

## **Misbah does not have temperament for Tests**

20<sup>th</sup> December 2009, Sunil Gavaskar

THE third and final Test between New Zealand and Pakistan ended in a draw with the visitors (in this instance New Zealand, who despite hosting the Test were not the home team as the series was originally scheduled to be held in Pakistan) making a brave bid to get the runs that would have given them a 2-1 win in the series. Rains ruined their hopes but the game once again showed there's nothing wrong with Test cricket and it still remains the supreme test of a cricketer's skill and temperament.

Misbah-ul-Haq showed that he doesn't quite have the temperament to play at the Test level, by getting out in a manner that was hard to understand given the position the team was in at that stage. It was pretty much as bizarre a dismissal as the one in the crucial league match against Australia in the Champions Trophy in South Africa a couple of months ago.



It is here that Tilakaratne Dilshan has displayed an admirable temperament. His promotion to the opening spot is the best thing that has happened to him and to Lankan cricket, for it gives this dazzling strokemaker the chance to bat more overs as well as play the ball when it's coming on to the bat. His remarkable innings at Rajkot almost took the game away from India and it was his dismissal that really opened the doors for the hosts to sneak through. If he had taken a wicket or a catch then he could have run away with the 'Cricketer of the Week' prize but he has to now share it with those who played in New Zealand.

Imran Farhat's century in the first innings and his half-century in the second were top efforts. His teammate Danish Kaneria also bowled with great heart in the first innings but was unable to stop the Kiwis from piling the runs with skipper Daniel Vettori proving once again what an improved batsman he has become, with another Test century.

He can rightfully claim to be an all-rounder now and he also seems to be relishing the additional responsibility of leading the team.

The 'CEAT International Cricketer of the Week', therefore, is shared between Dilshan, Farhat, Kaneria and Vettori.