

ZELLOUS SPARKS LATE RUN AS NEW YORK RALLIES TO BEAT STORM

NEW YORK: Tina Charles had 21 points and 14 rebounds and New York used a 12-1 late run to beat the Seattle Storm 94-86 on Sunday. Trailing 83-80 with 3:05 left, Bria Hartley tapped the ball to Shavonte Zellous to hit a 3-pointer that tied it and started the game-ending burst. On the next play she stripped the ball from Jewell Loyd and then converted the layup on the other that made gave New York the lead. A free throw by Alysha Clark got the Storm within 85-84 but Kiah Stokes' putback made it 87-84 with 1:15 left. Seattle then turned it over on the next possession and Zellous converted another layup to seal the win and give New York (6-3) a fourth straight win. Stewart finished with 23 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Storm (5-4).

Sue Bird finished with a season-high 21 points and Loyd had 19. Sugar Rodgers had 21 points and Zellous had 16 for New York.

MYSTICS 88, FEVER 70

Elena Delle Donne returned from a one-game absence to score 25 points and lead the Mystics to a victory over the Fever. Delle Donne sat out the Mystics' game on Friday with a groin injury when Washington suffered a 98-73 home loss to the Minnesota Lynx to snap a four-game winning streak. The victory left the Mystics (7-3) a half-game ahead of the New York Liberty in the Eastern Conference. Delle Donne was 9-of-15 shooting, making 4 of 6 from 3-point range.

Krystal Thomas had 14 points and 14 rebounds with Washington holding a 43-23 rebounding edge. Erica Wheeler, making her second start in place of injured Briann January (Achilles tendon strain), scored 15 points for the Fever (4-6). Candice Dupree added 14 points.

LYNX 91, WINGS 74

Sylvia Fowles scored a season-high 30 points and the Lynx beat the Wings to remain the WNBA's only unbeaten team. Fowles was 14-of-19 shooting in posting her league-leading seventh game this season of at least 20 points for the Lynx (9-0). Maya Moore had five 3-pointers and added 23 points and Rebekkah Brunson added 13 points

and 14 rebounds. The Lynx shot 53 percent and had 30 assists, nine from Seimone Augustus, to go with their 38 field goals. Karima Christmas-Kelly had 21 points for Dallas (4-6), which was just 3 of 17 from the arc and outrebounded 40-24. Minnesota led at halftime by 14. Dallas was within eight late in the third quarter but Brunson restored a 10-point lead with a basket and the Lynx remained in front by double figures. The Wings and WNBA president Lisa Borders celebrated "Nancy Lieberman Day," honoring the Basketball Hall of Fame member at halftime. Lieberman was the first overall pick in 1981 by the Dallas Diamonds of the Women's Professional Basketball League. — AP



GROS ISLET: Shai Hope (R) of West Indies hits 4 during the 2nd ODI match between West Indies and Afghanistan at Darren Sammy National Cricket Stadium, Gros Islet, St Lucia, Sunday. — AFP

CRICKET

WI STUMBLE TO LOW TARGET TO LEVEL AFGHAN SERIES

GROS-ISLET: West Indies overcame a mini collapse on their way to a series-levelling four-wicket victory in a low-scoring second one-day international against Afghanistan in St Lucia on Sunday.

Afghanistan struggled against the extra pace and bounce of the home seam attack, making just 135 off 37.3 overs, the lowest ODI total at the Darren Sammy Stadium.

Shai Hope then scored a patient unbeaten 48 to stave off the threat of Afghan leg-spinner

Rashid Khan and take the home side across the finish line with more than 10 overs but just four wickets to spare after falling at one stage to 98 for five.

Choosing to bat again on the same pitch used for the first match two days earlier, the tourists found the West Indies bowlers to be an entirely different proposition as they adopted a consistent line of short-pitched bowling on the body which exposed the technical inadequacies of most of the Afghan batsmen.

Only Gulbadin Naib, who was last out for a top score of 51, offered any meaningful resistance. His enterprising innings off 73 balls included two sixes and two fours, saving his side from complete humiliation after they were 51 for six when he came to the crease.

Shannon Gabriel, captain Jason Holder and Alzarri Joseph exploited the helpful surface with two wickets each while off-spinner Ashley Nurse wrapped up the innings with two wickets, including Naib to a catch at long-off as he mis-cued another big hit.

"It was a definite change of tactics and it paid off," said Holder. "Now it gets us back on track for the decider on Wednesday and we are confident that we've seen enough of Khan to be more effective against him."

'NOT ENOUGH RUNS'

After his match-winning haul of 7 for 18 in the 63-run win for Afghanistan in the first match on Friday—the fourth best ODI figures by a bowler in history—the leg-spinner Khan was again the most potent threat with 3 for 26 from his 10 overs. Naib also chipped in with two wickets from his medium-pacers and at 72 for 4 when Jason Mohammed fell, after having been 55 for 1, it looked as if another embarrassing capitulation might follow.

But Roston Chase and Rovman Powell, in the side for the injured Miguel Cummins, hung around long enough with man-of-the-match Hope to see the West Indies to the target, even though it was left to Holder to hit the winning runs. "We struggled against the short-pitched bowling and that is something we will have to work on before the final match," said Afghanistan captain Asghar Stanikzai. — AFP

SCOREBOARD

GROS ISLET, Saint Lucia: Scoreboard of the second fixture of a three-match One- International series between the West Indies and Afghanistan at the Darren Sammy Stadium in St Lucia on Sunday.

Afghanistan Innings

Noor Ali Zadran c and b Holder 8
J. Ahmadi run out 9
R. Shah c Mohammed b Gabriel 1
S. Shewari lbw Gabriel 2
A. Stanikzai c wkpr Hope b Joseph 11
M. Nabi c Chase b Joseph 13
A. Zazai c Holder b Chase 9
G. Naib c Joseph b Nurse 51
R. Khan c wkpr Hope b Holder 7
D. Zadran c Lewis b Nurse 9
A. Hamza not out 0
Extras (lb-1, w-13, nb-1) 15
Total (all out, 37.3 overs) 135
Fall of wickets: 1-21 (Noor Ali Zadran), 2-24 (Ahmadi), 3-25 (Shah), 4-34 (Shewari), 5-48 (Stanikzai), 6-51 (Nabi), 7-81 (Zazai), 8-96 (Khan), 9-127 (Dawlat Zadran), 10-135 (Naib)
Bowling: S. Gabriel 7.4-0-25-2 (3w, 1nb), J. Holder 9-1-38-2 (6w), R. Powell 2.2-0-8-0, A. Joseph 6-0-15-2 (4w), A. Nurse 9.3-0-33-2, R. Chase 3-1-15-1.

West Indies Innings

E. Lewis lbw Khan 33
K. Powell c Nabi b Khan 12
S. Hope not out 48
J. Carter c wkpr Zazai b Naib 2
J. Mohammed c Shewari b Naib 2
R. Chase stpd wkpr Zazai b Khan 9
R. Powell c Shah b Nabi 17
J. Holder not out 11
Extras (lb-2, w-2) 4
Total (6 wks, 39.2 overs) 138
Fall of wickets: 1-40 (Kieran Powell), 2-55 (Lewis), 3-62 (Carter), 4-72 (Mohammed), 5-98 (Chase), 6-123 (Rovman Powell)
Did not bat: A. Nurse, A. Joseph, S. Gabriel
Bowling: D. Zadran 7.2-1-47-0, M. Nabi 10-0-33-1 (1w), R. Khan 10-1-26-3, G. Naib 5-1-15-2 (1w), A. Hamza 6-0-12-0.
Result: West Indies won by 4 wickets

KOHLI'S BRUTAL HONESTY BRINGS INDIA TOGETHER

LONDON: Virat Kohli says India's Champions Trophy demolition of South Africa was fuelled by his refusal to spare his players from criticism.

Kohli's side crushed South Africa by eight wickets at The Oval in their final Group B fixture to set up a likely semi-final showdown with Bangladesh on Thursday.

India had to win to avoid elimination after slumping to a shock loss against Sri Lanka, a spluttering performance that prompted Kohli to let his team know where they were going wrong.

Rather than sugar-coat his comments to save his players' pride, the India captain made it clear they had to improve and he was delighted with how they responded in the make or break clash on Sunday. "You have to be honest. You have to sometimes say things that hurt. That's what I believe in," he said.

"You have to lay it out in front of them that this is what we did wrong, including me, and we need to take it on the chin and accept it and prove it. "That's why we are chosen among millions of people to play at this level. You have to be good enough to do that for the country and you have to be good enough to bounce back, as well.

"You can't do the same mistakes over and over again. That sort of mindset is really helping all of us to come together as a unit and make things happen. "It's not about asking two, three players to do it. We are asking everyone to do it and everyone is responding really well.

"Until you have a team effort, you cannot win games, especially in conditions that you are not familiar with. Today was a team performance."

EXPERIENCED

With India and Bangladesh joining hosts England in the last four and the winner of Monday's Sri Lanka against Pakistan match taking the final semi-final berth, it's been a strong tournament for the teams from the sub continent. Kohli acknowledged the amount of one-day cricket played in the region was a factor, but he has also been impressed with the way India have adapted to the English conditions.

"Maybe because of how much limited-overs cricket we play, I think the players are getting more experienced in difficult situations," he said. "Maybe some of the teams have really surprised the opposition with the way they have batted and bowled in certain situations." South Africa captain AB De Villiers was one of three players run out as his side collapsed to 191 all out.

De Villiers endured a miserable tournament, scoring only 20 runs, while his team came in for heavy criticism after losing twice in three matches. However, the 33-year-old insists he is still the right man to prepare the side for the 2019 World Cup.

"It is always very disappointing when we lose but the way we lost was the most disappointing," he said. "Through soft dismissals we lost our way and that was the part that hurt the most. Run-outs happen but three in one innings is not how we want to play our cricket that is for sure.

"I'm a good captain and I can take this team forward and win the World Cup I believe, I love doing it.

"Not a lot of people believe me but I feel it is pretty close, it is very difficult to say that after a performance like this but that is what I believe in my heart." — AFP



LONDON: India's captain Virat Kohli (2nd R) shakes hands with South Africa's David Miller after the ICC Champions Trophy match between South Africa and India at The Oval in London on Sunday. — AFP

TENNIS

WILLIS WANTS ANOTHER TASTE OF WIMBLEDON FAIRYTALE

LONDON: Marcus Willis who briefly captured the headlines at Wimbledon last year is praying he will be given a wild card for this year's renewal, he told Press Association Sport yesterday.

The 26-year-old Englishman made a mockery of his world ranking of 772 to come through qualifying and then set up a second round meeting with Swiss master Roger Federer on Centre Court—which he lost in straight sets. Willis—who has since married his girlfriend Jenny who was the person who convinced him to carry on plugging away with tennis resulting in the fairytale moment at Wimbledon—said he had thoroughly enjoyed himself despite the loss to Federer.

"It felt like I was on court for about five minutes," said Willis of his unlikely appearance on Centre Court.

"Time flies by when you're having fun—or being beaten up. It's crazy the more you think about it."

Willis, who now has a daughter Martha with Jenny, said he hoped the Wimbledon organisers would recall the media attention he garnered last year when they came to name the wild cards on June 20th.

"I'm not confident but hopeful," he said.

"I'd really appreciate that. It was a big story last year, the media attention is

going to be big, so they might give me one.

"I genuinely think I can win some matches. It would bring back some memories, which would be sweet. If not, I'll try and make my way through qualies again." Willis, who but for a player withdrawing from the pre-qualifying tournament for Wimbledon wouldn't have got his chance, said he had not held high hopes of even reaching the qualifying tournament.

However, three victories earned him a wild card into qualifying proper, where he overcame Yuichi Sugita, Andrey Rublev and Daniil Medvedev—all ranked hundreds of places higher. "I wasn't expecting anything because I hadn't hit a ball on grass," recalled Willis, whose exploits had other side effects with his wedding day featured in society magazine 'Hello'.

"I was hoping to pre-qualify but I had a tough draw there as well so I did really well to get through that. Each match was just a bonus, it was awesome. "I didn't think I was going to win my last round of qualifying. I had a horrible draw, so I was just pleasantly surprised every time I won. "Once I qualified and I came off that court and there were 200 people with microphones, that's when I realised, 'Oh, I've done something here.' And then it was just mental." — AFP

SOCCER

DIEGO SOUZA GETS BRAZIL CHANCE AGAINST AUSTRALIA

MELBOURNE: Diego Souza will replace injured striker Gabriel Jesus and Philippe Coutinho is line to lead Brazil in today's friendly with Australia in Melbourne.

A replacement had to be found for Manchester City's Jesus, who has returned

home after suffering a fractured eye socket in Brazil's 1-0 Superclasico loss to Argentina at the MCG on Friday.

It will be Souza's chance to impress team manager Tite ahead of next year's World Cup in Russia and represents his first opportunity

to start for Brazil after late substitute appearances in qualifiers against Uruguay and Paraguay this year.

"For me it's great to be called up and to have the opportunity to play," said Souza, who normally plays as an attacking midfielder for Sport Recife. "It will be important to show my best. There are so many centre-forward options in Brazil: Fred, Firmino, Gabriel Jesus, are all looking for a place in the team.

"I've have the dream of maybe being at a World Cup, it's difficult, they're very good players, the competition is great, but I'm enjoying it."

Along with Souza, Brazil are likely to make further team changes with Diego Alves, Rafinha, Rodrigo Caio, Alex Sandro, David Luiz, Giuliano and Douglas Costa all pressing for a start.

Only Thiago Silva, Paulinho and Coutinho are expected to feature from the side that faced Argentina, with the Liverpool midfielder Coutinho in line to captain his country against the Socceroos.

Brazilian reports said that Tite would continue the rotation of captains in the national team with Coutinho to take over the captain's armband after Thiago Silva led the team against Argentina on Friday.

Team coordinator Edu Gaspar, the former Arsenal, Valencia and Brazil midfielder, said his country viewed the Socceroos game as vital 2018 World Cup preparation. — AFP



MELBOURNE: Brazil's player David Luiz (C) attends a training session in Melbourne on Sunday, ahead of their international match against Brazil on June 13. — AFP