

West have it easy in record-breaking Deodhar victory

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY

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WEST Zone forced East to an abject surrender on Wednesday, lifting their ninth Deodhar title with an emphatic 218-run win at the Barabati Stadium. Chasing West's mammoth 362 for 5 in 50 overs, East crumbled for 144 in 39.4 overs.

Skipper Wasim Jaffer led the charge after winning the toss; coming at No 3, the Mumbai right-hander drove anything pitched up and was quick to clear the square boundaries on deliveries that were banged hard into the unresponsive track. The sixth over of the match saw him break the fetters with three consecutive boundaries off Ashoke Dinda.

It set the tempo of his innings, and though Jaffer got a life on 25 from wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha and on 48 from Dhiraj Goswami, everybody was applauding the character of his 108-ball knock of 116.

Cheteshwar Pujara (94) played the perfect second fiddle during a 158-run partnership for the fourth wicket. Towards the end, Ravindra Jadeja (61 not out off 30 balls) and Abhishek Nayar (54 not out off 25) gobbled up East bowling with an unfinished 99-run partnership in 47 balls.

"My partnership with Pujara won the match for us. We had to score big, batting first. But we didn't think about scoring 350-plus. Anything over 250 was our initial target. Jadeja and Nayar took it beyond them," Jaffer said. The mediocre East Zone bowling played its part as well and strangely East Zone captain Manoj Tiwary decided to include an extra batsman in the first XI. With Ranadeb Bose and Ashoke Dinda going for runs, the lack of a



West Zone's Wasim Jaffer and Cheteshwar Pujara. PTI

fifth specialist bowler reflected on the scoreboard.

The record total in the first half translated into a record victory margin in the other. The East batsmen all holed out at regular intervals and the mix-up between in-form batsmen Ishank Jaggi (8) and Tiwary (24) made the difficult run-chase, impossible.

Neo gives viewers a miss

DESPITE all arrangements and commentators on board, the Deodhar final was not telecast live on TV. The official broadcaster Neo Sports blamed it on uplinking problem.

SCOREBOARD

West Zone: A Rahane b Dinda 2; P Patel c Saha b Bose 12; W Jaffer c Goswami b Bose 116; R Solanki run out 17; C Pujara c Tiwary b Sharma 94; R Jadeja not out 61; A Nayar not out 50. **Extras:** (nb1, w5) 6. **Total:** (for five wickets in 50 overs) 362. **FoW:** 1-5, 2-40, 3-85, 4-243, 5-263. **Bowling:** Bose 10-0-54-2, Dinda 10-0-81-1, Goswami 9-0-68-0, Mohanty 10-0-54-0, Tiwary 6-0-68-0, Sharma 5-0-37-1.

East Zone: W Saha b Odedara 2; N Behera lbw Odedara 12; H Das b Trivedi 0; I Jaggi b Trivedi 8; M Tiwary run out 24; S Tiwary run out 2; D Sharma lbw Nayar 7; R Mohanty lbw Nayar 26; D Goswami not out 40; A Dinda b Jadeja 16; R Bose c Patel b Jadeja 0. **Extras** (b4, lb1, w2) 7

Total: (all out in 39.4 overs) 144. **FoW:** 1-3, 2-11, 3-15, 4-47, 5-47, 6-49, 7-78, 8-106, 9-144

Bowling: Trivedi 8-2-27-2, Odedara 10-0-32-2, Abdulla 10-1-29-0, Nayar 6-0-32-2, Jadeja 3.4-0-16-2, Makwana 2-0-5-0.