



'It was us in our own little circle'

STAR SPORT DESK

West Indies' lead-up to the ICC World Twenty20 2016 was more about politics than cricket. As late as a month before the tournament was to start, it was still uncertain whether the first-choice West Indies team will come to the T20 extravaganza that they made their own by beating England after a scarcely believable run chase in the final at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata last night.

The cricketing world may have guessed how fractious and frustrating it was for the cricketers that the West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) were not willing to draw out contracts that were reflective of the players' value, but before the tournament began there was no such expression of grievance from the full-strength West Indies side that thankfully made it to India.

The ever-smiling captain Darren Sammy just jovially said before the tournament began that all that is behind them for now. "Once you step out on the cricket field you should not be worried about contracts and other stuff. It's about making your country proud," he had said.

But yesterday at the presentation ceremony Sammy stopped smiling and gave the world a glimpse of the pain his team had undergone. "People were wondering whether we would play this tournament. We felt disrespected by our board. Mark Nicholas described our team as a team of 'no brains'. All these things just before the tournament brought this team together."

After thanking his players and his coaching staff effusively, Sammy revealed the shocking state of preparations ahead of the global event. "We had a new manager in this tournament in Ravi Lewis, who has never managed any team before. We had a camp in Dubai. We had no uniforms. The trouble he went through to get us in this uniform... I have to give credit to the entire team here. It was us in our own little circle."

Sammy became emotional as he related these details, and went on to add that the team had gotten messages from sponsors Caricom and 'inspiring' ones from Grenada Prime Minister Keith Mitchell yesterday morning, but not from the board, which he described as 'very disappointing'.

"For today, I am going to celebrate with these 15 men and this coaching staff. I don't know when I am going to be playing with these guys again, because we don't get selected for one-day cricket. We don't know when we are going to be playing T20s. So this win... I want to thank you my team. Everybody in the West Indies are Champion," and the smile, a defiantly proud one this time, was back as the West Indies celebrated.

For last night at least, West Indies' 'own little circle' expanded to include every cricket fan; perhaps even some English ones.

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If size has anything to do with hitting the ball the distance then the gigantic Carlos Brathwaite's (R) four sixes off successive deliveries was the best world cricket has ever witnessed in Sunday's ICC World T20 final against England at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata.

WHAT THEY SAID

Feeling sad For Ben Stokes. Congrats West Indies. Champions of 2016 T20 World Cup

-Mustafizur Rahman
Respect Darren Sammy. Great words tonight. Passionate and with a huge amount of meaning. Let's hope your board takes note.

-Michael Vaugahn
Seen a lot of things over 25 yrs being involved in international cricket. But nothing quite like that finish to a game 6 6 6 6 congrats WI

-Shane Warne
Amazing game. What a performance by the Windies. Strong belief, stronger faith. What a statement in more ways than one. #Caribbean flair

-Kumar Sangakkara
Goodness Gracious Me! That was an incredible game of Cricket. Well done Captain Darren Sammy and West Indies.

-AB de Villiers

A cruel game: Morgan

STAR SPORT DESK



It was hard not to feel for Ben Stokes when he sat, head in hands, in despair after Carlos Brathwaite hit him for four consecutive sixes in the last over, an over that Stokes must have thought would end happily before running up to bowl the first ball with 19 to defend. When considering that it was in the final of the World Twenty20 that England reached after a long and arduous turnaround of short-form cricket attitude, the sympathy must have been greater.

"Cricket can be a cruel game," acknowledged England skipper Eoin Morgan after the final ended in a four-wicket win for the West Indies at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata yesterday. "I thought we did extremely well with the ball. At no stage did the West Indies get anywhere near where they wanted."

Morgan thought that 155 for nine, the total they reached after being asked to bat, was 40 runs short. However, that they had 19 to defend in the last over was down to their tenacity and discipline. Stokes's death-over bowling credentials were instrumental in England reaching this far, and he was the obvious choice to bowl the last over.

"It's quite simple from my point of view," said Morgan. "He [Stokes] is going to be devastated. It'll take its toll in the next couple of days. But we share the pain just as we share success. You could say what you like to him at the moment but he's probably not hearing it."

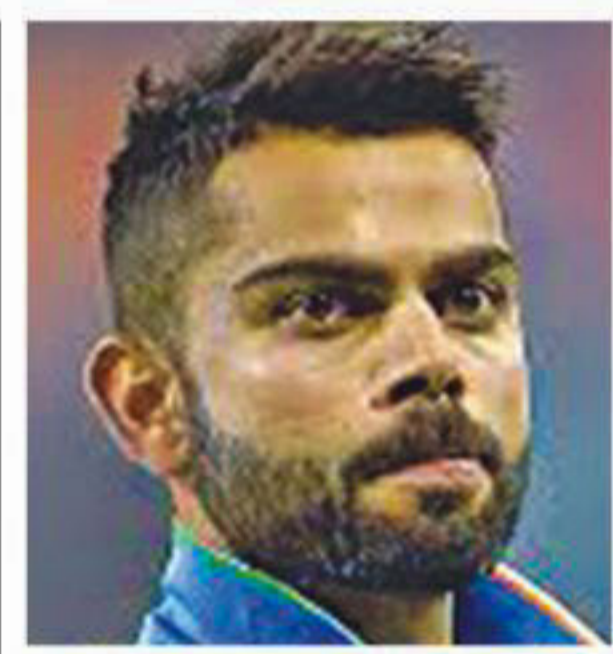
But Marlon Samuels, man-of-the-match for his unbeaten 66-ball 85, was not so sympathetic, especially after having had some words with Stokes during the match. "He is a nervous laddie, so what I tell Brathwaite is to just hold his pose and he's going to bowl a couple of full tosses, as always, and it will work in our favour. So he played a brilliant knock at the end there to give me a little break down at the other end. He [Stokes] doesn't learn.

"They keep telling him when he plays against me, do not speak to me because then I'm going to perform. I didn't even face a ball and he had so much to say to me that I know I had to be right there at the end, again."

But on a night when the West Indian rhythm reached far and wide, Morgan saw beyond the gloom. "Personally I think we will have a lot more success in the future. This is just the beginning," he said. Morgan acknowledged that in this game his side had been "terrible" with the bat. "But you make what you can with what you have."



RANGS 01755667707 (DHK.) 01755667077 (CTG.) Mahindra Rise.



PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

Virat Kohli
Kohli played like a man possessed throughout the tournament, willing India to one victory after another. Although his side failed to make the final, he scored almost half his team's runs in their semifinal against the West Indies with an unbeaten 89. Other notable innings were his unbeaten 82 against Australia and an unbeaten 55 against Pakistan.



BEST BOWLING FIGURES

MUSTAFIZUR RAHMAN
5 for 22 against New Zealand
Bangladesh's prodigious 19-year-old was on fire against the Kiwis during their Super 10 encounter. They scarcely had a clue what hit them as four of his victims were clean bowled. Even Kane Williamson had no reply to the pacer as a slower delivery cleaned up his off stump.

TOP SCORERS

Player	Inns	Runs	HS
Tamim Iqbal (Ban)	6	295	103*
V Kohli (India)	5	273	89*
JE Root (Eng)	6	249	83
Mohammad Shahzad (Afg)	7	222	61
JC Buttler (Eng)	6	191	66*

MOST WICKETS

Player	Inns	Runs	Wkts
Mohammad Nabi (Afg)	7	164	12
Rashid Khan (Afg)	7	183	11
MJ Santner (NZ)	5	114	10
IS Sodhi (NZ)	5	120	10
DJ Willey (Eng)	6	159	10

ROLL OF HONOUR

Year	Winners	Runners-up
2007	India	Pakistan
2009	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
2010	England	Australia
2012	West Indies	Sri Lanka
2014	Sri Lanka	India
2016	West Indies	England

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ENG-WI SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND	R/B	4/6	WEST INDIES	R/B	4/6		
Roy b Badree	0/2	0/0	Charles c Stokes b Root	1/7	0/0		
Hales c Badree b Russell	1/3	0/0	Gayle c Stokes b Root	4/2	1/0		
Root c Benn b Brathwaite	54/36	7/0	Samuels not out	85/66	9/2		
Morgan c Gayle b Badree	5/12	1/0	Simmons lbw b Willey	0/1	0/0		
Buttler c Bravo b Brathwaite	36/22	1/3	Bravo c Root b Rashid	25/27	1/1		
Stokes c Simmons b Brathwaite	13/8	1/0	Russell c Stokes b Willey	1/3	0/0		
Moenen c Ramin b Bravo	0/2	0/0	Sammy c Hales b Willey	2/2	0/0		
Jordan not out	12/13	1/0	Brathwaite not out	34/10	1/4		
Willey c Charles b Brathwaite	21/14	1/2	Extras: (lb-3, w-6)	9			
Plunkett c Badree b Bravo	4/4	0/0	Total: (For 6 wkts in 19.4 overs)	161			
Rashid not out	4/4	0/0	Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-5, 3-11, 4-86, 5-104, 6-107.				
Extras: (lb-4, w-1)	5						
Total: (For 9 wkts in 20 overs)	155		Bowler	O	M	R	W
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-8, 3-23, 4-84, 5-110, 6-110, 7-111, 8-136, 9-142.			Willey	4	0	20	3
			Root	1	0	9	2
			Jordan	4	0	36	0
			Plunkett	4	0	29	0
			Rashid	4	0	23	1
			Stokes	2.4	0	41	0
			Result: West Indies won by 4 wickets.				
			Player-of-the-match: Marlon Samuels.				
			Player-of-the-series: Virat Kohli.				

LOBATT THE DRIVE WITHIN

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PERFORMER OF THE DAY

BREATHKING BRATHWAITE

He started by restricting the opposition to a manageable total and ended by showing just how manageable it was. Carlos Brathwaite gave away just 23 runs in his four overs and took out England's big guns of Joe Root and Jos Buttler before returning in the slog overs to remove a threatening David Willey. Then, with 19 needed off the last over, Brathwaite did what most gamblers playing at a low difficulty level would have done. The first ball was deposited behind square leg for six, the next over long on, the third -- a mishit by the looks of it -- sailed over long off. With one needed off three, caution was nowhere to be found as a hapless Ben Stokes was bludgeoned over cow corner, completing what was the most thrilling last-over turnaround in the tournament.

UNIQUE CALYPSO TREBLE



For a long time the phrase 'all-conquering West Indies' has been referred to as a thing of the past. But the year 2016 is something like a blast from the past where the Caribbean cricketers achieved something no other cricket team has done before. It all started when their youth team won the U-19 World Cup at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur defeating India in the final on February 14. And at the Eden Gardens on Sunday, their women's team lifted their maiden ICC World T20 by dispatching three-time champions Australia. The men's team followed suit soon after in a storm of sixes.