

Vihari rallies with lower-order to drive India

His determined hundred, along with Ishant's half-century, helps the visitors cross the 400-mark

INDIA IN WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KINGSTON

Hanuma Vihari scored his maiden century while Ishant Sharma struck his career's first fifty as India was bowled out for 416 in its first innings at tea on the second day of the second cricket Test against the West Indies here on Saturday.

Vihari made a career-best 111 off 225 balls with the help of 16 boundaries to hold India's innings together.

Together with Ishant (57 off 80 balls), Vihari shared 112 runs off 28.3 overs for the eighth wicket to take India to the commanding position.

Rock-solid

While Vihari looked rock-solid, Ishant gave him the perfect support from the other end as the duo frustrated the West Indian bowlers for a long time. The hosts needed 140.1 overs to bowl out the visitors.

Resuming at the overnight score of 264 for five, India lost Rishabh Pant (27) off the opening delivery of the day.

Pant was cleaned up by West Indies skipper Jason



Memorable first: Hanuma Vihari was a picture of poise in notching up his maiden Test century. ■ AP

Holder (four for 62) with an inswinger as the batsman leaned for a drive.

Thereafter, overnight batsman Vihari and new man in Ravindra Jadeja played ac-

ording to the situation to nullify any threat from the West Indies bowlers.

Jadeja played a patient knock of 16 off 69 before he top-edged Rahkeem

Cornwall.

An over later, Vihari got a big reprieve when he was dropped by John Campbell off Cornwall at first slip.

Vihari reached his maiden

Test ton in 200 balls with the help of a single off Roach.

Ishant was not to be left behind as he followed his senior batsman by reaching his maiden Test half-century.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA - 1ST INNINGS
(overnight: 264 for five; Vihari 42 batting, Pant 27 batting)

K.L. Rahul c Cornwall b Holder 13 (26b, 2x4), Mayank Agarwal c Cornwall b Holder 55 (127b, 7x4), Cheteshwar Pujara c Brooks b Cornwall 6 (25b), Virat Kohli c Hamilton b Holder 76 (163b, 10x4), Ajinkya Rahane c Hamilton b Roach 24 (55b, 4x4), Hanuma Vihari c Roach b Holder 111 (225b, 16x4), Rishabh Pant b Holder 27 (65b, 2x4, 1x6), Ravindra Jadeja c Bravo b Cornwall 16 (69b, 3x4), Ishant Sharma c Hetmyer b Brathwaite 57 (80b, 7x4), Mohammed Shami c Hamilton b Cornwall 0 (2b), Jasprit Bumrah (not out) 0 (4b); Extras (b-11, lb-19, w-1): 31; Total (in 140.1 overs, at tea): 416.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-32 (Rahul, 6.5 overs), 2-46 (Pujara, 16.5), 3-115 (Mayank, 40.5), 4-164 (Rahane, 59.5), 5-202 (Kohli, 72.1), 6-264 (Pant, 90.1), 7-302 (Jadeja, 110.1), 8-414 (Ishant, 138.4), 9-416 (Shami, 139.2).

WEST INDIES BOWLING

Roach 30-9-77-1, Gabriel 21-4-74-0, Holder 32.1-9-77-5, Cornwall 41-10-105-3, Chase 14-4-45-0, Brathwaite 2-0-8-1.

'Feels good to get Pujara as my first Test wicket'

IAN S
KINGSTON

West Indies all-rounder Rahkeem Cornwall is happy that his first Test wicket was Cheteshwar Pujara on Day 1 of the second and final Test here on Friday.

Cornwall, who at 140 kg became the heaviest cricketer to play international cricket, returned one for 69 from his 27 overs.

"Good feeling to get him (Pujara) as my first Test wicket. It was nothing new to me but it was a good feel-

ing," Cornwall told the media.

"I think the ball came on really nice in the beginning. I have to work hard and put the ball into the right areas," he said.

Cornwall also took a couple of catches in the slips to remove India openers Mayank Agarwal and K.L. Rahul off skipper Jason Holder.

"Our seamers bowled well and when I was asked to bowl, I had to do the same," he said.

'Didn't expect Dhoni to be picked for SA series'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly didn't expect M.S. Dhoni to be "picked" for the upcoming T20Is against South Africa and said the team management is absolutely right in persisting with young Rishabh Pant.

"No, I didn't expect him to be picked for this series (against South Africa)," Ganguly replied when asked if

he was surprised with Dhoni's omission even though the official reason is his "unavailability," said Ganguly.

"You could make out from West Indies (T20) series, that they (team management) wanted to give Rishabh a chance. They want to pursue with him, which is rightly so. Because when MS came in young, he was also persisted with," said Dhoni's first international captain.

Lomror, Avesh keep Red in hunt

DULEEP TROPHY

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA
BENGALURU

A defiant 126 (272b, 14x4, 3x6) from Mahipal Lomror and some spectacular late hitting by Avesh Khan frustrated India Green as it pushed for the first-innings lead over India Red on the third day of their Duleep Trophy clash here.

At stumps at the Alur grounds on Saturday, Red was 404 for nine, 36 behind Green's total. Three points from this fixture, which is almost certain to end in a draw on the fourth day, would guarantee Green a spot in the final against Red.

When the ninth Red wicket fell for 368, the end of the innings seemed near. But Avesh had other plans. The Madhya Pradesh fast bowler clubbed five mammoth sixes off Dharmendrasinh Jadeja, including four off one over. Two balls landed outside the compound and were lost.

Avesh was on 31 off eight balls at one point; a measure of calm returned to his batting thereafter and he



Mahipal Lomror.
■ SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA

walked back unbeaten on 34 (18b). The last-wicket pair of Avesh and Sandeep Warrier walked back, having added 36 runs (33b).

Drab batting

In the morning, the runs slowed to a crawl, India Red pottering along at two an over during the first hour of play. Karun Nair looked ill-at-ease against Rahul Chahar, who sent down 24 balls to him for only three runs. Karun was stuck on 89 for 12 balls until he finally added a run. But he fell for 90, dragging Ankit Rajpoot onto the stumps. He had been dismissed for 99 in the first innings of the previous game.

Lomror stood firm even as his partners departed. The 19-year-old from Rajasthan looked composed at the crease, having shelved his naturally attacking style for the day. "I'm prepared for every situation; I was just trying to play according to the demands of the team, the match and the pitch," he said. Last season was the young left-hander's best in the Ranji Trophy (708 runs).

Unadkat batted sensibly with Lomror, as the pair added 66 runs for the seventh wicket. Red looked on course to claim the first-innings lead at that stage until Jadeja broke through. Lomror played down the wrong line to a delivery from the left-armed and was caught at slip. Unadkat went minutes later, caught at gully off the same bowler. Red lost three wickets for five runs, and Green looked set for the lead. And Avesh walked in.

The scores: India Green 440 vs India Red 404 for nine in 135 overs (Mahipal Lomror 126, Priyank Panchal 31, Karun Nair 90, K.S. Bharat 38, J. Unadkat 30, Avesh Khan 34 batting, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja four for 125).

Ishan powers India-A to 2-0 lead

Linde's late flourish gives South Africa-A a competitive total

SA-A IN INDIA

M.R. PRAVEEN CHANDRAN
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The visiting South Africa-A still hasn't found a way to rein in the left-handed batsmen from the opposition.

For the second time in the series, the South Africans were tormented by a south-paw as Ishan Kishan's brilliant innings of 55 runs dashed the visitors' hopes for a win in the second unofficial one-dayer at the Sports Hub on Saturday.

Sharp showers in the morning and damp outfield had reduced the contest to a 21-over affair.

Chasing 163 for a win, India stuttered to a two-wicket win with an over to spare and went 2-0 up in the five-match series.

Spot of bother

Ishan walked in when his side was in a spot of bother at 57 for three in the ninth over. The diminutive batsman was on song from the moment he clubbed left-arm



All-out hitting: Ishan Kishan tore the South Africa-A attack apart during his half-century. ■

spinner George Linde over long-on for a massive six.

Ishan didn't have to innovate as the predictable line of attack from South Africa-A bowlers gave his enough scoring opportunities. A couple of swept fours by Ish-

an off Fountin and an 18-run over from a wayward Junior Dala eased the pressure.

Captain Manish Pandey only had to rotate the strike as Ishan tore the attack to shreds. The fourth-wicket stand between Ishan and

Manish added 58 runs which brought the target within reach.

Mid-innings slump

However, both Manish and Ishan perished while trying to play the big shots. India-A suffered a mid-innings slump when it lost three wickets for four runs but Krunal Panday remained unbeaten with 23 to guide the team home.

Earlier, put in to bat, the South African innings meandered along until it was given a late impetus by George Linde, who biffed a 25-ball, unbeaten 52 to take his side to a competitive total.

The highlight of Linde's knock was the towering five sixes he hit. Linde and Klaassen (31) added 52 for the fifth wicket and South African-A amassed 72 runs in the last six overs to finish strongly.

However, the total proved to be inadequate in the end.

The scores: (match reduced to 21 overs):

South Africa-A: Janneman Malan run out 6, Reeza Hendricks c Gill b Khaleel Ahmed 1, Temba Bavuma c Gaikwad b Chahal 40,

Khaya Zondo b Axar 34, Heinrich Klaassen b Chahal 31, George Linde (not out) 52, Marco Jansen (not out) 5; Extras (w-1, nb-2): 3. Total (for five wkts. in 21 overs): 152

Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-15, 3-63, 4-75, 5-127.

India-A bowling: Deepak Chahar 4-0-30-1, Khaleel Ahmed 4-0-38-1, Shardul Thakur 4-0-33-0, Yuzvendra Chahal 3-0-22-1, Axar Patel 3-0-19-1, Krunal Pandya 3-0-22-0.

India-A: Rituraj Gaikwad c Malan b Beuran Hendricks 1, Shubman Gill c Reeza Hendricks b Fortuin 21, Anmolpreet Singh c Dala b George Linde 30, Manish Pandey c Reeza Hendricks b Marco Jansen 13, Ishan Kishan c Malan b Junior Dala, Deepak Chahar c Klaassen b Junior Dala 0, Shardul Thakur run out 2, Yuzvendra Chahal not out 1; Extras (b-2, lb-1, w-2, nb-2): 7; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 163.

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-52, 3-57, 4-115, 5-131, 6-157, 7-157, 8-161.

South Africa-A bowling: Bjorn Fortuin 4-0-27-1, Beuran Hendricks 3-0-20-1, Anrich Nortje 4-0-40-1, George Linde 3-0-21-1, Junior Dala 3-0-25-2, Marco Jansen 3-0-27-1.

Djokovic rolls on, Nishikori crashes out

Serena crushes 44th-ranked Czech Karolina Muchova in 74 minutes

US OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK

Top-ranked defending champion Novak Djokovic rolled into the US Open fourth round on Friday while Serena Williams cruised into the last 16 and Kei Nishikori was eliminated.

Djokovic, champion in four of the past five Slams and 16 overall, was less bothered by left shoulder pain that nagged him in the second round in defeating 111th-ranked American Denis Kudla 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.

"That I managed to play almost pain-free, that's a big improvement from last match obviously," Djokovic said. "I didn't know how my body would react. That was nice."

Djokovic, who needed treatment throughout his second-round triumph, skipped practice Thursday in favor of shoulder treatment. The 32-year-old Serbian, a three-time US Open winner, booked a Sunday showdown with three-time Slam winner Stan Wawrinka, the Swiss 23rd seed who eliminated Italian lucky loser Paolo Lorenzi 6-4, 7-6(9), 7-6(4).

"There's something with him that when I get into my best game, I know that it's going to have some big rallies



Powering through: Alex de Minaur, on his deepest Grand Slam run, beat Kei Nishikori for his first victory over a top-10 player in 12 tries. ■ AP

and I'm going to play good tennis," Wawrinka said.

De Minaur causes upset Williams continued her quest for a 24th career Grand Slam title to equal Margaret Court's all-time record by crushing 44th-ranked Czech Karolina Muchova 6-3, 6-2 in 74 minutes. "I had a lot of intensity today, which is really good for me," said Williams, whose next opponent is Croatian 22nd seed Petra Martic.

The 37-year-old American, a six-time US Open champion, last won a Slam at the 2017 Australian Open and

hasn't won the US Open since 2014.

Japanese seventh seed Nishikori, the 2014 US Open runner-up, lost to Australia's

IMPORTANT RESULTS

Men: Third round: 1-Novak Djokovic (Srb) bt Denis Kudla (USA) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2; 23-Stan Wawrinka (Sui) bt Paolo Lorenzi (Ita) 6-4, 7-6(9), 7-6(4); Dominik Koepfer (Ger) bt 17-Nikoloz Basilashvili (Geo) 6-3, 7-6(5), 4-6, 6-1; 5-Daniil Medvedev (Rus) bt Feliciano Lopez (Esp) 7-6(1), 4-6, 7-6(7), 6-4; 15-David Goffin (Bel) bt Pablo Carreno Busta (Esp) 7-6(5), 7-6(9), 7-5; Grigor Dimitrov (Bul) bt Kamil

Alex de Minaur 6-2, 6-4, 2-6, 6-3.

The 20-year-old Aussie, on his deepest Grand Slam run, took his first victory ov-

er a top-10 foe in 12 tries. "This is where I feel like my game's at. I want to be pushing second weeks of Grand Slams and putting myself out there. So very happy," De Minaur said. "Hopefully I can just keep it rolling."

De Minaur faces Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov next.

Canadian 15th seed Bianca Andreescu advanced Danish 19th seed Caroline Wozniacki 6-4, 6-4.

The 19-year-old won the battle of the top-rated players remaining in her quarter of the draw after exits by Simona Halep and Petra Kvitova to book a last-16 date with US qualifier Taylor Townsend.

Also advancing was Ukrainian fifth seed and Wimbledon semifinalist Elina Svitolina, who next faces US 10th seed Madison Keys, a 6-3, 7-5 winner over Sofia Kenin.

er a top-10 foe in 12 tries.

"This is where I feel like my game's at. I want to be pushing second weeks of Grand Slams and putting myself out there. So very happy," De Minaur said. "Hopefully I can just keep it rolling."

De Minaur faces Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov next.

Canadian 15th seed Bianca Andreescu advanced Danish 19th seed Caroline Wozniacki 6-4, 6-4.

The 19-year-old won the battle of the top-rated players remaining in her quarter of the draw after exits by Simona Halep and Petra Kvitova to book a last-16 date with US qualifier Taylor Townsend.

Also advancing was Ukrainian fifth seed and Wimbledon semifinalist Elina Svitolina, who next faces US 10th seed Madison Keys, a 6-3, 7-5 winner over Sofia Kenin.

6-4, 6-4; 25-Elise Mertens (Bel) bt Andrea Petkovic (Ger) 6-3, 6-3.

5-Elina Svitolina (Ukr) bt 32-Dayana Yastremska (Ukr) 6-2, 6-0; 10-Madison Keys (USA) bt 20-Sofia Kenin (USA) 6-3, 7-5; 16-Johanna Konta (GBR) bt 33-Zhang Shuai (Chn) 6-2, 6-3; 8-Serena Williams (USA) bt Karolina Muchova (Cze) 6-3, 6-2; 18-Wang Qiang (Chn) bt Fiona Ferro (Fra) 7-6(1), 6-3.

Bengaluru Bulls' plans fail at home



On top of his game: Sachin collected five points in all, including two on a do-or-die raid, to help the visitors pull away. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

PKL

N. SUDARSHAN
BENGALURU

Defending champion Bengaluru Bulls' return to the city didn't go as planned as it fell to a 32-23 loss to Gujarat Fortune Giants in the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) at the Sree Kanteerava Indoor Stadium on Saturday.

The match appeared to be on the knife's edge with Gujarat leading just 24-22 with four minutes to go. But on a do-or-die raid, Sachin collected two points to help the visitors pull away before a second all out hastened the Bulls' end. The home side will need to come up with a

much better effort against Tamil Thalaivas on Sunday.

Star raider Pawan Kumar Sehrawat, nursing an ankle strain, was off colour, accumulating only three points. Skipper Rohit Kumar didn't fare any better as his side fell to its fifth defeat in seven matches.

Only defenders Saurabh Nandal (8 points) and Mahender Singh (4) gave decent accounts of themselves, instrumental as they were in effecting two super tackles to narrow the score to 21-18 after their opponents had surged ahead 18-12.

Gujarat's on the other hand was a team effort; Sachin and G.B. More topped with five points and were

closely followed by Parvesh Bhainswal and Rohit Gulia on four apiece.

"It would have helped if we had a good third raider," said Rohit after the loss. "But it wasn't like Gujarat was raiding well. Both teams' defence was good. One lapse at the end proved costly."

Huge win for U Mumba

In the day's second tie, U Mumba thrashed Jaipur Pink Panthers 47-21. Abhishek Singh top-scored with 13 points, including a super raid right at the end, taking out four players.

The results: Bengaluru Bulls 23 lost to Gujarat Fortune Giants 32; U Mumba 47 bt Jaipur Pink Panthers 21.