

# Meet Sri Lanka cricket team to Australia

Sri Lanka cricket team left for Australia over the weekend to compete in the Tri-Series One Day International tournament, which also features India and the hosts Australia. We feature below the pen sketches of the Sri Lanka squad to Down Under, led by experienced Mahela Jayawardene:



## Angelo Mathews (Vice Captain)

Has blossomed as a dependable all-rounder after making his debut for Sri Lanka Under-19 at the age of 16, against Pakistan in 2003. Capable of batting anywhere in the top order and also delivers lively medium pace. ODI Debut v Zimbabwe in 2008. Aggregates 1,241 runs in 63 ODIs with eight half centuries averaging 31.82. Has captured 35 wickets averaging 33.62.



## Upul Tharanga

An aggressive opening batsman. He first came into the limelight during the under-19 World Cup in 2004, cracking 117 against South Africa and then 61 in 42 balls against India in the next game. ODI Debut - v West Indies in Dambulla, 2005. Aggregates 4,365 runs in 136 ODIs with 15 centuries and 62 fifties averaging 33.31.



## Mahela Jayawardene (Captain)

- The most experienced batsman in the side with a proven track record. A technically sound middle order batsman who has aggregated over 10,000 runs each in both forms of the game. ODI Debut - v Zimbabwe in Colombo, 1998. Aggregates 10,095 runs in 359 ODIs with 15 centuries and 62 fifties averaging 33.31. Has captured seven wickets averaging 79.71.



## Dinesh Chandimal

A youngster who has made his mark ever since making his debut for Sri Lanka. A wicket keeper batsman who has also turned out to be a useful off spinner. ODI Debut - v Zimbabwe in Bulawayo, 2010. Aggregates 651 runs in 22 ODIs with two centuries and three fifties averaging 36.18. Has accounted for 14 dismissals with 13 catches and one stumpings.



## Tillakaratne Dilshan

An explosive opening batsman who likes to go after bowling at every given opportunity. Right hand batsman and right-arm off break bowler. Aggregate 5,896 runs in 224 ODIs with 10 centuries and 25 fifties averaging 34.68. Has captured 65 wickets averaging 44.53.



## Thisara Perera

An attacking batsman who has also proved his credentials as an all-rounder. Began his career primarily as a bowler, opening the bowling for the Under-19. Made his debut for the national team during Sri Lanka's tour of India in 2009 as a replacement for Angelo Mathews. His aggressive batting has been a blessing to the national side. ODI Debut - v India in Kolkata, 2009. Aggregates 312 runs in 27 ODIs with one half century averaging 18.35. Has captured 26 wickets averaging 24.43.



## Kumar Sangakkara

An experienced middle order batsman who has often let his wicket-keeping to do the talking. As a wicket-keeper, he has accounted for 382 dismissals with 304 catches and 78 stumpings. ODI Debut - v Pakistan in Galle, 2000. Aggregates 9,910 runs in 311 ODIs with 12 centuries and 67 fifties averaging 37.96.



## Lahiru Thirimanne

A young all-round batsman who earned a place in the national side for the tri-nation series in Bangladesh in January 2010. His reputation as a finisher enabled him to book a place in the team to Australia. ODI Debut - v England in Southampton, 2011. Aggregates 119 runs in five ODIs with one half century averaging 29.75.



## Farveez Maharoof

An all-rounder who has made it to the top through the representative ranks, playing for Sri Lanka under-15, under-17 and under-19, and led the under-19 team on four tours, including the 2004 Youth World Cup in Bangladesh. Performed creditably with bat and ball for the Delhi Daredevils in the IPL's first season. ODI Debut - v Zimbabwe in Harare, 2004. Aggregates 984 runs in 94 ODIs with two half centuries averaging 20.08. Has captured 121 wickets averaging 25.89.



## Chanaka Welegedara

One of 15 probables by Daryl Foster, the Australian fast bowling coach, for the Sri Lanka Pace Academy headed by former Sri Lanka fast bowler Ramesh Ratnayake in 2000. After a stint at the MRF Pace Academy in Chennai, he captured seven wickets for Sri Lanka Academy against UAE that initially earned him a place in Sri Lanka 'A' team. ODI Debut - v India in Dambulla, 2010. Has captured 15 wickets in 10 ODIs at an average of 26.86 apiece.



## Lasith Malinga

A surprise selection for Sri Lanka's tour to Australia in 2004, climbed up in the ladder to be one of the main strike bowlers for Sri Lanka in international cricket. Capable of generating genuine pace and could disconcert batsmen who struggle to pick up the ball's trajectory. ODI Debut - v UAE in Dambulla, 2004. Has captured 167 wickets in 104 ODIs at an average of 24.98 apiece.



## Dhammika Prasad

Made a dream ODI debut for Sri Lanka capturing two wickets in as many balls against Bangladesh in 2006. He went on to play two more matches before his career was cut short by a back injury which kept him out of the game for six months. As a right-arm, fast medium bowler, he has captured 13 wickets in nine ODIs averaging 26.46.



## Rangana Herath

Stole the show against Australia in 1999 with a 'mystery' ball. An orthodox left-arm spinner who played for Sri Lanka after an impressive 'A' tour to England. Has a superior Test record though he has proved his mark during the limited opportunities he got in ODIs. ODI Debut - v Zimbabwe in Harare, 2004. Has captured 16 wickets in 20 ODIs averaging 39.68.



## Nuwan Kulasekera

Generates a lively pace, moves the ball off the seam and can reverse-swing the ball to discomfort his opponents. Rose to become one of Sri Lanka's strike bowlers, and in a record 11-month period starting April 2008, captured 47 wickets. ODI Debut - v England in Dambulla, 2003. Has captured 110 wickets in 103 ODIs at an average of 33.19 apiece. In addition, he has aggregated 713 runs with a top score of 57 n.o.



## Sachithra Senanayake

After a rich haul of 297 first class wickets in 59 matches, the off spinner got a break to make his international debut for Sri Lanka in the fourth ODI in the series against South Africa in 2011-12. Hit the match-winning six, when Sri Lanka needed five runs off the last two balls in the recent fifth ODI against South Africa, facing only the second ball of his ODI career. Has captured a solitary wicket in two ODIs.

