

25 Teen prodigy Robinson edges Shiffrin in World Cup opener



26 Doncic's triple-double leads Mavericks over Pelicans



27 Lewandowski makes history again as Bayern Munich reclaim summit



YOKOHAMA: England's wing Anthony Watson (front L) is tackled during the Japan 2019 Rugby World Cup semi-final match between England and New Zealand at the International Stadium Yokohama in Yokohama yesterday. — AFP

England stun N Zealand to reach WCup final

Our best form of attack is our defence: Coach Eddie Jones

YOKOHAMA: Fly-half George Ford led the way as England ended New Zealand's eight-year reign as champions with a superb 19-7 World Cup semi-final win in Yokohama yesterday. Ford, restored at 10 by coach Eddie Jones, took over goal-kicking duties after England captain Owen Farrell took a knock but he landed four penalty attempts after Manu Tuilagi stunned the All Blacks with an early try.

This was just England's eighth win in 42 Tests against New Zealand and meant the All Blacks had lost their first World Cup match since a shock 2007 quarter-final defeat by France. England's first World Cup win over the two-time defending champions puts them into their fourth final — just four years after their embarrassing first-round exit on home soil.

"Our best form of attack is our defence. We create opportunities through our defence to attack," said England coach Eddie Jones, who has masterminded the turnaround.

"I'd like to pay the greatest compliment to New Zealand. They've won two World Cups in a row. They've been a really great team and we had to dig really deep to beat them." England, world champions in 2003 when they beat an Australia side coached by

Jones in the final, will now face the winners of today's match between South Africa and Wales in next week's showpiece clash.

Their victory ended the tenure of All Blacks coach Steve Hansen, who is stepping down after overseeing a sensational run when they lost only 10 of 106 Tests.

'TAKE THAT ON THE CHIN'

"I'm really proud of our team. They've done a tremendous job for their country and tonight we just weren't good enough," said Hansen. "So we have to take that on the chin and so does everybody back home and our fans."

England led 10-0 at the break thanks to Tuilagi's converted try and the first of Ford's penalties after a superb forward effort led by locks Courtney Lawes and Maro Itoje saw them dominate territory and possession.

Another Ford penalty early in the second half made it 13-0 but the All Blacks eventually broke a defence coached by former New Zealand boss John Mitchell in the 57th minute, when Ardie Savea crashed over for a converted try.

But Sam Underhill's tackle on the recalled Scott

Barrett led to a simple penalty in front of the posts that Ford duly kicked. Jones had recalled Ford at fly-half following the 40-16 quarter-final win over Australia, moving Farrell to inside centre.

Before kick-off England, unusually, lined up in an inverted 'V' formation, crossing the half-way line as the All Blacks performed their traditional pre-match haka. And there were fewer than two minutes on the clock when England scored a brilliant team try.

Fullback Elliot Daly made a fine break down the right that was carried on by wing Anthony Watson before the ball was worked across field, with hooker Jamie George charging forward.

DISALLOWED TRIES

Ford then found prop Kyle Sinckler and he in turn released Lawes, who took the ball to the All Blacks' line. From the ensuing ruck, powerhouse centre Tuilagi — one of England's try-scorers when they last beat the All Blacks seven years ago — forced his way between guard props Joe Moody and Nepo Laulala for a fine try.

Farrell converted and England led 7-0. They almost had a second try minutes later when Tuilagi intercepted

and found Farrell who passed to Jonny May. But great corner-flagging by recalled flanker Scott Barrett stopped the wing in his tracks.

England made several more early visits to New Zealand's 22 only for their own errors to cost them the chance of further points. Underhill, who had a try against New Zealand last year controversially disallowed, went over in the 25th minute but referee Nigel Owens correctly ruled out the score for crossing by fellow flanker Tom Curry in the build-up.

Ford's drop goal attempt sailed well wide of the right post but he made no mistake with a 45-metre penalty after a limping Farrell was unable to take the shot. England thought they had their second try when, following a drive off an attacking line-out, scrum-half Ben Youngs went over after selling centre Anton Lienert-Brown a dummy.

But Owens ruled it out for a knock-on in the maul. Another Ford penalty extended the lead but George's overthrown line-out near England's line was collected by Savea, with fly-half Richie Mo'unga converting.

That, however, was as close as New Zealand got as two more Ford penalties created an unbridgeable gap for the defending champions. — AFP

Guardiola wants more from City, Silva under fire as Everton crash

LONDON: Pep Guardiola warned Manchester City to cut out sluggish starts after the champions recovered from a tepid opening to beat Aston Villa 3-0, while Everton manager Marco Silva is under pressure after a dramatic 3-2 defeat at Brighton yesterday.

Guardiola's side closed the gap on Premier League leaders Liverpool to three points thanks to goals from Raheem Sterling, David Silva and Ilkay Gundogan at the Etihad Stadium. But City boss Guardiola was frustrated with the way his players struggled to establish

any momentum in the first half, just days after they fell behind against Atalanta in the Champions League before eventually winning 5-1.

He fears City will be caught out in future if they continue to play so lethargically in the first half. "Of course, respect and credit for Aston Villa. The first half we played football but we don't play in the way we should play," Guardiola said.

"We were better in the second half. I don't know if it was because of the early goal. "In the second we play in the way we normally are but we have to try and play 90 minutes. We played just 45." City's second successive league win means Liverpool are under pressure to beat Tottenham at Anfield in today's clash between last season's Champions League finalists.

At the Amex Stadium, Everton blew a 2-1 lead in the final 10 minutes to leave Silva fighting to save his job. Silva's side were in trouble after 15 minutes when Pascal Gross smashed a free-kick past Jordan Pickford for his first goal since April.

Everton drew level five minutes later when Richarlison met Lucas Digne's corner with a header

that deflected off Brighton defender Adam Webster into his own net.

Dominic Calvert-Lewin came off the bench to put Everton ahead from Mason Holgate's pass in the 74th minute.

However, Brighton's Neal Maupay scored an 80th minute penalty after Michael Keane was controversially ruled by VAR to have fouled Aaron Connolly. And Everton defender Digne added to Silva's woes when his stoppage-time own goal from Leandro Trossard's cross left Everton two points above the relegation zone after their fifth defeat in their last six league games.

Watford remain bottom of the table after a 0-0 draw against Bournemouth. The Hornets are still without a league win this season and haven't won in nine home league games dating back to April.

Lys Mousset finished a memorable week on a high note with the equaliser in Sheffield United's 1-1 draw at West Ham. The hosts took the lead in the 44th minute through Robert Snodgrass's cool finish from Andriy Yarmolenko's pass.

But Mousset equalised for the Blades in the 69th minute, the French striker netting a fine strike with his first touch after coming off the bench. After a difficult start following his close-season move from Bournemouth, Mousset now has three goals this term, with two in the last six days following his winner against Arsenal on Monday.

Yesterday's action couldn't eclipse Leicester's incredible 9-0 thrashing of Southampton at St Mary's 24 hours earlier. The result sent shockwaves through English football and Brendan Rodgers believes there is even better to come from Leicester after they equalled the biggest margin of victory in the Premier League era.

Leicester are third after hat-tricks from Ayoze Perez and Jamie Vardy secured the biggest away win in English top-flight history. "I think we'll get better, we will improve. Of course the result and performance is perfect," Rodgers said.

"We have young players who are only going to gain even more confidence. We will get better. We certainly won't just be content with what we're doing." — AFP