

South Africa's semi-final struggles: will 2025 break the 'Jinx'?



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South Africa's quest for their first ICC trophy since 1998 continues as they reach the semi-finals of the 2025 ICC Champions Trophy. Despite being perennial contenders, their history of narrow semi-final defeats looms large, with the 1999 World Cup exit and 2015's devastating loss to New Zealand still fresh in their minds.

In 2015, South Africa's fast-bowling legend Dale Steyn, with 699 wickets to his name, bowled a

crucial over in the World Cup semi-final. However, a stunning match-ending six by New Zealand's Grant Elliott dashed their hopes. Earlier in the 1999 World Cup, Lance Klusener's remarkable form couldn't prevent an infamous run-out with one run needed to win against Australia, leading to another heartbreak.

Now, in 2025, after a dominant performance against England, South Africa seems ready for redemption. They've used a pre-tournament tri-series in Pakistan to familiarize themselves with subcontinent conditions, and players like Rassie van der Dussen believe it's given them a vital edge.

But, despite their progress, South Africa faces the unpredictable challenge of possibly playing their semi-final in Dubai, adding another layer of uncertainty. This tournament marks another chance to overcome the psychological hurdle of their ICC trophy drought, which has lasted over two decades.

As they approach their semi-final clash, there is hope that the Proteas, driven by a new generation of players, will finally break the jinx and deliver the silverware their fans have long awaited. Only time will tell if this will truly be their year.