

Ishant should enjoy cooler climes

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India's failure to close out the last few West Indian wickets will be of concern to MS Dhoni for at the end of the fourth day's play it looked as if India would wrap up the match before tea on the final day, rain permitting, of course. There was of course the West Indian 'wall' Shiv Chanderpaul, but there was also the smaller unexpected hurdle called Fidel Edwards. Now Edwards has done the holding up operations quite well for the West Indies in recent times especially when the mood seizes him and he decided on the final day that he wasn't going to let his fast bowling efforts go down the drain because of some inept batting, but would show them how to do it. The pitch also had eased into a typical India pitch with little turn or bounce and so Fidel could hang on just as another famous Fidel from nearby Cuba has hung on for years.



When Indian teams come to the final match of the tour, there is a tendency to think about getting home and such things rather than think about the job on hand and after the initial effort if things don't go their way there's just a 'give up and let it be' attitude that gradually sets in. That's what it looked like as even Sammy dug in and then Fidel began to enjoy his stint at the crease along with Shiv Chanderpaul. Earlier, on the 4th day, another Edwards, Kirk, had scored a classy century to show that he could be one of the stars for the future though it is never easy to predict about West Indies cricket. What was noticeable during the rain breaks of the previous games when he was in the reserves, was him utilising the time to chat to Dravid about batting and that would have certainly helped him in his debut Test century. For India, Ishant Sharma was brilliant but even he looked a little tired on the final day which can happen when a team has just four wicket-taking bowlers in the team.

He should enjoy bowling in the cooler climes of England with Zaheer Khan to encourage him from close by. England closed out the One-Day series with a win in the last game and so go in with confidence in the Test series against India next week.

Sri Lanka's Randiv and Malinga picked up 5 wickets each in the previous games, but that wasn't enough to stop England. That's a good thing because if England had lost then they would have tried to rope in Paul Stirling of Ireland who got a century in the neighbourhood friendly against Scotland. Amazing isn't it that England can pick any of the Irish and Scottish internationals for their team whenever they need them like they have picked Eoin Morgan and yet the world is told that it is BCCI that rules the roost.

As the CEAT Cricketer of the Week is decided by points, this week there are no less than seven men who share the accolade. Kirk and Fidel Edwards, Shiv Chanderpaul, Paul Stirling, Suraj Randiv, Lasith Malinga and Ishant Sharma