

We cricketers trusted financial experts

AMIDST the off-field controversies, the third edition of the Indian Premier League finished with a great final. Till the 19th over of Mumbai Indians' chase, it looked as if the game would go either way and that's what finals should be about — where the result is known only at the very end.

The worry about the final was because the earlier three games at the same venue had been one-sided and boring. That's not what is expected of semifinals or knockouts between losing semifinalists, all three of which were tame.

There was plenty of action off the field though, and those who had an axe to grind yielded it with gusto. The TV channels were suddenly awash with the same faces appearing on it every day, and while that speaks of their easy availability and love of the limelight, it also tells that for some TV channels the only people whose opinions matter are those from Delhi or Mumbai.



It would have been really interesting if the channels had checked whether most, if not all, of those who were hammering the IPL had in some manner or the other been rejected or snubbed by the IPL earlier. They thus got a chance to get back at IPL. There were advertisers, there were PR people, there were those who had interest in creating websites for IPL, and then there were some whose businesses have failed, who haven't paid their staff and who were now telling the world how bad the IPL organization was. There were also some social climbers who perhaps had not been invited for any matches and bashes and were upset.

Pity, we cricketers don't have so much knowledge, for then we would have been able to understand a lot of the financial and legal issues that came up in the council meetings. We cricketers just looked at all the others who were more knowledgeable about finance and trusted their expertise. When it came to cricketing matters, they looked at us and when we talked cricket they nodded their heads too.

The T20 format is one that Suresh Raina surely relishes. He goes out there and smashes the bowling and takes his chances and then when summoned, bowls the odd over or two and takes a blinder of a catch too. He did all that and for his consistency, he is our CEAT International Cricketer of this Week.