



Sam Billings scores a century for England Lions versus India A in the first ODI in Trivandrum (credit: Subhash Kumarapuram)

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England Lions fall to India A by three wickets in first ODI

Sam Billings scored an excellent unbeaten century but couldn't stop England Lions falling to India A by three wickets in a close first ODI of the series in Trivandrum.

Billings finished on 108* from 104 balls out of the Lions' 285/7. The captain brought up three figures with a huge six over long-on off paceman Shardul Thakur in the final over of the innings. Billings put on 63 with Lions debutant Will Jacks for the fifth wicket, with Jacks falling to a stunning one-handed

catch on the midwicket boundary.

At the top of the innings, Alex Davies scored a well-paced 54, following on from his century in the first of the two warmup games, setting the Lions up for a competitive total against a strong India A bowling lineup.

In reply, captain Ajinkya Rahane, veteran of 56 Tests and 90 ODIs for India, scored 59 at the top of the order, while Ishan Kishan hit 57* to help finish the game for the home side. Danny Briggs took two wickets in an over, including Rahane, in eight tight overs of left-arm spin, with seamer Zak Chappell taking three wickets on Lions debut and Lewis Gregory picking up two.

The second ODI takes place on Friday.

Scorecard: <https://www.ecb.co.uk/matches/10671>

Quotes

Sam Billings - England Lions captain

“Unfortunately [the hundred] doesn’t mean much today because we lost the game. It’s a bit of a weird feeling – I did well for myself but ultimately we didn’t win the game, which was obviously disappointing.

“India A were exceptional in the field and made it hard for new batsmen to come in and rotate strike, and we weren’t on the ball with that. For a lot of the game it felt like we should have won, but it’s a little bit gutting because we feel like we gifted that game.”

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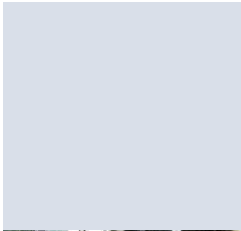
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