

RCB score 35-run victory over SRH in IPL

Hyderabad, Apr 26: Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) scored a dominant 35-run victory over Sunrisers Hyderabad in the 41st match of the Indian Premier League (IPL) at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium here on Thursday.

Cameron Green was instrumental in RCB's victory with an unbeaten 37 off 20 balls and then picked up 2 wickets for 12 runs, including the prize wicket of Pat Cummins who sent some shivers down with his 31 off 15 balls. Chasing RCB's imposing total, Hyderabad's innings got off to a shaky start with Travis Head departing for just 1 run in the opening over. Abhishek Sharma provided some momentum, scoring a quickfire 31 off 13 balls, laced with three fours

and two sixes, before falling in the fourth over. Despite the continuous loss of wickets, Hyderabad's batsmen maintained an average run rate of around 10 runs per over initially. However, the frequent dismissals halted their progress, preventing them from maintaining the required momentum in the latter part of their innings.

Captain Pat Cummins offered some resistance with a brisk 31 off 15 balls, featuring one four and three sixes. Shahbaz Ahmed contributed an unbeaten 40 off 37 balls, while Jaydev Unadkat remained not out on 8 runs. Nevertheless, Hyderabad could only reach 171/8 in their allotted 20 overs, falling short of the target set by RCB.

For RCB, Cameron Green, Swapnil Singh, and Karn Sharma claimed two wickets each, while Yash Dayal and Will Jacques chipped in with a wicket apiece.

The opening pair of Virat Kohli (51) and Faf Du Plessis got off to a solid start, adding 48 runs for the first wicket. However, Thangarasu Natarajan provided SRH with their first breakthrough by dismissing Du Plessis for 25 runs off 12 balls, which included three fours and a six.

In the seventh over, Mayank Markandey struck for SRH, removing Will Jacks (6). Virat and Patidar then built a strong partnership. Despite losing Mahipal Lomror (7) and Dinesh Karthik (11) cheaply, Cameron Green's unbeaten 37 off

20 balls and Swapnil Singh's unbeaten 12 off 8 balls propelled RCB to a formidable total.

RCB's innings received a significant boost from Rajat Patidar's aggressive batting. The right-hander was in sublime touch, smashing a scintillating 50 runs off a mere 20 balls. His innings were adorned with 2 boundaries and an impressive 5 sixes, putting SRH bowlers under immense pressure.

Together with Virat, Patidar formed a threatening partnership that was steering RCB towards a formidable total. However, their promising stand was cut short by SRH's Jaydev Unadkat in the 13th over. Unadkat's dismissal of Patidar broke the crucial partnership and provided SRH with a much-needed breakthrough.

Women's Hockey League from April 30

Ranchi, Apr 26: Hockey India Secretary General Bhola NathSingh on Thursday in a press conference held here at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Astroturf Hockey Stadium, spoke to reports about the importance of the much-awaited National Women's Hockey League 2024-25.

Phase 1 of the league will be held in Ranchi from April 30 to May 9, marking a historic moment for women's hockey in India. Thisfirst-of-its-kind domestic league promises to be

a thrilling showcase ofthe nation's top female hockey talent.

Structured in twophases, the NWHL aims to elevate the sport and provide a platform forboth established and aspiring players. The inaugural phase will feature the top eight teams from the recent 14th Hockey India Senior Women's National Championships: Hockey Haryana, Hockey Maharashtra, Hockey Jharkhand (host), Hockey Madhya Pradesh, Hockey Bengal, Hockey Mizoram, Manipur

Hockey, and Hockey Association of Odisha. Further emphasising its commitment to nurturing young talent, the league willinclude players Under 21 years of age. This inclusion ensures a strongfocus on grassroots development and future generations of hockey stars.

The National Women's Hockey League promises to be a game-changer, notably by raising the bar for women's hockey but also by inspiring futuregenerations. This competition will also serve as a vital platform

AIFF records 138% increase in women footballers

New Delhi, Apr 26: Indian football has recorded a historic 138 per cent surge in women's player registration for the last two years, indicating a healthy growth in the popularity of the sport as well as an increase in young female athletes opting for football, professionally.

According to the All India Football Federation (AIFF) Central Registration System (CRS) data, India has 27,936 registered female footballers as of March 2024. This is a massive 138 per

cent rise in numbers of female footballers in last 21 months. India had 11,724 female footballers registered in June 2022.

"It's a very positive trend we are witnessing in India," said AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey. "To have as many as 16,212 new female players in our football ecosystem is an encouraging sign that we are on the right track in our planning for the women's football in India." Chaubey attributed the increase to a slew of measures including

course correction that was brought in for the Indian Women's League (IWL) in the current season of 2023-24, in addition to the subsequent introduction of a second division competition IWL-2.

"Availability of live broadcast has indeed helped in enhancing the profile of the sport," he added.

The 2022-23 season of IWL was played at a single venue in Ahmedabad among 16 teams, with Gokulam Kerala FC winning their third con-

Shotput legend Valerie offers to support Neeraj

Bengaluru, Apr 26: Four-time World Champion and celebrated shotputter, Dame Valerie Adams, has offered her support to Indian Olympic gold medalist Neeraj Chopra as he prepares to defend his title in the javelin event at the forthcoming Paris Olympics.

During her visit to Bengaluru for the 16th edition of the Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) World 10K

Adams empathised with the immense pressure that Neeraj is facing in the lead-up to the prestigious international competition.

"The pressure on Neeraj is undoubtedly immense; the burden he carries is significant. However, being a seasoned athlete, Neeraj understands what lies ahead and is determined to give his best for himself and his nation," Adams remarked,

offering heartfelt words of encouragement to the Indian champion, here on Thursday during a press conference.

Adams, renowned for her illustrious career and distinction as the first woman to secure four consecutive individual titles at the WA World Championships, emphasised the resilience and unwavering commitment required at the pinnacle of athletics. She acknowledged the formidable challenges that elite athletes like Neeraj confront but expressed confidence in his ability to excel under pressure.

The TCS World 10K Bengaluru event, scheduled to take place on Sunday, has provided

Still short of full fitness, clarifies Nadal

Madrid, Apr 26: Rafael Nadal admitted on the eve of his debut in the Madrid Open tennis tournament that he is still short of full fitness as he continues his 'goodbye' season.

"The week has been good in some respects. I don't think I'm ready to play at 100%, but I think I'm ready to go out and play on Thursday," Nadal told the press, although he admitted he probably "wouldn't play," if he wasn't in Madrid.

The former world number one has been training in the Spanish capital since his second-round defeat in Barcelona last week, when he suffered a hip injury.

"If it was Paris, I would not go on court. That's the reality and that is why I want to try and go out and play, because I want to try to go and play and feel good," continued Nadal, who has his sights set on a final appearance at the French Open.

"I am going to do the things I have to do to be able to play Paris. I want to try to go out and play in Paris and feel capable of competing well," the Spaniard continued, although he insisted world "wouldn't end" if he can't play in Roland Garros.

"I also have the Olympic Games," he added.

Kampala, Apr 26: Uganda's cricket team will pitch camp and intensify their training program in Sri Lanka ahead of the International Cricket Council (ICC) T20 Men's World Cup.

The team is expected to travel to Sri Lanka on Thursday where they will also play six international friendlies.

Abhay Sharma, the newly-appointed head

coach from India, on Thursday said that he was very excited that the programme to train in SriLanka was already in the pipeline before he had arrived in Uganda.

"I am very happy that the team will have the opportunity to travel to ahigh cricket playing nation like Sri Lanka to camp and also have acouple of friendly matches," added Sharma.



Glib Talkers..!

It was at my cousin's office years ago that I met him. He was, according to my cousin, a star salesman, "Hear him Bob," said my cousin, "He has the gift of the gab!" Which meant he could talk fast and easily as words came out of his mouth faster than a speeding race car.

But my cousin fired him in a month. "I don't know what was wrong," he said, "He had the gift of the gab, yet he failed to make a sale!"

I worked as a salesman during that time, for my dad, and as I studied sales, I could have told my cousin that being a great talker didn't make you a great salesman, but being an intent listener did.

What happens with people who talk too much is that they listen too little.

And it's not just words that you need to listen to, it's also his or her body language. His or her eyes, they're all saying something all the time. A shift from one leg to another means they are getting restless, and you need to stop.

You need to listen with your ears and also your eyes.

Also remember that many who are glib talkers are treated with suspicion.

I once had a manager who used to tell me, he could confuse the customer into signing on the dotted line. I wondered what he meant, till, I realized, he managed to get the sale, but after that was the most troublesome customer, because he had not understood anything about the product, while my salesman was busy 'confusing' him.

The sale, though struck, finally became a tedious one to execute.

People look for honesty. They look for integrity. They don't look for fast talkers who block their questions.

And the man with the gift of the gab asks gloomily, "I can talk so well, why can't I sell?"

A salesman saw his customer, staring out the window disconsolately.

"What seems to be the trouble?" he asked.

"I promised my wife a Pomeranian and the cheapest one I can get is \$200. It's too much."

"You're right. I can sell you one for \$125."

"Great! When can you deliver it?"

"I'll let you know."

Once outside he rushed to a public telephone and rang his sales manager.

"Listen. I've just sold a Pomeranian for \$125. What the hell is a Pomeranian?"

That's what happens to salesmen who confuse and don't listen, they sell nothing. Remember you don't need to be glib talker to sell. Listen, understand, and sell.

And this article is not for professional salesmen alone, but for all of us, because in all we do and say, we are actually selling, maybe a thought, an idea, or advice!

So, sell right..!

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CPCL TT winning team of Praveen Raja and Gopakumar flanked by chief guests coaches Rajat Kamal, Ramnath and Sridhar Yenuganti. Hon. Secretary of CPCL.

Praveen Raja, Gopakumar Menon win CPCL TT team championship

Chennai, Apr. 26: Praveen Raja and Gopakumar Menon won the CPCL Tables Tennis Team title held at Godavari Hall, Andhra Social and Cultural Association, beating Sumeet Sanghvi and Ranjith Gopinath in the finals

The Results : Team Finals: Elite: Praveen Raja beat Sumeet Sanghvi 9-11, 11-7, 11-6.

Elite and Pro - Doubles: Praveen Raja and Gopakumar Menon beat Ammar Hyderi and Ghanshyam 11-6, 14-12.

Elite and Pro - Doubles: Sumeet Sanghvi and

Ranjith Gopinath beat Navin Ramanathan and Devendra Mehta 11-6, 5-11, 11-7

Quarter -Finals: Elite: Sumeet Sanghhvi beat Commander (Retd) S.Srikumar 11-6, 11-5. Deepak Punwani beat Navin Ramanathan 11-7, 11-5. Ammar Hyderi beat Sanjay Madhavan 11-9, 11-4; Praveen Raja beat C B Santhosh 11-4, 11-7

Elite and Pro - Doubles: Praveen Raja and Gopakumar Menon beat Ammar Hyderi and Ghanshyam 11-6, 14-12.

Elite and Pro - Doubles: Sumeet Sanghvi and

and Ranjith Gopinath beat Commander (Retd) Srikumar and A K Nataraj 11-9, 7-11, 11-9; Navin Ramanathan and Devendra Mehta beat Deepak Punwani and G.D.Ranka 11-13, 11-8, 11-6; Ammar Hyderi and Ghanshyam beat Sanjay Madhavan and Suriyanarayanan 11-5, 11-7; Praveen Raja and Gopakumar Menon beat C B Santhosh and Ramasubramanian 11-5, 11-6

BFI names 50-member squad for Asian meet

New Delhi, Apr 26: The Boxing Federation of India (BFI) has selected 50 boxers, including Olympic bound Preeti (54kg) to represent India at the upcoming ASBC Asian U22 & Youth Boxing Championship 2024 to be held in Astana, Kazakhstan from April 27 to May 7.

Preeti, who secured Paris Olympic quota after winning bronze medal at the 2022 Asian Games, will lead India's charge in the U-22 category along with the former youth world champion and 2022 Asian elite boxing champion gold medalist Alfia Pathan (81kg).

Reigning youth world champions Devika Ghorpade (52kg) and Vishvanath Suresh (48kg), and senior national champions Prachi (63kg), Akash Gorkha (60kg) and Jugnoo (86kg) are also part of the U-22 squad.

Both U-22 & Youth competitions will see

participation of 25 Indian boxers each as the men's and women's section will have 13 and 12 categories respectively.

The players have been selected based on their strong performances in the trials conducted by the BFI at the Army Institute of Sports Pune from April 6 to 10 for the U-22 category and at the NCOE Rohtak from April 12-15 for the youth category.

"The boxers were selected from across the country through highly competitive trials. The tournament is a significant opportunity for these young boxers to demonstrate their skills and gain invaluable international exposure in one of Asia's most prestigious tournaments. I am sure they will bring glory to the nation and wish them all the very best" said Hemanta Kumar Kalita, Secretary General, Boxing Federation of India.

The reigning junior

world champions Nisha (52kg) and Akansha (70kg) will lead the country's challenge in the youth women's section along with the Asian youth champion Nikita Chand (60kg).

The youth men's section, on the other hand, will see participation of the junior world championships silver medallists Jatin (57kg), Sahil (80kg) and Hemant Sangwan (86kg). The prestigious tournament will have 400-plus boxers from more than 24 countries fighting for the medals across 25 weight categories.

The action will be streamed live on Asian Boxing Confederation (ASBC) YouTube channel.

Youth Squad: Men : Brijesh Tamta (48kg), Aryan (51kg), Jitesh (54kg), Jatin (57kg), Sagar Jakhar (60kg), Yashwardhan Singh (63.5kg), Sumit (67kg), Priyanshu (71kg), Kundu (75kg), Sahil

(80kg), Hemant Sangwan (86kg), Aryan (92kg), Lakshay Rathi (+92kg).

Women : Annu (48kg), Laxmi (50kg), Nisha (52kg), Tamanna (54kg), Yatri Patel (57kg), Nikita Chand (60kg), Shrushti Sathe (63kg), Parthavi Grewal (66kg), Akansha Phalaswal (70kg), Rudrika (75kg), Khushi Pooniya (81kg), Nirjhara Bana (+81kg).

U 22 Squad: Men: Vishvanath Suresh (48kg), Jadumani Singh M (51kg), Ashish (54kg), Nikhil (57kg), Akash Gorkha (60kg), Ajay Kumar (63.5kg), Preet Malik (67kg), Ankush (71kg), Kunal (75kg), Dhruv Singh (80kg), Jugnoo (86kg), Yuvraj (92kg), Rhythim (+92kg).

Women : Guddi (48kg), Tammana (50kg), Devika Ghorpade (52kg), Preeti (54kg), Poonam (57kg), Priyanka (60kg), Prachi (63kg), Kajal Devi A (66kg), Saneh (70kg), Muskan (75kg), Alfia Pathan (81kg), Ritika (81+kg).