

6s
434

4s
2034

WHACK 0 METER

SHAH CEMENT

Most 6s hit by a player
Chris Gayle
West Indies
26

Most 4s hit by a player
K Sangakkara
Sri Lanka
57



Heroic Tigers return today

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh cricket team will return home today evening from a successful World Cup tour. The contingent is scheduled to land at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 7pm.

Apart from a huge group of fans awaiting their heroes, the players will also be greeted by the directors of Bangladesh Cricket Board. According to BCB's media-wing chairman, a grand celebration will be arranged once president Nazmul Hassan Papon returns to the country.

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Pak govt okays tour

CRICINFO, Karachi

Pakistan will tour Bangladesh in April for a full series involving all three formats with the Pakistan government giving the board the green signal. The tour is likely to be preceded by the visit of a security team but it is understood that is more a formality than a potential divider.

The tour, scheduled to begin on April 15, will involve two Tests, three ODIs and a T20.

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WHIRLWIND KNOCK

- Martin Guptill scored 237, the highest for any batsman in a World Cup innings, overtaking Chris Gayle's 215 against Zimbabwe.
- His four fifties came off 64, 47, 23 and 18 deliveries.
- This is the second highest score in ODIs and the highest by any Kiwi.
- He scored 117 off his first 120 balls and 120 off the next 43 balls.

NUMBERS GAME

- 393 - New Zealand scored 393 runs in this game, the most by any team in a World Cup knockout.
- 300 - West Indies are the only Test nation to have never chased a 300-plus target in ODIs.
- 96 - Andre Russell gave 96 runs, the most in World Cup knockouts.
- 2 - West Indies are the only team to concede two double-tons.

TRIVIA

- Both Rohit Sharma & Guptill reached their maiden ODI 200 in their 103rd innings and were dropped on 4.
- 31 sixes were hit yesterday, the previous highest in a World Cup match was 19.
- The 143-run victory margin was the highest in a knockout.
- It was the fastest-scoring match in WC history (RR:7.98).

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ON TOP DOWN UNDER: Martin Guptill raises his arms upon reaching his double-century against West Indies in the fourth and final World Cup quarterfinal in Wellington on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

A Guptill Grand Slam

AGENCIES, Wellington

Martin Guptill said his World Cup record 237 not out against the West Indies made in New Zealand's thumping quarterfinal victory on Saturday had not "really sunk in yet".

The 28-year-old opener's total surpassed the previous World Cup best of 215, made by the West Indies' Chris Gayle against Zimbabwe at Canberra last month, and was the cornerstone of tournament co-hosts New Zealand's dominant 143-run win.

Guptill, dropped on four by Marlon Samuels, faced 163 balls as he hit 24 fours and 11 sixes, one of them a 110-metre rocket that landed on the roof of Wellington's Westpac Stadium.

His innings was also the second-highest indi-

vidual score in the 3,643 match history of one-day internationals, behind Rohit Sharma's 264 for India against Sri Lanka at Kolkata last year.

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It was all the more remarkable because Guptill's left foot was maimed in a forklift accident when he was a teenager, resulting in the loss of three toes and

almost ending his career before it had begun.

Guptill said his contribution to New Zealand's last-eight success felt "pretty cool" but he was concentrating on their next challenge, a semifinal against South Africa in Auckland on Tuesday.

"It hasn't really sunk in yet and we've still got a bit of work to do in this tournament so I can't dwell in it too much," he said.

The Aucklander, who scored a century in New Zealand's previous match against Bangladesh, said he had to ignore the pressure of playing a knockout match in front of a home crowd.

"Obviously there is pressure when you walk in to bat but you've just got to try to put it out of your mind and watch the ball as well as

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THIRD EYE 200 is the new hundred

ATIQUE ANAM

There was a time, not too long ago, that reaching a hundred in a one-day international was thought to be the pinnacle of achievement for a batsman. A century may still occupy some special significance in a batsman's career, but in a broader perspective, a hundred has seemed to lose much of its lustre of late, thanks to the invasion of 200s.

Yes, 200 is the new hundred.

Remember the first ever World Cup match that was played between England and India at Lord's in 1975? Not too many people might remember the outcome or scorecard of that match, where England expectedly handed a massive 202 run-defeat to India, for it belongs to a bygone era. But the thing from that match that stands out to this day – and is often cited as a reminder of how much one-day cricket and cricket in general has evolved – is the innings from Sunil Gavaskar. The legendary batsman opened the Indian innings and stayed at the wicket for all 60 overs – a great display of technique and temperament no doubt – and ended up scoring only 36 off 174 deliveries. Gavaskar might not have won the match for India, and to be fair he never meant to – but the innings exemplified how most

GPH GPH ispat

teams of that era approached one-day cricket: try playing the full quota of overs and that will end up with us having a decent score on the board, or if batting second, at least salvage some pride of not being bowled out. By the end of the 60 overs, India had lost only three wickets and amassed 132 runs. There were exceptions of course, for example, the West Indian batsmen always took it to the bowlers and the English and the Australians did so too at times, but for most, a run-a-ball innings was believed to be the benchmark of A-Grade batsmanship. And things stayed that way for a long, long time, albeit with a few upward kinks here and there, until the introduction of the Twenty20s in 2003.

The newest form of cricket brought about batting improvisations of all sorts – the no-stump approach, the switch-hit, the reverse flick and the helicopter shot to name a few – and those innovations were transferred to the one-day format which already was increasingly lenient to batsmen and severe on the bowlers with batsman-friendly rules being adopted.

Hence, while the first 39 years of ODI cricket did not witness a single double century, the last six years featured

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'No one else to blame'

AFP, Wellington

West Indies have their own inconsistencies to blame for being bundled out of the World Cup in the quarterfinals, captain Jason Holder said following their 143-run trouncing by New Zealand.

The class of 2015 fell well short of the standards set by proud West Indies teams of the past which have twice won the World Cup.

They were the last team to qualify for the play-offs and in their first sudden-death match in Wellington on Saturday they were all out for 250 in the 31st over after New Zealand had posted an imposing 393 for six.

Holder said the performance was typical of the way the West Indies had played throughout the tournament, winning three and losing three pool games.

"We've had some good games, we've had some bad games. Our bowlers have to be a lot more consistent than they are at the moment."

The 23-year-old Holder was a surprise choice to lead the West Indies, taking over from Dwayne Bravo who along with

Kieron Pollard was dropped for the World Cup following the players' strike during their India tour last year.

Throughout the tournament he was dogged by suggestions that he did not have the support of senior players

Against New Zealand former captain Darren Sammy and the experienced Suleiman Benn appeared to be giving directions on the field which Holder dismissed as being part of a team effort to achieve a breakthrough.

"Sammy's obviously a senior player, Benn is also a senior player. We always try to get input from everybody and just try to get the best field for the batsmen at a particular stage of the game."

"I've been through a lot. There's been a lot of criticism thrown left right and centre, all over the place."

"I'm proud of myself for the way I stood up. I'm not one to shy away from responsibility or dip my head when things get tough. I expected it was a tough job when I accepted the captaincy."

"But we've had some good times and I've learned a lot in how to manage our players and get the best out of them."

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Man of Steel

MARTIN GUPTILL

As co-hosts New Zealand were wreaking havoc on the other teams early in the group stages, Martin Guptill was perhaps the least talked member of the side. The tall right-hander, who had previously scored only five centuries in his 100 ODIs prior to the start of the World Cup, remained the understudy as skipper Brendon McCullum unleashed his full fury against oppositions. After a rather indifferent first four matches, Guptill's time finally came as he managed a painstaking 57 against Afghanistan. Buoyed by that half-century, the opener went on to make a match-winning hundred against Bangladesh. But what he did yesterday in the fourth quarterfinal against West Indies was beyond anyone's expectations. The 30-year-old amassed 237 not out in just 163 balls, with 24 boundaries and 11 sixes, in an epic knock which propelled the Kiwis to the semifinal. He brought up his first hundred in 111 balls and from thereon took only 52 balls for the next 137 runs.

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SCORECARD

NEW ZEALAND-WEST INDIES

NEW ZEALAND	R/B	4/6		
Guptill not out	237/163	24/11		
McCullum c Holder b Taylor	12/8	1/1		
Williamson c Gayle b Russell	33/35	5/0		
Taylor run out (Ramdin/Benn)	42/61	2/0		
Anderson c Gayle b Russell	15/16	1/1		
Elliott lbw b Taylor	27/11	2/2		
Ronchi c Benn b Taylor	9/5	2/0		
Vettori not out	8/2	2/0		
Extras: (lb-2, w-7, nb-1)	10			
Total: (For 6 wks in 50 overs)	393			
Did not bat: Boult, Milne, Southee				
Fall of wickets: 1-27, 2-89, 3-232, 4-278, 5-333, 6-365				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Taylor	7	0	71	3
Holder	8	0	76	0
Benn	10	1	66	0
Russell	10	0	96	2
Sammy	8	0	38	0
Samuels	7	0	44	0
WEST INDIES	R/B	4/6		
Gayle b Milne	61/33	2/8		
Charles b Boult	3/6	0/0		
Simmons c Guptill b Boult	12/17	1/1		
Samuels c Vettori b Boult	27/15	3/1		
Ramdin lbw b Boult	0/4	0/0		
Carter b Vettori	32/39	4/1		
Sammy c Ronchi b Anderson	27/16	3/1		
Russell b Southee	20/11	1/2		
Holder c Anderson b Vettori	42/26	5/2		
Taylor c Guptill b Southee	11/12	2/0		
Benn not out	9/4	2/0		
Extras: (w-6)	6			
Total: (All out in 30.3 overs)	250			
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-27, 3-80, 4-80, 5-120, 6-166, 7-173, 8-201, 9-221				
Bowler	O	M	R	W
Southee	8	1	82	2
Boult	10	3	44	4
Vettori	6.3	0	58	2
Milne	4	0	42	1
Anderson	2	0	24	1

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