

Kohli, Dhawan stamp India's superiority as the host goes 1-0 up

Skipper de Kock leads from the front with a quick half-century but South Africa's bowling proves ineffective



Master of the chase: Virat Kohli showcased his finishing skills yet again. ■ AKHILESH KUMAR

SA IN INDIA

RAKESH RAO
MOHALI

A business-like chase scripted by Virat Kohli and Shikhar Dhawan separated India and South Africa by seven wickets. More significant than the margin of victory was how ineffective the visitor's attack was made to look in the chase of 150, culminating in the penultimate over at the PCA Stadium on Wednesday. Having taken a 1-0 lead with a match to go in the three-match T20 series, India will have to be wary of being a shade complacent when the teams meet in Bengaluru. Dhawan, before being brilliantly taken by a diving David Miller – clearly the catch of the match – at the long-on fence, played his part during the 61-run second-wicket stand with Kohli.

Finishing the job

As is his wont, Kohli batted with elan and ensured that he finished the job. He stroked the ball well, relied more on rotating the strike without missing an opportunity to hit the ball to the ropes.

During Kohli's unbeaten 52-ball 72, the standout stroke was the six over backward square-leg off Kagiso Rabada's 141-kmph delivery.

At the other end, Rishabh Pant flopped with his offering to Tabraiz Shamsi at short fine-leg, appearing more careless than fearless.

Shreyas Iyer did just what the situation demanded.

Earlier, put in to bat, South Africa's brightest phase was provided by skipper Quinton de Kock's half-century. Once he was dismissed, India kept tightening the screws. The hosts opted for variety in spin, playing Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar and

STAT SPHERE



1 India won its first T20I match in a bilateral series against South Africa at home

1 Kohli is currently the only batsman in international cricket to have a 50-plus average in all the three formats!

Tests: 53.14

ODIs: 60.31

T20Is: 50.85

1 Kohli (2,441) becomes the highest run-scorer in T20Is, surpassing Rohit (2,434)

• Kohli (22) has the most 50s in T20Is without a century

22 Kohli

13 Warner

12 Stirling

11 Duminy

Virat in run-chases

• 30 innings; 1381 runs; Ave 81.23; 15 half-centuries

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA

Reeza Hendricks c Washington b Deepak Chahar 6 (11b, 1x4), Quinton de Kock c Kohli b Saini 52 (37b, 8x4), Temba Bavuma c Jadeja b Deepak Chahar 49 (43b, 3x4, 1x6), Rassie van der Dussen c & b Jadeja 1 (2b), David Miller b Hardik 18 (15b, 1x6), Dwaine Pretorius (not out) 10 (7b, 1x6), Andile Phehlukwayo (not out) 8 (5b, 1x6); Extras (lb-5): 5; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 149.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-31 (Hendricks, 3.5), 2-88 (de Kock, 11.2), 3-90 (van der Dussen, 12.1), 4-126 (Bavuma, 17.1), 5-129 (Miller, 18.1).

INDIA BOWLING

Washington 3-0-19-0, Deepak Chahar 4-0-22-2, Saini 4-0-34-1, Jadeja 4-0-31-1, Hardik 4-0-31-1, Krunal 1-0-7-0.

INDIA

Rohit Sharma lbw b Phehlukwayo 12 (12b, 2x6), Shikhar Dhawan c Miller b Shamsi 40 (31b, 4x4, 1x6), Virat Kohli (not out) 72 (52b, 4x4, 3x6), Rishabh Pant c Shamsi b Fortuin 4 (5b), Shreyas Iyer (not out) 16 (14b, 2x4); Extras (lb-2, w-5): 7; Total (for three wkts. in 19 overs): 151.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-33 (Rohit, 3.5), 2-94 (Dhawan, 11.4), 3-104 (Pant, 13.4).

SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING

Rabada 3-0-24-0, Nortje 3-0-27-0, Phehlukwayo 3-0-20-1, Pretorius 3-0-27-0, Shamsi 3-0-19-1, Fortuin 4-0-32-1.

Toss: India; MoM: Kohli.

India won by seven wickets with six balls to spare to lead the three-match series 1-0.

India captain lauds his bowlers

RAKESH RAO
MOHALI

Virat Kohli leading successful run-chases is nothing new. Obviously filled with pride on guiding the team home, the India skipper credited the bowlers for the manner in which they dragged South Africa back.

"The pitch was very good and an outstanding effort from the bowlers to pull things back. As long as they show character in difficult situations, they are going to present a strong case for themselves in the future. Lot of positive signs for us and they'll get many more

games to prove their mettle. They are going in the right direction."

About his role, Kohli said, "It is a (matter of) pride to play for my country. Whatever it takes, whichever format, to get us across the line, I'll do that. Adapting in different formats is nothing but a mindset of making your team win. If you want to win a game for your team, you will find a way. That's the most important thing. I never think for myself, it's always about what the team needs. Test cricket, one-day cricket... the will should be to win the game for your country."

Quinton de Kock hoped for better things to follow in the final T20 match in Bengaluru. "We got off to a good start and towards the end they bowled pretty well and they assessed the conditions better than we did. There was a lot of pressure on some of the new guys and I think they did pretty well against this world-class opposition."

Dhawan happy

Shikhar Dhawan was happy with the start to the home season. "It was a good start for all of us. I was playing well, timing the ball well and enjoying myself."

Krunal Pandya and keeping Rahul Chahar out. In picking the pacers, the left-arter Khaleel Ahmed was ignored with Deepak Chahar joining Navdeep Saini and all-rounder Hardik Pandya, who returned to the mix.

Interestingly, India tried out five bowlers in the first eight overs, with the sixth option Krunal bowling only the 14th! Overall, after facing the early heat, the bowlers made a strong comeback. The use of slower deliveries helped

keep South Africa to a sub-150 total.

The fall of four wickets in the space of 36 deliveries and 41 runs reduced South Africa from a promising 88 for one to 129 for five. The last over produced 16 runs, including a six each to Dwaine Pretorius and Andile Phehlukwayo, off Navdeep Saini to lift the total.

After warming up with an opening-over boundary off Washington Sundar, de Kock welcomed Saini in the next

over with three successive boundaries – past third man, through extra-cover and to midwicket.

Before Saini got his revenge in the 12th over, de Kock hit four more fours and reached his half-century in style. The skipper's blitzkrieg provided his team the foundation to keep an eye on the average total of 185 on this ground.

India's comeback began when Kohli caught his opposite number with a running,

tumbling catch. Soon, Jadeja accepted a return catch to send back Rassie van der Dussen.

Barring de Kock, only Temba Bavuma did his job after coming in at No. 3. Bavuma showed a special liking to the bowling of Hardik, hitting him for a six in the eighth over and two successive boundaries in the 10th to grow in confidence. However, he failed to accelerate and eventually departed in the 18th over.

Vinesh gets a medal at Worlds, finally

WRESTLING WORLDS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NUR-SULTAN (KAZAKHSTAN)

Indian wrestling had a lot to celebrate on Wednesday as Vinesh Phogat secured Tokyo Olympics qualification and won a bronze at the World Championships here.

Pooja Dhanda put herself one win away from her second medal, reaching the semifinals in the 59kg category with a gritty display.

End of a drought

Having endured a medal-less run in three World Championships before, Vinesh finally ended the drought by pinning Maria Prevolaraki to win by fall in the bronze-medal bout.

Earlier in the day, she had held off World No.1 Sarah Ann Hildebrandt with some superlative defence in her second repechage round to qualify for the 2020



Reaping it rich: Vinesh Phogat landed her first-ever medal at the Worlds. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Olympics.

"It is my first World Championship medal and it is a big thing to win a medal at the Worlds," Vinesh told reporters. "I had changed

my weight category and in just 10 months, I got this medal. It is a thing of great happiness for me. It is the biggest medal of my career till now."

Vinesh is only the fifth Indian woman wrestler to win a Worlds medal after Alka Tomar (2006), Geeta Phogat (2012), Babita Phogat (2012) and Pooja Dhanda (2018).

Just reward for a determined grappler

Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

Vinesh Phogat's double delight after securing an Olympic quota place and her maiden World Championships medal in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, on Wednesday was the outcome of her sheer determination, something that would stand her in good stead in the 2020 Games.

Because of her fabulous track record and consistent performance at elite events, Vinesh's achievements in the 53kg might not surprise many.

However, one can understand the essence of her success, considering the tough competition – including Rio Olympics medalist Sofia Mattsson of Sweden, 55 kg World champion Muya Mukaida from Japan and World No.1

and Worlds silver medalist Sarah Hildebrandt of the USA – she faced. She became not only the first Indian wrestler to claim a berth for the Tokyo Games, but also the fifth woman from the country to bag a Worlds medal.

Vinesh, whose Olympics dream was shattered in 2016 when she injured her knee midway through a bout in Rio, banked on her resilience to make a strong comeback and bag her second Commonwealth Games gold and the Asian Games gold in 2018.

In the early part of the 2019, Vinesh seemed vulnerable in certain aspects of her game in the Pro Wrestling League.

Participate more

"I am going to participate in the as many competitions as possible. Of course,

winning is the first priority, but if I don't win then I would like to learn from my mistakes. Even the smallest change can help improve my game a lot," Vinesh had told this reporter after PWL. "I need to work on my speed as well as improving my lower attack."

Vinesh secured gold medals in Grand Prix of Spain, Yasar Dogu event in Turkey and Poland Open. In Nur-Sultan, one could witness significant improvement – quick counter-attacks and better defence – in her game.

Family affair

The 25-year-old, who joined her cousin sisters Geeta and Babita to form a unique family club of Worlds medalists, knows that she has got the potential to achieve greater

The Phogat file



• Fifth Indian woman wrestler to win a World Championships medal

• First Indian woman pugilist to bag an Asian Games medal

• Only Indian woman wrestler to clinch two Commonwealth Games golds

• Is the cousin sister of accomplished wrestlers Geeta and Babita Phogat

heights and will rely on her grit and ambition to pursue that.

Mahmudullah does it for Bangladesh

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
CHITTAGONG

Mahmudullah smashed 62 off 41 balls, with five sixes, as Bangladesh posted 175 for seven and shot out Zimbabwe for 136 in their T20 tri-series match on Wednesday.

Liton Das gave Bangladesh a positive start with 38 off 22 balls before a mini collapse saw the home side reduced to 65 for three after it was asked to bat by Zimbabwe captain Hamilton Masakadza.

Mahmudullah put on 78 with Mushfiqur Rahim (32) for the fourth wicket before Zimbabwe struck back.

The scores: Bangladesh 175 for seven in 20 overs (Liton Das 38, Mushfiqur Rahim 32, Mahmudullah 62, Kyle Jarvis three for 32) bt Zimbabwe 136 in 20 overs (Richmond Mutumbami 54, Kyle Jarvis 27, Shafiqul Islam three for 36).

Panghal, Kaushik in medal rounds

Sanjeet and Kavinder make their exit in the quarterfinals

BOXING WORLDS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
EKATERINBURG (RUSSIA)

India was assured of an unprecedented two medals at the World men's boxing championships after Amit Panghal (52kg) and Manish Kaushik (63kg) entered the semifinals of the marquee event with impressive victories here on Wednesday.

While Asian Games and championship gold-medallist Panghal defeated Filipino Carlo Paalam 4-1, Commonwealth Games silver-medallist Kaushik got the better of Brazil's Wanderson de Oliveira 5-0. Both the boxers sealed their maiden world medals.

Before this year, India had never won more than one bronze medal in a single edition of the world championship.



Easily done: Manish Kaushik proved too good for Brazil's Wanderson de Oliveira. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The overall medal count for the country stood at four bronze medals claimed by Vijender Singh (2009), Vikas Krishan (2011), Shiva Thapa (2015) and Gaurav Bidhuri (2017).

However, Sanjeet (91kg), a former India Open gold-medallist, and fifth seed and Asian silver-winner Kavinder

Singh Bisht (57kg) bowed out after losing their respective quarterfinals.

While Sanjeet went down 4-1 to Ecuador's seventh-seeded Julio Castillo Torres, a Pan-American Games silver-medallist, Bisht was beaten by the reigning Commonwealth Games champion Peter McGrail of England 5-0.

Napoli stuns Liverpool, Dortmund holds Barca

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

REUTERS
NAPLES

Liverpool began its Champions League title defence with a 2-0 defeat away to Napoli, which scored two late goals to decide a cagey encounter at the Stadio San Paolo on Tuesday.

Dries Mertens scored from the penalty spot with eight minutes remaining after Andy Robertson tripped Jose Callejon inside the box and Napoli substitute Fernando Llorente added a second in stoppage time to put the result beyond doubt.

Juergen Klopp's side became the first competition winner to lose the opening game of its Champions League defence since AC Milan was defeated by Ajax Amsterdam in 1994.

At London, Valencia gatecrashed Frank Lampard's managerial bow in the Cham-



No doubt: Fernando Llorente came off the bench to add a second in stoppage time for Napoli. ■ REUTERS

ions League by earning a morale-boosting 1-0 win at Chelsea after Ross Barkley spurned a chance to equalise by missing from the penalty spot.

Spain forward Rodrigo Moreno gave the visitor the lead against the run of play in the 74th minute of the Group H game, getting the slightest of touches on a free kick

from Dani Parejo to send the ball into the roof of the net. Chelsea continued to threaten and was awarded a penalty after a VAR review spotted a handball by Valencia defender Daniel Wass, but Barkley sent the resulting spot kick on to the crossbar and over.

Borussia Dortmund hit the woodwork and had a penalty

saved before drawing 0-0 with Barcelona in its Group F opener, at Dortmund with Lionel Messi making his first appearance of the season for the Spaniards.

Barca's in-form 16-year-old Ansu Fati became the club's youngest player to feature in a UEFA competition when he started.

He failed to make any real impact before being replaced by fit-again Messi just before the hour mark.

The results: Napoli 2 (Mertens 82-pen, Llorente 90+2) bt Liverpool 0; Salzburg 6 (Haaland 2, 34, 45, Hwang 36, Szoboszlai 45+3, Ulmer 66) bt Genk 2 (Lucumi 40, Samatta 52); Borussia Dortmund 0 drew with Barcelona 0; Benfica 1 (Seferovic 84) lost to RB Leipzig 2 (Werner 69, 79); Chelsea 0 lost to Valencia 1 (Rodrigo 74); Ajax 3 (Promes 18, Alvarez 50, Tagliafico 62) bt Lille 0.

Inter Milan 1 (Barella 90+2) drew with Slavia Praha 1 (Olayinka 63); Lyon 1 (Depay 51-pen) drew with Zenit 1 (Azmoun 41).