

Wednesday 25th February, 2009

Pakistani captain set to over take Brian Lara's World Record

Records tumble as Younis makes history

Rex Clementine
reporting from Karachi

Antiguans had seen the World Record for most number of runs in an innings fall twice and today there will be an opportunity for the cricket starved public in Karachi to witness the World Record falling in their own soil.

And Brian Lara will certainly be a worried man and the new hero in world of cricket is set to be Younis Khan, the newly anointed Pakistani captain.

As the first Test between Sri Lanka and Pakistan dragged to a high scoring

draw, it provided an opportunity for Younis to stake claims to a few personal milestones and he lit up the National Cricket Stadium with the third triple hundred by a Pakistani.

Pakistan are still 70 runs behind as they

reached 574 for five at stumps in reply to Sri Lanka's 644 for seven declared.

Younis was unbeaten on 306 at stumps on day four and only Hanif Mohammad (337 in 1958) and Inzamam ul Haq (329 in 2002) have scored more runs than him in an innings.

The two former Pakistani greats had achieved the milestone playing under Abdul Hafeez Kardar and Waqar Younis and hence Younis became the first Pakistani captain to score a triple hundred.

Pakistan had been denied of the opportunity to witness any Test cricket for the last 16 months as foreign teams have refused touring the country due to security and political reasons, but when Test cricket eventually returned to the country, Younis made sure he would give something memorable to the Pakistani public.

In an exhibition of amazing stamina

and character, Younis batted for over 12 hours. He took a bold decision to come down to bat without sending a night watchman with just nine balls left to close of play when Pakistan lost its first wicket on day two and carried his bat through for two full days in a wonderful display of batsmanship that lightened up in otherwise what had been a dull Test Match.

Younis doesn't possess the elegance of Brian Lara or the ability of Sachin Tendulkar; but he has certainly been effective for Pakistan and has become the mainstay of their batting line up since the retirement of Inzamam and the exodus of Mohammad Yousuf.

When he resumed with his overnight score of 149, Pakistan needed exactly 149 runs to avoid follow on and he carried on purposefully Younis reached his 150 in the second over of the morning off Dilhara Fernando and on 198 survived a confident leg before wicket appeal off the same bowler; but reached the double hundred the very next ball by putting away a full toss on the off-side.

He had batted sedately but soon after reaching the double hundred cut loose and struck two sixes each off Muralitharan and the part-time spin of Tharanga Paranavithana.

The post tea session was tensed indeed as the spectators eagerly anticipated Younis' triple hundred and he played down seven deliveries while on 299 and reached the landmark in style by reverse sweeping world's highest wicket taker for three runs.

This is also only the first instance in Test cricket where a triple century and two double centuries have been scored in the same match and only on one other instance of over 130 years of Test cricket three players have scored double hundreds.

This is also the first instance in the sport where two captains have scored over 200 runs in the same match.

Younis is the 23rd player in the history of the game to score a triple hundred and the sixth captain to do so after Brian Lara, Mahela Jayawardene, Mark Taylor, Graham Gooch and Bob Simpson.

His unbeaten 306 is also the

SCOREBOARD

Sri Lanka 1st innings: 644-7 (d)

Pakistan 1st innings

(Overnight: 296 for three)

K. Manzoor c P. J'wardene b Mendis	27
S. Butt c M. J'wardene b Muralitharan	23
Y. Khan not out	306
S. Malik run out	56
Misbah-ul-Haq lbw b Fernando	42
F. Iqbal lbw b M. Jayawardene	57
K. Akmal not out	27
Extras: (4b, 11lb, 5w, 16nb)	36
TOTAL: (for 5 wickets)	574

Overs: 202

Fall of wickets: 1-44, 2-78, 3-227, 4-357, 5-531.

Still to bat: Y. Arafat, U. Gul, D. Kaneria, S. Khan.

Bowling: Vaas 32-9-56-0 (6nb), Fernando 34-2-107-1 (7nb, 1w), Mendis 55-13-135-1 (3nb, 4w), Muralitharan 60-12-165-1, Dilshan 9-2-42-0, Paranavithana 5-0-33-0, Sangakkara 4-0-15-0, M. Jayawardene 3-0-6-1.

Toss: Won by Sri Lanka.

Umpires: S. Taufel, (Aus), S. Davis, (Aus).

TV Umpire: Z. Haider, (Pak).

Match Referee: C. Broad, (Eng).

highest individual effort in an innings against Sri Lanka improving on Martin Crowe's 299 at the Basin Reserve in Wellington in 1991.

Younis, who had survived a leg before shout on 23 also survived two other close leg before appeals off Fernando on 198 and 203 and had a tough catch put down by Tillekeratne Dilshan when on 92, but other than that, it was a fine effort by the 31-year-old, who had scored a hundred on his debut also against the Sri Lankans in 2000.

Only two wickets fell on day four as Fernando trapped Misbah ul Haq leg before wicket for 42 after he had added 130 runs for the fourth wicket with Younis and the Sri Lankans toiled without taking a wicket in the afternoon session as Faisal Iqbal added 174 runs for the fifth wicket with his captain.

Mahela Jayawardene introduced Kumar Sangakkara's medium pace as the seventh bowler of the innings after the third new ball failed to fetch a wicket and then brought himself on later and had immediate success when he bowled a slow off-cutter and Faisal trying to pull the delivery was too early on the shot and was ruled leg before wicket for 57.

But by then the pair had avoided the follow on and after Faisal departed, wicket-keeper Kamran Akmal added an unbroken 43 run stand with Younis and the prospects of the World Record falling looms large in Karachi.

Earlier the Sri Lankans had posted the highest total at Karachi when they declared on 644 and Pakistan's 574 for five remains the third highest total here and they are very much expected to overtake India's 599 for seven declared, the second highest total at this ground.



Pakistan cricket captain Younis Khan, who scored an unbeaten 306 runs against Sri Lanka, celebrates at the end of the fourth day play of the first cricket Test match at the National Stadium in Karachi, Pakistan on Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2009. (AP Photo/Shakil Adil)

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Khan wants to play tests on good wicket

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) - Pakistani fans are not exactly rushing to get a taste of test match cricket after a year of going without it.

Pakistan captain Younis Khan thinks the preparation of the pitch at the National Stadium is to blame, saying the batting friendly wickets are hardly conducive to edge-of-the-seat excitement.

Sri Lanka declared its first innings at an imposing 644-7 in the first test and Pakistan finished day three at 296-3, meandering along at less than three runs an over. The 10 wickets to fall in three days came at 94 runs apiece and at just over one

per session.

Khan led from the front Monday and was unbeaten on 149 off 282 balls, hitting 17 boundaries in six hours 11 minutes.

Sri Lanka's captain Mahela Jayawardene and Thilan Samaraweera scored double centuries Sunday and broke the world record for a fourth-wicket stand by contributing 437 runs.

Only a scattering of spectators attended the National stadium on the first three days, despite it being Pakistan's first test match in 14 months because teams such as Australia cancelled tours due to security concerns.

Trinity on first innings

by Rukshan Razak

Off spinner Akila Jayasundra took seven wickets for 74 runs as Trinity College, Kandy recorded a first innings win against D. S. Senanayake College, Colombo in their inter-school cricket encounter that concluded in a draw at Asgiriya Stadium yesterday.

Scores:
Trinity College 252 all out 64.4 overs. (Dinuk Weeraratne 45, Dilan Gangoda 37, Rushan Jaleel 33, Mohamed Sajid 30, Naveen Kavikara 5/58, Malith Wickramasinghe 2/50, Nadun Pathirana 2/45) and 103 all out in 29 overs (Shameera Wijesooriya 21, Dinuk Weeraratne 19, Rushan Jaleel 15, Malith Wickramasinghe 5/42, Naveen Kavikara 4/35).

D.S. Senanayake 190 all out 69 overs. (Harendra Udugamavitharana 33, Charith Satharasinge 50, Naveen Kavikara 23, Akila Jayasundra 7/74) and 96 for 4 in 19 overs (Thiranka Anuruddha 36, Nadun Pathirana, Samud Wickramasinghe 18).

Royal rugby gets Aggreko support

by Reemus Fernando

Aggreko International Power Projects, a multinational company who sponsors mega world sports events, has come forward to sponsor Royal College rugby for the upcoming season.

The multinational company, which has operated here for 15 years, pledged its support to Royal rugby at a function held at the College premises, Colombo, yesterday and handed over a sponsorship cheque to the College authorities to a value of an undisclosed sum.

James Shepherd, Managing Director, South and West Asia of Aggreko International Power Projects, said that the company was pleased to associate with a prestigious educational institution of the country.

"We are pleased, as a company that has operated in Sri Lanka for 15 years, to associate with a school that has a done well in both academic and sports fields," Shepherd told the media.

"As a college that has nurtured rugby in the country, we like to see the development of this sport further at Royal College. It's our hope that the players whom we sponsor today may represent the country one day," added Shepherd who had played rugby himself representing Scottish Under-18 International team during his school days.

Aggreko International is the sponsors of the Rugby 7s World Cup held in Dubai and the Winter Olympics 2010. The Royal College authorities expressed their expectation that the partnership with the Aggreko would continue for years to come.



James Shepherd (2-L), Managing Director South and West Asia of Aggreko International Power Projects hands over the sponsorship cheque to Upali Gunasekara, Principal of Royal College. The multinational company Aggreko International Power Projects who are sponsoring mega world sporting events, namely the Rugby 7s World Cup in Dubai and the Winter Olympics in 2010, extended its support to Royal College rugby yesterday. Also in the picture are (from left): Thio Serafim, Hareen Malwatte, Ajith Pasqual and Athula Munasinghe. (Pic by Sujatha Jayarathne)

18TH ROYAL-THOMIAN PAST CRICKETERS ANNUAL DINNER
DATE 11TH MARCH 2009

Past Cricketers of the prestigious colleges will meet for a fellowship dinner at the "Atrium Lobby" — Cinnamon Grand on the 11th of March 2009 at 7.30 p.m. to reminisce the good old days of golden memories.

You may contact the following for tickets & tickets also will be available at the dinner. Prices are Rs. 1,500/- per ticket and for under 23 and seniors over 65, the pricing will be Rs. 1,000/- per ticket.

Mf. Ajith Pasqual	- 0777364635	Capt. Ajith Peiris	- 0777743893
Mf. Neil Chanmugam	- 0777300024	Mf. Trevor Pajaraham	- 0777750786
Mf. Aruna Gunawardena	- 0773187257	Mf. Shashi Ganeshan	- 6300754
Mf. L. C. Liyanage	- 0777364610	Mf. Anushka Polonowita	- 0773028080
Mf. Ajith Jayasekera	- 0773022442	Mf. Yasas Dharmaratne	- 0777289672

Mf. Manoj Mendis - 0773255622

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