

SUNNY SIDE UP

Fully understand Gayle's decision

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The simple reason why Chris Gayle was not considered by any of the franchises for their teams was that the West Indies team was scheduled to play Pakistan in a One-day and Test series a few days after the IPL started and that meant that Gayle and other West Indian players would not be available to play a majority of the IPL games and since the IPL rules allow only four players to play in the eleven and a maximum of ten to be signed by any franchise, it did not make sense to block a place.

Gayle is now in India because the West Indies selectors, in their infinite wisdom, did not think he was good enough to be picked for their One-day team. Since Gayle does not have a contract with the West Indies board he accepted an offer from the Royal Challengers when Dirk Nannes was ruled out of the tournament and has made an immediate impact with the bat scoring a breathtaking century against his old team Kolkatta Knight Riders and also playing another capital innings as this is being written.



Whether it was lack of communication between the West Indian cricket authorities or not, the fact is that a professional cricketer has to earn a living and if he cannot do so because he is not being selected for his national team, then he is going to look at other offers that will help him earn a living. Funnily, the West Indies Board has allowed Dwayne Bravo to play in the IPL and miss the Test series that follows the five-match One-Day series against Pakistan and that does show a confusion in thinking.

The Pakistanis had made short work of the West Indies in the quarter-finals of the World Cup and they continue to dominate the Caribbean guys in the One-day format

and have won the One-day series already. Ahmed Shehzad has been the man in form and his century effort in the first one-dayer makes him the CEAT international cricketer of the week. PMG