

Suryavanshi sparkles, Royals exit with win

PTI, NEW DELHI: Rajasthan Royals closed their woeful 2025 IPL season with a comfortable six-wicket win over Chennai Super Kings after prodigy Vaibhav Suryavanshi paved the way with a mature 57-run knock in an inconsequential contest here Tuesday.

The find of the season for Royals in an otherwise forgettable season, the 14-year old Suryavanshi once again put on display a fearless show during his 33-ball knock as his side overhauled a target of 188 with remarkable ease.

Yashasvi Jaiswal had set the tone for the chase with a fiery 36 and Suryavanshi carried forward the good work with his impressive knock. Jaiswal, before being castled by Anshul Kamboj, was severe on Khaleed Ahmed,

creaming off 18 runs from the pacer's second over while providing a rollicking start to his side. Suryavanshi was watchful initially but never allowed the balls in his zone to go unpunished, and even a seasoned campaigner like Ravindra Jadeja could not contain him.

He sent the ball soaring into the stands off Jadeja twice and completed his half-century with his fourth six, that came off spinner Noor Ahmad.

With skipper Sanju Samon (41) he raised a match-winning 98-run stand for the second wicket. The skipper was happy playing second fiddle to the teenager. It was only the fourth win of the season for the Royals, who may avoid a last-place finish with Tuesday's victory.

After Samson's dismissal,

WEATHER MAY IMPACT MI VS DC CLASH TODAY

PTI, MUMBAI: Inclement weather here on Wednesday may impact the vital Indian Premier League clash between Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals, the two teams left in contention for the fourth play-off spot.

The outcome of the contest could decide the fourth team in the knockout with Gujarat Titans, Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Punjab Kings being the other three.

A win for MI will take them into the knockouts and lock the four playoff teams while a win for the fifth-ranked DC will keep their hopes alive, making their final league round clash against PBKS on May 24 a knockout game.

The India Meteorological Department on Tuesday evening issued a forecast and warning for "thunderstorm accompanied with lightning, heavy rainfall and gusty winds (50-60) at isolated places" for Mumbai and some adjoining areas.

Meanwhile, steady rainfall forced an early conclusion to the training session for both Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals at the Wankhede Stadium.

While the two teams were slated to train from 6 pm to 9 pm local time, they were forced to call off their practice much earlier and the centre square along with fast bowlers' run-up areas were covered and floodlights turned off by 8:30pm.

Bairstow to replace Jacks at Mumbai

AFP, MUMBAI: Jonny Bairstow will replace fellow Englishman Will Jacks at Mumbai Indians for the final phase of the Indian Premier League, the franchise said on Tuesday.

Jacks along with the South African duo Ryan Rickelton and Corbin Bosch will leave for national duties after Mumbai's last league match on Monday.

Sri Lanka's batting all-rounder Charith Asalanka and England pace bowler Richard Gleeson have also been signed by Mumbai to fill in for the outgoing players.

"The replacement players will be available from play-offs stage onwards, should Mumbai Indians qualify," the team said in a statement.



Rajasthan Royals R Parag is bowled out during the Indian Premier League match against Chennai Super Kings at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, in New Delhi, on Tuesday

SCOREBOARD
Chennai Super Kings: Ayush Mhatre c Maphaka b Deshpande 43, Devon Conway c Parag b Yudhvir 10, Urvil Patel c Maphaka b Yudhvir 0, Ravichandran Ashwin c Hetmyer b Hasaranga 13, Ravindra Jadeja c Jurel b Yudhvir 1, Dewald Brevis b Madhwal 42, Shivam Dube c Jaiswal b Madhwal 39, *MS Dhoni c Deshpande b Madhwal 16, Anshul Kamboj not out 5, Noor Ahmad not out 2. **Extras:** 16. **Total:** 187-8. **Fall of wickets:** 12-1, 12-2, 68-3, 70-4, 78-5, 137-6, 180-7, 185-8. **Bowling:** Tushar Deshpande 4-0-35-1, Yudhvir Singh 4-0-47-3, Kwen Maphaka 2-0-22-0, Wanindu Hasaranga 4-0-27-1, Riyan Parag 2-0-26-0, Akash Madhwal 4-0-29-3. **Rajasthan Royals:** Yashasvi Jaiswal b Kamboj 36, Vaibhav Suryavanshi c Jadeja b shwin 57, *Sanju Samson c Brevis b Ashwin 41, Riyan Parag b Ahmad 3, Dhruv Jurel not out 31, Shimron Hetmyer not out 12. **Extras:** 8. **Total:** 188-4. **Fall of wickets:** 40-1, 135-2, 138-3, 158-4. **Bowling:** Khaleel Ahmed 3-0-35-0, Anshul Kamboj 3-0-21-1, Ravichandran Ashwin 4-0-41-2, Noor Ahmad 3-0-42-1, Matheesha Path 2.1-0-22-0, Ravindra Jadeja 2-0-27-0. **Man-of-the-match:** Akash Madhwal

Need to improve a lot if we want to qualify for continental showpiece: India Head Coach Manolo

India are up against Hong Kong in second match on June 10, the team has started its training camp

PTI, KOLKATA: Angry and disappointed with India's 0-0 draw against Bangladesh in the Asian Cup qualifying round match, Head Coach Manolo Marquez on Tuesday made it clear that his side needs a lot of improvement if they are to qualify for the continental showpiece.

India were held to a goal-less draw by lower-ranked Bangladesh in their opening Group C match of the qualifying third round match on March 25 in Shillong, which left Marquez fuming.

India are up against Hong Kong in their second match -- an away game -- on June 10. The team has started its training camp on Monday.

"We need to improve a lot because I felt that the team was going forward in every FIFA window except the last," Marquez said, alluding to the match against Bangladesh.

"It's true that for the game against Bangladesh, we lost very important starting players. But it's not an excuse for our poor performance in that game," he said in a release from All India Football Federation (AIFF).

"We need to be aware that we have a difficult game in Hong Kong. We have time to prepare, to be competitive and try to win and get the three points."

India are placed in Group C of the 2027 Asian Cup qualifying third round along with Bangladesh, Hong Kong and Singapore, and only the top team after six home and away matches qualifies for the continental showpiece.

Singapore and Hong Kong also played out a 0-0 draw in their opening Group C match. So, there's nothing to separate the four sides after the opening match day. Singapore will travel to Dhaka to face Bangladesh on June 10.

"I feel that all the games are very difficult. I watched Singapore versus Hong Kong. Singapore played much better in the first half, and Hong Kong were better in the second. It was a very equal game like India-Bangladesh," said the Spaniard.

Before the match against Hong Kong, India will face Thailand on June 4 in a friendly match in Pathum Thani.



National soccer team player Sunil Chhetri during the second day of the team's practice session as part of preparations for the upcoming international fixtures, including the FIFA World Cup 2026, at National Centre of Excellence in Kolkata, Tuesday

ASIAN CUP QUALIFYING ROUND

Ranked 99th in the world, 28 places above India, Thailand would be a good test for the Blue Tigers, according to Marquez, despite the Changsuek having won against 200-ranked Sri Lanka by a slim margin of 1-0 in March. "I see Thailand as a good preparation for the Hong Kong game because they are a Pot 1 team. I watched their game against Sri Lanka, and they won only 1-0. I feel Sri Lanka didn't deserve to lose that game," he said.

Meanwhile, out of the 28 probabilities called up by Marquez, 26 trained on the first day. Defender Rahul Bheke, who became a father recently, will join on May 23. Midfielder Ashique Kuruniyan is suffering from illness and will begin training with the Blue Tigers on May 21. India will travel to Thailand on May 28.

There are a few fresh faces in the Indian camp who have earned their first national team call-up after impressive performances for their clubs in the Indian Super League and the recently-concluded Kalinga Super Cup.

Mohun Bagan Super Giant forward Suhail Ahmad Bhat, FC Goa goalkeeper Hrithik Tiwari and Punjab FC midfielder Nikhil Prabhu will hope to make their India debuts.

"Suhail is a player with very good movements in attack. We saw in the Super Cup that he's a player who can finish off actions well because his movements in the box are very good," said Marquez.

"I know Hrithik perfectly. In my opinion, he will be a top goalkeeper in India. Nikhil Prabhu is a player who is growing a lot. He was a centre-back but played great as a defensive midfielder as well. He's a complete player who is very good with the ball. He has improved a lot in aerial duels and is another player with a good future," the coach added.

It's all or nothing for Manchester United, Tottenham

AP, BILBAO: It's all or nothing when Manchester United and Tottenham meet in the Europa League final on Thursday, 12.30 am.

For the winner of the all-English showdown in Bilbao there is the mother of all get-out-of-jail-free cards with entry to the Champions League.

For the loser, the abyss of no European soccer next year, the indignity of so many unwanted records broken, and uncertainty hanging over the futures of those who have presided over such a spectacular fall.

That's what's on the line at Estadio de San Mames when two English soccer giants get one last shot at salvaging the season.

Long gone are the days when United dominated the Premier League and challenged the summit of European soccer on a regular basis. But even after 12 years without winning the English title, this season has



Tottenham Hotspur's South Korean striker Son Heung-Min (centre) and teammates take part in a training session on the eve of UEFA Europa League final against Manchester United at the San Mames stadium in Bilbao

represented a new low. United is 16th out of 20 in the standings after a club-record 18 defeats in a single campaign since the Premier League began in 1992. It is also certain to register its worst-ever points total in the era, as well as its lowest finish.

We know this season has been nowhere near good

enough for this club and for our standards," United defender Harry Maguire says. Tottenham is one place

EUROPE LEAGUE FINAL PREVIEW

below United having lost 21 times in the league — also a club record in the modern era. Spurs — Champions League runner-up in 2019

— are aiming for a first trophy since the 2008 English League Cup. It is rare that such a ma-

jor final has so much riding on it beyond the trophy itself. Neither team has looked capable of challenging for a top five position in

the Premier League, which would secure Champions League qualification. But in a season when both teams occupy the last safe spots before relegation, they have a mind-boggling lifeline to the Champions League via the Europa League.

The Champions League offers the prestige of playing beside teams like Real

Madrid and Barcelona, draws prospective signings, and comes with huge financial rewards.

Real Madrid earned almost \$154 million from winning the competition for a record-extending 15th time last season. Total prize money has increased from \$2 billion last season to \$2.7 billion in this expanded season.

United, in particular, could do with some of that money at a time of job losses and cuts under new co-owner Jim Ratcliffe, while coach Ruben Amorim hopes to rebuild his squad in the offseason.

While a return to the Champions League is also enticing for Tottenham, the chance to end its trophy barren run may be even more appealing.

Not even top class managers like Mauricio Pochettino, Jose Mourinho or Antonio Conte ended Spurs' wait for major silverware.

sportspopup

Srikanth advances to main draw of Malaysia Masters

KUALA LUMPUR: Kidambi Srikanth secured a spot in the main draw of the Malaysia Masters, but the rest of the Indian shuttlers were unable to progress past the singles qualifiers, exiting the Super 500 tournament, here, on Tuesday. Srikanth, who is on a comeback trail, recovered from a first-game loss to defeat Chinese Taipei's Huang Yu Kai 9-21, 21-12, 21-6 in his second qualifying men's singles match. The 32-year-old, a 2021 World Championships silver medallist, had earlier beaten another Taipei player, Kuo Kuan Lin, 21-8, 21-13 in the first round. The former world number one will face a challenging opponent in sixth-seeded Chinese player LU Guang Zu in the main draw. Top Indian shuttlers PV Sindhu and HS Prannoy will begin their respective campaigns at the USD 475,000 event on Wednesday.

Adriyan opens India's account with silver on debut

SUHL (Germany): Adriyan Karmakar opened India's medal account at the ISSF Junior World Cup here on Tuesday with a silver on debut in the 50m rifle prone event, ensuring a positive start for the country in the prestigious tournament. The 20-year-old junior 3P national champion aggregated 626.7 after 60 shots and missed out on gold by just 0.3 points to Sweden's Jesper Johansson. USA's Griffin Lake won the bronze with 624.6. Adriyan, who has earlier represented India juniors at the world championships but never in a World Cup, shot confidently and was one of the earliest participants to finish. His effort was also a junior national record in the event.

Carlsen forced into a draw in a showdown against 'The World'

BERLIN: Norwegian chess grandmaster Magnus Carlsen was forced into a draw Monday by more than 143,000 people worldwide playing against him in a single, record-setting game. Billed as "Magnus Carlsen vs. The World," the online match began April 4 on Chess.com, the world's largest chess website, and was the first-ever online freestyle game to feature a world champion. The mega-match ended after Team World checked Carlsen's king a third time, a stunning outcome after Chess.com had predicted Carlsen would win by a wide margin. Team World voted on each move and each side had 24 hours to make their play. Carlsen played the white pieces. The world won on move 32 after checking Carlsen's king three times in the corner of the board where it could not escape. The rule is called "threefold repetition," meaning all of the pieces on the board are in the exact same position three times to prompt a draw.

Ahmedabad to host IPL final; Mullanpur to stage first two play-offs

NEW DELHI: Ahmedabad will host the Indian Premier League's final on June 3 along with Qualifier 2 while Mullanpur will stage the first two play-off games this month, the BCCI announced on Tuesday. Considering the monsoon, the BCCI has also shifted the May 23 fixture between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Sunrisers Hyderabad in Bengaluru to Lucknow. The last match at the Chinnaswamy Stadium was washed out. Hyderabad and Kolkata were supposed to host the play-offs as per the original dates but the IPL schedule had to be revised in the wake of the India-Pakistan military conflict that halted the event for a week. The BCCI has also taken the monsoon season into consideration before deciding on the venues. The BCCI has also increased the extra time to complete matches to 120 minutes from the existing one hour. Qualifier 1 and the Eliminator will take place in Mullanpur on May 29 and 30 while Ahmedabad will stage Qualifier 2 and final on June 1 and 3.

LSG spinner Rathi handed one-match suspension for 'notebook celebration'

LUCKNOW: Lucknow Super Giants leg-spinner Digvesh Singh Rathi has been handed a one-match suspension after another instance of his "tick the notebook" celebration following his dismissal of Sunrisers Hyderabad opener Abhishek Sharma during an IPL match, here. Abhishek was also reprimanded for the same incident and received a 25 percent fine along with one demerit point for what was his first offence. For Digvesh, this was his third Code of Conduct breach and he has been suspended from LSG's next encounter against Gujarat Titans in Ahmedabad having accumulated five demerit points after three separate offenses of same nature. "Digvesh Singh, Bowler, Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) has been fined 50 percent of his match fees for breaching the IPL Code of Conduct during his team's match against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH)," the IPL release stated.

Mumbai Indians sign Bairstow, Gleeson and Asalanka

NEW DELHI: Five-time IPL champions Mumbai Indians have signed Jonny Bairstow, Richard Gleeson, and Charith Asalanka as replacements for a group of foreign recruits who are set to leave for national duty following the team's final league match on May 26. England's Will Jacks and the South African duo of Ryan Rickelton and Corbin Bosch will depart after MI's last league game against Punjab Kings on May 26. "Jacks will be replaced by English wicketkeeper-batter Jonny Bairstow, who joins the squad at a price of INR 5.25 crore," the IPL stated in an official release. "English pacer Richard Gleeson will come in for Ryan Rickelton at a reserve price of Rs one crore, while Sri Lankan batter Charith Asalanka replaces Corbin Bosch at Rs 75 lakh." The three replacements will be available only from the play-offs stage, provided MI secure qualification for the knockout rounds.

England bowler Cook to make Test debut against Zimbabwe

LONDON: Sam Cook will make his England debut in this week's Test against Zimbabwe, while fellow fast bowler Josh Tongue features for the first time in two years. Cook's place in the England team at Trent Bridge on Thursday is a reward for a sustained spell as one of county cricket's most consistent wicket-takers with Essex. The 27-year-old's 227 County Championship wickets are the most by any seamer over the last five years. Cook's 321 first-class wickets have come at an average of only 19.85. Tongue, who missed the whole of last season with a pectoral injury, has also been picked in England's new-look bowling attack in his first appearance since the 2023 Ashes series.

Asia Cup: Hockey India to follow government guidelines on Pakistan participation

NOIDA: A top official of Indian hockey federation on Tuesday made it clear that it will follow government guidelines on Pakistan's participation in Asia Cup, which the country is hosting later this year, in the wake of the recent military conflict between the two nations. When asked about Pakistan's participation in the upcoming tournament, Hockey India's (HI) secretary general Bholanath Singh said, "Whatever the government decides we will abide by it. Till now we didn't have talks with the government on this."