

Rahane smashes season's fastest fifty as CSK crush Mumbai Indians by 7 wickets

MUMBAI, Apr 8:

Ajinkya Rahane smashed the fastest half-century of IPL 2023 - off just 19 balls - and Rituraj Gaikwad struck an unbeaten 40 to power Chennai Super Kings to a seven-wicket win over Mumbai Indians here on Saturday.

An ordinary Mumbai Indians succumbed to their second consecutive defeat in as many matches while CSK recorded their second win on the trot, moving to the fourth spot in the points table while the five-time winners remained at eighth.

The 34-year-old Rahane made a cracking debut for Chennai Super Kings in the IPL, producing one of the most brutal knocks in the competition to make 61 from only 27 balls with seven fours and three sixes while recording the fastest fifty of the league this year.

Rahane's blitz and Gaikwad's knock, combined with the efforts of Chennai spin duo of Ravindra Jadeja and Mitchell Santner who shared five wickets earlier, fuelled CSK's win over arch rivals Mumbai Indians.

CSK finished at 159/3 in 18.1 overs chasing 158, winning with 11 balls to spare.

Rahane collected 23 runs hitting Arshad Khan for four boundaries and a six in the fourth over while CSK's young gun Gaikwad happily took the backseat.

Rahane truly looked at home

on his 'home ground' Wankhede Stadium, unleashing delightful strokes that reaffirmed Chennai Super Kings' command on the game.

Rahane and Gaikwad came together in the first over of CSK's chase with Devon Conway playing one onto his wickets off Jason Behrendorff. They added 82 runs for the second wicket before

Rahane perished in the eighth over, caught by Suryakumar Yadav off Piyush Chawla.

With Rahane's blitz at the top and CSK bringing down the equation to almost a run-a-ball by the 10th over, Gaikwad enjoyed the freedom to build his innings. The right-handed opener struck his first four only on the 20th delivery and in the 10th over when CSK were nearing the 100-run mark.

Gaikwad made 40 not out from 36 balls with two fours and a six, adding 43 runs for the third wicket with Shivam Dube (28) and another 34 runs with Ambati Rayudu (20 not out) to take CSK over the line.

Earlier, Jadeja (4-0-20-3) and Santner (4-0-28-2) shared five wickets to lead Chennai Super Kings' charge as Mumbai Indians hobbled to 157/8.

The pair halted Mumbai's advance after the home side had raced to 61 for one in the power-play, with MI's fight petering out against CSK's spinners who made up for the absence of strike

bowler Deepak Chahar.

The India and CSK seamer looked far from best and struggled to even complete his first over, post which he left the field.

An opening stand of 38 runs between skipper Rohit Sharma (21 off 12 balls) and Ishan Kishan (32) was the best partnership for Mumbai, with Suryakumar Yadav's struggle continuing and young batters flopping again.

Rohit hit the first six of the game off Tushar Deshpande (3-0-31-2) but the local player, playing for CSK, had the final laugh, rattling the MI captain off a terrific delivery that held its line to crash into the off and middle stump while the batter looked to play it on midwicket.

With a strong start Mumbai looked well-positioned to launch for a big total, but instead, collapsed to 84/5 in 10 overs, losing four wickets for just 23 runs in 24 balls with Jadeja and Santner causing the damage.

Kishan made a brisk start but Jadeja had him caught at long on in the seventh over. Suryakumar was left baffled when MS Dhoni made the right DRS call appealing for a caught-behind in the eighth over, with the batter trying to sweep a delivery angled down the leg side from Santner.

The umpire, who had called it a wide, had to overturn his decision as replays showed the ball flicked Suryakumar's gloves before settling into Dhoni's.

Mumbai's slide continued with Green (12) hitting one powerfully back at Jadeja, who grabbed a sharp catch. (PTI)

RR beats DC by 57 runs

GUWAHATI, Apr 8:

Rajasthan Royals defeated Delhi Capitals by 57 runs in their Indian Premier League match here on Saturday.

Sent in to bat, RR scored 199 for four in the allotted 20 overs and in reply, the Capitals were restricted to 142 for nine.

Opening the innings after Delhi Capitals skipper David Warner opted to bowl first, young Yashasvi Jaiswal and Jos Buttler gave RR a blazing start by putting on 98 runs for the first wicket in just 8.3 overs.

While Jaiswal slammed 60 off 31 balls, the seasoned Buttler struck 79 in 51 deliveries. Later,

Shimron Hetmyer blasted a 21-ball 39 not out.

For DC, Mukesh Kumar was the most successful bowler with two wickets for 36 runs.

DC lost two wickets in their very first over bowled by Trent Boult, who was on a hat-trick and finished with excellent figures of 3/29 in four overs.

Warner made 61 from 49 balls.

Brief Scores:
Rajasthan Royals: 199 for 4 in 20 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 60, Jos Buttler 79, Shimron Hetmyer 39 not out; Mukesh Kumar 2/36).
Delhi Capitals: 142 for 9 in 20 overs (David Warner 65, Trent Boult 3/29). (PTI)

New Zealand beats Sri Lanka by 4 wickets to win T20 series

QUEENSTOWN, Apr 8:

New Zealand beat Sri Lanka by four wickets with one ball remaining in the third Twenty20 international today to win the series by 2-1 after opener Tim Seifert led its run-chase for the second match in a row.

Seifert made 88 from 48 balls and New Zealand passed Sri Lanka's 182-6 in the last over. He made 79 from 43 balls when New Zealand won the second match by nine wickets after Sri Lanka won the first in a Super Over.

Kusal Mendis also paced Sri Lanka's innings from the top of the order, making 73 from 48 balls. He had support throughout the innings from Pathum Nissanka (24) with whom he put on 76 in 9.3 overs for the first wicket, Kusal Perera (33), whose run out in the 17th over might have cost Sri Lanka a bigger total, and Dhananjaya de Silva (20).

Queenstown's Sir John Davies Oval became the world's newest Twenty20 international venue and provided not just a picturesque backdrop but a superb and competitive pitch which was unused and provided pace and bounce.

Both Mendis and Seifert were able to turn that to advantage

after weathering the risky early moments of both innings when full deliveries swung and short balls pinged through. Mendis hit six fours and five sixes, Seifert 10 fours and three sixes.

Seifert put on 53 for New Zealand's first wicket with Chad Bowes and 84 from 52 balls for the second with captain Tom Latham who made 31. (AP)

Friendly T-20 Cricket Match played

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

DODA, Apr 8: A friendly cricket T-20 match was played between Fearless Knight Team and GMC Doda Team at Sports Stadium Doda, here today.

Toss was won by GMC and it opted to bat first and set a target of 135 runs in 20 overs. Fearless Knight Team chased down the target in 14.3 overs and won the match by 5 wickets.

Ashok Sharma was adjudged as Man of the Match for his all round performance as he scored 25 runs in 29 balls and Sonu scored 25 runs from 17 balls, Vikas Manhas 5 runs from 5 balls, Ashu 6 runs from 10 balls, Nittan Jara 1 run from 6

Volleyball Tourney in memory of Shaheed DySP Gulbadan Singh organised

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 8: Five matches of Volleyball Tournament were played today at Jammu University Volleyball Ground wherein the tournament was organized by Range Police Headquarters

walkover against Volleyball Club Ballore Samba and in second match Volleyball Club Ramgarh Warriors won the match from Volleyball Club Samba.

In third match Volleyball Club Borderline Pllanwala defeated Volleyball Club Khour and in fourth match Ramgarh Warriors won the match from Volleyball Club Kharah Balli while in fifth match Volleyball Club Dewal Billawar won the match from Volleyball Club Kathua.

Public from adjoining areas witnessed the tournament and appreciated J&K Police for organizing such sports events for the youth in the memory of Martyrs.

Staff officer to DIG Jammu, Rajinder Singh Katoch; DySP, Raman Kumar, ADO RPHQ, DySP RPHQ Jatinder Singh Sambhal and Inspector Anjoo Pandita distributed cash prizes to runner up and winner teams.

The Committee Members of the Range Police Hqrs. were also present on the occasion.

Praises Kashmiri bats, say he has used them Hone young talent to have more cricketers from Valley: Jayasuriya

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 8: Former Sri Lankan legend cricketer Sanath Jayasuriya today underlined the need for honing young

Jayasuriya said that education and the sporting set-up in India, as well as Kashmir, is exceptional and that there is a need for doing more in this direction to make a difference.

now would be premature. Right now, all of the teams are playing excellent cricket," he said on being questioned about the World Cup favourites.

When asked about Sri Lanka's chances of qualifying for the main World Cup event, which requires qualifying matches, he responded, "We have to qualify first and I am confident."

He voiced his support for T20 leagues around the world, claiming that the fast-paced cricket format has produced some talented players.

The former cricketer was extremely complimentary of the Kashmir willow bats at the time. "I have used Kashmiri bats, and they are in perfect condition. Individual players are in charge of it, to decide whether to use it or not," he said.

The former Sri Lankan MP stated that he wants the media to emphasise positive elements of life in his nation while declining to answer political questions concerning India, Kashmir or Sri Lanka.

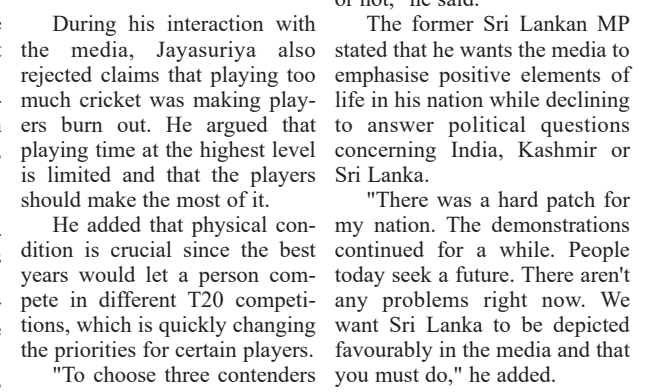
"There was a hard patch for my nation. The demonstrations continued for a while. People today seek a future. There aren't any problems right now. We want Sri Lanka to be depicted favourably in the media and that you must do," he added.



Former Sri Lankan cricketer Sanath Jayasuriya interacting with young players at Srinagar on Saturday.

— Excelsior/Shakeel

Players of CCA and RCC teams pose for a group photograph at Jammu.



Players of CCA and RCC teams pose for a group photograph at Jammu.

Jagandeep, Heemal, Praful share honours as RCC-CCA Series ends in a draw

Excelsior Sports Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 8: Jagandeep Singh of Country Cricket Academy (CCA) and the trio of Heemal Gupta, Praful Dhar and Pranav Sharma of RCC Srinagar shared honours as the 3-Match

One Day Series between Country Cricket Academy and Rainawari Cricket Club (RCC) Srinagar ended in 1-1 draw as the third match played today witnessed a thrilling contest before the scores levelled, resulting in a tie at Country Cricket Stadium Gharota, near here.

It is pertinent to mention here that RCC Srinagar scripted victory in the first match, while CCA registered win in the second match.

Earlier, in the final match of the series, winning the toss and batting first, CCA scored a good total of 208 runs in the stipulated 30 overs, losing 9 wickets in the process.

Jagandeep Singh showed stellar grit and tenacity to notch up a magnificent century, scoring 113 of 87 balls, studded with 14 fours and 5 sixes, while Rishab Jamwal contributed 38 runs of 34 balls with 6 boundaries and Ajeet Kumar chipped in with unbeaten

14 runs to the total. For RCC Srinagar, Praful Dhar, Ankit Pandita and Ashish Bhat took 2 wickets each, while Nishant Saini, Sumit Kumar and Waseem Imtiaz claimed 1 wicket each.

In reply, RCC scored 208/6 in 30 overs, thus the match ended in a tie. Hemaal showed sublimity, solidity and brilliance in his brilliant knock of 78 runs of 59 balls, studded with 5 delectable boundaries and 3 sixes, while Pranav Sharma also played a superb innings of 42-ball 42 runs with 5 crispy boundaries. Ravleen Singh (26), Ashish Bhat (18) and skipper Puneet Wattal (13) were the other contributors, while Praful Dhar scored a valuable unbeaten 18 runs of 14 balls including crucial 9 runs in the last over with four doubles and a single.

For CCA, Yogesh Sikka bagged 2 wickets, while Ajeet Kumar, Sarthak Khoda and Ojeas Bhan claimed 1 wicket each.

For his superb century, Jagandeep was adjudged as the player of the match.

The 3-Match Series was organised by the Management of Country Cricket Academy under the overall supervision of Vikrant Sharma.



Alumni of Dogra College of Education and others pose for a group photograph during a meet on Saturday.

Dogra College organizes alumni meet

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, Apr 8: Dogra College of Education organized alumni meet today with aim to reconnect alumni of various academic sessions since inception of the College in 1994.

The event commenced with presenting the sapling to chief guest, Samar Dev Singh Charak, Secretary, Dogra Educational Trust (DET) followed by lighting of traditional lamp.

Students of the College welcomed the alumni with Saraswati Vandana. Dr. Vikesh Kumar Sharma, Principal, Dogra College of Education updated the alumni about new initiatives taken up by the institution and emphasized on the significant role of the alumni as stakeholders in development of the institution.

The event was marked with cultural programme by students. Many alumni from different sessions gathered to revive their old memories. Videos and audios of the alumni who were not able to attend the meet were also played. The alumni appreciated the efforts of the faculty and

College administration and opined that alumni meet should be organized more frequently. Prof. (Dr.) Darshana Sharma, Director, Dogra Group of Colleges impressed upon the alumni to join the alumni Association of the College.

Samar Dev Singh Charak, Secretary DET in his address appreciated the faculty members for organizing alumni meet, which created a special bond between the students who have passed out and have established themselves already in the outside world and the College.

Souvenirs to the alumni from various batches were also presented by the chief guest.

Prominent those present on the occasion were Gambhir Dev Singh Charak, Alumni and Member Trustee DET; Dr. Bela Charak, Principal, Dogra Degree College; Dr. Shefali Sharma, IQAC/Academic Coordinator and staff members of the College.

The meet concluded with vote of thanks by Shivali Mehta, Lecturer, Dogra College of Education followed by National Anthem.

Chirag accorded warm welcome at home town

Excelsior Correspondent

BHADERWAH, Apr 8: Chirag Kotwal, the runner up of Indian Idol, was given a rousing welcome at his hometown here today and the small town was



Chirag Kotwal, the runner up of Indian Idol receives rousing welcome at his hometown Bhaderwah.

— Excelsior/Tilak Raj

filled with sounds of cheers and applause as the young singer arrived. Born with a passion for singing, Chirag pursued his dream by taking part in auditions and gradually making his way through the competition to reach the final of Indian Idol

programme.

Ultimately his hard work and dedication bore fruits.

Speaking about his experience at Indian Idol stage, Chirag mentioned about his journey, the struggles he faced and the lessons he learned.

He expressed gratitude to his parents, mentors and the Indian Idol platform for providing him opportunity to showcase his talent and achieve his dream. Chirag credited his achievements to the blessings of God and encouragement of all those who played a role in his journey.

The people of Bhaderwah celebrated Chirag's success with great enthusiasm and fervour.

The town was decorated with banners and posters congratulating Chirag on his accomplishment.

NIT students develop Kashmir's first racing model 'Go-Kart'

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Apr 8: A group of 25 students from National Institute of Technology (NIT)



NIT Srinagar developed Go-Kart during a trial run.

Srinagar has developed Kashmir's first racing model, Go-Kart (G-01) which will be participating in All India Go Karting Competition to be held in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu next



week. Department of Mechanical Engineering Team Garuda's first racing model, G-01 was flagged off on Thursday by In-charge Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. M.F Wani and Registrar Prof. Syed Kaiser Bukhari. The ceremony was attended by all Deans and HODs of various departments.

A team of 25 students was formed by Head MED, Prof. Adnan Qayoum and they worked under the mentorship of Dr. H.S Pali and Dr. Dinesh Kumar Rajendran from the past several months on the campus.

Go-Kart has been designed from various equipments and Bajaj Pulsar 150 Engine has been used in the vehicle. It runs on Diesel and goes extreme to 150 km per hour.

Trail run was conducted successfully and it passed all normal tests before going on the road.

In-charge Director, Prof. M.F Wani appreciated Team Garuda's model and stated that it is a proud moment for the entire Institute.

"It is the first time that students have developed the G-Kart model. It is just beginning and more to come. Our students are working day and night on innovations and we are also upgrading our infrastructure on the campus," he said.

In his message, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Rakesh Sehgal said that in the recent decades, GoKart is a new edition in Kashmir and it is more popular in south Indian States.

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