

## Bengal defeat Assam in Twenty20 tie

Riding on the young brigade, hosts Bengal defeated Assam by 35 runs in their opening tie of the East Zone Twenty20 tie at the Eden Gardens here Tuesday.

A refurbished Bengal team led by young gun Manoj Tiwari piled up 169 runs in the stipulated overs. The task was tough for Assam that could make only 134.

Wriddhiman Saha gave Bengal the perfect start as he punished the Assam bowlers scoring 25 from 17 deliveries. India Under-19 star Abu Nachim received special treatment and was thrashed for 33 runs in four overs.

Saha, along with one-down Rohan Gavaskar, amassed runs in boundaries before he fell to Pritam Das, the pick of the Assam bowlers who maintained a neat line and length and scalped three wickets. Gavaskar hit a massive six on his way to a 17-ball 26. Tiwari scored 36 studded with four boundaries.

Assam lost wickets at regular intervals as the Bengal bowlers maintained a steady line and length. But the high point of Bengal's game was their brilliant ground fielding. The young boys like Tiwari, Abhishek Jhunjunwala and Subhajit Paul were terrific and effected a brilliant run-out and plucked a few near impossible catches.

The target was always too stiff for the inexperienced Assam line-up and in the end they surrendered meekly, giving Bengal a huge psychological edge ahead of their encounter against Jharkhand Wednesday.

Brief scores:

Bengal 169/9 (M. Tiwari 36, A. Jhunjunwala 32; P. Das 3/27)

Assam 134/8 (S. Bhagawati not out 26, P. Mukherjee 26; S.S. Paul 2/28)

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