

= 2003 Cricket World Cup Final =

The 2003 Cricket World Cup Final was a One Day International match played between Australia and India on 23 March 2003 at the Wanderers Stadium , Johannesburg , South Africa . It marked the culmination of the 2003 Cricket World Cup , the eighth edition of the tournament . It was the first time that these two teams had met at this stage of a World Cup . Australia won the match by 125 runs to claim the title for the third time , and second in succession .

After winning the toss , India captain Sourav Ganguly elected to field first . Australia captain Ricky Ponting (140 not out) and Damien Martyn (88 not out) were involved in a record partnership of 234 runs in the team total of 359 runs . India 's Harbhajan Singh took all two wickets of Australia , conceding 49 runs . In response , India lost their wickets at regular intervals and were eventually bowled out for 234 runs in 39 @. @ 2 overs . Ponting was adjudged " Man of the match " , while India 's Sachin Tendulkar , the tournament 's leading run @-@ scorer , was awarded the " Man of the Series " title .

= = Background = =

The 2003 Cricket World Cup was the eighth World Cup , organized by the International Cricket Council (ICC) . The competition took place between 9 February and 23 March 2003 , lasting 43 days . The matches were restricted to 50 overs per side . Co @-@ hosted by South Africa , Zimbabwe and Kenya , the World Cup was the first to be played in Africa . The competition had 14 teams , the largest number of participants in a World Cup until then . Apart from the 10 Test @-@ playing teams , four associate teams were qualified to participate in the competition . Kenya , by virtue of its ODI status , automatically qualified for the tournament while Canada , Namibia and Netherlands , the top three teams of the 2001 ICC Trophy , formed the rest .

The structure of the tournament was similar to the 1999 World Cup . The 14 teams were assigned to two different groups of seven each . The top three contestants from each group qualified for the Super Sixes stage , a format which was introduced in the 1999 tournament . The teams carried forward their results in their group stage , where each qualifier from either of the groups played each qualifier of the other group exactly once . The top four teams of the Super Sixes qualified for the semi @-@ finals , and the winners of those matches contested the final . All in all , there were a total of 54 matches played in the tournament .

Having won 15 out of their 18 ODIs prior to the start of the tournament , the defending champion Australia was called the " favourite " to win the title . Several critics and analysts unanimously favoured Australia 's win . They had previously won the World Cup in 1987 and 1992 . India had won the competition once , in 1983 . Prior to the World Cup , India lost an ODI series against West Indies at home , and were defeated heavily in a tour of New Zealand .

A day before the start of the tournament , Australia 's key player Shane Warne , who won the " man of the match " awards in the semi @-@ final and final of the 1999 tournament , was sent home after he was found positive in a drug test ; Warne was found guilty of using a banned diuretic drug during an ODI series , which was held prior to the World Cup in Australia . He was banned by the Australian Cricket Board from playing cricket for one year . Australia 's fast bowler Jason Gillespie was ruled out from the tournament following a tendon injury .

= = = Group stage = = =

Australia and India were both grouped under " Pool A " of the competition . Australia won all their matches in the group stage . Except for the win against England , where they had to recover from 135 for 8 to reach the target of 205 runs , they won all the matches comfortably .

India had a " shaky " start to the tournament . In their opening match , against the Netherlands , they were bowled out for 204 runs . Sachin Tendulkar scored India 's only half @-@ century . In reply , Indian bowlers Javagal Srinath and Anil Kumble took four wickets each to dismiss the Netherlands for 136 runs . Despite winning the game , their batting received severe criticism as their

batting order collapsed before the completion of 50 overs . Following that , in their next match against Australia , they were dismissed for 125 runs and lost the match by eight wickets . This led to angered fans in India burning the effigies of Indian players . Mohammad Kaif 's house and Rahul Dravid 's car were vandalised . Following the incident , Tendulkar issued a press statement requesting calm and patience from the fans . India won their next games against Zimbabwe , Pakistan , Namibia and England . India found a new opening pair in Tendulkar and Sehwag in the match against Zimbabwe .

Australia , India and Zimbabwe finished the group as the top three teams and qualified for the " Super Sixes " from Pool A. In " Pool B " , Sri Lanka , Kenya and New Zealand qualified for the next stage .

= = = Super Sixes = = =

In the first match of the Super Sixes , Australia played against Sri Lanka . Batting first , Australia made 319 for 5 . Ricky Ponting and Adam Gilchrist scored 114 not out and 99 respectively . Sri Lanka in reply managed 223 runs in 47 @.@ 4 overs . Aravinda de Silva top @.@ scored with 92 while Brett Lee took three wickets for Australia . Australia played New Zealand in their next match . Shane Bond 's spell of six wickets for 23 runs reduced Australia to 84 for 7 . However , Michael Bevan and Andrew Bichel took the total to 208 runs . In reply , New Zealand were bowled out for 112 runs . Lee claimed five wickets for 42 runs as Australia won the match by 96 runs . Australia won their final game by five wickets after bowling Kenya out for 174 runs .

India faced Kenya in their first match . The latter had won the toss and made 225 for 6 in the first innings . India lost three wickets for 24 runs when Dravid joined Sourav Ganguly . The two added 84 runs before the Dravid was dismissed , leaving the score at 108 runs for the loss of four wickets . Ganguly then partnered with Yuvraj Singh and the pair took India to victory in 47 @.@ 5 overs . They made 107 not out and 58 not out respectively . In the next game against Sri Lanka , India won by a huge margin of 183 runs . In their final match of the stage , India played New Zealand . After winning the toss , India elected to bowl first . New Zealand were dismissed for 146 runs . Zaheer Khan took career @.@ best figures of 4 wickets for 42 runs . Though India lost 3 wickets for 21 runs , the 129 @.@ run partnership between Dravid and Kaif ensured a seven @.@ wicket win . The match marked the seventh consecutive victory for India in the tournament .

= = = Semi @.@ finals = = =

= = = First semi @.@ final = = =

The first semi @.@ final was played between Australia and Sri Lanka on 18 March at St. George 's Park , Port Elizabeth . Australia won the toss and opted to bat first . They managed 212 runs for the loss of 7 wickets at the end of 50 overs . Symonds top @.@ scored for Australia with 91 not out , while Chaminda Vaas picked up 3 wickets for 34 runs . With 213 runs needed for victory , Sri Lanka lost both the openers after which the play was interrupted by rain . The target was revised to 172 runs from 38 @.@ 1 overs using the Duckworth ? Lewis method . Sri Lanka managed to score only 123 runs in the allotted overs . Kumar Sangakkara and Vaas made 47 runs together for the eighth wicket , the highest partnership of the innings . Australia progressed into the final as Sri Lanka fell 48 runs short of the target .

= = = Second semi @.@ final = = =

The second semi @.@ final was played between India and Kenya on 20 March 2003 at Kingsmead , Durban . Kenya became the first non @.@ Test team to play in a World Cup semi @.@ final . India won the toss and made 270 runs for 4 wickets . Ganguly and Tendulkar made 111 not out and 83 respectively . In reply , Kenya were bowled out for 179 in 46 @.@ 2 overs . Steve Tikolo , their

captain , top @-@ scored with 56 runs . Zaheer ended with bowling figures of 3 wickets for 14 runs . Ganguly was adjudged the Man of the match .

= = Build up = =

Prior to this game , the two teams had faced each other eight times in World Cups ; Australia had won six of these matches . In the tournament , Australia had won all their matches up until this point while India managed to win all their matches except the one against Australia in the group stage . A day before the final , Ponting had told the press that on crucial matches his team " tries to reach another level " . The Indian fans had high expectations on Tendulkar , the tournament 's top @-@ scorer .

= = Final = =

= = = Summary = = =

The final was played on 23 March 2003 at the Wanderers Stadium , Johannesburg . Ganguly won the toss and elected to field first . India played seven batsmen and excluded leg spinner Kumble from the playing XI . Zaheer opened the bowling for India along with Srinath . The Australian openers started scoring aggressively right from the beginning of the innings as Khan conceded 15 runs in the first over . Gilchrist in particular hit both Khan and Srinath for a lot of runs . As soon as he reached his 50 (off 40 balls) , Ganguly turned to his spin bowlers as early as the tenth over . Gilchrist slowed down his scoring rate as the innings progressed . In the fourteenth over Harbhajan Singh was brought back into the attack . With just two fielders outside the circle , Gilchrist tried hitting him through mid @-@ wicket , but was beaten by the extra @-@ bounce and was caught in the deep by Virender Sehwag . Gilchrist (57 off 48 balls) along with Matthew Hayden scored 105 runs for the first wicket . Hayden was dismissed by Harbhajan soon afterwards , having made 37 runs off 54 balls . The score was 125 runs for 2 wickets in the twentieth over . Ponting was accompanied by Damien Martyn after Hayden 's departure . Martyn scored at about a run @-@ a @-@ ball rate and completed his half @-@ century in 46 balls . Ponting on the other hand scored at a slow rate reaching his 50 off 74 balls with one four . After that he started attacking the Indian bowlers . He started off by hitting Harbhajan Singh for two sixes , and Ashish Nehra for a " one @-@ handed " six . The pair added 100 runs off 109 balls for the third wicket . He completed his century in quick time as his second fifty came off 29 balls . At the end of the innings , Australia scored 359 runs for 2 wickets ; Ponting and Martyn made 140 not out (off 121 balls ; four fours and eight sixes) and 88 not out (off 84 balls ; seven fours and pne six) respectively . Ponting 's innings is the highest individual score by a captain in a World Cup final , while Australia 's total is the highest by a team in a World Cup final as of the 2015 competition . The 234 @-@ run stand between Ponting and Marytn was a record partnership for Australia in ODIs at that point . The Indian bowlers conceded 37 extras . Srinath conceded 87 runs without taking a wicket , in what was ultimately his last international game .

India came out to bat with Tendulkar and Sehwag . Glenn McGrath opened the bowling for Australia . Tendulkar hit a boundary off the fourth ball of the over but was dismissed off the next delivery . Ganguly joined Sehwag and the pair scored at a run @-@ a @-@ ball rate before the former was dismissed by Lee in the tenth over . Kaif , the next man , was dismissed in the same over with the score reading 59 runs for 3 wickets . Dravid and Sehwag scored steadily from then on until the seventeenth over , when rain interrupted play with the score at 103 runs . After the play resumed , Ponting brought in Australia 's spinners , Brad Hogg and Darren Lehmann . Sehwag was more aggressive against both , hitting Lehmann for three consecutive fours and Hogg for a four and six . Dravid on the other hand played second fiddle to Sehwag pushing for singles often . However , both were dismissed in quick succession after making 82 (off 81 balls) and 47 (off 57 balls) respectively . Following that , India began to lose wickets at regular intervals . Except for Yuvraj

Singh (24) and Dinesh Mongia (12) , the rest of the players got out for single @-@ digit scores . India were bowled out for 234 runs in 39 @.@ 2 overs . Australia won the match by 125 runs , the largest margin of victory by runs in a World Cup final . It was their second successive World Cup trophy and their third overall . Ponting was given the " Man of the match " honour for his 140 not out .

= = = Scorecard = = =

1st innings

Fall of wickets : 1 ? 105 (Gilchrist , 13 @.@ 6 ov) , 2 ? 125 (Hayden , 19 @.@ 5 ov)

2nd innings

Fall of wickets : 1 ? 4 (Tendulkar , 0 @.@ 5 ov) , 2 ? 58 (Ganguly , 9 @.@ 5 ov) , 3 ? 59 (Kaif , 10 @.@ 3 ov) , 4 ? 147 (Sehwag 23 @.@ 5 ov) , 5 ? 187 (Dravid 31 @.@ 5 ov) , 6 ? 208 (Yuvraj Singh 34 @.@ 5 ov) , 7 ? 209 (Mongia (35 @.@ 2 ov) , 8 ? 223 (Harbhajan Singh 37 @.@ 1 ov) , 9 ? 226 (Srinath 38 @.@ 2 ov) , 10 ? 234 (Khan 39 @.@ 2 ov)

Match officials

On @-@ field umpires : Steve Bucknor (West Indies) and David Shepherd (England)

Third umpire : Rudi Koertzen (South Africa)

Match referee : Ranjan Madugalle (Sri Lanka)

Reserve umpire : Billy Bowden (New Zealand)

= = Aftermath = =

At the post @-@ match press conference , Ponting said the Indians showed no signs of winning the match at any point in time . On Australia 's win , he said " It 's not that we think we are ahead of the others . It 's just the way we play . " Further , he added that India and Australia were the best two teams in the tournament and complimented the Indian players by saying that they " deserved to be in the final " .

Ganguly 's decision to bowl first was criticized by the media ; The New York Times , for instance , said it " backfired horribly " . Former Pakistan captain Imran Khan while denouncing Ganguly 's decision , also criticized his idea of going into the match with an unchanged side . He further stated that India should have played Kumble as the ball was " gripping [in] the surface " . Meanwhile , Ganguly defended his decision saying that the pitch looked favourable to the bowlers , but they failed to utilize it properly . However , he credited the Australian batting and further added that they had played like " real champions " . On the other hand , Ponting said that he would have opted to bat first had they won the toss . His team @-@ mate Symonds , in an interview later , recalled that India 's decision to bowl first gave them an impression that they were not " confident enough to take the fight " .

Australia were rewarded with a prize money of US \$ 2 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 , while India received US \$ 800 @,@ 000 . Tendulkar 's aggregate of 673 runs in the tournament fetched him the " Man of the series " accolade . Ponting 's 140 was placed among the " Best Innings " of the tournament by Rediff . Tendulkar and Hayden were included among the " highest impact World XI " , a World Cup team released by the India edition of Wisden Cricketers ' Almanack . Srinath , who conceded 87 runs in the match and who was India 's leading wicket @-@ taker in ODIs , retired a few months after the competition . The match also marked the end of India coach John Wright 's contract . However , on his request the Board of Control for Cricket in India retained his position which he continued to serve until 2005 .