



Chris Gayle has fired for the West Indies with a half-century in the World Cup already, but the hard-hitting firebrand may be getting ready to erupt against a despondent South Africa side in their clash today. If the Proteas are to fight back, they will need Kagiso Rabada (R) to be at his best.

PHOTO: AFP

INFO ZONE

HEAD TO HEAD IN WORLD CUP

SOUTH AFRICA	WIN	WEST INDIES
2	2	2
2	LOSS	2
0	TIE	0
1	NR	1

HEAD TO HEAD IN ODIS

SOUTH AFRICA	WIN	WEST INDIES
44	15	15
15	LOSS	44
0	TIE	0
2	NR	2

LAST MEETING
June 24, 2016 in Barbados
West Indies won by 100 runs.

SA searching for maiden win

AGENCIES, SOUTHAMPTON

Searching for their maiden win in the ongoing ICC World Cup, Faf du Plessis' South Africa will face West Indies at The Rose Bowl, Southampton on Monday. The Proteas lost their opening match to hosts England by 104 runs on May 30, before going down to Bangladesh by 21 runs.

Next, Virat Kohli-led India handed them a six-wicket loss, meaning the elbow room for Du Plessis' team is increasingly getting narrow.

West Indies, on the other hand, have had a mixed run so far. They were outstanding against Pakistan in their opening fixture, where they blew them away with their scary pace. Next, they lost to Australia by 15 runs, but it was a match they should have won.

On current form, the Caribbeans start favourites, even though it is a bit too early to write off South Africa, or any team for that matter.

Meanwhile, South Africa coach Ottis Gibson admitted on Saturday he was frustrated to have to deal with the row over AB de Villiers' controversial late offer to play in the World Cup.

It has emerged that De Villiers contacted Gibson and South Africa captain Faf du Plessis to tell them he was willing to come out of retirement.

But it was agreed that De Villiers, who retired from international cricket last

year, had left it too late to be called up because it would not have been fair to other players who had featured against Pakistan and Sri Lanka ahead of the World Cup.

De Villiers' offer had remained under wraps until after South Africa's World Cup campaign plunged into crisis with a third successive defeat against India on Wednesday.

Having lost all three matches, Gibson's side head into Monday's clash likely needing to win their remaining six games to have a chance of making the semifinals.

Asked how the situation with De Villiers developed at his pre-match press

conference in Southampton on Saturday, Gibson revealed he had spoken to the 35-year-old and told him he should have made it clear he was available earlier in the year.

"AB called me. I think it was the morning that the squad was going to be announced. A lot of other things had gone on before that, of course," he said.

"We had decided already that he left it too late because the door was left open up until December, and then after that to come this late in the day," he added.

KEY PLAYERS

SOUTH AFRICA	WEST INDIES
Faf du Plessis	Andre Russell
46.23/94.50	28.13/31.49
88.60/96.0	Bat/Bowl Strike rate 130.54/32.4
33	50s 4
11	100s 0
185	HS 92*
5.90	Econ 5.81
1/8	BBM 4/35
5225/2	Runs/wickets 1013/69
38	Last Match 15



FACTS

Although South Africa lost their first three fixtures in the ongoing ICC Cricket World Cup, their ODI record against West Indies should certainly boost their confidence. South Africa have won 44 and lost 15 of the 61 ODI matches they played against West Indies.

Considering the six matches the two teams have played against each other in the World Cup so far, South Africa are ahead with four wins while West Indies have won two games.

South Africa leg spinner Imran Tahir is the leading wicket taker among the current players on both sides, claiming 26 wickets from the eight matches played against West Indies.

South Africa batsman Hashim Amla, with 1063 runs from 15 matches between the sides, is the leading-run getter among players on both teams.

MR EFFICIENT



After scoring a disappointing eight runs against South Africa in their first World Cup match, India opener Shikhar Dhawan managed to bounce back against Australia yesterday. The left-hander was in terrific touch right from the start and went on to register his 17th ODI hundred. He was eventually dismissed for a 109-ball 117, featuring sixteen fours, by Mitchell Starc. It was Dhawan's third century in the World Cup and, riding on his magnificent hundred, India managed to post a 353-run target for the defending champions.

Lack of quality all-rounders hurting SA, says Kluesner

AGENCIES, LONDON

The last time the ICC World Cup was held in England, one man single-handedly set the tournament on fire -- South African all-rounder Lance Kluesner. Although his team crashed out after a heart-breaking tie in the World Cup semifinals to eventual champions Australia, Kluesner ended as the man-of-the-tournament with 281 runs at an average of 140.50 and a strike rate of 122.17, plus 17 wickets at 20.58.

As the World Cup returns to the same shores, Kluesner provided some thoughts on the South African team, saying that the lack of quality all-rounders was the biggest shortcoming. "I think there is a lack of quality in all-rounders of South Africa," Kluesner told CricketNext. "We have to remember that a guy like Andile Phehlukwayo is quite young, Chris Morris has been in and out of the side and Dwayne Pretorius is also fairly inexperienced at the



international level. "There are a lot of challenges and we need to be patient. It's easy to compare them with likes of Pollock, Boucher, Boje or myself. So if you compare them with those or the likes of Dhoni, yes they will be lacking. You do need help and bit of a platform to make up for that." Kluesner also believed that other players would perform better in different positions but cannot play there due to a lack of quality.

"A guy like David Miller, I would like to see him bat a little lower -- he is a hitter and a finisher, No. 4 or 5 is too high a position for him. But he is forced up the order due to a lack of quality anywhere else. It does hurt South Africa but if you don't have good finishers, you need to find some other way like other good teams do to put big scores on the board."

The 47-year-old also struggled to come up with an answer for his favourite three batsmen, saying that there were far too many.

"There are lots of extremely good batsmen in this World Cup. I am big fan of Martin Gupthill, Virat you can never count out, the return of (David) Warner and (Steve) Smith is also exciting. To narrow my choice down to three is very tough. There are some wonderful brains as well and not to forget the likes of Jos Buttler and Ben Stokes from England. Those that are able to read the conditions quickly and bat accordingly will be the most successful."

The West Indies were in high spirits ahead of their game against South Africa, with captain Jason Holder (L) and Fabian Allen seen joking during a training session at the Rose Bowl in Southampton yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

