

Kohli, Rahul and Rohit propel India to a memorable series win

Chasing a target of 316, the three provide the impetus before Jadeja and Thakur take the Men in Blue past the finish line; Pooran and Pollard's knocks go in vain

WI IN INDIA

Y.B. SARANGI
CUTTACK

Virat Kohli proved yet again that he was the master of the chase as he joined hands with Ravindra Jadeja to help India chase down a daunting target of 316 with eight balls to spare in the third and final ODI against the West Indies at the Barabati Stadium here on Sunday. Though the captain – quite uncharacteristically – wasn't there till the end, Jadeja took the Men in Blue past the finish line in the company of Shardul Thakur.

The thrilling victory took India to a 2-1 come-from-behind series win, its 10th successive one against the West Indies. Kohli's men had lost the opening ODI in Chennai before bouncing back at Visakhapatnam.

Openers on the prowl

The Indian openers' success story in 2019 continued with Rohit Sharma and K.L. Rahul forging a 122-run partnership and laying a strong foundation for the big pursuit.

Rohit, elegant as usual, made a 63-ball 63 with eight fours and a six – a hit that soared over midwicket – before being caught behind off Jason Holder. It was the Hitman's sixth half-century of the year.

Rahul oozed class, his cut shots and delicate whips on the leg-side bringing him a lot of runs. His 89-ball 77 was his third fifty in 2019. The wristy Karnataka batsman, who added 45 with skipper Kohli, flicked Alzarri Joseph for a magnificent six over



Pulling it off: Kohli's men came from behind to clinch a 2-1 win against the West Indies in Cuttack on Sunday. • K.R. DEEPAK

deep-square leg before gloving the same bowler down the leg-side to the wicket-keeper an over later.

Rahul's departure brought Windies back into the game and India lost three more wickets between the 33rd and 39th overs. With Keemo Paul striking off consecutive overs, the visitors sensed an opportunity.

However, a determined Kohli worked the ball around effortlessly and played his signature strokes – cover drive and pull – to take the

team forward and keep the asking rate at an achievable range.

Kohli (85, 81b, 9x4) found an partner in allrounder Ravindra Jadeja (39 not out, 31b, 4x4), their 58-run association reversing the trend of the visitors striking at regular intervals to put the kids on the chase.

Just when it looked like he would take the team home yet again, Kohli played on to Paul with India needing 30 off 23 balls. But a calm Jadeja and an aggressive Shadul

Thakur who blasted 17 off just six deliveries with two fours and a six, ensured that there were no more hiccups.

Earlier, asked to take first strike, West Indies' openers Evin Lewis and Shai Hope, who relied on timing and placement during his 50-ball 42, batted with restraint to put on 57.

Breaking through

Jadeja provided the breakthrough, having Lewis caught at long-off. Mohammed Shami castled

Hope with a beauty, the batsman missing the line and seeing his middle-stump knocked back.

Roston Chase, who was yet to score when wicket-keeper Pant dropped him off Kuldeep Yadav, and Shimron Hetmyer repaired the innings with a 62-run stand.

The left-handed Hetmyer, who made 37 off 33 balls, had some close shaves and was eventually dismissed when he pulled debutant Navdeep Saini straight to fine-leg fielder Kuldeep.

Saini rattled Chase's stumps with a yorker in the next over, leaving West Indies at 144 for four in the 32nd over.

Toe-crusher

Nicholas Pooran and Kieron Pollard, who needed attention after being hit by a Saini toe-crusher, took the attack to the opposition with a 135-run partnership off just 98 deliveries.

Pooran, who cut, pulled and drove brilliantly, clubbed Saini for three fours

in an over before completing his fifth half-century (89 off 64) of the year. The Trinidadian, who was dropped on 52 and 72 by Pant, was caught at deep extra-cover off Thakur.

Pollard was at his brutal best during his undefeated 51-ball 74.

His knock contained three hits to the fence and seven mighty sixes as the Caribbeans plundered 77 off the final five overs. Though West Indies finished with an impressive total of 315, it proved inadequate.

SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES

Evin Lewis c Saini b Jadeja 21 (50b, 3x4), Shai Hope b Shami 42 (50b, 5x4), Roston Chase b Saini 38 (48b, 3x4), Shimron Hetmyer c Kuldeep b Saini 37 (33b, 2x4, 2x6), Nicholas Pooran c Jadeja b Shardul 89 (64b, 10x4, 3x6), Kieron Pollard (not out) 74 (51b, 3x4, 7x6), Jason Holder (not out) 7 (4b, 1x4); Extras (lb-4, w-3): 7. Total (for five wkts. in 50 overs): 315.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-57 (Lewis, 14.6), 2-70 (Hope, 19.2), 3-132 (Hetmyer, 29.2), 4-144 (Chase, 31.3), 5-279 (Pooran, 47.5).

INDIA BOWLING

Shardul 10-0-66-1, Shami 10-2-66-1, Saini 10-0-58-2, Kuldeep 10-0-67-0, Jadeja 10-0-54-1.

INDIA

Rohit Sharma c Hope b Holder 63 (63b, 8x4, 1x6), K.L. Rahul c Hope b Joseph 77 (89b, 8x4, 1x6), Virat Kohli b Paul 85 (81b, 9x4), Shreyas Iyer c Joseph b Paul 7 (7b, 1x4), Rishabh Pant b Paul 7 (6b, 1x4), Kedar Jadhav b Cottrell 9 (10b, 1x4), Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 39 (31b, 4x4), Shardul Thakur (not out) 17 (6b, 2x4, 1x6); Extras (lb-2, w-9, nb-1): 12; Total (for six wkts. in 48.4 overs): 316.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-122 (Rohit, 21.2), 2-167 (Rahul, 29.5), 3-188 (Shreyas, 32.3), 4-201 (Pant, 34.6), 5-228 (Jadhav, 38.5), 6-286 (Kohli, 46.1).

WEST INDIES BOWLING

Cottrell 10-1-74-1, Holder 10-0-63-1, Paul 9.4-0-59-3, Chase 4-0-19-0, Pierre 7-0-46-0, Joseph 8-0-53-1.

Toss: India.

Man-of-the-Match: Kohli.

Man-of-the-series: Rohit.

India won by four wickets with eight balls to spare and clinched series 2-1.

‘Maybe 340 would have been a stiffer one’

Jadeja feels that the 316-run target was not a big one

Y.B. SARANGI
CUTTACK

All-rounder Ravindra Jadeja, who kept his nerve in a thrilling chase, said he wanted to be there till the end.

“It was a good wicket to bat on and we needed to play according to the merit of the ball.

“The last 10 overs were very tough for the bowlers because of the dew. And the outfield was fast.

“Virat told me to keep playing normal cricketing shots and not do anything silly,” said Jadeja. “After he got out, I knew I needed to play till the end.”

Jadeja felt that the 316-run target was not a big one. “It was not a big target to chase on this pitch as the dew factor played a big role. Maybe 340 would have been a stiffer one.”

West Indies' top-scorer Nicholas Pooran said he enjoyed his century partnership with captain and mentor Kieron Pollard. “Polly is like a big brother and he gave me the opportunity. We complement each other while batting.”

Pooran said the West Indies will take home some positives despite losing the T20I and ODI series by identical margins (2-1). “We showed that we are fighters and there are better things to come,” he said.

STAT SPHERE

1 Rohit has set the world record for scoring the most international runs by an opener in a calendar year, surpassing Jayasuriya

2,442 Rohit (2019)

2,387 Jayasuriya (1997)

2,355 Sehwag (2008)

2,349 Hayden (2003)

2 Hope has become the second quickest to 3000 ODI runs, behind Amla

Fewest innings taken

57 Amla | **67** Hope

68 Azam | **69** Richards

72 Greenidge, Kirsten, Dhawan & Root

8/8 In 2019, the Indian openers crossed the 50-run partnership eight times in ODIs and went on to convert that into a century stand all the time

Most ODI runs in this decade

11,125 Kohli (avg. 60.79)

8,249 Rohit (53.56)

7,265 Amla (49.76)

6,485 de Villiers (64.20)

6,428 Ross Taylor (54.01)

ROHIT

RAHUL

JADEJA & THAKUR

KOHLI

SL IN PAKISTAN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KARACHI

Sri Lanka opener Oshada Fernando struck a maiden century to delay Pakistan's victory quest after the home team's top four all scored hundreds in the second Test here on Sunday.

Set 476 runs to win, Sri Lanka was tottering at 97 for five before Fernando and Niroshan Dickwella halted the slide with a resolute 104-run stand for the sixth wicket.

But the last three overs of the day saw Dickwella fall for 65 and Dilruwan Perera caught behind off Naseem Shah for five.

The 16-year-old Naseem had the best figures of three for 31.

At close, Sri Lanka was 212 for seven with Oshada (102 not out) at the crease and the visitors needing 264 runs for victory.

Pakistan needs just three wickets on Monday to win



Resolute: Oshada Fernando struck a maiden century to delay Pakistan's victory quest. • AFP

the series.

Pakistan earlier declared its second innings at lunch on 555 for three after Azhar Ali returned to form with 118 and Babar Azam struck 100 not out.

It was only the second

time in a Test innings that the top four have scored centuries after openers Abid Ali (174) and Shan Masood (135) grabbed theirs on Saturday. India against Bangladesh at Dhaka in 2007 was the other occasion.

SCOREBOARD

Pakistan — 1st innings: 191.

Sri Lanka — 1st innings: 271.

Pakistan — 2nd innings: Shan Masood c Oshada b Kumara 135, Abid Ali lbw b Kumara 174, Azhar Ali st. Dickwella b Embuldeniya 118, Babar Azam (not out) 100, Mohammad Rizwan (not out) 21; Extras (lb-5, w-2): 7; Total (for three wkts. decl. in 131 overs): 555.

Fall of wickets: 1-278, 2-355, 3-503.

Sri Lanka bowling: Vishwa Fernando 24-2-105-0, Kumara 29-5-139-2, Embuldeniya 50-4-193-1, Perera 21-1-94-0, Dhananjaya 7-0-19-0.

Sri Lanka — 2nd innings:

Dimuth Karunaratne c Rizwan b Abbas 16, Oshada Fernando (batting) 102, Kusal Mendis c Azam b Naseem 0, Angelo Mathews c Rizwan b Shaheen 19, Dinesh Chandimal lbw b Naseem 2, Dhananjaya de Silva b Yasir 0, Niroshan Dickwella b Sohail 65, Dilruwan Perera c Rizwan b Naseem 5; Extras (lb-3): 3; Total (for seven wkts. in 60.1 overs): 212.

Fall of wickets: 1-39, 2-40, 3-70, 4-96, 5-97, 6-201, 7-212.

Pakistan bowling: Shaheen 14-3-51-1, Abbas 12-2-33-1, Naseem 11.1-3-31-3, Yasir 19-2-84-1, Sohail 4-0-10-1.

Will Bumrah make the cut for T20I, ODI series?

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The focus will be on pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah as the current selection committee will have its final meeting here on Monday to pick the teams for three T20Is against Sri Lanka and as many ODIs against Australia.

Bumrah, who recently bowled at the India nets after recovering from stress fracture, is fit again and could be picked for the T20I series against Sri Lanka beginning on January 5, or the ODI series against a full-strength Australian side



Bumrah. • FILE PHOTO

starting on January 14.

Bumrah will most likely make a return for the Australia series.

Chelsea's Lampard pulls tactical masterclass over Mourinho

United stunned by Watford; City keeps hopes alive with win over Leicester

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Frank Lampard out-witted Jose Mourinho as Chelsea powered to a 2-0 win at Tottenham on Sunday that featured a double from Willian, a red card for Son Heung-min and allegations of racist abuse.

Billed as a showdown between Mourinho and Lampard, an explosive London derby showed the student is more than a match for the man who served as his mentor during their time together at Chelsea.

Blues boss Lampard

pulled a tactical masterstroke as he cleverly changed his team's formation, leaving Tottenham manager Mourinho unable to respond as Willian opened the scoring with a blistering strike and increased Chelsea's lead with a penalty before half-time.

Earlier Watford won in the Premier League for just the second time this season as the bottom-of-the-table side beat Manchester United 2-0 in a shock upset at Vicarage Road on Sunday.

On Saturday, Manchester City hit back to beat Leicester 3-1 as the champion kept alive its faint hopes of catch-

ing Premier League leader Liverpool.

The results: Premier League: Watford 2 (Sarr 50, Deeney 54-pen) bt Manchester United 0; Tottenham 0 lost to Chelsea 2 (Willian 12, 45+4 pen).

La Liga: Leganes 2 (Braithwaite 11, En-Nesyri 54) bt Espanyol 0; Osasuna 3 (Ariadne 45+1, Avila 49, 84) lost to Real Sociedad 4 (Oyarzabal 15, Portu 18, Odegaard 28, Isak 79); Real Betis 1 (Bartra 90+3) lost to Atletico Madrid 2 (Correa 58, Morata 84).

Serie A: Atalanta 5 (Gomez 10, Pasalic 61, Ilicic 63, 72, Muriel 84) bt AC Milan 0; Lecce 2 (Baccar 85, Farias 90+1) lost to Bologna 3 (Risolini 43, 66, Soriano 56); Parma 1 (Grassi 90+2) drew

with Brescia 1 (Balotelli 72).

Bundesliga: Fortuna Dusseldorf 2 (Hennings 38, Thommy 90) bt Union Berlin 1 (Parensen 48); Paderborn 2 (Sabiri 9, Schonlau 41) bt Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Dost 72).

Saturday: Premier League: Manchester City 3 (Mahrez 30, Gundogan 43-pen, Jesus 69) bt Leicester 1 (Vardy 22).

La Liga: Villarreal 1 (Gomez 52) bt Getafe 0; Real Valladolid 1 (Guardiola) drew with Valencia 1 (Vallejo 90+4).

Serie A: Udinese 2 (De Paul 39, Fofana 85) bt Cagliari 1 (Joao Pedro 84); Inter Milan 4 (Lukaku 31, 71, Gagliardini 32, Esposito 64-pen) bt Genoa 0; Torino 1 (Rincon 4) lost to SPAL 2 (Espeto 42, Petagna 81).



Howler: Manchester United's David de Gea somehow contrives to let slip in Sarr's effort. • REUTERS