

New Zealand gallops to victory and series sweep

India's abject surrender is complete as hosts win by seven wickets

INDIA IN NZ
S. DINAKAR
CHRISTCHURCH
The rout was complete. The Indians had nowhere to hide at the Hagley Oval. Outplayed in both skill and strategy by the New Zealanders, the Indians seemed to be looking for the earliest flight to catch home.

captain fended into the cordon, and then sent down the pacy off-cutter that accounted for the attractive Tom Blundell (55), the Indian attack did not appear threatening. The fluent left-hander, Tom Latham (52), was the only other wicket to fall, well caught by a leaping Rishabh Pant as he attempted to pull Umesh Yadav.



High-fliers: The New Zealanders have every reason to be pleased having comprehensively beaten India in the Test series. ♦♦ AP

Clinical approach
New Zealand, clinical with its end-game skills and winning the key moments of the game, won the second Test by a whopping seven wickets and swept the series 2-0 on Monday, only the third day of the Test.

The exciting Kyle Jamieson was Man-of-the-Match and ace of swing Tim Southee Player-of-the-Series. India added only 34 runs for its last four wickets in the morning — the late-order fightback remaining an illusion — and a target of 132 was hardly going to stretch New Zealand.

Fine start
New Zealand's opening pair of Latham and Blundell played with the right blend of offence and defence under a cloud cover, with a stiff wind blowing across the ground. The duo's 103-run opening partnership settled the issue.

Blundell crouches in his stance but if the ball is pitched short, he can quickly stand tall and drive the sphere to the cover fence. A fine back-foot player, he was airborne as he punched Umesh through point and rose on his toes to strike Mohammed Shami between point and cover.

The opener with a rather high backlift also on-drove Shami — who bowled despite a "batting impact injury" — and gloriously cover-drove Bumrah to the fence.

At the other end, Latham collected runs with typical efficiency. He timed Bumrah to the cover fence, the ball meeting the sweet spot in the willow.

work and strokeplay are dictated by the length of the ball. His back-lift is measured and there are occasions when his boundaries are just an extension of a defensive push. In the morning, the Indians had to build partnerships, see through the first hour. They didn't.

Trent Boult, who had bowled magnificently in this innings with his left-arm's angle and precision in his swing, and Southee teamed up again. Wickets continued to tumble. Hanuma Vihari was a tad unlucky, though, attempting to work Southee fine only to see 'keeper B.J. Watling fling himself to his left and come up with the ball.

Then Pant perished to a tame push as Boult angled one across the left-hander. Picked more for the X-factor in his batting than 'keeping in the eleven, India needed Pant to go after the bowling instead of coming up with 'nothing' shots. Shami, at least, freed his

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arms. He was held at deep square-leg off Southee.

Jadeja fires
It was left to Ravindra Jadeja, that wonderful athlete, to launch into the bowling. He did just that. A natural striker of the ball, the left-hander waded into Boult, striking a full-length delivery straight over

the bowler's head for a six. He then struck the left-armer cleanly past mid-on to the ropes. But then, things have not been going right for India in the series. And sure enough, a mix-up with Jadeja saw Bumrah being run out. The Indians had run out of gas too.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS: 242
NEW ZEALAND — 1ST INNINGS: 235
INDIA — 2ND INNINGS
Prithvi Shaw c Latham b Southee (14, 24b, 2x4), Mayank Agarwal lbw b Boult 3 (6b), Cheteshwar Pujara b Boult 24 (88b, 2x4), Virat Kohli lbw b Grandhomme 14 (30b, 3x4), Ajinkya Rahane b Wagner 9 (43b, 1x4), Umesh Yadav b Boult 1 (12b), Hanuma Vihari c Watling b Southee 9 (18b, 2x4), Rishabh Pant c Watling b Boult 12 (14b), Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 16 (22b, 1x4, 1x6), Mohammed Shami c Blundell b Southee 5 (11b), Jasprit Bumrah run out 4 (8b, 1x4); Extras (b-9, lb-12): 21. Total (in 46 overs): 124.
FALL OF WICKETS
1-8 (Agarwal, 1.5), 2-26 (Shaw, 8.1), 3-51 (Kohli, 17.1), 4-72 (Rahane, 30.3), 5-84 (Pujara, 33.1), 6-89 (Umesh, 35.1), 7-97 (Vihari, 38.4), 8-97 (Pant, 39.3), 9-108 (Shami, 42.4).
NEW ZEALAND BOWLING
Southee 11-2-36-3, Boult 14-4-28-4, Jamieson 8-4-18-0, Grandhomme 5-3-3-1, Wagner 8-1-18-1.
NEW ZEALAND — 2ND INNINGS
Tom Latham c Pant b Umesh 52 (74b, 10x4), Tom Blundell b Bumrah 55 (113b, 8x4, 1x6), Kane Williamson c Rahane b Bumrah 5 (8b, 1x4), Ross Taylor (not out) 5 (9b, 1x4), Henry Nicholls (not out) 5 (13b, 1x4); Extras (b-1, lb-8, nb-1): 10; Total (for three wkts. in 36 overs): 132.
FALL OF WICKETS
1-103 (Latham, 27.6), 2-112 (Williamson 30.6), 3-121 (Blundell, 32.5).
INDIA BOWLING
Bumrah 13-2-39-2, Umesh 14-3-45-1, Shami 3-1-11-0, Jadeja 50-24-0, Kohli 1-0-4-0.
Man-of-the-Match: Jamieson.
Man-of-the-Series: Southee.
New Zealand won by seven wickets to sweep series 2-0.

Didn't play to our potential, admits Kohli

S. DINAKAR
CHRISTCHURCH
Virat Kohli's demeanour reflected his mood.



Well played! Indians congratulate the New Zealanders at the end of the match. ♦♦ AP

He was bitterly disappointed at India's capitulation. There was no fight, no resistance as the Indians slumped to yet another defeat on day three here. On India's last tour of South Africa, Kohli had spoken passionately following India's Test series defeat at Centurion. He had said: "To win Test series abroad you got to keep thinking and dreaming about it everyday."

We played in this series. "Every challenge that comes our way, we try to take it head-on. I feel like we were completely outplayed in this series. There is no shame in being outplayed at the international level." He added: "We obviously didn't play the kind of cricket we do as a team. The thing to

take away from here is to not shy away from things that have gone wrong. Instead, address them straight up, and not be in denial. Acceptance is the first word." The India skipper elaborated: "Because we do have a lot of cricket away from home coming this season. It is something we are optimistic about, and looking forward to. Things that have not gone right here, we would like to be in similar situations and correct them."

Kohli was not willing to blame any particular batsman for getting stuck at the crease. "You take the hit collectively," he said. On Pant On Rishabh Pant not delivering despite being given chances, he said, "You got to strike a balance. "You cannot push a player out too early. It can damage his confidence."

Pragmatic
But then, as he answered questions here on Monday, Kohli appeared more pragmatic. He had taken the hard knocks as a batsman and captain in the series. He was sober; that fire you saw at Centurion was missing. Kohli said: "Obviously, quite disappointed with how

Williamson pleased at outplaying world's best

Kiwi skipper enthused by Jamieson's rise as an all-rounder

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHRISTCHURCH

Kane Williamson flashed a smile before getting down to answering questions. He was pleased by his team's 2-0 sweep over the No. 1-ranked Test team in the world. This was New Zealand's sixth straight Test series win at home and even in his moment of triumph, Williamson was measured and insightful with his views. No brave talk, just plain common sense.

STAT SPHERE

- India suffered its first whitewash in Tests after the **4-0 defeat** at the hands of Australia in 2011-12
- With scores of 2, 19, 3 & 14, **Kohli** completed his second worst Test series in terms of average
- Latham (1,431)** has scored more Test runs as an opener than any other player since the start of 2018, averaging 51.1 in the process
- India crossed the **200-mark** only once in four innings in this series (242 - first innings of second Test)
- The highest score by an Indian (**Mayank**, second innings of the first Test) in this series

KOHLI'S LOWEST AVERAGES
9.20 Australia in India, 2017
9.50 India in NZ, 2020
13.40 India in England, 2014
15.20 India in WI, 2011
30.00 WI in India, 2013

Kyle Jamieson.. making his presence felt.

- The last time India conceded two 50-plus opening partnerships in a Test was the Boxing Day Test against South Africa in Durban in 2013
- The previous occasion the Kiwis had a 50-plus stand for the first wicket against India at home was in March 1994 (19 innings ago)

Planspeak
It was a lot like his flowing batting and smart captaincy. No fancy stuff; just hard substance. The New Zealand captain said: "An outstanding performance. I don't think the result reflects how competitive this match was. Perhaps another 50 more runs from the Indians would have made it quite a balanced-looking game."

Williamson said his team had stepped up after the debacle against Australia. "We all know how strong India are all around the world and there has been a lot of talk about their pace attack and they certainly showed their quality in this series. A lot to take from the series against the best team in the world at the moment." About batting on seaming tracks with bounce, he observed: "The conditions were a massive factor. Even if you do adapt quickly, you may still have a good ball with your name on it."

Queried on Trent Boult's magnificent bowling, he said: "He's a fantastic bowler and when the ball is moving he's a great exponent of putting it in the right areas from that left-arm's angle and getting that movement. Whether in the nets or out in the middle."

On Kyle Jamieson's development as an all-rounder, he said: "He is batting beautifully and can truly bat in terms of technique and how he looks to approach his innings. His runs were very valuable. As a bowler, it's not only his height and the bounce that he gets but he bowls a very, very good line to challenge guys around the fourth stump." Although the toss was important, Williamson felt it was not the only factor in the series. "The ball moved considerably throughout the two games. So bowling first was not the game."

Real ends six-year league Clasico drought

Beats Barcelona at the Bernabeu for the first time since 2014; Zapata is Atalanta's hat-trick hero

EURO LEAGUES
AGENCIES
MADRID
Real Madrid beat Barcelona 2-0 in Sunday's top-of-the-table 'Clasico', leapfrogging its rival at the LaLiga summit after a week in which its pride had taken a beating at home and in Europe. Brazilian teenager Vinicius Jr scored the opener in the 71st minute with a strike that deflected off Gerard Pique, flummoxing goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen who had made some jaw-dropping saves, and substitute Mariano Diaz added the second in injury time. Real's victory means it leads the standings on 56 points after 26 games, with Barca static on 55, while Zinedine Zidane's side also crucially has the better head-to-head record in the event both sides finish level on points.

Madrid's fans also got to toast a league win over Barca at the Santiago Bernabeu for the first time since 2014.

Chastening defeats
Real swallowed chastening defeats by Levante in LaLiga and Manchester City in the Champions League in the past week but in the second half it overwhelmed Barca, threatening on numerous occasions before breaking the deadlock. "We deserve our victory for everything we did, in attack and defence," Zidane told reporters. "It has been a complicated week for us and we had the chance to turn things around and we did that." Barcelona had bossed the first period and twice could have taken the lead but its impotence was summed up when Lionel Messi raced towards goal but was easily tracked down by Marcelo. The long-awaited victory



Breaking through: Real Madrid's Vinicius Junior celebrates after finding a way past Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen. ♦♦ AFP

was confirmed by an unlikely source in forward Mariano, who had only just come off the bench to make his first league appearance of the season. **Postponed**
Meanwhile, Sampdoria's Se-

rie A match with Hellas Verona has become the sixth match this week to be postponed, Italy's top flight announced on Sunday as the coronavirus outbreak plays havoc with the country's football calendar. In a statement, the league

said that the match had been rescheduled for May 13 alongside the five other games from this week's round that had already been shelved due to the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Duvan Zapata's hat-trick fired Atalanta to a huge 7-2

From the touchline

0 Lionel Messi has not scored or assisted in any of his last five appearances against Real Madrid in all competitions, his worst run in the El Clasico (425 minutes)

1 Thibaut Courtois is the first goalkeeper to keep clean sheets home and away in El Clasico since Miguel Angel in 1974-1975

1 Vinicius Junior (19 years and 233 days) has become the youngest player to score in an El Clasico in LaLiga in the 21st century, breaking the record held by Messi (19y 259d, March 2007)

30 Courtois has saved 30 of the last 36 shots on target he has faced in LaLiga

50 Mariano Diaz's goal is the fastest by a substitute in El Clasico in LaLiga in the 21st century (50 seconds)



win over lowly Lecce to maintain its grip on the Champions League spots. **Breathtaking second half**
Eleven days after it thrashed Valencia in its last match, Gian Piero Gasperini's side showed why it is considered one of the most exciting teams in Europe with a breathtaking second-half display that blitzed its promoted opponent. **The results: La Liga:** Espanyol 1

(Savic 24-og) drew with Atletico Madrid 1 (Saul 47); Real Mallorca 0 lost to Getafe 1 (Maksimovic 67). Real Madrid 2 (Vinicius 71, Mariano 90+2) bt Barcelona 0. **Serie A:** Lecce 2 (Saponara 29, Donati 40) lost to Atalanta 7 (Donati 17-og, Zapata 22, 54, 62, Ilcic 29, Muriel 87, Malinovskyi 90+1). Cagliari 3 (Joao Pedro 28, 89, Pereiro 75) lost to Roma 4 (Kalinic 29, 42, Kluivert 64, Mkhitaryan 81).

Panghal gets top billing

PRESS TRUST OF JORDAN
AMMAN (JORDAN)
Two-time World championships bronze medallist Lovlina Borgohain (69kg), Asian championships gold medallist Pooja Rani (75kg) and Commonwealth Games silver medallist Satish Kumar (+91kg) were left one win away from qualifying for the Tokyo Olympics as the draw for the Asia/Oceania Olympic qualifiers, scheduled to be held in Amman (Jordan) from March 3 to 11, was announced on Monday. World championships silver medallist Amit Panghal (52kg) and six-time World champion Mary Kom (51kg) will be able to make the trip to Tokyo if they win their first two bouts and reach the semifinals. While Panghal is the top seed, Mary Kom is seeded second. Lovlina and Pooja have been seeded second and fourth.