

Punjab Kings open coffers to get Livingstone, 'futuristic' MI invest million dollar on injured Archer

■ AGENCY

BENGALURU: Punjab Kings decided to break the bank to sign England's T20 specialist Liam Livingstone, paying a staggering Rs 11.50 crore for him while Mumbai Indians, purely based on leap of faith, paid a whopping Rs 8 crore for an injured Jofra Archer despite his unavailability for the 2022 edition of the IPL.

The teams went going big on current India players and largely based their decision on the form players from overseas with more focus on fast bowlers, not caring about reputations as the likes of Steve Smith, Aaron Finch, Suresh Raina, Ishant Sharma found out.

The two-day IPL auction ended on Sunday with Sunrisers Hyderabad and Punjab Kings predictably making the hefty pay-outs with bigger purses in store while Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals now look formidable on batting front but slightly short in bowling arsenal.

Having roped in Livingstone, Punjab Kings also used its deep pockets to pick up West Indies all-rounder Odean Smith for Rs 6.5 crore. He was impressive in the recently concluded ODI series against India.

Sunrisers weren't going to be left behind in bidding frenzy, roping in CPL sensation from the West Indies Romario Shepherd for Rs 7.75 crore based on his all-round skills.

Mumbai and Delhi look good in batting not so in bowling.

Delhi's bowling attack where Anrich Nortje will be partnered by Shardul Thakur, Khaleel Ahmed, Chetan Sakariya and Kuldeep Yadav doesn't inspire highest confidence.

Having lost Kagiso Rabada on the first day to a rampaging Punjab Kings, Delhi invested 5.25 crore on Khaleel Ahmed, who is known to leak runs in slogs and Rs 4.20 crore on left-arm Sakariya who pace is limited to 130s.

The duo cumulatively cost them Rs 9.45 crore which is more than what Punjab paid for Rabada.

Similarly for Mumbai Indians, Tymal Mills despite his T20 exploits, has been a big flop in Indian conditions as he gets ready to partner Jasprit Bumrah and Daniel Sims in absence of Archer for the year.

"So happy to have got him (Archer). So happy to have Jof and Boom making a lethal bowling attack although next year," MI owner Akash Ambani confirmed that Archer indeed won't play this edition.

MI is looking at Archer being one of their legends in the space vacated by Lasith Malinga and stay on for the next five to six years and are ready to sacrifice one year.

But Mumbai Indians' x-factor player certainly was Singapore international of Australian origin, Tim David who was bought for Rs 8 crore.

David, who has played for RCB, is an all-rounder but

known more for his big-hitting abilities. He produced 19 sixes in seven games for Multan Sultans in Pakistan Super League.

"Tim David is going to partner Kieron Pollard at number 5 and 6. Fortunately, he got a spell at RCB last year so he has got experience of IPL."

Lucknow Supergiants have prepared a good first eleven with likes KL Rahul, Quinton de Kock, Marcus Stonis, Manish Pandey, Krunal Pandya, Jason Holder, Mark Wood and Avesh Khan but look short on back-up in terms of batting reserves.

Manan Vohra isn't simply good enough having failed in IPL for ages now. But if their first XI clicks, they are understood that Gautam Gambhir will speak to sworn enemies Krunal Pandya and Deepak Hooda to ensure harmony in the teams.

Hooda had left his first-class team Baroda, alleging that Pandya senior had bul-

lied him and threatened to destroy his career.

Rajasthan Royals in terms of bowling talent has the best resources with Ravichandran Ashwin and Yuzvendra Chahal as spinners along with Prasidh Krishna and Trent Boult as their first choice pacers.

With Navdeep Saini as back-up, the bowling attack looks good and so does the batting where Jos Buttler, Sanju Samson, Shimron Hetmyer and Devdutt Padikkal pack quite a punch. The only weak link is lack of a genuine all-rounder.

CSK spent heavily (around 4 crore) on big-hitting batting all-rounder Shivam Dube but got New Zealander Devon Conway for a steal amount of Rs 1 crore base price and little known Sri Lankan spinner Mahesh Raina.

They have their core in place and Dhoni will perhaps depend on Adam Milne to do the job alongside Deepak Chahar, Dwayne Bravo and Ravindra Jadeja.

Delimitation draft proposal to create political equality between two regions of J&K: Dr Darakhshan

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

ANANTNAG: "Looking at delimitation proposals through myopic lenses is divisive. It is shameful to see the advocates of regional discrimination continuing with the rhetoric of communal exploitation for petty political interests. This is a positive proposal to usher a new era of political equality between two regions of the same unit called J&K," said Dr Darakhshan Andrabi while addressing a press conference at Anantnag.



BJP National Executive Member Dr Darakhshan Andrabi addressing a press conference at Anantnag.

are going to lose this battle of divide-and-rule," said Dr Andrabi.

BJP National Executive Member hailed the Commission for addressing the aspirations of the politically marginalized areas & also proposing political reservations to the scheduled tribes & castes in the Union Territory.

"On rotational grounds, we need to reserve seats for women and I am hopeful that the Commission will take note of this proposal of BJP too. We are receiving regular feedback from people and new suggestions are popping up which we are going to share with the Commission for consideration.

"Exploiters in the garb of politicians are pointing fingers at the working of the Commission and blaming our party for influencing the working of the empowered independent body. I want to tell them that the Delimitation Commission is an independent Constitutional body headed by a former Supreme Court Judge. It is disgusting to level charges on the working of a constitutional body which is condemnable," said

Dr Andrabi presented the sketch of the draft proposal of Delimitation Commission in the Presser and spoke about its huge significance in framing a new political order in J&K.

Dr Andrabi said that those who spoke about regional equality in political rallies for decades never allowed this to happen.

"For all types of co-existence including political co-existence, we need to ensure & implement equal democratic representation within a political unit. This draft proposal of Delimitation Commission is to rectify regional democratic imbalance within J&K. Those who are hell bent upon dividing people on communal grounds on this issue

are welcome and the Exploiters' Brigade' of J&K polities are habitual of doing such communal, regionalist politics for their power game.

"Now we have landed into a positive political environment in J&K and we have to correct the fault lines so that in future, no fingers are pointed on our democratic set-up," said Dr Darakhshan.

She appealed to people to come up with some more positive proposals so that we are able to suggest them to the delimitation body for consideration.

Samba-XI thrashes KKR in Cricket



Winner team posing for a photograph.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Samba XI thrashed Kathua Knight Riders (KKR) in one side encounter in the ongoing 3rd Jai Sajyoti Mata T-20 Cricket Tournament being organized by Chani Cricket Club (CCC) at Rai near ITBP 47th Bn of district Samba.

Batting first after winning the toss, Samba XI scored 160 runs. Romi was the leading scorer with 41 runs of 18 balls.

Chasing 161 to win in penultimate 20 overs, Kathua Knight Riders

(KKR) never seemed to be in race as they lost their wickets at regular intervals and managed to score only 146 runs for the loss of ten wickets in 18.5 overs and thus lost the match by 15 runs. Romi grabbed two wickets.

For his all-round performance, Romi was declared as Man of the Match.

The match was officiated by Ashwani Verma and Gautam Dubey as Umpires.

This tournament is being organized by Lovely Singh, Ashwani Verma, Rohin Lalotra and Gautam Dubey.

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A plethora of activities through art and craft, music, prayers, inspirational videos, talk shows, role-play and panel discussions were conducted online to implement the true spirit of the RSDF.

She asserted that as KCPS

rose to the challenges of new norms of life in a global pandemic, it felt the imperative need to focus more on the implementation of 12 tenets of RSDF. The teachers were thoughtful about creating space for all students to reflect on their strengths and their challenges, learn



KCPS delegate during virtual round square annual general meeting.

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