

SPORT



DOMINANCE VS RECOVERY



Mashrafe Bin Mortaza led from the front in the first T20I against Zimbabwe at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday. After taking two wickets in the first innings, Mashrafe found himself batting Bangladesh to victory in the second. He smashed two fours and a six in his 12-ball 15, willing his side to a win.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

'We need to stop rushing'

SPORTS REPORTER



A total of 131 shouldn't have challenged the Tigers in their own den. However, as it happened, the hosts had to depend upon their number eight batsman -- their skipper -- at the end of it all to put things to rest.

While Mashrafe Bin Mortaza enjoyed smacking those boundaries in the end and finishing off the game in style, he wasn't particularly happy with his batsmen's approach.

"Obviously we didn't want to chase the target that way. We seemed to be in a bit of a hurry. I think we should have just batted normally. But on the whole, the win was important. Hopefully everyone will play according to plan in the next match," said Mashrafe in the post-match press conference in Mirpur yesterday.

"In a T20 you generally try to get boundaries in the first six overs and put around 50 runs on the board. If you notice, we got 47 and after that there was no need to rush things.

"Instead of rushing, we should have thought about getting set. If we had two set batsmen we could have won the game easily," elaborated the skipper.

The other crucial aspect of the game was regarding the performance of Jubair

Hossain. Jubair had leaked 17 runs in his first over. While Mashrafe admitted that the youngster was a bit nervous at first, he was however pleased to see him scalp two wickets at the end.

"This series is probably the last chance for us to find a good combination before the T20 World Cup, so maybe there was a bit more pressure Jubair. But this was a good opportunity to see the way he performs under pressure. The first over was a bit difficult for him, but he came back well," said Mashrafe.

After Jubair's first over it was unclear whether the debutant would get the ball again in the match. However he was brought back in the 16th over and incidentally had to bowl his first ball at Malcolm Waller, who tore him apart in his first spell.

"The reason why I gave him another over was because he is a main bowler in our side. There is no point of picking a player in the side as a bowler and giving him just one over.

"It was a challenging decision no doubt, but in my opinion he had to bowl. It didn't matter if he bowled badly or if he bowled well. Thankfully he did well," said Mashrafe.

With the next T20I tomorrow, the skipper hopes his players can learn from their mistakes in the first T20I and put up an even better showing.

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BD-ZIM SCOREBOARD					
ZIMBABWE					
	R/B	A/6			
Raza c Liton b Mashrafe	4/5	1/0			
Chakabva c Mushfiqur b Al-Amin	0/3	0/0			
Williams b Nasir	15/21	1/0			
Chigumbura b Mashrafe	0/1	0/0			
Ervine b Mahmudullah	20/31	2/0			
Waller c Liton b Mustafizur	68/31	4/6			
Jongwe lbw b Jubair	0/5	0/0			
Madziva c Nasir b Jubair	1/3	0/0			
Chisoro not out	7/10	0/0			
Cremer b Al-Amin	3/4	0/0			
Panyangara lbw b Mustafizur	4/3	1/0			
Extras: (b-1, lb-7, w-1)	9				
Total: (All out in 19.3 overs)	131				
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-8, 3-10, 4-38, 5-105, 6-106, 7-108, 8-122, 9-126.					
Bangladesh					
	R/B	A/6			
Mashrafe	4	20	2		
Al-Amin	4	20	2		
Mustafizur	3.3	0	16		
Nasir	3	0	29		
Mahmudullah	3	1	18		
Jubair	2	0	20		
Tamim lbw b Cremer	31/28	3/0			
Anamul run out	1/2	0/0			
Sabbir c Ervine b Chisoro	18/16	3/0			
Mushfiqur c Raza b Cremer	2/5	0/0			
Nasir lbw b Cremer	16/12	1/1			
Mahmudullah not out	22/21	2/0			
Liton c Cremer b Chisoro	17/12	2/0			
Mashrafe not out	15/12	2/1			
Extras: (lb-4, w-8, nb-2)	14				
Total: (For 6 wks in 17.4 overs)	136				
Did not bat: Mustafizur, Al-Amin, Jubair.					
Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-45, 3-54, 4-79, 5-80, 6-118.					
Bowler					
	O	M	R	W	
Mashrafe	4	0	20	2	
Al-Amin	4	0	20	2	
Mustafizur	3.3	0	16	2	
Nasir	3	0	29	1	
Mahmudullah	3	1	18	1	
Jubair	2	0	20	2	
Tamim lbw b Cremer	31/28	3/0			
Anamul run out	1/2	0/0			
Sabbir c Ervine b Chisoro	18/16	3/0			
Mushfiqur c Raza b Cremer	2/5	0/0			
Nasir lbw b Cremer	16/12	1/1			
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Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-45, 3-54, 4-79, 5-80, 6-118.					
Bowler					
	O	M	R	W	
Panyangara	3	0	25	0	
Madziva	3	0	24	0	
Jongwe	1.4	0	24	0	
Chisoro	4	1	15	2	
Cremer	4	0	29	3	
Williams	2	0	15	0	
Results: Bangladesh won by 4 wickets and lead 2-match series 1-0.					
Player-of-the-match: Malcolm Waller.					

Tigers scramble home after Waller storm

NAIMUL KARIM



The difference between Bangladesh's confidence in the ODI and T20I formats was evident in Mirpur yesterday. While the hosts managed to scramble past Zimbabwe's total of 131 at the end of the first T20I, it was their lack of planning in the batting department that seemed to garner more attention.

To their credit the Zimbabweans bowled a tight line and length, especially Graeme Cremer who outfoxed three Bangladesh batsmen with some well-flighted turners.

However, the Tigers did seem the least bit synchronised with the bat. It was a performance which seemed especially dismal considering that Malcolm Waller had scored an effortless 68 off 31 deliveries in the first innings.

Playing his first international match since the World Cup, Anamul Haque received an unfortunate welcome as he was run-out in the very first over.

The batters who arrived immediately afterwards seemed to have just one focus -- smack boundaries. And a

majority of the wickets fell exactly because of that.

Sabbir Rahman seemed to gear up for a boundary before almost every delivery. While he did get a few, he ended up scoring just 18 off 16 deliveries before getting caught attempting another big hit.

Mushfiqur Rahim skied a short Cremer delivery just five balls in. Cremer came back in the next over to trap both Nasir Hossain and Tamim Iqbal in front of the wicket.

At 80 for 5, the Tigers were staring down the barrel and needed a change in approach.

Liton Das arrived next and together with Mahmudullah shared a cautious 38-run stand for the sixth wicket. By the time Liton was sent back in the 16th over, the hosts were on the brink of victory.

Skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza came in next smacked two fours and a six and ensured that there were no further hiccups.

Earlier, after being put into bat, Zimbabwe were struggling at 39 for 4 after nine overs. It was only after Waller arrived at the crease in the 10th over that their innings received some much-needed momentum.

Their key batsmen -- Sikandar Raza, Elton Chigumbura and Sean Williams -- departed early and there seemed to be no respite in sight.

However, the momentum shifted when Mashrafe brought debutant Jubair Hossain to the fore.

The leg-spinner made a nervous start and got smacked for 17 runs in over number 10, which saw Waller launch two sixes. That over brought Waller into his groove and he dispatched Nasir for 20 in the next over and eventually brought up his 50 off just 20 balls.

Between overs nine and fourteen Zimbabwe scored 66 runs, most of which came off the bat of Waller. He alone hit five sixes and four 4s during that period.

The tides once again turned as Mahmudullah bowled a wicket- maiden in the 15th over and calmed the Bangladesh dressing room.

Jubair came back and scalped two wickets in the 16th over and made amends for his disastrous start. Waller was eventually removed for 68 by Mustafizur Rahman in the 18th over and Zimbabwe's acceleration stopped right there.

'We should have got 150'

SPORTS REPORTER



Malcolm Waller's breezy 68 off 31 deliveries easily stood out yesterday. While the rest of the batters struggled to get move along, Waller smacked six fours and four sixes in his cameo and single-handedly gave the visitors a shot at their first win of the tour.

The key moment according to the Zimbabwean was when leg-spinner Jubair Hossain was given the ball at over number 10. Waller smacked a nervous Jubair for two sixes in an over which produced 17 runs. From there, Waller rode the wave for the next five overs.

"It was his first game of the series so it was very important to put him under pressure. He was the right bowler to target I think," said Waller at the post-match press conference.

"The wicket was a little up and down but I didn't let that come to my mind. I just tried to go out there and back my game. I freed myself up. I was a bit knuckled down under pressure in the ODIs, but today I just backed my playing shots," he added.

Due to Waller's knock, Zimbabwe managed to post 131. However, the batsman believed that the visitors could have scored around 150.

"I think the total was a couple [of runs] short. We need a lot more runs on the board in the next game and bowl well to make things easier for ourselves," said Waller.

"I think we were a lot more positive today than we were in the ODIs. The guys had nothing to lose today. We have put the one day series behind us and we are focused on a different game," he concluded.

Siddikur steady

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's premier golfer Siddikur Rahman settled for a consecutive even-par (71) as he momentarily moved one place up to sixth at the end of the second day of the World Classic Championship in Singapore yesterday. The 30-year-old golfer traded three birdies for the same number of bogeys, just like he did in the first round, at the Laguna National Golf and Country Club yesterday for an aggregate of even-par (142).

Australia's Scott Barr, too, carded 71 to take the second round lead at two-under (140), while two Thai golfers were above him, but they are yet to complete their rounds as play was suspended early due to fading light after having been suspended for over two hours due to thunderstorms in the afternoon. A total of 66 players will return this morning to finish their second round at the inaugural 750,000-dollar Asia Tour event.

'Sachin who?' asks British Airways

IANA, Mumbai

Sachin Tendulkar slammed British Airways (BA) on Friday for their poor customer services and his cue was promptly taken up by his legions of fans who trolled the airlines on Twitter for asking the batting maestro's full name.

Tendulkar took to Twitter to express his disappointment with the airline's services. Soon after his tweet, BA asked the legend to provide his full name and details.

It prompted his vast number of fans around the globe to make fun of the airline online.

Tendulkar tweeted out his anger after BA failed to confirm his family members' waiting list tickets despite seats being available.

"Angry Disappointed and Frustrated... #BADserviceBA Family member's Waitlisted ticket not confirmed despite seats being available," Tendulkar wrote on Friday.

"And luggage being tagged by @British_Airways to wrong destination and don't care attitude," he added.

In reply, the airline asked for his full name and other details, which was trolled by thousand of Tendulkar's fans.

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PERFORMER OF THE DAY

MALCOLM WALLER

While the first Twenty20 between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe saw too many middling scores from either side, there was but one stand-out performer with the bat. Malcolm Waller, the veteran Zimbabwe all-rounder, just showed what the shortest version of cricket is all about during his hurricane 31-ball 68. The 31-year-old came at the crease with his team four down for 38 in the ninth over, and immediately took the task to the bowlers -- dispatching both spinners and faster bowlers with equal aplomb and brute power -- on way to scoring the fastest fifty (off 20 balls) for his country in this format. Waller departed for 68, featuring four 4s and six 6s, in the 18th over, but had already made sure that his side had a challenging total.

Wounded SA in a corner

2nd Test against India starts today

AFP, Bangalore



South Africa suffered a crushing double blow ahead of Saturday's second Test against India as both pace spearheads Dale Steyn and Vernon Philander were ruled out with injuries.

Philander twisted his left ankle during practice in Bangalore on Thursday and will miss the rest of the four-Test series as MRI scans showed he may be out of action for up to eight weeks.

On Friday, South African skipper Hashim Amla confirmed that Steyn had not recovered from a groin strain he suffered during the first Test in Mohali last week.

"Both Dale (Steyn) and Philander are ruled out of this match," Amla told reporters at the Chinnaswamy stadium as the tourists prepared to bid for a series-levelling win.

"Obviously, losing Dale -- one of the best bowlers in the world -- and Philander -- one of the best all-rounders in the world -- certainly changes the dynamics of the team.

"But the guys who will replace them are quality cricketers. We are fortunate to have great depth in our side, especially in the bowling. We still have a potent bowling attack to back it up."

The tourists, the world's top-ranked Test side, crashed to a 108-run defeat inside three days in the first match in Mohali as they found Indian spinners unplayable on the dry, dusty pitch.

Big win draws Eng level

AFP, Abu Dhabi



Alex Hales smashed a maiden hundred and Chris Woakes ended his wicket drought with four victims as England beat Pakistan by 95 runs to win the second one-day international on Friday.

Hales's 109 was the cornerstone of England's challenging 283-5 before Woakes -- wicketless in his last six games -- took 4-33 to help dismiss Pakistan for 188 in 45.5 overs at Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

The victory levelled the four-match series at 1-1 after Pakistan won the first game by six wickets -- also in Abu Dhabi -- on Wednesday.

Pakistan were out of the hunt after losing half their side for 50 in the 19th over as Woakes ripped through the middle-order.

But it was David Willey who removed opener Babar Azam (four) and first match centurion Mohammad Hafeez (nought) in his first three overs before finishing with 3-25.

Woakes had debutant Iftikhar Ahmed caught for five, Shoaib Malik (13) caught off a miscued pull and then had skipper Azhar Ali bowled after a laborious 45-ball 22.

Sarfraz, who top-scored with 64, added 30 with Mohammad Rizwan (17) for the sixth wicket and 65 for the seventh wicket with Anwar (23) but it only delayed Pakistan's defeat.

Sarfraz fought a lone battle, hitting three boundaries during his 76-ball knock before falling to Woakes in the 45th over.

England's match.

He shared a 102-run partnership for the first wicket with Jason Roy (54) and another 114 for the second with Joe Root (63) as England put up a challenging total.

The third match will be played in Sharjah on Tuesday.

SCORES IN BRIEF

ENGLAND: 283 for 5 (Hales 109, Root 63, Roy 54; Riaz 3-43)

PAKISTAN: 188 all out in 45.5 overs (Sarfraz 64, Anwar 23; Woakes 4-33, Willey 3-25)

Result: England won by 95 runs.

Player-of-the-match: Alex Hales (England).



PHOTO: AFP

England opener Alex Hales plays a cover drive on way to scoring his maiden century during the second ODI against Pakistan in Abu Dhabi yesterday.