

How Sri Lanka has fared in the Champions trophy

By Sa'adi Thawfeeq

Sri Lanka's performances in the five Champions trophy tournaments played so far have not been all that outstanding. Apart from sharing the trophy with India when it was held in Sri Lanka in 2002, they have failed to go beyond the pool stages in the last two competitions held in England and India. However there have been some brilliant individual performances by the cricketers none better than the six wickets for 14 runs by Farveez Maharooof which is the best bowling figures attained so far by a bowler in the tournament's history while off-spinner Muthiah Muralitharan is the leading wicket-taker in the competition with 23 wickets.

1998 - Bangladesh

The first Mini World Cup was staged specifically for cricketing development. Dhaka was only the third choice for the competition after Disney World in Florida and Sharjah were touted initially. Although the host country was not allowed to take part the people reacted with enormous enthusiasm to the biggest sporting event the country had experienced.

Sri Lanka began their campaign with a spirited win over New Zealand in the quarter-finals by five wickets despite a disastrous start to their innings. Sanath Jayasuriya was out first ball and they were five for three wickets in the fourth over. At that stage New Zealand's poor total of 188 looked formidable, but skipper Arjuna Ranatunga took charge batting almost two hours to score an unbeaten 90 off 116 balls. With the help of Romesh Kaluwitharana (48) he put the issue beyond doubt in a stand of 127.

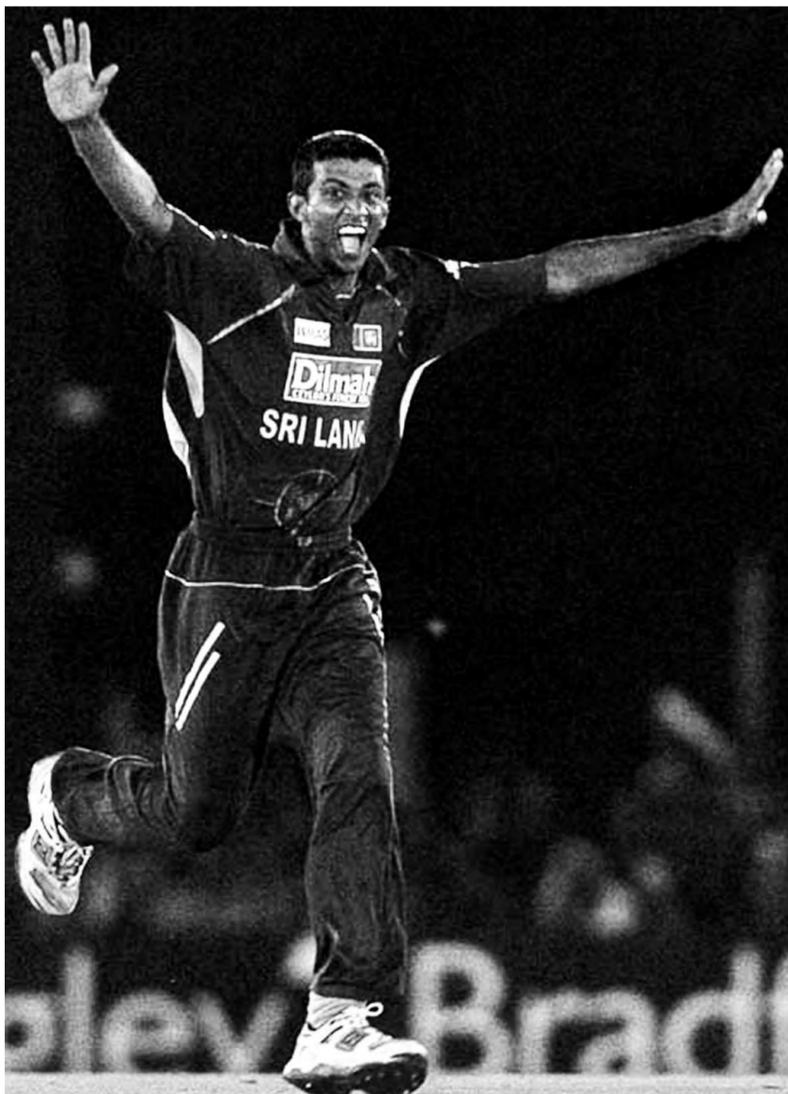
A rain-affected semi-final against South Africa saw Sri Lanka beaten by the Duckworth and Lewis method by 92 runs. The Proteas posted 240 runs in 39 overs with Jacques Kallis hitting 113 off 100 balls with five sixes and later limited the Sri Lankans to 132 runs. The major dampener of the day was the reduction in the number of overs to be played due to rain. The Sri Lankan innings was reduced to 34 overs with 10-over fielding restrictions. The Duckworth-Lewis method was put in place and it required a target of 224 runs to win. South Africa went on to win the tournament.

● **Beat New Zealand by 5 wickets.**

New Zealand 188 (49.5) (A Parore 54, M Muralitharan 3/31)

● **Sri Lanka 191-5 (41.3)** (R Kaluwitharana 48, A Ranatunga 90 n.o.)

● **Lost to South Africa by 92 runs** (D/L method) (semi-finals)



Farveez Maharooof's 6/14 is the best by any bowler in the tournament's history

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South Africa 240-7 (39) (D Cullinan 30, J Kallis 113 n.o.)

● **Sri Lanka 132 (23.4)** (S Jayasuriya 22, S Elworthy 3/21, P Symcox 3/27).

2000 - Kenya

The second ICC knockout tournament staged in Kenya proved to be a tremendous success with the champion coming from cricket's underdogs when New Zealand won it.

Once again Sri Lanka began the tournament on a winning note thrashing a fading West Indies by 108 runs before losing to Pakistan in the quarter-finals. Avishka Gunawardene scored Sri Lanka's first century in the competition when he slammed 132 in 146 balls aided by two dropped catches and a catch off a no-ball. Joined by Mahela Jayawardene who scored 72 off 71 balls the pair brought the West Indies' bowling attack to its knees with a third wicket stand of 160. Nuwan Zoysa dashed West Indies hopes when he snapped up three top-order wickets including that of Brian Lara for five. Muthiah Muralitharan strangled the rest of the batting with figures of 10-4-9-0. Considering the manner by which Sri Lanka won their first match their nine-wicket defeat by Pakistan came as a surprise. Sri Lanka's total of 194 on the small Gymkhana Club ground was indefensible and Pakistan lost only one wicket as they passed the total with Saeed Anwar ending the match with a six that also brought up his century.

● **Beat West Indies by 108 runs.**

Sri Lanka 287-6 (50) (A Gunawardene 132, M Jayawardene 72, R Arnold 41)

● **West Indies 179 (46.4)** (L Williams 41, M Nagamootoo 33, N Zoysa 3/34)

● **Lost to Pakistan by 9 wickets** (quarter-finals).

● **Sri Lanka 194 (45.4)** (S Jayasuriya 39, R Arnold 38, Wasim Akram 3/40, Azhar Mahmood 3/52)

● **Pakistan 195-1 (43.2)**

(Saeed Anwar 105 n.o., Imran Nazir 40, Yousuf Youhana 42 n.o.)

2002 - Sri Lanka

The third ICC Champions trophy left much to be desired held only five months before the 2003 World Cup in South Africa the slow pitches of Sri Lanka gave hardly any form guide to the conditions to be expected in Africa. Technol-

ogy was used for the first time to assist umpires and Pakistan's Shoaib Malik became the victim of an lbw decision referred to the third umpire.

Sri Lanka provided the biggest upset of the tournament when they defeated the all-conquering Australians in the semi-final. Sri Lanka started off well beating Pakistan by eight wickets in their Pool B match. Pakistan's total of 200 looked hardly challenging when Sanath Jayasuriya (102 not out) and Aravinda de Silva (66 not out) put together an unbroken stand of 156. A century from Marvan Atapattu saw Sri Lanka make short work of Holland who were shot out for 86. De Silva's innocuous off-spin proved the downfall of Australia in the semi-finals. His 10 overs cost 16 runs and the wicket of Mathew Hayden as Australia could manage only 162. Sri Lanka won easily with ten overs to spare.

Half-centuries by skipper Jayasuriya and wicketkeeper Kumar Sangakkara in the final against India went in vain as the match was abandoned due to rain. The match was restarted the next day and half centuries by Mahela Jayawardene and Russell Arnold once again did not prove to be useful with rain coming uninvited again. The players were forced off the field and the trophy shared amongst the two finalists.

● **Beat Pakistan by 8 wickets.**

● **Pakistan 200 (49.4)** (Saeed Anwar 52, Yousif Khan 35, Misbah-ul-Haq 47, D Fernando 3/30, M Muralitharan 3/29)

● **Sri Lanka 201-2 (36.1)** (S Jayasuriya 102 n.o., A de Silva 66 n.o.)

● **Beat Holland by 206 runs.**

● **Sri Lanka 292-6 (50)** (S Jayasuriya 36, M Atapattu 101, K Sangakkara 41)

● **Holland 86 (29.3)** (T de Deede 31, M Muralitharan 4/15)

● **Beat Australia by 7 wickets** (semi-final).

● **Australia 162 (48.4)** (A Gilchrist 31, S Warner 36, M Muralitharan 3/26)

● **Sri Lanka 163-3 (40)** (S Jayasuriya 42, M Atapattu 51, K Sangakkara 48)

● **No Result v India (final)**

● **Sri Lanka 244-5 (50)** (S Jayasuriya 74, M Atapattu 34, K Sangakkara 54, Harbhajan Singh 3/27)

● **India 14-0 (2)** (rain).

● **No Result v India (final replay)**

● **Sri Lanka 222-7 (50)** (M Jayawardene 77, R Arnold 56 n.o., Zaheer Khan 3/44)

● **India 38-1 (8.4)** (rain).

2004 - England

The fourth Champions trophy was a tournament full of insipid and forgetful moments ended with one of most memorable finals in recent years when West Indies scripted a soul-stirring fight back to beat England by two wickets in the final at the Oval.

Sri Lanka proved a disappointment after being considered a force to reckon with in the previous tournament when they failed to qualify beyond the pool stages. They were made to work hard for victory over Zimbabwe only their experience seeing them through to a four-wicket win. Chasing Zimbabwe's score of 191 Sri Lanka were 162-6 before Tillakaratne Dilshan and Upul Chandana took them past the winning post.

Rain and the Duckworth Lewis method once again deprived Sri Lanka of qualifying for the semi-finals when they were beaten by 49 runs by England. Andrew Flintoff's magnificent century gave England a total which turned out to be formidable one when Sri Lanka failed to get going due to frequent stoppages for rain.

● **Beat Zimbabwe by 4 wickets.**

● **Zimbabwe 191 (49.1)** (E Chigumbura 57, P Utseya 31,



Upul Tharanga, only Sri Lankan to score two hundreds in the competition



Marvan Atapattu, one of four centuries for Sri Lanka

N Zoysa 3/19, F Maharooof 3/38)

● **Sri Lanka 195-6 (43.5)** (M Atapattu 43, S Jayantha 36, E Chigumbura 3/37).

● **Lost to England by 49 runs** (D/L method).

● **England 251-7 (50)** (M Trescottick 66, A Flintoff 104 n.o., P Collingwood 39)

● **Sri Lanka 95-5 (24)** (S Jayasuriya 27).

2006 - India

Held five months before the 2007 World Cup, the fifth Champions trophy became as infamous as the previous ones. Australia eventually captured the one piece of silverware that had eluded them.

Sri Lanka had to qualify for the competition proper as only the top six nations of the ICC one-day rankings automatically qualified leaving the other four countries to fight it out for the last two places. In the qualifying round Sri Lanka beat Bangladesh, Zimbabwe and West Indies to top the qualifying table. However in the tournament proper Sri Lanka won only against New Zealand and suffered defeats at the hands of Pakistan and South Africa which put them out of the competition final round.

Successive centuries by opener Upul Tharanga saw Sri Lanka beat Bangladesh and Zimbabwe. In the contest against West Indies all-rounder Farveez Maharooof produced a career best and tournament best bowling performance taking six wickets for 14 runs off nine overs as West Indies were routed for 80 on a slow Mumbai pitch.

In the tournament proper Pakistan overcame the shock of their spearheads Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif being sent home after being tested positive for a banned substance nandrolone to beat Sri Lanka by four wickets. Sri Lanka bounced back from that defeat to beat New Zealand by seven wickets, but eventually succumbed to South Africa's pace trio of Pollock, Ntini and Nel.

● **Beat Bangladesh by 37 runs.**

● **Sri Lanka 302-8 (50)** (U Tharanga 105, S Jayasuriya 31, M Jayawardene 35, M Atapattu 40)

● **Bangladesh 265-9 (50)** (Aftab Ahmed 33, Saqibul Hassan 67 n.o., Farhad Reza 34, Mashrafe bin Mortaza 30, F Maharooof 3/47)

● **Beat Zimbabwe by 144 runs.**

● **Sri Lanka 285-7 (50)** (U Tharanga 110, K Sangakkara 80, M Atapattu 33)

● **Zimbabwe 141 (42.3)** (H Masakadza 30, B Taylor 30, L Malinga 3/25)

● **Beat West Indies by 9 wickets.**

● **West Indies 80 (30.4)** (W Hinds 28, F Maharooof 6/14)

● **Sri Lanka 83-1 (13.2)** (S Jayasuriya 45 n.o., M Jayawardene 34 n.o.)

● **Lost to Pakistan by 4 wickets.**

● **Sri Lanka 253 (49.2)** (U Tharanga 38, S Jayasuriya 48, M Jayawardene 31, K Sangakkara 39, M Atapattu 36, Abdul Razzaq 4/50)

● **Pakistan 255-6 (48.1)** (Imran Farhat 53, Mohammad Yousuf 49, Shoaib Malik 46 n.o., P Collingwood 38 n.o.)

● **Beat New Zealand by 7 wickets.**

● **New Zealand 165 (49.2)** (N Astle 42, D Vettori 46 n.o., M Muralitharan 4/23)

● **Sri Lanka 166-3 (36)** (U Tharanga 56, M Jayawardene 48)

● **Lost to South Africa by 78 runs.**

● **South Africa 219-9 (50)** (J Kallis 43, A de Villiers 54, L Malinga 4/53)

● **Sri Lanka 141 (39.1)** (M Jayawardene 36, T Dilshan 36, A Nel 3/41).



Avishka Gunawardene, the first Sri Lankan to score a century in the tournament and also the highest (132)



Muthiah Muralitharan, the highest wicket-taker in the competition with 23 wickets



Sanath Jayasuriya, Sri Lanka's leading run scorer in the competition with 502 runs