

Will, Tom set the tone for Kiwis in CT opener

PTI, KARACHI: Will Young and Tom Latham struck fine hundreds as New Zealand maintained their recent dominance over hosts Pakistan with an emphatic 60-run win in the Champions Trophy opener here on Wednesday.

Young compiled an important innings of 107 off

113 balls, while Latham remained unbeaten on 118 off 104 balls to steer the Black Caps to 320 for five after Pakistan put them in to bat.

Glenn Phillips' 39-ball 61 also went a long way in the Kiwis getting past the 300-run mark as New Zealand overcame a shaky start.

The Pakistan top-order comprising Babar Azam (64 off 90), Mohammed Rizwan (3 off 14) and Saud Shakeel (6 off 19) were a tad too conservative in their approach. That ultimately cost the home team as it ended with 260 all out in 47.2 overs.

Fakhar Zaman (24 off

41) batted at number four after being off the field for a major part of the New Zealand innings due to an injury scare.

It was New Zealand's third win over Pakistan in less than two weeks, the Kiwis having beaten the Rizwan-led side twice in the preceding tri-series.

SCOREBOARD

New Zealand: Will Young c (sub) Ashraf b Shah 107, Devon Conway b Ahmed 10, Kane Williamson c Rizwan b Shah 1, Daryl Mitchell c Afridi b Rauf 10, Tom Latham not out 118, Glenn Phillips c Zaman b Rauf 61, Michael Bracewell not out 0. **Extras:** 13. **Total:** 320-5. **Fall of wickets:** 39-1, 40-2, 73-3, 191-4, 316-5. **Bowling:** Shaheen Afridi 10-0-68-0, Naseem Shah 10-0-63-2, Abrar Ahmed 10-0-47-1, Haris Rauf 10-0-83-2, Khushdil Shah 7-0-40-0, Salman Agha 3-0-15-0.

Pakistan: Saud Shakeel c Henry b ORourke 6, Babar Azam c Williamson b Santner 64, *Mohammad Rizwan c Phillips b ORourke 3, Fakhar Zaman b Bracewell 24, Salman Agha c Mitchell b Smith 42, Tayyab Tahir c Williamson b Santner 1, Khushdil Shah c Bracewell b ORourke 69, Shaheen Afridi c Latham b Henry 14, Naseem Shah b Henry 13, Haris Rauf c Mitchell b Santner 19, Abrar Ahmed not out 0. **Extras:** 5. **Total:** 260-10. **Fall of wickets:** 8-1, 22-2, 69-3, 127-4, 128-5, 153-6, 200-7, 229-8, 260-9, 260-10. **Bowling:** Matt Henry 7.2-1-25-2, William ORourke 9-0-47-3, Michael Bracewell 10-1-38-1, Glenn Phillips 9-0-63-0, *Mitchell Santner 10-0-66-3, Nathan Smith 2-0-20-1.

Man-of-the-match: Tom Latham



New Zealand's Will Young (right) celebrates with Tom Latham after scoring a century during the ICC Champions Trophy match against Pakistan at the National Stadium in Karachi

We have picked only two spinners, other three are all-rounders: Rohit

PTI, DUBAI: The inclusion of five spinners in India's Champions Trophy squad has attracted plenty of attention but captain Rohit Sharma on Wednesday defended the selectors' call, saying three of them are all-rounders who add a lot of value to his team.

Varun Chakaravarty and Kuldeep Yadav are the two specialists spinners while the other options in that department are Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel and Washington Sundar, who all are very capable batters.

PREVIEW

The spin-heavy side has three fast-bowling options in the form of Mohammed Shami, Arshdeep Singh and Harshit Rana with Hardik Pandya being the sole pace all-rounder.

"There are two spinners, and the other three are all-rounders, so I am not looking at them as five spinners, those three guys can bat and can bowl also."

"In the rest of the teams, the fast bowlers are all-rounders, so they say that they have taken six



Virat Kohli, Ravindra Jadeja, Hardik Pandya and others during a practice session ahead of the One Day International (ODI) match of the ICC Champions Trophy against Bangladesh, in Dubai, UAE.

TEAM INDIA

India: Rohit Sharma (c), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Rishabh Pant, Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana, Mohammed Shami, Arshdeep Singh, Ravindra Jadeja, Varun Chakaravarty.

Match starts at 2.30 pm (IST)

fast bowlers, which is good, but we play to our strength (spin)," Rohit told reporters when asked about the spin heavy composition of the side. The injured Jasprit Bumrah's absence has

put additional responsibility on Mohammed Shami, who is yet to regain his full rhythm following a comeback from injury.

India prefer to bat deep and that explains the

presence of three spin all-rounders in the side.

"Jadeja, Axar, Washy, give us a different dimension to our squad and add a lot to this team and give us a lot of depth, that is why we wanted to try and get the players who can have two skills rather than one skill."

Dubai has seen rain in the last couple of days and India might have to deal with overcast conditions in their tournament opener against Bangladesh on Thursday.

Milind Rege was a true champion of Mumbai cricket

G Viswanath

Milind Rege played alongside the champions and greats of the Bombay Ranji Trophy teams (now Mumbai) of the yesteryear, a fact that reflected his wherewithal as a slow spinner and a batter who was accorded the middle order slot.

In short, the selection committee that picked him for the Ranji Trophy and Zol Irani Cup in his nascent years in First Class competitions run by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) thought highly of his capabilities; his well wishers thought he would go on to earn an India cap, but destiny did not take him there.

Rege was generally under the shadow of his more illustrious left arm finger spinner colleague in Padmakar Shivalkar, who himself did not see luck come his way to play for India. Such was the tough competition in the 1960s and 1970s with gifted finger spinners like Bishen Singh Bedi, Erappalli Prasanna and S Venkataraghavan dominating the scene.

For around a decade from the late 1960s, Rege - he bowled off breaks and contributed with the bat usefully - played his part dutifully. His numbers were a modest 52 first class matches, 1531 runs without a century, but with eight half centuries and 125 wickets at 29.46.



OBIT

But Rege who passed away in Mumbai in the early hours of Wednesday - at the age of 76, after a brief period

of illness - was not just a player who sported the Lion crest with dignity and pride; he gave his heart and soul for Mumbai cricket without being prejudiced and wholeheartedly appreciating the talented cricketers from across the country.

Rege was a young talent of the late 1950s and early 1960s - showing his skills, turning out for St Xavier's School and College and watch his teammate and friend Sunil Gavaskar steadily climb the ladder of success as an opening batter.

Rege flourished as a school boy. He was picked in the Indian Schoolboys' team against the London Schools team in the winter of 1965.

He was 17 and his teammates in

the Indian Schoolboys team were Gavaskar, Ramesh Nagdev, Ashok Gandotra, Surinder Amarnath, Eknath Solkar and Mohinder Amarnath. He batted at No. 4, which reflected the thoughts of those who saw him as a potential batter all-rounder.

Thereafter, he was chosen in the Vazir Sultan Tobacco Colts XI that played against Durgapur XI in the prestigious Moin-ud-Dowlah Gold Cup in Hyderabad and the captain of the Colts team was none other than Mansur Ali Khan 'Tiger' Pataudi.

This team had a few top notch youngsters namely Gavaskar, Surinder and Mohinder Amarnath and Kailash Gattani. But it was under the leadership of the Bombay captains Mano-

har Hardikar and Ajit Wadekar that Rege came into his own as a utility all-rounder.

He was part of four Ranji Trophy championship wins from 1968-69 to 1971-72 and against teams - Bengal, Rajasthan and Maharashtra.

He also played in three Irani Cup matches, tasting success twice and defeat once. He got a feeling of a complete First Class cricketer when playing for West Zone in the Duleep Trophy final against Central Zone in March 1972.

Milind Rege's contribution to Mumbai cricket has been immense. It will be difficult to find another Milind! He was a true champion of Mumbai cricket.

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