

Gujarat pacers bounce out frightened DC batters to script six-wicket win

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: The inept technique of young Indian batters against top quality fast bowling compounded Delhi Capitals' worries as they succumbed to an embarrassing six-wicket defeat at the hands of defending champions Gujarat Titans in an IPL match here on Tuesday.

Mohammed Shami (3/41 in 4 overs) and Alzarri Joseph (2/29 in 4 overs) intimidated the Delhi top-order in the first 10 overs while Rashid Khan (3/31 in 4 overs) hardly faced any trouble keeping the batters under check to restrict the home team to a below-par 162 for 8.

Despite Anrich Nortje (2/39 in 4 overs)'s best efforts, young Sai Sudharsan (62 not out off 48 balls) anchored the chase calmly with Titans winning their second successive game in 18. 1 overs.

David Miller's (31 not out



off 16 balls) two sixes and four off Mukesh Kumar in the 16th over towards the end sealed DC's fate decisively.

Axar Patel (36 off 22) was DC's saving grace with bat but since left-handers were batting, David Warner couldn't give him a single over as the match-up wasn't compatible.

DC have now lost two matches on the trot and while it is early days in the tournament, it will be surprising if this team, with

the kind of Indian talent it has, finishes in top five let alone be a title contender.

The cupboard in terms both Indian batting and bowling talent looks bare and inadequate while competing with the best in the business.

Had Axar not used his long handle to good effect, even 150 would have looked a distant reality for DC.

Just a month after Kotla produced a turner for the Test against Australia, the change in nature of the track was palpable as the balls literally flew off the surface.

At times, it felt that it wasn't David Warner (37 off 32 balls) or a Sarafaraz Khan's (30 off 33 balls) bat that hit the ball but the other way round.

Shami literally beat Warner's bat for fun in his first two overs, often cutting him into half while Alzarri twice forced umpires to call for concus-

sion checks as Sarfaraz and Abhishek Porel (20 off 11 balls) were hit on the head by well-directed bouncers. To be fair, both looked dazed.

Even an international like Rilee Rossouw (0) got a Test match like bounce first up and was snapped brilliantly at backward point by a diving Rahul Tewatia.

Not being able to avoid the short ball was more due to lack of technique and not regularly facing bowlers of Shami or Alzarri's quality became their undoing.

Sarafraz, a heavy-duty scorer in domestic cricket, couldn't improvise as he found the pace too quick to manoeuvre or improvise his shot selection.

The first two games in IPL against international bowlers is a proof that why former chairman Chetan Sharma's committee or even the current quartet of selectors are wary of picking him for international assign-

ments. A good domestic player, who is out-of-depth against top-grade bowlers. And it's not Sarfaraz

alone. Even Prithvi Shaw isn't inspiring confidence while facing a bowler of Shami's calibre.

SCOREBOARD

DELHI CAPITALS

David Warner (c) b Joseph 37
Prithvi Shaw c Joseph b Mohammed Shami 07
Mitchell Marsh b Mohammed Shami 04
Sarfaraz Khan c Little b Rashid Khan 30
Rilee Rossouw c Tewatia b Joseph 00
Abhishek Porel † b Rashid Khan 20
Axar Patel c Miller b Mohammed Shami 36
Anam Hakim Khan c Pandya b Rashid Khan 08
Kuldeep Yadav not out 01
Anrich Nortje not out 04

Extras 15
Total 162/8

GUJARAT TITANS

Wriddhiman Saha † b Nortje 14
Shubman Gill b Nortje 14
Sai Sudharsan not out 62
Hardik Pandya (c) c †Abhishek Porel b Ahmed 05
Vijay Shankar lbw b Marsh 29
David Miller not out 31

Extras 08
Total 163/4

Aakriti qualifies Ph.D

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Aakriti Sharma, daughter of Lalita Sharma and Ayodhya Nath Sharma, resident of Dharm Khoo, Batehra, Jammu, has been declared qualified for the award of Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) in Mathematics by Central University of Jammu. She completed her thesis titled 'A linear combination of a special class of operators induced by Holomorphic maps' under the supervision of Prof. Ajay K Sharma.



Dera Kesari Dangal on April 13

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The 30th Dera Kesari Vishal Dangal shall be held on April 13 (Wednesday) at Dera Baba Banda Bahadur in tehsil and district Reasi. Dangal is being organized on the eve of Baisakhi festival in memory of great Saint and Warrior, Baba Bandha Bahadur. A decision in this regard was taken in a meeting of the organising committee that took place under the chairmanship of Shiv Kumar Sharma, president J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association. Members who attended the meeting were Baba jatinder Pal Singh Sodhi (Gaddi Nashin) Dera Baba Banda Bahadur and Baba Bahadur Sikh Samardai, Malik Ram Lubhaya Paruthi (Chairman), Sant Kumar Juneja (president), VP Makar and Ved Parkash.

Dangal is being organized by Dera Baba Banda Bahadur Parbandhak Committee and Baba Banda Bahadur Sikh Samardai in association with J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association. "About 60-65 wrestlers from within and outside J&K shall compete for the top honours. The winner of the main bout shall be declared as best wrestler to be awarded with handsome cash prize and traditional title trophy of Gurj," informed Shiv Kumar Sharma.

Meanwhile, those interested wrestlers can still submit their entries for participation in the competition to Shiv Kumar Sharma (94191-61880, 99069-72888).

J&K bags third place in Ju-Jitsu



Medal winner J&K team posing for a photograph.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: J&K team returned with overall third place in the National Ju-Jitsu Championship held at Tukoji Rao Pawar Indoor

Stadium, Dewas in Madhya Pradesh.

The competition held in Sub-Junior, Cadets, Junior, Senior and Adults categories of boys and girls

under the banner of Ju-Jitsu Association of India, a handout issued by Ju-Jitsu Association of J&K here on Tuesday informed.

The J&K contingent was trained by Danish Sharma (A-grade Referee- Fighting System) and Harsh Vardhan Raina (Qualified Referee - Newaza). The team was accompanied by the officials including Farooq Ahmad Malik, Muzaffar Ahmad, Arshad Aziz, Brijesh Bhatt, Charan Singh, Suhail Bhat and Rohini Chib.

Meanwhile, the office bearers of Ju-Jitsu Association of J&K appreciated the coaches and players for the performance.

Jodhamal's student creates 'Atmanirbhar Jammu' website

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A website with the title "Atmanirbhar Jammu" has been developed and designed by a 6th class student of Jodhamal Public School, Jayendra Singh Jasrotia.

The website was inaugurated by Nandan Kuthiala, Trustee and Girish Kumar, Principal of Jodhamal Public School.

Jayendra Singh Jasrotia has been motivated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary concept of Atmanirbhar Bharat which will lead the country to be a gloriously self-reliant developed nation.

Atmanirbhar Jammu web-



JPS student Jayendra Singh Jasrotia with faculty members.

site reflects the self-reliant image of Jammu province of J&K.

Parents of Jayendra Singh Jasrotia were appreciative of the support given by the

school and also said that it is the result of consistent efforts of Team Jodhamal that the students are performing such type of techno-academic activities.

Buoyed by huge win against SRH, Rajasthan Royals ready for Punjab Kings challenge

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

GUWAHATI: Rajasthan Royals were banking on their near-perfect combinations in almost all departments of the game to put up another commanding performance when they take on a strong Punjab Kings side in an IPL match here on Wednesday.

The Royals would be buoyed by the massive 72-run victory against Sunrisers Hyderabad, who were outsmarted by last year's runners-up in every aspect of the game on Sunday.

With Yashasvi Jaiswal, red-hot England white-ball skipper Jos Buttler and captain Sanju Samson smashing half-centuries against SRH, the Royals' dominance with the bat was there for all to see, while their bowlers, led by Yuzvendra Chahal (4/17) and New Zealand quick Trent Boult (2/21), were more than a

handful for SRH.

But with Punjab Kings also giving an indication of their immense firepower with both the bat and the ball in their seven-run DLS win against Kolkata Kinght Riders at Mohali, the match on Wednesday promises to give the spectators in Guwahati good value for money.

With RR playing two of their 'home' matches in the Northeastern city, a winning performance from Samson's side will not only build their brand value in Guwahati, it will also expand their fan base in the region, which has seen precious little IPL action over the years.

The depth in Royals' batting is such that it can withstand any bowling attack. If young Yashasvi's 37-ball 54 at the top showed how quickly he has matured as an opener, Buttler

seemed to be carrying on from where he had left off in the previous season, smashing a 22-ball 54.

The only weak link, if any, seemed to be their middle where Devdutt Padikkal and Riyan Parag were both dismissed cheaply, before West Indian Shimron Hetmyer took the team beyond the 200-run mark.

With a bowling lineup boasting of one of the premier pacers in the world in Boult along with two Indian stalwarts in Chahal and R Ashwin, the Royals can soften up the most resolute batting sides. And PBKS know they have an uphill task when the two teams clash at the Barsapara Cricket Stadium.

While the experience of top-order India batter Shikhar Dhawan will come in handy along with the bowling prowess

of young left-arm India pacer Arshdeep Singh, the team would be eagerly awaiting the return of England power-hitter Liam Livingstone, who missed the opener against KKR after not getting the fitness clearance from the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB). The batter had suffered a knee injury in December last.

The English pair of Livingstone and pace bowling all-rounder Sam Curran – the most expensive buy ever in IPL history at Rs 18.50 crore – could be PBKS' trump card this season along with the lanky left-arm quick Arshdeep.

The Teams (From):

Rajasthan Royals: Sanju Samson (c), Abdul Basith, Murugan Ashwin, Ravichandran Ashwin, KM Asif, Trent Boult, Jos Buttler;

KC Cariappa, Yuzvendra Chahal, Donovan Ferreira, Shimron Hetmyer, Jason Holder, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Dhruv Jurel, Obed McCoy, Devdutt Padikkal, Riyan Parag, Kunal Singh Rathore, Joe Root, Navdeep Saini, Sandeep Sharma, Kuldeep Sen, Akash Vasisht, Kuldeep Yadav, Adam Zampa.

Punjab Kings: Shikhar Dhawan (c), Arshdeep Singh, Baltej Singh, Raj Bawa, Rahul Chahar, Sam Curran, Rishi Dhawan, Nathan Ellis, Harpreet Brar, Harpreet Singh, Vidvath Kaverappa, Liam Livingstone, Mohit Rathee, Prabhsimran Singh, Kagiso Rabada, Bhanuka Rajapaksa, M Shahrulkh Khan, Jitesh Sharma, Shivam Singh, Matthew Short, Sikandar Raza, Atharva Taide.

Match Starts at 7:30pm IST.

Dr Sanjogita nominated Medical Member of Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Dr. Sanjogita Soodan, Chairperson, Medical Commission, Indian Boxing Council, former Health Officer Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) and Deputy Medical Superintendent Super Specialist Hospital (SSH) Jammu was nominated Medical Member of the Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel (ADDP) under the Anti-Doping Rules of NADA 2021.

"Approval of the Competent Authority is conveyed for appointment of Dr. Sanjogita Soodan as a Medical Member of the Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel (ADDP) under the Anti-Doping Rules of NADA 2021, with effect from March 31, 2023 for a



period of two years or till the commencement of National Anti-Doping Act 2022, whichever is earlier," reads an order issued by Ajeet Singh, Accounts-cum-Administrative Officer, NADA.

"The Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel has the power to hear determine all issues arising from any matter which is referred to it pursuant to NADA's Anti-Doping Rules. In par-

ticular, the Anti-Doping Disciplinary has the power to determine the consequences of the Anti-Doping Rule violation to be imposed pursuant to these Anti-Doping Rules," it stated.

"Dr. Sanjogita Soodan would be entitled for sitting of the Panel hearing and local conveyance allowance in accordance with extant rules of the Government of India," it stated and added, "Only outstation members would be entitled to traveling allowance admissible as per rules of Government of India in force from time to time. The sitting of the Panel would be in office of the National Anti-Doping Agency, New Delhi, Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Lodhi Road, New Delhi."

Plan to introduce home and away format in WPL from season 2: IPL chairman Arun Dhimal

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Buoyed by the success of the inaugural Women's Premier League, IPL chairman Arun Dhimal on Tuesday said that they plan to introduce the home and away format from season two but the number of teams will remain five for the next three years.

The first ever WPL turned out to be a hit among fans and players but as the tournament was staged within tough timelines and right after the Women's T20 World Cup, the BCCI decided to organise all the games across two venues in Mumbai.

Termining hosting of WPL the biggest challenge of his tenure, Dhimal said having home and away games immensely help teams in building a fan base and the board wants to take that route as early as next season.

"Well begun is half done. It has been a great beginning for WPL and going forward it is going to be much better than what we have seen so far: We have started with five teams but going forward there is scope for additional team given the pool of the players that is going to come in the years to follow.

"We are hoping increase in the number of teams but for the coming three seasons will remain five. We are surely looking at home and away format, we will see which time slot is available considering India's international commitment and take a call. "From a fan engagement point of view it is very important that we go for home and away format," Dhimal told PTI. Fans turned up in sizeable numbers to watch the games at Brabourne and DY Patil Stadium. The event had garnered massive attention even before the first ball was bowled with the teams rights fetching BCCI close to Rs 4700 crore and media rights Rs 951 crore.

"It has been a phenomenal ride so far and quite a challenging one given the time slot we had to start the WPL. We are satisfied with the way things have progressed, we did not have much of window as the World Cup was there and the girls had just about a week to comeback and start.

"Everything (media rights, team rights, player auction) happened one after the other but the way tournament was received, it was phenomenal," Dhimal said.

One reason for not introducing a sixth team right away could be the lack of quality local talent. The world's best displayed their exemplary skills in the competition but leaving aside Salka Ishaque, Kanika Ahuja and Shreyanka Patil, not many unshredded Indian players were able to turn heads on. "Our national team has done very well over the last couple of years. U-19 girls won the World Cup. Given how the WPL was received, we are very hopeful that we will have a bigger pool of players and their fitness and fielding standard will improve immensely going forward." Three out of five teams are owned by legacy IPL franchisees, who have seen the value of the men's league reach astronomical proportions. Dhimal added that the introduction of Impact player in the IPL and teams being picked after toss was done to mitigate the toss advantage.

"We have seen dew play a major role. Winning the toss is seen as an advantage and to mitigate that we thought to introduce 'Impact Player' and give the teams chance to pick teams post toss so they can pick the right eleven," he added.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) organized its 36th Convocation at 33 Regional Centres across the Country concurrently including the Regional Centre Jammu.

As many as 2,79,917 students were declared qualified to be presented with the degree/diploma/certificate in the convocation functions at IGNOU Headquarters and 33 Regional Centres across the country. This included 108 doctorate Degrees as well.

All those students who had successfully completed their respective programmes of study in the Term-End Examinations held in December 2021 and June 2022 were eligible to receive their Degree/Diploma certificates in the 36th Convocation ceremony.

Droupadi Murmu, President of India, was the Chief Guest on the occasion and delivered the convocation address at the New Delhi Headquarters of IGNOU. Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Govt. of India was the Guest of



Students after receiving certificates and degrees during 36th Convocation of IGNOU.

Honour:

The Convocation function of Jammu Regional Centre was held in the Convention Centre, Near Circuit House, Jammu. Padmasree Dr. Ravindra Kumar Sinha, Vice Chancellor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra was the Chief Guest.

A total of 10,506 students from Regional Centre Jammu have been declared successful and eligible to receive Diplomas and Degree Certificates in the 36th Convocation function at Jammu which includes 4536 students of Master Degree

programmes, 5230 students of Bachelor Degree programmes, 469 students of Diploma/Post Graduate Diploma programmes and 271 students of Certificate/Post Graduate Certificate programmes.

However, around 115 students who had given their consent to attend the Convocation received their Degree/Diploma certificates in person during the convocation function here at Jammu.

Prof. Sinha termed the 36th Convocation of IGNOU as an occasion of Celebration of IGNOU's achievements which is referred to as the People's

University accessible to all those far and wide who otherwise would have lost the opportunity to gain access to higher education, improve upon their qualification and increase the chances of employment.

Prof. R.K. Sinha in his Convocation address urged the awardees that they have to translate their educational achievements to benefit the world and that they all have a collective responsibility to work for the progress of the society and the country as a whole.

Regional Director I/C, Dr. Sandeep Gupta said that IGNOU today is the largest

Open University in the World and is widely acknowledged as a system leader offering a variety of academic, vocational, professional, liberal arts and skill based programmes.

The Regional Director announced that one of the learners of Regional Centre Jammu namely Vishnu Sharma of Master in Public Administration (MPA) programme has earned the Gold Medal for his meritorious performance across the Country.

Tginder Pal Singh, Deputy Registrar of the Regional Centre, presented the vote of thanks.