

A Gentleman's move

Sir: You have asked the right question in the news item "A walker and a gentleman" (Dec.14) as to what the match referee Raman Subba Rao, who slapped a fine of 50 per cent of match fee and a match detention on Brian Lara, thinks of his walking towards the pavilion without waiting for the Umpire's decision. It is really amazing how the same Lara who in the One-day International at Goa, had wanted the umpire to seek the third umpire's opinion to decide whether he was out or not, simply walked back to the pavilion when nobody including the umpire and the bowler had been sure about the dismissal.

This show of sportsmanship by Lara has won the hearts of sports lovers throughout India. Players usually tend to wait for the umpire's decision even though they are out. This attitude of players is quite understandable, because even when a player is not out on several occasions, he is declared out by umpire and nobody can call him back then. With competition in modern cricket being so tough today - money, glamour and cricketing careers being at stake - players tend to adopt a defensive approach with the umpires. Therefore this act of sportsmanship by Lara has been greatly appreciated, considering the fact that he was going through a lean patch. His scores were very low during this tour of India. Long live Lara and let the clan of Lara grow to make the game of cricket a gentleman's game

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