

W Indies victory another step up

NORTH SOUND, Antigua (CMC) — West Indies Head Coach Stuart Law has hailed Sunday's sensational win over India, but cautioned it was just one step on a long road back for the embattled Caribbean side.

The Windies looked down down and out when they stumbled to 189 for nine off their 50 overs, batting first in the fourth One-Day International. But they rallied to bundle out the Indians for 178, and clinch an amazing, 11-run victory.

"I believe in these boys. I believe they have got the skill," the Australian told reporters following the result at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

"We beat Pakistan a couple of weeks ago chasing down 300, and now we've defended a reasonably small total against India — two of the best teams in the world we've gone on to beat.

"I believe they've got the skill, I believe they've got the talent, if we just improve their work ethic. And they've got to play a different game than they're used to. As soon as we start realising that and start

working towards that, I think we can start making progress."

He added: "Today is one step and it's a big ladder for us, but today is one step closer to where we want to end up. It's a lot of hard work and we are working hard, believe me.

"The people of the Caribbean probably don't see us working as hard as we are



and I just want to let them know that we are very pleased that we've put a win on the board today for everybody in the

region."

Entering the contest down 2-0 in the five-match series and trying to avoid yet another series defeat, West Indies produced yet another limp effort with the bat, as their batsmen succumbed to a series of soft dismissals.

Openers Kyle Hope and Evin Lewis top-scored with 35, but no other batsman passed 30 as the Windies innings declined dramatically from a decent position of 121 for two.

Law said while it was evident the batting still needed work, he was thrilled by the way the team had rallied, especially defending such a small target.

"We showed tremendous fight with the ball in hand out there today," Law pointed out. "Once again, our batting [was not up to scratch]. We got off to a good start but we didn't quite capitalise. We desperately need one of the top six or couple of the top six to go on and get big scores to alleviate the pressure that we had at the end there.

"If we had 240, 250 on the board it would

have made our job a lot easier. But credit to the boys, the way they fought in the field. I thought the fielding



was outstanding; the pressure catching towards the end was great.

"I'm very happy, very proud but we've still got plenty of work to do. But we're definitely going to enjoy this one."

The final match of the series is set for Sabina Park in Jamaica on Thursday.

Gayle Returns To Face Indians

ST JOHN'S, Antigua (CMC): Superstar opener Chris Gayle has been named in a West Indies 13-man squad to face India in the one-off Twenty20 International at Sabina Park on Sunday. The 37-year-old, the region's most experienced player in the shortest format, has not suited up for West Indies since helping them to the capture of the T20 World Cup in India in April last year. He was picked in a squad to face the Indians in a two-match T20 series in Fort Lauderdale last August, but never played because of fitness issues. Chief selector Courtney Browne said Gayle would further strengthen West Indies for the encounter.

Most Prolific Batsman

"We welcome Chris back to the T20 squad. He is the most prolific batsman in this format and will add value to our team at the top of the order," Browne said.

Gayle has played 295 T20s and recently became the first batsman to crest 10,000 runs in the format. His form during the recent Indian Premier League was worrying, however, as he managed a mere 200 runs with a single half century.

For West Indies, he has plundered two centuries, the last coming during the T20 World Cup in the opening match against England. Gayle is the only change to the squad that swept Afghanistan last month, replacing Lendl Simmons who had scores of six, 17 and 15 in the three-match series. "This squad has a good mix experience within the batting and bowling it is a well-balanced squad," Browne said. The last time the two teams met in a T20, West Indies won a nail-biter in Fort Lauderdale by one run.

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Fort Lauderdale by one run.

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