

100 says the icing on New Zealand's victory cake

Southee and Boult combine to inflict an emphatic 10-wicket defeat on India, bring up a milestone win

INDIA IN NZ

S. DINAKAR
WELLINGTON
New Zealand's 100th Test win, driven typically by team spirit, fittingly arrived at the Basin Reserve, the soul of the country's cricket really.

And the feat, an emphatic 10-wicket win against fancied India, arrived in the 100th Test of one of New Zealand's favourite cricketing sons, Ross Taylor. The icing on the cake really.

As for the Indians, they were blown away at windy Wellington.

Ruthless

Ruthless and clinical on the fourth morning of the first Test, New Zealand required just 16 overs to send back the last six Indian batsmen.

Tim Southee scalped five, and Boult four. Southee was adjudged Man-of-the-Match for his nine wickets in the match.

Four of the wickets on Monday were prised out with the old ball, then Southee scalped two in his first over with the new one as India hurtled to 191 all out.

Openers, Tom Latham and Tom Blundell, knocked off the nine runs required without fuss. New Zealand had clinched the first Test, taking its points to 120 in the World Test Championship. India stays on 360.

The pitch offered some movement and the New Zealand attack posed searching



All at sea! Vihari's dismissal mirrors India's abject surrender in the first Test. •GETTY IMAGES

questions, but the Indian batsmen could have put up greater resistance.

In the end, the surrender was meek and out of character for this team that prides itself on fighting till the very end.

The next Test is at Christchurch following a four-day gap. Coach Ravi Shastri is bound to have a tough talk with the boys.

The Kiwis are not the quickest of bowlers but are among the cleverest. The manner in which they mix their lengths, vary angles

and assess a batsman underlines their cricketing nous.

There was much planning about every batsman here and the execution, was often, spot-on. They gave little away, bowled in partnerships, created pressure and were backed by a sensational bunch of fielders.

A fine pair

Talking about partnerships, they seldom come better than with Boult and Southee. It's a left-right pair of contrasts and similarities that has now featured in 28 of New Zealand's Test victories.

Both are swing bowlers who induce the batsmen into drives around the off-stump to find the edges or bring the ball back, or surprise them with well-directed short-pitched deliveries.

It was clever bowling by Boult on the fourth morning, when he went round the wicket and got a delivery to angle into Ajinkya Rahane and then straighten up. The edge was snaffled up gleefully by 'keeper B.J. Watling.

Then, Southee set up Hanuma Vihari brilliantly. Two

STAT SPHERE

7 New Zealand is the seventh country to win 100 Tests. It took 441 matches to reach the milestone, the most taken by a team

Australia took the least number of games (199, in 1951), followed by England (241, 1939), West Indies (266, 1988), South Africa (310, 2006) and Pakistan (320, 2006). India played 432 Tests (2009) to reach the mark



THE 100 TEST WINS CLUB

Team	Debut year	Mat	Won	Lost	Tied	Drawn	W/L ratio
Australia	1877	830	393	224	2	211	1.754
England	1877	1022	371	304	0	347	1.220
West Indies	1928	545	174	195	1	175	0.892
South Africa	1889	439	165	150	0	124	1.100
India	1932	541	157	166	1	217	0.945
Pakistan	1952	428	138	130	0	160	1.061
New Zealand	1930	441	100	175	0	166	0.571

200

New Zealand has dismissed India for fewer than 200 runs in both innings of a Test for the first time since 2002 at Hamilton. The Kiwis are the first team to do so since England (2018, Lords)

SCOREBOARD

INDIA – 1ST INNINGS: 165.
NEW ZEALAND – 1ST INNINGS: 348.

INDIA – 2ND INNINGS
Prithvi Shaw c Latham b Boult 14 (30b, 2x4), Mayank Agarwal c Watling b Southee 58 (99b, 7x4, 1x6), Cheteshwar Pujara b Boult 11 (81b), Virat Kohli c Watling b Boult 19 (43b, 3x4), Ajinkya Rahane c Watling b Boult 29 (75b, 5x4), Hanuma Vihari b Southee 15 (79b, 2x4), Rishabh Pant c Boult b Southee 25 (41b, 4x4), R. Ashwin lbw b Southee 4 (11b, 1x4), Ishant Sharma lbw b de Grandhomme 12 (21b, 2x4), Mohammed Shami (not out) 2 (3b), Jasprit Bumrah c sub b Southee 0 (3b); Extras (w-2): 2. Total (in 81 overs): 191.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-27 (Shaw, 7.4 overs), 2-78 (Pujara, 31.6), 3-96 (Mayank, 38.4), 4-113 (Kohli, 45.2), 5-148 (Rahane, 67.2), 6-148 (Vihari, 68.3), 7-162 (Ashwin, 72.3), 8-189 (Ishant, 79.2), 9-191 (Pant, 80.3).

NEW ZEALAND BOWLING
Southee 21-6-61-5, Boult 22-8-39-4, de Grandhomme 16-5-28-1, Jamieson 19-7-45-0, Ajaz 3-0-18-0.

NEW ZEALAND – 2ND INNINGS
Tom Latham (not out) 7 (4b, 1x4), Tom Blundell (not out) 2 (6b); Total (for no loss in 1.4 overs): 9.

INDIA BOWLING
Ishant 1-0-8-0, Bumrah 0.4-0-1-0.
Man-of-the-Match: Tim Southee.

Second Test

■ Feb. 29-March 4, Christchurch

We let ourselves down with the bat, says Kohli

S. DINAKAR
WELLINGTON
Virat Kohli's furrowed brows told the tale. The India skipper's body language could not mask the pain of defeat.

As skipper of the World No. 1 Test team he takes pride in his side's performances overseas. India, though, was swept aside by New Zealand at the Basin Reserve.

Blunt and direct

Kohli was blunt and direct, he did not make excuses.

Kohli said the team had not been competitive enough. He recalled how the team had fought all the way even in matches it had lost.

"But I think we let ourselves down massively with the bat in the first innings. If we had got 230 or 240 we would have given our bowlers a chance," he said. "You could say the toss played a big role, but that's an uncontrollable, so you can't focus on that."

Kohli said India had not been at its best in this Test. "Only if we accept this, we will come out in the next game with a much better mind-set and much more competitive."

The captain felt shot-selection was very important in these conditions. Kohli said the New Zealand bowlers got into the minds of the batsmen – bowling with accuracy, fielders around the bat.

"You have to hit past those fielders and therein lies the risk. This pitch was slow and on the drier side. So we weren't able to get our shots away," he said.

Deceptive scores

Given his potential, Kohli was willing to give Prithvi Shaw more time.

About himself, Kohli said, "I am batting really well. Sometimes the scores do not re-



Downcast: Kohli's men troop off the field after losing the first Test. •GETTY IMAGES

flect how you are batting and that can happen when you don't execute what you can well."

Kohli said India needed to block all the noise from outside [criticism] and approach the Christchurch Test with a

clear mind-set. And the batsmen had to take responsibility. It was more a mental thing than technical, he said.

A fine all-round effort: Williamson

Lauds pacemen who executed the 'choke the Indians' plan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

WELLINGTON
Grace and dignity are the two words that sum up Kane Williamson as captain.

In victory or defeat [re-member the excruciatingly painful World Cup final setback] these qualities shine through in this marvellous cricketer.

Level-headed

A captain and a leader of men, Williamson was typically level-headed after a crushing 10-wicket win over India. No bold talk, just common sense.

The Kiwi skipper said, "We know the quality of India and what they bring all around the world. We were aware of that challenge but were trying to focus on the areas that were important to us – our plans, our roles." Williamson said, "Our

performance, across the board, was a very good one on a surface that I thought created a good balance between bat and ball.

"There were handy contributors with the bat too, it was a really brilliant all-round game for us."

He complimented his pacemen. "These guys, especially this morning, put the ball in the right areas. There wasn't the sort of wind that we expect here in Wellington but we got a bit of shape and created opportunities. Throughout the match there was something [in the pitch] to keep us interested."

On the Kiwi plan to 'choke' the Indian batsmen, he said, "You're always trying to execute a plan and the bowlers were superb which allowed you to put fielders in areas where you could create something.

"It's always nice to put a guy somewhere and have them hit it there and you get a wicket."

Williamson said, "The lower-order partnerships were quite important to get that 183-run lead. Those late cameos really helped."

Making things happen

On employing the short ball successfully, Man-of-the-Match Tim Southee said, "Neil [Wagner] usually does that for us and he is a great exponent of it. Without him, it was about trying things when the game was sitting in balance and not much was happening."

Southee said, "Being a swing bowler helps, and being able to swing the ball is always handy when it is windy."

Swing was the theme at the Basin.

Shafali and Poonam shine bright as Women in Blue register second successive win

The opener blasts 39 off just 17 deliveries while the leg-spinner puts the skids on Bangladesh's chase

T20 WORLD CUP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PERTH
Leg-spinner Poonam Yadav delivered yet again with timely dismissals to lead India to a comfortable 18-run win over Bangladesh in their ICC Women's T20 World Cup match at the WACA ground here on Monday.

Invited to bat, a substantial partnership eluded it after a fiery start, but India still managed to post a competitive 142 for six.

India was off to a flying start with opener Shafali Verma (39 of 17 balls) coming out all guns blazing in the Group A game.

However, the Indian innings never got the impetus after the departure of the 16-year-old, who hit four sixes and two fours in her entertaining knock. Later, Veda Krishnamurthy (20 off 11) hit a few lusty blows to help India post a fighting total.

Bangladesh fought through Murshida Khatun (30) and Nigar Sultana (35), but Poonam rattled the middle and lower order.

In the end, Bangladesh could manage 124 for eight, giving India its second straight win in the tournament.



Wrecker-in-chief, again: Poonam Yadav spun a web around the Bangladesh batters. •GETTY IMAGES

"The way Shafali and Richa played today, they showed how capable they are for the team. Veda's innings was turning point. We needed boundaries at that point and she did a great job," India skipper Harmanpreet Kaur

said. Poonam, who had helped India halt Australia's chase in its opening game, was the top bowler again. She scalped Sanjida Islam (10), Fahima Khatun (17) and Jahanara Alam (10) to make it

SCOREBOARD

INDIA
Taniya Bhatia st Nigar b Salma 2 (5b), Shafali Verma c Shamima b Panna 39 (17b, 2x4, 4x6), Jemimah Rodrigues run out 34 (37b, 2x4, 1x6), Harmanpreet Kaur c Rumana b Panna 8 (17b, 1x4), Deepti Sharma run out 11 (16b), Richa Ghosh c Nahida b Salma 14 (14b, 2x4), Veda Krishnamurthy (not out) 20 (11b, 4x4), Shikha Pandey (not out) 7 (9b); Extras (lb-1, w-6): 7; Total: (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 142.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-16 (Taniya 1.5 overs), 2-53 (Shafali, 5.3), 3-78 (Harmanpreet, 9.6), 4-92 (Jemimah 13.2), 5-111 (Richa, 16.2), 6-113 (Deepti, 16.5).

BANGLADESH BOWLING
Jahanara 4-0-33-0, Salma 4-0-25-2, Nahida 4-0-34-0, Panna 4-0-25-2, Rumana 2-0-8-0, Fahima 2-0-16-0.

BANGLADESH
Shamima Sultana c Deepti b Shikha 3 (8b), Murshida Khatun c Richa b Arundhati 30 (26b, 4x4), Sanjida Islam c Taniya b Poonam 10 (17b), Nigar Sultana c Arundhati b Rajeshwari 35

(26b, 5x4), Fargana Hoque c Taniya b Arundhati 0 (4b), Fahima Khatun c Shafali b Poonam 17 (13b, 2x4), Jahanara Alam st Taniya b Poonam 10 (10b, 1x4), Rumana Ahmed b Shikha 13 (8b, 2x4), Salma Khatun (not out) 2 (5b), Nahida Akter (not out) 2 (3b); Extras (lb-2): 2; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 124.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-5 (Shamima, 1.6 overs), 2-44 (Murshida, 7.6), 3-61 (Sanjida, 10.3), 4-66 (Fargana, 11.3), 5-94 (Fahima, 15.1), 6-106 (Nigar, 16.4), 7-108 (Jahanara, 17.3), 8-121 (Rumana, 19.1).

INDIA BOWLING
Deepti 4-0-32-0, Shikha 4-0-14-2, Rajeshwari 4-0-25-1, Arundhati 4-0-33-2, Poonam 4-0-18-3.

Toss: Bangladesh.

Player-of-the-Match: Shafali.

India won by 18 runs.

NEXT ASSIGNMENT
India vs New Zealand
February 27
Melbourne, 9.30 a.m.



She means business: Opener Shafali Verma came out all guns blazing, giving India a flying start. •GETTY IMAGES

Bangladesh needed 22 off the final over.

Pacer Shikha Pandey clean bowled Rumana Ahmed with a perfect yorker and never gave anything away.

Earlier, Shafali punished the Bangladesh attack with a

flurry of shots. However, attempting another big one, she skied one off veteran Panna Ghosh and was caught at mid-off. This was after fellow opener Taniya Bhatia (2) was sent back by Salma Khatun.

Jemimah Rodrigues played a sedate yet crucial 34-run knock since hard-hitting skipper Harmanpreet Kaur was already dismissed by Panna.

With both Shafali and Harmanpreet cooling their heels back in the dug out, India's run-rate took a dip. Jemimah erred in judgement while calling Deepti for a single and was run out.

Richa Ghosh, who replaced Smriti Mandhana in the playing XI, hit two splendid boundaries before holing out to Nahida Akter off Salma Khatun.

The slide continued with Deepti Sharma (11) running herself off following a mix up with Veda Krishnamurthy (20 off 11) but India's 142 proved too much for Bangladesh.

Australia beats Sri Lanka

Rachael Haynes' classy knock helped defending champion Australia overcome a fighting Sri Lanka by five wickets in the other Group A match.

The scores: Sri Lanka 122/6 in 20 overs (Chamari Athapaththu 50, Nicola Carey 2/18, Molly Strano 2/23) lost to Australia 123/5 in 19.3 overs (Meg Lanning 41 n.o., Rachael Haynes 60, Prabodhani 2/17, Shashikala Siriwardene 2/20).