

CRICKET WORLD CUP SPECIAL

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DHAKA TUESDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2015,
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Five top tweets on
Ireland's World Cup win
over West Indies at
Saxton Oval on Monday:

"Certainly not a shock or upset
from this group of players.
Warm up games are just that.
Enjoy the celebrations as I
know you can and will."
- Trent Johnston

Former Ireland captain

"We're watching the death
row of West Indies cricket at
the moment."

- Melbourne SEN 1116

"No wonder England have an
Irishman as skipper, the Irish
can't find a spot for him!
They're killing it! Sad times for
West Indies. #CWC15."

- Neroli Meadows

Fox Sports presenter

"I apologize to the viewers
today for the the swear word
that came through the stump
mike. Especially the young
kids listening and watching."

- Darren Sammy

West Indies all-rounder

"Ireland cricket going up...
good innings by
weddingsonline brand
ambassador Niall
O'niellnobobiobrien."
- Weddingsonline India



Paul Stirling struck a sublime 92 to set the tone for Ireland to topple West Indies' 300-plus score and more importantly cause the first upset of the 2015 World Cup at Saxton Oval in Nelson yesterday.

PHOTO:
AFP

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Ireland trump Windies

AFP, Nelson

Ireland caused the first upset of the World Cup when an audacious 92 by Paul Stirling paved the way for a four-wicket win over the West Indies at Nelson's Saxton Oval on Monday.

Stirling stood in a match-defining 106-run stand with Ed Joyce for the second wicket as Ireland chased down a 305-run target with 25 balls to spare.

Stirling cracked his runs off 84 balls, Joyce scored 84 off 67 and Niall O'Brien chimed in with an unbeaten 79 off 60 deliveries as they cashed in on wayward West Indies bowling.

It was Ireland's first win over the West Indies in six official matches and the first victory at this World Cup achieved by a team batting second.

The 12th-ranked Irish paid scant regard to the high-profile West Indians and enhanced their own reputation as giant-killers after beating other top-tier nations England and Pakistan in the previous two World Cups.

The victorious finish was a fitting reward for their spirited start to the match when they opted to bowl and rapidly reduced the West Indies to 87-5.

Chris Gayle again failed to fire as spinner George Dockrell carved through the upper order before a dashing century by

Lendl Simmons and a personal-best 89 from Darren Sammy put some backbone into the West Indies innings.

Their power batting lifted the West Indies to what should have been a respectable 304 but they lacked the discipline in their bowling to defend the total.

Captain Jason Holder opened with a first ball that raced wide of slips to the boundary to give Ireland an immediate five runs from extras which started Stirling and William Porterfield on their way to a 71-run first wicket stand.

With Porterfield's dismissal for 23, left-hander Joyce joined right-hander Stirling to continue piling on the pressure.

Stirling's dismissal, caught behind off a Marlon Samuels delivery, saw O'Brien arrive to up the tempo. The West Indies were powerless to contain the onslaught, going through eight bowlers, as the Irish batsmen clobbered six sixes and 34 fours.

Joyce, on 42, was dropped by Darren Bravo when he belted Holder towards the boundary, and O'Brien was on 38 when he skied a Jerome Taylor delivery and Holder dropped what should have been a regulation catch.

Dockrell, who finished with three for 50, claimed the prized wickets of Gayle (36), Samuels (21) and Ramdin (one) in the space of just eight deliveries.



Man of Steel

PAUL STIRLING



For little more than an hour at the Saxton Oval yesterday Ireland's Paul Stirling had transformed him into a baseball player. Anything that came over his hip he pulled, hooked and whipped over the mid-wicket and the long-on region. He may have missed out on a century, but his 84-ball 92 laid the foundations for a historic win. He punched 12 boundaries, three of which stormed into the crowd and begged caution. It was because of his rigid innnings that Ireland, despite a mini-stumble towards the end, overcame yet another 300-plus score in a World Cup.

///K/S/R/M//5/0/0/W///

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KSRM
KABIR STEEL SINCE 1984

'Don't call it an upset'

REUTERS, Nelson

Ireland's victory over West Indies in their opening 2015 World Cup clash on Monday was not an 'upset', according to their captain.

William Porterfield's side never actually looked in trouble at Saxton Oval, even if they did allow Lendl Simmons and Darren Sammy to put on 154 runs for the sixth wicket and leaked 124 in the final 10 overs.

Simmons's 102 and Sammy's 89 gave West Indies a total of 304 for seven, though Porterfield felt the score was about par on the small ground and his side should be able to chase it down.

They did, comfortably.

"Personally I hate the term upsets from minnows or Associates," Porterfield told reporters in Nelson. "I don't see it as an upset."

"We came into the game prepared to win, we're prepared to go into the UAE game pre-

pared to win and then South Africa and so on.

"We're looking to pick up two points in every game, and as long as we're doing the right things and building up to that, then we're happy."

The victory was Ireland's fifth in the World Cup since their debut in 2007, with their first victory over a Test nation against

Pakistan in
Jamaica,
which they
followed up
with a win
over
Bangladesh in
Bridgetown.

In 2011

they sealed possibly their biggest victory, beating England by three wickets in Bangalore with Kevin O'Brien scoring a 50-ball century, the fastest at a World Cup.

Porterfield, however, had said before Monday's game that a victory would not be a surprise for his team, something he repeated afterwards.

"We always felt under control and never at any stage did we feel like we were under any pressure, which was great," he said.

neither the infrastructure nor the popularity of the game in Ireland is helping their cause. But there is always this counter-argument that awarding the Test status would go some way to solving these two obstacles. On pure cricketing merit, there should hardly be any qualms about the Irish as all of these players play their trade in English county cricket and have proved their mettle in different conditions around the world, more so than some of their more privileged brothers.

When one considers the fact that Ireland have only got 91 matches since gaining one-day status nine years ago, the ambiguous nature of the ICC's efforts to integrate more deserving teams into the top-tier becomes evident. So yesterday's 'upset', as some people would like to label it, could have come as a more emphatic and timely response to the ICC.

Another emphatic statistic to emerge out of this victory is that Ireland are the only team to have successfully chased down 300-plus scores in World Cup on more than one occasion. In fact they have now done so on three different occasions, with Sri Lanka and England having achieved that once each.

So when Porterfield chose to field against West Indies after winning the toss in Nelson yesterday, despite the fact that all the four previous matches in this World Cup have been won by the team batting first, he was taking a gamble, but the gamble was backed by calculation and confidence.

Still the players had to execute their plans on the field,

SEE PAGE S-4 COL 8

Most 6s hit by a player
David Miller
South Africa

09

Most 4s hit by a player
Aaron Finch
Australia

12

6s
55
4s
276

WHACK
0
METER
SHAH
CEMENT

VISION
MICROWAVE OVEN



SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES v IRELAND R/B 4/6

WEST INDIES	R/B	4/6
Smith c Mooney b K O'Brien	18/24	3/0
Gayle c K O'Brien b Dockrell	36/65	3/1
Bravo run out	0/0	0/0
Samuels lbw b Dockrell	21/41	1/1
Ramdin lbw b Dockrell	1/6	0/0
Simmons c Dockrell	102/84	9/5
b Sorensen	89/67	9/4
Sammy c Dockrell b Mooney	0/0	0/0
Russell not out	27/13	3/1
Holder not out	0/0	0/0
Extras: (lb-1, w-9)	10	0/0
Total: (For 7 wkts in 50 overs)	304	0/0
Did not bat: Roach, Taylor.		
Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-31, 3-78, 4-78, 5-87, 6-241, 7-302.		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mooney	7	1	59	1
Sorensen	8	0	64	1
McBride	10	1	26	0
K O'Brien	9	0	71	1
Dockrell	10	0	50	3
Stirling	6	0	33	0

IRELAND B/4/6
Porterfield c Ramdin b Gayle
Stirling c Ramdin b Samuels
Joyce c Bravo b Taylor
N O'Brien not out
Balbirnie c Bravo b Taylor
Wilson c Gayle b Taylor
K O'Brien run out
Mooney not out
Extras: (b-4, w-9)
Total: (For 6 wkts in 45 overs)
Did not bat: Sorensen, Dockrell, McBride.
Fall of wickets: 1-71, 2-177, 3-273, 4-285, 5-291, 6-291.

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Holder	9	1	44	0
Roach	6	0	52	0
Taylor	8.5	0	71	3
Russell	6	0	33	0
Gayle	8	0	41	1
Sammy	3	0	25	0
Samuels	4	0	25	1
Simmons	1	0	12	0

Result: Ireland won by 4 wickets.

Player-of-the-match: Paul Stirling.

Toss: Ireland

Hammering irks Sammy

AFP, Nelson

West Indies all-rounder Darren Sammy made no secret of his feelings following Monday's shattering World Cup defeat by Ireland, telling his teammates they could not afford a repeat performance.

"If we continue to play like that we won't be here for long for sure," the former West Indies skipper said, blaming a poor bowling performance for losing their Pool B opener -- a match he believed his side should have won.

Sammy wore his heart on his sleeve as he talked to reporters after the match, and also issued an apology for using foul language picked up by on-field microphones during the game.

"When things are not going your way it's always difficult to motivate yourself but as a group you know you've got to keep believing and we need to find some inspiration somewhere and find it quickly," he said.

Sammy and Ireland bowler John Mooney were both fined 30 per cent of their match fees for swearing.

Sammy was heard on television screens using inappropriate words after