

When Sri Lanka emerged World Cup runners-up in 2007



Ricky Ponting and Mahela Jayawardene pose with the World Cup before the final match

Sri Lanka, after winning the 1996 edition of the World Cup, made it to the final of the 2007 World Cup tournament played in the West Indies. Incidentally, Sri Lanka's semi final opponents both in the 2007 and 2011 World Cup tournaments were New Zealand. On both occasions, Sri Lanka beat the Kiwis to enter the final.

Australia reached the final by defeating South Africa in the other final of the 2007 World Cup tournament. Eventually Australia defeated Sri Lanka at the Kensington Oval in Barbados on April 28, 2007 in the rain-affected match. They defeated Sri Lanka by 53 runs on Duckworth and Lewis method to lift their

4th World Cup trophy and 3rd in-a-row.

This is how our man **ELMO RODRIGOPULLE** reported the final in the *Sunday Observer* of April 29, 2007.

Aussies win third successive World Cup

Elmo Rodrigopulle in West Indies

Cricket: In a rain ruined game where the overs were reduced and the Duckworth/Lewis system was introduced in the 2007 World Cup final here today Australia clinched



When the Aussies won the third successive World Cup

the ICC World Cup with over US\$ two million in prize money.

It was a sad end to a final that promised so much.

The Lankans although they lost, that they entered the final was great reward for their hard work throughout the tournament.

They were confident and they can be satisfied that they were robbed of winning this final by the fickle Barbados weather.

Chasing 282 for victory in 38 overs, and when Sanath Jayasuriya and Kumar Sangakkara were going great guns the target looked gettable.

But once they went - Sangakkara 54 with 6 fours and one six and Jayasuriya for 63 with 9 fours who,

put on 126 for the second wicket Lanka's chances diminished.

In rain and bad light play was stopped and when it restarted the Lankans had to make 269 for victory in 36 overs which was beyond the Lankans reach.

Lanka finally made - 216 for 8 wickets.

The Australians thus became the only country to win the World Cup three times in a row.

Gilchrist when he made 149 hit the highest and quickest century in one-day finals since its inception.

The day dawned bright and sunny and with the spectators flocking to the ground sporting their diverse colours, a wonderful final was on the cards.

But an hour before the schedule starting time a thin drizzle turned hard and the covers had to be brought out to protest the

wicket, especially from being a affected.

From then on it was frustration with starts likely and delayed and when Ricky Ponting won the toss, he surprised everyone by batting because of the overcast conditions.

But then when the clouds rolled by and the Aussies batted and the brutal manner in which Adam Gilchrist blasted and tore the Lankan attack, Ponting's decision was justified.

Sri Lanka and Australia fielded their semi-final teams not wanting to do any tinkering.

The beliefs that the wicket would sweat and there would be moisture because it was covered was only a myth as the Aussie openers Adam Gilchrist and Matthew Hayden made a sumptuous curry of the Lankan attack.

When the overs were reduced to 38 a side it took away most of the interest and the game as a contest was lost what with three bowlers allowed a maximum of 8 overs and two bowlers to bowl a maximum of 7 overs. Only two power plays were permitted.

The Lankan attack which was respected upto the final, went to pieces as a hurricane in the form of Gilchrist caused devastation not seen in world cup final before.

Gilchrist had not made his presence felt in the earlier games, made

amends with interest as he bludgeoned the attack showing no mercy on any of the bowlers to reach his 50 in 43 balls with 5 fours and 2 sixes.

His century came in 72 balls with 8 fours and 6 sixes. When he went for 149 he had hit 13 fours and 8 sixes.

It was a truly great innings befitting a final. Matthew Hayden who had made three centuries in this series, was pedestrian as his illustrious partner was cutting loose.

They put on 172 for the first wicket, when Hayden went for 38.

The Gilchrist and Ponting added 52 for the second wicket when Gilchrist finally departed much to the delight of the Lankans but by that time he had set his team on course for a formidable score. In all he faced 106 balls.

Ponting went for 37 run out by Jayawardena. Before being out Ponting showed hits unsporting qualities by running down the centre of the pitch which warranted an official warning by umpire Steve Bucknor.

Shane Watson was bowled by Malinga for 3 with Andrew Symonds and Michael Clarke remaining unbeaten on 23 and 8 as the Aussies made 281 for 5 a formidable score considering the circumstances. Of the bowlers Malinga had the best figures of 2 for 49, while it was a sad sight to see Dilhara Fernando going for 74 in his 8 overs.



ICC Cricket World Cup
WEST INDIES 2007

ICC World Cup - Final
Australia vs Sri Lanka
(Australia won by 53 runs (D/L method))

SCORE BOARD

AUSTRALIA		SRI LANKA	
A.C. Gilchrist c Silva		S.T. Jayasuriya	
b Fernando	149	b Clarke	63
M.L. Hayden		K.C. Sangakkara	
c Jayawardene b Malinga	38	c Ponting b Hogg	54
R.T. Ponting		D.P.M.D. Jayawardene	
run out (Jayawardene)	37	lbw b Watson	19
A. Symonds not out	23	L.P.C. Silva b Clarke	21
S.R. Watson b Malinga	3	T.M. Dilshan	
M.J. Clarke not out	8	run out (Clarke/McGrath)	14
Extras (lb-4, w-16, nb-3)	23	R.P. Arnold	
Total (4 wickets, 38 overs)	281	c Gilchrist b McGrath	1
Did not bat: M.E.K. Hussey, G.B. Hogg, N.W. Bracken, S.W. Tait, G.D. McGrath.		W.P.U.J.C. Vaas not out	11
Fall of wickets: 1-172 (Hayden), 2-224 (Gilchrist), 3-261 (Ponting), 4-266 (Watson).		S.L. Malinga	
Bowling: W.P.U.J.C. Vaas 8-0-54-0 (2nb, 1w), S.L. Malinga 8-0-74-1 (1nb, 4w), M. Muralitharan 7-0-44-0 (2w), T.M. Dilshan 2-0-23-0 (1w), S.T. Jayasuriya 5-0-33-0.		st Gilchrist b Symonds	10
		C.R.D. Fernando	
		not out	1
		Extras (lb-1, w-14)	15
		Total (8 wickets, 36 overs)	215
		Did not bat: M. Muralitharan, 2-123 (Sangakkara), 3-145 (Jayasuriya), 4-156 (Jayawardene), 5-188 (Dilshan), 6-190 (C.Silva), 7-194 (Arnold), 8-211 (Malinga).	
		Bowling: N.W. Bracken 6-1-34-1 (1w), S.W. Tait 6-0-42-0 (2w), G.D. McGrath 7-0-31-1 (1w), S.R. Watson 7-0-49-1 (3w), G.B. Hogg 3-0-19-1, M.J. Clarke 5-0-33-2 (2w), A. Symonds 2-0-6-1.	
SRI LANKA			
W.U. Tharanga			
c Gilchrist b Bracken	6		

ICC World Cup 2011 results at a glance



Qualifying round :

India (370/4 in 50) beat Bangladesh (283/9 in 50) by 87 runs in Mirpur.
 Kenya (69 in 23.5) lost to New Zealand (72/0 in 8) by ten wickets in Chennai.
 Sri Lanka (332/7 in 50) beat Canada (122 in 36.5) by 210 runs in Sooriyawewa.
 Australia (262/6 in 50) beat Zimbabwe (171 in 36.4) by 91 runs in Ahmedabad.
 Netherlands (292/6 in 50) lost to England (296/4 in 48.4) six wickets in Nagpur.
 Pakistan (317/7 in 50) beat Kenya (112 in 33.1) by 205 runs at Sooriyawewa.
 West Indies (222 in 47.3) lost to South Africa (223/3 in 42.5) by seven wickets in Delhi.
 New Zealand (206 in 46.1) lost to Australia (207/3 in 34) by seven wickets in Nagpur.
 Bangladesh (205 in 49.1) beat Ireland (178 in 45) by 27 runs in Mirpur.
 Pakistan (277/7 in 50) beat Sri Lanka (266/9 in 50) by 11 runs in Colombo.
 India (338 in 49.5) tied with England (338/8 in 50) in Bangalore.
 Zimbabwe (298/9 in 50) lost to Canada (123 in 42.1) by 175 runs in Nagpur.
 West Indies (330/8 in 50) beat Netherlands (115 in 31.3) by 215 runs.
 Kenya (142 in 43.4) lost to Sri Lanka (146/1 in 18.4) by nine wickets in Colombo.
 England (327/8 in 50) lost to Ireland (329/7 in 49.1) by three wickets in Bangalore.
 South Africa (351/6 in 50) beat Netherlands (120 in 34.5) by 231 runs in Mohali.
 Pakistan (184 in 34) beat Canada (138 in 42.5) by 46 runs in Colombo.
 Zimbabwe (162 in 46.2) lost to New Zealand (166/0 in 33.3) by ten wickets in Ahmedabad.
 Bangladesh (58 in 18.5) lost to West Indies (59/1 in 12.2) by nine wickets in Mirpur.
 Sri Lanka (146/5 in 32.5) no result with Australia due to rain in Colombo.
 England (171 in 46.4) beat South Africa (165 in 47.4) by six runs in Chennai.
 Ireland (207 in 47.5) lost to India (210/5 in 46) by five wickets in Bangalore.
 Kenya (198 in 50) lost to Canada (199/5 in 45.3) by five wickets in Delhi.
 New Zealand (302/7 in 50) beat Pakistan (192 in 41.4) by 110 runs in Pallekele.
 Netherlands (189 in 46.4) lost to India (191/5 in 36.3) by five wickets in Delhi.
 Sri Lanka (327/6 in 50) beat Zimbabwe (188 in 39) by 139 runs in Pallekele.
 West Indies (275 in 50) beat Ireland (231 in 49) by 44 runs in Mohali.
 England (225 in 49.4) lost to Bangladesh (227/8 in 49) by two wickets in Chittagong.
 India (296 in 48.4) lost to South Africa (300/7 in 49.4) by three wickets in Nagpur.
 New Zealand (358/6 in 50) beat Canada (261/9 in 50) by 97 runs in Mumbai.
 Australia (324/6 in 50) beat Kenya (264/6 in 50) by 60 runs in Bangalore.
 Netherlands (160 in 46.2) lost to Bangladesh (166/4 in 41.2) by six wickets in Chittagong.
 Zimbabwe (151/7 in 39.4) lost to Pakistan (164/3 in 34.1) by seven wickets (D/N) in Pallekele.
 South Africa (272/7 in 50) beat Ireland (141 in 33.2) by 131 runs in Kolkata.
 Canada (211 in 45.4) lost to Australia (212/3 in 34.5) by seven wickets in Bangalore.
 England (243 in 48.4) beat West Indies (225 in 44.4) by 18 runs in Chennai.
 Netherlands (306 in 50) lost to Ireland (307/4 in 47.4) by six wickets in Kolkata.
 Sri Lanka (265/9 in 50) beat New Zealand (153 in 35) by 112 runs in Mumbai.
 South Africa (284/8 in 50) beat Bangladesh (78 in 28) by 206 runs in Mirpur.
 Australia (176 in 46.4) lost to Pakistan (178/6 in 41) by four wickets in Colombo.
 Zimbabwe (308/6 in 50) beat Kenya (147 in 36) by 161 runs in Kolkata.
 India (268 in 49.1) beat West Indies (188 in 43) by 80 runs in Chennai.

Quarter finals:

West Indies (112 in 43.3) lost to Pakistan (113/0 in 20.5) by ten wickets in Mirpur.
 Australia (260/6 in 50) lost to India (261/5 in 47.4) by five wickets in Ahmadabad.
 New Zealand (221/8 in 50) beat South Africa (172 in 43.2) by 49 runs in Mirpur.
 England (228/6 in 50) lost to Sri Lanka (231/0 in 39.3) by ten wickets in Colombo.

Semi finals:

New Zealand (217 in 48.5) lost to Sri Lanka (220/5 in 47.5) by five wickets in Colombo.
 India (260/9 in 50) beat Pakistan (231 in 49.5) by 29 runs in Mohali.

Final: Sri Lanka(274/6 in 50) lost to India (277/4 in 48.2) by 6 wickets in Mumbai

