

MUMBAI CLINCH PLAYOFF SPOT



Suryakumar's blazing 73 seals dominant 59-run win over Delhi Capitals

PTI, MUMBAI: Suryakumar Yadav's doughty 73 not out proved to be the difference as Mumbai Indians sealed the fourth and final play-off berth with a 59-run trouncing of Delhi Capitals in the Indian Premier League here on Wednesday.

Suryakumar's masterclass — a 43-ball knock with seven fours and half a dozen sixes in adverse situation — paved the way for a dominating win. The five-time champions had not made the play-offs last year. Delhi Capitals, who came into this contest with their fair share of opportunity to reach the final four, saw the tables being turned on them when MI batters collected 48 runs off the last two overs.

But the visitors were also

guilty of a meek reply in a do-or-die contest which had their top-order blown away in the powerplay, leaving the rest of the contest a mere formality.

Chasing 181, Delhi Capitals, who were without regular skipper Axar Patel in this game, rolled over for 121 in 18.2 overs with Sameer Rizvi (39) being the top scorer.

Mitchell Santner was the pick of the Mumbai Indians bowlers, returning 4-0-11-3 and accounting for Rizvi, Vipraj Nigam (20) and Ashutosh Sharma (18). Jasprit Bumrah enjoyed another successful outing as he returned 3.2-0-12-3.

Delhi Capitals' hopes suffered severe blows right at the start of the chase when stand-in skipper Faf du

Plessis (6) and KL Rahul (11) fell cheaply, leaving the others with a mountainous task to accomplish.

Rahul, coming off an unbeaten ton in the last game, perished when he edged one off the toe end of the bat awkwardly off Trent Boult (1/29) while du Plessis hit one straight to long-on off Deepak Chahar (1/22).

Bumrah left DC reeling at 65/5 when he trapped Tristan Stubbs (2) in front of the wickets and in the 15th over, Santner dismissed Rizvi and Ashutosh to shut the doors completely on the Delhi Capitals.

Earlier in the first half, it was Suryakumar who anchored MI's resistance even as Delhi's spin pair of Kuldeep Yadav (1/22) and

Nigam (0/25) exploited the sluggish nature of the surface to the maximum benefit.

On an uncharacteristic Wankhede Stadium pitch which had plenty of grip and turn for spinners and slow cutters doing the job for fast bowlers, Suryakumar dug in to produce a quality knock for the five-time IPL winners.

Suryakumar forged two crucial stands which revived a faltering innings. First, amid a challenging phase of play with DC's spinners dominating the proceedings, Suryakumar put on 55 runs for the fourth wicket with Tilak Varma. Towards the end, found a perfect foil in Dhir (24 off 8 balls, 2x4s, 2x6s) to add another 57 runs

IPL STANDINGS						
Team	M	W	L	N/R	NRR	Points
Gujarat Titans (Q)	12	9	3	0	+0.795	18
Royal Challengers (Q)	12	8	3	1	+0.482	17
Punjab Kings (Q)	12	8	3	1	+0.389	17
Mumbai Indians (Q)	13	8	5	0	+1.292	16
Delhi Capitals	13	6	6	1	-0.019	13
Kolkata Knight Riders	13	5	6	2	+0.193	12
Lucknow Super Giants	12	4	7	0	-0.506	10
Sunrisers Hyderabad	12	4	7	1	-1.005	9
Rajasthan Royals	14	4	10	0	-0.549	8
Chennai Super Kings	13	3	10	0	-1.030	6

from a mere 21 balls.

The tables turned drastically in the last two overs when the Indian T20 skipper Suryakumar and Dhir hit a grand total of five sixes and four boundaries to add 48 runs, shifting the momentum completely in MI's favour.

However, at one stage it all looked far too difficult for the Mumbai batters who struggled right from the end of the powerplay until the 18th over began.

Rohit Sharma (5) fell to a left-arm pacer for the fourth time this season edging one behind off Mustafizur Rahman (1/30), Ryan Rickelton (25) and Will Jacks (21) perished after making impressive starts while Tilak made a laborious run-a-ball 27.

SCOREBOARD

Mumbai Indians: Ryan Rickelton c Tiwari b Yadav 25, Rohit Sharma c Porel b Rahman 5, Will Jacks c Nigam b Kumar 21, Suryakumar Yadav not out 73, Tilak Varma c Rizvi b Kumar 27, Hardik Pandya c Kumar b Chameera 3, Naman Dhir not out 24. **Extras:** 2. **Total:** 180 for 5. **FOW:** 23-1, 48-2, 56-3, 113-4, 123-5. **Bowling:** Mukesh Kumar 4-0-48-2, Dushmantha Chameera 4-0-54-1, Mustafizur Rahman 4-0-30-1, Vipraj Nigam 4-0-25-0, Kuldeep Yadav 4-0-22-1.

Delhi Capitals: KL Rahul c Rickelton b Boult 11, Faf du Plessis c Santner b Chahar 6, Abishek Porel st Rickelton b Jacks 6, Sameer Rizvi b Santner 39, Vipraj Nigam c and b Santner 20, Tristan Stubbs lbw b Bumrah 2, Ashutosh Sharma st Rickelton b Santner 18, Madhav Tiwari b Bumrah 3, Dushmantha Chameera not out 8, Kuldeep Yadav c (sub) Bawa b Sharma 7, Mustafizur Rahman b Bumrah 0. **Extras:** 1. **Total:** 121 all out. **FOW:** 12-1, 20-2, 27-3, 55-4, 65-5, 103-6, 104-7, 108-8, 120-9, 121-10. **Bowling:** Trent Boult 4-0-29-1, Deepak Chahar 3-0-22-1, Will Jacks 1-0-16-1, Mitchell Santner 4-0-11-3, Jasprit Bumrah 3.2-0-12-3, Karn Sharma 3-0-31-1.

Man-of-the-Match: Suryakumar Yadav

TODAY'S FIXTURE

Gujarat Titans vs Lucknow Super Giants, Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad-Gujarat, at 7.30 pm

It's probably fitting that we're at the bottom, says Fleming

PTI, NEW DELHI: In a candid admission of their pathetic run this IPL season, Chennai Super Kings head coach Stephen Fleming said they deserve to finish at the bottom of the table but promised to come back with "strong ideas".

One of the most consistent sides in the popular league, five-time champions CSK are set to finish last behind Rajasthan Royals to whom they lost by six wickets on Tuesday in their penultimate IPL clash this season.

It is not a sight cricket fans are used to considering CSK's tremendous success in the past.

"No, we don't obviously like being down here, but it's not a motivation. We wanted just a good performance. We're trying to string some performances together. The aim was two good performances (in last two matches). Now it'll be one good one to finish. It's probably

“No, we don't obviously like being down here, but it's not a motivation. We wanted just a good performance. We're trying to string some performances together. The aim was two good performances (in last two matches). Now it'll be one good one to finish. It's probably fitting that we're at the bottom. We've played that type of cricket, so you can't hide away from it”

— Stephen Fleming, Chennai Super Kings head coach

fitting that we're at the bottom. We've played that type of cricket, so you can't hide away from it," Fleming said after the match.

The New Zealander said they know the road ahead and failure of top-order batters has played huge role in the ordinary run.

"Our order is not right at this stage, and that is something that we are always looking to rejig. We've got some strong ideas for next year, so all those facets are covered. But that hasn't been possible this year be-

cause of the lack of runs at the top. "A lot of the batting positions are determined by how well a start we have, and then guys can fall into line. We haven't had that. So we've been just patching in innings up, really, rather than constructing good innings," he explained the reason behind the wretched run.

Pacer Anshul Kamboj has managed to impress this season with his pace and Fleming feels he will be a good asset for India after his selection in A side for the England tour.

KKR question change in IPL playing conditions when tournament is underway

PTI, NEW DELHI: Kolkata Knight Riders have questioned BCCI's decision to change IPL's playing conditions in the middle of the tournament, specifically the extension of the time allowance for completing a full match.

KKR CEO Venky Mysore confirmed to PTI that he has sent a letter to IPL COO Hemang Amin questioning the board's decision to extend the extra time for completing a full game to 120 minutes from 60 minutes.

What prompted Mysore to write the letter to Amin was their rained out game against Royal Challengers Bengaluru on May 17 that effectively ended their slim hopes of making the play-offs.

Mysore feels 120 minutes of extra time on that night may have led to at least a five-over a side contest.

That was also the day

Kanak clinches air pistol gold at Jr World Cup

PTI, NEW DELHI: Budding Haryana shooter Kanak opened India's account at the ISSF Junior World Cup in Germany with a gold medal in women's 10m air pistol on Wednesday.

The 17-year-old, a junior World Championship silver medallist in Lima last year, scored 239.0 in the 24-shot eight-women final to upstage Anna Dulce of Moldova, a two-time Olympian and reigning European champion by 1.7 points.

Chinese Taipei's Chen Yen-Ching won the bronze medal in the event taking place in Suhli.

Earlier, two Indian shooters qualified for the final with Prachi securing a spot behind Kanak in fifth place as they shot scores of 571 and 572 respectively.

Kanak then showed her experience at this level, bringing out the big 10s when it mattered most towards the closing stages of the final to win with ease.

when the IPL resumed after being suspended for a week due to the India-Pakistan conflict.

Besides announcing the IPL schedule for play-offs on Tuesday, BCCI also decided to increase the extra time to 120 minutes for the remainder of the tournament. Normally, such a provision is reserved for play-offs but an exception was made considering that monsoon has hit parts of the country.

Prannoy, Srikanth win; Sindhu exits

PTI, KUALA LUMPUR: India's male shuttlers, led by the experienced duo of H S Prannoy and Kidambi Srikanth, were off to a brilliant start but it was curtains for double Olympic-medallist PV Sindhu as she bowed out with a first-round loss at the Malaysia Masters badminton tournament here on Wednesday.

MALAYSIA MASTERS

Taking the court first, 2023 world championships bronze medallist Prannoy stunned fifth seed Kenta Nishimoto of Japan 19-21 21-17 21-16 in a hard-fought contest that lasted one hour and 22 minutes.

Karunakaran also regis-

tered an upset by stunning third seed Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei 21-13 21-14 in just 39 minutes. Ayush Shetty also progressed after getting past Brian Yang of Canada 20-22 21-10 21-8.

Later, Srikanth stunned a higher-ranked opponent in sixth seed Lu Guang Zu of China 23-21 13-21 21-11 in a 57-minute showdown to progress.

But Sindhu's poor form continued as she failed to get past the opening hurdle of the Super 500 tournament, losing 11-21 21-14 15-21 against Nguyen Thuy Linh of Vietnam.

Besides Sindhu, the other three women's singles players, Unnati Hooda, Aakarshi Kashyap and Malvika Bansod, too lost their opening-round matches.

India have incredible battery of batters, can't take them lightly: Stokes

PTI, LONDON: India will be as formidable as ever despite the absence of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma during the five-Test series against England, given the "battery of batsmen" they possess, feels all-rounder Ben Stokes, who will lead the home side during the gruelling series beginning on June 20.

Stokes, 33, who is returning to the side after undergoing surgery on his left hamstring in December, added that in Kohli India would miss someone with loads of fighting spirit and competitiveness on the field.

Both Rohit and Kohli retired from the longest format earlier this month.

"One thing about India is their battery of batsmen; it is just incredible. The time I've spent in the IPL, they've got batters coming out of there... can't say a word on this in this interview but you know what I mean," Stokes said in a video posted by England and Wales Cricket Board.

"You can never take any Indian team lightly even if the fact that they are



without two of their great batsmen." Stokes said that the onus would be on his bowlers to put India under pressure in the opening Test.

"We always look to get out the opposition at the start of the Test match and then look to see how we adapt throughout the game as it progresses. But I know they (India) have got two big retirements. They have been such an important part of the Indian team and all the success they've had," he added.

"It's going to be a long tough summer. Five Test matches always is, always against India as well and tomorrow (the one-off Test against Zimbabwe) is the start of the tone setting."

Kohli's iconic stature and his competitiveness have made a lot of difference to the team's success over the years and Stokes said he personally would miss him on the field.

"What India would miss maybe is his fighting spirit out in the game, his competitiveness, desire to win. He's made No.18 (jersey) his, hasn't he?"

"So, we haven't seen No.18 on the back of any Indian shirt. It's going to be a shame not to be playing against him because we both playing against each other, we both have the same mindset on the field."

"He's been incredible. No doubt there's been a lot of praise for him in India, there's definitely been praise for him from players here. He's done really well against England... he's a class player," added Stokes.

sportspopup

Nagal bows out of French Open qualifying

PARIS: India's top singles player Sumit Nagal bowed out of the French Open singles qualifying following a 2-6 4-6 defeat against lower-ranked Jurij Rodionov in the second round, here Wednesday. Nagal, ranked 170th, lost to the 225th-ranked Austrian in one hour and 29 minutes at the Roland Garros. He had beaten American Mitchell Krueger in the first round. Nagal will miss the singles main draw of a Grand Slam after appearing in all four in 2024.

After losing the first set and trailing 2-4 in the second, Nagal got an opportunity to bounce back in the seventh game. He grabbed the chance by getting the break back. He again fell back in the next game, losing the first two points to be 0-30 but managed to hold, making it 4-4. Serving out to stay in the match, Nagal dropped serve in the 10th game to make an exit.

Bhambri-Galloway bow out of Geneva Open

GENEVA: Second seeds Yuki Bhambri and Robert Galloway suffered a first-round exit at the Geneva Open following a tough battle against the German team of Jakob Schnaitter and Mark Wallner, here Wednesday. The Indo-American pair lost 6-7(3) 4-6 to the unseeded rivals in the Round of 16 at the Euro 5,96,035 clay-court tournament, which is the last in the run-up to the French Open, the clay-court major. Bhambri and Galloway split Euro 3,240 as prize money but no points were awarded since it was a first-round loss. Last week, Bhambri and Galloway had ended runners-up at the Bordeaux Challenger, his best performance since the clay-court season began. He lost in the first rounds at Monte Carlo (with Alexei Popyrin), ATP 500 in Munich, Madrid Masters and Rome Masters.

England's Archer out of West Indies series in latest injury setback

LONDON: England fast bowler Jofra Archer has suffered yet another injury blow that could hamper plans for a Test return against India later this season.

The 30-year-old express quick hurt his right thumb while fielding for Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League. He could now be out of action for at least a month, with England announcing Wednesday he had been withdrawn from the upcoming one-day international series against the West Indies. If Archer is sidelined for several weeks, it may also scupper plans England had for reintroducing him to red-ball cricket as well. Archer was expected to play for the second-string England Lions at home to India next month in the hope of making a much-anticipated return during the subsequent five-match series.



Maradona death trial suspended as judge's impartiality questioned

SAN ISIDRO (Argentina): The Argentine court trying the medical team of late football legend Diego Maradona over his death suspended the trial on Tuesday for a week over questions about a judge's impartiality. The court ordered the suspension after defense lawyers said that the judge's involvement in a documentary about the case constituted a possible breach of her duty of impartiality, as well as possible influence peddling and even bribery. Prosecutor Patricio Ferrari said the pause was ordered "to resolve an issue ... of institutional gravity." Two defense lawyers asked for the judge, Julieta Makintach, to be recused from the two-month-old trial. At issue is the alleged use of cameras in the courtroom in violation of a ban on filming the trial. The prosecutor's office will investigate whether the rule was broken and what part, if any, Makintach played in the transgression. Makintach told the court on Tuesday that she could "understand the concerns of all." "But I am convinced of my impartiality," she said, adding that she would consider recusing herself from the case if there were doubts over the matter.

World C'ships bronze-medallist boxer Simranjit Kaur turns professional

NEW DELHI: Former World championship bronze medallist Simranjit Kaur has become the latest Indian boxer to turn professional. The 29-year-old two-time Asian Championship medallist, who represented India in the Tokyo Olympics, decided to take the plunge by signing with former American professional boxer Roy Jones Jr. and Indian professional boxer Mandeep Jangra. Simranjit, who finished second at the National Championship in the 65kg category in March, is the third Indian boxer to turn professional this year after World championship medallists Nishant Dev and Amit Panghal. With this move, Simranjit follows in the footsteps of 2008 Olympic bronze medallist Vijender Singh, Vikas Krishan, Sarita Devi and Neeraj Goyat, who also moved to professional boxing after a good run in the amateur circuit.

England prepares for India with its first Test against Zimbabwe in 22 years

NOTTINGHAM: For England, it's little more than a warm-up match ahead of much sterner examinations to come. For Zimbabwe, it means everything. Trent Bridge in Nottingham will host a four-day test match — something of a rarity for the usual five-day format but perhaps a sign of the future — from Thursday when England and Zimbabwe meet for the first time at international level in 18 years since a Twenty20 World Cup match in Cape Town.

You need to go back four more years — to Chester-le-Street in 2003 when Jimmy Anderson, a 20-year-old with highlights in his hair, was playing in his first series — for the last test match between the teams. Zimbabwe's return to English soil continues the African nation's gradual reintegration to test cricket after two decades of political interference, poor governance and sanctions that resulted in the team being exiled from test cricket for around six years.

Messi and I have already made history, now it's Yamal's turn: Ronaldinho

BARCELONA: Ronaldinho has spoken highly of Barcelona youngster Lamine Yamal, saying it is now his time to follow in the footsteps of greats like himself and Lionel Messi. "Messi and I made history, and now it's Lamine Yamal's turn to do the same," Ronaldinho told the media. "What he has achieved so far at this age and with such talent is exceptional." "I like to see players like him; they give life to football," he added. "I hope he has a career like ours."

Ronaldinho also backed Barca to do well in Europe under their new coach. "I hope Barcelona win the Champions League soon. They have young players who are fearless, bold, and extremely talented. They're a team that knows what they want to play, and Flick has done a fantastic job since his arrival."