

# Oops, they did it again

Another tie, another Super Over and it's Tim Southee again--New Zealand lose sixth Super Over



The first-ever tied-T20I to be decided in Super Overs was between West Indies and New Zealand in Auckland in 2008, which they lost. This was to become a trend as New Zealand continued to lose games that went beyond the wire. So far, they have been part of 6 such games and lost 5. Add the only 50-over match to be decided via Super Over--the 2019 World Cup final--and there is adequate proof to suggest the Kiwis' deep-lying vulnerability in games that go into Super Over. Worst still, in many of the matches, the Kiwis had no business in letting the contest drift into such an eventuality. Over to New Zealand's Super Over syndrome.

**CAPTAIN FLOUNDERS**  
New Zealand vs West Indies (Auckland), 2008  
**Super Over target (chasing):** 26 runs  
**Fall guy:** Daniel Vettori

The New Zealand skipper volunteered to bowl the first-ever Super Over, but with the disastrous implications. Chris Gayle, his future Royal Challengers Bangalore teammate creamed three sixes and a four to plunder 25 runs. The Kiwis didn't have the ammo, and Sulieman Benn, the beanpole left-arm spinner, ended their response in four balls. But New Zealand could have finished the game in the stipulated overs, but for a wayward over by Tim Southee, who in the years to come

would turn out to be their Super Over tragi-hero. West Indies required six off the last two balls with the No 9 and 10 at the crease, but Southee's harmless half-volley found the fence. It then required a lung-busting intervention by Jacob Oram to prevent the last ball from crashing into the point fence.

**SOUTHEE SLIPS UP**  
New Zealand vs West Indies, 2012 T20 World Cup, Kandy  
**Super Over target (defending):** 15 runs  
**Fall guy:** Tim Southee

On a sluggish strip in Kandy, New Zealand thought they had enough runs to defend, but Tim Southee got them off to the worst possible start. A six off a no-ball. Though he responded strongly, conceding not a single boundary in the four balls, a low full-toss off the fifth ball, was all Marlon Samuels required to wrap up the match. As in the first match, New Zealand had themselves to blame for the swamp they found themselves waddling. At one stage, they required only 27 runs off 24 balls with six wickets intact. But they managed only 13 off the next 18 balls, which meant they required 14 off the last over. Ross Taylor took them close, they needed two off the last ball, and they seemed they would sneak in. But Dwayne

Smith's direct hit from the deep caught Doug Bracewell short of the crease.

**MALINGA, TOO HOT TO HANDLE**  
Sri Lanka vs New Zealand, 2012 T20 World Cup, Kandy  
**Super Over target (chasing):** 14 runs  
**Fall guys:** Tim Southee, Brendon McCullum and Martin Gupthill

Six shots, six mishits. Brendon McCullum and Martin Gupthill were frozen by the sheer pace and skill of Lasith Malinga. No, none of them were his trademark curling yorkers, but wide full balls. But still, they cracked. This time, though, it wasn't the usual narrative of them squandering an advantage, but a case of them forcing the match into a shootout with some smart death-over bowling. Southee, conceded seven in the 18th, James Franklin dismissed Tillakaratne Dilshan and Thisara Perera in the next, before Southee kept his nerves (for a change) in the last over.

**SOUTHEE, EXPENSIVE AGAIN**  
New Zealand vs England, Auckland 2019  
**Super Over target (chasing):** 17 runs  
**Fall guy:** Tim Southee

Two yorkers, two nearly yorkers and two yorkers gone wrong. Jonny Bairstow blasted a pair of sixes off the two misfired yorkers to lift England. The latter's looked shaky in defence, Chris Jordan was wayward, but England's agile fielding sprung to their rescue. Especially Eoin Morgan, who ran back to pluck a stunning catch to dismiss Tim Seifert. One boundary is all they managed. Could New Zealand have pouched the match before? Yes. Jimmy Neesham bled 10 off last balls.

**SHARMA, SIX ON DEMAND**  
New Zealand vs India, Hamilton 2020  
**Super Over target (defending):** 18  
**Fall guy:** Tim Southee, Ross Taylor

Incredibly, New Zealand keeps entrusting Tim Southee with Super Over duties, and invariably he comes up the second best. On this occasion at least, he seemed on a mission to atone, only for Rohit Sharma to spoil his night. Requiring to defend off the last two balls, Southee's nerves snap, yet again, as Rohit creams successive sixes. But you could empathise with him, for he couldn't have in this spot if his batsmen had done their job. If they can't knock 9 off the last over, 2 off the last three balls, Southee shouldn't be held scape-goat for this defeat.

**OH STOKES**  
England vs New Zealand, Lord's World Cup 2019 final  
**Super Over target (chasing):** 16  
**Fall guy:** Not Tim Southee

On the grandest of stages, with the grandest of prizes on the line, New Zealand crumbled. First, they let Ben Stokes a teehold into the dying contest. Then, when push came to shove, they panicked. After scoring nine off the first two balls, they seemed on course, but they managed just five off the next three. Over to Martin Gupthill, who is run out pursuing the second run. A tie didn't suffice as England had a better boundary country. A most unfortunate method to arrive at a conclusion, but weren't they responsible for this fate? Why would they send a batsman averaging 20 in the campaign to plunder the Super Over? A tactical blunder. Or a choke?

BRIEFLY

Harmanpreet, bowlers star as India thrash England



**Canberra:** Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur struck an unbeaten 42 following a fine bowling performance to set up India's thrilling five-wicket win over England in the first match of the women's triangular T20 series here on Friday. Indian spinners--Rajeshwari Gayakwad (2/19), Deepti Sharma (2/30) and left armer Radha Yadav (1/33)--restricted England to 147 for seven in stipulated 20 overs, while right-arm medium pacer Shikha Pandey (2/33) accounted for two at the Manuka Oval. Harmanpreet took the run chase deep after the Indian top order, including the 15-year-old Shafali Verma (30), Smriti Mandhana (15) and Jemimah Rodrigues (26)--squandered good starts. Veda Krishnamurthy (7) and Taniya Bhatia (11) also failed to stay on the crease as England bowlers struck at regular intervals.

With six needed off the last over, Harmanpreet, whose innings was studded with five boundaries until then, hit a towering six to take India to 150 for five and end the match in style with three balls to spare.

**BRIEF SCORES:** England women: 147/7 in 20 overs (Heather Knight 67, Tammy Beaumont 37; Rajeshwari Gayakwad 2/19) lost by five wickets to India Women: 150 for 5 in 19.3 overs (Harmanpreet Kaur 42 not out, Shafali Verma 30).

RP Singh and Madal Lal named in CAC

**New Delhi:** RP Singh, Madan Lal and Sulkashana Naik were on Friday appointed members of the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) by the Indian Cricket Board (BCCI). The CAC's immediate task will be to pick replacements for outgoing selectors MSK Prasad and Gagan Khoda. "The term of appointment will be for one year," BCCI Secretary Jay Shah said in a statement.

The CAC, which is also supposed to pick the head coaches for the national teams, was not in existence ever since Kapil Dev, Anshuman Gaekwad and Shantha Rangaswamy stepped down in October last year after conflict of interest allegations were levelled against them.

Initially, former opening batsman Gautam Gambhir was to be one of the CAC members but was not eventually considered as he is a serving Member of Parliament, making way for Singh. The 34-year-old from from Uttar Pradesh is the youngest ever CAC member. Lal is 68 and Naik is 41. Earlier this week, BCCI president Sourav Ganguly had said that the Board was looking for Gambhir's replacement in the CAC while Lal and Naik were certainties.

AGENCIES

# Black Cap-itation

Freezing at the crunch again, Kiwis unravel to lose second consecutive game in Super Over against India



New Zealand needed just seven from the last over but lost four wickets as the game finished in a tie forcing a Super Over. Seifert's run-out was the second dismissal. AP

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY  
JANUARY 31

YET AGAIN, New Zealand snatched defeat from the jaws of victory. Yet again, they had a final-over meltdown. Yet again, they lost in a Super Over: 'Repeat offenders' usually never learn.

Chasing 166 for victory, the Kiwis went into the final over needing seven runs with seven wickets in hand. Their slip-up was inexplicable. Two days ago in Hamilton, they had failed to knock off nine runs in the final over with six wickets in hand. Four dot balls had sapped the momentum out of their victory pursuit. On Friday in Wellington, the hosts hit just one boundary in the final over and lost four wickets to go down 4-0 in the T20 International series. A Devon Loch analogy might not be out of place.

In Hamilton, India had Mohammed Shami to bowl the final over. Here, Shardul Thakur was their only option. Both Jasprit Bumrah and Navdeep Saini had finished their quotas. Thakur had given away 27 runs in his previous three overs. But he removed a well-set Ross Taylor off his very first delivery--a well-disguised slower ball that Taylor mistimed and holed out to Shreyas Iyer at deep mid-wicket.

Daryl Mitchell's job was to take a single and give the strike to Tim Seifert, batting on 57 off 39 balls. But as Thakur bowled length, Mitchell cleared the in-field and got a four over mid-off. Three runs required off four deliveries and the Kiwis seemingly had the game in the bag. Not quite, for Mitchell and Seifert tried to steal a bye but ran into KL Rahul's promptness and accuracy from be-

hind the stumps. A direct hit accounted for Seifert. Mitchell Santner came and took a single next ball. Thakur had been mixing it well, keeping the batsmen guessing.

Still, two off two favoured the hosts. Then again, New Zealand seemed unsure and nervous. Mitchell failed to pick a knuckle ball and skied it to Shivam Dube at mid-off. So it came down to the final delivery. Virat Kohli's field placements had been precise. Thakur bowled a wide yorker and although Santner threw his bat at it, the ball went quickly and straight to Sanju Samson at sweeper cover. Santner was run-out as he attempted an improbable second.

That New Zealand imploded in the final over in consecutive matches despite having their most experienced batsman, Taylor, out there in the middle was unexpected. Taylor, a veteran of 99 Tests, 228 ODIs and 99 T20Is, himself would be upset with this back-to-back failure. But the fans didn't mind. They had another Super Over.

Super Over

New Zealand picked their two half-centurions, Seifert and Colin Munro, to bat, while Bumrah took the ball for India. Two dropped catches notwithstanding--Iyer and Rahul couldn't hold on to skiers--the hosts had 13 runs on the board. In Hamilton, they had failed to defend 17 and yet again Tim Southee was their preferred choice to bowl the Super Over. Rahul took a six and four off Southee on the first two balls to all but seal the deal for India. He departed on the third ball but the batsmen had crossed and Kohli was on strike. The India captain warmed up with the shot of the match--soft hands and impeccable placement for a couple past the bowler. In

the Super Over, where bludgeoning is apparently the only template to fall back on, Kohli lit up the show with his lightness of touch. He pulled the next delivery to the deep mid-wicket boundary as India won with a ball to spare. Four wins on the spin.

"There's something new I have learnt in the last couple of games... When the opposition is playing well, you stay calm till the end and try to come back. We couldn't have asked for more exciting games. We had never played Super Overs before and now we have won two. It shows the character of the team. Initially we thought of opening with Samson and KL in the Super Over, but then KL told me I should bat because of the experience and the options I will bring," Kohli said at the post-match presentation.

Pandey shines

Earlier, Manish Pandey shone during his 36-ball 50 not out. At 88/6 in the 12th over, India were in trouble. But Pandey showed excellent game awareness and took the innings deep. He played out the spinners, Santner and Ish Sodhi who had four wickets between them for 52 runs in their combined eight overs. Sodhi's three wickets had put the visitors under serious pressure.

Pandey's batting slot, at No. 6 after Shivam Dube, had raised a few eyebrows. The Karnataka batsman deserves a promotion after this knock. With Thakur, he added 43 runs for the seventh wicket, which in the context of the game, proved vital. Thakur contributed well for his 15-ball 20 on top of his final-over exploits. He did enough to be adjudged the Man of the Match, although Pandey, too, was a strong contender.

Samson, however, flattered to deceive.

## I was prepared to bat an No 6: Pandey

**Wellington:** Throughout the home season, the 30-year-old Pandey has been batting lower down the order, particularly at numbers five and six. "I have no choice. I have to be good with it. I have to start preparing my mind as a no. 6 batsman because normally I bat up the order, no. 3 or no.4. Here with the competition up the top, you just have to wait for your chances," the right-handed batsman said.

"Today was the opportunity and I've been preparing myself as to how to bat at no. 6 and what kind of shots I can play, what kind of bowlers, and how many overs are left. It's not an easy position to bat," he said. PTI

With Rohit Sharma not playing this game, he got an opportunity to open the innings. His six against Scott Kuggeleijn was gorgeous but the wild slog that followed bordered on the atrocious. Against Sri Lanka in Pune earlier this month, Samson had perished failing to pick a wrong'un. On Friday, he threw his wicket away in the second over, when he had 20 overs to bat.

When New Zealand batted, Bumrah bowled an excellent first spell. Munro's 47-ball 64 and his 74-run wicket partnership with Seifert were threatening to take the game away from India. But Kohli's team thrives on its never-say-die spirit.

## SCORECARD >> New Zealand vs India

4th T20I | Wellington | Toss: NZ

INDIA	165/8
KL Rahul c Santner b Sodhi	39 (26b, 3x4, 2x6)
S Samson c Santner b Kuggeleijn	8 (5b, 1x6)
V Kohli c Santner b Bennett	11 (9b, 2x4)
S Iyer c Seifert b Sodhi	1 (7b)
S Dube c Bruce b Sodhi	12 (9b, 2x4)
M Pandey not out	50 (36b, 3x4)
Washington Sundar b Santner	0 (3b)
S Thakur c Southee b Bennett	20 (15b, 2x4)
Y Chahal c Seifert b Southee	1 (2b)
N Saini not out	11 (9b, 2x4)

■ Extras: (b 2, lb 3, nb 1, w 6) 12  
**Fall of wickets:** 1-14 (Samson, 1.3 ov), 2-48 (Kohli, 4.3 ov), 3-52 (Iyer, 6.3 ov), 4-75 (KL Rahul, 8.4 ov), 5-84 (Dube, 10.2 ov), 6-88 (Sundar, 11.3 ov), 7-131 (Thakur, 16.3 ov), 8-143 (Chahal, 17.5 ov)

■ Bowling:

T Southee	4-0-28-1
S Kuggeleijn	4-0-39-1
M Santner	4-0-26-1
H Bennett	4-0-41-2
I Sodhi	4-0-26-3

NEW ZEALAND 165/7

M Gupthill c Rahul b Bumrah	4 (8b)
C Munro run out	64 (47b, 6x4, 3x6)
T Seifert run out	57 (39b, 4x4, 3x6)
T Bruce b Chahal	0 (3b)
R Taylor c Iyer b Thakur	24 (18b, 2x4)
D Mitchell c Dube b Thakur	4 (3b, 1x4)
M Santner run out	2 (2b)
S Kuggeleijn not out	0 (0b)

■ Extras: (lb 7, w 3) 10  
**Fall of wickets:** 1-22 (Gupthill, 4.2 ov), 2-96 (Munro, 11.4 ov), 3-97 (Bruce, 12.1 ov), 4-159 (Taylor, 19.1 ov), 5-163 (Seifert, 19.3 ov), 6-164 (Mitchell, 19.5 ov), 7-165 (Santner, 19.6 ov)

■ Bowling:

S Thakur	4-0-33-2
N Saini	4-0-29-0
J Bumrah	4-0-20-1
Y Chahal	4-0-38-1
Washington Sundar	2-0-24-0
S Dube	2-0-14-0

■ Match tied (Ind win in Super Over)  
**There's something new I've learnt in the last couple of games. When the opposition is playing that well, you've just got to stay calm in the game, observe what's happening and if an opportunity comes your way, you capitalise on it.'**

VIRAT KOHLI

RARE FEAT

**07** It was India's seventh successive victory in an overseas T20I. They had beaten West Indies 3-0 last year.

**04** It was the first time India beat New Zealand away four times on the spin in any format of the game.