

India pick tested 15

Rohit, Sreesanth left out

CRICINFO



The exclusion of middle-order batsman Rohit Sharma has found a place as the fourth seamer. The selectors have gone in for a well-stocked slow bowling department, expecting traditional subcontinent tracks for the World Cup. Besides Harbhajan, there are two specialists in Ashwin and Chawla, an allrounder in Yusuf Pathan besides the part-time

India's major concern ahead of the team selection was the injuries to four first-choice players -- Sachin Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir and quick bowler Praveen Kumar -- but the selectors picked all four, confident that they will be fit in time for the tournament which starts on February 19.

India's bowling attack for the World Cup will be significantly different from their standard Test attack, with only Zaheer Khan and Harbhajan Singh being named. The fast bowling pair of Sreesanth and Ishant Sharma, and Ojha are all excluded while Munaf

Patel, who helped India to a series-leveling victory over South Africa on Saturday, has found a place as the fourth seamer.

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SQUAD

Mahendra Singh Dhoni (captain), Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Sachin Tendulkar, Virat Kohli, Yuvraj Singh, Suresh Raina, Yusuf Pathan, Harbhajan Singh, Piyush Chawla, Ravichandran Ashwin, Zaheer Khan, Ashish Nehra, Praveen Kumar, Munaf Patel.

offerings of Yuvraj Singh, Suresh Raina and Virender Sehwag.

Chawla was also something of a surprise pick, though he is part of the one-day squad currently touring South Africa. He hasn't played any one-dayers for India since the Asia Cup in July 2008, and none of his 21 ODIs have been at home.

The squad also has only seven specialist batsmen, including MS Dhoni, which might be a worry in case of injuries. India haven't played their full-strength one-day side since the New Zealand tour in early 2009. There is no reserve keeper in the squad either, but that shouldn't be a concern as they can have one travel with them in case he is needed at short notice.

Kris Srikanth, chairman of the national selection committee, was confident India could end their 28-year wait for a one-day World Cup. "This particular Indian team is doing brilliantly for the past couple of years in both Test and ODI cricket. They are playing consistently not only in India but outside," he told reporters after the team was announced. "We are confident this team will do well and win the World Cup for us in front of the home crowd."

He also defended the large spin contingent in the squad. "Don't forget that you are playing in India. The spinners probably play a very major role on the turning wickets. I am confident that the kind of balance we have, the kind of batting line-up we have, this team led by Dhoni will do the job for us."



Denmark's world number one Caroline Wozniacki fires off a forehand against Argentinian Gisela Dulko during their singles match on the first day of the Australian Open in Melbourne yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Hussey may miss rest of ODIs



AFP, Melbourne

Senior batsman Mike Hussey is in doubt for the rest of Australia's one-day international series against England after sustaining a "significant" hamstring injury, Cricket Australia said on Monday.

Hussey, 35, injured his left hamstring while taking a second run in Australia's six-wicket victory in the opening match of the seven-game ODI series in Melbourne on Sunday.

"Scans today have confirmed that Mike Hussey sustained a significant left hamstring injury during the first ODI against England at the MCG," Australia's physiotherapist Alex Kountouris said.

"The course of management for this injury will be determined in the next 24 hours."

Shane Watson, who scored a match-winning unbeaten 161 to guide Australia to victory, said Hussey appeared okay at the time of his setback.

"I think he's got a little bit of hammy stiffness, I probably pushed him one too many to (Paul) Collingwood," Watson said after the match.

"He seemed to be okay, there was no real talk about a runner, I think he's alright."

Hussey's injury comes as Australia's squad for next month's World Cup on the sub-continent is to be announced on Tuesday.

Pretty even in Wellington



AFP, Wellington

Pakistan skipper Misbahul Haq fell agonisingly short of a century when he was trapped lbw on 99 as New Zealand clawed their way back into the second Test on Monday.

Pakistan were all out for 376 in reply to the Black Caps' 356, leaving the Test evenly poised after New Zealand received a lucky break when an umpiring error cost Younis Khan his wicket, breaking a 142-run partnership with Misbah.

The tourists had been cruising at 286-3 until the last ball before tea, when Jesse Ryder caught Younis at short leg off a Daniel Vettori delivery that television replays showed missed the bat.

Younis departed on 73, shaking his head

which the umpire referral system is not in use.

While Younis could feel justifiably miffed at umpire Rod Tucker, the most disappointed player at Wellington's Basin Reserve was probably Misbah, who looked set to reach his third Test century and guide his side to a big lead.

After occupying the crease for more than five hours, facing 207 balls and providing the backbone of Pakistan's innings, Misbah was dismissed lbw on 99 when a Chris Martin delivery cut back on him.

His team-mates could not capitalise on his hard work, giving Pakistan a slender first innings lead of 20, which Black Caps' openers Martin Guptill and Brendon McCullum had whittled down to 11 by stumps.

SCORES IN BRIEF

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 356 (Vettori 110, Taylor 78, Young 57; Gul 4-87, Tanvir 3-

Mamun takes SUB to semis

SPORTS REPORTER

Mamun's all-round show confirmed State University of Bangladesh (SUB) a semi-final berth in the ULAB Cup cricket tournament at its own ground yesterday.

He took four wickets and struck a quickfire 41 as SUB chased down United International University's 128 in 18 overs.

Maruf also did well with the bat, scoring 30.

SUB defeated Brac University after their loss to ULAB in the opening game.

The semifinal will be held on January 21.

Eight teams are taking part in the competition.

Packer arrives

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game from the gallery and sat with the players in the second half but he could not bring any joy to the boys.

"They played well throughout the game but they lacked finishing up front," was the initial observation of Packer Ali, who coached PWD, Abahani and Mohammedan SC.

However, the former defender believes that Sheikh Jamal still has a good chance to win the league as only four matches out of 22 matches have been played.

Asked whether he knows the reason behind the termination of Serbian coach Zoran Kraljevic, Packer Ali said he had no idea about it but he would discuss with the team management about the team selection.

"I will consult with the team management about the team but the final decision will be mine," said the shaven-headed coach adding that coaches in Asia often falls foul of the team management because of an absence of professionalism.

H'ball teams

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men's team and Sahida Khatun of the women's team were adjudged best players of the tournament in their respective events.

Arambagh

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the referee did not hesitate to award a penalty kick. Bangoura stepped in to convert the penalty easily to silence Sheikh Jamal. Two minutes later, Sheikh Jamal could have leveled the margin when Sabuj with just the goalkeeper to beat drove wide from inside the six-yard box.

After the resumption, Sheikh Jamal went all out to press hard for an equaliser and unleashed several attacks but failed to find the net and left the field with their heads hung.

Federer, Williams dazzle

AFP, Melbourne



Defending champion Roger Federer roared into the Australian Open's second round with an ominous display on Monday, as Venus Williams outshone her rivals on day one.

In cool and cloudy conditions, the Swiss was irresistible on Rod Laver Arena as he banished 97th-ranked Slovakian Lukas Lacko 6-1, 6-1, 6-3 with trademark grace and aggression.

The world number two broke Lacko's serve seven times and hit a stream of 37 winners and just 18 unforced errors to polish off the Slovak in just 1hr 24min.

A fifth Open win for Federer, 29, would also stop top-ranked Rafael Nadal, his long-time nemesis, completing the first sweep of all four major titles in more than 40 years.

Federer will face Gilles Simon of France in the next round as he bids to become only the second man, after Australia's Roy Emerson, with five or more Open wins.

Top-ranked Nadal, whose "Rafa Slam" would unite the major trophies for the first time since Australia's Rod Laver won all four in 1969, plays Marcos Daniel of Brazil in his opening match.

Meanwhile, America's number one Andy Roddick went through in straight sets and Gael Monfils of France came from two sets down to oust injured Dutchman Thiemo De Bakker.

But it was a disastrous day for Russia's Nikolay Davydenko, the 23rd seed and a quarterfinalist last year, who crashed out against Germany's Florian Mayer 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (7/4) 6-4.

America's Sam Querrey, the 18th seed, was also sent packing in a five-set upset defeat to Poland's Lukasz Kubot.

Czech sixth seed Tomas Berdych went through in straight sets and American Mardy Fish recovered from two sets down to beat Victor Hanescu.

In the women's draw, blown open by five-time champion Serena Williams' injury withdrawal, her sister Venus Williams overcame a slow start to overpower Italy's Sara Errani 6-3, 6-2.

Williams, who used an inhaler between games, was untroubled by the fact she has not played a tour event since the US Open in September, and warmed up only with an exhibition tournament in Hong Kong.

Top seed Caroline Wozniacki was unconvincing in a 6-3, 6-4 win over Argentina's Gisela Dulko, while French Open champion Francesca Schiavone and 2008 winner Maria Sharapova also had some uncomfortable moments.

Seven-time major-winner Justine Henin, who is recovering

from an elbow injury, made heavy weather of her 5-7, 6-3, 6-1 victory over India's Sania Mirza, who came through qualifying.

Wozniacki, under pressure to claim a maiden Slam title to show critics she is a deserving women's number one, took 1hr 40min to claim her first victory since being shocked in her first match at the Sydney International.

Sharapova, pursuing a lengthy comeback from injury, admitted she was jittery during her 6-1, 6-3 win over Thailand's Tamarine Tanasugarn after last year's shock first-round exit.

Tigers' squad

FROM PAGE 16

give suggestions to the board and selection committee for their consideration. The technical committee was formed so that there remains a scope for discussion," defended Siraj after the meeting ended.

"Since we have a few days in hand, we would like to make full use of it. And there are some medical issues which deserves a second look so we will wait till the last day. The selectors will sit with the team and discuss if they have to fine-tune it," he added, pretty much confirming that the selectors had in fact given their fifteen.

Siraj also claimed that since the team will be under the cricket board up to February 8, there will be reason to wait. It was a confusing point since the World Cup squad has to be submitted by January 19 and after that, the BCB has to take the ICC's permission to change any member of the squad.

"Mashrafe's chances are very slim," revealed Siraj according to Michael Henry's fitness report. And it was also known that it would be a team of performers and it would be made up of players who were part of the squad for the last two years.

'Our worst time'

FROM PAGE 16

DSS: Recall your sweetest memory.

HS: The day after we lost against Canada, the BCB president (Ali Azgar Lobby) called all of the players and showed us a paper cutting with a picture of autographs from fans back home. We were moved a great deal and excited to do something good for the people of the

country.

DSS: Recall your saddest memory.

HS: Well, again it was surrounding the Canada match. The day after the match, everyone was virtually confined to their hotel rooms, we did not feel like showing our face to the other. That was probably the saddest memory of the tour.

Ashraful's one final try

FROM PAGE 16

Ashraful's 85 was the cornerstone of the CCS innings, ending at 231-9 in 50 overs, and the World Cup hopeful did his chances a lot of good with the 89-ball essay that had five boundaries and two sixes. Amit Majumder also chipped in with 68 but it was captain Asif Ahmed who claimed the wickets of

Nasir Jamshed, earlier, gave Gazi another rapid start through his run-a-ball 58 but the Pakistan batsman failed to carry on and fell in the 19th over after hitting six boundaries and a couple of sixes.

Naeem Islam picked up two wickets for 36 runs.

CCS-BKSP

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93, Rehman 2-96)

PAKISTAN: First innings 376 (Misbah 99, Younis 73, Taufeeq 70, Azhar 67; Martin 4-91, Vettori 4-100)

NEW ZEALAND: Second innings 9 without loss (McCullum 6 not out, Guptill 1 not out)

Suleiman Khan, Bishwanath Halder and Abul Bashar off consecutive balls to end the CCS innings at the Fatullah Cricket Stadium.

Asif took four for 29 from his seven overs. The sports institute gave a good account of themselves but ultimately failed to finish off the job as they fell four runs short. Tariqul Islam, Liton Das and Ashraful Aziz all got out in the 40s and it was the accurate off-spin of Abul Bashar that stood in their way. Bashar took 2 for 19.

SCORES IN BRIEF

VICTORIA: 241-9 in 50 overs (Sourav 116 not out, Mythukur 33; Razzak 3-36, Rizwan 3-48)

SURJO TARUN: 242-6 in 48.1 overs (Dhiman 107 not out, Hamidul 42; Monir 2-50)

Result: Surjo Tarun won by four wickets. DOHS: 234-7 in 50 overs (Jamshed 58, Aftab 37; Naeem 2-36)

GAZI TANK: 191 all out in 47 overs (Sajjad 40, Nasir 43; Forhad 4-37)

Result: DOHS won by 43 runs. CCS: 231-9 in 50 overs (Ashraful 85, Amit 68; Asif 4-29)

BKSP: 227-7 in 50 overs (Tariqul 47, Ashraful 46; Bashar 2-19) Result: CCS won by four runs.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across, Down, and Solution time: 25 mins.

Cryptogram grid with letters X, E, Z, R, Q, B, L, Q, H, R, B, L, I, E, Q, Q, O, X, D, I, B, S, H, U, O, U, B, S, U, S, K, X, U, I, X, E, Z, D, N, Y, B, S, U, Y, N, D, E, Q, Q, R, X, E, Z, Z, R, D, Q, E, O, U, A, L, L, S, Y, X, U, Z.

CRYPTOQUIP

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SINGER AIKEN WERE POSING FOR A PAINTING, I RECKON THAT YOU WOULD CALL HIM MODELING CLAY. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals I