

## **SUNNY SIDE UP**

### **Warne send-off heart-warming**

Sunil Gavaskar 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2011

The Indian Premier League is primed for an exciting finish. The contests for the play-offs has got closer than was expected midway through the tournament and some teams who looked out of it have stormed back in a most exciting manner. Some other teams who have missed out haven't really tried to play spoil sports for other teams excepting perhaps the Rajasthan Royals, who by beating Mumbai Indians have put the cat among the pigeons.

It was good to see the warm send-off that the spin legend Shane Warne got and though his team beat their team, the Mumbai crowd was sporting enough to give him a good-bye that he deserved. Shane Warne has been wonderful for the game and he along with Anil Kumble brought back to life the seemingly dying art of bowling leg-spin.



It is a most difficult art to perfect and moreover it requires a most understanding captain for it to flourish. In the current age of slam bang cricket, where stopping runs rather than taking wickets is the main thing, it is extremely hard for leg-spinners to keep their place.

Cricket though has been most fortunate that there were two bowlers of contrasting styles who kept the art alive and today there are enough leg-spinners around who give the hope that it will still flourish. Kumble was the quickish leg-spinner who could make the ball fizz and jump awkwardly from a length.

Leg-spin and accuracy don't always go together, but Kumble in particular was as accurate as an arrow and was incredibly hard to take chances against. Warne was more a conventional leg-spinner, who was happy to tease the batsman with flight and loop and deceive him in the air and off the pitch.

Shaun Marsh with his consistent batting display is the CEAT International Cricketer of the Week.