

Saluting a hero

Tillakaratne Dilshan was in many ways a captain's dream. He was an all-rounder par excellence unmatched by many because of his ability to bat, bowl, field and wicket-keep. There is nothing that Dilshan has not done as a cricketer. So in that way he is unique. Even the great Sir Garry Sobers, arguably the greatest all-rounder of the game excelled in batting, bowling and fielding but he was never a wicket-keeper. Dilshan had his last hurrah at the R Premadasa Stadium on Friday where a capacity crowd of 35,000 came to bid goodbye to a hero they have adored for almost two decades. Their presence alone showed how popular a cricketer Dilshan was with the cricketing fraternity. We present here in pictures the closing moments of Dilshan's career at the end of the second Twenty20 International between Sri Lanka and Australia. PICTURES BY RUKMAL GAMAGE



Three children pulling lovingly at their father Dilshan



Tillekeratne Dilshan celebrates the dismissal of Matthew Wade, caught by Chandimal, the penultimate wicket of his career.



Fans salute Tillekeratne Dilshan, who walked around the grounds.



Receiving a memento by SLC President Thilanga Sumathipala, in the presence of Finance Minister Ravi Karunanayake and Sports Minister Dayasiri Jayasekera.



An affectionate hug from wife Manjula Kumari.