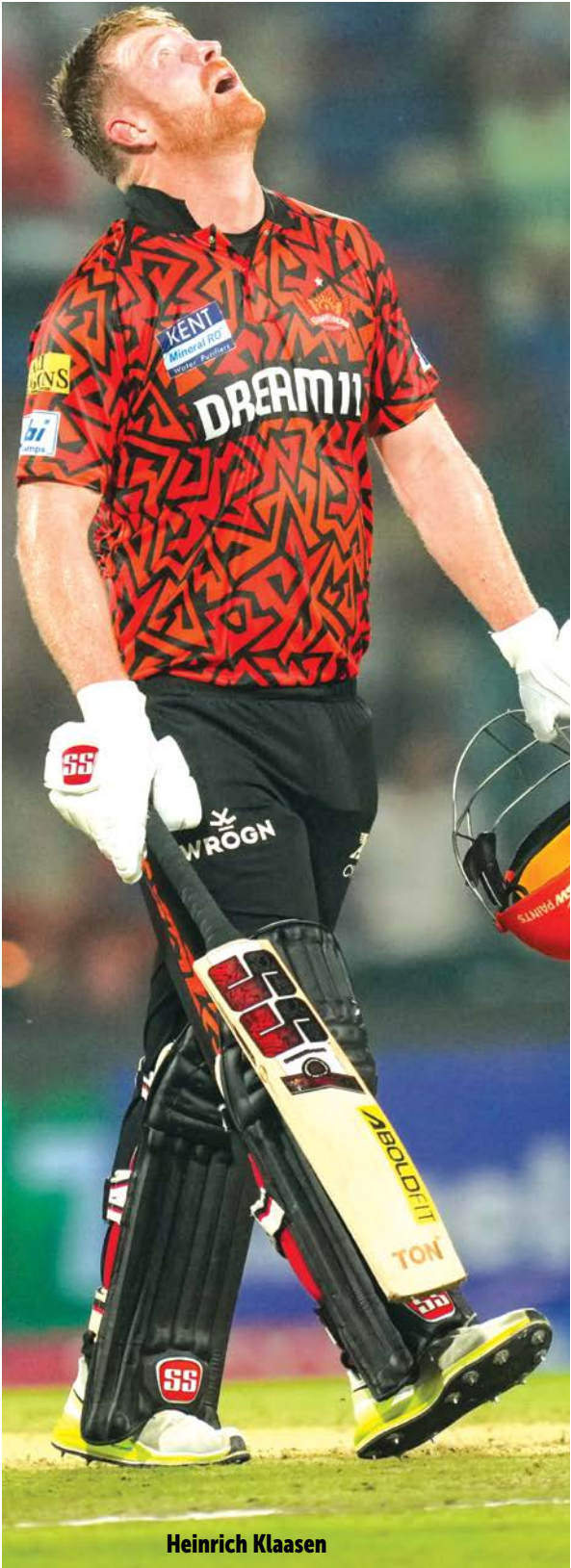


SRH 'OutKlaas' KKR



Heinrich Klaasen

PTI, NEW DELHI: Sunrisers Hyderabad ended an IPL season of 'what ifs' with a power-packed batting effort just like it had started, etching a crushing 110-run victory over Kolkata Knight Riders riding on Heinrich Klaasen's 37-ball century here on Sunday.

In the season opener, SRH scored an imposing 286 against Rajasthan Royals and on this day at the half-filled Feroz Shah Kotla, Klaasen (105 not out off 39 balls) and Travis Head (76 off 40 balls), who had saved his best for the last, helped the 'Orange Army' post an unassailable 278 for 3 in 20 overs.

Despite Kotla track being a featherbed, KKR were never in the hunt as they managed 168 in 18.4 overs with seasoned Jaydev Unadkat (2/23 in 3 overs) picking initial wickets with his clever change of pace.

Left-arm spinner Harsh Dubey (3/34 in 4 overs) and

Sri Lankan pacer Eshan Malinga (3/31 in 3.4 overs) also had a good outing.

SRH skipper Pat Cummins and the entire team is bound to feel disappointed about how they performed in between the first and the last games.

On flat tracks, SRH looked menacing with their batters in flow but on pitches where they needed to adapt and bat differently, they fell flat.

Eventually, they won six games, one game was washed out and lost at least two games they should have won.

The rub of the green didn't go SRH's way when it came to small margins and that ultimately became the reason for them missing out on play-off qualifications.

Klaasen (105 not out off 39 balls) was way more severe compared to Head as he completed his half-century off just 18 balls after coming in at the fall of opener Abhishek Sharma (32 off 16 balls).

SCOREBOARD

Sunrisers Hyderabad: Abhishek Sharma c Singh b Narine 32, Travis Head c Russell b Narine 76, Heinrich Klaasen not out 105, Ishan Kishan c Nortje b Arora 29, Aniket Verma not out 12. **Extras:** 24. **Total:** 278 for 3. **FOW:** 2-1, 175-2, 258-3. **Bowling:** Vaibhav Arora 4-0-33-1, Anrich Nortje 4-0-59-0, Harshit Rana 3-0-40-0, Sunil Narine 4-0-42-2, Varun Chakaravathy 3-0-54-0, Andre Russell 2-0-34-0.

Kolkata Knight Riders: Quinton de Kock c Manohar b Malinga 9, Sunil Narine b Unadkat 31, Ajinkya Rahane c Sharma b Unadkat 15, Angkrish Raghuvanshi c Reddy b Malinga 14, Rinku Singh c Reddy b Patel 9, Andre Russell lbw b Patel 0, Manish Pandey c Manohar b Unadkat 37, Ramandeep Singh b Dubey 13, Harshit Rana c and b Malinga 34, Vaibhav Arora run out (Unadkat) 0, Anrich Nortje not out 0. **Extras:** 6. **Total:** 168 all out. **FOW:** 37-1, 55-2, 61-3, 70-4, 70-5, 95-6, 110-7, 162-8, 162-9, 168-10. **Bowling:** Pat Cummins 2-0-25-0, Jaydev Unadkat 4-0-24-3, Harshal Patel 2-0-21-0, Eshan Malinga 3-4-0-31-3, Harsh Dubey 4-0-34-3, Nitish Reddy 1-0-6-0, Abhishek Sharma 2-0-25-0.

Man-of-the-Match: Heinrich Klaasen

TODAY'S FIXTURE

Mumbai Indians vs Punjab Kings,
at Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur, at 7.30 pm

Titans thumped by CSK, top-two finish in jeopardy

SCOREBOARD

Chennai Super Kings: Ayush Mhatre c Siraj b Krishna 34, Devon Conway b Khan 52, Urvil Patel c Gill b Kishore 37, Shivam Dube c Coetzee b Khan 17, Dewald Brevis c Buttler b Krishna 57, Ravindra Jadeja not out 21. **Extras:** 12. **Total:** 230 for 5. **FOW:** 44-1, 107-2, 144-3, 156-4, 230-5. **Bowling:** Mohammed Siraj 4-0-47-0, Arshad Khan 2-0-42-0, Prasidh Krishna 4-0-22-2, Gerald Coetzee 3-0-34-0, Sai Kishore 2-0-23-1, Rashid Khan 4-0-42-1, Shahrulkh Khan 1-0-13-1.

Gujarat Titans: Sai Sudharsan c Dube b Jadeja 41, Shubman Gill c Patel b Kamboj 15, Jos Buttler c Kamboj b Ahmed 5, Sherfane Rutherford c Mhatre b Kamboj 0, Shahrulkh Khan c Pathirana b Jadeja 19, Rahul Tewatia c Dube b Ahmad 14, Rashid Khan c Patel b Ahmad 12, Gerald Coetzee b Pathirana 5, Arshad Khan b Ahmad 20, Sai Kishore c Dhoni b Kamboj 3, Mohammed Siraj not out 3. **Extras:** 12. **Total:** 147 all out. **FOW:** 24-1, 29-2, 30-3, 85-4, 86-5, 105-6, 110-7, 126-8, 142-9, 147-10. **Bowling:** Ravindra Jadeja 3-0-17-2, Khaleel Ahmed 3-0-17-1, Anshul Kamboj 2-3-0-13-3, Shivam Dube 2-0-33-0, Noor Ahmad 4-0-21-3, Matheesha Pathirana 3-0-29-1, Deepak Hooda 1-0-15-0.

Man-of-the-Match: Dewald Brevis

runs on the board.

The Gujarat side was bowled out for 147 in 18.3 overs.

Pacer Anshul Kamboj did the early damage, claiming the wickets of Gill and Rutherford.

Sai Sudharsan (41, 28b), the latest entrant into the India Test squad, and his Tamil Nadu team-mate M Shahrulkh Khan (19) added 55 runs for the fourth wicket to infuse some interest into the chase.

But left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja returned for his second spell to dismiss both Sudharsan and Shahrulkh in the space of four balls in the 11th over, and the match effectively ended at that point.

CSK finished their IPL 2025 engagements at the bottom of the pile with eight points from 14 matches, the five-time champions' worst ever finish in the 10-team league.

Earlier, seasoned Conway and promising Brevis produced fifties of contrasting character, laying the foundation for Chennai Super Kings' healthy 230 for five.

Once the Super Kings elected to bat on a super hot afternoon, Conway and Brevis led the charge with a 52 off 35 balls, and a 23-ball 57 on a smooth pitch.

But Conway's knock was put to shade a bit by cameos by Ayush Mhatre (34, 17b) and Urvil Patel (37, 19b), who made runs at a respective strike rate of 200 and 194, ensured runs came at a fast clip for CSK.

Dhoni keeps fans guessing on IPL future



PTI, AHMEDABAD: True to his imitable style, Mahendra Singh Dhoni kept the world guessing on his IPL future, saying he will now enjoy his bike rides in Ranchi and will take his own sweet time to decide whether he will come back next season.

Chennai Super Kings' ordinary season gave fodder to speculations that the side may go in for a complete overhaul in the coming season and the iconic Dhoni will not be around even as a batter.

"It depends. I have 4-5 months to decide, there's no hurry. Need to keep my body fit. You have to be at your best," Dhoni said after CSK's

huge 83-run win over Gujarat Titans. The 43-year-old dropped himself in the batting order, getting to hit only a few balls and could not make the desired impact this season.

So, a question about his future was inevitable after the team's last league game here. Dhoni said lack of performance can never be his reason for taking the retirement decision.

"If cricketers start retiring for their performance, some of them will retire at 22. I will go back to Ranchi, enjoy a few bike rides. I am not saying I am done, not saying I am coming back. I have the luxury of timing. Will think about it and then decide," he said.

Srikanth goes down tamely to Shi Feng in Malaysia Masters final

PTI, KUALA LUMPUR: His long title drought did not end but shuttler Kidambi Srikanth capped a remarkable



campaign with a runner-up finish at the Malaysia Masters Super here on Sunday, going down in straight games to

China's world No. 4 Li Shi Feng in the men's singles final. The 32-year-old, who charted a long road back from injuries and missed opportunities, made his first BWF World Tour final in six years, starting from the qualifiers and riding a resurgent wave all the way to the title clash of the BWF 500 tournament.

The former world No. 1 was erratic and struggled to break through the second-seeded Li's solid defence and was unable to convert openings, eventually losing in 11-21 9-21 in 36 minutes.

Despite the loss, it was an inspirational show from Srikanth, who, after slipping to world No. 82 earlier this month, showed grit and class to remind the world of his calibre.

Roland Garros pays tribute to retired 'King of Clay' Nadal

PARIS: Rafael Nadal was given a rousing reception as the 'King of Clay' stepped onto Court Philippe Chatrier for the final time on Sunday in a ceremony to celebrate his career at the French Open.



message "14 RG, Rafa".

Nadal dominated the French Open after winning on debut as a teenager in 2005, lifting the trophy a record-breaking 14 times.

The Spaniard finished with a remarkable 112-4 win-loss record at the clay-court Grand Slam.

He last won the title in 2022 and played his final match on the Paris clay last year when he was defeated by Alexander Zverev in the first round.

"I don't know how to start... I've been playing on this court for 20 years. I suffered, I won, I lost. I have lived many emotions here on this court," an emotional Nadal told the crowd after watching a video of his career highlights at Roland Garros.

Nadal's family and friends watched from the player's box, along with many of his



Rafael Nadal, with his son Rafa junior in his arms, greets the spectators

former coaching staff, including his uncle Toni.

"Without doubt, the most important tennis court of my career," Nadal added to cheers.

"It's been an incredible story that began back in 2004 when I came to Roland Garros for the very first time. I could barely walk on crutches due to a foot injury. I climbed to the top of the court and looked out and couldn't wait to play here."

Musetti continues fine form to progress

AFF, PARIS: In-form eighth seed Lorenzo Musetti safely cruised into the second round of the French Open with a dominant straight-set win over German qualifier Yannick Hanfmann.

The Italian grew into his 7-5 6-2 6-0 victory, taking each of the last 11 games on Court Philippe Chatrier.

Elsewhere on Sunday, American 12th seed Tommy Paul came from a set down to beat Dane Elmer Moeller 6-7 (5-7) 6-2 6-3 6-1.

Fellow American and 15th seed Frances Tiafoe defeated Russian Roman Safiullin 6-4 7-5 6-4. But two seeds were knocked out of the men's singles on day one as 32nd seed Alex Michelsen was beaten 6-3 6-2 6-4 by Argentine qualifier Juan Manuel Cerundolo, while another Argentine, Mariano Navone, defeated 28th-seeded American Brandon Nakashima 7-6 (7-2) 4-6 6-1 6-2.

Women's world number one Sabalenka needed just an hour to sweep aside Russian Kamilla Rakhimova 6-1, 6-0 on the opening day of the tournament.

China's Zheng Qinwen overcame a tough first-round assignment as she beat former finalist Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-4, 6-3. Elina Svitolina opened the action on Court Suzanne Lenglen with a 6-1, 6-1 win over Turkey's Zeynep Sonmez.

SALAH EQUALS RECORD WITH FOURTH GOLDEN BOOT

LIVERPOOL: Liverpool's Mohamed Salah won the Premier League Golden Boot for a fourth time on Sunday, equaling the record set by former Arsenal striker Thierry Henry. The Egyptian netted 29 times, including his side's equaliser in a 1-1 draw against Crystal Palace on Sunday, to fire Liverpool to a record-equaling 20th English top-flight title. Newcastle's Alexander Isak finished second on 23, with Erling Haaland of Manchester City, who had won the award in each of the past two seasons, third on 22.

EPL RESULTS

Bournemouth 2 (Semenyo 74, 88) **Leicester 0; Fulham 0 Manchester City 2** (Gundogan 21, Haaland 72-pen); **Ipswich 1** (Broadhead 52) **West Ham 3** (Ward-Prowse 43, Bowen 55, Kudus 87); **Liverpool 1** (Salah 84) Crystal Palace 1 (Sarr 9); **Manchester United 2** (Diallo 76, Eriksen 87-pen) **Aston Villa 0; Newcastle 0 Everton 1** (Alcaraz 65); **Nottingham Forest 0 Chelsea 1** (Colwill 50); **Southampton 1** (Stewart 56) **Arsenal 2** (Tierney 43, Odegaard 90); **Tottenham 1** (Solanke 17-pen) **Brighton 4** (Hinshelwood 51, 64, O'Riley 88-pen, Gomez 90+3)

Man City, Chelsea, Newcastle secure Champions League

Liverpool lift Premier League trophy



ing season did not end in disastrous fashion by qualifying for Europe's top competition for the 15th consecutive season by beating Fulham 2-0 to finish third.

Ilkay Gundogan's overhead kick from close range put Pep Guardiola's men in front before Erling Haaland secured the points for the visitors from the penalty spot.

Chelsea ended Nottingham Forest's dreams of a first appearance in the Champions League since they were European champions back in 1980.

Levi Colwill tapped in Pedro Neto's cross for the Blues' goal in a 1-0 win at the City Ground to secure fourth place for Chelsea.

Forest have to settle for seventh and a place in the

UEFA Conference League. Newcastle narrowly avoided throwing away their place in the top five after losing 1-0 at home to Everton.

Carlos Alcaraz's header earned the Toffees victory on Tyneside.

However, the Magpies finished fifth after Aston Villa were controversially beaten 2-0 at Manchester United.