



SRH beat CSK by five wickets

HYDERABAD, MAY 19: Ishan Kishan struck a fluent 70 after Pat Cummins displayed his mastery over length and pace with a three-wicket burst as Sunrisers Hyderabad ensured an IPL 2026 playoff berth with a smooth five-wicket victory over Chennai Super Kings here on Monday.

Chasing 181 was never going to be easy on a slowish Chepauk track. But Kishan, who hammered seven fours and three sixes in his 47-ball knock, and an equally enterprising Heinrich Klaasen (47 off 26 balls) added 75 runs for the third wicket, powering Hyderabad to 181 for five in 19 overs.

SRH now have 16 points with a game in hand -- good enough to carry them to the playoffs and the night's result meant that Gujarat Titans (16 points) also marched into the knockouts.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (18 points) have already sealed their place in the playoffs, leaving other contenders to fight it out for the lone remaining place.

The Super Kings, who have 12 points from 13 matches, also are not yet completely out of the race to the knockouts.

Cutting back to the match, the Sunrisers did not have a particularly bright beginning to the chase, losing Travis Head early.

Abhishek Sharma too struggled for his timing, crawling to a 21-ball 26 as SRH could not find momentum in the Power Play, which they ended on 45 for one.

But once Klaasen, who was dropped on 18 by Spencer Johnson off Noor Ahmad, joined Kishan, the complexion of the game changed.



The duo neutralised CSK spinners -- Akeal Hossain and Ahmad -- with exemplary shot-making and footwork during their alliance as SRH closed in on the target.

Kishan completed his 50 in 37 balls but lost Klaasen to a brilliant stumping by Sanju Samson off Ahmad. However, the left-hander, who played some brilliant shots around the field, converted that fifty into something more substantial to drive his side's charge.

However, he was not there to take SRH home as he fell to Anshul Kamboj but by then the 2016 champions needed just six runs to win.

Earlier, pacer Cummins displayed his absolute control over his craft, but a collective batting effort helped CSK reach a competitive 180/7.

The Hyderabad skipper (3/28) struck at crucial junctures of the match to ensure that CSK would not embark on a lopsided run after the home side elected to bat.

Samson gave a thunderous start to the Super Kings, smashing Nitish Kumar Reddy for 6, 4, 4, to eke out 17 runs in the first over.

Samson handed an equally harsh treatment to Praful Hinge in the next over, biffing him for a hat-trick of fours.

But Cummins introduced himself in the third over, and pitched one up at good pace, and Samson's booming drive ended in the safe mitts of stumper Ishan Kishan.

Urvil Patel gave an early warning of hitting abilities with two successive sixes off Cummins, but Sakib Husain's slow ball beat his horizontal bat to rattle the stumps.

Chennai captain Rituraj Gaikwad and the impressive Kartik Sharma (32, 19 balls) constructed a 42-run stand for the third wicket to keep their side on the track.

Kartik underlined his fast-growing maturity with some stunning shots like an inside-out four off Hinge

and a pulled six of left-arm wrist spinner Shivang Kumar. But Cummins returned to account for the young right-hander as a pace off delivery outside off-stump robbed momentum from his upper cut, which ended with Nitish in deep.

Soon, Cummins' pacy chest-high bouncer accounted for Gaikwad, snapping his painful 15 off 21 balls. Gaikwad's lame pull could not clear Eshan Malinga in the deep.

Stranded without any force, CSK found some wind through Dewald Brevis (44, 27 balls) and Shivam Dube (26), who added 59 runs for the fifth wicket.

Brevis, who struggled for his range in this IPL so far, was impeccable on the night, creaming Cummins for six and Nitish for a maximum and a four. It was his highest score in this IPL season.

But Malinga rearranged his stumps with a 141 kmph thunderbolt to stall CSK again.

Lalthantluangi picked for Australia tour

NEW DELHI, MAY 19: Defender Lalthantluangi on Monday received her maiden senior team call-up for the upcoming tour of Australia, where seasoned midfielder Salima Tete will lead the Indian women's hockey team.

The tour, scheduled from May 26 to 30 in Perth, is a part of preparation for the FIH Hockey Women's Nations Cup 2025-26, which will be held in Auckland from June 15-21.

The Indian team heads into the tour on the back of a strong showing in Argentina earlier this year, where it displayed plenty of fight to secure two wins in the four-match series.

Salima, a bronze medalist at the 2022 Commonwealth Games and Asian Games, will have plenty of experience alongside her with the likes of Savita, Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam, Lalremsiami and



Navneet Kaur, as well as exciting young talent including Sonam, Hina Bano and Lalthantluangi.

Savita and Bichu Devi Kharibam will be the reliable options in the goalkeeping department. In defence, Nikki Pradhan, Ishika

Chaudhary, Sushila Chanu Pukhrambam, Lalthantluangi and Jyoti will feature alongside Shilpi Dabas, who has earned her maiden senior team call-up.

"We have picked a squad with a good balance of experienced and young players,

some of whom will get their first minutes at the international level.

It's important to keep developing players, and the best way to do that is under pressure in international matches," Chief coach Sjoerd Marijne said.

Kohli highest grosser in IPL history, KKR most valuable franchise: Report

MUMBAI, MAY 19: Virat Kohli has emerged as the highest earner in the 18-year-old IPL's history, grossing Rs 230 crore from his association with Royal Challengers Bengaluru's association, as per a report published on Tuesday.

The combined valuation of all 10 Indian Premier League franchises stands at Rs 1.63 lakh crore, the report by Fanatic Sports and Hurun has said.

The Shah Rukh Khan-owned Kolkata Knight Riders leads with a valuation of over Rs 19,200 crore, followed by the Ambanis-owned Mumbai Indians at Rs 18,400 crore and Chennai Super Kings at Rs 18,400 crore, the report said.

Interestingly, the average valuation of an IPL team is projected to jump to USD 15 billion by 2032 from the present USD 1.8 billion, the report, which comes amid a heightened interest in deal-making among franchisees, said.

"India is standing at the base of that curve right now. Talent is being manufactured at the grassroots. Capital is arriving at the top. A billion-plus consumers are



about to have the income to participate in between," Hurun India's Founder and Chief Researcher Anas Rahman Junaid said.

Rohit Sharma with earnings of Rs 227.2 crore and MS Dhoni at Rs 200 crore follow Kohli in all-time IPL earnings, the report said.

In contrast, among women cricketers, Smriti Mandhana tops Women's Premier League with cumulative earnings at Rs 13.7 crore till now and the top-10 women players have earned just Rs 90 crore till now.

In the case of hockey, the country's national sport, the contrasts are even starker.

Defender Harmanpreet Singh commands the highest salary in the Hockey India League with a salary of Rs 78 lakh, followed by the Rs 72 lakh grossed by Abhishek Nain, a forward, and Rs 70 lakh by midfielder Hardik Singh, the report said.

Hockey, however, scores on delivering young talent with players such as 14-year-old Ketan Kushwaha and two 15-year-olds, Purti

Ashish Tani and Rahul Yadav, the report said.

Looked at from a geographical perspective, the sport which has won India big laurels in Olympics, also wins from a grassroots relevance perspective, the report said, pointing out how a single town in Odisha (Sundargarh) contributes 12 athletes in the list.

The overall list tracks 1,323 elite athletes from 504 cities, 181 states/provinces, and 53 countries across 59 teams in six leagues across sports.

It was class bowling in last six overs: DC skipper Axar

NEW DELHI, MAY 19: Delhi Capitals skipper Axar Patel lauded his bowlers, particularly "youngster" Mitchell Starc, for helping the team fight back in the last six overs and score an important five-wicket win over Rajasthan Royals in their IPL match here on Sunday.

The win swelled DC's tally to 12 points from 13 matches with a game in hand, but it also gave them an outside chance to enter the playoffs if they win their final fixture next Sunday, provided some other results go their way.

"We bowled really well in the middle overs to make a comeback. The last six overs, it was class bowling. The bowling unit refused to give up. Our 'youngster' (Starc) did that for us today," Axar said in the post-match presentation here on Sunday.

Axar also said the opening



stand of 105 between KL Rahul (56) and Abhishek Porel (51) eased pressure on the middle-order batters.

"It's obviously special to win at home. One thing has improved that we used to lose wickets in clusters eas-

ily, but today we got a good opening stand, which helped the other batters."

Player of the match Starc, said the DC bowling unit fought back well.

"We didn't bowl too badly in the powerplay but they

batted well. But we brought things back later and KL batted fantastically, and to finish at home with a win is always nice. Adjusting as quickly as you can is key because boundaries aren't too big here," said the pacer.

Goa to host 5th Asia Cup Bridge Championships from June 21

NEW DELHI, MAY 19: The prestigious fifth Asia Cup Bridge Championships, conducted under the aegis of the Asia Bridge fraternity, with participation from leading nations across Asia and Oceania.

This year, the championship is expected to welcome participants from over 20 countries, including India, China, Japan, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong China,

Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Prasad Keni, president of BFI, said, "This is the second time India has been honoured to host the prestigious Asia Cup Bridge Championship. It highlights

India's growing stature as a premier destination for global mind sports and intellectual sporting events.

"Furthermore, it significantly boosts Goa's positioning as a dynamic hub for international sporting tourism, proving that the state can seamlessly merge world-class leisure with competitive, high-intellect global tournaments."

and we will leave for a series before it. The preparations have been going well and I hope that we keep working hard and make India proud and bring the cup back home," Mandhana said.

Mandhana, who also interacted with school-going children here, said it is important for younger generation to know that there are career opportunities in sports.

"The questions that they ask at that age, I would not (have) known what they are asking. They really want to

India squad in good shape for T20 World Cup: Smriti Mandhana

MUMBAI, MAY 19: Unwilling to divulge much about the Indian women's cricket team's preparations for the T20 World Cup next month, vice-captain Smriti Mandhana on Tuesday said all she can reveal is that the players are in good shape for the 12-team tournament.

The women's T20 World Cup will be played in England and Wales from June 12 with ODI World Cup winners India set to take on arch-rivals Pakistan in their tournament-opener on June 14.

"The camp has gone well and I would like to keep it at that. I would not like to say any specifics of what we have worked on because we are heading to a World Cup," Mandhana said at a press conference organised by feminine care brand Pee Safe here.

"But what I would say is that all the girls are looking in good shape, they have been practising really well and a lot of hard work has gone behind it," she added.

The 15-member Indian squad underwent a training camp at the Centre of Excellence (COE) in Bengaluru and is set to depart for England on May 22 for a three-match T20I series against the hosts before the World Cup.



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"The questions that they ask at that age, I would not (have) known what they are asking. They really want to

know what we go through which is extremely nice," Mandhana said.

"For me it's very important to give them a message firstly how sports and cricket have a career and you can actually make a career out of it.

"The other important thing for me which I try and tell is to enjoy the process and what they do...I just really want all the kids to enjoy and follow their passion so that's one message that I give to the young kids," she added.