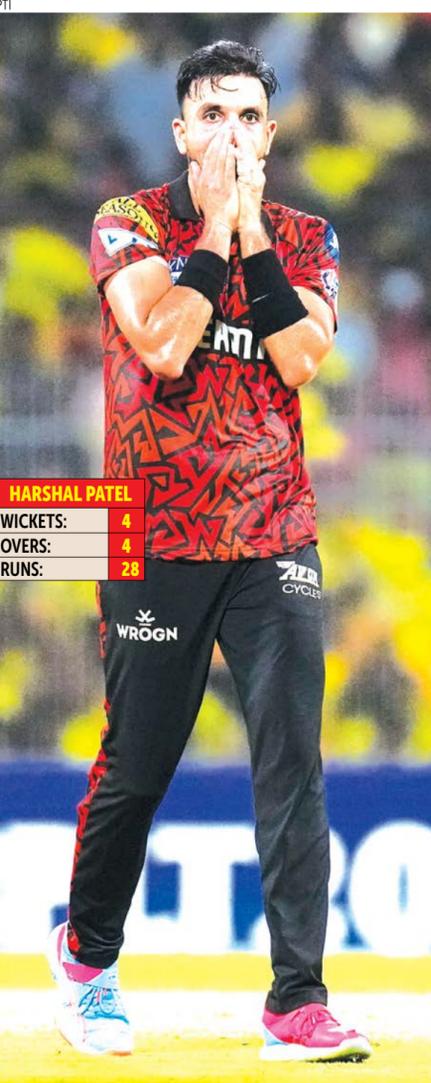


Harshal dazzles to push CSK to the brink of exit



HARSHAL PATEL	
WICKETS:	4
OVERS:	4
RUNS:	28

PTI, CHENNAI: Pacer Harshal Patel made the best use of a sluggish Chepauk surface as Sunrisers Hyderabad put Chennai Super Kings on the brink of exit door by winning the battle of back-benchers by five wickets in the Indian Premier League, here, on Friday.

Harshal, a fine exponent of the slower delivery and the knuckle ball, took 4 for 28 as Chennai Super Kings endured another poor outing with the bat and were bowled out for 154 in 19.5 overs.

Despite getting assistance from the dew-laden surface, SRH made a heavy weather of the chase before finally knocking off the target in 18.4 overs. Ishan Kishan (44 off 34 balls), after his brain fade against Mumbai Indians, played a responsible hand at the top before Kamindu Mendis (32 not out off 22 balls) and Nitish Kumar Reddy (19 not out off

13 balls) got the visitors two points with a 49-run stand. This was SRH's first win at this venue.

With six points from nine games, SRH's play-off qualification hangs by a thread as they need to win all their five matches and that too by a fair margin to end on 16 points, which is a safe cut-off.

SRH leapfrogged Rajasthan Royals to the eighth position in the 10-team table as Mahendra Singh Dhoni's men remain at the bottom of the heap.

For CSK, their seventh defeat in nine games practically ends their hopes as they now need wins in the next five games and hope that the play-off cut-off remains at 14 for the fourth-placed team.

The confidence of CSK batters has been shot to pieces and the lack of a collective effort from their bowlers only compounded the problems.

TODAY'S IPL FIXTURE

Kolkata Knight Riders vs Punjab Kings, at the Eden Gardens Cricket Stadium, Kolkata, at 7.30 pm

SCOREBOARD

Chennai Super Kings: Shaik Rasheed c Sharma b Shami 0, Ayush Mhatre c Kishan b Cummins 30, Sam Curran c Verma b Patel 9, Ravindra Jadeja b Mendis 21, Dewald Brevis c Mendis b Patel 42, Shivam Dube c Sharma b Unadkat 12, Deepak Hooda c Sharma b Unadkat 22, *MS Dhoni c Sharma b Patel 6, Anshul Kamboj c Klaasen b Cummins 2, Noor Ahmad c Shami b Patel 2, Khaleel Ahmed not out 1. **Extras:** 7. **Total:** 154-10. **Fall of wickets:** 0-1, 39-2, 47-3, 74-4, 114-5, 118-6, 131-7, 134-8, 137-9, 154-10. **Bowling:** Mohammed Shami 3-0-28-1, *Pat Cummins 4-0-21-2, Jaydev Unadkat 2.5-0-21-2, Harshal Patel 4-0-28-4, Zeeshan Ansari 3-0-27-0, Kamindu Mendis 3-0-26-1.

Sunrisers Hyderabad: Abhishek Sharma c Mhatre b Ahmed 0, Travis Head b Kamboj 19, Ishan Kishan c Curran b Ahmad 44, Heinrich Klaasen c Hooda b Jadeja 7, Aniket Verma c Hooda b Ahmad 19, Kamindu Mendis not out 32, Nitish Kumar Reddy not out 19. **Extras:** 15. **Total:** 155-5. **Fall of wickets:** 0-1, 37-2, 54-3, 90-4, 106-5. **Bowling:** Khaleel Ahmed 3-0-21-1, Anshul Kamboj 3-0-16-1, Noor Ahmad 4-0-42-2, Ravindra Jadeja 3.4-0-22-1, Sam Curran 2-0-25-0, Matheesha Pathirana 3-0-27-0.

Man-of-the-match: Harshal Patel

Sunrisers Hyderabad's Harshal Patel celebrates the wicket of Chennai Super Kings' Dewald Brevis during an Indian Premier League match against Chennai Super Kings, at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, in Chennai, on Friday

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