

BRIEFLY

Sharma, Bidhuri power Delhi

KSHITIZ SHARMA, whose place in the playing eleven was questioned, silenced his critics with a gritty 103 that helped Delhi post a mammoth 623 in the first innings of their Ranji Trophy match against Rajasthan on Thursday. In response, Rajasthan were under the pump at 115 for four, trailing Delhi by 508 runs at close of play.

Jagadeesan puts TN in control

TAMIL NADU wicket-keeper batsman Narayan Jagadeesan came up with a gritty 183 to help his team post a competitive total of 424 on the second day of a Ranji Trophy Elite Group B game against Saurashtra here on Thursday. Then Tamil Nadu hit back to reduce Saurashtra to 107/3, as the hosts are still adrift by 317 runs.

J&K seize advantage against Haryana

A SIX-WICKET haul by debutante left-arm medium-pacer Mujtaba Yousuf helped Jammu and Kashmir gain the upperhand against Haryana, despite a fighting ton by Pramod Chandila, on the second day of their Ranji Trophy Group C match here on Thursday.

Goa storm into Ranji Trophy quarters

GOA CANTERED into the Ranji Trophy quarterfinals with an innings and 211-run win over Mizoram in their Plate Group clash at the CC&FC ground here on Thursday. All-rounder Amit Verma once again led by example as he followed up his century with a 5/39 in the second innings of Mizoram who folded for 170 after following-on to suffer the defeat inside two days.

Mumbai post 427 against MP

Mumbai posted a massive 427 at the Wankhede Stadium in the first innings against Madhya Pradesh. Both teams are out of the coveted domestic tournament. Sarfaraz, who has had a dream run this season, however fell 23 runs short of a double hundred. He already has a triple, double and now a hundred to his name this season. Then Mumbai bowlers reduced Madhya Pradesh to 200/7, still adrift by 227 runs.

Tiwary masterclass revives Bengal

Scores 65 on turner to put visitors in a strong position against Punjab for a spot in the Ranji Trophy knockouts

NITIN SHARMA
PATIALA, FEBRUARY 13

ON HIS way back to the pavilion, Manoj Tiwary was applauded even by one of Punjab's substitutes. The veteran's knock of 65 was one of the main reasons for Bengal making a comeback into the crucial Ranji Trophy clash.

His 107-run fourth-wicket partnership with all-rounder Arnab Nandi (51) helped Bengal take an overall lead of 186 runs with one wicket in hand in their second innings. On a day when 16 wickets fell on a turning track, Tiwary's knock could have put Bengal on the road to the quarterfinals.

Tiwary, who scored a triple hundred against Hyderabad last month, had played a similar innings of 51 against Kerala on a turning track at Thumba. But the Bengal batsman said that Thursday's knock was more challenging.

"We have played two matches on spinning tracks this season but this pitch was more challenging. I knew that the ball would turn and also stay straight on this kind of wicket. So I decided not to commit to the shot before judging the length and flight. I stepped out and also employed the sweep, which helped me play with the bowlers' mind," said Tiwary. Earlier in the day, the hosts lost five wickets in the first 25 minutes of the day before Anmol Malhotra's gutsy 44 runs helped Punjab gain a 13-run first innings lead. Tiwary, who joined Nandi with the score being 21 for 3, raced to 31 off 38 balls while Nandi played with patience.

But once the two departed, Bengal lost five wickets in 12.5 overs with Krishan Alang returning figures of 5 for 53. It was the maiden five-wicket haul for the bowler playing only his second match.

"I told Nandi that we have to avoid what happened in the first innings, where we lost three wickets in one over. With the wicket drying up a little in the second session, we wanted to put pressure on the Punjab bowlers with singles and twos. Nandi was promoted in the batting order as he has shown good defence," added Tiwary.

Earlier in the day, Bengal spinner Shahbaz Ahmed took a seven-wicket haul, including the coveted wicket of Punjab skipper Mandeep Singh in the opening session. Bengal coach Arun Lal believes that bowling session by session on the third day will be the key for his team to win the match.

"We would have been happier if we would have taken the first innings' lead of 13 runs instead of Punjab as they recovered from 105 for 8 to 151. But all credit to Shahbaz, who helped us to be in that position. We are lucky that our frontline spinners are also very good batsmen and Nandi showed that in the partnership with Manoj. Manoj showed today why he is among the best players of spin in the country. He can hit six balls of any spinner for six sixes but displayed patience."

Punjab coach Puneet Bali believes that his team can still qualify for the knockouts. "We could have batted better in the morning but lost too many wickets in the first 20 minutes. The wicket settled a bit today and it was good to play in the afternoon. The first half will be important tomorrow and not giving away wickets when there will be a bit of moisture in the wicket will help our chase," he said.

Brief scores: Bengal 138 and 199 for 9 in 66 overs (Manoj Tiwary 65, Arnab Nandi 51; Krishan Alang 5/53) vs Punjab 151 all out in 56.5 overs (Rohan Marwaha 48, Anmol Malhotra 44; Shahbaz 7/57, Akash Deep 3/30).

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Tiwary's (left) 107-run fourth-wicket partnership with Nandi (51) helped Bengal take an overall lead of 186 runs. Harmeet Sodhi

Back from the clutches of cancer, Kaniyal hits ton on Ranji debut

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 13

KAMAL KANIYAL remembers the day when he went for a blood check-up and the doctor advised his father Umesh to take him to a Noida hospital for further treatment. He doesn't remember the full conversation his father had with his doctor. He heard that his platelet count was decreasing and he would need to travel to the Uttar Pradesh city for treatment.

He was 15, the tests were done and the report stated that he was suffering from leukemia, cancer of the blood.

On Thursday, three years after recovering from cancer, Kaniyal slammed a hundred on debut for Uttarakhand against Maharashtra in Baramati in a Ranji tie. Kaniyal scored 101 off 160 balls which had 17 fours in it.

"It was the second stage and I was told that 47% of my body was affected by it," Kaniyal recalls while talking to *The Indian Express*. A young and promising cricketer, who was selected for UP under-14 trials among 40 players and later for the under-16 trials among 60 players, could never break into the final squad. Cancer meant the boy from Haldwani near Nainital, couldn't do much the next year.

Three years ago, Uttarakhand was not a permanent member until Lodha Committee's recommendation came in and handed full membership to the association. It opened the gates for local cricketers too and meant they were no longer at the mercy of Uttar Pradesh, who always gave them a cold shoulder. Like Yuvraj Singh, who had fought cancer and made a comeback, the Haldwani survivor also scripted his return.

He made it to the Ranji Trophy squad after scoring 800 runs in nine under-19 games, hitting one double hundred, two hundreds and three fifties.



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KAMAL KANIYAL
UTTARAKHAND BATSMAN

Recalling those testing times, Kaniyal said he never lost hope and knew in his heart that he would beat the ailment.

"I was 15 when I suffered cancer, one year I couldn't do anything. I had leukemia, my family didn't tell me much then. I used to often fall ill and my platelet count would drop rapidly," he recalls. He adds, "Later when we went to Fortis Hospital in Noida, I was just told that I have blood infection. I heard the doctor saying I have cancer. I told myself now that I am getting treatment I shouldn't worry much."

Whether he would play cricket again or not, wasn't in his mind. His father, a retired army havildar, comforted his young son and

never let Kaniyal panic.

"The doctor said chances of recovery are high. The doctor said at this age the body recovers quickly. I underwent five rounds of chemotherapy. I had no idea what it meant. I had positive people around me who motivated and kept me happy. My family used to say that I am a tiger, 'ladka bahut hi bahadur hai', bus yeh line sunke josh aa jata tha (our boy is very brave and I felt really energised whenever I heard my folks say that," he recalls.

After six months of treatment, the doctors said he is fine, but at home precautions were taken. It took him nearly one year to recover fully. When he did so, the first thing he did was hit the ground again. Kaniyal and his family rarely open up about their tribulations which they consider the darkest phase of their lives.

When Uttarakhand played under-19 games, the opening batsman made it to the side. He said, "There used to be no Uttarakhand association before, the association came up two years ago. We used to try to make it to the UP side but were rejected on countless occasions. I did attend under-14 camps, where we had 40 boys and the camp got over in four to five days. Later, I was picked for the under-16 camp which ended in four days with some trial matches."

Back in Baramati, he admits there was some pressure of playing his debut game. But he managed to not let a single negative thought enter his mind. Ask him how he sees his career ahead, he replies philosophically, "Aage ka kisme dekha hai, jaisa chal raha hai chalta rahe. (Who knows what the future holds, I will go with the flow)."

Brief Scores: Maharashtra 207 all out in 49.4 overs (A Palkar 60, V V More 59, N S Shaikh 47; Agrim Tiwari 3/49, Pradeep Chamoli 3/52) and 140 for 2 in 46 overs (Ankit Bavane 50 batting, Swapnil Fulpagar 40 batting) vs Uttarakhand 251 all out in 38 overs (Kamal Singh 101, Saurabh Rawat 49, Vaibhav Bhatt 33; Satyajit Bachhav 4/71).

Manpreet is first FIH Player of the Year from India

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LAUSANNE, FEBRUARY 13

NATIONAL MEN'S team captain Manpreet Singh on Thursday became the first Indian to win the International Hockey Federation's (FIH) Player of the Year award, capping memorable 2019 season in which he led the side to Olympic qualification.

The 27-year-old midfielder, thus, became the first from the country to win the accolade since the awards were introduced in 1999. He beat competition from Belgium's Arthur van Dorren and Lucas Villa of Argentina, who came second and third respectively.

Manpreet polled a total of 35.2 per cent of combined votes, which includes National Associations, media, fans and players.

Van Dorren, on the other hand, got combined vote share of 19.7 per cent while Villa polled 16.5 per cent in his favour.

Other players who were nominated for the award were Victor Wegnez of Belgium and Australian duo of Aran Zaleski and Eddie Ockenden.

Manpreet, who had represented India at 2012 London and 2016 Rio Olympics, has enjoyed a long career in the national team since he made his debut in 2011. He now has 260 international appearances under his belt.

Last year, Manpreet led India to victory in the FIH Olympic Qualifiers, securing their Tokyo Olympics spot.

Talking about the last season, Manpreet said: "If you look at our year, we did well in every tournament we participated in. Be it the FIH Series Finals in June or the test series in Belgium where we played the hosts as well as Spain and beat them."

"Our biggest goal in 2019 was to book our berth at the Olympics."

India achieved that goal in style, beating Russia in the Olympic Qualifiers over two legs —4-2 and 7-2.

Manpreet dedicated the award to his teammates, saying without their support it wouldn't have been possible.

"I am truly honoured to win this award and I would like to dedicate this to my team. I also thank my well wishers and hockey fans from around the world for voting in my favour. It is truly humbling to see so much support for Indian hockey," he said.

FIH CEO Thierry Weil congratulated all the winners, including Manpreet on their achievements.

"On behalf of FIH, I would like to extend heartfelt congratulations from the whole hockey community to all winners of the 2019 FIH Stars Awards and also to all nominees."

"Thanks to their skills and performances, as well as their teammates, they invite fans all over the world to experience great emotions. We are very grateful to them," he said.

Hockey India President Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad also congratulated Manpreet.



Manpreet led India to victory in the FIH Olympic Qualifiers in 2019, securing their Tokyo Olympics spot.

WORD GAME

Tottenham supporters included in Oxford dictionary's 'Yid' definition



Some fans of the London club, which has a large fan base from the Jewish community, call themselves the "Yid Army." Instagram: @spurs_forever_16

ASSOCIATED PRESS
FEBRUARY 13

AN ALTERNATIVE meaning for a controversial anti-Semitic epithet often used by fans of English soccer club Tottenham has been included in a list of new entries in a leading dictionary of British English.

The definitions of the words "yid" and "yiddo", derogatory terms for Jews, have been updated in the Oxford English Dictionary to include "a supporter of or player for Tottenham Hotspur Football Club."

With concern from Tottenham and Jewish community leaders that the definition was misleading and the words' offensive meaning had not been highlighted, the dictionary included further context.

"Originally and frequently derogatory and offensive, though also often as a self-designation," the OED added in the definition.

Some fans of Tottenham, a north London club which has traditionally drawn a large fan base from the Jewish communities, call themselves the "Yid Army." But the usage of the nickname has stirred debate.

Tottenham has previously described it as a "call to arms" or a "defense mechanism"

In 2013, then-British Prime Minister David Cameron weighed into the debate, saying there was "a difference between Spurs fans self-describing themselves as 'yids' and someone calling someone a 'yid' as an insult."

which portions of the team's fans use as an attempt to reclaim the term from its racist usage by opposing fans.

"As a club, we have never accommodated the use of the Y word on any club channels or in club stores and have always been clear that our fans (both Jewish and gentile) have never used the term with any intent to cause offense," Tottenham said in a statement following the release of the OED's definition.

In 2013, then-British Prime Minister David Cameron weighed into the debate, saying there was "a difference between Spurs fans self-describing themselves as 'yids' and someone calling someone a 'yid' as an insult."

However, the nickname, stemming from a Yiddish term for Jews, now carries a "distinctly pejorative and anti-Semitic message," according to the World Jewish Congress. Jewish groups have called on Tottenham to

take a stand and not tolerate its usage.

The English Football Association has also issued guidelines in recent years, saying it would "encourage fans to avoid using it in any situation."

Yiddish is the Germanic language historically used by Ashkenazi Jews of central and eastern Europe that incorporated Hebrew and borrowed freely from the languages of countries where Jews lived.

The OED said its decision to include a reference to Tottenham in its definitions was a reflection of the modern-day "usage and development of words in the English language."

"We reflect rather than dictate how language is used, which means we include words which may be considered sensitive and derogatory," the dictionary said. "These are always labelled as such."

David Baddiel, a British comedian who

is Jewish and has been outspoken in his criticism of Tottenham fans using the "yid" epithet, said its addition to the dictionary will "weirdly give succour to the sense that Tottenham fans, rather than Jews, 'own' this race-hate word for Jews."

"The vast majority of fans of the club, including those who self-designate as Y-words, are not Jewish," he told Sky News television, "and therefore have no right of reclamation."

The Community Security Trust, a charity working to protect British Jews from anti-Semitism, said it was important that the dictionary had "clearly marked" that the terms were "anti-Semitic or otherwise offensive."

But, the charity said, "ultimately, it is some Spurs fans, not the OED, that have brought this racist term to wider public attention and potential use."

In December, Tottenham released the results of a poll it conducted on the word. It received more than 23,000 responses and revealed that 33% of respondents use it "regularly" in a soccer context.

About 94% acknowledged the word can be considered a racist term against a Jewish person and nearly half of the respondents wanted supporters to abandon or use it less in chants.