Aussie pacers rip through New Zealand

Cummins leads the charge with a five-for; hosts bat again to extend lead beyond 450

NZ IN AUSTRALIA

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

MELBOURNE

New Zealand was facing a massive run chase to save the second Test and the series after it was dismissed for 148 in Melbourne on Saturday, with Australia batting again to rub salt in the wounds and extend its lead.

At the close on day three, the home team was 137 for four, building on its first innings 467 to be 456 runs in

First innings century-maker Travis Head was not out 12 and Matthew Wade was on 15, with skipper Tim Paine so far resisting the temptation to declare.

New Zealand began the day already in trouble on 44 for two. It didn't survive long with a world-class pace barrage from Pat Cummins, James Pattinson and Mitchell Starc destroying the middle

order. Paine could have enforced the follow-on, but opted to bat again and Australia raced to 62 without loss before Neil Wagner tempted David Warner into a drive on 38 and he was caught by Blundell.

Form-player Marnus Labuschagne was run out for 19 and spinner Mitchell Santner snared opener Joe Burns for 35, caught behind off a bottom edge.

When Steve Smith departed for seven, Wagner's 200th Test wicket, the Black Caps were on a roll. But Head and Wade steered them to the close, leaving New Zealand with a monumental task.

Boult ruled out

New Zealand pace spearhead Trent Boult fractured his non-bowling hand on Saturday and will miss the third Test against Australia in a big blow for the Black Caps.

SCOREBOARD

Australia - 1st innings: 467. New Zealand — 1st innings: T Latham c Paine b Cummins 50, T. Blundell c Paine b Cummins 15, K. Williamson c Paine b Pattinson 9, R. Taylor c Burns b Cummins 4, H. Nicholls lbw b Cummins O, B-J. Watling c Burns b Pattinson 7, C. de Grandhomme c Warner b Starc 11, M. Santner c Paine b Pattinson 3, T. Southee c Paine b Cummins 10, N. Wagner (not out) 18, T. Boult b Starc 8; Extras (lb-4, b-4, w-2, nb-3) 13; Total (in 54.5 overs): 148. Fall of wickets: 1-23, 2-39, 3-46, 4-46, 5-58, 6-97, 7-112, 8-

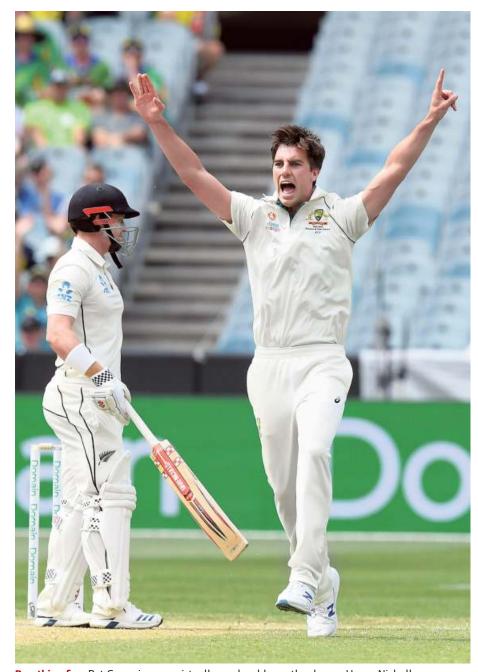
Australia bowling: Starc 12.5-4-

30-2, Cummins 17-5-28-5, Pattinson 15-2-34-3, Lyon 9-1-35-0, Wade 1-0-13-0.

Australia - 2nd innings: D. Warner c Blundell b Wagner 38, J. Burns c Watling b Santner 35, M. Labuschagne run out 19, S. Smith c Southee b Wagner 7. M. Wade (batting) 15, T. Head (batting) 12: Extras (lb-4, b-4, w-2, nb-1) 11; Total (for four wkts. in 45 overs): 137.

Fall of wickets: 1-62, 2-100, 3-110, 4-110.

New Zealand bowling: Boult 9-0-30-0, Southee 10-3-24-0, de Grandhomme 5-0-14-0, Wagner 13-1-39-2, Santner 8-0-



Breathing fire: Pat Cummins was virtually unplayable on the day, as Henry Nicholls

Mary Kom sets the record straight

Outclasses Nikhat 9-1 in an ill-tempered trials face-off

BOXING

UTHRA GANESAN

NEW DELHI It was a bout that had the entire boxing community in India hooked, but the final result was on predictable

Mary Kom proved herself the best in the country in the 51kg with an impressive 9-1 win against Nikhat Zareen in an ill-tempered bout at the trials for the Olympic Qualifiers here on Saturday.

Simmering issue

The differences between the two had been simmering for over four months, ever since the Boxing Federation of India decided to not hold trials for the World Championships in October and Nikhat cried foul, writing to the sports minister and demanding a face-off.

Saturday, therefore, was about both wanting to prove a point.

The bout itself, though, had little in terms of excite-

ment. While the first round was about opponent assessment, the second and third saw a lot of clinching with few clean ones landing from

either boxer. There were words exchanged during the bout and even afterwards. Nikhat claimed Mary refused to even shake hands and used foul words as well.

"The result is a different issue, it definitely was not 9-1. Anyone can see that the first two rounds were clearly mine while the third was equal, I managed a lot more clean punches. But I am hurt that someone who is so senior and is my idol behaved in this manner," the 24-year-

Supporters of both boxers were vocal with A.P. Reddy, claiming to be from the Telangana Boxing Association, getting aggressive in his protests at the decision and declaring they would approach AIBA.

He and his supporters were asked to leave ringside,

with BFI president Ajay Singh stepping in to control

the situation. Mary Kom retorted that she would respect those who respect her. "I don't like controversies. Why should I shake hands or hug? First you say so much outside the

ring, talk too much before

the bout. I will respect you if

you respect me," she said.

Action elsewhere

With the Mary-Nikhat bout taking precedence, the other four bouts on the day were overshadowed, but there was no lack of action.

Simranjit Kaur overwhelmed 37-year-old veteran Sarita Devi 8-2 in the 60kg. Youth World champion Sakshi Chaudhary got the better of Sonia Lather

The results: 51kg: Mary Kom bt Nikhat Zareen 9-1; 57kg: Sakshi Chaudhary bt Sonia Lather 9-1; 60kg: Simranjit Kaur bt defeated Sarita Devi 8-2; 69kg: Lovlina Borgohain bt Lalita 10-0: 75kg: Pooja Rani bt Nupur 10-0.



The best: Mary Kom is declared the winner after the bout against Nikhat Zareen. • R.V. MOORTHY

India U-19 clinches series

IANS JOHANNESBURG

India U-19 on Saturday beat South Africa U-19 by eight wickets to take a 2-0 lead in the three-match series here on Saturday.

SA put in to bat was bundled out for 119 in under 30

Yashasvi Jaiswal took four wickets in 3.5 overs while Akash Singh, Atharva Ankolekar and Ravi Bishnoi got two wickets each.

Jaiswal then went on to star with the bat as well, scoring 89 off 56 balls after India lost two early wick-

The scores: South Africa U-19 119 in 29.5 overs(J.Bird 25. Yashasvi Jaiswal 4/13) lost to India U-19 120/2 in 16.2 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 89 n.o, Dhruv Jorel 26 n.o).

ENGLAND IN SA

A battling 77 not out from

Rory Burns on Saturday gave

England a fighting chance of

improbable success as it

needs 255 more runs for vic-

tory in the first Test against South Africa at SuperSport

Set an imposing 376 runs

to win the first of the four-

match series, England reached 121 for one wicket at

stumps on the third day after

a positive start to an enor-

REUTERS

CENTURION

Knighthoods for Lloyd and Greenidge

England's World Cup winners receive honours

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Ben Stokes and several of his England Cricket World Cupwinning teammates were recognised in Britain's New Year Honours list announced on Friday, as two West Indies greats, Clive Lloyd and Gordon Greereceived nidge. knighthoods.

All-rounder Stokes was made an OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire).

Meanwhile, Eoin Morgan, who captained England to World Cup glory, was named a CBE (Commander of the Order of the British Empire), one rank below knighthood.

Wicketkeeper Jos Buttler and Test skipper Joe Root were both awarded MBEs (Members of the Order of

The visitors need 255 more runs to go ahead in the series

Solid Burns raises England's hopes



Clive Lloyd. ■FILE PHOTO

the British Empire), the level beneath an OBE.

Australian Trevor Bayliss, England's World Cup-winning coach, received an

Lloyd, the forerunner of today's modern power batsmen and brilliant fielders, hit a superb century as the West Indies beat Australia in



Greenidge. • FILE PHOTO

the inaugural 1975 World Cup final at Lord's.

Opening batsman Greenidge, a key figure in Lloyd's all-conquering team, has been knighted on the recommendation of the government of his native Barbados, with certain Caribbean nations conferring their own

It's Dhoni's decision: Ganguly

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

BCCI president Sourav Ganguly on Saturday said Mahendra Singh Dhoni has "surely" communicated his future plans to India captain Virat Kohli and selectors. Dhoni has been on a sabbatical from international cricket since India's semifinal exit in the ODI World Cup, leading to speculations about his

"He's communication with the captain, I am sure he has had communication with the selectors, and I don't think this is the platform to discuss about it," Ganguly said during the latest episode of 'Inspiration' on India Today.

Ganguly said"it is his (Dhoni) decision what he wants to do. I haven't spoken to him, but he's a champion, he's been an absolute champion in Indian cricket.'

Ganguly further said, "You won't get another M S Dhoni very, very soon, but what he does – whether he wants to play, whether he doesn't want to play, is up to him."

Blasters, NEUFC share points Controversial penalty to the aid of North Eastern side

ISL

STAN RAYAN

Was that a penalty?

That was the talking point for a major part of the second half as NorthEast United, down by a goal towards the end of the opening half, came back to hold Kerala Blasters to a 1-1 draw after a controversial penalty in the Hero Indian Super League at the Nehru Stadium here on Saturday night.

That piece of action came five minutes into the second half when referee Rahul Kumar Gupta punished Seityasen Singh for what he thought was a handball. But it appeared to be the midfielder's head that was in contact as he attempted to deflect a Rakesh Pradhan cross to his goalkeeper and not his hand. And NorthEast striker Asamoah Gyan, who had missed a couple of good chances earlier, converted the penalty with a shot to the right which goalkeeper Rehenesh could do nothing

Blasters take lead

Blasters' goal, which gave it the lead, also came through a penalty seven minutes earlier. Captain and forward Ogbeche moved into the box after receiving the ball from



First strike: Kerala Blasters' Ogbeche, left, celebrates after scoring against NorthEast United FC. • н. vівни

Mario Arques and goalkeeper Subhasish Roy rushed to thwart the Blasters striker. But in the process, his follow-through appeared to bring Ogbeche down and seconds later, the Frenchman placed the ball neatly to the right corner to give the home side the lead. Subhashish, however, appeared to be very upset with the referee's decision. With the crowd thinning at the Nehru Stadium here – today's count at 12,168 was probably the team's lowest this season -Blasters needed a win desperately to move up from its ninth spot in the league.

And the home side started well. In the eighth minute, K. Prasanth's attempt from just outside the box was pushed out of danger by NorthEast goalie Subasish Rov. At the other end, Ghana-

nian Gyan was the man to watch. He looked dangerous as he received a long pass from Lalthathanga Khawlhring in the 20th minute. He was nicely placed too as he ran into the box but to the home team's relief, he shot over. Fifteen minutes later, Gyan had a goal disallowed for being offside. The match lost much of its

tempo in the last quarter and in the end, after sharing points, the Blasters stays in the ninth spot with eight points while NorthEast kept its seventh rung with 11.

The result: Kerala Blasters 1 (Bartholomew Ogbeche 43 penalty) drew with NorthEast United 1 (Asamoah Gyan 50 penal-

Wolves dent Man City's title chances

Guardiola's men surrender two-goal lead

PREMIER LEAGUE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE VOLVERHAMPTON

Manchester City's faint hopes of retaining the Premier League title was left in tatters as it blew a two-goal lead and had Ederson sent off in a dramatic 3-2 defeat at Wolves on Friday.

Pep Guardiola's side recovered from Ederson's 12thminute dismissal to take control thanks to Raheem Sterling's double either side of half-time.

But City's fatigued stars were unable to go the distance as Adama Traore's goal started a thrilling Wolves fightback.

Raul Jimenez equalised with eight minutes to go and Matt Doherty hit the winner to send Molineux wild in the



Hail the hero! Mates converge on Matt Doherty, second from right, after he scored Wolves' match-winner. • AFP

89th minute. Third placed City trails runaway leader Liverpool by 14 points.

Everton 2 (Calvert-Lewin 13, 64); Southampton 1 (Ings 74) The results: Wolves 3 (Traore drew with Crystal Palace 1 55, Jimenez 82, Doherty 89) bt (Tomkins 50): Watford 3 (Dee-Manchester City 2 (Sterling 25, ney 42, 67-pen, Sarr 71) bt As-50); Brighton 2 (Jahanbakhsh ton Villa O.

3, Mooy 79) bt Bournemouth 0;

Newcastle 1 (Schaer 56) lost to

Arrows stun Churchill

I-LEAGUE

MARGAO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

In the first big upset of this I-League season, Indian Arrows rallied to beat the inform Churchill Brothers FC 2-1 in its own backyard here on Saturday.

Reaping the benefits of the tactical brilliance of head coach Shanmugam Venkatesh, the substitutes of the Arrows proved to be the game-changers. This was the first win for

Indian Arrows, the developmental side of the All India Football Federation, in four matches and the first defeat for Churchill Brothers in three games.

The result: Churchill Brothers 1 (Abu Bakr 42) lost to Indian Arrows 2 (Givson Singh 78, 90).

mous task. **Good start**

Burns and Dom Sibley put on 92 for the opening wicket before Sibley (29) chipped the ball back to spinner Keshav Maharaj for a caught and bowled.

Burns, who survived a review in the first over, played an attacking innings with Joe Denly (10 not out) in a supporting role.

South Africa, which will have to take nine wickets to end a run of five successive Test defeats, was bowled out for 272 in its second innings, just before tea after frustrating England in the field.

With 15 wickets falling on a lively pitch on Friday, England would have been ex-



Key player: It would serve England's cause well if Rory Burns can bat in the same vein as he did on Saturday. ■ GETTY IMAGES

pecting to wrap up South Africa a lot earlier after it resumed at 72 for four overnight. But the home side extended its overnight lead of 175 runs by 200 as debutant Rassie van der Dussen scored 51, Vernon Philander 46 and nightwatchman Anrich Nortje 40.

Five-for

Jofra Archer did bag a fivewicket haul but it cost him 102 runs, including a bashing from Quinton de Kock who smacked him for three sixes in a cameo of 34 runs.

South Africa —1st innings: 284. England — 1st innings: 181.

SCOREBOARD

South Africa — 2nd innings: A. Markram lbw b Anderson 2, D.

Elgar c Buttler b Archer 22, Z. Hamza c Buttler b Broad 4, F. du Plessis c Curran b Archer 20, H. van der Dussen lbw b Archer 51, A. Nortje c sub b Archer 40, Q. de Kock c Bairstow b Stokes 34, D. Pretorius c Sibley b Stokes 7, V. Philander c Bairstow b Curran 46, K. Maharaj c Curran b Archer 11, K. Rabada (not out) 16; Extras (b-5, lb-3, nb-2, w-9): 19; Total (in 61.4 overs): 272.

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-25, 3-29,

England bowling: Anderson 13-1-47-1, Broad 11-2-42-1, Archer

4-62, 5-153, 6-170, 7-177, 8-220,

17-1-102-5, Curran 12.4-3-51-1, Stokes 8-1-22-2 England - 2nd innings: R. Burns (batting) 77, D. Sibley c & b Maharaj 29, J. Denly (batting) 10; Extras (b-4, lb-1): 5; Total

(for one wkt. in 41 overs): 121.

Fall of wicket: 1-92.

South Africa bowling: Rabada 9-0-48-0, Philander 10-2-20-0, Nortje 6-1-20-0, Pretorius 6-1-12-0, Maharaj 10-3-16-1.