

England's Duckett suspended from playing



Ben Duckett (file pic)

London

England Lions cricketer Ben Duckett has been suspended from playing in the remainder of the team's training camp in Australia and warned about his conduct after a bar incident last week, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said yesterday.

England's Ashes tour was plunged into crisis after batsman Duckett was suspended for pouring a drink on a senior England player reported to be paceman James Anderson after an argument in a Perth bar late on Thursday.

The 23-year-old Duckett, who was stood down from an Ashes tour game, was also fined the "maximum allowable amount" for a Lions player. He will remain with the team and return to England at the end of the camp on Dec. 17, ECB said on their website. (*Reuters*)

Sri Lanka rout India

Dharamsala

Lesser-skilled teams' best chances of competing are in conditions that skew the balance towards the bowlers - spin or seam. In 26 ODIs in 2017, most of which were played on flat surfaces, Sri Lanka managed to win just four. But in Dharamsala, Sri Lanka's seamers, led by Suranga Lakmal, used swinging and seaming conditions to rip through a tentative India batting line-up for 112, setting up a seven-wicket rout that also snapped their 12-game losing streak in ODIs.

When Lakmal finished with figures of 10-4-13-4 to leave India at 29 for 7, it didn't look like the innings would last 38.2 overs. But MS Dhoni shepherded the tail with a calculated 65 to prevent India from the ignominy of falling to the lowest ODI total. Even though India started well in the defence, their total was decidedly under-par as Sri Lanka hunted down the target with 29.2 overs to spare.

In the fresh mountain air of Dharamsala, Sri Lanka's opening bowlers, Lakmal and Angelo Mathews, repeatedly hit the perfect length: just fuller than good. On a surface with sufficient but not exaggerated lateral movement,



Sri Lanka's Suranga Lakmal celebrates with teammates

that length becomes even harder to negate. Batsmen are indecisive with their footwork and therefore shot selection.

Shikhar Dhawan prefers to dominate bowlers from the outset, particularly with cross-batted strokes. He hung back to Mathews, who angled full deliveries away from his leaden-footed drives. Then, Mathews swerved one back into Dhawan to beat his inside edge, striking him in front of

middle. Sri Lanka had umpire Simon Fry's not-out decision overturned on review to complete the perfect one-two play.

Two overs on, Lakmal hit that ideal length again but with a quicker pace. Rohit Sharma played the line but enough away seam movement kissed the outside edge. This time, Sri Lanka had umpire Anil Chaudhary's decision overturned.

Most of India's shots thereafter were borne by an intent to weather that testing period. That resulted in two runs in the first five overs and 11 in the first 10, the lowest in a match involving two Full Members in the last five years.

That also ensured Sri Lanka didn't need to alter their own approach, as they jagged and nipped the ball both ways. All of Sri Lanka's first seven wickets were a result of beating the

batsmen on the inside or outside edge. Manish Pandey, Hardik Pandya and Bhuvneshwar Kumar were caught behind the wicket off outside edges. Dinesh Karthik fell over a flick and Shreyas Iyer chopped on via the inside edge. (*espncricinfo*)

BRIEF SCORE:

Sri Lanka 114 for 3 (Tharanga 49) **beat India 112** (Dhoni 65, Lakmal 4-13) by seven wickets

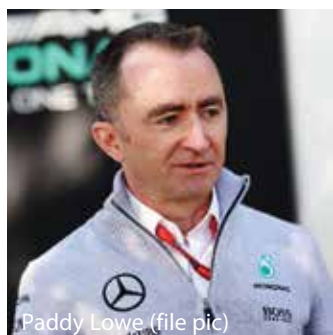
Force India outdeveloped us: Williams

Williams chief technical officer Paddy Lowe has conceded Force India outdeveloped his team after losing out in the battle for fourth in the 2017 Formula 1 constructors' championship.

Last year, Williams was ahead of Force India in fourth until September's Italian Grand Prix before being leapfrogged and falling back.

This year, Force India pulled away considerably earlier and Williams could not respond.

Retiring Felipe Massa has



Paddy Lowe (file pic)

raced for Williams continuously since 2014 and said earlier this year that the team has not

been able to develop its cars as expected for any of its recent campaigns. When asked where he felt Williams had lost out to Force India this term, Lowe said: "We started the season with a car that was generally quicker than theirs. We've ended generally slower."

"So we have lost ground to Force India on performance."

"We have both been developing through the season at a rate you don't see - and they've done a better job." (*AutoSport*)

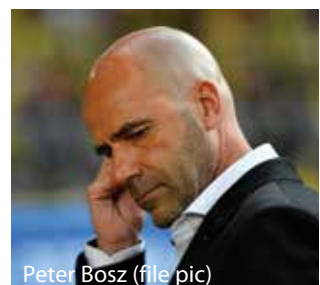
Dortmund sack Peter Bosz and appoint Peter Stoger

London

Borussia Dortmund have sacked manager Peter Bosz after seven months in charge and appointed former Cologne boss Peter Stoger until the end of the season.

Bosz arrived in the summer after guiding Ajax to the final of the Europa League but leaves with Dortmund seventh in the Bundesliga.

They will enter the Europa League in February after finishing third in their



Peter Bosz (file pic)

Champions League group behind Real Madrid and Tottenham.

Stoger was sacked by Cologne

last week.

Cologne are bottom of the table and have not won a game in the league all season, but finished fifth last term having been promoted under Stoger.

The 51-year-old Austrian described his new job as "the opportunity of a lifetime".

"Last night, in a conversation with Peter Bosz, we decided that we would release him with immediate effect," said Dortmund chief executive Hans-Joachim Watzke. (*BBC*)

Stop moaning about lack of overtaking: Vettel

London

Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel says those who moan about a lack of overtaking should calm down and accept that some Formula 1 grands prix will be boring.

This week, Pirelli released data that showed the 2017 campaign was the worst for overtaking in the DRS era.

F1's tyre supplier recorded 435 passes, which is a 49% drop from the 866 in 2016, when there was one more race.

"Wishes for next year is that everybody calms down," said Vettel, who finished second to world champion Lewis Hamilton in the drivers' standings.

"Some races are boring, so what? I don't see the problem in that. I don't think we need another record, another record every race, to have more overtaking and more overtaking."

"It's true that [difficulty in] overtaking sometimes,



Sebastian Vettel (file pic)

especially if you're behind and you're fast and you can't get past for those reasons, it annoys you."

"But then again if you make the move there is a massive reward inside the car, sometimes out of the car. What I want to say is that overtaking should be an achievement and not handed to you."

"Sometimes just relax and calm down and accept a boring race or a boring two

races in a row and then there will be another great race after that and another one."

Following the dramatic changes to the F1 aerodynamic regulations, drivers have found it tougher at certain circuits to follow other cars and get close enough to pass.

"I think Seb's right in some ways, that's just the way it is and that's the way some tracks are laid out," said Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo. (*AutoSport*)