

Gaurs mow down The Men of Steel 3-0 to clinch Super Cup for second time

Herrera and Drazic guide FC Goa to a dominant win over Jamshedpur FC, book a slot for preliminary round in the AFC Champions League Two

PTI, BHUBANESWAR: FC Goa on Saturday became the first team to win the Super Cup title twice with a 3-0 win over Jamshedpur FC in the final here as they also booked a slot for the preliminary round in the AFC Champions League Two.

Borja Herrera (23rd and 51st minute) scored a brace while Dejan Drazic struck the other goal in the 72nd minute to complete a dominant win for the Goan club, which has India head coach Manolo Marquez at the helm of affairs.

FC Goa had earlier won the Super Cup title in 2019, and they will return to continental football after four years.

Their only appearance in Asia came in the 2021 AFC Champions League group stage. The victory marked FC Goa's first trophy under Manolo, whose chapter at the club came to a perfect end.

The match was billed as a battle between FC Goa's attacking firepower and Jamshedpur's unbreached defence, yet by full-time, it was clear which team had stamped its authority.

Jamshedpur, known for their compact shape and counter-attacking style, who had also not conceded a single goal until the final, simply couldn't cope with FC Goa's expansive play.



FC Goa team along with Head Coach Manolo Marquez and support staff celebrate the victory at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar-Odisha, on Saturday

While Jamshedpur did show some early promise with Javier Hernandez forcing a sharp save from Hrith-

ik Tiwari in the third minute, the momentum quickly swung in FC Goa's favour. With Aakash Sangwan

and Dejan Drazic tearing down the wings and Carl McHugh and Borja pulling the strings in midfield, FC

Goa dominated both possession and territory.

The opening goal arrived in the 23rd minute.

Sangwan made a blistering run down the left and unleashed a powerful drive that Albino Gomes could

only parry. Borja was first to the rebound, his first shot was blocked, but he coolly slotted the second

into the roof of the net.

Jamshedpur's best chance came late in the first half when Lazar Cirkovic's header rattled the crossbar, but their lack of attacking thrust was evident throughout.

FC Goa doubled their lead in the 51st minute in a moment of brilliance. Borja, picking the ball up near midfield, surged forward and unleashed a ferocious 25-yard strike that arrowed into the top corner, leaving Gomes helpless.

Khalid Jamil's men from Jamshedpur tried to claw their way back with Jordan Murray setting up Javier Siverio, but the forward blasted over from close range.

The third and final goal came in the 71st minute and showcased FC Goa's poise and precision. McHugh dissected the defence with a perfectly weighted through ball, and Drazic latched on, rounded the keeper, and tapped home into an empty net.

The rains came towards the end of the match, and the mood turned celebratory as FC Goa players danced to cap off a fine performance and embrace their moment in history.

RESULT

FC Goa 3 (Borja Herrera 22', 51', Dejan Drazic 72') Jamshedpur FC 0

RCB brighten play-offs hopes

Shepherd-led RCB survive Mhatre's brilliant 94 to beat CSK by 2 runs

PTI, BENGALURU: Ayush Mhatre nearly upended Romario Shepherd's ferocious 14-ball 50 with a 94 of rare class but Royal Challengers Bengaluru bowlers kept their nerves in the death overs to carve an out-of-fire two-run win over Chennai Super Kings and get closer to IPL play-offs, here, on Saturday.

Once the RCB piled a massive 213 for five, courtesy fifties of different hues by Virat Kohli (62, 33 balls), Jacob Bethell (55 off 33) and Shepherd (53 not out of 14, 4x4, 6x6), joint-second fastest in the IPL, CSK had a mountain to climb.

But they almost did the unthinkable, riding on 17-year-old Mhatre's 94 (48 balls; 9x4, 5x6), only to end up at 211 for five.

Mhatre had an astute partner in veteran Ravindra Jadeja (77 not out off 45 balls), as they together milked 114 runs for the third wicket.

The Mumbai lad began the innings by punishing seasoned pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar for 26 runs in the Power Play segment and he never really let that tempo down.

With the win, RCB moved to the top of the IPL table with 16 points from 11 matches.

Mhatre brought into practice all the technical nous and batting cleverness that he learned from hours of net sessions at the famed Oval maidan in Mumbai to poleaxe a RCB bowling attack sans injured pacer Josh Hazlewood.

A lot of eyebrows were raised when Mhatre was picked as injury replacement of Rituraj Gaikwad ahead of Gujarat's Urvil

Patel and Kerala's Salman Nizar. But both CSK skipper Dhoni and coach Stephen Fleming had full confidence in Mhatre once they saw him at the team's selection nets ahead of this IPL, and he repaid their faith with dividends tonight.

Jadeja, a grizzly haired CSK veteran who got reprieves on 57 and 69, too, deserved a full set of compliments for staying with the young man at the other end, and guiding him through a tension-filled atmosphere. But a rather tired-looking heave off Lungi Ngidi ended Mhatre's masterpiece as he lofted him straight to Krunal Pandya in the deep.

At that stage, CSK were 172 for two in 16.2 overs, needing 42 more runs for the victory.

Ngidi dismissed Dewald Brevis for nought to turn

the tide in favour of RCB, as Yash Dayal had 15 runs to defend in the final over.

Dayal dismissed Dhoni to leave CSK to make 13 runs off three balls, which eventually became four runs in one ball. However, the left-arm pacer's full-length delivery allowed Shivam Dube to take only a single off the last ball.

Earlier, Kohli and Bethell did the early running with well-crafted fifties before Shepherd exploded into action in the last 12 balls of the RCB innings.

Kohli and Bethell raised 97 runs in just 9.5 overs for the opening wicket.

Khaleel Ahmed tried to test Kohli with a snorter but it was pulled thunderously over fine leg for a six and in the very next ball, he flicked an over-pitched delivery for another maximum.

Rabada admits to using banned recreational drug

Participation in World Test Championship final under cloud

PTI, JOHANNESBURG: World's premier fast bowler Kagiso Rabada on Saturday made a shocking revelation that he left the ongoing season of the Indian Premier League (IPL) because he is serving a provisional suspension for using a banned recreational drug.

The South African pacer had left the league last month after playing two games for Gujarat Titans, citing personal reasons. GT had bought him for Rs 10.75 crore. Rabada, who will turn 30 later this month, issued a statement through South African Cricketers' Association (SACA).

"As has been reported, I recently returned to South Africa from participating in the IPL for personal reasons. This was due to my returning an adverse analytical finding for the use of a recreational drug," Rabada said in a statement, profusely apologising for



his indiscretion.

"I am serving a provisional suspension and I am looking forward to returning to the game I love playing," he added.

The statement didn't mention which recreational drug he used. It has been learnt through CSA sources that Rabada was tested during the SA20 League in January-February. He plays for MI Cape Town in that cricket league.

The development has put Rabada's possible participation in the World Test Championship (WTC) final against Australia in June under doubt.

According to World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) code, the quantum of punishment for usage of recreational drug could be anything between three months to four years.

Substances such as cocaine, heroin, MDMA and cannabis fall in the category of 'Substances of Abuse'. WADA recognizes they can be taken out-of-competition for reasons unrelated to sports performance.

The use of such drugs carry a maximum of four-year ban but if a sportsperson can prove that the use occurred out-of-competition and is not related to performance enhancement, the ban could be reduced to three months with no need to further analyze the degree of fault.

The athlete's ban can be reduced to two months if he/she is willing to undertake a treatment program that is approved by South African Anti-Doping body.

Suryavanshi has licence to express himself: Bond stands by teenager after MI setback

PTI, KOLKATA: The youngest IPL centurion, Rajasthan Royals' teenage sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi, might have got a reality check with a two-ball duck against Mumbai Indians, but pace-bowling coach Shane Bond says the 14-year-old has been given the "licence" to express himself freely without overcomplicating things.

Suryavanshi became the youngest batter to score an IPL hundred with a 35-ball century against Gujarat Titans on April 28, but suffered a setback in the next match against MI on Thursday.

"He's sort of got a bit of a licence to go out and just play, which he's done an amazing job so far, really, for a 14-year-old," said Bond, the former New Zealand pace bowler.

"I think the coaching staff haven't tried to complicate things too much with Vaibhav," Bond added during the pre-match media interaction ahead of their clash against defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders.

"He missed out in the last game, but for us, you don't really want to panic with someone so young," Bond added that team

think-tank was focused on keeping the pressure off the young batter, so that he could express himself without fear.

"I know (assistant coach) Vikram (Rathour) talks about his game plans and the type of bowlers that he's going to come up against, and he'll do that again for this match. But outside of that, he's a pretty young kid, so I'm just happy for him to get out there and keep swinging."

Bond said patience was crucial with someone so young.

"He's had a fantastic start, but he's also going to go through the ups and downs. You know, he's going to fail sometimes, and he's going to have to learn to deal with that, with someone so young."

"He's obviously a seriously talented player, but he's also still a kid, you know. So, he's sort of learning on the go. We're going to be really patient with him, because you have to be."

"And the other part of it is just all the off-field stuff, the travel, you can't expect a 14-year-old to be a professional."

sportspopup

Khelo India Youth Games: PM to virtually inaugurate, 6000 participants in 27 events

PATNA: More than 6,000 athletes will compete in 27 medal sports in the seventh edition of Khelo India Youth Games which will be inaugurated virtually by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday. The Games, an under-18 event this time, will be held in five cities of Bihar, as well as in New Delhi, and will run till May 15. Thirty-six states and Union Territories will feature in KIYG 2025. In Bihar, the main venue of the Games will be the Patliputra Sports Complex here. Day 1 action starts with archery (in Bhagalpur), kabaddi (in Rajgir) and volleyball (in Patna). Athletes will compete for 284 gold medals. The maximum number (38) of gold will be in swimming. Athletics will have 34 while wrestling, weightlifting and boxing will have more than 20 gold each.

India women's hockey team loses 2-3 to Australia

PERTH: The Indian women's senior hockey team produced a spirited performance but went down 2-3 against Australia in the penultimate match of the bilateral series at Perth Hockey Stadium on Saturday. Navneet Kaur (35th minute) and Lalremsiami (59th) were the scorers for India, while Australia struck through Grace Stewart (2nd), Jade Smith (36th), and Greta Hayes (42nd). India had lost 3-5 and 2-3 to Australia 'A' side before going down 0-2 to Australia senior side on May 1. The final match of the series -- between the two senior teams -- will be played on Sunday.

Players not reluctant to let camera peep into their space now: Kumble

MUMBAI: Legendary India spinner Anil Kumble says in this content-driven age, most of the modern-day cricketers are not averse to the idea of letting everyone know what's going on in their 'space' while Matthew Hayden reckons that a player's brand has become as powerful as that of an administrator or a broadcaster. The former India captain also agreed with the former Australia cricketer that players, who would earlier not agree to have a camera in their dressing room, will now be happy to hold the mic and discuss team strategies. They spoke during a panel discussion titled "Live, Immersive & Digital Experience: How Sports Leagues are Driving Innovation" during the WAVES Summit here Saturday. "Most of the innovations that have come in cricket have been broadcast-driven, whether it was the speed gun at the start to what it is now," Kumble said.

Gill is going to be a very good leader for India: Rashid Khan

MUMBAI: Shubman Gill is going to be a very good leader not only for Gujarat Titans in the Indian Premier League (IPL) but also for India, Afghanistan T20I skipper Rashid Khan said on Saturday. Gill has led Gujarat Titans from the front with 465 runs in 10 matches at 51.66 with six fifties so far this season. "Shubman Gill, this is his second year leading the team and he has been getting better and better each and every game," Rashid said during a media interaction. "In the future definitely he is going to be one of the very, very good leaders for India, not only GT but for India as well. He has those qualities and skills. But it's very important that you have that good connection with the head coach where he makes those things a little bit easier for you," he said. With seven wins in 10 matches and three defeats, GT have been one of the teams to beat.

TODAY'S IPL FIXTURE

Kolkata Knight Riders vs Rajasthan Royals, at the Eden Gardens Cricket Stadium, Kolkata, 3.30 pm
Lucknow Super Giants vs Punjab Kings, at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium, Dharamshala, at 7.30 pm

SCOREBOARD

Royal Challengers Bengaluru: Jacob Bethell c Brevis b Pathirana 55, Virat Kohli c Ahmed b Curran 62, Devdutt Padikkal c Jadeja b Pathirana 17, *Rajat Patidar c Curran b Pathirana 11, Jitesh Sharma c Brevis b Ahmad 7, Tim David not out 8, Romario Shepherd not out 53. Extras: 6. Total: 213-5. Fall of wickets: 97-1, 121-2, 144-3, 154-4, 157-5.
Bowling: Khaleel Ahmed 3-0-65-0, Anshul Kamboj 3-0-25-0, Noor Ahmad 4-0-26-1, Ravindra Jadeja 3-0-26-0, Sam Curran 3-0-34-1, Matheesha Pathirana 4-0-36-3.
Chennai Super Kings: Ayush Mhatre c Pandya b Ngidi 94, Shaik Rasheed c Shepherd b Pandya 14, Sam Curran c Sharma b Ngidi 5, Ravindra Jadeja not out 77, Dewald Brevis lbw b Ngidi 0. *MS Dhoni lbw b Dayal 12, Shivam Dube not out 8. Extras: 2. Total: 211-5. Fall of wickets: 51-1, 58-2, 172-3, 172-4, 201-5. Bowling: Krunal Pandya 3-0-24-1, Lungi Ngidi 4-0-30-3, Bhuvneshwar Kumar 4-0-55-0, Romario Shepherd 1-0-18-0, Yash Dayal 4-0-41-1, Suyash Sharma 4-0-43-0.

Man-of-the-match: Romario Shepherd