



# GAYLE force strikes back

## RECORDS SET

- Gayle's 215 shatters Gary Kirsten's 188 for the highest WC score.
- His double century came in 138 balls, the fastest in ODIs.
- This was his 22nd ODI hundred, the most by any West Indian.
- Gayle and Samuels' 372-run partnership was the highest in ODI history, surpassing Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid's 331.

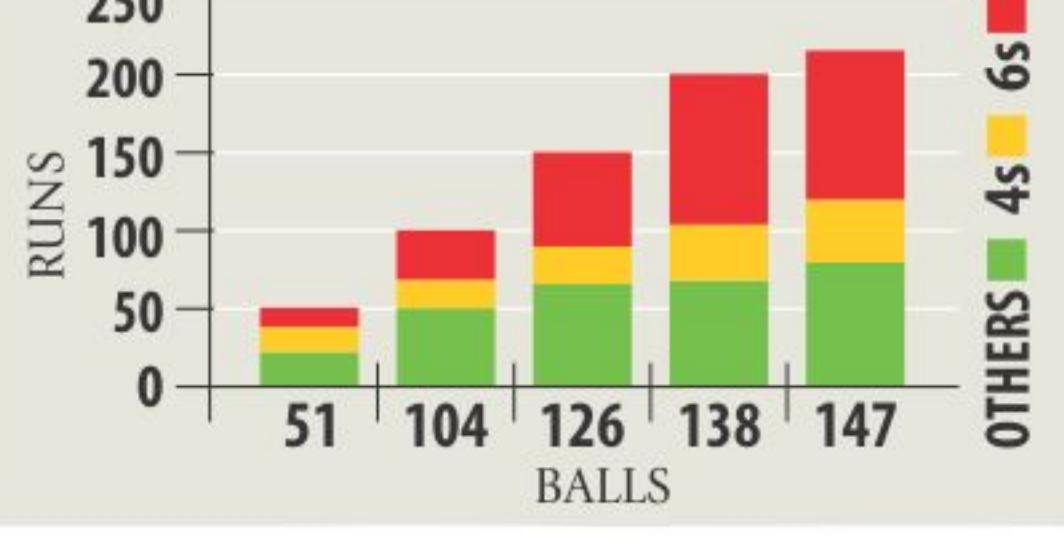
## NUMBERS GAME

- 5 - West Indies' total was their highest ODI score and the 5th highest in a World Cup.
- 16 - Most sixes in an innings, equal with Rohit Sharma and AB de Villiers.
- 400 - Gayle is the second player to hit 400 or more international sixes, behind Shahid Afridi's 447.
- 9000+ - He is the second West Indian to score over 9000 ODI runs.

## TRIVIA

- Gayle is the only player to score 300 in a Test, 200 in an ODI and 100 in a T20 international.
- Gayle smashed the first World Cup double hundred exactly five years after Tendulkar scored the first ODI double hundred.
- Gayle is the only non-indian to score a double century in ODIs.

## THE BUILDING BLOCKS



## THE EYE OF THE STORM

It took Chris Gayle almost two years to gather the momentum and when he did at the Manuka Oval yesterday, the cricketing world witnessed his ferocity with awe and admiration.

PHOTO: AFP

## 'Rohit's two hounded me'

AFP, Canberra

West Indies opener Chris Gayle became the first batsman to score a World Cup double century on Tuesday and admitted he had never felt such pressure to perform.

The giant 35-year-old Jamaican smashed a breathtaking 215 against Zimbabwe at Canberra's Manuka Oval for his first double century in 226 one-day internationals.

His double ton came off just 138 balls -- the quickest 200 in all ODI cricket -- including nine fours and 16 sixes as he surpassed the previous World Cup best of 188 not out by South Africa's Gary Kirsten against the United



Arab Emirates at Rawalpindi in 1996.

Gayle was eventually out off the last delivery of the innings, having faced 147 balls, with 10 fours and 16 sixes taking his team to an imposing 372 for two in the company of Marlon Samuels, whose 133 not out was reduced to a support act.

Zimbabwe were bowled out for 289 in reply to give West Indies a 73-run win on the Duckworth-Lewis method.

Left-hander Gayle's record blast meant he has now completed a career sweep of a triple century in Tests, double century in ODIs and a century in Twenty20 Internationals.

"I got a bit of cramp and I was feeling a bit tired," said Gayle, fortunate to be given not out after an lbw appeal to the first ball he faced went to a review.

"I didn't want to be out with the first

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## THIRD EYE

When you thought his race had been run

ATIQUE ANAM

Chris Gayle isn't a man to show too much emotion in public. He often checks his expressions on the most joyous of occasions when any other player would have been gladly showing all the pent-up emotions. So when the destructive southpaw batsman presented a broad grin for the cameras before going down on his knees at the Manuka Oval yesterday, you could see how much the double hundred meant to him.

It was not only because he had hit his first double hundred and the fastest one (215 off 138 balls) in this format or that it got his side to an almost unassailable position against the Zimbabweans that made Gayle so ecstatic. In fact the innings meant as much as a reminder of his batting credentials to those who had been calling for him to walk away.

Gayle had come into the match under immense pressure from the fans and board officials for his lacklustre performance in the two previous matches (36 off 65 against Ireland and 4 off 14 against Pakistan). Even the West Indies Cricket Board president had joined the bandwagon of hat-

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## WEST INDIES v ZIMBABWE

WEST INDIES R/B 4/6

Smith b Panyangara 0/2 0/0

Gayle c Chigumbura b Masakadza 215/147 10/16

Samuels not out 133/156 11/13

Extras: (b-1, lb-2, w-16, nb-5) 24

Total: (For 2 wkts in 50 overs) 372

Did not bat: Carter, Ramdin, Simmons, Sammy, Russell, Holder, Taylor, Miller. Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-372.

Bowler O M R W

Panyangara 9 0 82 1

Chigumbura 9.4 0 74 0

Williams 5 0 48 0

Chigumbura 7 0 44 0

Raza 10 1 45 0

Kamungozi 3 0 37 0

Masakadza 6.2 0 39 1

ZIMBABWE R/B 4/6

Razzaq b Simmons b Holder 26/20 5/0

Chakabva lbw b Holder 2/5 2/1

Masakadza lbw b Taylor 5/14 0/0

Taylor c Ramdin b Samuels 37/48 9/0

Williams c Smith b Holder 76/61 9/0

Ervine b Gayle 52/41 7/1

Matsikenyeri lbw b Gayle 19/23 2/0

Chigumbura c Gayle b Taylor 21/20 1/1

Panyangara c Ramdin b Taylor 4/8 0/0

Chigumbura c Gayle b Taylor 16/20 1/0

Chigumbura c Gayle b Taylor 6/9 1/0

Extras: (b-9, w-14, nb-2) 25

Total: (All out in 44.3 overs) 289

Fall of wickets: 1-11, 2-26, 3-46, 4-126, 5-177, 6-226, 7-239, 8-254, 9-266.

Bowler O M R W

Taylor 10 0 38 1

Holder 7 0 48 3

Miller 6.3 0 48 3

Samuels 9 0 59 1

Russell 5 0 44 0

Sammy 1 0 8 0

Gayle 6 0 35 2

Result: West Indies won by 73 runs (D/L method)

Player-of-the-match: Chris Gayle

Toss: West Indies

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## Man of Steel

### CHRIS GAYLE

For all those who reckoned that the West Indies had met the end of their course in this World Cup after their defeat to Ireland, 'keep talkin' nah'. Come to think of it, Chris Gayle hadn't scored a century in 20 months; his team have consistently been at odds with their board and have been ridiculed with the difficulty of not bringing along three of their best players to the mega event. Gayle, it seemed, let go of all the pressure and unleashed his fury on the poor Zimbabweans. 16 sixes, 10 fours; 215 off 138 balls; for all those who believed that the Gayle force was nearing its end, bite your tongues! There's a fresh depression at the shores of the island.

Despite the good run, Streak was aware of

## 'Focus on running at the MCG'

BISHWAJIT ROY from Melbourne

The world may reckon that the Tigers ought to be satisfied with the one point that they received against Australia, but to Bangladesh's bowling coach, Heath Streak, it was an opportunity lost for his pacers to throw their hands in one of the fastest pitches, the Gabba, in cricket.

"Not playing against Australia is like not playing Brazil in the football World Cup," re-ramed Streak.

Bangladesh's pacers have so far had a good trip. They have been recording decent figures right from the time they played their first warm-up game in Brisbane. While Mashrafe Bin Mortaza has been deadly accurate, Rubel Hossain and Taskin Ahmed utilised their raw pace to perfection.

Despite the good run, Streak was aware of

the challenge lying ahead. His bowlers would have to contend against the likes of Mahela Jayawardene, Kumar Sangakkara and Tilakaratne Dilshan, who all have feasted on various Bangladeshi attacks in the past.

Apart from the 'pace-test', the other crucial factor that the Tigers will have to focus on, according to Streak, is their running between the wickets.

"Here it's hard to hit boundaries, so twos and threes are up for the taking and as we saw the other night with India that

wickets in hand are quite valuable. So whatever we do first, we must give ourselves a fighting chance to do well and be in the game," opined the former Zimbabwe all-rounder.

"Conditions are very different in Melbourne from other places. We will have

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ers by re-tweeting a fan post asking for a retirement package for Gayle on Saturday.

The criticism may not look completely unwarranted if one goes through Gayle's recent batting records. Prior to yesterday's exploits, the left-hander had managed only a single century in his 34 innings since July 11, 2012 at an average of just 17.4; some 22 runs less than his career average up to that point.

On further analysis, though, one would find that the lack of runs in his bat owed as much to the lack of touch as it did to the injuries he was struggling with. Back injury, hamstring, shoulder injury – you name it, Gayle had it all in this past two years. However, none of the other played as big a part as the persistent back injury which curbed his movement and fluency of batting a great deal.

Gayle started yesterday's innings slowly, but gradually he got into the groove and punished anything that warranted punishment while showing respect to the good ones. The Jamaican combined 59 dot deliveries with 10 fours and

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start something new

banglalink

banglalink