

WATCHING CRICKET ALONE VS WITH FRIENDS



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Unless you're Patrick Star, living under a rock in Bikini Bottom, you're aware that the ICC T20 World Cup is underway. The good thing about T20s is that with the matches being comparatively shorter, you can watch them easily without having to spend hours in front of the TV. Of course, the same game can leave you feeling all sorts of different ways, depending on the company you watch it with i.e. alone or with friends.

"I walk a lonely road..."

If you're watching a game alone, you'll probably be able to catch the whole game, and watch it more intently too. That is, however, if you can overcome the bore-

dom, because watching cricket alone can have the entertainment equivalent of the school on weekends.

You may see Gayle hit a six; you may see Gayle hit eleven sixes, but if you're alone, all you'll do is silently appreciate it. And of course, post a status.

Wow! Christopher Gayle OMG! 11 6s! Whattebeast!

#gaylestorm #blewmy mind

With friends, each of those 11 sixes is like celebrating New Year's Eve at Times Square. Watching the match becomes more like a frat party... with zoo animals. Friends, no doubt, make cricket more fun, but with all the bedlam, you get a poorer overall viewing of the game.

Imagine a contentious lbw or run-out

decision, and you have supporters from both teams watching; the mayhem that would ensue would rival even those *genjams* taking place in the chipa-goli of Lalmatia or in broad daylight on Dhanmondi Rd. 9. You can expect to be hit with flying curses, flailing limbs and broken teeth in these situations, yet still miss out on the umpire's decision.

Watching the game alone does give you the freedom to bash any player you like without anyone defending him. With friends, try insulting a player and immediately someone stands up for him and you argue; the beginning of the end of a friendship begins. Alone, vent out all that bottled up anger you have about trigonometry on that player, with no fear or

repercussions.

Cricket can be a pain to watch because of the regular ads at the end of every over, and this is especially true when you're watching alone. Unable to sit through another melodious rendition of Goo Goo Diaper after the eighteenth, you'll inevitably switch channels, at which point, even Poh's Kitchen on TLC becomes more interesting. After spending 30 minutes watching Poh make pie, you'll switch back to the game to see you've missed all the action – be it wickets or sixes – before remembering you don't even like pie. With friends however, there isn't a single boring moment, no matter how dull the game is, and here's why:

There's that one guy who'll melt your ears off with his running commentary the entire match, only to be interrupted by that self-proclaimed cricket expert friend, who'll provide in-depth match analysis, even though he doesn't know cover from mid-wicket.

With friends there's obviously more food arrangements, but there'll be that one a-hole who brought only Potato Crackers, but finished all the Doritos.

And lastly, the glory-hunter friend, who you thought was on your side, but switches as soon as you're on the losing end. This friend is a gutibaaj. Bhuleokeybhaibhabtejabana.

All fun and games aside, wherever, whenever and with whoever you're watching, remember to support the Tigers. CHOLO BANGLADESH!

Nibras is a doctor-to-be and a lover of murgi roast. He enjoys blood and gore so DM him gruesome photos @niibzzz.

Farewell to Football's Greatest Philosopher

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Over the years, the sport of football has had many legends. But few have managed to personify an idea of how football should be played. Dutch legend Johan Cruyff is one of those individuals. One of the most gifted players in history, his work as Barcelona's manager redefined what it meant to play football and left a sea of followers and imitators.

Hendrik Johannes Cruyff, known simply as Johan Cruyff, was born in April 25, 1947. He rose through the ranks at Ajax and was one of the greatest pupils of Dutch coach Rinus Michels, the man known as the progenitor of the "Total Football" style of play that raised Dutch football from obscurity to superpower status in the 70s. With Ajax, Cruyff won three European Cups.

In 1973, he joined Barcelona for a then world record transfer fee. While he only won one league title with Barca, his influence in Catalonia stretches further. But more on that later.

On the international stage, Cruyff helped the Netherlands reach the finals of the 1974 World Cup and was the best player of the tournament, winning the Golden Ball.

After a successful playing career, Cruyff dove into management. And that's where the second chapter of his story began. First with Ajax and then with Barcelona, Cruyff remained a devoted believer in total football. But in addition to employing it on the field, Cruyff wanted to establish an academy at Barcelona that would follow in the footsteps of Ajax's famous academy. It was from this wish of his that Barcelona's famous La Masia academy was established in 1979.

Cruyff ensured that kids that came into

La Masia played together and learned together. As they grew up together, they would develop an almost kinetic connection on the pitch, knowing what the other person was doing without having to look. It was here that the football minds of Pep Guardiola, Xavi Hernandez and Andres Iniesta, among others, were created.

Cruyff's ideas were reiterated by countless other managers that have gone through the same Ajax and Barcelona route, influencing the styles of Louis van Gaal and Frank Rijkaard. Through

Guardiola, Cruyff's ideas ended up in Germany with Bayern Munich. Manuel Neuer, goalkeeper for the current world champions Germany, completed more passes than Lionel Messi in the 2014 World Cup. This reflected the Cruyffian idea that a goalkeeper should be more than just a shot-stopper, an idea that Victor Valdes and Edwin van der Sar had followed at Barcelona and Ajax respectively.

Cruyff won the La Liga four times between 1991 and 1994 with Barcelona and the European Cup in 1992. But more importantly, it was Cruyff's ideas that led to Xavi, Iniesta, Fabregas and Lionel Messi spending the days of their youth playing piggy-in-the-middle football at La Masia. And it was his ideas that formed the bedrock of everything great that every modern Barcelona team and, in turn, the Spanish national team of 2008-2012 achieved. As Barcelona rule over world football, much is owed to this one man and his radical ideas.

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