

Ranji Trophy: Siddesh Lad bails out Mumbai on Day 1 against Karnataka



Young Turks **Siddesh Lad** and **Nikhil Patil** rescued Mumbai with counter-attacking, unbeaten half centuries on Day 1. (Source: PTI) Written by Devendra Pandey | Mumbai | February 7, 2015 11:03 am

It was Mumbai's day out but there were a few apprehensive players who rushed towards the pitch as umpires signalled the end of the opening day's play against Karnataka at Wankhede Stadium.

Mumbai coach Praveen Amre, captain Aditya Tare, curator Sudhir Naik were involved in a deep discussion — the talk centred around why the pitch hadn't turned out the way the home team had wished for. A rank turner and game which finishes in three days was Mumbai's wish list prior to their game as they desperately need an outright win to qualify for the knockouts. However, the hosts were a touch baffled with the behaviour of the track. There was some turn but without any bite. Their fear is that it might turn out to be a slow turner where it might be difficult for them to push for a win. The news from Ahmedabad where an amazing 25 wickets fell on Day One between Gujarat and Haryana (now that's the kind of pitch Mumbai were looking for) had reached Mumbai camp.

Also, Mumbai's nearest rival Baroda were bundled out in mere two sessions. Mumbai's run at home has been disappointing this season as they have not achieved a single win or even a first-innings lead. They started Friday morning by winning the toss and choosing to bat. They lost opener Shrideep Mangela in fifth ball of the day and soon, saw Shreyas Iyer falling, edging Vinay Kumar to goalkeeper CM Gautam. Mumbai looked settled at one stage as their captain Tare took charge of scoring quickly along with Abhishek Nayar. Tare in particular looked impressive, dispatching anything short or a touch wide. His 72 had 15 fours in it and Mumbai were well placed in the first session, but there was more twist to happen. Mumbai lost Tare, Surya Kumar Yadav and Nayar in quick succession and slipped to 167 for 5.

Century stand

The onus was on two inexperienced batsmen Siddesh Lad and Nikhil Patil. Both have been at the fringes for a while. Lad, the son of Rohit Sharma's coach Dinesh, had come with reputation of being a heavy scorer in age-groups tournament, and Patil had to wait out as part of 'stand-bys' after playing in the Ranji Trophy two years back. Lad was lucky. On 13, he was dropped by Manish Pandey, who lunged to his left at first slip but couldn't pouch a hip-height catch off Vinay Kumar. He was dropped one more time — on 55 R Samarth dived to his left at gully but couldn't hold on to the sharp chance off Abhimanyu Mithun. Patil never gave a chance, though. The highlights were a couple of pulled sixes well in front of midwicket off Vinay Vinay. Lad *continued...*