

Adil Rashid and Ravi Bopara leave West Indies sick of sight of England

If familiarity breeds contempt then West Indies must be thoroughly sick of England after losing the sixteenth match between the sides this year by nine wickets and with 32 balls to spare. How long ago that Test win in Jamaica now feels. Even though this was only a friendly, it was the seventh consecutive win by England over West Indies in all forms of cricket.

Whatever certain minority parties seeking election today claim about the evils of immigration, England should be thankful that Mr Bopara and Mr Rashid raised their families in this country. As India were playing Pakistan across the Thames, two sons of Indian and Pakistani immigrants played key roles with bat and ball at Lord's.

First Adil Rashid, the 21-year-old leg spinner, showed remarkable maturity by conceding only 20 runs in his four overs, which helped to restrict West Indies to 144 for six. Then Ravi Bopara, who took a catch at mid-off to dismiss Dwayne Bravo in Rashid's final over, continued his fine run of form against the West Indies bowlers.

No hundred for Bopara this time, as he had made in three consecutive Test innings, but a powerful 60 off 35 balls that took England to within sight of victory before Luke Wright, who made 75, and Kevin Pietersen finished the job.

It is bad luck for Robert Key, the Kent captain, who was not selected for England's warm-up games, but Wright and Bopara appear to be inked in at the top of the England order. If they play against the Netherlands tomorrow, they will be the twelfth different opening pair England have used in 16 Twenty20 internationals.

Bopara and Wright will face better and more motivated bowling than they did last night - not least from Dirk Nannes, the Australian fast bowler with a Dutch passport - but the confidence they have gained could be priceless. Wright took nine balls to get off the mark before cover-driving Lionel Baker for four and then hitting the next ball into the pavilion.

Bopara then played the dominant role, helped by a reprieve when he was dropped on 29 by Sulieman Benn, and had got to 42 when Wright, on 20 at the time, decided to play catch-up by pulling three consecutive balls from Kieron Pollard into the Tavern Stand, the final one of which reached the top tier.

They reached their fifties off consecutive balls, Wright needing 36 balls to get there and Bopara, who did so by striking his seventh four off Fidel Edwards, off only 31. They almost looked like reaching the target together before Bopara was caught on the mid-wicket boundary with 25 needed.

Edwards's fluorescent armbands, in yellow and orange, raised eyebrows, although Wright said it was more the fact he was bowling at 95mph that made it hard to see the ball. If that was gamesmanship from Edwards, then Stuart Broad was similarly guilty with his winding run-ups that almost took in a detour to London Zoo, so meandering was his approach. He even once pointed to extra cover a second before delivering the ball. It was a playful attempt to put off the batsman but rather cynical.

England were helped by two West Indies batsmen running themselves out. Andre Fletcher sprinted for two without asking Xavier Marshall, his opening partner, if he fancied joining in and was run out by Rashid as he scampered back; then Pollard recklessly charged down the wicket from the non-striker's end and was able to carry on running into the pavilion.

The only positive West Indies can take from this game is that Sri Lanka, whom they play in group C, had just as tough a game against South Africa yesterday. They made only 109 for nine, a recovery from 44 for seven, and South Africa ambled to victory by six wickets.

West Indies

X M Marshall c Foster b L J Wright 35

A D S Fletcher run out 18

S Chanderpaul c Sidebottom b Anderson 0

K A Pollard run out 2

D J Bravo c Bopara b A U Rashid 13

R R Sarwan not out 46

L M P Simmons c Anderson b Swann 7

* † D Ramdin not out 16

Extras (b 1, w 6) 7

Total (6 wkts, 20 overs) 144

C H Gayle, D E Bernard, S J Benn, L S Baker and

F H Edwards did not bat.

Fall of wickets: 1-31, 2-32, 3-49, 4-64, 5-85, 6-113.

Bowling: Anderson 4-0-35-1; Sidebottom 4-0-33-0; Broad 4-0-25-0; A U Rashid 4-0-20-1; Wright 2-0-17-1; Swann 2-0-13-1.

England

R S Bopara c Marshall b Chanderpaul 60

L J Wright not out 75

K P Pietersen not out 4

Extras (lb 2, w 2, nb 2) 6

Total (1 wkt, 14.4 overs) 145

O A Shah, *P D Collingwood, E J G Morgan,

† J S Foster, A D Mascarenhas, S C J Broad,

G P Swann, A U Rashid, J M Anderson and

R J Sidebottom did not bat.

Fall of wicket: 1-119.

Bowling: Baker 3-0-28-0; Edwards 3.4-0-31-0; Bravo 2-0-23-0; Benn 3-0-22-0; Pollard 1-0-22-0; Chanderpaul 2-0-17-1.

Umpires: E A R de Silva and S J Davis.

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