Picked at 48, the Pravin Tambe saga continues at the IPL

The leggie from Mumbai has had an impact on the Indian cricket fraternity

Kolkata Knight Riders received huge applause twice during the Indian Premier League's 13th Player Auction in Kolkata on Thursday. While the first one - for a whopping ₹15.5 crore to get Pat Cummins – left everyone stunned, the second one, despite being at base price to sign Pravin Tambe – put a wide smile on everyone's face in the enclosure.

That's the impact Tambe has had on the Indian cricket fraternity. Doesn't matter that the leggie from Mumbai was sold at ₹20 lakh. The fact that at 48, he attracted a bid in itself was a major development. Whether he actually gets a game during the IPL's 2020 edition or not, he will definitely be the oldest player to be a part of IPL.

"Nothing changes at all," the down-to-earth leggie tells The Hindu. He is neither excited nor surprised, having received a bid in the auction. "Obviously it feels good but am not so young that I will be thrilled with an IPL contract any longer."

Till 2013, a regular on the maidans of Mumbai and nets of various teams, Tambe's only taste of big-ticket events was during his five-year stint as the liaison officer for IPL games at the Dr. DY Patil Sports Stadium in Navi Mumbai. Once he made a sensational debut for Rajasthan Royals during the 2013 IPL and the Champions Trophy T20, he became the talk of the town

Central point of motivation speakers

A First Class debut for Mumbai also followed, but most importantly, Tambe has emerged as the central point of plenty of motivation speakers, including Rahul Dravid, his Rajasthan Royals captain. "I have been a positive person all my life and



Age and wisdom: Pravin Tambe said 'obviously it feels good, but am not so young that I will be thrilled with an IPL contract any longer.' • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Maxwell celebrates contract, King-style

Smashes 83 off just 39 balls in BBL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA MELBOURNE

Australian all-rounder Glenn Maxwell on Friday smashed a scintillating 83 off 39 balls for Melbourne Stars against Brisbane Heat in the Big Bash League, a day after being picked by Kings XI Punjab for a whopping ₹10.75 crore at the IPL auction on Thursday.

Returning to action after taking a break to focus on his mental health, Maxwell once again showed just why he is considered one of the most devastating batsmen in T20 cricket as he hit seven boundaries

and five sixes.

The 31-year-old also equalled his fastest-ever fifty (23 balls) during the blistering knock. Kings XI took to twitter to hail Maxwell's superb

innings. "A BIG SHOW from the 'BIG SHOW' @Gmaxi_32 was at his lethal best as he

led from the front for his

breathtaking 83 off just 39

side in @BBL scoring a

Maxwell had played for KXIP from 2014 to 2017 before being bought by Delhi Capitals in 2018. He had opted out of the league in the last edition.



What a player! Maxwell's innings drew appreciation from Kings XI Punjab, his new IPL team. ■ FILE РНОТО

IPL 2020 roster As the dust settled on the auction, here are the team compositions for the 13th edition:



Super Kings (24)

Tahir, Lungi Ngidi Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shane Watson. Ambati Ravudu. Harbhajan Singh M. Vijay, Kedar Jadhav, Ravindra Jadeja, Deepak Chahar, Piyush Chawla, N. Jagadeesan, Suresh Raina, Mitchell Santner, K.M. Asif, Shardul

Delhi Capitals (22) Shreyas Iyer, Kagiso Rabada, M.S. Dhoni, Imran Marcus Stoinis, Sandeep Lamichhane, Ishant Sharma, Ajinkya Rahane,

Chris Woakes,

R. Ashwin, Shikhar

Dhawan, Shimron

Hetmyer, Alex Carey, Jason Roy, Mohit Sharma, Prithvi Shaw, Lalit Yadav, Avesh Thakur, R. Sai Axar Patel, Tushar Deshpande, Kishore, Faf du Rishabh Pant, Plessis, Monu Kumar, Harshal Patel, Dwayne Bravo, Josh Keemo Paul, Amit Mishra



Kings XI Punjab (25)

K.L. Rahul, Harpreet Brar, Ishan Porel, Mandeep Singh, James Neesham, Tajinder Singh, Chris Jordan, Karun Nair, Deepak Hooda, Ravi Bishnoi, Arshdeep Singh Glenn Maxwell. Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Sarfaraz Khan, Sheldon Cottrell, Mayank Agarwal, Mohammed Shami Darshan Nalkande, Nicholas Pooran, Chris Gayle, M. Ashwin, J. Suchith K. Gowtham, Hardus Viljoen, Simran



Riders (24)

(23)Rohit Sharma, Dinesh Karthik, Quinton de Kock, Andre Russell, Harry Gurney, Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Tiwary, Jasprit Kuldeep Yadav, Kulkarni, Nathan Lockie Ferguson, Nitish Rana, Prasidh Krishna, Rinku Krunal Pandya, Warrier, Shivam Kieron Pollard, Lasith Malinga, Gill, Siddhesh Eoin Morgan, Pat Anmolpreet Tripathi, Varun Singh, Mohsin Khan, Mitchell Chakravarthy, M. Siddharth, Chris McClenaghan, Green, Tom Banton Pravin Tambe,



Mumbai Indians

Digvijay Deshmukh, Aditya Tare, Saurabh Coulter-Nile, Trent Boult, Jayant Yadav, Suryakumar Yadav, Rahul Chahar, Chris Lynn, Hardik Pandya, Sherfane Rutherford, Prince Balwant Rai, Anukul Roy, Ishan



Royals (25)

Ben Stokes, Sanju Samson, Andrew Tye, Kartik Tyagi, Steve Smith, Ankit Rajpoot, Shreyas Gopal, Rahul Tewatia, Jaydev Unadkat, Mayank Markande, Mahipal Lomror, Oshane Thomas, Riyan Parag, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Anuj Rawat, Akash Singh, Jofra Archer, David Miller, Jos Buttler, Manan Vohra, Shashank Singh, Varun Aaron Tom Curran, Robin Uthappa, Anirudha



Challengers Bangalore (21)

Virat Kohli, Mohammed Siraj, Chris Morris, Josh Philippe, Moeen Ali, Aaron Finch, A.B. de Villiers, Shahbaz Ahamed Parthiv Patel, Yuzvendra Chahal Navdeep Saini. Isuru Udana, Dale Stevn, Pawan Negi, Devdutt Padikkal, Shivam Dube, Umesh Yadav, Gurkeerat Mann, Washington Sundar, Pavan



Hyderabad

Many layers to NCA-Bumrah fitness episode

have been serious about

cricket. The biggest sense of

achievement I get is when

many of my contemporaries

and even some of the youn-

ger players who stopped

playing before me call and

say that I have inspired them

to start playing cricket regu-

doesn't matter and the level

doesn't matter. As long as I

can remain fit, I will never

stop playing cricket - be it the

T20 tournament at Shivaji

IPL last time for Sunrisers

Hyderabad in 2016, the clos-

est Tambe has been to top-

flight cricket is the Abu Dha-

bi T10 league for the last two

It is indeed a mystery

about how he was cleared to

play in an off-shore commer-

cial league. But it cannot be

more enigmatic that the tire-

less spinner's rise on a crick-

et field well into his 40s, can

After having played the

Park Gymkhana or the IPL."

"I have never retired. Age

larly again," Tambe says.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Over the last week, speculation has swirled around the Bengaluru-based National Cricket Academy (NCA) and its alleged refusal to conduct a fitness test for Jasprit Bumrah. However, it has come to light that the NCA director, Rahul Dravid, had no qualms about a test being conducted for the speedster but there were other issues.

A source, clued into the academy's process, emphatically said: "At no stage we refused Bumrah at NCA. We only said that 'look if you have been treated by somebody else for the last four months and someone else knows your case, how can we conduct a test and pass you fit?' In fact, Bumrah was offered to use the NCA facilities. He was told to get whoever he wanted and do the test here. Last minute you land up and ask us to conduct a fitness test means (but) how can we? Nobody knows his case. NCA trainers have not trained with him



■ FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

even one day, they have not treated him for four months. How can they be asked to conduct the test?"

According to the source, a proper method had to be followed as it was observed that the NCA often becomes a scapegoat when a player declared fit suffers an injury and then fingers are pointed towards the academy.

"You do whatever you

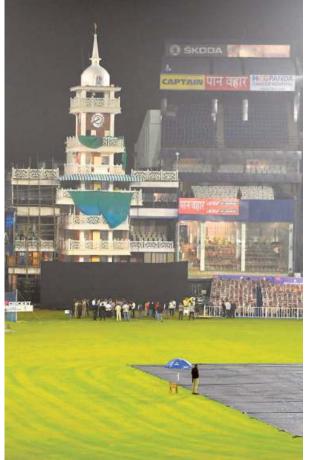
want, but please don't recruit the NCA staff to give the test and pass you. Because what happens is if something goes wrong, again the NCA will be blamed. No professional will agree to do this," the source said, besides reiterating that Dravid even permitted Bumrah to get the Indian team's physio to test him at the NCA.

The Hardik case

Along with Bumrah, Hardik Pandya is also on a comeback trail from an injury-enforced break and it is understood that even the latter was declared fit following pressure on the NCA's phydepartment, siotherapy prior to the third Test at Melbourne during India's tour

of Australia last year. "He was also being treated by somebody else and later on when he got injured again for the same problem, the blame came on NCA," the source said, adding that Dravid wasn't at the helm during December when it

Barabati all set to host series-decider



Setting it right: The iconic clock tower at the Barabati Stadium was renovated and given a more aesthetic look. • K.R. DEEPAK

The stadium needed lot of attention after being hit by cyclone Fani last May

WI IN INDIA

Y.B. SARANGI

The Barabati Stadium is at its prettiest shape in recent times as it gets ready to host the third and series-deciding one-day international between India and West Indies here on Sunday.

The 61-year-old venue, which bore the brunt of cyclone Fani in May last, demanded a lot of attention after the ODI was allotted to the Odisha Cricket Association (OCA).

It was a tough task for the newly-elected OCA officebearers, who got about two months to put everything in place.

Major issue

"The major issue was the lights, which were installed about 18 years ago. A lot of them were damaged in the cyclone. More than 100 lights were added or changed by Dev Musco Lighting, Kapil Dev's company,

OCA president Mohanty told The Hindu on Friday.

"These lights were not available in the market. They could not replace the old lights with LEDs as they had to keep the load factor (on the towers) in mind. The other challenge was achieving the desired lux."

Clock tower renovation

The renovation of the iconic clock tower, beside which the two dressing rooms are situated, was another major work. The glass cover of the three clocks, which were broken in the cyclone, was replaced and the whole tower was given a more aesthetic look.

"The primary work was related to renovation and maintenance. Besides, we employed professional agencies to do the interiors and decorate the pathways (leading to the main block)," said Mohanty.

The whole renovation job was done at an expense of ₹6

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

than 100 games for.

Mikel Arteta appointed

Arsenal head coach

which had installed them," crore. "For the last three vears the OCA did not ge any money from the BCCI.

"The routine expenses, like team travelling, catering etc., were transferred directly to the beneficiaries. Now, BCCI gave us about ₹10 crore which helped us complete this much-needed work."

Barabati last hosted an international match when India played Sri Lanka in a T20 two years ago. The last ODI was staged nearly three years ago.

Spectators excited

The excitement of spectators knew no bounds even though the two teams' practice sessions, scheduled on

Friday, was cancelled. The OCA has been struggling to meet the huge demand for tickets. "We are selling about 38,000 tickets, but are losing 5,200 on Gallery No. 7 as it has been declared unsafe.

"Looking at the demand, it's a significant number,"

Pakistan fights back through Shaheen's heroics

SL IN PAKISTAN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE KARACH

Lanky paceman Shaheen Shah Afridi took a maiden five-wicket haul to lead Pakistan's fightback after Sri Lanka gained a crucial lead in the second Test here on Friday.

The 19-year-old paceman took five for 77 and was ably supported by new-ball partner Mohammad Abbas (4 for 55) to keep Sri Lanka down to 271 on a tricky National stadium pitch.

That gave the visitor a lead of 80 runs over Pakistan's first-innings total of 191.

By the close of second day's play Pakistan had wiped off 57 of the deficit for no loss.

But it still trails by 23 runs with all 10 wickets in hand and three days to play.

Opener Abid Ali – who became the first batsman ever to hit a debut hundred in both Test and one-day international in the first match in Rawalpindi – was unbeaten on 32 and Shan Masood on 21

Sri Lanka's fight

Sri Lanka fought through Dinesh Chandimal, who made 74, and Dilruwan Perera, who made a fighting 48 batting at number nine.

With his team wobbling at 80 for five in the morning, Chandimal built partner-



Pivotal: Shaheen Afridi took five for 77 to help restrict Sri Lanka on a tricky pitch. • AP

ships of 67 with Dhananjaya de Silva (32) for the sixth wicket, 37 for the seventh

wicket with Niroshan Dickwella (21) and then another 51 with Perera for the eighth.

SCOREBOARD

Pakistan - 1st innings: 191.

Sri Lanka — 1st innings: Oshada Fernando c Rizwan b Shaheen 4, Dimuth Karunaratne b Abbas 25, Kusal Mendis c Sohail b Abbas 13, Angelo Mathews c Rizwan b Shaheen 13. Lasith Embuldeniva c Shafiq b Abbas 13, Dinesh Chandimal c Masood b Sohail 74, Dhananjaya de Silva c Abbas b Shaheen 32, Niroshan Dickwella b Abbas 21, Dilruwan Perera lbw b Shaheen 48, Vishwa Fernando (not out) 5, Lahiru Kumara b Shaheen O; Extras (b-4, lb-10, nb-3, w-6): 23; Total (in 85.5 overs): 271.

Chandimal was finally dismissed by part-time spinner Haris Sohail, caught at backFall of wickets: 1-28, 2-39, 3-61, 4-78, 5-80, 6-147, 7-184, 8-235, 9-271.

Pakistan bowling: Shaheen 26.5-5-77-5, Abbas 27-9-55-4, Naseem 16-1-71-0, Yasir 13-0-43-0, Sohail 3-0-11-1. Pakistan - 2nd innings: Shan

Masood (batting) 21, Abid Ali (batting) 32; Extras (lb-4): 4; Total (for no loss in 14 overs):

Sri Lanka bowling: Fernando 5-1-14-0, Kumara 3-0-20-0, Embuldeniya 5-0-17-0, Perera

ward point after he mistimed

a cut. He hit ten boundaries

in his 143-ball knock.

Unai Emery, who was sacked last month. "We're delighted to announce Mikel Arteta is joining the club as our head coach on Sunday,"

tant at Manchester City.

He replaces compatriot



Mikel Arteta. • REUTERS

read an Arsenal statement. "Mikel, a former club

captain, played for us for five seasons from 2011 to 2016 and has signed a threeand-a-half year contract."

