

ICC T20 World Cup 2022

Thursday, 10 November 2022

Adelaide, South Australia, Australia

Adelaide Oval



India

Rahul Dravid

Semi-Final Post Match Media Conference

England 170/0, India 168/6

Q. Rahul, end of the campaign, must be disappointed with the result?

RAHUL DRAVID: Yeah, obviously disappointed to finish in the semifinals. Probably would have certainly liked to go a couple of steps further. But yeah, just outplayed, outclassed today. They were the better team in all departments really. The score line showed that.

Q. Unfortunately you won't be going to Melbourne, but there will be some takeaways for you from this tournament; what will you think about that?

RAHUL DRAVID: Yeah, it's tough after a loss like that. It's tough to -- but we'll reflect on it. It's tough to reflect on things so close to the result, but yeah, I think overall we ran a pretty good campaign.

Over the last year, we've played some good T20 cricket. Even in this tournament, I think we've had our moments. There's been some real individual quality from a lot of our players, shown some real good skills. But on the day we were just not good enough here.

I'm sure that when you lose in a semifinal, yes, I know it's disappointing, but yeah, I'm sure there are things we can look back on and reflect on and see that we've improved in and we can take forward and move forward as we build for the next World Cup.

Q. You've prided yourself in your adaptability and you trusted if there's a pitch that calls for 190 total, the batters will bat accordingly. Was it a case of not doing that, or was the weather conditions so different when you were batting and it started to slide on? Also, did you look at the Bangladesh game where they came so close and Afghanistan also came so close against Australia in both the night games that were played here?

RAHUL DRAVID: Yeah, honestly we looked at those things. We looked at that, as well. Also runs on the

board was something in a semifinal. We had been batting well. We were one of those teams that were, even in these conditions, scoring 180, 180 plus. I think we had done it two or three times in this tournament. So we were playing well.

It's just, I think, maybe when the game started, the boys were saying it was a little bit tacky, it was a little bit slower. Having said that, they bowled really well. I thought they were really good up front. They hit really good lengths, didn't really let us get away. We felt at that 15-over mark we felt we were probably 15, 20 short, and we really had a good last five overs.

I think Hardik out there was absolutely brilliant, and that's exactly -- in the end it looked like we were a lot shorter than even 15, 20, but I think we should have been able to get to 180, 185 on that wicket. Maybe things might have been different with an early wicket after that.

Q. The team after this is going to New Zealand under Hardik. At this point in time a cycle has ended; the next cycle is after two years. You said about reflection; what exactly, where do we see Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Ravichandran Ashwin, the senior guys? What's their future in T20 cricket?

RAHUL DRAVID: Well, it's too early to talk about it right now just after a semifinal game. These guys have been terrific performers for us. Yeah, like you said, we have a couple of years to reflect on it. There's some really good quality players here, so absolutely not the right time to talk about this stuff or think about this stuff right now. We'll have enough games, enough matches as we go on ahead, and India will try and build and prepare for the next World Cup.

Q. Rahul, one of the differences between India and England here is obviously the England guys, everyone on that team has played Big Bash or got experience playing here. We haven't seen Indian players allowed to play overseas T20 leagues the entire time of the IPL. Can you see that ever changing, and do you think it would help in sort of a holistic cricket sense?

RAHUL DRAVID: I mean, sure, there's no doubt about it the fact that England -- a lot of their players have come here and played. In this tournament, it certainly showed. It's tough. I think it's very difficult for Indian cricket because a lot of these tournaments happen right in the

peak of our season.

I think it's a huge challenge for us. Yes, I think a lot of our boys maybe do miss out on the opportunities of playing in a lot of these leagues, but if you were to -- it's really up to the BCCI to make that decision, but the thing is it's right in the middle of our season, and with the kind of demand there would be for Indian players, if you allowed all the Indian players to play in these leagues, we would not have a domestic cricket. Our domestic trophy, our Ranji trophy would be finished, and that would mean Test cricket would be finished.

I know a lot of people talk about it, but we have to be very careful when we -- we have to understand the challenges that Indian cricket faces or the BCCI would face in a situation like this. You'd see all our boys -- like a lot of boys being asked to play leagues right bang in the middle of our season.

We've seen what that's done to West Indian cricket, and I would definitely not want Indian cricket to go that way. It would certainly affect our Ranji trophy; it would affect Test cricket. Indian boys playing Test cricket is pretty important for the Test game, as well, I would think.

Q. Just your opinion on Jos Buttler and his performance; obviously a player that a lot of the Indian guys will know tremendously well from his IPL participation. What did you make of his performance, and is there anyone better in what he does at the moment?

RAHUL DRAVID: Yeah, no, he's a very dangerous player, and we knew that. We knew the key to the game obviously was to try and take that opening partnership as early as we could. We tried to attack a little bit with our lengths up front. We thought that was a tactic. They played that really well.

The ball didn't swing here probably as much as it has in other parts of Australia or in other conditions. Played a little bit into their hands, and class players like that, both Buttler and Hales, I thought their partnership was fantastic today. I think they just put the pressure on us, never let that go, and even when our spinners came on on a wicket that we thought we might be able to control the game, they really counterattacked our spinners, as well, and put our spinners under a lot of pressure.

Really well played, a class player. Someone like Buttler is someone -- you don't need me to say that, but he's probably one of the most dangerous T20 players going around.

Q. Can you tell us the debacle or one of the main reasons for not taking even a single wicket because a 10-wicket victory is something that is gripping us.

RAHUL DRAVID: Well, I think they played well. That's the reality of it. I thought they played really well. Once they got off to that kind of start, I think they could really sit back and control the run rate. We had 168. They brought that run rate down to six and a half I think by the time the sixth over was finished, or seven runs an over, and then on a small ground like that, they were always in control, so they were going to control that game.

They didn't really need to take too many risks. They could sit back and -- not that they didn't take them; they played some really good shots right through.

But yeah, these things happen. Yeah, it's disappointing. Debacle I'm not sure is the right word, but disappointing certainly.

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