

Hussey could play for WA in Champions League

- **Tim Clarke**
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Western Australia will get a new name, a new shirt - could also get one of its best players - when it takes its place in the multi-million Champions League which will be officially launched in India later today.

A sponsorship deal revealed at the WACA will see the team named the Rambal Warriors for the duration of the tournament, after an agreement was reached with the Indian industrialist whose millions helped secure Tom Moody as coach.

Vikas Rambal, who made his money in the Burrup fertiliser project in the state's north, will have his name attached to the team - which could also surprisingly include Mike Hussey.

Originally thought to be contractually obliged to appear for the Chennai Superkings as he did in the IPL, a rethink of the rules Hussey could now appear for WA - as he will at the official launch of the competition in India this evening.

Moody said he was now very hopeful he could add Hussey to a top order of Marsh, Ronchi, Pomersbach, North and Voges.

"We have been in communication with him ... but we are unclear of his contractual obligations. The pressure they might put on him, but you can guarantee if Mike Hussey gets the opportunity to play for WA he will take it," Moody said.

"He would be a wonderful asset to our team, someone with the experience maturity and leadership will only strength what is already a good team.

"And you would think we would get a decent run rate with that line-up."

Rambal, who made a massive fortune with his involvement in the Burrup fertiliser project, entered into the sporting sponsorship world when he agreed a landmark agreement last year to financially secure Moody as his personal sponsor.

That agreement is believed to be doubling Moody's income while in WA, but Rambal would not reveal how much he had paid to have his family's name attached to the team during the Champions League.

But Moody said the agreement would allow his team to travel to India for the tournament in the same manner as an international team embarking on a tour, with the

possibility of a \$3 million winner's purse.

The fixtures for the December 3-10 event, with matches to be held in Bangalore, Chennai and Mumbai, will be released at the function in Delhi tonight.

Eight teams, consisting of the reigning winners and runners-up from the domestic Twenty20 competitions in India, Australia and South Africa, along with the reigning Twenty20 champions of Pakistan and England, Sialkot and Middlesex, will compete.