

Rohit fires as MI pulverise hapless Sunrisers by 7 wkts

PTI, HYDERABAD: A rampant Mumbai Indians rode on Rohit Sharma's (70) second consecutive 50 to pulverise a hapless Sunrisers Hyderabad by seven wickets in their Indian Premier League match, here, on Wednesday.

Mumbai Indians' fourth win on the trot, which took them to the third spot from the earlier sixth on the points table, came after SRH posted a below-par 143/8 and Rohit making the most of the perfect batting conditions to score 70 off 46 balls (8x4s, 3x6s).

MI scored 146/3 in 15.4 overs to win the match with 26 balls to spare, with Suryakumar Yadav hitting a 19-ball 40 not out (5x4s, 2x6s). The fate of the contest was all but sealed when SRH crumbled to 35/5 following an embarrassing collapse. Despite Heinrich Klaasen's 71 and Abhinav Manohar's 43, the hosts did not have enough runs on the board to challenge MI's batting might.

The five-time winners recorded their third consecutive win while chasing, having drubbed Chennai Super Kings by nine wickets last Sunday.

It was also their second win over SRH in the season, having beaten them by four wickets last week in Mum-



Mumbai Indians' Rohit Sharma celebrates his half century during the Indian Premier League match against Sunrisers Hyderabad, in Hyderabad, on Wednesday

SCOREBOARD

Sunrisers Hyderabad: Travis Head c Dhir b Boult 0, Abhishek Sharma c Puthur b Boult 8, Ishan Kishan c Ricketton b Chahar 1, Nitish Kumar Reddy c Santner b Chahar 2, Heinrich Klaasen c Varma b Bumrah 71, Aniket Verma c Ricketton b Pandya 12, Abhinav Manohar hit wicket b Boult 43, *Pat Cummins b Boult 1, Harshal Patel not out 1. **Extras:** 4. **Total:** 143-8. **Fall of wickets:** 2-1, 9-2, 13-3, 13-4, 35-5, 134-6, 142-7, 143-8. **Bowling:** Deepak Chahar 4-0-12-2, Trent Boult 4-0-26-4, Jasprit Bumrah 4-0-39-1, Mitchell Santner 4-0-19-0, *Hardik Pandya 3-0-31-1, Vignesh Puthur 1-0-15-0. **Mumbai Indians:** Ryan Rickelton c and b Unadkat 11, Rohit Sharma c Sharma b Malinga 70, Will Jacks c Manohar b Ansari 22, Suryakumar Yadav not out 40, Tilak Varma not out 2. **Extras:** 1. **Total:** 146-3. **Fall of wickets:** 13-1, 77-2, 130-3. **Bowling:** *Pat Cummins 3-0-31-0, Jaydev Unadkat 3-0-25-1, Harshal Patel 3-0-21-0, Eshan Malinga 3-0-33-1, Zeeshan Ansari 3-4-0-36-1. **Man-of-the-match:** Trent Boult

bai. India's Test and ODI captain Rohit announced his intentions when he hoisted an off-cutter from Pat Cummins over deep square leg fence for a six and followed it up with a four in the third over.

On a flat and hard deck here, Rohit was quick to read the conditions, having come on to the field as an impact sub late in the second half.

When Jaydev Unadkat took the pace off the ball in the fourth over, Rohit was quick to pounce on it, lifting it powerfully over cover for his second six.

Having gone through a phase wherein he didn't look out of form yet big scores eluded him, Rohit blended defence and attack deftly for another high quality knock which shut the doors completely on SRH.

Earlier, Klaasen's measured 71 and Manohar's 43 rescued a listless SRH from a terrible start and guided them to 143/8.

TODAY'S IPL FIXTURE

Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Rajasthan Royals, at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru, at 7.30 pm

Humpy wins FIDE Women's Grand Prix chess meet



India's Koneru Humpy outwitted Bulgaria's Nurgyl Salimova in the ninth and final round game to end on seven points

PTI, PUNE: Indian Grandmaster Koneru Humpy won the FIDE Women's Grand Prix 2024-25 (Pune leg) title on the basis of her superior tie-breaks over Zhu Jiner of China after the two players were tied for the top spot, here, on Wednesday.

Humpy, who regained the women's World Rapid Chess Championship after a gap of five years in New York in December last, beat Bulgarian player Nurgyl Salimova in the ninth and final-round game to end on seven points, the same as Zhu who beat Russia's Polina Shuvalova.

"Humpy Koneru and Zhu Jiner both won their final round games and ended the FIDE Women's Grand Prix tied for first, but it's Humpy who takes the top spot thanks to superior tiebreaks!" wrote FIDE on 'X'.

The 37-year-old Humpy will, however, get the same prize and Grand Prix points -- 117.5 -- as Zhu from the fifth leg of the tournament.

Wildcard entrant Divya Deshmukh logged 5.5 points to finish third. The 19-year-old Indian scored four victories, three draws and lost two games -- to Humpy and Zhu.

There are a total of six legs in the Women's

Grand Prix with each player playing a maximum of three legs.

Points are awarded based on the placings they secure. Two players with the highest cumulative points get direct entry to the Women's Candidates.

The Candidates event is contested between eight players with the winner earning the right to challenge the world champion for the title.

The sixth and final leg is scheduled in Austria in May. The outright winner of the event will garner 130 points, while shared places will fetch lesser points.

Aleksandra Goryachkina of Russia, with 308.8 points, has virtually sealed her place for the Candidates, while Humpy has tallied 279.17 points after competing in three legs.

Ukrainian GM Anna Muzychuk has tallied 189.17 points and will play in one more event.

Results (Round 9): R Vaishali (4) drew with Melia Salome (3); Koneru Humpy (7) bt Salimova Nurgyl (3.5); Divya Deshmukh (5.5) drew with Kashlinskaya Alina (3); Shuvalova Polina (4.5) lost to Zhu Jiner (7); Dronavalli Harika (4.5) drew with Munguntuul Batkhuyag (3).

sportspopup

Asian U-15 & U-17 Boxing C'ship: Rudraksh, five others enter semi-finals

AMMAN (Jordan): Rudraksh Singh Khaidem (46kg) showed technical superiority on his way to a flawless 3-0 win over Kyrgyzstan's Aidar Musaev as all six Indians in action on Wednesday advanced to the semifinals of the Asian U-15 & U-17 Boxing Championships here. In the men's U-15 category, Harsil (37kg) and Sanchit Jayani (49kg) secured commanding 5-0 victories, while Sanskar Vinod Atram (35kg) posted a solid 4-1 win. Prikshit Balahra (40kg) eked out a hard-fought 3-2 win over Mongolia's Akhmyetkhan Nursalyem. In the women's U-15 section, Milky Meinam (43kg) dominated Yeldana Abdigani of Kazakhstan with a 5-0 verdict.

Muzarabani takes nine as Zimbabwe celebrate Bangladesh first Test win

SYLHET (Bangladesh): Blessing Muzarabani's nine-wicket match figures and determined batting helped Zimbabwe stun Bangladesh by three wickets in the first match of the two-Test series in Sylhet on Wednesday. Mehidy Hasan Miraz recorded his second five-wicket haul for the match but it was in vain as Zimbabwe's batsmen held their nerve to close out the match despite losing quick wickets. Zimbabwe chased down their target of 174 by the third session of the fourth day with three wickets in hand, their first win against Bangladesh since 2018, and their first against any team in four years, to secure a 1-0 lead. Brian Bennett racked up his second 50 of the match to lead the chase on a surface that Bangladesh's bowlers failed to exploit early.

Ishan's bizarre dismissal raises eyebrows

HYDERABAD: India wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan's bizarre caught-behind when his bat did not come in contact with the ball during an embarrassing SRH batting collapse on Wednesday caught the eye in the IPL clash against Mumbai Indians here. Left-hander Kishan, who had just opened his account in the previous over, tried to work pacer Deepak Chahar's first delivery, which was drifting down the leg side. The ball was collected by MI wicketkeeper Ryan Rickelton and neither him nor the bowler showed any inclination to appeal for a caught behind. On-field umpire Vinod Seshan was also close to declaring it a wide. But, to everyone's surprise, Kishan walked away, indicating he had edged it to the keeper. Surprised by the batter's move, Seshan too raised his finger. Replays showed the ball was drifting away Kishan's bat when it passed the left-hander, and there was no spike on the UltraEdge either.

Former England star Flintoff reveals mental battle after car crash

LONDON: Former England star Andrew Flintoff has revealed the extent of the mental health struggles he has endured since his horrific car crash on the set of television programme Top Gear. In one of his first interviews since sustaining severe facial injuries in the accident in 2022, Flintoff admitted he initially found it hard to return to public life. The 47-year-old ex-England all-rounder said it took him "10 goes to leave my bedroom" due to anxiety on his first morning as an assistant coach with the national team in 2023. "That day in Cardiff, it took me 10 goes to leave my hotel bedroom. I couldn't get out of the room," he told The Times in an interview with former England captain Mike Atherton.

NO MUSIC, FIREWORKS OR CHEERLEADERS; PLAYERS WEAR BLACK ARMBANDS

PTI, HYDERABAD: Players and match officials observed a minute's silence and wore black armbands as the usually festive start to an IPL game turned sombre on Wednesday to mourn the victims of the terrorist attack in Pahalgam.

As a mark of respect to the victims, captains of the teams in action tonight -- Hardik Pandya for Mumbai Indians and Pat Cummins for SunRisers Hyderabad -- condemned the attack in which at least 26 people were killed. The Indian national anthem was

played before the start of the game and soon after, the players stood united in offering a minute's silence.

Also not on display were the cheerleaders and the fireworks. No music was played in between balls but a full house at the HCA stadium meant there was plenty of noise every time the ball crossed the boundary. The sight screen read 'Let's all stand peace and humanity'.

At the toss, Cummins and Hardik showed solidarity with the families of

the deceased. "I would like to pass my condolences to the victims of the terrorist attack. I and my team strongly condemn the cowardly attack," said Hardik.

Cummins added: "It has been heart-breaking for us as well, our thoughts are with the victims and their families." The commentators did their bit by explaining the significance of the black armbands while paying on-air homage to the those who lost their life in the deadly attack that has shaken the nation.

MARUTI SUZUKI

NEXA

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