

DC crush CSK by 25 runs to break 15-yr jinx at Chepauk

Delhi Capitals posted 183 for 6 after Rahul mixed his trademark elegance with brute force during a 51-ball 77, Chennai Super Kings were stopped at 158 for 5 much to the disappointment of home crowd

PTI, CHENNAI: Delhi Capitals' juggernaut continued unabated in the ongoing IPL as they rode on KL Rahul's exemplary batting and some disciplined bowling to register their third successive win in the ongoing IPL with a 25-run victory over Chennai Super Kings, here, on Saturday.

This was DC's first win at Chepauk in 15 years, even as CSK's struggles continued this season. Batting first, DC posted 183 for six after Rahul mixed his trademark elegance with brute force during a 51-ball 77. The stylish Rahul struck six fours and three sixes while anchoring the innings.

Tristan Stubbs chipped in with an unbeaten 12-ball 24 before Matheesha Pathirana (1/31) bowled a brilliant final over to prevent DC from finishing their innings on a high.

However, CSK were stopped at 158 for five in their allotted 20 overs, much to the disappointment of their home crowd that had flocked to the venue to pack the stands.

Vijay Shankar top-scored for CSK with 69 off 54 balls, while MS Dhoni remained not out on 30 in 26 deliveries. CSK lost three wickets inside the powerplay, leaving the rest of the batting to play catch-up on a challenging wicket.

With the in-form Mitchell Starc (1/27) steaming in and Mukesh Kumar (1/36) keeping it tight at the other



Delhi Capitals KL Rahul and Abhishek Porel run between the wickets during an Indian Premier League match against Chennai Super Kings, at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, in Chennai, on Saturday

end, CSK found the going tough and both bowlers enjoyed early success, the Australian left-arm speedster laying a trap for Ruturaj Gaikwad (5) and the Indian pacer sending back Rachin Ravindra (3) after the Kiwi got a leading edge while trying to flick it through midwicket.

Devon Conway (13), one of the crowd favourites who replaced Jamie Overton in this match, too fell cheaply after getting a leading edge while trying to work the ball over midwicket. Young leg-spinner Vipraj Nigam (2/27) was the successful bowler on that occasion, as

CSK slipped to 41 for three in the sixth over.

After taking a fine catch to dismiss Shivam Dube, Tristan Stubbs dropped a sitter off Vijay Shankar, when the batter was on 27 and looking to accelerate with the promoted Dhoni at the other end.

Dhoni, whose decision to bat at number 9 against Royal Challengers was not well-received by fans, walked in at the fall of the fifth wicket but he was not able to get those big hits going, as the DC emerged winners.

Earlier, the Capitals suffered a jolt at the start of their innings thanks to an excellent first over from Khaleel Ahmed (2/25), who had big-hitting opener Jake Fraser-McGurk caught after putting him under pressure with four dot balls.

SCOREBOARD

Delhi Capitals: Jake Fraser-McGurk c Ashwin b Khaleel 0, KL Rahul c Dhoni b Pathirana 77, Abhishek Porel c Pathirana b Jadeja 33, Axar Patel b Noor 21, Sameer Rizvi c Jadeja b Khaleel 20, Tristan Stubbs not out 24, Ashutosh Sharma run out (Dhoni/Jadeja) 1, Vipraj Nigam not out 1. **Extras:** 6. **Total:** 183/6. **Fall of wickets:** 1-0, 2-54, 3-90, 4-146, 5-179, 6-180. **Bowling:** Khaleel Ahmed 4-0-25-2, Mukesh Choudhary 4-0-50-0, Ravichandran Ashwin 3-0-21-0, Ravindra Jadeja 2-0-19-1, Noor Ahmad 3-0-36-1, Matheesha Pathirana 4-0-31-1. **Chennai Super Kings:** Rachin Ravindra c&b Mukesh 3, Devon Conway c Axar b Nigam 13, Ruturaj Gaikwad c Fraser-McGurk b Starc 5, Vijay Shankar not out 69, Shivam Dube c Stubbs b Nigam 18, Ravindra Jadeja lbw b Kuldeep 2, MS Dhoni not out 30. **Extras:** 18. **Total:** 158/5. **Fall of wickets:** 1-14, 2-20, 3-41, 4-65, 5-74. **Bowling:** Mitchell Starc 4-0-27-1, Mukesh Kumar 4-0-36-1, Mohit Sharma 3-0-27-0, Vipraj Nigam 4-0-27-2, Kuldeep Yadav 4-0-30-1, Axar Patel 1-0-5-0.

Man-of-the-match: KL Rahul

Jaiswal, Archer power Royals to 50-run win over Punjab Kings

PTI, MULLANPUR: Rising star Yashasvi Jaiswal's timely return to form with a sparkling fifty and fiery blows from Jofra Archer spoiled Punjab Kings' homecoming as Rajasthan Royals' secured a handsome 50-run win in the IPL, here, on Saturday.

Once Rajasthan built a tall 205 for four around Jaiswal's stroke-filled 67, it was never going to be easy for Punjab and they were limited to 155 for 9. Nehal Wadhwa played a lone hand with a 41-ball 62 for them.

Archer (3/25), seamer Sandeep Sharma (2/21) and spinner Maheesh Theekshana (2/26) also bowled with precision, while Kumar Kartikeya and Wanindu Hasaranga provided fine support.

In fact, Punjab's chase never got the desired lift-off. Archer set the tone for target-defence with a ripping start, dismissing Priyansh Arya (0) and the in-form Shreyas Iyer (10) in successive overs -- just when the latter looked threatening while slamming two terrific shots off the English pacer.

Arya went for a big swing but got it all wrong, exposing his stumps to be castled emphatically. The in-form Iyer, who was yet to be dismissed in the tournament

with scores of 97* and 52* from two innings, looked in sublime touch.

He crunched a drive over extra cover and followed it up with another gorgeous shot through the off-side. But Archer had the last laugh, hurrying Iyer with sheer pace as the batter's effort to go inside-out resulted in him getting bowled.

Sandeep added to the early damage by removing Marcus Stoinis (1), while left-arm spinner Kartikeya, introduced into the attack next, struck another blow by dismissing Prabhsimran Singh (17).

From a precarious 43/4 after the Power Play, Punjab Kings' hopes were revived through a fighting 88-run fifth-wicket partnership between Wadhwa and Glenn Maxwell (30 off 21) that came off just 52 balls.

Having impressed as an Impact Sub with a 25-ball 43 not out on debut against Lucknow Super Giants the other day, Wadhwa continued his form with a counter-attacking 33-ball fifty.

He took the attack to Hasaranga and Kartikeya during his knock studded with three sixes and four fours, while Maxwell provided

solid support as the pair brought the equation down to a gettable 85 required from the last six overs.

With Wadhwa in charge, the chase was heading in the right direction until Theekshana pulled things back dismissing Maxwell (30 off 21 balls).

Wadhwa soon followed, falling to Hasaranga and from there the chase fell apart and PBKS suffered their first defeat of the season.

Earlier, the 23-year-old Jaiswal, who had endured a lean patch in the opening three games with scores of 1, 29 and 4, roared back to form with a fluent 40-ball fifty (3x4, 5x6) just when the spotlight on him was shifting off the field following his surprise move from Ranji heavyweights Mumbai to minnows Goa.

Shutting the noise around him, Jaiswal and skipper Sanju Samson (38 off 26 balls) gave RR their best start of the season with an opening stand of 89 after PBKS skipper Iyer opted to bowl.

Lockie Ferguson (2/37) dismissed both Samson and Jaiswal against the run of play in the middle overs, and Nitish Rana (12) also got out cheaply as RR lost three wickets in the 11-15 overs' phase.

SCOREBOARD

Rajasthan Royals: Yashasvi Jaiswal b Ferguson 67, Sanju Samson c Iyer b Ferguson 38, Riyan Parag not out 43, Nitish Rana c Maxwell b Jansen 12, Shimron Hetmyer c Maxwell b Arshdeep Singh 20, Dhruv Jurel not out 13. **Extras:** 12. **Total:** 205 for 4. **Fall of wickets:** 1-89, 2-123, 3-138, 4-185. **Bowling:** Arshdeep Singh 4-0-35-1, Marco Jansen 4-0-45-1, Lockie Ferguson 4-0-37-2, Glenn Maxwell 1-0-6-0, Yuzvendra Chahal 3-0-32-0, Marcus Stoinis 4-0-48-0. **Punjab Kings:** Priyansh Arya b Archer 0, Prabhsimran Singh c Hasaranga b Kartikeya 17, Shreyas Iyer b Archer 10, Marcus Stoinis c & b Sandeep Sharma 1, Nehal Wadhwa c Jurel b Hasaranga 62, Glenn Maxwell c Jaiswal b Theekshana 30, Shashank Singh not out 10, Suryansh Shedge c Hetmyer b Sandeep Sharma 2, Marco Jansen c Hetmyer b Theekshana 3, Arshdeep Singh c Hasaranga b Archer 1, Lockie Ferguson not out 4. **Extras:** 15. **Total:** 155 for 9. **Fall of wickets:** 1-0, 2-11, 3-26, 4-43, 5-131, 6-131, 7-136, 8-145, 9-151. **Bowling:** Jofra Archer 4-0-25-3, Yuvdhir Singh 2-0-20-0, Sandeep Sharma 4-0-21-2, Maheesh Theekshana 4-0-26-2, Kumar Kartikeya 2-0-21-1, Wanindu Hasaranga 4-0-36-1.

Man-of-the-match: Jofra Archer

It wasn't nice but tactical decision: Jayawardene defends 'retiring' Tilak

PTI, LUCKNOW: Mumbai Indians head coach Mahela Jayawardene said it wasn't nice to retire impact player Tilak Varma, but described the move as a "tactical" one due to southpaw's inability to connect big hits during their chase against Lucknow Super Giants in an IPL game here.

"These things happen in cricket. And (it was) not nice to take him out but I had to do that, it was a tactical decision at that point," Jayawardene said at the post-match press conference.

Tilak, who has two T20I hundreds for India and is

one of the pillars of the core MI set-up, had managed just 25 off 23 balls with two boundaries when Mitchell Santner with a career IPL strike-rate of 106 was sent in.

Needing 24 runs off the last seven balls in pursuit of a challenging 204, MI opted to retire Tilak, but the strategy didn't work as they managed only 191 for five in their 20 overs, losing the game by 12 runs.

"I think Tilak batted well for us when we lost that wicket and that partnership with Surya and he just wanted to get going but

he just couldn't then," Jayawardene said.

"I waited till the last few overs hoping that because he (Tilak) spent some time there so he should have been able to get that hit out of the way but I just felt that at the end that I needed someone fresh to go as he was struggling," he added.

Captain Hardik Pandya (28 off 16 balls) smashed a six off the first ball from Avesh Khan in the final over, but the bowler restricted MI to just three runs off the remaining five deliveries, with Mitchell Santner facing just two balls.

A disappointed Jayawardene reflected that they needed to be more "ruthless" in match situations to cross the line.

"I think halfway point, even at the 14th over mark, we were in it, 12 balls, 14 balls out, we were par score with them...we had the game in control most of the time even after losing those two early wickets but it was just disappointing that we just couldn't finish it," he said.

"I think it's early season so we need to be a bit more ruthless when we're in those kind of situations to try and finish a game off."

FC Goa look to overcome 2-goal deficit against Bengaluru FC

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FATORDA: FC Goa will host Bengaluru FC at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Fatorda, in the second leg of their Indian Super League 2024-25 semi-final fixture on April 6, at 7.30 pm.

The Blues clinched a comfortable 2-0 victory in the previous game and the Gaurs will have to overcome that deficit to find a place in the final.

Bengaluru FC have won their last two play-offs games without conceding though, posing a significant challenge to the Manolo Marquez-coached side.

Yet, the visitors have suffered defeats in their last two visits to Goa, including a goalless outing in their most recent trip. If FC Goa are unable to find the back of the net in this encounter, they will become only the third team against whom the Blues fail to score against in consecutive away games in the ISL.

FC Goa are currently on a

MANOLO APPEALS TO FC GOA SUPPORTERS TO TURN UP IN LARGE NUMBERS

PANJIM: Looking ahead to the second leg, FC Goa head coach Manolo Marquez made an appeal to the FC Goa supporters to turn up in large numbers at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Fatorda, to push the team in their bid to turn the deficit around.

"The reality is that we need to try to turn this score (around). It will be difficult. But there are 90 more minutes," he said. "We know that there will be a lot of fans at the Fatorda. We want the supporters to come to the stadium and do as good as or better if it's possible than the Bengaluru FC fans. Finally, it's a game. In the regular season, we beat them 3-0. Obviously, there is always hope," he concluded.

ISL: 2ND LEG SEMI-FINAL PREVIEW

three-game losing streak in the play-offs, which is their joint longest in ISL history.

A defeat here would mark their worst run in the knockouts, something that they would look to avoid.

Prithvi Tiwari has been a standout performer between the sticks for the Gaurs this season, recording seven clean sheets. His 51 saves this campaign are the most by an FC Goa custodian in a single ISL campaign.

paign.

Banking on solid defensive form, another shutout could not only play a part in extending Bengaluru FC's winning streak in the knockout stage to three games, equalling their best run between March 2019 and 2020, but also put them firmly in the driver's seat to reach the final.

Having scored 47 goals this season, Bengaluru FC are on the brink of becoming

ing only the fourth team in ISL history to breach the 50-goal mark in a single season -- a feat shared like FC Goa (2019-20), Mumbai City FC (2022-23), and Mohun Bagan Super Giant (2023-24).

The two sides have played each other 18 times in the ISL, with FC Goa and Bengaluru FC winning five and eight matches respectively. Five games have produced draws.

FC Goa Head Coach Manolo Marquez is of the belief that his team will enter the final.

"The past and statistics are not important right now. We are confident that we can get into the finals," he said.

Bengaluru FC head coach Gerard Zaragoza reiterated that the focus is to qualify for the summit clash.

"It's important to be brave and to look to score, but the most important part is to win the game," he said.

The Indian Super League semi-finals are being streamed live on Ji-oHotstar, Star Sports - 3 and Asianet Plus.

Albert Developers SC, SJ Areal share spoils

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MAPUSA/RAIA: A goal in the injury time by Sushant Borkar helped Albert Developers SC to hold Sao Jose de Areal SC 2-2 in the GFA Division I League match played, at SAG ground, Benaulum on Saturday.

Aaron Mascarenhas and Myron Silva scored a goal each for Sao Jose de Areal SC while Aniston D'Silva and Sushant Borkar were the scorers for Albert Developers.

FC Goa edge past Sporting Clube

FC Goa managed to edge past Sporting Clube de Goa by 2-1 margin in the Goa Football Association U-19 League match played at Santa Cruz ground, on Saturday. Leonard Rebello opened the scoring with a long range effort in the 9th minute, while Steven added a second just before the breather, 2-0.

The second half started slowly as both teams looked tired due to the scorching heat.

Sporting Clube found a goal late in the 90th minute through Kifern Fernandes to make it, 2-1, but it wasn't enough to secure a draw

and the Young Gaurs took all three points.

Regina Mundi School U-14 boys & girls football champions

Regina Mundi School, Chicalim, emerged State champions in the U-14 boys and girls football tournament organised by the DSYA, on Saturday.

In the boys final at Cuncoim school ground, Regina Mundi School defeated Our Lady of Mount Carmel School by 2-1.

Aldan Almeida and Athan Fernandes scored a goal each for the winners. In the girls final, Regina Mundi School defeated Assagao Union High School by 3-1. Siya naik scored a hat-trick for Regina Mundi School.

Margao SC in quarters

Margao SC defeated St Sebastian SC, Mapusa, 3-1 to enter the quarter-finals of the Arlem Trophy inter-village football tournament played at Raia Panchayat ground, on Saturday. Hanslum Furtado, Serineo Fernandes and Edgar Noronha scored a goal each

Joe Cookies Veterans enter final

Joe Cookies Veterans Loutolim defeated Mitra Veterans of Candolim 4-3 via tie-breaker to enter the final of Flame of Unity Veterans football tournament played at Mabai ground, Per-Seraulim, on Saturday.

Both the teams were tied at 1-1 at the normal time. In the ensuing tiebreaker,

Agnelo Fernandes, Tingo Fernandes, Agnelo Colaco and Pascoal Fernandes scored for Joe Cookies, while Caetano, Avinash and Neville netted for Mitra Veterans.

Parish Youth Nuvem in semis

Parish Youth Nuvem defeated Dicarpale SC 5-4 to enter the semi-finals of United Trophy football tournament organised by United Club of Telaulim, at Rosary Church ground, Navelim, on Saturday.

After the barren full session, Parish Youth Nuvem scored through Nicholas

Bardez face Calangute Veterans in quarters

Bardez Veterans and Calangute Veterans lived up to the billing as they edged past their opponents to confirm their spots in the quarter-finals of the Santa Cruz Village Panchayat Veterans Cup football tournament played, at Santa Cruz ground, on Saturday.

Bardez Veterans needed the luck of the tie-breaker to knock out Goa Police 4-2 after being locked 1-1 at the end of regulation time.

In another match, Calangute Veterans proved too strong for Siolim Veterans as they cruised to a 3-0 win. Francis Colaco was the star man for Calangute as he scored once in either half while Marcus Carvalho also added his name to the scorers list. Calangute will now face Bardez in the quarter-final clash.

Guardian Angel SC march into final

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RAIA: Guardian Angel Sports Club scored an easy 2-0 win over Varca Sports Club to move into their maiden final of the 17th London Trophy Inter-Village Football Tournament 2025 organised by Goa

INACIO NORONHA



Adriano Gomes of Guardian Angel SC receives the man-of-the-match award from Servulo D'Silva, member of Goa Velha SC

17TH LONDON TROPHY INTER-VILLAGE FOOTBALL

Velha Sports Club, at its club ground, Goal

Velha, on Saturday. Reagan Costa put Guardian Angel Sports Club ahead early

Norwich City FC's youth team to participate in national finals in State

Former India stars, Bhutia, Paul to grace the finals

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PANJIM: Renowned English football team, Norwich City FC's youth team will participate in the second edition of the Dream Sports Football National Championships to be held in Goa between April 8 and 15.

The highly anticipated national finals, an initiative of the Dream Sports Foundation (DSF) will kick off on April 8. The championship will bring together eight boys and girls teams.

In an exciting first, the girls' tournament will feature State teams nominated by the All India Football Federation (AIFF) from Assam, Jharkhand, Kerala, Rajasthan, Goa, Odisha, Karnataka and Delhi.

The boys teams, which have qualified by winning regional rounds include Punjab FC, Reliance Foundation Young Champs, Chennaiyin FC, Mohun

Bagan Super Giants, Football 4 Change, Sesa FA and Dempo Sports Club.

Group stage matches will take place at the SAG Benaulum football ground and the Utoroda sports complex, with the finals scheduled to be held at the Raia panchayat ground on April 15. Former India football stars, Bhai-chung Bhutia and Subrata Paul will attend the finals. All matches will be streamed live on Fancode.

DREAM SPORTS FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

"This tournament marks a significant milestone in our commitment to developing grassroots football in India. This year, with the inclusion of a girls category, we hope to make football an inclusive sport," said Bhavith Sheth, chief operating officer and co-founder, Dream Sports.

During the tournament, the DSF

will conduct knowledge exchange workshops under the "Dream Again initiative" led by the Norwich City coaches for the support staff of all participating teams.

TODAY'S SPORTS

GFA Division I League (Group A): a de Moira vs Youth Club of Manora, at Poriat ground, Calangute, 4 pm. Cuncoim Union vs Mandopa SC, at Benaulum ground, 4 pm

GFA U-19 Division I League: Penha de France SC vs Dempo SC, at Dempo Sports Academy ground, Ella-Old Goa, 4 pm

33rd Arlem Rolling Trophy: Ugem Rising Club vs Carmona Sports Club, at Raia panchayat ground, 4.30 pm

Santa Cruz Village Panchayat Veterans Cup: Verna Veterans vs Vasco Veterans, Santa Cruz ground, 4.30 pm

