

Nice to see the good old Afridi.

Well if this is what you get to see at the cost of India going out of the Asia cup, few may not agree with me but it was so good to see the cricket old son to be back in form.

To go back inside a dressing room not out is always a great feeling for a batsman and this feeling doubles up when you go back inside after making your team win a match. No one in the world of cricket would think of finishing the game by hitting a 6 and that too when you need 3 of 3 balls adding more to that you are 9 wickets down. Everybody would suggest you it's a risk worth not taking. But then he is Shahid Afridi.

Imagine if that ball would have ended up into any of the Indian fielder's hand keeping in mind "from where Mr. Afridi comes from"? Pakistan, a nation equally crazy as India when we talk cricket.

Shahid Afridi – well if you just give me a moment then let me tell you what impact this man has on the game. He comes from the era where you give the first hour particularly first 10 over's to the fielding team. Batting side generally comes up with the approach of playing carefully during the initial stages of the innings with the main aim of not giving opposition any wickets. 30 to 40 runs in the first 10 over's without losing a wicket was considered a job done good enough. This man was different. He attacked bowlers right from the word go. As soon as he is there on the batting, he would attack his opposition without worrying about who is bowling at him, Without worrying how the pitch is behaving, facing old ball or new ball and all so many conditions. Mind you this is not an easy task to do and that too when you come from such a crazy nation. Once asked by Mr. Wasim Akram during Rendezvous with Simi Garewal "do you fear going back to your home after a loss with India? " and his answer was a straight "Yes we do". Afridi did this at the cost of his own place in the team because you only stay in the team if you perform well. And with this kind of approach it is not always easy to perform. A shot for six today might end up into fielder hands on the other day. This was the only way he knew how to play. Well we had someone who followed the steps of Sanath Jayasuriya and Romesh Kaluwitharana. His 100 of just 37 balls in 1996 tells what kind of fearless human being he is with bat in his hand.

The approach of attacking the opposition from the word go was adopted by many teams and it worked for them as well. Australia being the perfect example of this. They ruled the world of cricket from 1999 to 2007.

With Pakistan and Afridi in team, the match is never over for you until and unless you send him back to the pavilion. The more early you do this, the better is for you. You just cannot have a sign of relief when this person is on the crease. There is always a question in your mind "is he out" "playing?" "Or yet to come to bat?" because with his kind of player in your batting order, match is never over. He can take his team to victory from any situation on the field.

When it comes to his bowling I will keep it short by saying he is someone who every captain wishes to have in his team for bowling. After all he is answer to the question "who is your fifth bowler in the team"? Ask a captain how difficult this question is for him to answer especially Indian captain. He is

someone who can keep the batsman guessing for his entire for spell of 10overs. Six different deliveries in an over, one man – Shahid Afridi.