes with his variations but Hughes knew he had to just wait for the seamers to return. And when they did, he hit them around the ground. Ravi Rampaul, who had given away three boundaries in the first over of the innings, was carted to the point and straight boundaries by Warner while Henriques lofted Lendl Simmons to long-on and to midwicket boundary.

Hughes was as unconventional as ever; those feet never seem to get in line but his bat does as he slashes and carves it around like a sword. There wasn't a single "beautiful" shot in the traditional sense of the word but then there is nothing traditional about Hughes' batting. However, there was, as ever, quite bit of skill in his violence. A shot that stood out from the general massacre that he was attempting to unleash was as deft and skilful as it gets: Rampaul almost slipped in a yorker on the middle stump in the 19th over, perhaps a touch short of the blockhole. Hughes had opened his stance, waiting to bludgeon it, but on seeing the length, he crouched back, opened the bat-face and guided it deliberately to left of backward point and to the boundary.

Hughes would have thought he had done enough to be the hero for the day but Pollard had decided to seize the day.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Trinidad & Tobago 171 for 6 (Pollard 54, Ramdin 23) beat New South Wales 170 for 4 (Hughes 83, Warner 63) by four wickets.

Sherwin Ganga, who both took the ball away from the left-handed openers. Both batsmen managed to prevent the adrenaline rush from kicking in and played out this period intelligently with dabbled singles and twos.

In the boys' singles, Bangladesh's Biplob Ram beat Dhankar Shaurya of India 6-3, 6-3 while Ali Rustom beat compatriot Delwar Hossain 6-4, 6-3. Top-seed Duzbinni Singh of Malaysia dropped a single game against Bangladesh's Wai Mong Marma as the scoreline was 6-0, 6-1.

In the girls' group, Bangladesh's Mobeshwari Firoz beat her compatriot Kazi Sharmin 6-2, 6-2 however Bangladesh's Chakma Jhikli went down to Chan Ching of Hong Kong 6-0, 6-1.

Div II chess

SPORTS REPORTER

2nd Division Chess League will

start at 3:30 pm on 29th

October at the chess federation

hall-room.

This will be an open event

for all chess teams. Interested

teams have been asked to enrol

on or before 27th October at

Bangladesh Chess Federation

office.

The 2nd Division Chess

League will be held in Swiss-

system. Cash prizes will

be awarded to the top three

teams and the top two teams

will qualify to the 1st Division

Chess League in 2010.

Everyone connected with the club

and cricket is aware how brave it was of him and (his wife) Hayley to even travel out there in the first

place," Nash said. "This is not a step back for

Marcus. It was a victory for him to get there. We

are full of admiration for what he has done for us.

We are looking forward to him being a highly

successful captain for us next season."

Vikram Solanki, the Professional Cricketers'

Association chairman, wished Trescothick a

speedy recovery and said the PCA and the

county game were there to help if he needed it.

"Part of the PCA's intention is for these circum-

stances - to provide assistance when it is

needed," Solanki said. "It's just a question of

what sort of help Marcus requires. There is quite

clearly a provision for counselling if that is what

is needed. Certainly there is always someone on

the end of the phone if it is needed. We're a pretty

close-knit unit around county cricket and I'm

sure there will be no shortage of people on hand

to help if so requires."

Dinajpur Players' Welfare

Association beat Kurigram

District Sports Association team by 2-0 goals in the inau-

gural match.

The match was watched by

a large number of spectators.

Vettori to fill Oram's boots

ANI, Wellington

New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori will move up the batting order if required to fill the absence of the now retired all rounder Jacob Oram in the test cricket team against Pakistan next month.

Oram's retirement from the test cricket this week leaves a gap, but it should enable Vettori to move up to No.7 at least in the lineup, after his batting performance in recent matches.

Vettori has been the most consistent of the Black Caps batsmen despite coming in at No.8 and he again dominated in New Zealand's last test series against Sri Lanka, top scoring in the second innings of both matches with 67 and 140.

Vettori said he was comfortable taking the extra responsibility of batting higher in the order, although he already has plenty as the skipper and chief spin bowler.

Vettori said Pakistan's tour opening match against New Zealand A from November 17-20 could be a crucial one for finalizing positions as just one round of the domestic championship will have been played by then.

None of the New Zealand one-day team will play in that because they will still be playing Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates.

Blazevic

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deserve to be beaten by the French," 2-1 in the semi-finals, with France going on to win the tournament on home soil.

"So I'd like to take revenge on this 11-year-old defeat."

With the likes of Bundesliga stars Edin Dzeko and Vedad Ibisevic in their ranks, Bosnia finished second in Group 5 of European qualifiers behind Spain.

The four teams Bosnia could face in the play-offs are either, France, Greece, Portugal or Russia.

"We can beat any team in the play-offs. I'm sure Bosnia will go to the World Cup," said Blazevic.

Bosnia have taken part in neither the European Cup nor the World Cup, and will discover their play-off opponent on Monday.

Roy linked

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"We are all working hard and getting the best out of the players and doing the best job we can so long may that continue."

"If a new contract offer comes up then I'll consider it. Every week things change, your position is stronger and weaker week by week dependent on whether you have won a game or lost a game."

Cricket

CRICINFO, undated

Michael Vaughan, the former England captain, has said Marcus Trescothick "deserves a huge amount of credit" for going to India to take part in the Champions League Twenty20. Vaughan believes that the recurrence of his stress-related illness, which led to Trescothick flying home midway through the tournament, will not adversely impact the Somerset opener's county form.

"It was a courageous decision for him [Trescothick] even to try and go there to play," Vaughan, who opened with Trescothick for England, was quoted as saying in the Daily Telegraph. "It's obviously not worked out but I spoke to him and he's fine. It's not the first time this has happened but at least he's given it a go."

"I don't think people realise what an effort it took for him even to go out there. But Tres loves his cricket and he'll be back next year, no doubt about it. He will certainly be back next season playing for Somerset and full of runs, just like he was this year."

Trescothick's illness first occurred during England's tour of India in February 2006, then reoccurred at the start of the Ashes campaign in Australia in November. In early 2008 he pulled out of a pre-season tour to Dubai after breaking

Eng U-19

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Alauddin in the 101st over, leaving the team on 182 runs.

Aslam's partner Paul Best added eight more runs to his overnight score of 16 before being caught by Anamul off Shaker.

Michel Bates and Calum Haggard were batting on 18 and 6 runs respectively at the stumps on day two.

Shaker Ahmed and Alauddin shared the two wickets to fall on the second day.

Abahani risk

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package of the tournament Khaledar Samaj Kalyan Samity by 44 runs at Fatullah yesterday.

Tamim Iqbal continued his superb form with 42 runs from 30 deliveries. Skipper Mohammad Ashraful played a brief yet-entertaining knock of 15 runs from just seven deliveries and later took three wickets for the defending champions.

In other Group A matches yesterday, Birman won against Victoria by three wickets at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium to keep their hopes of making the semifinals alive, while Partex beat BKSP at Dhanmondi in an eliminator over, after both teams had scored 135 runs in their matches.

Younus wants to gain people's sympathy by resigning from the captaincy and he is trying to hide his faults which he committed during the Champions Trophy. He should realise himself that he does not fit in shorter formats of the game," he added.

Sarfaraz lambastes Younus

ANI, Islamabad

Former Pakistan speedster Sarfaraz Nawaz has lambasted captain Younus Khan for his sudden resignation from the post, saying it was just a smoke screen to disguise his shortcomings in the one-day format of the game.

Nawaz said Younus should retire from one-day cricket and concentrate only on Tests.

"Just like Younus quit Twenty20 format of the game, now it's high time he should forget playing one-day cricket too. It's better he should play only as a team member in test matches," he said.

"Younus wants to gain people's sympathy by resigning from the captaincy and he is trying to hide his faults which he committed during the Champions Trophy. He should realise himself that he does not fit in shorter formats of the game," he added.

Sky Blues

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national winger about their opponents.

Joshi's aspirations though suffered a huge blow as his Guinean midfielder Mohammed Conte Bangura was ruled out of the tie due to suspension and it would be hard for Joshi to fill the vacuum left by Bangura due to the shortage of quality players.

Cobras ride

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at the venue was detained by the Bangalore police in the afternoon in connection with a suspected presence of explosives before being released.

The match was given the go-ahead only after a thorough check of the ground by the police.

SCORES IN BRIEF

Cape Cobras 129 for 2 (Davids 69 not out) beat Victoria 125 for 5 (McDonald 29 not out; Zondeki 2-21) by eight wickets.

Shakir Ahmed and Alauddin shared the two wickets to fall on the second day.

Marauding

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happy with the performance of his side and said that all three goals his side conceded were mistakes of the defenders.

TEAMS

MOHAMMEDAN: James Paul, Mamun, Ariful Islam, Hasan Al Mamun (Nasir), Wali Faisal, Arman Aziz, Mamunul Islam, Zahid Hossain (Enamul Haq Sharif), Christian Emeka, Alamu Bukola and Zahid Hossain (Enamul Haq Sharif).

FENI SOCCER CLUB: Piaruzzaman Piru (Golam Mostafa Tuhan), Mintu Sheik, Akramuzzaman Liton, Nurul Amin Shipon, Monayem Khan Raju, Imrul Hasan, Amirul Islam (Pintu Kumar Das), Asif Yousuf, Ashraful Quader Manju, Tabithi Awal (Ebaday Hossain Komol) and Anwar Hossain.

Yellow cards: Arman Aziz (Mohammedan), Imrul (Feni Soccer).

Referee: Azad Rahman.