

Mumbai's all-round show to grab 4-wicket victory

PTI, MUMBAI: A sprightly Mumbai Indians continued their ascent in the Indian Premier League with a four-wicket victory over Sunrisers Hyderabad in a one-sided contest on a tricky wicket, here, on Thursday.

Led by Will Jacks who played a decisive role with a fine 36 (26 balls, 3x4s, 3x6s) after a crucial spell of 3-0-14-2, Mumbai Indians executed an all-round show to record their second consecutive win. The home side came on top for having assessed the Wankhede Stadium pitch accurately and adapting quickly to the conditions it presented, with each of the pieces falling in place for the five-time winners.

MI's fast bowlers used the short and slower balls well throughout the first innings and nailed their yorkers perfectly. In the run chase, the MI batters showed a clear plan to keep finding the boundaries which kept them on top.

Chasing 163 on a pitch which had grip and turn, MI were also benefited by SRH's reluctance to bring on spin in the powerplay, as the home side made 166/6 in 18.1 overs to record their third win of the season.

Even though Rohit Sharma endured another failure after a promising start in which he made 26 off 16 balls with three sixes, he gave MI the momentum with the bat and the others capitalised on it.

Opener Ryan Rickelton made a fluent 31 while Suryakumar Yadav hammered two sixes and as many fours to make 26 (off 15 balls) to provide a strong support to Jacks.

Captain Hardik Pandya played a crucial cameo of 21 off just nine balls to take MI to the threshold of victo-



Mumbai Indians' Will Jacks in action during the IPL T20 match against Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Wankhede Stadium, in Mumbai, on Thursday

ry. Tilak Varma (21 not out) then took MI over the line after a late minor hiccup as the home side reached 166 for 6 in 18.1 overs.

In the first half, Sunrisers Hyderabad found late momentum with the bat to fight their way through and post 162 for 5. With the

surface at the Wankhede Stadium providing grip and turn for the spinners and slower deliveries giving dividends to the pace bowlers, Sunrisers Hyderabad batters struggled to adapt to the wicket for most part of the innings.

But a big finish -- 57

runs coming off the last five overs -- gave SRH some much-needed impetus towards the end.

MI bowlers were spot-on in formulating their plans and near-perfect in their execution with Jasprit Bumrah delivering a measly 4-0-21-1, Trent Boult nailing his yorkers again to return 4-0-29-1 and Will Jacks producing an impressive 3-0-14-2.

The SRH struggle was evident from the start even as Abhishek Sharma stroked his way to 40 off 28 balls with seven boundaries.

It all started with an eventful first over when the two SRH openers got a reprieve each off Deepak Chahar. Abhishek went down the wicket, swinging his bat on the first delivery. The ball shaped away slightly to take the edge but Jacks failed to get hold of it.

On the fourth delivery, Travis Head played one straight to Karn Sharma at midwicket where he failed to pluck a low catch as the ball fell just short of him.

Abhishek looked to be hitting his strides when he smacked three fours off Chahar in the fifth over but there was just no momentum gained. Raj Angad Bawa timed his dive to grab the ball to dismiss Abhishek off Pandya for the first breakthrough and by then it was evident that SRH would have to scrape their way through to a competitive total.

Jacks then had former MI player Ishan Kishan stumped for a mere two.

TODAY'S IPL FIXTURE

Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Punjab Kings, at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru, at 7.30 pm

Man-of-the-match: Will Jacks

SCOREBOARD

Sunrisers Hyderabad: Abhishek Sharma c (sub) Bawa b Pandya 40, Travis Head c Santner b Jacks 28, Ishan Kishan c Rickelton b Jacks 2, Nitish Kumar Reddy c Varma b Boult 19, Heinrich Klaasen b Bumrah 37, Aniket Verma not out 18, *Pat Cummins not out 8. **Extras:** 10. **Total:** 162-5. **Fall of wickets:** 59-1, 68-2, 82-3, 113-4, 136-5. **Bowling:** Deepak Chahar 4-0-47-0, Trent Boult 4-0-29-1, Jasprit Bumrah 4-0-21-1, Will Jacks 3-1-14-2, *Hardik Pandya 4-0-42-1, Mitchell Santner 1-0-8-0.

Mumbai Indians: Ryan Rickelton c Head b Patel 31, Rohit Sharma c Head b Cummins 26, Will Jacks c Ansari b Cummins 36, Suryakumar Yadav c Ansari b Cummins 26, Tilak Varma not out 21, *Hardik Pandya c Kishan b Malinga 21, Naman Dhir lbw b Malinga 0, Mitchell Santner not out 0. **Extras:** 5. **Total:** 166-6. **Fall of wickets:** 32-1, 69-2, 121-3, 128-4, 162-5, 162-6. **Bowling:** Mohammed Shami 3-0-28-0, *Pat Cummins 4-0-26-3, Eshan Malinga 4-0-36-2, Zeeshan Ansari 3.1-0-35-0, Harshal Patel 3-0-31-1, Rahul Chahar 1-0-9-0.

Arsenal oust holders Real to reach semis

Inter Milan dreaming of treble glory after reaching last four



Arsenal's players celebrate their win at the end of the UEFA Champions League quarter-final second leg match against Real Madrid CF at Santiago Bernabeu Stadium in Madrid

AFP, MADRID: Arsenal staged off Champions League holders Real Madrid's superstars and rich history of unlikely comebacks to snatch a 2-1 victory and reach the semi-finals with a superb 5-1 aggregate triumph.

The Gunners' 3-0 quarter-final first leg triumph last week gave them a vital cushion in the Spanish capital as they made the final four for the first time since 2009, where they will face Paris Saint-Germain.

Bukayo Saka, who missed a first-half penalty, sent Arsenal ahead and although Vinicius Junior levelled the 15-time winners were never close to making up the deficit. Gabriel Martinelli rubbed salt in their wounds with a stoppage-time winner for Arsenal, who are yet to lift the Champions League trophy.

Los Blancos, far more brittle than when they won a Champions League and La Liga double last season, were convinced they could turn the game around but

created too little against Arsenal's tight defence.

The Premier League side held their nerve to reach the semi-finals for only the third time in their history.

"We've had the happy part of football many times and then there's the sad part, which is today," added coach Carlo Ancelotti.

Inter Milan's treble dream is alive and kicking after reaching the semi-finals of the Champions League thanks to 2-2 draw with Bayern Munich.

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use their bid to be crowned kings of Europe for a seventh time.

Simone Inzaghi's

Italian champions Inter will face Barcelona in the semis after goals in the space of three minutes from captain Lautaro Martinez and Benjamin Pavard cancelled out a Harry Kane strike for Bayern which levelled the tie in the 52nd minute.

Eric Dier's looping header in the 76th minute earned Bayern a draw on the night in soaking and blustery Milan but that wasn't enough for Vincent Kompany's side to continue their bid to be crowned kings of Europe for a seventh time.

Inter will also benefit from playing the second leg of their showdown with Barca, whom they beat in the semi-finals on their way to victory in Madrid 15 years ago, at the San Siro on May 7.

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CHAMPIONS LEAGUE RESULTS

Quarter-finals, second legs
Inter Milan 2 (Martinez 58, Pavard 61) Bayern Munich 2 (Kane 52, Dier 76). Inter Milan win 4-3 on aggregate.
Real Madrid 1 (Vinicius 67) Arsenal 2 (Saka 65, Martinelli 90+3). Arsenal win 5-1 on aggregate.

SEMI-FINALS FIXTURE
First leg: April 30 - Arsenal vs PSG, at 12.30 am
May 1 - Barcelona vs Inter Milan, at 12.30 am
Second leg: May 7 - Inter Milan vs Barcelona, at 12.30 am
May 8 - PSG vs Arsenal, at 12.30 am

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