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Mooney caught him on the rope

AGENCIES, Hobart

Another umpiring controversy erupted at ICC World Cup 2015 as Zimbabwe batsman Sean Williams appeared to have been wrongly given out when an Ireland fielder had touched the boundary during their Pool B clash here on Saturday.

Zimbabwe went down to Ireland by five runs in a last-over thriller at Bellerive Oval on Saturday but the talking point was Williams's controversial dismissal.

With the match heading for a tense finish, Williams's dismissal in the 47th over proved the turning point in the end. At the time, Zimbabwe needed 32 runs off 19 balls.

The left-hander was batting on 96 when he hit a Kevin O'Brien ball towards the leg-side where John Mooney took the catch at the boundary. Williams walked off taking the fielder's word on the catch.

However, replays suggested that Mooney's left leg had brushed the rope at the boundary. Zimbabwe's coach Dav Whatmore, who took Sri Lanka to World Cup glory in 1996 was livid with the decision as he jumped out of his chair in the dressing room after watching the replays.

Joel Wilson of West Indies was the third umpire while Ruchira Palliyaguruge (Sri Lanka) and Paul Reiffel (Australia) were on the field.

After the match, stand-in Zimbabwe captain Brendan Taylor was asked about the controversial catch and he said, "You have got to take his [Mooney] word for it. It looked pretty clear but you have to take the fielder's word."

Irish skipper William Porterfield said he had not watched the replays to comment on the catch. "It's very hard to tell on the line. It was great skill anyway," he said.

On social media, cricket fans slammed the ICC for this controversy. Some of the African side's supporters felt Zimbabwe were "cheated".



Ireland players are over the moon after their nail-biting five-run win against Zimbabwe at the Bellerive Oval in Hobart yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

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Irish KO Zimbabwe

AFP, Hobart

Ireland just did enough to see off Zimbabwe by five runs in a thrilling World Cup clash in Hobart on Saturday that kept them on course for the quarterfinals.

Zimbabwe chasing a huge 332 to win, were all but beaten at 74 for four after a top-order collapse.

But stand-in captain Brendan Taylor's superb 121 and a fifth-wicket stand of 149 with Sean Williams (96) gave Zimbabwe hope.

However, a see-saw match turned back the non-Test nation's way when Williams was given out caught right on the boundary by John Mooney.

Big-hitting from tailender Tawanda Mupawira got the target down to seven off the last six balls with two wickets standing.

However, seamer Alex Cusack had Regis Chakabva playing on with the first ball of the 50th over and, two deliveries later, Mupawira holed out to Ireland captain William Porterfield in the deep as the Irish won with three balls to spare.

Cusack finished with fine figures of four for 32 in 9.3 overs as Zimbabwe, who tied a

World Cup match with Ireland in 2007, saw their bid for a last eight place come to a dramatic end.

Victory left Ireland as one of three teams in Pool B on six points behind already qualified leaders India, the defending champions.

Earlier, Ireland veteran Ed Joyce's 112 was the centrepiece of an imposing total of 331 for eight.

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Joyce made Zimbabwe pay for dropping him early in his innings by going on to 112 while Andrew Balbirnie struck a quickfire 97 after Ireland lost the toss.

The pair put on 138 for the third wicket at Bellerive.

Taylor, leading the side in place of the injured Elton Chigumbura, opted to bowl first in overcast conditions after winning the toss.

No pressure on us: Imrul

SPORTS REPORTER from Adelaide

The Bangladesh National Cricket Team yesterday attended their first training session ahead of their crucial clash against England in Adelaide on Monday. It was an optional training session and the players took the opportunity to focus on their skills.

Mushfiqur Rahim, as usual, spent the most amount of time in the nets. He was accompanied by the youngest member of the side Soumya Sarker. However, opener Imrul Kayes was the focus of the day. The left-hander, who replaced the injured Anamul Haque, joined the Tigers yesterday and was raring to have a go at the English.

It's still uncertain whether Imrul will feature in Bangladesh's line-up,

but he has good memories against England. His half-century against England in the 2011 World Cup played a crucial role in Bangladesh's historic win in Chittagong.

However, the situation this time around is different. He has sprung up from a different hemisphere and will need to acclimatize as soon as possible. It was a problem that Imrul aims to tackle as soon as possible.

"I never really expected to be here, but I hope to make this opportunity count. I will get a day to adjust to the conditions here. I batted well in the nets... hope everything goes well," said Imrul, after training.

"I don't think there will be much pressure on us. We have played against both England and New Zealand before and done well," the

left-hander added.

Apart from the optional session, some cricketers also had fun playing cricket with children from the McGrath Foundation. The Foundation is considered to be one of Australia's leading breast cancer support and education charity organisations, with over 33,000 Australian families supported by their nurses in the last six years.

Skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Shakib Al Hasan, Nasir Hossain and Taskin Ahmed were the players who participated in the activity. The Tigers will attend one last training session today before gearing up for the big game against England on Monday. Bangladesh need to win this game in order to keep their quarterfinal hopes alive.



Mushfiqur Rahim enjoys a day of rest with Imrul Kayes, the left-handed opener who joined the Tigers as a replacement for injured Anamul Haque, next to a lake in Adelaide yesterday.

PHOTO: BCB

Little Mushy doing his duties silently

REUTERS, Adelaide

Mushfiqur Rahim may not be in the same league as the leading stumper-batsmen at the World Cup such as Brendon McCullum and Kumar Sangakkara, but the diminutive Bangladesh glovesman has proved he is no less crucial to his team's progress.

New Zealand's success depends to some extent on the kind of start McCullum provides while Sangakkara's role for Sri Lanka is more nuanced, a combination of protector and punisher who must rescue as well as rampage according to match situations.

The 167 runs Mushfiqur scored from three innings with a 121-plus strike rate to establish himself as Bangladesh's top scorer in the tournament suggests the 26-year-old is equally central to his team's fortunes.

The right-handed batsman top scored for his team in their tournament opener against Afghanistan and walked away with the man-of-the-match prize after the 105-run win at Canberra and played a key role in the team's second victory in the tournament against Scotland on Thursday.

Even in the defeat by Sri Lanka, a match where his glove work was sloppy, Mushfiqur contributed 36 quick runs in his team's unsuccessful chase.

Endowed with a strong work ethic, Mushfiqur has undergone a major transformation with the bat, evolving from a dour

lower order batsman to a smooth-scoring middle order asset.

"The last two or three years have gone well for me, but that is in the past," the former Bangladesh captain said before the World Cup, which he saw as a gilt-edged opportunity to prove the team can perform well outside their home comforts.

"If we can do well, it will send a message to others that Bangladesh can play well in such conditions," said Mushfiqur, who forms the core of the team with opener Tamim Iqbal and all-rounder Shakib-Al Hasan.

Bangladesh, who shared the points with Australia after a washout in Brisbane, are fourth in Pool A, just above England, who they face in their next match on Monday.

Mashrafe Mortaza's side will fancy their chances at the Adelaide Oval against a stuttering England before taking on tournament co-hosts New Zealand in their final pool match on Friday.

The Kiwis are looking in ominous form but the tournament has seen several upsets in the past, a couple of them pulled off by Bangladesh themselves.

Another giant-killing act would go a long way to securing a quarterfinal berth and the chances of pulling it off may lie with Mushfiqur and how he performs both in front and behind the stumps.

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IN ALL ODIs

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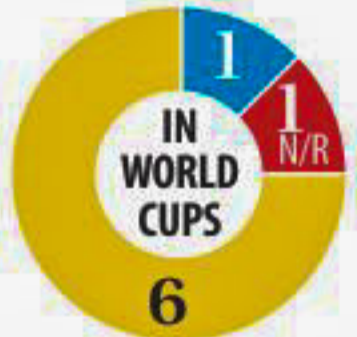
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AUSTRALIA vs SRI LANKA



LAST MEETING
17th June 2013 at
Kennington Oval, London.
Sri Lanka won by 20 runs.



KEY PLAYERS



TRENT BOULT

27.60
20
36.3
4.55
28
5/27
1
5/27 & 0*



DAWLAT ZADRAN

BOWL AVG. 31.78
INNINGS 27
S/R 33.3
ECONOMY RATE 5.71
WICKETS 38
BEST FIGURES 3/29
SW 0
LAST MATCH 2/101 & 0



GLENN MAXWELL

32.37
42
121.87
11
0
95
1198/37
88



KUMAR SANGAKKARA

BATTING AVG 41.55
INNINGS 377
S/R 78.65
50s 93
100s 23
HIGHEST SCORE 169
RUNS/WICKETS 13961/336
LAST MATCH 117*

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Pakistan fans celebrated their win against South Africa, but most of them were sitting on the edge of their seats for most of the game, like Imran Khan was. The Irish were in high spirits and were rewarded.



Rashi Kakkur: Cricketers must speak in the language they are comfortable in during presentation & should use subtitles.



Firdose Moonda: This Eden Park DJ is on the money. Playing music in context to match situation. Currently: Anything could happen.