

## 10 facts

Seven of the last eight one-day internationals between these teams have been won by the team that batted first. All eight of these matches were played in Sri Lanka.

The last 16 ODIs between South Africa and Sri Lanka have produced eight wins apiece

Mahela Jayawardene averages 22.9 in the 42 ODI innings he has played against South Africa, his second lowest average against the 18 teams he has faced

Lasith Malinga recorded the only instance in ODIs of a bowler taking four wickets in four balls in the 2007 World Cup clash between these teams, a one-wicket victory for South Africa

Malinga has taken 92 ODI wickets bowled, the joint-fifth most with Anil Kumble. Wasim Akram (176) has the most

Kumar Sangakkara needs one stumping to become the first wicketkeeper to take 100 ODI stumpings

Sangakkara needs four runs to become the seventh player to score 500 runs in a World Cup tournament. He has four centuries in this tournament, the most recorded in a single World Cup

De Villiers (1,142 runs in 21 innings) needs seven runs to pass Jacques Kallis (1,148 in 32) as South Africa's leading World Cup run-scorer

Tillakaratne Dilshan has scored 148 runs off the 144 balls Morne Morkel has bowled to him in ODIs and been dismissed twice

David Miller has scored 32 runs off the 19 balls Thisara Perera has bowled to him in ODIs, hitting two fours and three sixes, without being dismissed

## SOUTH AFRICA V SRI LANKA

# SL & history in Proteas' way

AFP, Sydney

South Africa will look to do what no Proteas team has done before by winning a knockout match at the World Cup when they face Sri Lanka in a quarterfinal at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Wednesday.

It was at the SCG where South Africa's inspiring World Cup debut in 1992 came to a farcical end after the rain-rule in force at the time left them with the impossible task of scoring 22 runs off one ball in a semifinal loss to England.

Yet that was merely the start of a litany of World Cup woe that included the pain of a tied semifinal but exit on net run-rate against Australia in 1999.

South Africa's worst World Cup finish came on home soil in 2003 when a failure to correctly interpret the Duckworth/Lewis rain rule meant they bowed out at the group stage after a dramatic tie with Sri Lanka in Durban.

In 2011, they suffered a surprise quarterfinal defeat by New Zealand.

In Hashim Amla and skipper AB de Villiers, who made a superb 162 not out against the West Indies in the group stage at the SCG, South Africa boast two of the world's leading batsmen, with Dale Steyn the pre-eminent fast bowler of his generation.

But can they demonstrate their undeniable talent in a 'win or go home' knockout match?

"Every time we get to these events it's going to be questioned," said coach Russell Domingo when asked about South Africa's unwanted tag of 'chokers'.

"We're thinking on what's made us successful over the last year, on what helped us beat Sri Lanka when we toured there eight months ago.

"Those types of things are really important to focus on in the pressure moments."

A specific problem confronting the Proteas is

hasn't yet been at his devastating best this World Cup.

"It's only a matter of time before he puts in a match-winning performance for us," the coach said.

Both South Africa and Sri Lanka won four and lost two of their group matches.

But when it comes to knockout cricket Sri Lanka, the reigning World Twenty20 champions, have the edge on the Proteas.

The 1996 World Cup winners have also been the losing finalists in the last two editions.

"Over the last few years in big tournament matches, I've seen people raise their game and raise the whole team," said Sri Lanka coach Marvan Atapattu.

"These guys can do it again."

Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara, who plans to retire from 50-over cricket after the tournament, is going out in a blaze of glory.

The veteran left-hander comes into Wednesday's match having scored a record four successive ODI hundreds.

Sri Lanka hope to have Rangana Herath fit after he suffered a finger injury against England, with the bowler's left-arm spin likely to be a useful weapon on a SCG pitch renowned for taking turn.

Paceman Lasith Malinga, like Steyn, hasn't yet hit top form.



the form of opener Quinton de Kock, who has managed just 53 runs in six innings this World Cup.

But with de Villiers reluctant to keep wicket, de Kock's skill with the gloves could see him retain his place.

"It is a tricky selection," said Domingo. "We just sort of have this gut feeling that Quinton's got a big score around the corner."

Domingo had a similar view of Steyn, who



Sri Lanka captain Angelo Mathews carries his arsenal into training yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

# MATHEWS seeks 'home' support

AFP, Sydney

Sri Lanka captain Angelo Mathews hopes his side can feed off yet more passionate support from their fans come Wednesday's World Cup quarterfinal against South Africa in Sydney.

When Sri Lanka played tournament co-hosts Australia at the SCG during the pool stages, the vast number of supporters from local expatriate communities, as well as travelling fans, generated so much noise and colour it made the match seem like a home game for the Islanders.

"If you play at the MCG (Melbourne Cricket Ground) or SCG it's like playing at home," Mathews told reporters at the SCG on Tuesday.

"Most of the Sri Lankans across Australia or across the world, they fly into Sydney with immense support for us, and we really enjoy playing in Sydney. We've been getting tremendous support wherever we played."

Sri Lanka have a fine record in knockout matches. The reigning World Twenty20 champions, they've also appeared in the last two World Cup finals and won the tournament back in 1996.

By contrast, South Africa have yet to win a knockout match at the World Cup.

Mathews said the key was to remain positive and not be overwhelmed by the fear of failure -- a criticism that has been levelled against South Africa.

"I think that when you come to the knockout stages most of the things, most of the teams will think that you can't afford to do mistakes or you'll be out of the tournament."

"That kind of attitude is hard to get rid of. You have to play good cricket back ourselves and go out there and enjoy ourselves."

Turning to the Proteas, he said: "We all know that South Africa are a very hard team to beat, especially in this tournament."

"So the history, it's history. You can't really take anything from it."

Sri Lanka remain uncertain over the fitness of Rangana Herath, who suffered a finger injury against England.

"He's still fifty-fifty," said Mathews. "He hasn't had a bowl yet. The physio has to have a look at him once again today."



Kumar Sangakkara perfects his batting in the nets, hoping to continue his run of centuries in the World Cup against South Africa today.

PHOTO: AFP

# All in the numbers

AFP, Adelaide

Cricket is a game of numbers, of runs and wickets, averages and strike rates, all examined in mind-boggling detail.

But for Pakistan's Umar Akmal and Haris Sohail, the crucial figure is the one on their backs.

They are just two players whose superstitions have influenced their choice of shirt numbers at the tournament.

Akmal wears the number three jersey rather than his regular squad number of 96.

The 24-year-old wicketkeeper/batsman, who has handed over the gloves at the World Cup to Sarfraz Ahmed after a poor stretch of form behind the stumps, said he acted on the advice of his 'Pir' or spiritual adviser.

However, he didn't get off to the best of starts with the bat at the World Cup, dismissed for nought against old rivals India before making a tournament best of 59 against the West Indies.

Oddly, Sarfraz, who is not known to have sweated too much over his shirt number -- 54 incidentally -- has thrived in his two games, scoring 49 against South Africa, and taking six catches, before hitting an undefeated 101 opening the innings in the crucial win over Ireland on Sunday.

Surprise call-up Haris Sohail changed his number to 89 instead of

80 and has enjoyed knocks of 70 against the UAE and 36 in the game against India.

He was also out for nought against West Indies and managed only three on Sunday in the Ireland game.

Another Pakistan stalwart, Mohammad Hafeez was reported by local media as having "run from pillar



to post" to get the shirt number eight used by former Pakistan captain, Inzamamul Haq.

Maybe Hafeez should have walked rather than run as an ankle injury forced his withdrawal from the World Cup.

Meanwhile, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, who led India to the 2011 World Cup, wears the number seven

because he was born on the seventh of July -- the seventh month.

"It's just that I always felt seven was very special for me. So it is not superstition. I just love the number seven," said Dhoni.

"It is a very neutral number according to astrologers. It doesn't have a very positive side or a negative side. It is all about yourself. If you have a positive mind and if you are working hard then the results will be in your favour," said Dhoni.

He has also named his own brand of fragrance "7 by MS Dhoni."

Australia introduced shirt numbers in international cricket in the 1995/96 season while the first World Cup to feature numbered jerseys was the 1999 edition in England.

The number 10 is a hugely symbolic shirt in football, worn by greats such as Pele, Diego Maradona and Lionel Messi.

In cricket, legendary Indian batsman Sachin Tendulkar wore the number ten as does Pakistan's Shahid Afridi at this World Cup.

Numerologists associate 10 with energy.

"There is no reason why I wear number 10," said Afridi. "I just like this number."

Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara wears the number 11 which numerology associates with wisdom.

South Africa captain AB de Villiers wears 17 -- he was born on February 17 and made his Test debut on December 17.

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## INFO ZONE

### QUARTER FINAL MATCH - 1

**SOUTH AFRICA v SRI LANKA**

### HEAD TO HEAD

LAST MEETING  
12 Jul 2014 at  
Hambantota, where South  
Africa won by 82 runs



### KEY PLAYERS



AB de VILLIERS	
53.21	BATTING AVG
178	INNINGS
98.87	S/R
45	50s
20	100s
162*	HIGHEST SCORE
99	LAST MATCH

KUMAR SANGAKKARA	
41.97	BATTING AVG
379	INNINGS
79.03	S/R
93	50s
25	100s
169	HIGHEST SCORE
124	LAST MATCH

