

Delhi Capitals outclass LSG by 8 wkts

Trio of Mukesh (4/33), Mitchell (1/25) and Dushmantha (1/25 in 3 overs) used slower deliveries smartly to restrict LSG to a below-par 159/6 after being 87/1 at the halfway mark

PTI, LUCKNOW: Delhi Capitals slowly but surely inched closer towards play-off qualification, annihilating Lucknow Super Giants by eight wickets in an IPL match, here, on Tuesday.

The win was powered by a near-perfect performance from their pace unit, aided by inexplicable tactics from rival captain Rishabh Pant.

The trio of Mukesh Kumar (4/33), Mitchell Starc (1/25) and Dushmantha Chameera (1/25 in 3 overs) used slower deliveries smartly as LSG could only manage a below-par 159/6 after being 87/1 at the halfway mark.

In the back-10, LSG could manage only 72 runs recording their lowest team total of the tournament so far. It made matters only worse that Pant, with his bandaged right palm, came in at No. 7 and was dismissed for a two ball duck, while Abdul Samad wasted deliveries like a millionaire up the order.

The match as a contest



Delhi Capitals' Axar Patel and KL Rahul celebrate after winning the Indian Premier League match against Lucknow Super Giants, in Lucknow, on Tuesday

was over at half-time only.

Young opener Abhishek Porel (51 off 36) set the tone before KL Rahul (57 not out off 42) and Axar Patel (34 not out off 20) saw DC home with 13 balls to spare, sealing their sixth win in eight games.

With Sanjiv Goenka in

the stands, it couldn't have been sweeter for Rahul, whose third fifty of the season, was a nice little statement with willow, having endured the LSG owner's public wrath during a game last season.

Pant's bowling changes were unimaginative and

■ After Travis Head teed off with a 31-ball-67 adding 94 for the opening stand with Abhishek Sharma, Ishan Kishan (106 not out off 47 balls) smashed a 45-ball-100 in his first appearance for the new franchise as Sunrisers Hyderabad

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■ A couple of more wins in the next six games will take DC to 16 points, considered magic figure for play-off qualifications. The wicket didn't have any demons but LSG, in terms of strategy, execution and intent, had their worst game of the season and skipper Pant, the record

Rs 27-crore, recruit didn't seem to be there. There were misfields, sitters being dropped with LSG and its skipper cutting a sorry picture

TWISTS & TURNS

SCOREBOARD

Lucknow Super Giants: Aiden Markram c Stubbs b Chameera 52, Mitchell Marsh b Kumar 45, Nicholas Pooran b Starc 9, Abdul Samad c and b Kumar 2, David Miller not out 14, Ayush Badoni b Kumar 36, *Rishabh Pant b Kumar 0. **Extras:** 1. **Total:** 159-6. **Fall of wickets:** 87-1, 99-2, 107-3, 110-4, 159-5, 159-6. **Bowling:** *Axar Patel 4-0-29-0, Mitchell Starc 4-0-25-1, Mukesh Kumar 4-0-33-4, Dushmantha Chameera 3-0-25-1, Vipraj Nigam 1-0-14-0, Kuldeep Yadav 4-0-33-0. **Delhi Capitals:** Abhishek Porel c Miller b Markram 51, Karun Nair b Markram 15, KL Rahul not out 57, *Axar Patel not out 34. **Extras:** 4. **Total:** 161-2. **Fall of wickets:** 36-1, 105-2. **Bowling:** Shardul Thakur 2-0-28-0, Digvish Rath 4-0-24-0, Prince Yadav 2.5-0-23-0, Aiden Markram 3-0-30-2, Avesh Khan 3-0-19-0, Ravi Bishnoi 3-0-36-0. **Man of the match:** Mukesh Kumar

TODAY'S IPL FIXTURE

Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Mumbai Indians, at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium, Hyderabad, at 7.30 pm

Around 6 names in contention for 2 reserve middle-order slots

PTI, NEW DELHI: The national selection committee is expected to name the India and India A squad for the Test tour of England in the second week of May and there will be at least six contenders for a couple of reserve middle-order slots that would be up for grabs.

During the tour of Australia, the BCCI sent a 17-member team but for the five Tests against England, the final squad could be 15 or 16 as

the India A contingent's presence makes it easier to call up anyone if the situation warrants. However, the national selection committee under Ajit Agarkar might need to do some brainstorming when it comes to selecting the fringe players, especially the reserve batters from the pool that comprises domestic performers, some tried and tested names and a couple of names who are yet to realise their true potential.

sportspopup

Bangladesh fights back against Zimbabwe in first test

SYLHET (Bangladesh): Najmul Hossain Shanto hit 60 not out as Bangladesh fought back against Zimbabwe on a rain-truncated day three of the first cricket Test. Shanto's knock, which included seven boundaries, helped Bangladesh reach 194-4 in its second innings with a 112-run overall lead before bad light forced an early stumps Tuesday. Jaker Ali is 21 not out. After the entire first session was washed out due to a wet outfield, Bangladesh resumed on 57-1 — still 25 behind Zimbabwe — and appeared to be in control thanks to Shanto, its captain, and Mominul Haque. But Zimbabwe struck back with the wickets of Mominul, who made 47 after 56 runs in the first innings, and Mushfiqur Rahim. Shanto and Ali stabilized the innings and have shared a 39-run partnership for the fifth wicket. Bangladesh was dismissed for 191 in its first innings and trailed by 82 runs after Zimbabwe replied with 273 all out.

India finish third in Peru World Cup, NRAI pleased with young shooters' performance

LIMA (Peru): Indian shooters finished third at the ISSF World Cup after the pair of Prithviraj Tondaiman and Pragati Dubey failed to reach the medals round in the trap mixed team event, here, on the final day. Simranpreet Kaur Brar fetched India's final medal in the women's 25m pistol event on Monday, taking the country's tally to seven, including two gold, four silver and a bronze. While the USA also ended with seven medals, they edged ahead of India to take second place, courtesy of a higher gold-medal count. China finished on top of the standings with four gold, three silver and six bronze medals.

India's Siwach advances to round two of Asian U-15 & U-17 C'ships

AMMAN (Jordan): Indian boxer Aman Siwach eked out a hard-fought win over Abubakir Duisheev of Kyrgyzstan in the opening round of the Asian U-15 and U-17 Boxing Championships here. Competing in the men's U-17 63kg category, Siwach put up an impressive display to defeat Duisheev 4-1 on the third day of the continental tournament. Siwach's win was another solid victory for India tally at the continental event, after triumphant results for both the men's U-15 and U-17 contingents on the first two days. However, Anshul Khasa went down 0-5 to Kuanysh Urumbassar of Kazakhstan in the men's U-17 70kg weight class. Results: Men's 63 kg: Aman Siwach (IND) def. Abubakir Duisheev (KGZ) — WP 4:1 Men's 70 kg: Anshul Khasa (IND) lost to Kuanysh Urumbassar (KAZ) — WP 0:5.

Leeds, Burnley promoted to Premier League

LONDON: Leeds United and Burnley were promoted to the Premier League on Monday, condemning faltering Sheffield United to a Championship play-off battle. Daniel Farke's Leeds beat Stoke 6-0 and Burnley's 2-1 win at home to Sheffield United in the later kick-off confirmed both clubs will be in England's top division next season. Leeds and Burnley both have 94 points and neither can now be caught by Sheffield United (86), who have won just one of their past five games. Leeds have spent the past two seasons in the Championship while Burnley, under the leadership of Scott Parker, have secured an immediate return to the Premier League.

I don't miss tennis, says Nadal

AFP, MADRID: Rafael Nadal insisted on Monday that he doesn't "miss tennis" after being honoured with a Sporting Icon award at the Laureus World Sport Awards in Madrid.

The 38-year-old Spaniard, winner of 22 Grand Slam trophies, including 14 at Roland Garros, retired from the sport after his final match at the Davis Cup in Malaga in November.

"The truth is that I don't miss tennis. Zero. I don't miss it at all," Nadal told reporters. "But not because I finished tired of tennis or fighting against tennis, not at all. "I finished my career



happy and if I could have, I would have carried on, because I loved what I was doing." "It was my passion and that's been the case all my life. It's just that when you realise that physically you

can't do it any more... you try to close that chapter. And I closed it."

Nadal suffered numerous injuries during his career but resisted retiring as long as possible.

"I delayed making my final decision because I needed time to be sure it was the right one."

"What would have been hard was sitting on my sofa wondering if I should keep trying to play."

"When I saw that my body wasn't going to recover to the level I needed to continue enjoying myself on court, then I made the decision to stop."

"That's why I don't miss it," Nadal added. "Because I finished with the peace of mind of knowing that I'd given it my all, and that my body couldn't give any more."

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