

Twenty20 World Cup Cricket , South Africa 2007

Team India snatched the inaugural Twenty20 world title after defeating archrivals Pakistan by five runs in a rousing final on 24th September 2007 at South Africa

The Indians, restricted to 157-5 after electing to take first strike in good batting conditions, fought back to bowl out valiant Pakistan for 152 before a sell-out crowd of 32,000 at the Wanderers.



India's innings was restricted by seamer Umar Gul who scalped three prize wickets of Yuvraj Singh, Dhoni and Gautam Gambhir. Gambhir slammed 75 off 54 balls, studded with eight boundaries and two sixes. The best partnership in the innings was between Gambhir and Yuvraj, who put on 63 for the third wicket. India's total was boosted by Sharma and Irfan Pathan who plundered 27 runs in the final two overs.



Pakistan's chase of the victory target of eight runs an over was launched by Imran Nazir who smashed 33 off 14 balls, taking 21 runs in the second over sent down by Sree Santh. But Pakistan lost three wickets by the sixth over as left-armers Rudra Pratap dismissed Mohammad Hafeez and Kamran Akmal in his first two overs and Nazir was run out by a direct throw from Robin Uthappa. Pakistan took the total to 65-3 in the ninth over when three further wickets fell for 12 runs, two in one over from Irfan Pathan. Batting mainstay Younis Khan made 24 when he gave a catch to mid-on off Joginder Sharma and Irfan removed captain Shoaib Malik and Shahid Afridi in the 12th over. Malik on-drove Pathan to Rohit Sharma at mid-wicket and Afridi, expected to provide the late fireworks, was caught in the deep off the first ball he faced.

India went into the match without aggressive opener Virender Sehwag who was ruled out of the key match with a thigh strain sustained during Saturday's semi-final against Australia in Durban.

Indian Team (final match)

Gautam Gambhir, Robin Uthappa, Yuvraj Singh, Mahendra Singh Dhoni (Captain and wicket-keeper), Rohit Sharma, Yusuf Pathan, Irfan Pathan, Joginder Sharma, Harbhajan Singh, S Sreesanth, RP Singh

Umpires: Simon Taufel (AUS) and Mark Benson (ENG)

Third umpire: Daryl Harper (AUS)

Match referee: Ranjan Madugalle (SRI)