

6s
71
4s
404

WHACK 0 METER
SHAH CEMENT

Most 6s hit by a player
David Miller
South Africa
09

Most 4s hit by a player
B McCullum
New Zealand
13



Zimbabwe all-rounder Sean Williams strokes his way to an unbeaten 76 which took his side from a precarious position to a four-wicket victory over United Arab Emirates at the Saxton Oval in Nelson yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Zimbabwe scrape past spirited UAE

AFP, Nelson

Zimbabwe enjoyed their first victory of the World Cup on Thursday but not before they were given a fright by the tournament minnows from the United Arab Emirates.

The Africans' four-wicket win at Nelson's Saxton Oval came with 12 balls to spare and was set up by an 83-run sixth wicket partnership between Sean Williams and Craig Ervine.

Williams, the player-of-the-match, finished on 76 not out.

But until the Zimbabwe middle-order duo's rescue mission the amateurs from UAE, led by a banker and an airline purser-- both aged 43-- had threatened a huge upset.

After being sent into bat, the weekend warriors posted a UAE all-time record one-day international total of 285 for seven and then reduced the Test-playing Zimbabweans to 167 for five in the 33rd over.

But they were unable to maintain the pressure, allowing Zimbabwe to slip away with Williams hitting a boundary to end the closest match in the tournament so far.

It gave Zimbabwe their first win from two games in Pool B, but they looked a shadow of the side that impressed when losing to heavyweights South Africa by 62 runs in their tournament opener.

They were expected to bounce back with

a morale-boosting win over the least experienced side in the tournament.

Instead the gritty amateurs from the Middle East pushed Zimbabwe all the way.

Sikandar Raza and Regis Chakabva made a cautious start to Zimbabwe's reply, getting through to 64 before UAE skipper and banker Mohammad Tauqir made the breakthrough with Raza's wicket for 46.

The next four wickets fell at regular intervals.

Zimbabwe's batting rock, Hamilton

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Masakadza went for one, hit on the back pad in front of middle stump and Chakabva, on 35, was out hit wicket when he slipped playing back to a Tauqir delivery and his foot slipped into the stumps.

Brendan Taylor made 47 and Solomon Mire contributed nine to have Zimbabwe 167 for five before Williams and Ervine combined to all but prevent a shock loss.

Following Ervine's removal with the score at 250, Zimbabwe captain Elton

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Zim almost paid the price

AFP, Nelson

Zimbabwe admitted underestimating the United Arab Emirates after beating the minnows with just 12 balls to spare in Nelson on Thursday.

It was a match the Test-playing Zimbabwe should have won easily against the least experienced and only amateur side in the tournament.

Instead the game went down to the wire after the UAE posted their highest-ever one-day international score.

It took Zimbabwe until the end of the 48th over to pull off a four-wicket win built on the back of an 83-run stand for the sixth wicket between Sean Williams (76 not out) and Craig Ervine (42).

"A lot of people would have thought Zimbabwe should have walked over UAE but that clearly wasn't the case," player-of-the-match Williams said.

"We didn't know what to expect from them and they put up a really good performance with the bat and

our fielding wasn't that great."

Williams said Zimbabwe misread the UAE after watching videos of their previous games, which led them to believe the Middle East nation's batting was brittle.

"We were basically waiting for them to get themselves out but that wasn't the case," he conceded.

admitted the tension was getting to him when Zimbabwe were in the shaky position of 167 for five in the 33rd over.

"I could feel it out there," he said. "I tried not to show it. I tried to breathe, relax and hit the ball down the ground and stick to what we'd been [doing in] training and it ended up paying off."

But the left-handed batsman, who has a deft reverse-sweep in his armoury, said the gap between associate or junior nations such as the UAE and Test-playing countries was closing.

"Any cricket team on the day, if they get all three departments [batting, bowling and fielding] right, will take a top team right to the end," he said.

"UAE are obviously still learning and so are we. They batted really well. I guess they just need to learn when the key moments are in a game, the same as Zimbabwe."

"We are still learning, trying to understand when key moments are and when to put the foot on the gas."

SCAN CEMENT HEIDELBERG CEMENT

"They actually hit the ball really well down the ground and they hit the ball long."

Zimbabwe now have one win from two matches after losing their tournament opener to South Africa by 62 runs when they collapsed chasing a target of 340.

Their pursuit against the UAE began sedately before wickets started falling at regularly intervals and Williams

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SCOREBOARD

UAE V ZIMBABWE

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Amyad c Ervine b Chatara	7/17	1/0		
Berenger c Taylor b Mire	22/36	3/0		
Chandran c Chigumbura b Mire	34/63	3/0		
Khurram c Williams b Chatara	45/55	6/0		
Patil c Chakabva b Williams	32/38	4/0		
Anwar c Ervine b Williams	67/50	9/1		
Mustafa c Taylor b Chatara	4/6	0/0		
Javed not out	25/19	3/1		
Naveed not out	23/17	1/2		
Extras: (b-4, lb-6, w-15, nb-1)	26			
Total: (For 7 wks in 50 overs)	285			
Did not bat: Tauqir, Aziz.				
Fall of wickets: 1-26, 2-40, 3-122, 4-134, 5-216, 6-230, 7-232.				

ZIMBABWE

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Panyangara	9	0	66	0
Chatara	10	1	42	3
Mire	8	0	39	2
Kamungozi	10	0	53	0
Chigumbura	1	0	12	0
Williams	8	0	43	2
Raza	3	0	11	0
Masakadza	1	0	9	0
ZIMBABWE				
Raza c Chandran b Tauqir	46/44	6/1		
Chakabva hit wkt b Tauqir	35/62	4/0		
Masakadza lbw b Javed	1/4	0/0		
Taylor lbw b Aziz	47/44	5/1		
Williams not out	76/65	7/1		
Mire c Patil b Naveed	9/22	0/0		
Ervine c & b Chandran	42/32	2/2		
Chigumbura not out	14/15	2/0		
Extras: (lb-6, w-10)	16			
Total: (For 6 wks in 48 overs)	286			
Did not bat: Panyangara, Chatara, Kamungozi.				
Fall of wickets: 1-64, 2-72, 3-112, 4-144, 5-167, 6-250.				



TASKIN AHMED

Pace will be imperative

BISHWAJIT ROY from Brisbane

Bangladesh's bowling performance against Afghanistan showed just how important pace bowling could be in this World Cup and its importance will be amplified when they play Australia in their next game at the Gabba, which is traditionally one of Australia's quickest pitches.

Mashrafe Bin Mortaza once again displayed what we know he is capable of against Afghanistan in the opening match. Rubel Hossain and young Taskin Ahmed provided their captain with ample support. However, the Aussies pose a much bigger challenge than the Afghans, boasting the likes of David Warner, Aaron Finch, Glenn Maxwell and captain Michael Clarke, who is set to play his first match of this World Cup against the Tigers.

"I am excited because the wicket will be fast. But we have to keep in mind those Australian batsmen are also good on this kind of wicket. Anything bad will be punished heavily," an excited Rubel told reporters.

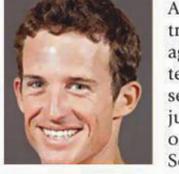
Under bowling coach Heath Streak's guidance, Bangladesh's bowling attack was a disciplined unit in the opener, although the Zimbabwean played only two ODI games in Brisbane during his playing days. However, his vast experience of the Gabba will come in handy for the Tigers, as he will be able to offer valuable input.

"The conditions are fantastic in Australia for pace bowlers. You know I practised at a ground near Gabba during the Under-19 World Cup in 2012 and once I visited the Gabba and thought that I would play at this venue one day. If I get a chance and weather permits then my dream will be fulfilled on Saturday," said young pacer Taskin.

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Man of Steel

SEAN WILLIAMS



At 144 for 4, Zimbabwe were in trouble. The pressure of playing against the minnows had gotten to them at Nelson and it seemed as though they were just waiting to fall like a house of cards. But that was when Sean Williams took the battle to the opposition and fought hard with a 65-ball 76. His confidence was transferred into Craig Ervine who stood by him and ensured that Zimbabwe overcome a tough hurdle. In addition, Williams also picked up two crucial wickets to peg UAE back. Williams's seven fours and one six under pressure needed some nerves of steel.

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It's only the beginning

AL-AMIN

So AFTER the Zimbabwe-UAE match on Thursday the World Cup down under completes the first action (a couple of teams have already played two games) of the 14 participating teams. And in a week of non-stop action we have gone through plenty of excitement and drama. There was joy, the joy of the Indians over their bitter rivals Pakistan, the joy of the Australians over their old enemies

the outcome of the opening game at the iconic MCG. There was a mind-boggling 256-run partnership between South Africa's David Miller (138) and JP Duminy (115), a record for the fifth-wicket at World Cup. And then there was a fairy-tale story from the Irish, who not only chased down West Indies' 300-plus in some style to cause the first upset in cricket's flagship event, but also

gave the game's governing body plenty of food for thought to reconsider its desire to trim the number from 14 to 10 in the next World Cup.

This tournament features four associate-member nations of the ICC. It's a platform where these exposure-starved lightweights get the opportunity to show the world what they are capable of. To be frank, not only Ireland, but also the other three nations --

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GPH ispat

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