



Akram bats for Test cricket



Wasim Akram holds forth at the inauguration of the 'Gatorade Centre for Pace Excellence' in New Delhi on Monday. - PHOTO: ANU PUSHKARNA

NEW DELHI: Wasim Akram was categorical that the overwhelming charm of T20 in the world of cricket at the moment was just a temporary phase, and that Test cricket would pass the critical test once again.

"T20 is just entertainment. You don't have to even think in this format. The real quality of cricket can be seen only in Test matches," said Akram.

He suggested that his idea of training young fast bowlers was to prepare them to be good first class cricketers, and not how to be good in T20.

"You have to first be a good cricketer. It can't be the other way around," he said.

"The ICC has to do something to support Test cricket. We need pitch inspectors for Test cricket. We need positive pitches that will make Tests lively," said Akram.

Moving to the talented Mo-

hammad Asif's impending return from suspension, Akram stated that the young paceman would do well to learn from his mistakes and work his way back to realise his full potential.

Learn from mistakes

"I have made a lot of mistakes, and I have learnt from them. Asif is young and it may take him some time. There is T20 and one-day cricket. But, if you want to be respected as a great bowler, you have to be good in Test cricket," Akram said.

Commenting on Shoaib Akhtar's chances of returning to the Pakistan team, Akram was categorical that the need of the hour was to look at the future.

"Akhtar wasn't looking that fit last time. He doesn't have a chance, unless there is a miracle," he said. - Special Correspondent