

Siddhesh, Kshemal star as Mumbai thump Saurashtra

K Kumaraswamy | TNN

Pune: Siddhesh Lad and Rohit Sharma go back a long way. The 20-year-old Siddhesh's father, Dinesh, is the coach of the India player, and the Lads live in the same apartment in Borivali in the western suburbs of Mumbai where Sharma stayed earlier.

Ahead of the senior interstate West Zone One-Day cricket tournament, Sharma presented one of his bats as a token of good luck to the youngster. Although Lad did not use the particular willow, the charm seemed to work as he cracked an entertaining century on debut to fashion Mumbai's thumping 126-run win over Saurashtra here on Sunday.



Siddhesh Lad



K Waingankar

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The right-hand batsman's unbeaten 115 from 91 balls helped Mumbai post a challenging 283 for seven. Then, skipper Ajit Agarkar stepped up to pick three top-order wickets and drive a wedge into the rivals' batting. Eventually, Saurashtra were all out for 157 with Agarkar finishing with four for 19 and Kshemal Waingankar grabbing 5-42 as he polished off the tail in clinical fashion.

The win with a bonus point helped Mumbai improve their tally to eight from three matches and revived their hopes of qualifying for the knock-outs after their loss with a minus point to Gujarat in their previous game.

Lad, who hit seven fours and six sixes, was dropped twice — first in the 70s and then soon after going past the three-figure mark. Yet, there was no taking the credit away from the youngster who aggregated 710 runs with three tons and two crucial fifties in the semifinals and final of the Under-25 tournament for the CK Nayudu Trophy. His first six came off Kamlesh Makwana in the 32nd over and the other two maximums from Kuldip Raval and Makwana in the 46th and 49th overs respectively.

Brief Scores

Mumbai 283-7 in 50 overs (S Shaikh 72, S Lad 115 no; Raval 2-23, Unadkat 2-54) **bt Saurashtra** 157 in 41.5 overs (C Jani 61; Waingankar 5-42, Agarkar 4-19) *by 126 runs.*