

Mahela gets little credit because he's a Lankan

22nd November 2009, Sunil Gavaskar

THE first Test between the visiting Sri Lanka side and India has exposed the limitations of the attacks of both teams. While it is true that Lanka bowled to India on the first day pitch which is invariably at its best in India and their spinners especially Muralitharan was unable to get any turn, the Indians bowled a bit later when the pitch can help turn the ball. But so good was the pitch that even when the ball did turn occasionally there was little nip off the pitch to trouble the batsmen.

It was thus pretty much like the pitches in the late 50s and early 60s where the batsmen could sleepwalk through their innings without any fear or danger whatsoever. This is in no way meant to take anything away from Dravid's magnificent effort in the first innings and Mahela Jayawardene's superb batting in the only innings that Lanka batted. Dravid had to bring all his famed powers of concentration into play after India lost four quick wickets to seamer Welegedara and his century where he also went past 11000 runs must rank among his better and satisfying efforts.



Jayawardene is a world class batsman who gets little credit for all the runs he has scored because he comes from the little island of Sri Lanka. If he had been an Australian or Englishman then he would have been talked about as being another Bradman and many lesser players than him get more kudos than this elegant classy batsman does. India's spinners fared no better than Murali and Herath and went for plenty with Lanka piling on 760 runs before declaring their innings closed. Centuries from Gambhir and Tendulkar ensured India were in no trouble as the Test was drawn but everybody would be hoping that the next two Tests produce a result which will see the winning team claim the number one ranking in Test cricket.

The English team has started its tour of South Africa and they were given a thrashing in the second T20 match when Loots Bosman and Graeme Smith smashed them all over the park. Bosman was one shot away from glory and his batting finally came good in the format for which he is best suited. He is therefore this week's CEAT International Cricketer of the Week.