

Karnataka emerges champion

Mithun's hat-trick scuttles Tamil Nadu's innings; rain curtails play, VJD method adopted

HAZARE TROPHY

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU
Karnataka claimed its fourth Vijay Hazare Trophy title with a comfortable victory over Tamil Nadu in the final at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Friday.
The triumph was all the more sweet as it came in front of a sizeable home crowd. The host won by 60 runs, via the VJD method, after rain forced play to be called off 23 overs into the chase.

Well ahead
The VJD par score when the action stopped was 86 for one; Karnataka was well ahead at 146 for one.
Fine knocks from K.L. Rahul (52 n.o., 72b, 5x4) and Mayank Agarwal (69 n.o., 55b, 7x4, 3x6) ensured that the chase was always under control.
Karnataka found another star performer in fast bowler A. Mithun, who claimed a hat-trick in his five for 34 spell.

Mithun's burst brought the Tamil Nadu innings to a close at 252. In the 50th over, Mithun dismissed the dangerous Shah Rukh Khan with a low full toss hit to Manish Pandey at long-off.
Devdutt Padikkal then held on to a superb running catch at sweeper cover to remove M. Mohammed. Mithun completed his hat-trick when last man Murugan Ashwin sliced a full delivery to cover.
It was a tame end to the visitors' innings, which mustered just 65 runs in the last 10 overs.
Tamil Nadu was going along smoothly when Abhinav Mukund (85, 110b) and B. Aparajith (66, 84b) were at the crease, the duo putting

on 124 runs for the third wicket.
Abhinav was strong off the back-foot, cutting and flicking with aplomb. Aparajith was as solid as ever.
Debutant left-arm pacer Prateek Jain broke the partnership, getting Abhinav to chop a short ball to cover. Aparajith was undone by a poor piece of running, keen on taking a double when his partner Vijay Shankar was not.
Vijay Shankar (38, 35b) and Dinesh Karthik (11, 18b) looked to finish proceedings in style, but it was not to be.
Rahul and Mayank then took centrestage. Mayank carried on from the terrific form he showed in the South Africa Tests, taking apart the bowlers with ease.
He got going with a lofted six over cover off Vijay Shankar, and stroked left-arm speedster T. Natarajan for three boundaries in the next over. Tamil Nadu simply could not stop the Mayank show.

Close call
Rahul, meanwhile, was composed and played without taking risks. He survived a scare on 33, when the third umpire ruled that Shah Rukh had not taken a catch cleanly at point.
Replays showed that Shah Rukh just about kept the ball above the ground, but the on-field umpires' soft-signal not out decision worked against the fielder.
The scores:
Tamil Nadu: Abhinav Mukund c Mayank b Prateek 85 (110b, 9x4), M. Vijay c Rahul b Mithun 0 (2b), R. Ashwin c Rahul b Koushik 8 (13b), B. Aparajith run out 66 (84b, 7x4), Vijay Shankar c Karun b Mithun 38 (35b, 2x4, 1x6), Dinesh Karthik c Rahul b Gowtham 11 (18b, 1x4), Shah-rukh Khan c Manish b Mithun 27 (23b, 1x6), Washington Sundar



In high spirits: The Karnataka team with the trophy. ■ G.P. SAMPATH KUMAR

c Manish b Koushik 2 (4b), M. Mohammed c Padikkal b Mithun 10 (9b, 1x4), Murugan Ashwin c Gowtham b Mithun 0 (1b), T. Natarajan (not out) 0 (0b); Extras (b-1, lb-1, w-3): 5. Total (in 49.5 overs): 252.
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-24, 3-148, 4-178, 5-193, 6-224, 7-230, 8-252, 9-252.
Karnataka bowling: Mithun 9.5-0-34-5, Koushik 9-0-39-2, Prateek 9-0-55-1, Gowtham 10-0-48-1, Dubey 6-0-47-0, Karun 6-0-27-0.
Karnataka: K.L. Rahul (not out) 52 (72b, 5x4), Devdutt Padikkal b Washington 11 (14b, 2x4), Mayank Agarwal (not out) 69 (55b, 7x4, 3x6); Extras (lb-3, w-8, nb-3): 14. Total (for one wkt. in 23 overs): 146.
Fall of wicket: 1-34.
TN bowling: Washington 6-0-51-1, R. Ashwin 2-0-11-0, Natarajan 3-0-17-0, Shankar 2-0-8-0, M. Ashwin 6-0-34-0, M. Mohammed 4-0-22-0.
Man-of-the-Match: A. Mithun.
Karnataka won by 60 runs by VJD method.

A feather in Mithun's cap

First ever hat-trick in a Hazare final



A. Mithun. ■ G.P. SAMPATH KUMAR

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU
Karnataka fast bowler A. Mithun recorded the first ever hat-trick in a Vijay Hazare Trophy final when he got Tamil Nadu's Murugan Ashwin to sky a catch to K. Gowtham at cover.
His five-for took him to the top of his team's wicket-taker list (20 wickets). Earlier in the day, Mithun had given Karnataka the perfect start by getting opener M. Vijay to edge an outswinger for a duck.
The pacer's fine performance set his side on the right path in the summit clash.
It has been a good start to the season for Mithun, who is now without his long-time

pace partner Vinay Kumar. With Vinay having moved to Pondicherry, Mithun has taken over the mantle of leader of the attack.
"When we go into a match, everyone knows their plans and strengths, so there's very little for me to say. If anyone needs any help, I go and talk to them. Prasidh wants to play at the next level. If you have that mindset, you know what you are doing.
"Koushik is also bowling in good areas. I don't want to say much to him either," Mithun said.
On his hat-trick, Mithun said, "In the absence of (the injured) Prasidh, as a senior, I had to take responsibility and do well."

Pandey lavishes praise on Padikkal

The Bengaluru crowd is always behind us, says the Karnataka captain

SPORTS REPORTER

Karnataka captain Manish Pandey thanked the enthusiastic M. Chinnaswamy Stadium crowd for cheering his team to victory in the Vijay Trophy Trophy final against Tamil Nadu here on Friday.
"We were always glad to play in Bengaluru because the crowd is always behind us, right from the first ball. They're always here to back us.
"It may be small numbers, but anything beyond the 11 guys playing inside – any voice from outside – will definitely help. It's definitely an advantage," Manish said.

A great asset
Manish praised young opener Devdutt Padikkal, who made 609 runs to finish as Karnataka's highest run-scorer of the tournament.

"Devdutt is a great asset at the top of the order. The loss against Hyderabad hit him hard, because if he had batted through, we would have won the game.
"That match made him change his mindset to bat till the end and get the hun-

dreds," Manish said.
Extra responsibility
The 30-year-old has been in great form himself, scoring at average of 105. "At two-drop, I had to take extra responsibility and be there till the end.
"I'm a little sad that I didn't get to bat in the last couple of matches. I was very eager to bat, but I'm happy to sit here with the trophy," Manish said.
Tamil Nadu captain Dinesh Karthik stated that it had been an "incredible journey", considering that the team could not reach the knockout stage of the tournament in the previous two editions.
"It's been an incredible journey. At the start of the tournament, if you had said we would reach the final, I would have been very proud," Karthik said.
On Mayank Agarwal's attacking unbeaten 69, Karthik said, "When an India cricketer who has done well against a top side like South Africa comes and plays at this level, he will make things look far easier than it really is."



In good nick: Mayank Agarwal carried his Test form to make an attacking unbeaten half-century. ■ G.P. SAMPATH KUMAR

Bumrah, Smriti win Wisden India awards



Jasprit Bumrah. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR



Smriti Mandhana. ■ G.P. SAMPATH KUMAR

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BENGALURU
Speedster Jasprit Bumrah and batswoman Smriti Mandhana are the two Indian names among five winners of the prestigious *Wisden India Almanack* Cricketer-of-the-Year award announced on Friday.
The other winners are Mayank Agarwal, Pakistan's Fakhar Zaman, Sri Lanka's Dimuth Karunaratne and Afghanistan's Rashid Khan.
The seventh edition of the annual cricket publication

features articles by leading cricket writers and Yuvraj Singh's recollections of the 2011 World Cup.
Smriti is the third Indian woman to win the award, after Mithali Raj and Deepti Sharma.
Stalwarts Gundappa Viswanath and Lala Amarnath were inducted into the Wisden India Hall of Fame.
Cricketer Country: The Untold History of the First All India Team by Prashant Kidambi was adjudged *Wisden India* Book-of-the-Year.

Ganguly bats for day/night Tests

Says skipper Kohli is also agreeable to the move

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA
Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president Sourav Ganguly on Friday said that since India captain Virat Kohli favoured day-and-night Tests it would be easier to host the new avatar of the longer version of the game.
Speaking at a function organised by Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) to felicitate him, Ganguly said the impression that Kohli didn't like day-and-night Test was not correct.
"I am a big believer in day-and-night Tests. Virat Kohli is agreeable to it. The game needs to go forward," said Ganguly.
The former India captain, who was instrumental in hosting the first-ever day-and-night pink ball cricket at the Eden Gardens here in 2016 during his tenure as CAB president, said the five-day format needed support to survive.
"Nobody thought T20 cricket would be like this. I am a firm believer in day-and-night Tests. Test cricket is seriously challenged by T20 and 50-over cricket... I



Both Laxman and Azharuddin held out hope that Ganguly would do well as the BCCI chief. ■ DEBAJYOTI SARKAR

don't know when it will happen but I hope it happens."
While touching upon various issues, Ganguly said the conflict of interest issue needed to be "more realistic."
Ganguly stressed that he wanted the BCCI to be "credible and clean."
V.V.S. Laxman, who played for India under Ganguly's captaincy and then worked with him as a batting consultant at CAB, advised the BCCI chief to upgrade the National Cricket Academy (NCA).
"Recently I saw the most-depleted South African side. That's because their domestic structure is not strong.

Indian cricket is flourishing because our domestic structure is doing well. I want to know how NCA can be a centre of excellence so that we can have future champions."
Mohammed Azharuddin, who was Ganguly's first captain in the Indian side and the current Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) president, expected the BCCI president to excel.
"I want Sourav, the BCCI president, to achieve more than what he has achieved as a player and a captain," said Azharuddin, while thanking people of West Bengal for their support to him all the while.

Southee to lead New Zealand

Hip injury forces Williamson out of England T20 series

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WELLINGTON
New Zealand captain Kane Williamson will miss the upcoming Twenty20 series against England after a recurring hip injury flared up, team officials said on Friday.
Paceman Tim Southee will lead the team in Williamson's absence, with the batsman hoping to return for a two-Test series in late November.
Coach Gary Stead said it was the same injury that affected Williamson during the Test series against Ban-

gladesh in March.
Stead said fast bowler Lockie Ferguson would play the first three fixtures of the five-match series and then be replaced by Trent Boult.
The series begins on Friday, November 1, in Christchurch.
The squad: Tim Southee (Capt.), Trent Boult, Colin de Grandhomme, Lockie Ferguson, Martin Gupitll, Scott Kugeleijn, Daryl Mitchell, Colin Munro, Jimmy Neesham, Mitchell Santner, Tim Seifert, Ish Sodhi, Ross Taylor and Blair Tickner.



Tim Southee. ■ AFP

ATK thrashes Hyderabad FC

Returns to winning ways with a 5-0 win over the debutant

ISL

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA
ATK returned to winning ways in style blanking debutant Hyderabad FC 5-0 in its first home outing of ISL-6 here at the Salt Lake Stadium on Friday.
David Williams found the target twice in the first half while Roy Krishna struck once as the host led 3-0 at the break. Second-half substitute Edu Garcia scored twice towards the end to secure the biggest win for ATK in the tournament.
ATK's last big win was 4-0 against FC Goa at the same venue in 2015.
ATK exploited the chinks in the Hyderabad defence to fashion the win. The host found the lead in the 24th minute when Williams reached a Javi Hernandez through-pass and slotted it past the opposition goalkeeper Kamaljit Singh.

Swift raids
With persistent drizzle, ATK used the conditions well to launch swift raids that unsettled a struggling Hyderabad defence.
ATK doubled the lead within minutes when Williams' former A-League



On target: David Williams scored twice in the first half for ATK. ■ RAJEEV BHATT

team Wellington Phoenix attack partner Roy Krishna found the back of the net. Williams set Krishna up with a square pass from the left flank and the Fijian striker fired an angular right-footer to send the ball to the inside end of the far post.
Just when Hyderabad was hoping to end its opening half suffering, ATK struck the third in the 44th minute through Williams, who found his second goal on an assist from Jayesh Rane.
The second half saw the host becoming a shade de-

Saina, Sindhu out; Rankireddy & Shetty in semifinals



One step closer: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, right, and Chirag Shetty beat Kim Astrup and Anders Rasmussen to reach the last-four stage. ■ AFP

FRENCH OPEN

IAN S
PARIS
Saina Nehwal's campaign in the French Open came to an end on Friday after she lost in the quarterfinals to South Korean teenager An Se Young in a hard-fought contest that lasted 49 minutes. Also making the exit was P.V. Sindhu, who fought hard but was not able to get past World No.1 Tai Tzu Ying. The Chinese Taipei girl won 21-16, 24-26, 21-17.
However, India's men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty reached the semifinals with a 21-13, 22-20 win over World No. 8 Kim Astrup and

Anders Rasmussen.
This is the second consecutive time that the pair has reached the semifinals of the Super 750 tournament.
Saina was chasing for much of the match, but she had game point at 20-19 in the first game. Young, however, took three consecutive points to win it 22-20.
The two went toe-to-toe in the second game with the Korean holding a slender 11-10 lead. After that, Young raced to 18-13.
Saina responded by taking four consecutive points to close the gap to one point again. It took two match points, but in the end, the 17-year-old prevailed over the former World No. 1.