



With the ICC Champions Trophy starting in South Africa the spotlight will now be on players who perform well and help their teams to get through to the later rounds. The England team avoided a total white-wash in their limited overs series against old rivals Australia by winning the final one-dayer comfortably. Of course like in the final deciding test at the oval the pitch for the seventh one-dayer assisted the spin of Graeme Swann who picked up a five wicket haul while restricting the Australians to a modest total. Australia had Nathan Hauritz in their squad but he wasn't able to get the same purchase as Swann did and despite Brett Lee bowling like the wind, England got home in the end and were saved their blushes.

The Champions Trophy got off to a surprise start with the hosts South Africa losing to Sri Lanka. The lankans, once they get going are tough to stop and Dilshan in particular is enjoying the chance to open the batting and thus gets more overs to display the variety of shots that he possesses. He does take risks but that's the nature of the format and Sri Lanka have to be complimented in giving this talented player a free run at the top of the order. It's not just him but players like Kandamby who reminds one of Arjuna Ranatunga and Angelo Matthews who are turning out to be excellent lower order batsmen capable of giving the total just the push that is required in the final overs. It is here that Wayne Parnell struck lucky as batsmen going for the big shots perished and so made his figures look a little more respectable. He however fully deserved the accolades that came his way in the next crucial game against New Zealand where he got five wickets and helped restrict the Kiwis to a moderate score. He is young but the way he uses the yorker in the death overs belies that. The angle at which he comes to both right handers and left handers is awkward and he is Graeme Smith's main bowler in the end.

For his five wicket haul as well as his three wickets against the Lankans he is this week's CEAT International Cricketer of the Week.