

de Kock takes charge as South Africa levels series

Beuran Hendricks' incisive bowling and the home team's insipid display hand the visitors a resounding nine-wicket victory

SA IN INDIA

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA
BENGALURU
An insipid batting display saw India sink to a resounding nine-wicket defeat in the third and final T20 international here on Sunday. Some questionable shot-making saw Virat Kohli's men scramble together a modest 134 in 20 overs after winning the toss at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium.

On the rampage

Quinton de Kock then went on the rampage, smashing an unbeaten 79, as South Africa raced home with 19 balls to spare to level the series.

De Kock's 52-ball effort contained five sixes, all executed in his trademark style over the leg-side boundary. India's bowlers failed to make an early breakthrough as de Kock and Reeza Hendricks put on 76 for the opening wicket.

Kohli will be frustrated by a number of things. Primary among them will be his use of the review. India wasted its only review on a frivolous appeal against Hendricks in the sixth over, when Deepak Chahar's delivery was sliding way down leg.

In the next over, de Kock was trapped in front by Washington Sundar for 28. Umpire Nitin Menon ruled him not out. A little later, re-plays showed the ball would have crashed into the stumps. de Kock carried on unflustered as South Africa wrapped things up in style.

India won the toss and opt-



Calling the shots: Quinton de Kock was in a punishing mood, hitting six fours and five sixes in his unbeaten 79. • K. MURALI KUMAR

ed to bat first, Kohli believing his team needed practice in defending totals ahead of the T20 World Cup. But what followed was a poor, chaotic effort that frittered away a bright start. From 62 for one in seven overs, India slumped to 99 for six in 15, and never really recovered.

The home team was unchanged from the second T20 while South Africa brought in the left-arm pacer Beuran Hendricks. The move paid off at once.

In his first over, Hendricks angled a delivery across Rohit Sharma (9) that the batsman pushed at half-heartedly. The resulting edge flew to

first slip. Hendricks would eventually finish with excellent figures of two for 14 from his four overs.

Early momentum

India's early momentum was supplied by Shikhar Dhawan, who picked up from where he had left off in Mohali. He drove Andile Phehlukwayo down the ground, and welcomed Tabraiz Shamsi with a pair of tall sixes. But Dhawan fell to Shamsi for 36, reaching for the ball and lofting it high. Temba Bavuma settled under the catch at extra-cover.

That was the start of India's troubles. Kohli went for 9, caught within an inch of

the deep mid-wicket boundary by Phehlukwayo. Rishabh Pant made a start, getting to 19, before he holed out to long-off against the left-arm spin of Bjorn Fortuin. Shreyas Iyer unwisely charged down the pitch two balls later. Fortuin dragged it down the leg-side, and Shreyas was comfortably stumped.

The stadium crackled with anticipation when Hardik Pandya arrived at the crease. But he failed to produce the fireworks the crowd craved. Ravindra Jadeja managed just the solitary six as South Africa's death-overs bowling proved watertight.

STAT SPHERE

INDIA INNINGS

First 7 overs:
62/1 (RR 8.85, 6x4, 2x6)

Next 13 overs:
72/8 (RR 5.53, 4x4, 2x6)

INDIA AT HOME IN T20IS

Batting first:
M 22; W 10; L 12

Batting second:
M 16; W 12; L 4

de Kock becomes the third batsman to notch-up half-centuries in the first two T20I innings as captain. Earlier, Paul Stirling of Ireland and Navneet Singh of Canada had achieved the feat

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Shikhar Dhawan c Bavuma b Shamsi 36 (25b, 4x4, 2x6), Rohit Sharma c R. Hendricks b B. Hendricks 9 (8b, 2x4), Virat Kohli c Phehlukwayo b Rabada 9 (15b), Rishabh Pant c Phehlukwayo b Fortuin 19 (20b, 1x4, 1x6), Shreyas Iyer st de Kock b Fortuin 5 (8b), Hardik Pandya c Miller b Rabada 14 (18b, 1x4), Krunal Pandya c de Kock b B. Hendricks 4 (7b), Ravindra Jadeja c&b Rabada 19 (17b, 1x4, 1x6), Washington Sundar run out 4 (1b, 1x4), Deepak Chahar (not out) 0 (0b), Navdeep Saini (not out) 0 (1b); Extras (b-1, lb-2, w-12); Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 134.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-22 (Rohit, 2.2 overs), 2-63 (Dhawan, 7.2), 3-68 (Kohli, 8.3), 4-90 (Pant, 12.4), 5-92 (Shreyas, 12.5), 6-98 (Krunal, 14.3), 7-127 (Jadeja, 19.1), 8-133 (Washington, 19.4), 9-133 (Hardik, 19.5).

SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING

Fortuin 3-0-19-2, Rabada 4-0-39-3, B. Hendricks 4-0-14-2, Phehlukwayo 4-0-28-0, Shamsi 4-0-23-1, Pretorius 1-0-8-0.

SOUTH AFRICA

Reeza Hendricks c Kohli b Hardik 28 (26b, 4x4), Quinton de Kock (not out) 79 (52b, 6x4, 5x6), Temba Bavuma (not out) 27 (23b, 2x4, 1x6); Extras (lb-2, w-4): 6; Total (for one wkt. in 16.5 overs): 140.

FALL OF WICKET

1-76 (R. Hendricks, 10.1).

INDIA BOWLING

Washington 4-0-27-0, D. Chahar 3-0-15-0, Saini 2-0-25-0, Krunal 3.5-0-40-0, Hardik 2-0-23-1, Jadeja 2-0-8-0.

Toss: India. **Man-of-the-Match:** B. Hendricks. **Man-of-the-Series:** de Kock.

South Africa won by nine wickets with 19 balls remaining to draw the series 1-1.

Not great decision-making cost us, says Kohli

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

India skipper Virat Kohli stated that his team should have taken a more cautious batting approach on the slow M. Chinnaswamy Stadium pitch, in the third and final T20 against South Africa.

"We wanted to go for a big score. In the past, while batting first in T20Is, we have been 20-30 runs short on certain occasions, and that has cost us the game. But quickly into our innings today, we realised that the pitch would not allow us to go for a big score.

"After the start we got, we could have reassessed and set our target to 170, instead of looking for 200. But take nothing away from South Africa - they bowled very well, hit the right areas, and understood the pitch. A combination of good bowling and not great decision-making from us cost us the game," Kohli said.

Pant or Shreyas?

There was a moment of confusion during the Indian innings, when both Rishabh Pant and Shreyas Iyer walked into the ground at the fall of the second wicket. It was Pant who eventually batted at two-drop.

"There was some miscommunication there. That is what I understood afterwards. The batting coach had a word with both of them, and there was a misunderstanding as to who had to go in at what stage. It was funny afterwards, as both wanted to walk in. It would have been funny had



Virat Kohli. • K. MURALI KUMAR

both batsmen reached the pitch - three batsmen on the field," Kohli said.

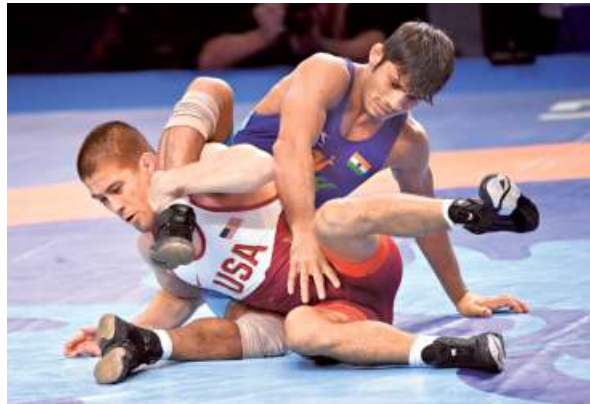
South Africa captain Quinton de Kock praised his bowlers Tabraiz Shamsi and Bjorn Fortuin.

Good display

"Shamsi is always pretty consistent. But I'm more impressed with Fortuin. He is an up-and-coming young spinner - for him to come into conditions where the Indian team is very good at playing spin and bowl the way he did was great. He was very clever as he mixed up his pace, and the areas where he bowled," de Kock said. Batsman Rassie van der Dussen added that he was surprised that India chose to bat first.

Aware wins bronze

India finishes with five medals



Keeping it tight: Rahul Aware, right, was in complete control of the bout against 2017 Pan-America champion Tyler Lee Graff of the USA. • AP

WORLD WRESTLING

ANI
NUR-SULTAN (KAZAKHSTAN)

Rahul Aware bagged a bronze to ensure India's best-ever medal haul at the World wrestling championships here on Sunday after Deepak Punia finished with a silver, having pulled out of the final due to injury.

Aware outclassed Tyler Lee Graff, the 2017 Pan-America champion, 11-4 in the 61kg bronze play-off to take India's tally to five medals - one silver and four bronze.

Aware was in complete control of the bout and jumped in joy at the end, having won the biggest me-

dal of his career.

Graff surprised Aware with a double leg attack the moment the bout started and earned two points with a takedown.

However, he became alert and twice wriggled out of Graff's single leg attacks. He also scored consecutive takedowns points to lead 4-2 at the break.

In the second period too, Graff got hold of Aware's right leg but the Indian got himself out of trouble in an impressive manner.

He then turned things in his favour with quick moves - the takedowns and expose - and took a commanding 10-2 lead.

Eventually he won 11-4.

Silver is the result of my hard work: Deepak Punia

Withdraws from the 86kg freestyle final due to injury

Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

Even after being forced to withdraw from the men's 86kg freestyle gold medal bout in the World wrestling championships on Sunday due to an ankle injury, Deepak Punia took heart from his excellent performance in Nur-Sultan to focus on the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

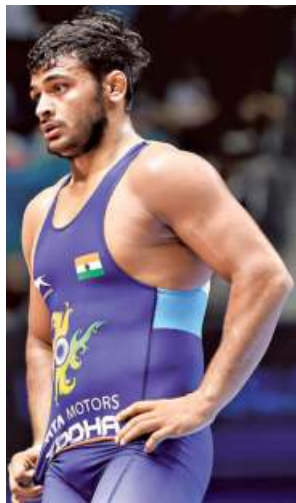
Deepak, a former World cadet champion, had claimed the World junior title in August last and was eyeing to corner the rare glory of being an elite World champion as well. However, the injury in his left leg and a swollen eye spoilt his plan.

He ended up being the fourth Indian to secure a silver after Bishambhar Singh (1967), Amit Kumar (2013) and Bajrang Punia (2018).

Painful

"My leg is swollen up and it is hurting. The eye is swollen too. I picked up both injuries during the first round (against Kazakh opponent Adilet Davlumbayev). That's why I chose not to fight in the final," Deepak told *The Hindu* from Nur-Sultan on Sunday.

Deepak had defied an in-



Deepak Punia. • PTI

jured shoulder and a cut above his eye to bag the World junior title, but the injury in Nur-Sultan was too painful to fight Iranian Hasan Yazdanicchara in the final.

"Throughout the night Deepak was running fever because of the pain. The injury had become more painful in the morning. I advised him not to take risk as it could have aggravated the injury and adversely impacted his Olympic participation," said Virender Kumar, Deepak's coach at the Chha-

trasal Stadium in Delhi.

Deepak, who also booked an Olympic quota place, sounded positive. "My morale was high after the World junior championships and my preparation was good. The silver here is the result of my hard work. This will inspire me to do well in the Olympics."

The youngster agreed that luck was on his side. "I was lucky to have been placed in the upper half of the draw. The lower half was tougher (with the presence of wrestlers from traditional countries like Iran, Hungary, Korea, Russia, Uzbekistan, Georgia, China, Japan and USA). But I found tough competition in every bout and had to carry on despite the pain."

Pat from the coach

Virender patted his student on the back. "Deepak is an obedient student, who learns from his mistakes quickly. He and Ravi Dahiya are partners and their life revolves around wrestling without any distractions. Happy to see their success and hope they can repeat it in the Olympics," said Virender.

Team Europe's reign continues

Team World loses after being one win away from maiden win



The winning cast: Team Europe completed a hat-trick of triumphs with a fantastic come-from-behind victory on Sunday. • GETTY IMAGES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GENEVA

Alexander Zverev sealed Europe a dramatic Laver Cup hat-trick over Team World on Sunday, as the German beat Milos Raonic in the deciding singles match.

The holders trailed 11-7 midway through the final day but Zverev, after Roger Federer had edged past John Isner 6-4, 7-6(3), downed Raonic 6-4, 3-6, 10-4 to deny John McEnroe's visitors their maiden triumph in the third edition of the event.

After Rafael Nadal withdrew from Sunday's play with a hand injury, Isner and

Jack Sock beat Federer and Stefanos Tsitsipas in the opening doubles encounter, before Taylor Fritz saw off Dominic Thiem to leave Team World one win from the trophy.

World No. 6 Zverev took the first set courtesy of a break in game seven, with big-serving Canadian Raonic hitting back to force a super tie-break, saving four break points to serve out the second set.

But the 22-year-old Zverev, selected by Borg ahead of Tsitsipas and Fabio Fognini for the first-ever decider, raced to victory as Raonic's

serve deserted him.

Earlier Federer won a tense tie-break over World No. 20 Isner to take three points in the penultimate match, smashing an ace on the final point to raise the roof in Geneva.

The results: Europe bt World 13-11 [Alexander Zverev bt Milos Raonic 6-4, 3-6, 10-4; Roger Federer bt John Isner 6-4, 7-6(3); Dominic Thiem lost to Taylor Fritz 7-5, 6-7(3), 10-8; Federer & Stefanos Tsitsipas lost to John Isner & Jack Sock 5-7, 6-4, 10-8; **Saturday:** Rafael Nadal bt Raonic 6-3, 7-6(1); Nadal & Tsitsipas lost to Nick Kyrgios & Jack Sock 6-4, 3-6, 10-6].

U Mumba overcomes Fortunegiants

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAIPUR

U Mumba produced an all-round show to beat Gujarat Fortunegiants 31-25 in a VIVO Pro Kabaddi League match at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium here on Sunday.

Abhishek Singh secured a Super 10 (11 raid points) for U Mumba.

The team was equally miserly in its defence, with Surinder Singh and Harendra Kumar picking up vital points.

The victory meant the Mumbai side jumped to the fourth place on the points table to consolidate its chances of making the play-off stage.

Liverpool beats a gritty Chelsea to maintain perfect start

Aubameyang comes to Arsenal's rescue; Manchester United trips at West Ham; Granada ambushes Barcelona

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MADRID

Trent Alexander-Arnold's thunderous strike inspired Liverpool's 2-1 win against Chelsea as the Premier League leader moved five points clear at the top on Sunday.

Jurgen Klopp's side extended its perfect start to the title race as it became the first club to win its opening six games in consecutive top-flight seasons.

Roberto Firmino increased Liverpool's advantage before the interval and N'Golo Kante's fine goal was not enough to give Chelsea tangible reward for a vibrant second half.

Ten-man Arsenal twice

came from a goal down to claim a much-needed 3-2 win over Aston Villa in dramatic fashion thanks to Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's free-kick six minutes from time at the Emirates.

Earlier West Ham inflicted more away-day pain on a poor Manchester United side on Sunday, lifting itself to fourth in the league with a comfortable 2-0 win at the London Stadium.

Earlier on Saturday, Barcelona threw on its stars of the present and the future but neither Lionel Messi nor Ansu Fati could save it from a dismal 2-0 defeat away at Granada.

But while both came on at half-time with Barca trailing to Ramon Azeez's opener, it was Granada that scored



Early shocker: A Junior Firpo error for Barcelona ends with the simplest of headers for Granada's Ramon Azeez. • AP

again, Alvaro Vadillo converting a penalty after Arturo Vidal was found guilty of a

handball. Barcelona has now won only two of its opening five

league games and none away from Camp Nou. With seven points on the

board, this is its worst start to a season since 1994.

Instead, Granada goes top of the table after capitalising on Atletico Madrid's goalless draw at home to Celta Vigo a few hours before. Barcelona is sixth.

The results: Premier League: Crystal Palace 1 (Dendonckerog 46) drew with Wolves 1 (Jota 90+5); West Ham 2 (Yarmolenko 44, Cresswell 84) bt Man Utd 0; Arsenal 3 (Pepe 59-pen, Chambers 81, Aubameyang 84) bt Aston Villa 2 (McGinn 20, Wesley 61); Chelsea 1 (Kante 71) lost to Liverpool 2 (Alexander-Arnold 14, Firmino 30).

Bundesliga: Borussia Monchengladbach 2 (Thuram 74, 88) bt Fortuna Dueseldorf 1 (Adams 7); Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Silva 44, Delaney 88-og) drew with Borussia Dortmund 2 (Witsel 11, Sancho 66).

La Liga: Getafe 4 (Baba 7-og, Molina 33-pen, Nyom 63, Angel 84) bt Mallorca 2 (Budimir 70, 77); Espanyol 1 (Zaldua 71-og) lost to Real Sociedad 3 (William Jose 18, 34, Isak 75); Valencia 1 (Parejo 21-pen) drew with Leganes 1 (Rodriguez 35).

Serie A: Sassuolo 3 (Caputo 26, 45+2, Duncan 47) bt SPAL 0; Sampdoria 1 (Gabbadini 56) bt Torino 0; Lecce 1 (Mancosu 61-pen) lost to Napoli 4 (Llorente 28, 82, Insigne 40-pen, Ruiz 52); Bologna 1 (Sansone 54-pen) lost to Roma 2 (Kolarov 48, Dzeko 90+4); Atalanta 2 (Illicic 84, Castagne 90+5) drew with Fiorentina 2 (Chiesa 24, Ribery 65).

Saturday: La Liga: Granada 2 (Azeez 2, Alvaro Vadillo 66-pen) bt Barcelona 0.

Serie A: AC Milan 0 lost to Inter Milan 2 (Brezovic 49, Lukaku 78).