PAK vs SA 1st T20I Preview: Predicted Lineups, Key Players, and Match Prediction

The stage is set for an electrifying clash as **Pakistan and South Africa** face off in the first T20I of the series. Both teams will look to begin on a winning note and set the tone for what promises to be an entertaining contest between two aggressive and well-balanced sides. With power-hitters, world-class bowlers, and exciting young talent on display, this game has all the ingredients for a thriller.



Match Overview

Pakistan entered the T20I series with momentum and the advantage of familiar home conditions. Under the leadership of **Babar Azam**, they will aim to dominate with their reliable batting order and potent bowling attack. South Africa, on the other hand, come

with a fearless mindset under **Aiden Markram**, hoping their explosive middle order can counter Pakistan's pace and spin threat.

The pitch is expected to be batting-friendly early on, but as the game progresses, spinners could play a crucial role. Dew may also influence the chasing team's advantage in the second innings.

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Predicted Lineups

Pakistan: Babar Azam (c), Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Fakhar Zaman, Iftikhar Ahmed, Saim Ayub, Shadab Khan, Imad Wasim, Shaheen Afridi, Haris Rauf, Naseem Shah, Abrar Ahmed.

South Africa: Quinton de Kock (wk), Reeza Hendricks, Aiden Markram (c), Heinrich Klaasen, David Miller, Tristan Stubbs, Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, Gerald Coetzee, Lungi Ngidi, Tabraiz Shamsi.

Both sides are evenly matched, blending experience with youthful energy, making the contest unpredictable.

Key Players to Watch

For **Pakistan**, captain **Babar Azam** and wicketkeeper **Mohammad Rizwan** will be the key anchors with the bat, while **Shaheen Afridi's early breakthroughs** could tilt the balance. **Shadab Khan's all-round ability** might also be vital on a slower pitch.

For **South Africa**, **Aiden Markram** and **Heinrich Klaasen** stand out as the main threats in the batting lineup. **Marco Jansen's pace and lower-order hitting** add depth, while **Tabraiz Shamsi's spin** could test Pakistan's middle order.

Match Prediction

Both teams are strong contenders, but Pakistan's familiarity with conditions and stronger bowling attack could give them the upper hand. Expect a closely fought battle, but **Pakistan are likely to edge past South Africa** to take a 1–0 lead in the T20I series.

Know More: - PAK Vs SA Match Prediction