

SUNNY SIDE UP

Viru knows how to succeed in T20

TIMING, NOT POWER, IS HIS WEAPON OF DESTRUCTION IN THIS FORMAT

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The West Indies salvaged some prestige in the One-day series by winning the last two One-dayers. It was a pretty predictable result once the Pakistanis had won the series, for the recent ODI series has shown the Pakistanis slacking off a bit after taking the lead and allowing the opposition to come back. That the West Indies won the final game by 10 wickets also shows the absence of application by the visitors.

It was supposed to be an unpredictable pitch, but if the West Indies can win without losing any wicket, then it couldn't have been that bad. These were the only international matches played during the week and since they were not exactly top-grade performances, the accolade will go to the players in the Indian Premier League this week.

The IPL, on the other hand, is proving to be hard to predict though teams like Mumbai Indians, Kolkata Knight Riders and Chennai Super Kings have been more consistent than the rest. The other teams' showing have fluctuated with their form, or more so with the form of their main players.



Delhi Daredevils are a team that is so reliant on Virender Sehwag to click that if he does not stay for half the overs, they are unable to put up a big score. When he does bat for that long then there's pure entertainment for everybody, including the opposition, for it is tough to get angry at a player who obviously is enjoying himself so much that he cannot stop smiling.

Sehwag pulled out his team from the fire while blasting his first T20 century and now that he has got his first, there is no doubt more will follow because he is such a street-smart cricketer that he will have realized what it takes to keep the energy going in this ultra short format of the game.

Delhi Daredevils were almost dead and buried before Viru played his fabulous innings and now if the team does manage to qualify for the playoffs, it will be interesting to see who claims the credit. The bowling has been disappointing to say the least and while it is expected in this format for the bowlers to get hit, for the spinners to be bowling no-balls does not speak highly of those supposed to guide them. Chris Gayle is another who has taken the IPL by storm and the contrast between Sehwag and the big West Indian is fascinating.

The West Indian, an extremely popular member of the Rest of the World team that played the Super Series in Australia, was nicknamed 'Ferrucci' which is a combo of Ferre and Gucci for his dress style. He has the lefthander's natural elegance at the crease but has the added enormous strength which is the hallmark of players from the Caribbean. He has hit some of the biggest sixes in the competition so far. Sehwag, on the other hand, knows that he doesn't have the same strength, so has chosen timing as the weapon of destruction and has demolished the attacks. They have been the entertainers par excellence so far and in a close run race, it is Sehwag who beats Gayle as the CEAT International Cricketer of the Week.