

Windies' legacy of English routs

STAR SPORT DESK



West Indies steam-rolled England by 381 runs in the first Test in Bridgetown on Saturday, a win that was set up largely by the visitors being blown away for 77 in the first innings by a quartet of Caribbean quicks. Cricket lovers of a certain vintage may have thought back to the 1970s and 1980s when such routs of England were commonplace for the West Indies sides of the day, arguably the greatest cricket team to walk out on the field.

The roles were expected to be reversed this time. West Indies are ranked ninth in the world and were coming off a 2-0 series whitewash away against Bangladesh, the 10th-ranked team. Second-ranked England, meanwhile, were coming off a summer home series win against top-ranked India. But even past West Indies' halcyon days and into their prolonged slump, there has often been an extra tank of gas in the Caribbean engine when the opposition were their colonial masters. Perhaps it goes back to English skipper Tony Greig's racially insensitive 'grovel' comments ahead of the 1976 series in England.

We take a brief look back at four famous trouncings that West Indies have handed England over the years:

5th Test, Oval, 1976

West Indies were humbled 5-1 in Australia in their previous series, and English skipper Tony Greig thought it wise to use the racially charged term 'grovel' as pre-series salvo. He chose the wrong time as West Indies skipper Clive Lloyd had by then conceived of the four-pacer strategy that would hound batsmen for the best part of two decades. The first two Tests were drawn but England were hammered in the next two. Sweet and final revenge came in the last match at the Oval when Greig came to the crease with England trying to save the match on the fifth day, as Windies' fastest bowler Michael Holding bowled him with a scorching for one, setting the stage for a 231-run win.

Series result: West Indies 3-0



The contrasting smiles on the faces of the two captains -- Joe Root (L) and Jason Holder -- probably depicts what happened in the first Test between West Indies and England in Barbados on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

2nd Test, Lord's, 1984

By the time West Indies went to England in 1984, so feared were they that no Englishman would dare indulge in pre-series chatter. In the second Test at Lord's, Windies opener Gordon Greenidge showed that the batting was just as ferocious as the bruising pace bowling. Needing 344 to win in less than a day of Test cricket, a draw seemed likely. But Greenidge tore apart the English attack with an unbeaten 214 off 244 balls, leading an astonishing chase even by today's standards as West Indies won by nine wickets in just 66.1 overs.

Series result: West Indies 5-0

5th Test, St Johns, 1998

The decline had truly begun for West Indies by now but they still had two of the greatest fast bowlers in Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh as well as the peerless Brian Charles Lara. West Indies were 2-1 up heading into the fifth Test with England skipper Michael Atherton hoping for a series-saving win. Ambrose, Walsh and Dinanath Ramnarine combined to shoot England out for 127 before centuries from Clayton Lambert, Carl Hooper and a brisk 89 from skipper Lara ensured that Windies would have to bat just once. England responded better in the second innings but a four-wicket haul from Walsh delivered an innings-and-52-run win.

Series result: West Indies 3-1

1st Test, Kingston, 2009

Even though they were the home side, a post-Brian Lara West Indies were by no means favourites against an England side boasting Alastair Cook, Andrew Strauss, Kevin Pietersen, Andrew Flintoff and Steve Harmison. But in the first Test England found that extra bit. Twin tons by Chris Gayle and Ramnaresh Sarwan and then an astonishing spell of fast bowling from Jerome Taylor, who took five wickets for just 11 runs, shot out England for 51 in the second innings to deliver an innings and 23 run win. It proved to be enough to seal the series.

Series result: West Indies 1-0

With the second Test of the three-match series coming up on January 31, and the teams ranked as they are, skipper Jason Holder would hope that the extra tank of gas sustains this time too.



They will be foes today but Rangpur Riders captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza (L) and his Dhaka Dynamites counterpart Shakib Al Hasan shared some light moments during training at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

TALK ON BPL



I think it will be a very good game. We have played a lot here in Chittagong [Chattogram] so nothing to add in that regard. The wickets are beautiful and lots of runs are being scored. Whoever bowls on these wickets will have to use their cunning. It would be ideal to read the batsman and bowl accordingly on this kind of wicket. If we execute our plan well, then we can be successful.

RUBEL HOSSAIN
DHAKA DYNAMITES PACER

Good cheer before the intensity

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI from Chattogram



The Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) continues after a day's break with the evening match between Mashrafe Bin Mortaza's Rangpur Riders and Shakib Al Hasan's Dhaka Dynamites promising to be a treat for those expecting a fiery match between the two finalists of the previous edition.

The competitive streak between these two teams was on view this season too as Dhaka edged out Rangpur in a tight encounter during the first Dhaka leg -- a scintillating game that breathed life into the tournament.

Both teams, on 12 points after having won five matches each, came to the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in the early afternoon yesterday and sweated it out in the comfortable sunshine, getting ready for the crucial tie ahead.

Shakib was seen having fun, darting around the pitch, signalling for passes and quick one-twos with hand gestures during a warm-up football game. He showcased some footballing excellence with a mesmerising turn and dribble, shadowing the ball with his body before a Messi-esque turn to get rid of the defender. Soon, the players took a break with big-hitter Kieron Pollard taking his time in the nets. He played a crucial hand in the last match between the two sides and will once again be a player to watch out for.

On the other side of the pitch, Rangpur were having their own warm-up session but skipper Mashrafe remained largely in the shades of the dugout, often entertaining others with his sense of humour.

His side did not start the tournament on the best foot. Last year's winners lost four of their first six matches but are picking things up at the right time, with their famed top-order boasting some of the best hitters in the game, finally finding their feet. The late momentum, which Mashrafe had previously insisted was the best way to go in this tournament, saw Rangpur pick things up with three victories in their last three matches.

Dhaka, who lost both of their last two matches, would like to utilise any chink in Rangpur's armour -- a questionable lower-middle order which is still an issue.

Even amidst the surrounding competitive air, skippers Mashrafe and Shakib were seen having their own light-hearted session out in the balcony between the two dressing rooms after the sessions ended. The two whiled away their time for a bit, engaged in their own conversation before Mash whisked away Shakib. The two got into a Rangpur Riders micro and left together.

In the first match of the day, Khulna Titans, already out of the running for a top-four finish, will meet Comilla Victorians, who are level on points with Dhaka, Rangpur and Rajshahi Kings. Things are tight at the top as the business end of the tournament approaches.

TALK ON BPL



The matches between Dhaka and Rangpur are always competitive. It is also our hope to win after a competitive match rather than win easily as it is more satisfying. Competitiveness is important and the result too. If the result is in our favour at the end of the day, there is more happiness. When you come up against a big opposition, every player enjoys it and stays more focused. I want things to be competitive.

MOHAMMAD MITHUN
RANGPUR RIDERS BATSMAN

Shinwari helps Pak draw level

AGENCIES, Johannesburg

  A thrilling spell of bowling from Usman Shinwari helped Pakistan on their way to a comfortable eight-wicket thrashing of South Africa in the fourth ODI at the Wanderers on Sunday.

The left-arm seamer stunned the home side in a thrilling passage of play, taking four wickets across six deliveries as South Africa collapsed from 119/2 to 164 all out.

Pakistan's top-order were untroubled by the total on offer. Imamul Haq the star once again after his century in the third ODI, his innings of 71 helping the visitors level the series at 2-2.

Shoaib Malik, Pakistan's stand-in skipper for the suspended Sarfaraz Ahmed, won the toss and elected to field. The decision appeared to be a wise one early on, with Quinton de Kock (0) and Reeza Hendricks (2) falling victim to Shaheen Afridi's new-ball spell.

The old guard of Hashim Amla and Faf du Plessis set about recovering the Proteas innings, and did so with aplomb, putting on a 101-run partnership. It was to end with a breakthrough from Shadab Khan, as a top-edged sweep off the leg-spinner saw du Plessis (57) send the ball into the safe hands of Mohammad Hafeez at deep mid-wicket.

Amla (59) departed not long after, his stumps rattled by Imad Wasim, before Mohammad Amir took his first ODI wicket in over six months, with David Miller (4) trapped in front of his crease.

Sarfaraz later apologised for the comment.



Left-arm pacer Usman Shinwari's four-wicket haul off six balls propelled Pakistan to an eight-wicket victory in the fourth ODI against South Africa in Johannesburg yesterday.

Under-19s ace lone T20

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Under-19 sailed easily against their English counterparts in the lone T20 match at the Sheikh Kamal International Cricket Stadium in Cox's Bazar to take the momentum ahead of the three-match one-day series.

It is believed that Bangladeshi cricketers still cannot fully understand the shortest format of the game but right-arm paceman Tanzim Hasan Sakib made sure that his side would not face any stiff challenge from their opponents. Sakib dismantled the visitors' top order during his four-wicket burst to restrict them to 120 for eight.

England could not recover from the early damage made by Sakib after electing to bat first and George Hill's 35-ball 34 only salvaged them from complete humiliation. Sakib removed both the English openers Jordan Cox (12) and skipper Jamie Smith (5) up front and went on to pick two more wickets as at one stage England were struggling on 37 for four inside five overs.

Lewis Goldsworthy and Hill then added 46 runs for the fifth wicket to recover the early damage. Rakibul Hasan however removed Hill, who hit three fours and a six, to bring back the early initiatives. Goldsworthy added 17 runs.

Bangladesh, in reply, reached the target in 18.5 overs. Opener Mahmudul Hasan top-scored with 44 off 54 balls with four boundaries while Mohammad Parvez Hossain added 31 off 29 balls with two sixes to eventually seal a comprehensive win at the end.

The three-match one-day series will kick off tomorrow at the same venue.



TANZIM... 4 for 30

Four-match ban for Sarfraz

AFP, Johannesburg

The International Cricket Council handed Sarfraz Ahmed a four-match suspension on Sunday after a racist remark made by the Pakistan captain was picked up by a stump microphone in South Africa last week.

Sarfraz was heard making a comment in Urdu about Andile Phehlukwayo during last week's one day international in Durban, where the South African all-rounder formed a match-winning partnership with Rassie van der Dussen.

According to espncricinfo.com, the comment could be translated as: 'Hey black guy, where's your mother sitting today? What (prayer) have you got her to say for you today?'

The global cricket governing body's chief executive David Richardson said as he announced the ban that the ICC 'has a zero-tolerance policy towards conduct of this nature'.

Sarfraz later apologised for the comment.

The stage was set for Shinwari, returning to the

side after missing the previous two ODIs. His sixth over was one to remember. Rassie van der Dussen (18) was to be his first wicket, an angled delivery to the right-hander flicked the edge as the batsman slashed hard, with Mohammad Rizwan taking the catch behind the stumps.

The fifth ODI will now serve as a decider, set to

be played on January 30 in Cape Town. His sixth over was one to remember. Rassie van der Dussen (18) was to be his first wicket, an angled delivery to the right-hander flicked the edge as the batsman slashed hard, with Mohammad Rizwan taking the catch behind the stumps.

SCORES IN BRIEF

SOUTH AFRICA: 164 all out in 41 overs (Amla 59, du Plessis 57; Shinwari 4-35, Afridi 2-24, Shadab 2-42)

PAKISTAN: 168 for 2 in 31.3 overs (Imamul 71, Zaman 44, Azam 41 not out; Phehlukwayo 1-17) Result: Pakistan won by eight wickets and levelled the five-match series 2-2.

Player-of-the-match: Usman Shinwari.