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The Island Sports

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Deccan Chargers players celebrate the dismissal of Royal Challengers Bangalore's Praveen Kumar, unseen, during their 2009 Indian Premier League cricket final match in Johannesburg, South Africa, Sunday May 24, 2009. (AP)

Deccan Chargers win IPL

by Merwin de Villiers
our special correspondent

The final of the second edition of the Indian Premier League tournament provided all the thrills to a packed house at the Wanderers as Adam Gilchrist led Deccan Chargers won the trophy beating South Indian rivals Bangalore Royal Challengers by eight runs.

After a pathetic display in the inaugural edition of the tournament, the two teams qualified for the finals after a much better performance this season. Although Bangalore Royal Challengers started off in disastrous fashion losing four successive games, they managed to qualify for the semi-finals with a committed effort in the second half of the competition.

Then in the semi-final they beat the fancied Chennai Super Kings while Deccan Chargers beat Delhi Daredevils the top team at the league stage.

After putting the opposition in, Bangalore got off to a dream start when captain Anil Kumble foxed danger man Gilchrist off the third ball of the innings.

Herschelle Gibbs held the Deccan Chargers innings together with an unbeaten 53 off 48 balls with three boundaries and two sixes.

He was backed up by Andrew Symonds, who hit 33 in 21 balls with four boundaries and two sixes while Rohit Sharma chipped in with 24.

Kumble, the former Indian captain was the most successful bowler picking up four wickets for 16 runs in his four overs as Deccan Chargers were

restricted for 143 for six in 20 overs.

But that proved to be sufficient as Royal Challengers fell short by six runs in the run chase.

Royal Challengers never looked to be in the run chase as they kept losing wickets at regular intervals and disciplined bowling by Deccan Chargers made the target look a stiff one. Left arm spinner Praveen Kumar was the most successful bowler picking up three for 28 in his four overs. He was backed up by Hameed Singh and Andrew Symonds, who picked up two wickets each.

Roelof van der Merwe with 32 runs in 21 balls and Ross Taylor with 27 in 20 balls kept the Royal Challengers interested for a while, but with the lack of any significant partnerships they were playing catch up.

Royal Challengers needed 15 runs off the last over bowled by R. P. Singh with the last pair in the middle.

Kumble sneaked a run off the first ball giving Robin Uthappa the strike, but the second and third deliveries were dot balls and although he managed a couple off the next ball and a boundary off the fifth delivery leaving eight runs off the last ball and all what R.P. Singh needed to do was to refrain from bowling a no ball to secure the title for Deccan Chargers.

SCOREBOARD

Deccan Chargers	R. van der Merwe st Gilchrist b Ojha	32
A. Gilchrist b Kumble	R. Dravid b H. Singh	9
H. Gibbs not out	R. Taylor c Venugopal Rao b Symonds	27
T. Suman c Pandey b Vinay Kumar	V. Kohli st Gilchrist b Symonds	7
A. Symonds b Kumble	M. Boucher c Gibbs b H. Singh	5
R. Sharma c Pandey b Kumble	R. Uthappa not out	17
V. Rao c Taylor b Kumble	P. Kumar c Singh b Ojha	2
A. Bilakha lbw b Vinay Kumar	R. Vinay Kumar c H. Singh b Harris	8
R. Harris not out	A. Kumble not out	1
Extras: (lb 2, w 6)	Extras: (lb 8, w 1)	9
Total: for six wickets	Total: for nine wickets	137
Overs: 20	Overs: 20	
Did not bat: P. Ojha, Hameet Singh, R.P. Singh.	Fall of wickets: 1-20, 2-36, 3-57, 4-79, 5-99, 6-99, 7-107, 8-110, 9-129.	
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-18, 3-58, 4-110, 5-115, 6-134.	Bowling: Harris 4-1-35-1 (1w), R.P. Singh 4-0-16-1, Symonds 3-0-18-2, Ojha 4-0-28-3, Hameet Singh 4-0-23-2, R. Sharma 1-0-9-0.	
Bowling: Kumble 4-0-16-4, Praveen Kumar 4-0-43-0 (5w), Kallis 4-0-24-0, Vinay Kumar 4-0-30-2 (1w), van der Merwe 4-0-28-0.	Toss: Royal Challengers.	
Royal Challengers	Series: Deccan Chargers.	
J. Kallis b Singh	Player of the match: A. Kumble.	
M. Pandey c Gilchrist b Ojha	Umpires: R. Koertzen and S. Taufel.	
	TV umpire: D. Harper.	
	Match Referee: J. Srinath.	

Bertagnoli wins stage; Menchov retains Giro lead

FAENZA, Italy (AP) - Leonardo Bertagnoli won the 15th stage of the Giro d'Italia with a long breakaway Sunday in severe heat, while Denis Menchov held onto the overall leader's pink jersey.

Pre-race favorite Ivan Basso and another former Giro winner, Stefano Garzelli, launched a failed attack on the penultimate of six climbs but couldn't maintain more than a minute lead on Menchov and the other leaders.

The temperature soared above 35 degrees Celsius (95 Fahrenheit) all along the 161-kilometer (100-mile) route from Forlì to Faenza.

Bertagnoli was the sole remaining rider from a 14-man breakaway that formed at the 27-kilometer (17-mile) mark. An Italian with the Digigiovanni team, he clocked 4 hours, 18 minutes, 34 seconds.

It was very tiring, said Bertagnoli, who is from northern Italy but lives near Faenza. It's a big victory in a great stage. I wanted to win at home. I heard a lot of fans cheering for me.

Serge Pauwels of Belgium finished 54 seconds behind and Marco Pinotti of Italy was third with the same time.

Pauwels shared the lead with Bertagnoli until his Cervelo squad ordered him to slow up shortly before the finish, apparently to wait for teammate Carlos Sastre, the defending



Italy's Leonardo Bertagnoli celebrates as he wins the 15th stage of the Giro d'Italia, Tour of Italy cycling race, from Forlì to Faenza, Sunday, May 24, 2009. (AP)

Tour de France champion. The move backfired because Sastre finished far behind with the other leaders.

Menchov and all the other leaders crossed 1:56 behind, while seven-time Tour winner Lance Armstrong finished 2:56 back.

A Russian with the Rabobank team, Menchov maintained a 34-second lead over Italy's Danilo Di Luca in the overall standings. Levi Leipheimer of the United States is third overall, 43 seconds back.

Basso remained sixth, 3:03 behind Menchov.

The stage started and finished on the via Emilia - an ancient Roman road - with six minor climbs in between.

Basso attacked on the climb to Monte Casale and Garzelli joined him in the front.

With Basso and Garzelli still ahead on the final ascent to Monte Trebbio, Di Luca launched a counter-attack and Menchov and Sastre followed. The Di Luca-Menchov-Sastre trio opened up a 50-meter lead on Leipheimer and a select group of other riders, but couldn't maintain it.

We reacted well and in the end we all finished together, Di Luca said.

Basso and Garzelli's attack then sputtered out on the final downhill stretch and the other favorites caught them with about 15 kilometers (10 miles) to go.

At the end it wasn't enough, but it was still a good move, Basso said.

We've got to continue along these lines, try every day, and hope something good happens.

Armstrong dropped back on each of the last two climbs and was helped to the finish by Astana teammate Yaroslav Popovych. Armstrong crossed 26th and moved up from 14th to 13th overall, 8:28 behind Menchov.

Armstrong is still regaining his form after three and a half years of retirement and after having broken his collarbone in March.

Leipheimer was already weary from the heat and didn't follow when Basso attacked.

When Ivan went, I didn't think it

Inter-club league rugby tournament CR outclass Police 54-3

by Ravi Nagahawatte

Ceylonese Rugby & Football Club (CR&FC) put a question mark on Police Sports Club's presence in the A Division tournament when they scored a run-away 54 points to 3 win against the law enforcement officers at Police Park yesterday.

CR&FC capitalized on the host team's inability to finish a move when in possession of the ball and were successful in raking in eight tries from which sevens were converted by promising fly half Dev Anand.

Police SC enjoyed enough possession in both halves but did little to meet the standards of an A Division team.

Flanker Dhanushka Perera opened the floodgates on

Police when he ran 45 meters to score CR's first try.

The winners then scored at regular intervals and ran up a score of 33 points to nil at half time with tries coming from Mohammed Jabbar (2), Chamara Vithanage (1) and number eight Diran Wamkulasuriya (1).

CR's tries in the second half were scored by Dhanushka Perera (1), prop Terrence Henry (1) and flanker Ishan Noor.

Police's three points came courtesy a penalty by winger Harshana Wijeweera.

Today Navy Sports Club host Army Sports Club at Welisara.



A Police Sports Club player is tackled in the team's match against CR&FC which the latter won 54-3 at Police Park yesterday. (Pic by Kamal Wanniarachchi)

Pistorius returns with 100m victory

MANCHESTER, England (AP) - Oscar Pistorius produced a late surge to overtake Jerome Singleton and win the 100 meters at the Paralympic World Cup on Sunday.

The 22-year-old double amputee from South Africa, who runs on artificial blades attached to his lower legs, was beaten out of the blocks by the American who finished behind him in the Paralympics in Beijing last year.

But Pistorius, in his first race since breaking ribs in a boating accident in February, made up the ground and won

in 11.13 seconds, beating Singleton by 0.03.

The South African is due to run at his specialist distance, the 400 meters, later Sunday.

Pistorius, who needed to win a ruling at the Court of Arbitration for Sport last year to show that his carbon fiber blades don't give him an advantage, is striving to run against the top athletes at the World Championships in Berlin Aug. 15-23.

Newcastle relegated after 1-0 defeat at Villa

BIRMINGHAM, England (AP) - Newcastle's team of underperforming stars was relegated from the Premier League for the first time after a 1-0 defeat at Aston Villa on Sunday.

The Magpies needed to at least avoid defeat to have a chance of prolonging its 16-season stay in the top flight of English football, but Damien Duff deflected Gareth Barry's innocuous 38th-minute shot from 35 meters (yards) past

stranded goalkeeper Steve Harper.

Newcastle had chances, most notably when Villa goalkeeper Brad Friedel saved from Duff early on and Steven Taylor had a shot blocked on the line shortly after, but could easily have conceded more and finished with 10 men after fullback David Edgar was sent off in injury time.

Just one goal would have kept Newcastle in the Premier