

Vidyuth's 7-fer propels TNCA Prez XI into final

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Left-arm spinner P Vidyuth (7-73) showed the way as TNCA President's XI cruised into the Buchi Babu final after Jammu and Kashmir conceded the match following their first-innings deficit on the final day here on Wednesday.

BUCHI BABU SEMIS

Vidyuth, who had bagged three wickets on Tuesday, picked up from where he left off, helping the home team skittle J&K out for 230. J&K suffered a collapse of epic proportions, losing the last six wickets for just 18 runs after beginning on their overnight score of 212-4.

J&K's slide began when young off-spinner J Hemchudeshan struck early, forcing Kawalpreet Singh to edge to C Andre Siddarth at forward short-leg. From there, Vidyuth took charge. He breached Dikshant Kundal's defence, had Abid Mushtaq



WREAK HAVOC: P Vidyuth (r) ran through the Jammu & Kashmir line-up

snapped up at leg-slip, and trapped overnight batter Yawar Hassan leg before. He went on to disturb Sunil Kumar's stumps to wrap up the innings as injured Vanshaj Sharma was declared absent hurt.

Talking to **TOI** after the match, 'Player of the match' Vidyuth said: "Actually, this morning there was a bit of moisture on the pitch. I knew

there would be some help for the spinners. So, I just wanted to capitalise on it in the first session itself today (Wednesday)."

Vidyuth, who also had come up with a decent performance with the bat in the semifinal contest, had begun his cricketing career as an opening batter and left-arm fast bowler.

The 24-year-old Chennai lad is yet to make his senior Tamil Nadu debut but could be in the reckoning for the state's red-ball side, considering that injured S Ajith Ram, one of the lead spinners is set for an extended spell on the sidelines.

Vidyuth has set his sights on establishing himself as a genuine all-rounder. "There are really good left-arm spinners who have already made their mark for TN in Ranji Trophy. I haven't gotten a chance to play. But with Ajith Ram being injured, I am actually prepared, and waiting for the opportunity to come. I really hope I make my debut this year. I'm trying

to be a good allrounder and hence this year I'm working more on my batting," said Vidyuth, who was the highest-wicket taker among players from the elite in the Col CK Naidu tournament 2023-2024 season.

In the final, TNCA President's XI will lock horns with defending champions Hyderabad, who defeated Haryana by 90 runs. Left-arm spinner Nitin Sai Yadav (7-44) claimed a seven-wicket haul to help Hyderabad bundle out Haryana for 181, after they set a target of 272.

Brief scores: At **CSK HPC:** TNCA President's XI 567-9 decl. Jammu & Kashmir 230 in 74 overs. (Yawar Hassan 84, Musaif Aijaz 36, Abdul Samad 75; P Vidyuth 7-73, J Hemchudeshan 2-78). **J&K conceded the match.** At **Guru Nanak College Ground:** Hyderabad 225 & 254. Haryana 208 & 181 in 62.4 overs (Lakshya Dalal 36, Himanshu Rana 46, Dheeru Singh 35; Nitin Sai Yadav 7-44, Aniketh Reddy 2-86). **Hyderabad won by 90 runs.** **Final line-up:** TNCA President's XI Vs Hyderabad.