

CITY OF JOY ERUPTS IN JOY AS MOHUN BAGAN CLINCH ISL TITLE

Bagan came from behind to score a 2-1 victory over Bengaluru FC to cap off League Double

AGENCIES, KOLKATA: Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG) won the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 Cup after a 2-1 victory against Bengaluru FC in the Indian Super League final played at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan Stadium, here, Saturday.

INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE

MBSG came from behind after trailing by a goal to successfully cap off the League Double, having already clinched the ISL Shield this season, and

have concluded the current campaign unbeaten at their home. They are just the second team after Mumbai City FC (2020-21) to win the League Shield and the ISL Cup in the same season.

MBSG banked on the crowd support to make a defining start to the game, with Jamie Maclaren coming close with a right footed shot from the same side of the box, which was saved in the bottom left corner by Gurpreet Singh Sandhu in the ninth minute.

They kept functioning dynamically in tandem, as Anurudh Thapa, usually pulling



Mohun Bagan Super Giant's captain Subhasish Bose lifts the championship trophy during the presentation ceremony after winning the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 final against Bengaluru FC, at Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan, in Kolkata, West Bengal.

the strings at the centre, made an inroad into the 18-yard area and hastened towards a right footed shot from the left side of the box that was blocked in time.

The Blues responded with a flurry of opportunities around the 20th minute mark, with Alberto Noguera

stretching the MBSG defence wide and delivering a cross for Sunil Chhetri that the forward couldn't capitalise upon. A subsequent headed effort from Edgar Mendez was saved at the centre of the goal by Vishal Kaith to keep the scores level.

Bengaluru FC bagged the

breakthrough in the 49th minute, courtesy of an own goal by defender Alberto Rodriguez. Williams was afforded ample space on the right flank and he optimised it with a whipping cross directed for Mendez inside the box. Subhasish Bose, who was marking

Williams, could not close down his target. Rodriguez attempted to clear the ball but ended up hammering it into the back of the net under pressure.

Seven minutes later, Bose tried to make up for the previous endeavour by recovering possession near the

halfway mark and hurling a delivery that met Jason Cummings just outside the penalty area. The striker did well to control the ball and unleashed a left footed effort that required a fully stretched dive from Sandhu to stop the scores from equalising.

However, MBSG earned a reprieve in the form of a penalty due to a handball by Chinglensana Singh. In the 72nd minute, Cummings stepped up for spot-kick duties and effortlessly converted the opportunity by caressing the ball into the bottom left corner with his left foot to bring the contest back on level terms.

As the game entered the added time, Kaith sent in a long ball that Ashique Kuruniyan tried to hit home, albeit from a difficult angle on the left, but to no avail. Greg Stewart's lateral ball for Tom Aldred was headed from the

left side of the six yard box by the defender, but it missed the target to the right.

The match entered the extra time, and it did not take Maclaren too long to finally carve an impact in the grand finale. With MBSG exerting numbers ahead, the Bengaluru FC defence consequently slipped into a spot of bother and Maclaren's incisive instinct tapped upon that with a fierce effort from inside the box as soon as he gained possession to unsettle Sandhu and hit the centre of the net in the 96th minute, sealing a memorable campaign for the Kolkata-based club.

RESULT

After extra time: Mohun Bagan Super Giant 2 (Jason Cummings 72', Jamie Maclaren 96') Bengaluru FC 1 (Alberto Rodriguez OG - 49')

AWARDS
Best grassroots programme: Jamshedpur FC
Best elite youth programme: Punjab FC
Golden glove award: Vishal Kaith (MBSG)
Golden boot award: Alaaeddine Ajarai (NEUFC)
Emerging player of the league: Brison Fernandes (FCG)
Golden ball: Alaaeddine Ajarai (NEUFC)

Pooran, Markram sizzle for LSG

Nicholas (61 off 34), Aiden (58 off 31) share 58 runs off 29 balls for the second wicket to set the tone for the 181-run chase

PTI, LUCKNOW: Nicholas Pooran's power-hitting and Aiden Markram's calm demeanour shaped Lucknow Super Giants' comfortable six-wicket win over Gujarat Titans in an IPL match, here, on Saturday.

Pooran (61 off 34) and Markram (58 off 31) shared 58 runs off 29 balls for the second wicket to set the tone for the 181-run chase, which they managed in 19.3 overs.

Earlier, skipper Shubman Gill and Sai Sudharsan struck quick-fire half-centuries during their 120-run opening stand before LSG pulled things back brilliantly to restrict GT to 180 for six.

Sudharsan (56 off 37) struck his fourth fifty of the season and created a platform for a massive total with Gill (60 off 38) but the home team bowlers made a valiant comeback, picking up three quick wickets to put brakes on the scoring rate.

The visitors could manage just 60 in the last eight overs after raising the best opening wicket partnership of the season.

Chasing the target, in Mitchell Marsh's absence, who is sitting out of the match because of his daughter's illness, home skipper Rishabh Pant (21

off 18) opened the innings.

Even after getting as reprieve from wicket-keeper Jos Buttler off Mohammed Siraj in the third over, Pant's (21 off 18) struggle continued as he departed while looking for a huge hit off Prasidh Krishna (2/26), caught by Washington Sundar at third man.

But before LSG had got a flying start, scoring 61 runs in the powerplay.

Markram was the aggressor in his partnership with Pant as he clobbered a Krishan short ball outside the leg-stump well over deep mid-wicket.

After Pant's dismissal, a confident Markram carried on with his deft touches while power-hitter Pooran

dealt in sixes. Sai Kishore, probably GT's best spinner this season, was taken to task by Pooran and Markram, especially the West Indian who smashed three huge sixes to pick up 24 runs of his first over.

Markram departed in search of another big hit, caught by Gill of Prasidh in the 12th over. He struck nine fours and one six during his knock.

Pooran was ferocious towards the square of the wicket on the leg side and decorated his knock with one four and seven huge hits over the fence. By the time Pooran got out, caught by Shahrulkh Khan off Rashid Khan, the match was all but over.

SCOREBOARD

Gujarat Titans: Sai Sudharsan c Pooran b Bishnoi 56, *Shubman Gill c Markram b Khan 60, Jos Buttler c Thakur b Rathi 16, Washington Sundar b Bishnoi 2, Sherfane Ruthford lbw b Thakur 22, Shahrulkh Khan not out 11, Rahul Tewatia c Markram b Thakur 0, Rashid Khan not out 4. Extras: 9. Total: 180-6. Fall of wickets: 120-1, 122-2, 126-3, 144-4, 176-5, 176-6. Bowling: Shardul Thakur 4-0-34-2, Akash Deep 3-0-33-0, Digvesh Rathi 4-0-30-1, Avesh Khan 4-0-32-1, Ravi Bishnoi 4-0-36-2, Aiden Markram 1-0-15-0. Lucknow Super Giants: Aiden Markram c Gill b Krishna 58, *Rishabh Pant c Sundar b Krishna 21, Nicholas Pooran c Khan b Rashid 61, Ayush Badoni not out 28, David Miller b Sundar 7, Abdul Samad not out 2. Extras: 9. Total: 186-4. Fall of wickets: 65-1, 123-2, 155-3, 174-4. Bowling: Mohammed Siraj 4-0-5-0, Arshad Khan 2-0-11-0, Prasidh Krishna 4-0-26-2, Rashid Khan 4-0-35-1, Washington Sundar 4-0-28-1, Sai Kishore 1.3-0-35-0.

Man-of-the-match: Aiden Markram



Lucknow Super Giants' Nicholas Pooran and Aiden Markram share a light moment during an Indian Premier League match against Gujarat Titans, at Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium, in Lucknow, on Saturday

AIDEN MARKRAM	
RUNS SCORED:	58
BALL FACED:	31
FOURS:	9
SIXES:	1

NICHOLAS POORAN	
RUNS SCORED:	61
BALL FACED:	34
FOURS:	1
SIXES:	7

Abhishek's ton seals the deal for Sunrisers

Sharma returns to form with a breathtaking 141 off 55 balls as Sunrisers Hyderabad script the second-highest run chase in IPL history with a 8-wicket win over Punjab Kings

PTI, HYDERABAD: Abhishek Sharma returned to form with a breathtaking 141 off 55 balls, overshadowing Shreyas Iyer's 82, as Sunrisers Hyderabad scripted the second-highest run chase in IPL history to return to winning ways with a comprehensive eight-wicket win over Punjab Kings in a high-scoring encounter here on Saturday.

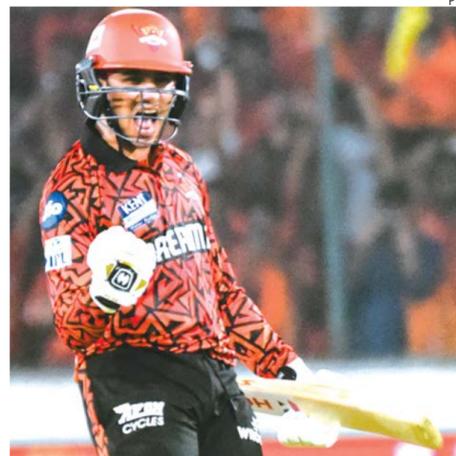
Opting to bat, PBKS skipper Shreyas Iyer smashed a blistering 82 off 36 balls, laced with six sixes and as many fours, powering his side to a mammoth 245 for six, despite a four-wicket haul by Harshal Patel (4/42).

However, it was Abhishek Sharma, who had been struggling for form this season, that stole the show with an astonishing display

of clean hitting. The southpaw, who was dropped twice, hammered 10 sixes and 14 fours, recording the highest individual score by an Indian in IPL history, as SRH — languishing at the bottom of the table — chased down the target scoring 247 in just 18.3 overs, snapping a four-game losing streak.

Lockie Ferguson's hamstring injury after bowling just two balls also left Iyer with one bowler short.

If Abhishek was the chief aggressor, reaching his fifty in just 19 balls, Travis Head provided solid support, blasting three sixes and nine fours in a fluent 66 off 37 balls. The duo put on a record 171-run opening stand, making a mockery of the daunting chase.



Sunrisers Hyderabad's Abhishek Sharma celebrates his century during an Indian Premier League match against Punjab Kings, at Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium, Uppal, in Hyderabad

TODAY'S IPL FIXTURES

Rajasthan Royals vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru, at the Sai Malingi Cricket Stadium, Jaipur, at 3.30 pm
Delhi Capitals vs Mumbai Indians, at the Arun Jaitley Cricket Stadium, Delhi, at 7.30 pm

SCOREBOARD

Punjab Kings: Priyansh Arya c Reddy b Patel 36, Prabhsimran Singh c Cummins b Malinga 42, *Shreyas Iyer c Head b Patel 82, Nehal Wadhwa lbw b Malinga 27, Shashank Singh lbw b Patel 2, Glenn Maxwell b Patel 4, Marcus Stoinis not out 34, Marco Jansen not out 5. Extras: 14. Total: 245-6. Fall of wickets: 66-1, 91-2, 164-3, 168-4, 205-5, 206-6. Bowling: Mohammed Shami 4-0-75-0, *Pat Cummins 4-0-40-0, Harshal Patel 4-0-42-4, Eshan Malinga 4-0-45-2, Zeeshan Ansari 4-0-41-0. Sunrisers Hyderabad: Travis Head c Maxwell b Chahal 66, Abhishek Sharma c (sub) Dubey b Singh 141, Heinrich Klaasen not out 21, Ishan Kishan not out 9. Extras: 10. Total: 247-2. Fall of wickets: 171-1, 222-2. Bowling: Arshdeep Singh 4-0-37-1, Marco Jansen 2-0-39-0, Yash Thakur 2.3-0-40-0, Glenn Maxwell 3-0-40-0, Lockie Ferguson 0.2-0-1-0, Marcus Stoinis 0.4-0-6-0, Yuzvendra Chahal 4-0-56-1, Shashank Singh 2-0-27-0. Man-of-the-match: Abhishek Sharma

sportspopup

Pankaj Advani wins silver medal in WBL World Matchplay Billiards Championship

NEW DELHI: Pankaj Advani, India's most decorated cueist, settled for a silver medal after a narrow defeat against David Causier in the final of the WBL World Matchplay Billiards Championship here. In a best-of-15 contest, where fortunes swung from one side to another, Advani started off with a 2-0 lead but his opponent clawed his way back in the summit clash played at Carlow, Ireland. Both the players fought intensely but the Briton clinched the decider to win the game 8-7 (19-100, 0-100, 100-47, 100-52, 19-100, 100-0, 49-100, 100-3, 34-100, 4-100, 100-85, 31-100, 100-53, 100-43, 100-28). Advani will now look to defend his IBSF World Billiards title, which he has been winning since 2016, from Sunday here.

Gujarat Titans' Glenn Phillips ruled out of IPL due to injury

AHMEDABAD: Gujarat Titans all-rounder Glenn Phillips has been ruled out of the remainder of the Indian Premier League due to a groin injury, the franchise announced on Saturday. The Kiwi all-rounder, who has returned home, "sustained a groin injury during the IPL contest against Sunrisers Hyderabad on April 6," the Titans said in a statement. While Phillips has not been part of GT's playing XI all season, he was on as a substitute fielder in the game against SRH. The injury occurred in the final over of the powerplay during SRH's inning.

ICC may tweak two-ball rule in ODIs

NEW DELHI: Addressing the long-standing concern that ODI cricket is heavily tilted in favour of batters, the International Cricket Council (ICC) may tweak the use of two-ball rule in the 50-over format, it has been learnt. The ICC Cricket Committee, headed by former India skipper Sourav Ganguly, has made the recommendation to use one ball in ODIs. The two new ball-rule is in place for more than a decade now. The recommendation needs to be ratified by the ICC Board of Directors before being included in revised playing conditions.

ICC may agree to changes in point system in WTC cycle

LONDON: The International Cricket Council could agree to major changes in the points system of the World Test Championships from the next cycle, while it is likely to defer the contentious proposal to segregate Test cricket into two divisions during its meetings in Zimbabwe over the weekend, a report in the Guardian said on Saturday. The governing body for the sport has been long contemplating a new system of bonus points based on the margin of victory — "similar to that used in rugby union, while weighting points for wins based on the strength of opponents and adding extra points for winning away from home" — and it could be a big point of discussion during a series of meetings.

Alcaraz beats Fokina to reach first Monte Carlo final

MONTE CARLO: World No.3 Carlos Alcaraz booked his place in the final of the Monte Carlo Masters for the first time with a dominant 7-6 (7/2), 6-4 win over fellow Spaniard Alejandro Davidovich Fokina on Saturday. He will face either Alex de Minaur or Lorenzo Musetti on the red clay in Sunday's final. "I knew how well Davidovich Fokina had played in Monte Carlo so I had to be ready to fight," said Alcaraz.

Asian football chief fears 'chaos' if 2030 World Cup expands to 64 teams

PARIS: Asian Football Confederation (AFC) president Sheikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa, on Saturday opposed a South American request to expand the 2030 World Cup to 64 teams, saying such increases in numbers would lead to "chaos". The centenary edition, hosted by Spain, Portugal and Morocco with three matches also being staged in Uruguay, Argentina and Paraguay, is already set to welcome 48 teams — a far cry from the 13 in the inaugural event in Uruguay in 1930. "Personally, I don't agree," the Bahraini leader told AFP, adding the 2030 edition had settled on 48 teams "so the matter is settled". His counterpart from South American football's governing body CONMEBOL, Alejandro Dominguez, on Thursday called on FIFA to expand the event in a one-off gesture.