

## Nice to see Samuels, Pollard support out of favour Gayle

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The sight of Marlon Samuels running towards the stand where Chris Gayle was watching the last ODI was a powerful signal to those watching that he and his teammates were with the player who has not been in the West Indies team. Perhaps not all players felt that way since we will never know the impact Gayle has in the dressing room, but certainly the player of the series in the IPL had another supporter in Kieron Pollard, who also waved his bat at him first and then at the dressing room after the winning hit was struck.



Ramnaresh Sarawan also acknowledged his half century with a wave of the bat towards Gayle. So quite clearly, three players who have at some time or the other been at odds with the West Indies Board were showing where their sympathies lie. As of writing, the matter is still unresolved and it looks unlikely that Gayle will be part of the Test team for the series unless of course West Indies lose the first one badly and there is a clamour for his recall.

Gayle is from Jamaica and the series was already decided by the time the last ODI in Jamaica came about so there was no reaction from the crowd and the thrilling win would have helped douse any fires that may have been started for Gayle's absence in the Test match that starts at Sabina Park, Jamaica in a day's time. India of course won't be complaining that Gayle is not in the opposition since it means a gamechanger is not part of the problem that they have to solve, so the problem becomes smaller for Dhoni and company. However, from a spectacle point of view it takes away a great deal and while a win is a win, Dhoni and his team will feel just that little less satisfaction if Gayle was in the opposition.

Clashes between players and officials have been there in all sports ever since sport began. It is here that administrators must act. There were two outstanding performers

in the just concluded One-day series, Andre Russell and Rohit Sharma. Sharma may have pipped Russell for the man of the series award with his consistent batting, but Russell ran him close.

He missed out on the player of the series prize, but he is the CEAT International Cricketer of the Week for his all-round deeds.