

Over 40 Cricket World Cup held in Karachi, Pakistan 2023.

Over40s Cricket Global Cup 2023

WEST INDIES TEAM SQUAD



Photo By
Nasir Abdullah

Back row from left:

Bhesham Seepersaud, Sanjiv Goojar, Randy Thomas, Javed Bacchus, Dary Balgobin, Mahendra Nagamotoo, Randy Lindore, Devindra Maharaj, Lookeshwar Mahabeer

Left to right front row:

Lawrence Farnum, Hemraj Garbarran, Narsingh Deonarine, Raj Singh (manager), Shazan Babwah, Zamin Amin, Devon Clements

The Over 40 Cricket World Cup was the first ever with 8 teams competing from Australia, USA, Canada, Nepal, UAE, Hong Kong, Pakistan and West Indies. With security being the biggest hiccups, England and South Africa withdrew their team at the last minute, needless to say this was the biggest fear of the tour. This was immediately dissolved when we arrived at Karachi, we were greeted by Team Liaison officer, members of the Pakistan Cricket Board and a entourage of heavily armed Police and army officers that remained with us throughout the entire stay making it as safe as possible for all players.

Match 1

We played 7 games to qualify for the semi-final with the first game against Australia. I missed this game through injury which placed a fear that I might not be able to play, West Indies won easily and with them being one of the pre-tournament favourite, we immediately placed ourselves in the limelight.

Each game was televised live in Pakistan by 4 plus channels per game and had lots of streaming links for the wider world to witness the games LIVE, all teams played on the same day and stayed at the same hotel for safety reasons, an army base was formed there and no player were allowed to leave hotel unless it was a planned event by tournament organisers where we left and returned under heavy

Match 2

Next game against UAE I played but only managed 12 runs but honestly I was extremely nervous and maybe the tournament pressure got to me, but the boys got us an easy win number 2.

Match 3

Next up, unbeaten USA and also a tournament favourite along with host Pakistan, day/night game at the famous Moin Khan stadium, USA batted and got 233 and with lots of injuries in our team, muscle and hydration playing at 38 degrees we had to dig deep. I got 69 run in a losing cause but immediately made a mark for myself and managed to show the team that I am capable and ready for the battles, although we lost I was voted Man of the match for my gritty innings

Match 4

Pakistan, the powerhouse that invested heavily in gaining the services from 6 of the most recent TEST International Players namely Misbah Ul Haq, Muhammad Sami, Abdul Razzaq and a few more, their intentions were clearly to win and also promote cricket back into Pakistan which was not happening for nearly 13 years due to attack on the Sri Lankan national team in 2009. We turned up and batted first, again I top scored with 44 but our total of 209 was never going to be enough for this amazing and talented host team Pakistan, we lost by 7 wickets

Match 5

The Pressure is on, after losing 2 games back to back we have found ourselves in a MUST WIN situation as we slumped to 6th place (only 4 qualify for playoffs) with only 3 games to go, another loss and we could be out. Up against Canada, we won toss and decided best way to fix this is bat first and show our worth. We immediately started to regret that decision as we stumbled to 20-3, immediately in trouble and panic taking over I strolled to the crease. Myself and batting partner Randy from Barbados started rebuilding and managed to get through the storm, then we started to take the game back for the West Indies with a 129 run partnership, he eventually got out on a well-played 54 but I continued on. The heat was unbearable at 39 degrees and with us playing 5th game in 7 day, muscles started to give away...I soldiered on and managed to get the most celebrated landmark for any batter, a CENTURY....101 not out in 98 balls, an innings described by the local newspapers as classy, gritty and top quality, unfortunately due to the harsh conditions and muscle cramps I had to retire hurt, but on a high and this allowed West Indies to recover and post the second highest score of the tournament 393, we won easily and with results going our way marched to 4th, another Man of Match for me, number 2.

Match 6

Nepal – easy victory for the team, I did not bat as per advise by Physio due to innings day before, didn't need to as the boys were amazing, we move to 3rd and qualify with a game to go.

Game 7

Hong Kong

Against another easy win but batted late and got 20 not out to bring the game home, still trying to preserve body for playoffs

Game 8 – Semi finals against USA and need some revenge

We were all pumped up and when we sung our national anthem, the whole stadium was echoing, I knew immediately we were ready for battle. We won the toss and sent USA in to bat and with an amazing bowling performance from our International test player, 6 wickets we were able to bowl them out for 146. We started chase and playoff nerves took over and we started to stutter, but with a 60 run partnership I was involved in, we got over the line and into the semi finals barely by 3 wickets, I got 29 runs, into the finals we go against powerhouse Pakistan

Game 9 – Finals day

Pakistan batted first and after we kept them under pressure for most of the innings, their international players decided to show and remind the world who they are at our demise, posting an almost unachievable 339 runs in the finals. Our dress room was stunned and lacked confidence and this immediately showed when we started to bat stumbling to 80-6. I dug in and battled although knew we were outclassed, needed to get to a respectable score and save face, I got to 47 before I got out and we lost graciously to a better team.



Overall, I finished at the leading run scorer for west indies with 279 runs at an average of 55 runs per game and 7th overall in the whole tournament, where I was voted onto the TEAM OF THE TOURNAMENT

It was an amazing experience, something I never dream of doing after being narrowly overlooked at younger age groups. USA ambassador described this event as a 2nd live and that's what it actually was for me and all other players, we had dinner with many dignitaries including the Karachi Mayor, Governor General of Pakistan, various ambassadors from representing teams and other officials/events organised by the Cricket Board of Pakistan. Games were competitive, crowds although managed for safety fears were incredible with their relentless passion for cricket. I am so proud of my achievements of representing my nation West Indies, the department and myself, this is an experience I will talk about and embrace for the rest of my cricketing life and beyond. With the success of this tournament and the attention it created globally with all the television and news coverage has now prompted few nations to decide to make this event annually and next year the intended host will be INDIA, I am really looking forward to be selected again and continue my journey in my second life. This also helps to promote healthy lifestyles, well being and fitness to individuals 40 and above and I will use this experience gained to give back to local community and happy to engage with HASSRA should an opportunity come up.

Newspapers writeup

<https://www.kaieteurnewsonline.com/2023/10/19/lawrence-farnum-delighted-with-performances-in-pakistan/>