

India shows Pakistan no mercy

Ramkumar begins proceedings with a double bagel; Nagal wraps it up with another easy win

DAVIS CUP
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NUR-SULTAN (KAZAKHSTAN)

Ruthless India raced to a 2-0 lead in the Davis Cup tie for the loss of just two games as Ramkumar Ramanathan and Sumit Nagal toyed with their teen rivals from Pakistan here on Friday.



In a total mismatch, Ramkumar double-bagelled 17-year-old Muhammed Shoaib in just 42 minutes in the opening singles. The only time Shoaib made it look like a match was in the sixth game of the second set when

he stretched Ramkumar to two deuce points.

Nagal then earned his first-ever Davis Cup win, beating Hufaiza Mohammed Rehman 6-0, 6-2 in the second singles which lasted 64 minutes.

Pakistan badly missed its top players who pulled out, protesting against shifting of the matches to a neutral venue.

"I gave my best on every point. We are happy with 2-0 on the first day. Now we are looking forward to see Jee (Jeevan) and Leander fire some bombs tomorrow. Let's get the job done," said Ramkumar, who also thanked fans who had gathered to support them.

While the first match was not even a contest, promising youngster Hufaiza resisted Nagal as much as possible by engaging the Indian in long rallies. Twice he pushed Nagal to deuce in the second game of the second set and finally put Pakistan on board by holding the third game after squandering four game-points.

He returned and held again, staying close to Nagal.



Day to remember: Sumit Nagal defeated Hufaiza Mohammed Rehman for his first-ever Davis Cup win. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

However, it just delayed the inevitable as Nagal wrapped up the match in the eighth game.

"I started decent and finished it pretty strong. Both of us had a lot of fire today.

"We did not want to lose. They are juniors but they played well and did whatever they could.

"The guy I played came up with some really good shots. "He played to his potential

but has a long way to go," said Nagal.

India's non-playing captain Rohit Rajpal was also pleased with the performance. "It is a fantastic day for India. Ram gave us a nice

start, winning in quick time. The second match was a little tighter and tough, though it looked simple. Sumit kept the level high and came through with flying colours," he said.

Veteran Leander Paes and debutant Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan will now look to seal the tie when they clash with Hufaiza and Shoaib in the doubles on Saturday.

Paes' record

India has never lost a tie to Pakistan in six meetings.

A win on Saturday will stretch Paes' record for most number of doubles wins in Davis Cup history. He is leading the chart with 43 wins.

"It will be interesting to see how the Pakistan youngsters cope with our world class players.

"Let's see how it goes," said Rajpal.

The winner of the tie will travel to Croatia for the World Group qualifiers, to be held on March 6-7.

The results: India leads Pakistan 2-0 [Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Muhammed Shoaib 6-0, 6-0; Sumit Nagal bt Hufaiza Mohammed Rehman 6-0, 6-2].

Sathiyian in last-16



Moving up: G. Sathiyian made the knockouts with an all-win record in his group •COURTESY: ITTF WEBSITE

ITTF WORLD CUP
SPORTS BUREAU
CHENGDU

India's G. Sathiyian progressed to the knockout stages of the 2019 International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) men's World Cup, after winning all his group matches, here on Friday.

The World No.30 started his campaign with a spirited comeback to defeat World No. 22 Simon Gauzy 11-13, 9-11, 11-8, 14-12, 7-11, 11-5, 11-8.

were past Denmark's Jonathan Groth 11-3, 12-10, 7-11, 16-14, 8-11, 11-8 to finish atop Group D. Groth, the 14th seed, had lost his first match against Gauzy.

To face Boll next

Sathiyian will now face fifth seed Timo Boll in the round-of-16. Boll, a two-time World Cup champion and former World No. 1, is appearing in the tournament for the 16th time.

Speaking to *Sportstar*, Sathiyian said: "The name is enough. I am a huge fan of him, but pressure is on him to deliver. I will be playing against him in an international tournament for the first time and I'm looking forward to putting up a great show."

Karnataka thrashes Haryana, enters final

Sensational Mithun takes four wickets off four balls and five in a brilliant last over

MUSHTAQ ALI

S. DIPAK RAGAV
SURAT

Haryana was 192 for three in 19 overs after being asked to bat by Karnataka in the first semifinal of the Mushtaq Ali Trophy here on Friday.

What followed was something sensational. Abhimanyu Mithun, who had given away 37 in his first three overs, came up with a brilliant over, picking up five wickets, four off the first four deliveries. He gave away only two runs, finishing with 5/39.

One-way traffic

From there, it was one-way traffic as Devdutt Padikkal and K.L. Rahul thrashed the Haryana bowlers all over the park and the team crossed the finish line in 15 overs with eight wickets to spare.

The India opener slammed 66 (31b, 4x4, 6x6) while Padikkal made a brilliant 87 (42b, 11x4, 4x6), the duo adding 125 in just 9.3 overs.



Incredible: Mithun will forever remember his final over against Haryana. •VIJAY SONEJI

After being watchful for two overs, Rahul went after Ashish Hooda in the fourth over. He began with a six over long-on and three boundaries square on the off-side before Padikkal finished the over with a four.

Padikkal's first six scoring shots were boundaries and he initially played second-

I knew we had to pull it back in the last over and I backed myself to deliver

fiddle to Rahul before launching an onslaught.

Earlier, Haryana rode on the shoulders of Himanshu

Rana (61) and Chaitanya Bishnoi (55) before Mithun muzzled them in that final over.

The scores: Haryana 194/8 in 20 overs (Himanshu Rana 61, Chaitanya Bishnoi 55, Harshal Patel 34, Rahul Tewatia 32, Abhimanyu Mithun 5/39) lost to Karnataka 195/2 in 15 overs (Devdutt Padikkal 87, K.L. Rahul 66).

Mithun in the news, for good and bad

SPORTS REPORTER
SURAT

Within a span of 24 hours, Abhimanyu Mithun found himself in the news for two contrasting reasons. On Thursday, he was summoned by the Bengaluru police for questioning in connection with match-fixing allegations in the Karnataka Premier League.

But on Friday evening, the former India pacer found himself in the record books after taking five wickets, including a hat-trick, in one over.

Mithun had picked up a hat-trick in the Hazare Trophy final against Tamil Nadu last month.

He has now become the first bowler to have a hat-trick in all three formats in domestic cricket.

About the final over, Mithun said, "I just needed to keep it one side of the wicket because there was a long boundary and I bowled a lot of slower deliveries."

Clinical TN routs Rajasthan

S. DIPAK RAGAV
SURAT

Everything went right for Tamil Nadu, right from the toss, as it produced a clinical all-round performance to beat Rajasthan by seven wickets in the second semifinal of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy at the Lalbhai Contractor Stadium here on Friday.

TN will meet Karnataka in a summit clash for the second time this year after the two Southern powerhouses had met in the final of the Vijay Hazare Trophy last month. Karnataka had outplayed Tamil Nadu then.

Choosing to field, the Tamil Nadu bowlers restricted Rajasthan to 112 for nine.

Sai gets Chahar early

Deepak Chahar, who slammed an unbeaten 55 in the previous match, chose to open the batting but perished cheaply. He was castled by left-arm spinner R. Sai Kishore after hitting the bowler for a six earlier.

Rajasthan never strung together any meaningful partnership, the highest being



In the zone: Washingon Sundar continued his good form with the bat. •VIJAY SONEJI

the 30-run eighth-wicket stand between Chandrapal Singh and Ravi Bishnoi. Vijay Shankar scalped two wickets in the middle overs to tighten the screws, while M. Siddarth, T. Natarajan and R. Ashwin picked up one each.

Ashwin, promoted as opener, lost partner C. Hari Nishanth who was bowled by Chahar for a duck. The In-

dia off-spinner made a valuable 31 (33b, 4x4), adding 69 for the second wicket with Washington Sundar.

The latter came good again, remaining unbeaten on 54 (46b, 3x4, 3x6).

The scores: Rajasthan 112/9 in 20 overs (Vijay Shankar 2/13) lost to Tamil Nadu 116/3 in 17.5 overs (Washington Sundar 54 n.o., R. Ashwin 31).

Warner, Labuschagne at it again

Hammer back-to-back hundreds to frustrate Pakistan

PAK IN AUSTRALIA

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ADELAIDE

David Warner and Marnus Labuschagne both plundered back-to-back centuries as Australia stamped its authority on the opening day of the day-night second Test on Friday.

At close on a rain-interrupted day, the home team was a dominant 302 for one with the pair building an ominous 294-run partnership, leaving Pakistan with a huge battle to stay in touch.

Warner was unbeaten on 166 and Labuschagne on 126 at stumps. The two had scored 154 and 185 in the first Test at Brisbane. Their Adelaide stand was the highest ever in a day-night Test.

"It's a bit surreal at the moment. It was just amazing to be out there with Davey and to just put on a really big partnership," said Labuschagne. "Really happy. We were running hard, I love the intensity of the crease."

Warner paid tribute to the maturity of his partner, who is playing in only his 11th Test. "Credit to Marnus for the way he came out and took the bowlers on again, he picked up where he left off at the Gabba," he said.

Veteran seamer Mohammad Abbas, who tormented Australia when he took 17 wickets in two Tests in the UAE last October, returned



On the double: Labuschagne and Warner were unstoppable. •AP

in place of Imran Khan while 16-year-old pace sensation Naseem Shah was rested.

That handed a debut to 19-year-old medium-fast right-arm Muhammad Mu-

sa, but, like in the first Test at Brisbane, none of them could tame Warner and Labuschagne, with the ball hardly doing anything under the lights to trouble them.

SCOREBOARD

Australia — 1st innings: Joe Burns c Rizwan b Afridi 4, David Warner (batting) 166, Marnus Labuschagne (batting) 126; Extras (lb-1, nb-4, w-1): 6; Total (for one wkt. in 73 overs): 302.

Fall of wicket: 1-8. **Pakistan bowling:** Abbas 19-6-56-0, Afridi 18-4-48-1, Musa 13-1-71-0, Yasir 14-0-87-0, Iftikhar 8-0-30-0, Azhar 1-0-9-0. **Toss:** Australia.

West Indies cruises to victory

SPORTS BUREAU
LUCKNOW

It took West Indies a little more than an hour to seal a nine-wicket win over Afghanistan in the one-off Test at the Ekana Stadium on Friday.

SCOREBOARD

Afghanistan— 1st innings: 187. **West Indies —1st innings:** 277. **Afghanistan —2nd innings:** Ibrahim Zadran lbw b Cornwall 23, Javed Ahmadi c Cornwall b Chase 62, Ihsanullah run out 1, Rahmat Shah c Brooks b Cornwall 0, Asghar Afghan c Brooks b Cornwall 0, Nasir Jamal b Chase 15, Amir Hamza c Cornwall b Chase 1, Afsar Zazai c Dowrich b Holder 7, Rashid Khan c Dowrich b Holder 1, Yamin Ahmadzai b Holder 1, Zahir Khan (not out) 0; Extras (b-4, lb-4, nb-1) 9; Total (in 43.1 overs): 120. **Fall of wickets:** 1-53, 2-55, 3-55, 4-59, 5-96, 6-98, 7-109, 8-111, 9-119. **West Indies bowling:** Roach 4-2-5-0, Holder 6.1-2-20-3, Warrican 12-3-31-0, Cornwall 18-3-46-3, Chase 3-1-10-3. **West Indies —2nd innings:** K. Brathwaite c Afsar b Amir 8, J. Campbell (not out) 19, S. Hope (not out) 6; Total (for one wkt. in 6.2 overs): 33. **Fall of wicket:** 1-22. **Afghanistan bowling:** Yamin 1-0-8-0, Javed 1-0-9-0, Amir 2.2-1-5-1, Rashid 2-0-11-0. **Man-of-the-Match:** Rakheem Cornwall. (West Indies won by nine wickets)

Robin saves Hyderabad's blushes

His injury-time strike cancels out Chhetri's second-minute goal

ISL

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

Hyderabad FC, down to 10 for most part of the second half, salvaged a draw against defending champion Bengaluru FC, thanks to an injury-time goal from substitute Robin Singh, in their Hero ISL match at the GMC Balayogi Stadium here on Friday.

It was the visitors who shot into the lead in the second minute through their star striker Sunil Chhetri.

Brilliant effort

Latching on to a lovely through-ball in the midfield, Chhetri sprinted down the centre. Though he was closely marked by Gurtej Singh, Chhetri hoodwinked the Hyderabad defender before showing great control to tap the ball past a diving goalkeeper Kamaljit Singh.

As the first half was nearing its end, there were too many rough tackles from both sides. Bengaluru had an opportunity to make it 2-0 when Chhetri sent a superb backpass to the waiting Raphael Augusto.

However, the latter's shot was well anticipated and blocked by Kamaljit who was solid under the bar this day.

After the break, Hyderabad showed more enterprise and went on the attack, most of its moves initiated by the class striker Marcelo Perei-



In the nick of time: Robin Singh stunned Bengaluru FC with an opportunistic goal. •K.V.S. GIRI

ra. But he lacked support from his teammates.

Sahil sees red

Soon, Hyderabad was down a player after defender Sahil Panwar was sent off in the 57th minute for a dangerous tackle on Udanta, making things tougher for the hosts.

Just when it looked like Hyderabad was heading for another defeat, it scored the

Latham scores unbeaten ton

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
HAMILTON

Tom Latham's unbeaten hundred and his century stand with Ross Taylor laid a solid foundation for New Zealand before rain brought an early end to day one of the second Test against England here on Friday.

Latham was on 101 when the rain swept in, just three deliveries after the tea break with New Zealand 173 for three.

England was left to regret dropping the left-hander on 66 and not meeting expectations after winning the toss and bowling first.

England toiled for little reward, saw Taylor benefit from a dubious decision during a century partnership with Latham and lost the use of Ben Stokes as a bowling weapon.

Latham and Taylor put on 116 for the third wicket when Taylor went for 53.

SCOREBOARD

New Zealand —1st innings: J. Raval c Root b Broad 5, T. Latham (batting) 101, K. Williamson c Root b Woakes 4, R. Taylor c Root b Woakes 53, H. Nicholls (batting) 5; Extras (b-4, lb-1) 5; Total (for three wickets in 54.3 overs): 173. **Fall of wickets:** 1-16, 2-39, 3-155. **England bowling:** Broad 14-5-33-1, Archer 13-3-31-0, Woakes 14-1-41-2, Curran 9-2-38-0, Root 2-0-11-0, Stokes 2-0-14-0. **Toss:** England