



Proteas' five costly fielding bloopers

AGENCIES, Auckland

South Africa have had no luck in World Cup semifinals. The rain rule cruelled them in 1992; a tie knocked them out in 1999 while a spectacular batting capitulation ended their run in 2007.

On Tuesday night it was their fielding that cost them dearly. Their ground fielding was superb, saving boundaries and limiting potential two runs to singles, but when it came to hitting the stumps and taking clutch catches, the South Africans were found wanting.

Here are the five fielding blunders that made the Proteas wilt in Auckland.

THE COLLISION THAT SAVED ELLIOTT

New Zealand hero Grant Elliott, who was born and raised on the high veldt in South Africa, led the home side to victory with an unbeaten 84 including the winning six with just a ball remaining. He should not have been there. On the final ball of the penultimate over, Elliott skied a pull shot off fast bowler Morne Morkel towards deep backward square leg. Two South African fielders, JP Duminy and Farhaan Behardien, converged for the catch. Replacement fielder Behardien was under the ball but, with Duminy distracting him as he rushed in from fine leg, dropped the chance with neither man apparently calling for the ball. And rather than grasping it, the pair collided with each other and Elliott, who was on 75 at that time, kept his wicket and picked up two crucial runs.

DEVILLIERS'S FUMBLE-ATHON

Yes. No. Wait. Doh! Elliott's match-winning partnership with all-rounder Corey Anderson should have ended in its infancy. With New Zealand still needing 94 runs to win from less than 12 overs, Elliott sent his partner back when a quick single was called. Anderson was hopelessly short of his ground and all AB de Villiers needed to do

was to collect the return and break the stumps. The South African skipper fumbled the throw, broke the stumps with his hand and not the ball and then added to the calamity by rolling forward into the wickets. It was as ungainly as it was unsuccessful.

WICKETKEEPING BLUES

After dismissing the dangerous Luke Ronchi in the 41st over, South Africa needed the wicket of the established Elliott to take control. Two balls after Ronchi holed out, they had their chance. Elliott attempted a suicidal second run on the return throw from the boundary by Rilee Rossouw, but wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock missed the ball and Elliott arrived safely at the crease.

DEVILLIERS MISSES AGAIN

The pressure was on in the 41st over and New Zealand batsman Daniel Vettori was keen to sneak a single. On the final ball of the over he backed up too far at the non-strikers' end but the throw from de Villiers missed the stumps. Vettori went on to hit a



There was no rainbow after rain again and the chokers they remain. This time though it was South Africa's fielding that cracked at the crucial stages against New Zealand in the semifinal at Eden Park in Auckland yesterday. (Clockwise from top) AB de Villiers falls after he was unable to run out Corey Anderson; Farhaan Behardien (R) and JP Duminy on collision course while attempting a catch; wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock breaks the stumps in vain after missing the ball.

PHOTOS: COLLECTED



crucial boundary in the final over.

MISS AND RUN

De Kock had an unhappy night. In the pressure-filled final over, the New Zealand batsmen were running for everything, including when they missed the ball. Twice they snuck through for a bye when de Kock missed the stumps. On the second occasion not only did de Kock miss, but the bowler Dale Steyn did the same with his throw at the non-strikers end. The mistake brought Elliott on strike who hit the match winning six on the following ball.



'Remember the name Rubel'

NAIMUL KARIM

From those deadly in-swinging yorkers to the brutal pace which surprised almost all of Bangladesh's opponents, Rubel Hossain has provided fans with several moments to cherish in this World Cup. It was a complete turnaround to the dismal phase he went through prior to the World Cup. He spoke to *The Daily Star* yesterday regarding those crucial moments in the mega event and what he plans to take with him to his deathbed.

TDS: Do you feel like a hero after your arrival?

Rubel: (laughs) No; I am not a hero. But to defeat England and to go on to the quarterfinals; that was a dream come true and I am proud that we achieved it. I feel as though life is really good at the moment.

TDS: What were you thinking before your last over against England?

Rubel: I was telling myself that this was that one opportunity to change a lot of things for Bangladesh's cricket. For some reason there was this urge within me to prove to the people of my country that I can create a difference. I wanted to tell them that Rubel Hossain could make the difference. I was desperately waiting for a chance like that and once I got it; I wanted to take full advantage. That is one



over I will never forget in my life. I think I'll even take it to my deathbed!

TDS: You were one of the fastest bowlers of the tournament. Did you focus a lot on speed?

Rubel: See, I have my strengths and my weaknesses. My strength is that I bowl fast, although that's not what I concentrated on in the World Cup, but yes I did bowl quick. I tried to focus more on my line and length. After going there I practiced a lot, especially death over bowling. When we went to

Australia we realised that the wickets were not how we expected and so we had a lot of meetings and all that analysis helped me.

TDS: What was your most memorable experience in this World Cup?

Rubel: Obviously the time when we beat England and that last over. I also enjoyed the fact that no team in the World Cup underestimated us or treated us like a small team. This Bangladesh team is not like before; it's different. No one thought we were an underdog. We proved that when we almost beat New Zealand in the group stage.

TDS: You seemed very happy when you got Virat Kohli out...

Rubel: He is a top-class player; in another level altogether, but I always believed that I

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WHAT THEY SAY



Here are some of the best tweets after New Zealand beat South Africa at Eden Park yesterday.

"What a game. What's the first thing you do when you win a semi? Everyone cleans their boots for Oz customs." -Ross Taylor

"Plenty of respect for AB De Villiers and his team, they played great cricket. We know that 7 overs lost played a big part." -Brian Lara

"Big Congratulations to New Zealand for making the final and playing amazing cricket. It's tough to see a side lose in a match like the semis. Well played South Africa." -Sachin Tendulkar

"What a game of cricket in NZ, please hold your heads high South Africa, you've done everyone proud as you gave it absolutely everything!!" -Shane Warne

"That was as good as sport gets. Don't think the SA boys will be sending Mr Duckworth and Lewis a Xmas card anytime soon." -Ed Cowan

"What an unbelievable game. So proud of the Black Caps and what they have achieved. Also feel the raw pain of the Proteas on an amazing day." -Stephen Fleming

"Still proud of my boys, good fight thru out the game. Great game of cricket by you buggers. You can stand up tall and be proud of your performance." -Lonwabo Tsotsobe

"What a semi final! I feel for the SA boys. Well done to NZ." -Mahela Jayawardene

"I really feel for AB and the Proteas. Huge credit to Grant Elliott. In cricket terms, what a great spectacle it has been. D/L I'm not sure?" -Brendan Taylor

Boult from the blue!

AFP, Auckland

Trent Boult became New Zealand's top wicket-taker in a World Cup series with two early wickets in their semifinal against South Africa at Eden Park on Tuesday.

The dismissals lifted Boult to 21 wickets,

the most by any bowler in this World Cup and one ahead of the previous New Zealand best of 20 set by Geoff Allott in 1999.

Boult bowled Hashim Amla for 10 and had Quinton de Kock caught in the deep for 14.

It was Boult who reduced South Africa to 31 for two after eight overs.



New Zealand pace bowler Trent Boult (L) has been a revelation in this World Cup. With his couple against South Africa yesterday, the left-arm quick took his tally to 21.

PHOTO: AFP



Auckland's Eden Park was fired up by Black Caps' supporters, but the Proteas' fans were also there in numbers, while a few neutrals supported both sides.



Mignon du Preez: My heart is breaking for our boys! Great passion shown throughout! SA should still be proud, they gave it their all #ProteaFire
Soumya Deep: Grant Elliott becomes the first South-African to reach a World Cup final.