

# Dimitrov rallies to script an epic win over Federer

Serena routs Wang in the quarterfinals to claim her 100th Open win; Medvedev has the measure of Wawrinka

## US OPEN

REUTERS  
NEW YORK

Grigor Dimitrov stepped out of Roger Federer's shadow on Tuesday to claim a spot in the U.S. Open semifinals with a shock 3-6, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2 win over the wounded Swiss.

Dimitrov will now face Daniil Medvedev on Friday for a place in final, the Russian advancing to the last four with a 7-6(6), 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 win over another Swiss Stan Wawrinka.

### Blistering and clinical

In the women's draw, Serena Williams claimed her 100th win at the Open in style, dismantling her quarterfinal opponent Wang Qiang 6-1, 6-0 in a blistering 44-minute performance that ended any questions over a twisted ankle from the previous round.

Ukrainian fifth seed Elina Svitolina produced a clinical No.1 Johanna Konta 6-4, 6-4 to set up a clash with Serena for a place in the final.

Coming into the Open, the

78th ranked Dimitrov, dubbed "Baby Fed" because of the similarities between his game and Federer's, did not look much of a threat, posting just one win from his last eight matches.

But the Bulgarian, who had been ranked as high as No. 3, has found some form on the New York hardcourts and claimed his first win in eight meetings with the 20-times Grand Slam winner.

"Even if I would have gone two sets to love down, I wouldn't have give up," assured Dimitrov. "I would still stay on the court and just try to do as much as possible to make sure that whether I rattle him or put him off balance. I kept on pushing, I kept on believing."

### Razor sharp, but...

Federer looked razor sharp to start the match but was not able to maintain his usual high level against the gritty Bulgarian.

The turning point came in the fourth set, Dimitrov fighting off five break points to win the set and level match at 2-2.



**Incredible performance:** Grigor Dimitrov gave it his all to shock Roger Federer and become the lowest-ranked US Open semifinalist in 28 years. \*AP

"I was trying to stay in that game and make him stay on the court as much as possible," said Dimitrov. "After that he started slowing

down. It's a best of five sets. Anything can happen."

**Fitness concern**  
And something unexpected

did. Before the start of the fifth set Federer called for the trainer, who, after a brief conversation with the 38-year-old, escorted him off

the court for a medical time out to deal with a back problem.

When play resumed Dimitrov seized his chance,

■ It will be Dimitrov's third appearance in a Major semifinal after 2014 Wimbledon and 2017 Australian Open

■ Dimitrov entered the US Open having won just one of his last eight matches

■ The Bulgarian won his biggest title at the ATP World Tour Finals in 2017 and finished the year ranked career-high No. 3

## Match stats

Federer	Aces	Dimitrov
6	6	
1	Double Faults	7
61	First Serve (%)	69
64	Net Points Won (%)	65
4/14	Break Points Won	5/15
40	Winners	35
60	Unforced Errors	41
135	Total Points Won	139
11.70	Distance Covered/pt (m)	11.86

breaking Federer to open the fifth and then a second time with the Swiss unable to mount any defence as the Bulgarian went on to claim the biggest win of his career.

"I just needed some treatment on my upper – what is it – back, neck," said Federer. "Just needed to try to loosen it up, crack it and see if it was going to be better."

The 37-year-old Serena was dominant from the start, firing off 25 winners, compared to zero from 18th-seed Wang, and winning 90% of her first serve points. "I never thought that I would get to 100," said Serena.

## THE RESULTS

**Quarterfinals: Men:** 5-Daniil Medvedev (Rus) bt 23-Stan Wawrinka (Sui) 7-6(6), 6-3, 3-6, 6-1; Grigor Dimitrov (Bul) bt 3-Roger Federer (Sui) 3-6, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2.  
**Women:** 8-Serena Williams (USA) bt 18-Wang Qiang (Chn) 6-1, 6-0; 13-Belinda Bencic (Sui) bt 23-Donna Vekic (Cro) 7-6(5), 6-3.

# Smith and Labuschagne steady the ship

Duo bails Australia out on rain-marred day, after another failure for the openers

## THE ASHES

REUTERS  
MANCHESTER

Steve Smith continued his outstanding Ashes form, striking an unbeaten 60, as Australia recovered from another failure by its openers to reach 170 for three at the close of the rain-affected first day of the fourth Test against England at Old Trafford on Wednesday.

Rain caused a delay of over two hours after lunch but plans to extend play to regain that lost time were abandoned after rain came in again during the break for tea.

The afternoon delay did little to disrupt Smith, returning from missing the last Test due to concussion, making his eighth straight Ashes half-century.

Smith and Marnus Labuschagne put on 116 for the third wicket before the latter was bowled by Craig Overton for 67.

It was a much-needed stand after England had made a great start, bringing



**Child's play:** Steve Smith came to Australia's rescue with his eighth straight Ashes half-century, on the opening day of the fourth Test. \*REUTERS

its supporters to their feet with just the fourth ball of the day.

### Warner's agony

Stuart Broad claimed the wicket of David Warner for the fifth time in this series with the left-hander caught behind for a duck as he made a belated decision to leave the ball.

Australia found itself at 28 for two when Broad rapped

## SCOREBOARD

**Australia – 1st innings:** Marcus Harris lbw b Broad 13, David Warner c Bairstow b Broad 0, Marnus Labuschagne b Overton 67, Steve Smith (batting) 60, Travis Head (batting) 18; Extras (b-4, lb-8): 12; Total (for three wkts. in 44 overs): 170.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-1 (Warner), 2-28 (Harris), 3-144 (Labuschagne).

**England bowling:** Broad 10-2-35-2, Archer 10-0-28-0, Stokes 8-0-36-0, Leach 6-2-18-0, Overton 10-0-41-1.  
**Toss:** Australia.

the pads of Marcus Harris and, after some consideration, umpire Kumar Dharmasena raised his finger and his verdict was upheld by video review.

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# Onus on me to keep doing well, says Vihari

'The first objective was to seize the opportunities that came my way'

## EXCLUSIVE

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM  
HYDERABAD

High on confidence after being the lead performer with the bat in the just-concluded Test series in West Indies, Hanuma Vihari said it was important for him to come up with substantial contributions to cement his place in the Indian team.

"It was definitely a crucial tour for me and the first objective was to seize the opportunities that came my way," Vihari said in an exclusive chat with *The Hindu*.

"The 93 in the second innings of the first Test gave me lot of confidence. Though I was disappointed at missing the century, I was glad that I could contribute my bit to a winning cause on a difficult wicket to bat," he said.

### Simple advice pays

"But, I must say one simple advice by Ravi (Shastri) sir – to correct my stance as he felt I was standing more upright, and let the knees be more flexible – made a lot of

difference on this West Indies tour," the 25-year-old Vihari said.

"I was waiting for the big day – to score my maiden Test century. I felt it was an important knock," he said.

According to Vihari, the conditions in West Indies were a mix of England (seam and swing) and Australia (bounce). "If you have noticed, most of them were 250-plus wickets and I think we did really well to score 400-plus in the series," he said.

Vihari hopes to do well again in the forthcoming South Africa Test series at home. "It is always good to take any tournament or series match by match. Hope to do well again," he added.

On his captain Virat Kohli's comment that dressing room feels calm when Vihari bats, a smiling Vihari hoped it was a sign of bigger responsibility in the days to come. "To be honest, to be given a chance ahead of others itself meant the kind of confidence the team management had in me. So, the onus is on me to keep doing well," Vihari said.



**Silver lining:** Despite falling short of a century, Hanuma Vihari said his 93 in the first Test gave him lot of confidence. \*AP

# Dhawan keeps India-A in the hunt

Rain forces contest into reserve day; Hosts need 137 more

## SA-A IN INDIA

M.R. PRAVEEN CHANDRAN  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

In the end, the morning's bright sunshine turned out to be a mirage. Rain kept its date and played spoilsport in the fourth unofficial one-day match between India-A and South Africa-A at the Sports Hub on Wednesday.

Two rain interruptions spilled the contest into the reserve day, with India-A, chasing a revised target of 193, needing a further 137 to win off 17.2 overs.

Shikhar Dhawan showed glimpses of his old self in compiling an unbeaten 33 as India-A was 56 for one off 7.4 overs when play was stopped for the second time due to rain.

### Delayed start

In the morning, wet outfield delayed the start by more than an hour and the match was reduced to 43 overs.

Put in to bat, the South Africans enjoyed their best start of the series. Matthew Breetzke, opening for the first time, and Reeza Hendricks attacked the medium-pacers and picked up boundaries. The duo raised a 50-run partnership in quick time. However, the introduction of spin through Rahul Chahar brought an end to the promising stand as Breetzke (25) swept Chahar



Shikhar Dhawan.  
\*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

straight to Tushar Deshpande at the square-leg fence.

### Fluent

Captain Temba Bavuma was fluent and rotated the strike while Hendricks played the big shots to keep the scoreboard moving.

South Africa was well placed at 108 for one off 22 overs when rain interrupted play for the first time. After a three-hour delay, the match restarted and was reduced to 25 overs.

Bavuma retired hurt and his replacement, Heinrich Klaasen, smashed 18 runs from an Ishan Porel over. But

Deshpande bowled a splendid last over and conceded just a single.

In reply, Shubman Gill struck two pleasing boundaries in Beuran Hendricks' first over to start the chase on a positive note. However, in the next, he pulled Anrich Nortje straight to Marco Jansen at fine leg.

Dhawan swished and missed but also played a few delectable shots. At the other end, Prashanth Chopra was all at sea, and thankfully for him, the rain came at the right time.

**The scores (match reduced to 25 overs):**  
**South Africa-A:** Matthew Breetzke c Tushar b Rahul Chahar 25, Reeza Hendricks (not out) 60, Temba Bavuma ret'd. hurt 28, Heinrich Klaasen (not out) 21; Extras (w-1, nb-2): 3; Total (for one wkt. in 25 overs): 137.

**Fall of wicket:** 1-46.

**India-A bowling:** Tushar Deshpande 5-0-26-0, Ishan Porel 4-0-29-0, Washington Sundar 5-0-25-0, Shivam Dube 4-0-25-0, Rahul Chahar 5-0-18-1, Nitish Rana 2-0-14-0.  
**India-A:** Shubman Gill c Jansen b Nortje 12, Shikhar Dhawan (batting) 33, Prashanth Chopra (batting) 6; Extras (b-4, w-1): 5; Total (for one wkt. in 7.4 overs): 56.

**Fall of wicket:** 1-13.

**South Africa-A bowling:** Beuran Hendricks 3-20-0, Anrich Nortje 3-0-26-1, Marco Jansen 1-0-5-0, Bjorn Fortuin 0.4-0-1-0.  
**Toss:** India-A.

# Unadkat swings day one Red's way

Green batsmen start well but fall to excellent bowling

## DULEEP TROPHY

ASHWIN ACHAL  
BENGALURU

India Red pacer Jaydev Unadkat exploited helpful conditions to the fullest to pin India Green down to 147 for eight on a rain-affected first day of their Duleep Trophy final at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Wednesday.

Through a lovely exhibition of swing bowling under overcast skies, Unadkat recorded figures of four for 58. The Saurashtra left-arm fast bowler moved the ball both ways, and created awkward angles from around the stumps.

Unadkat got going by trapping opener and captain Faiz Fazal (12, 22b) leg-before with one that came back in sharply. Siddhesh Lad fell for a golden duck, a loose drive going straight to the hands of Priyank Panchal at cover. Unadkat reserved his best for four-drop Akshay Wadkar (6), getting a length delivery from over the wicket to straighten and hit the middle stump. Tailender Rajesh Mohanty was his fourth victim, nicking one to wicketkeeper Ishan Kishan.

A pleased Unadkat stated, "I can move the ball both ways, and when you can do that from over and around the wicket, it makes it all the more difficult for batsmen. That's what I work on in the



Jaydev Unadkat.  
\*SUDDHAKARA JAIN

nets – to be accurate from both angles."

### A beauty

For India Green, Akshath Reddy (16, 56b) and Dhruv Shorey (23, 37b) put on 34 runs for the second wicket, before Shorey came undone to a beauty from Sandeep Warrier.

Kerala speedster Warrier got Shorey to edge a perfect

outswinger – moving away from just outside off. The impressive Warrier was unlucky to end up with just the one scalp.

Akshath, meanwhile, drove Unadkat straight to Avesh Khan at mid-on, and senselessly took off for a single. His partner Akshdeep Nath did not respond, leaving Akshath stranded. Avesh had enough time to wait for Kishan to come up to the stumps before lobbing an underarm throw.

Akshdeep (29, 46b, 5x4) played well, but let his side down with poor shot selection.

Intermittent showers restricted play to only 49 overs for the day. After five delays, action was called off in the late evening.

**The scores: India Green – 1st innings:** Faiz Fazal lbw b Unadkat 12, Akshath Reddy (run out) 16, Dhruv Shorey c Kishan b Warrier 23, Siddhesh Lad c Panchal b Unadkat 0, Akshdeep Nath c Panchal b Sarvate 29, Akshay Wadkar b Unadkat 6, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja c & b Avesh 15, Mayank Markande (batting) 32, Rajesh Mohanty c Kishan b Unadkat 0, Tanveer Ul-Haq (batting) 8; Extras (nb-1, b-4, lb-1): 6; Total (for eight wickets in 49 overs): 147.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-19, 2-53, 3-54, 4-65, 5-92, 6-99, 7-107, 8-112.  
**India Red bowling:** Unadkat 18-1-58-4, Warrier 13-3-25-1, Avesh 12-0-45-1, Sarvate 6-1-14-1.  
**Toss:** India Green.

# Bulls snatch a thriller

Delhi edges Jaipur earlier in the day



**Leading by example:** Skipper Rohit Kumar, jersey No. 9, turned in a much-improved performance to help Bengaluru Bulls to its second successive win. \*K. MURALI KUMAR

## PKL

N. SUDARSHAN  
BENGALURU

Star raider Pawan Kumar Sehrawat starred yet again, scoring 17 points, as Bengaluru Bulls snatched a thrilling 40-39 win over Patna Pirates in the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) at the Sree Kanteerava Indoor Stadium on Wednesday.

Fellow raider and skipper Rohit Kumar turned in a much-improved performance (7 pts) as the home side overturned a 29-37 deficit to record its second successive win. With just seconds left and the Bulls still trailing 35-37, Pawan reeled off four points on the bounce to help his team nose ahead. In the process, he also went past 500 raid

points in the PKL.

The Pirates, in fact, led even at half-time (22-16) courtesy a fine showing by Pardeep Narwal (14 pts). At 7-7, the skipper showed his class as he came up with a three successful raids fetching nine points, including an all out (4 pts) and a super raid that scalped four players. In the end though, it all came to naught.

In the day's first match, Dabang Delhi KC edged Jaipur Pink Panthers 46-44. With less than two minutes left, Delhi was 39-43 behind, but a super raid by Naveen Kumar, which took out two players, followed by Chandran Ranjit effecting an all out turned the tide.

**The results:** Bengaluru Bulls 40 bt Patna Pirates 39; Dabang Delhi KC 46 bt Jaipur Pink Panthers 44.