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# **Machine simulates deliveries of Malinga, Afridi**

## **ProBatter available at Dubai Sports City**

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Dubai: Pakistan batsmen can get some practice in against the deadly yorkers of Lasith Malinga before facing the real thing in the series against Sri Lanka in the UAE, which starts on Tuesday.

The International Cricket Council Global Cricket Academy's ProBatter video system can simulate the experience of facing Malinga.

The screen displays a footage of Malinga running in and at the point of release a real ball is fired as if from the hand of the bowler — exactly replicating his slinging action.

### **Speed of delivery**

A," said ex-Mumbai coach Praveen Amre, who has taken a year off from first-class cricket to work at the grassroots. "England's needs are different. They need to get used to spin. Yes, it would be good if we had machines which would help our batsmen tackle the moving ball better. But then again coaching can only equip you with certain things. Players have to implement those in the middle," the former India batsman added.

The other change that England has undergone is in the use of tour-specific statistical inputs. Coach Andy Flower's appointment of Cambridge mathematics graduate, Nathan Leamon, as the head of video analysis, and his inputs on the Indian players on tour of England were crucial, feels Avery. "Hawkeye is a tool he

uses and we knew a lot of things from his inputs during the series back home. Gemma (Chris Broad's daughter) does the video analysis for ODIs," Avery said.

England's success against Tendulkar this summer was reportedly partially due to analysis that showed he scored mainly on the on side early on.

The speed of his deliveries can be adjusted from 113kph up to 151kph. Similarly, if Sri Lankan batsmen are finding the Pakistan spinners too tricky, they can simulate retired leg spinner Shahid Afridi to bowl to them with his typical turn and bounce.

"We can simulate whichever player the teams would want if they wish to train here during the series," said Mudassar Nazar, head coach of the ICC GCA along with Dayle Hadlee.

"We can have the legendary Muttiah Muralitharan, Umar Gul, Shoaib Akhtar and Mitchell Johnson bowl to them."

Three one-dayers and one Test in the Pakistan-Sri Lanka series will take place at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, which is close to the ICC GCA at Dubai Sports City, meaning teams will not have to go far to use the equipment.

"The biggest advantage of ProBatter is that a batsman can get used to seeing the body language of a bowler before different kinds of deliveries. One can even feel the match atmosphere in an indoor stadium," Nazar said.