

## Tamim showed his class against England

7<sup>th</sup> March 2010, Sunil Gavaskar

Sachin Tendulkar's magnificent innings of 200 still is the talk of the cricketing world as it marvels at 'The Masters' range of shots, his enthusiasm for the game, his stamina and how he is invariably a step ahead of the opponents.

For his effort he got left out for the team for the third one-dayer in Ahmadabad. He may have asked to be rested but when a player is in the kind of form that he is in, he wants to carry on playing since it is the best time to cash in on the rich vein of runs. He is not getting younger and with the magical figure of 100 international centuries beckoning it would be best if he could play as many games as he can to get there especially in the kind of touch he is in at the moment.

It is when a player is in bad form and not getting runs or wickets that it is better for him to step aside and have good long think about where he is going wrong, talk to his seniors and coaches and reflect how to get back to being the successful player he was.



Bad form comes to all though thankfully Sachin has had less of that than others simply because his game's foundations are so solid and he is so strong mentally. It is his preparedness that needs to be emulated not just his stroke play for it is with that preparedness that he is one step ahead of the others.

The cricket fans of Ahmadabad thus had to miss out on watching him bat. They got to see another modern great, Jacques Kallis score a terrific century and South Africa's young Turk AB de Villiers score another quick-fire ton. India's new ball attack was ordinary with Sreesanth going for over 80 runs again which meant that in three games he conceded more than 200 runs in his spells. Sreesanth was not in the original squad and came in only when Zaheer got injured in the Kolkata Test. He was then picked ahead of the other seam bowlers who were in the squad which could not have helped their confidence at all.

In contrast Hasim Amla who also was not in the original squad and replaced the injured Greame Smith was left out of the first one-dayer because the coach said it wasn't fair on those selected ahead of him and this despite the brilliant form he was in. Maybe there is a lesson in that for those wanting to learn.

In Bangladesh, England found the going will not be easy and Tamim Iqbal continued the great form he is in by smashing a century though it did not stop England from winning the match. He also got runs in the next match and he is this week's CEAT International Cricketer of the Week.