



Herath is a regular 'five-for' bowler

6th Sep'09

With the overhyped Test series between England and Australia over with England winning the series the same game of cricket played in other countries will hopefully get some attention. There are some very fine players around the world and they are displaying their talent in testing conditions where a Test match can really be called just that, a match where skills and temperament are tested to the fullest. Sri Lanka under new skipper Kumara Sangakkara is showing that they are pretty much unbeatable in their country. The Kiwis have been poor travellers for a long, long time and this time it has been no different. Perhaps in the one-dayers that will follow the Tests they may be able to put one across the hosts but then not too many people lay great store by results in limited overs cricket including the players themselves.

The Kiwis were handicapped by the illness that overtook some of their key players . That is an occupational hazard of touring as well as sudden unexpected injuries but to their credit the Kiwis fought gamely especially in the second Test. There were some fine performances in the Test with the batting of Jayawardene, Samaraweera and the skipper Sangakkarra who got a century in the second innings and set a stiff target for the Kiwis to overtake. Jayawardene got 90s in both innings and he must now hold the record for most nineties in Test cricket. Not that he was complaining saying that 90s were better than 9s. There is the heart warming story of Samaraweera's comeback after being hit by bullets in Lahore in March and he too is showing amazing consistency and an appetite for big hundreds.

Sri Lanka have also found a quality spinner in Herath who has as many initials ahead of his name as Chaminda Vass has. With Murali hinting that he may not be around for too long it is good news for Lanka to have found a spinner who is regular 'five for' bowler. However it is another left-arm spinner Daniel Vettori who was the star performer with five wickets and a dogged century that delayed the inevitable for New Zealand. Vettori has to be the most improved lower order batsman in the world and also much underrated. He is now fit to be ranked as an allrounder and just because he does not hit sixes does not mean that he is lesser than other allrounders in cricket today. His wicket is to be prized out and that's why it is so valuable. He is this week's CEAT International Cricketer of the Week.