

Prasidh, Buttler serve Titans 7-wkt win on platter

Jos braved cramps to rustle up an unbeaten 97, Krishna took 4 wickets

PTI, AHMEDABAD: Jos Buttler braved cramps to rustle up a tempestuous unbeaten 97 to guide Gujarat Titans to a wonderful seven-wicket win over Delhi Capitals, here, on Saturday.

After the impressive Prasidh Krishna-led (4/41) Gujarat pacers limited Delhi to 203/8, the home side paced their chase impeccably to reach 204/3 in 19.2 overs as Buttler played the protagonist role during his 54-ball innings. There were mini-hiccups for the Titans in the form of early dismissals of skipper Shubman Gill and B Sai Sudharsan (36), who helped Buttler add 60 runs for the second wicket.

But Buttler batted around them with collectiveness in the company of Rutherford (43) until the left-hander was dismissed in the penultimate over.

The English-West Indian pair milked 119 runs for the third wicket that pushed GT closer to the shore. Buttler's batting is aesthetically violent as he exploited a pitch on which the ball came fluently on to the bat. The Somerset man has all the shots

in the book but plays them in the calmest of ways. Instead of moving around the crease like modern T20 batters, Buttler often relies on a strong body core and quick hands to unfurl his shots.

There was a telltale example of his methods when he biffed Mitchell Starc for five boundaries in a row in the 15th over.

Buttler did not move towards the ball but reached out with a feet firmly rooted on the ground as the ball sped to the ropes between covers and point regions.

On the other hand, Rutherford's batting was all about brute power, as he showed while pulling pacer Mohit Sharma for two consecutive sixes as GT motored on.

There was not a popular Buttler hundred as Rahul Tewatia finished off the match with a six and four off Starc with four balls to spare. The result also helped the Titans to move to the top of the table with 10 points, same as Delhi but the former has a better net run rate of 0.98 against their opponent's 0.58.

Earlier, Gujarat bowlers



Gujarat Titans' batter Jos Buttler (left) being congratulated by teammate Sherfane Rutherford after his half century during the Indian Premier League match against Delhi Capitals, at Narendra Modi Stadium, in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, on Saturday

SCOREBOARD

Delhi Capitals: Abhishek Porel c Siraj b Arshad 18, Karun Nair c Arshad b Krishna 31, KL Rahul lbw b Krishna 28, *Axar Patel c Buttler b Krishna 39, Tristan Stubbs c Krishna b Siraj 31, Ashutosh Sharma c (sub) Lomror b Kishore 37, Vipraj Nigam c Buttler b Krishna 0, Donovan Ferreira c Kishore b Ishant 1, Mitchell Starc not out 2, Kuldeep Yadav not out 4. **Extras:** 12. **Total:** 203-8. **Fall of wickets:** 23-1, 58-2, 93-3, 146-4, 173-5, 191-7, 199-8. **Bowling:** Mohammed Siraj 4-0-47-1, Arshad Khan 4-0-46-1, Prasidh Krishna 4-0-41-4, Rashid Khan 4-0-38-0, Ishant Sharma 3-0-19-1, Sai Kishore 1-0-9-1.

Gujarat Titans: Sai Sudharsan c Stubbs b Yadav 36, *Shubman Gill run out (Nair) 7, Jos Buttler not out 97, Sherfane Rutherford c Starc b Kumar 43, Rahul Tewatia not out 11. **Extras:** 10. **Total:** 204-3. **Fall of wickets:** 14-1, 74-2, 193-3. **Bowling:** Mitchell Starc 3.2-0-49-0, Mukesh Kumar 4-0-40-1, *Axar Patel 2-0-18-0, Vipraj Nigam 4-0-34-0, Kuldeep Yadav 4-0-30-1, Mohit Sharma 2-0-28-0.

Man-of-the-match: Jos Buttler

led by Prasidh, produced a disciplined effort to stifle the Delhi batting unit.

It started from the top-order. Abhishek Porel (23) started well, hammering pacer Mohammed Siraj for 16 runs in the first over.

The barrage included two fours and a six and he looked set for a bigger score. But he perished in the next over to Arshad Khan, clubbing his over-pitched delivery straight to Siraj at mid-on.

TODAY'S IPL FIXTURES

Punjab Kings vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru, at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium, Punjab, at 3.30 pm

Mumbai Indians vs Chennai Super Kings, at the Wankhede Cricket stadium, Mumbai, at 7.30 pm

Avesh stars in LSG's 2-run win

PTI, JAIPUR: Pacer Avesh Khan held his nerve in the death overs to help Lucknow Super Giants pull off a thrilling two-run win over Rajasthan Royals with a tight three-wicket spell in their IPL match, here, on Saturday.

The Royals were cruising at 156 for 2 at the end of the 17th over, needing 25 runs from three overs with eight wickets in hand. But, Khan conceded five runs in the 18th over and took two wickets -- Riyan Parag and Yashasvi Jaiswal -- before defending nine runs off the final over to finish with a match-winning 3/37.

In a tense final over, Khan dismissed Shimron Hetmyer (12) and conceded just six runs to hand LSG a memorable victory as RR ended at 178 for 5 in 20 overs, while chasing 181 for a win. It was heartbreak for the Royals, who lost from a dominant position to slump to their fourth straight loss -- and sixth defeat in eight matches.

In the run chase, Jaiswal (74 off 52 balls) continued his roaring form with an entertaining fifty, while 14-year-old IPL's youngest player Vaibhav Suryavanshi (34 off 20 balls) made an instant impact on his debut as the left-handed opening duo stitched 85

runs in 8.4 overs in an rocking partnership.

Jaiswal anchored the innings, hitting five fours and four sixes during his knock.

The Royals' run chase began in spectacular fashion with Suryavanshi coming out as impact substitute, along with Jaiswal, as the Saii Mansingh Stadium cheered him all through.

Suryavanshi struck a six in the first delivery of his IPL career, hoisting Shardul Thakur over extra-cover boundary to join an exclusive 10-member club.

He meted out the same punishment to Khan in the next over in a sensational

start to his career.

Suryavanshi was, though, dropped on 14 by Ravi Bishnoi. The other opener Jaiswal, who is nine years older to Suryavanshi, then took over, hitting Shardul for a six and a four and two maximums off Aiden Markram. Another six off Jaiswal who was on fire took the Royals to 61 for no loss at the end of powerplay.

They were on song at 10 runs an over before Suryavanshi's entertaining innings of 34 off 20 balls came to an end. The youngster was beaten by a slower delivery from Markram and Pant affected a stumping.

SCOREBOARD

Lucknow Super Giants: Mitchell Marsh c Hetmyer b Archer 4, Aiden Markram c Parag b Hasaranga 66, Nicholas Pooran lbw b Sharma 11, *Rishabh Pant c Jurel b Hasaranga 3, Ayush Badoni c Dubey b Deshpande 50, David Miller not out 7, Abdul Samad not out 30. **Extras:** 9. **Total:** 180-5. **Fall of wickets:** 16-1, 46-2, 54-3, 130-4, 143-5. **Bowling:** Jofra Archer 4-0-32-1, Maheesh Theekshana 4-0-32-0, Sandeep Sharma 4-0-55-1, Tushar Deshpande 4-0-26-1, Wanindu Hasaranga 4-0-31-2.

Rajasthan Royals: Yashasvi Jaiswal b Khan 74, Vaibhav Suryavanshi st Pant b Markram 34, Nitish Rana c Avesh b Thakur 8, *Riyan Parag lbw b Avesh 39, Dhruv Jurel not out 6, Shimron Hetmyer c Thakur b Avesh 12, Shubham Dubey not out 3. **Extras:** 2. **Total:** 178-5. **Fall of wickets:** 85-1, 94-2, 156-3, 161-4, 175-5. **Bowling:** Shardul Thakur 3-0-34-1, Avesh Khan 4-0-37-3, Digvesh Rathi 4-0-30-0, Aiden Markram 2-0-18-1, Prince Yadav 4-0-39-0, Ravi Bishnoi 3-0-19-0.

Man-of-the-match: Avesh Khan

Suryavanshi is youngest cricketer to play

PTI, JAIPUR: Vaibhav Suryavanshi, a 14-year-old baby-faced cricketer with oodles of confidence and determination, on Saturday became the youngest player to feature in the Indian Premier League as he turned out for Rajasthan Royals against Lucknow Super Giants, here.

At just 14 years and 23 days, Suryavanshi was the darling of the crowd the moment he walked alongside Yashasvi Jaiswal to open the Rajasthan Royals innings.

With determination writ large on his face, the left-handed batter sent the

Sawai Mansingh Stadium crowd into a tizzy when he smacked the first ball he faced -- fourth delivery of the first over from LSG pacer Shardul Thakur -- for a huge six. The ball simply flew over the extra-cover boundary, even as the camera zoomed towards the RR dugout, where injured skipper Sanju Samson had a cheeky smile on his face.

Suryavanshi, born on March 27, 2011 -- the year when India won the Cricket World Cup under MS Dhoni -- has played just five First-Class games for Bihar in the 2024-25 season.

He had made history in the IPL 2025 auction when, as a 13-year-old, became the youngest to get an IPL contract, being bought by the Royals for Rs 1.1 crore.

He has also represented India Under-19, scoring a 58-ball century in a four-day game against Australia Under-19. Before Suryavanshi, Prayas Ray Barman was the youngest cricketer to play in the IPL at 16 years and 157 days. Barman had played for RCB against SRH in 2019.

Mujeeb Ur Rahman played for Punjab Kings against Delhi Capitals in 2018 when he was 17 years

and 11 days old.

Riyan Parag, who led RR on Saturday, is the fourth youngest on the list having donned the Royals' jersey against Chennai Super Kings in 2019 at the age of 17 years and 152 days.

By hitting a first-ball six, Suryavanshi joined an elite club that has the likes of Rob Quiney (RR), Kevon Cooper (RR), Andre Russell (KKR), Carlos Brathwaite (DD, now Delhi Capitals), Aniket Choudhary (RCB), Javon Searles (KKR), Sidhesh Lad (MI), Mahesh Theekshana (CSK) and Sameer Rizvi (CSK).

MARUTI SUZUKI

NEXA

BOLDER THE MOVE. BIGGER THE IMPACT.

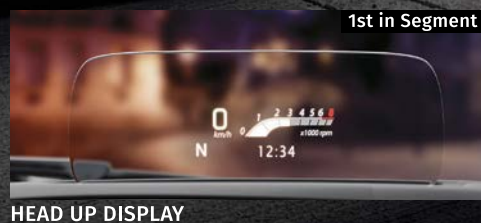
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