

## Sports

# Stokes steers England home in second New Zealand ODI

## 'Hopefully it's a stepping stone for other games coming up'

**MOUNT MAUNGANUI:** All-rounder Ben Stokes set aside his off-field troubles to steer England to a six-wicket win in the second one-day international against New Zealand yesterday. The 26-year-old produced a man-of-the-match performance in just his second appearance for England since being sidelined over a nightclub incident five months ago.

Stokes took two wickets for 42 then hit an unbeaten 63 as England easily chased down New Zealand's target of 224 at Mount Maunganui. "It was good to get a bit of time out in the middle," he said after England levelled the five-match series 1-1.



**MOUNT MAUNGANUI:** England's Ben Stokes bats during the second one-day international (ODI) cricket match between New Zealand and England at the Bay Oval in Mount Maunganui yesterday. — AFP

“It's great to see him back in fine form”

"It's good to get out here and train and implement it in the games to make sure I was out there at the end. Hopefully it's a stepping stone for other games coming up." Stokes only joined England this month after pleading not guilty in a British court to a charge of affray, with the controversy forcing him out of the Australian leg of their tour, including The Ashes.

After England finished on 225 for four in reply to New Zealand's 223 all out, captain Eoin Morgan was full of praise for his star all-rounder. "Ben's a big character, big in our changing room, he lifts everybody in the side when he performs like he did today," he said. "It's great to see him back in fine form."

### BLACK CAPS FALL SHORT

Trent Boult made early inroads as New Zealand tried to defend their modest total, dislodging Jason Roy for eight and Joe Root for nine. Jonny Bairstow made a rapid-fire 37, then Morgan and Stokes dug in for an 88-run partnership that had England at 144 for three after 25 overs.

Morgan notched his first ODI 50 in 11 innings off 48

balls before departing on 62 before Stokes brought up 50 off 54 balls with a six edged over the keeper's head. Earlier, Black Cap spinner Mitchell Santner scored his maiden limited overs half-century as the New Zealand tail to give the home team's score some respectability.

Santner's unbeaten 63 off 52 balls was the highlight of New Zealand's innings, with in-form opener Martin Guptill also scoring 50. But a superb fielding display from England saw New Zealand bowled out for 223 with two balls remaining.

England pulled off a string of sharply taken catches and ran out four batsman, ensuring that every chance their bowlers created resulted in a wicket.

New Zealand never recovered from an early double blow by Woakes, who dismissed Colin Munro for one in his first over then Mark Chapman for the same score in

his second.

David Willey's prowess in the field was responsible for Ross Taylor's departure on 10, swooping on the ball at backward point and firing it to Jos Buttler to break the stumps.

The loss of Taylor, a century-maker in the opening fixture, left New Zealand on 48 for three with Guptill holding the first half of the innings together. His half-century came off 84 balls but he failed to push on and was caught by Roy on 50 trying to sweep Ali's spin over the boundary.

Colin de Grandhomme contributed 38 but then it was left to Santner to provide late resistance. The lanky spinner hit a match-winning 45 in the opening match but his heroics at Mount Maunganui were not enough to get the Black Caps over the line. — AFP

### SCOREBOARD

**MOUNT MAUNGANUI, New Zealand:** Final scoreboard in the second one-day international between New Zealand and England in Mount Maunganui yesterday.

New Zealand	
M. Guptill c Roy b Ali	50
C. Munro c Buttler b Woakes	1
M. Chapman c Willey b Woakes	1
R. Taylor run out	10
T. Latham c Curran b Ali	22
H. Nicholls c Roy b Stokes	1
C. de Grandhomme run out	38
M. Santner not out	63
T. Southee run out	6
L. Ferguson c Rashid b Stokes	19
T. Boult run out	2
Extras (lb5, w5)	10
Total (all out: 49.4 overs)	223
Fall of wickets: 1-6 (Munro), 2-9 (Chapman), 3-48 (Taylor), 4-79 (Guptill), 5-82 (Nicholls), 6-108 (Latham), 7-141 (de Grandhomme), 8-147 (Southee), 9-216 (Ferguson), 10-223 (Boult) Bowling: Willey 5-0-16-0 (2w), Woakes 7.4-1-42-2, Rashid 10-0-32-0, Curran 9-0-53-0 (3w), Ali 10-0-33-2, Stokes 8-0-42-2.	

England:	
J. Roy c Santner b Boult	8
J. Bairstow c sub (Astle) b Ferguson	37
J. Root c de Grandhomme b Boult	9
E. Morgan c and b Munro	62
B. Stokes not out	63
J. Buttler not out	36
Extras (lb2, w8)	10
Total (4 wickets: 37.5 overs)	225
Fall of wickets: 1-15 (Roy), 2-47 (Root), 3-86 (Bairstow), 4-174 (Morgan)	
Did not bat: M. Ali, C. Woakes, A. Rashid, D. Willey, T. Curran	
Bowling: Southee 7-0-55-0 (2w), Boult 8-1-46-2, Santner 7.5-0-40-0, Ferguson 8-0-48-1, de Grandhomme 2-0-11-0 (1w), Munro 5-0-23-1 (1w).	

**Result:** England win by six wickets  
**Series:** Five-match series is level 1-1

## Australia skipper Smith eager for S Africa revenge

**DURBAN:** Australia captain Steve Smith is looking for revenge in the upcoming Tests against South Africa to continue the trend which has seen the tourists dominate in recent series between the sides. "Certainly it's a big series for us. We've had a lot of great contests over the years. South Africa got the better of us at home so we'd love to get them back for that one," said Smith ahead of the start of the first Test at Kingsmead in Durban today. South Africa won 2-1 in a three-Test series in Australia in November 2016, their third straight series win there. However, Australia have a brilliant record away in South Africa, and it is an anomaly that Smith and his opposite number Faf Du Plessis put down to the similar conditions in both countries.

Australia are aiming to build on a "magnificent" home summer which included a 4-0 Ashes defeat of England. "The conditions are similar but it's still an away tour for us. I've got a goal as captain to play really well away from home and start winning series, so this is a really good opportunity for us," said Smith.

The world's leading Test batsman, Smith said a century in tough conditions at Centurion on Australia's previous tour in 2013/14 had given him the confidence that he could score runs against any bowling attack. Du Plessis is fully aware of Smith's threat having played alongside him in the Indian Premier League, and he is hoping to use that experience to bring about his rival's downfall.

"The last series we played against him he was their best batter but to some degree we did keep him quiet," he said. "He's obviously a very good player but it's similar to what I said about the Indian team. They have one or two star batsmen. If you can put pressure on them and keep them quiet it obviously reflects how the series will go."

Du Plessis said no pressure had been put on groundsman to prepare pitches to help the South Africans following the controversy that marred the recent series win over India. "I think I learned my lesson from that," he said.

"Australia and South Africa are very similar teams and they play in similar conditions. We'll play on what we get. We've asked for nothing." It seems likely that South Africa will switch from the policy of four specialist fast bowlers that was used against India, with an extra batsman likely to be picked. With Temba Bavuma not fully recovered from a finger injury, Theunis de Bruyn is a strong candidate, especially as he can bowl a few overs of seam to back up the main bowlers. Injuries and lack of form have plagued the South Africans recently. Du Plessis will play, though, despite having broken his right index finger less than a month ago. "I've played with finger injuries before," he said. "The biggest battle you have to get over is the mental side of things. I have had three good nets, hitting a lot of balls, but the biggest thing is mentally to be ready for the battle and I'm ready for that." — AFP

## Pakistan ban Shahzaib Hasan for year in fixing case

**LAHORE:** Pakistan yesterday hit former opener Shahzaib Hasan with a one-year ban and a million rupee (\$9,050) fine for a spot-fixing incident that rocked the country's Twenty20 League last year. Hasan, 28, was a member of Pakistan's World Twenty20 winning team in 2009 but had not played any international cricket in the past eight years. Hasan, who was playing for the Karachi Kings, was one of six players charged with various breaches of the Pakistan Cricket Board's anti-corruption code during the second edition of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) held in the United Arab Emirates.

"Hasan has been banned for one year and fined one million rupees on one charge and we have requested for more action against him on inducing other players for fixing," board legal adviser Taffazul Rizvi told the media. Hasan, an aggressive opener, played three one-

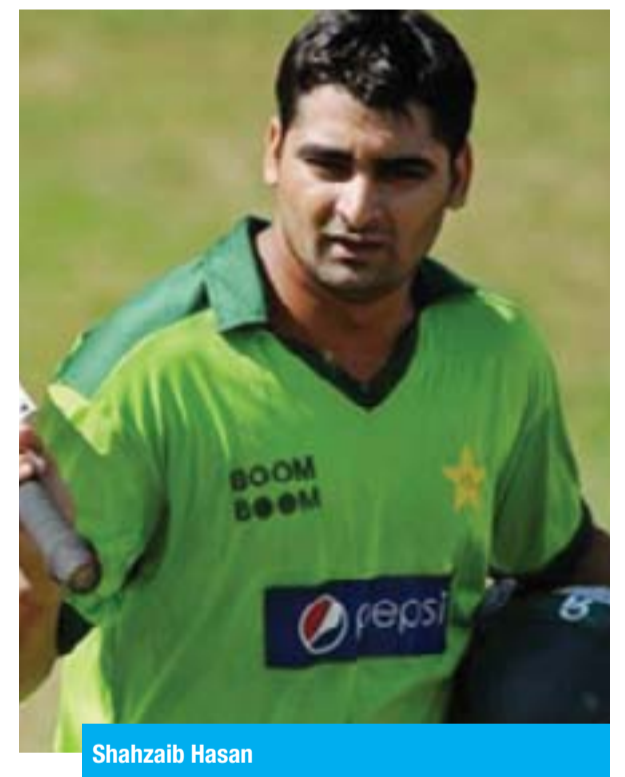
day internationals and 10 Twenty20 internationals before losing his place due to poor performance in 2010. The PSL was rocked by scandal in February last year when it was announced that several players were caught in a spot-fixing incident. Spot-fixing involves determining the outcome of a specific part of a match rather than the overall result, and is therefore harder to detect than match-fixing.

The PCB formed a three-man tribunal which later banned Sharjeel Khan for five years (two and a half suspended) while Khalid Latif was banned for five full years and fined one million rupees.

Mohammad Irfan was banned for one year (six months suspended), Mohammad Nawaz for two months (one suspended) and Nasir Jamshed for one year. The third edition of the PSL is currently being staged in the UAE, with two play-offs in Lahore and the final in Karachi on March 25. The PCB took extra measures to stem spot-fixing, with all six teams in this year's league monitored by anti-corruption officers. Pakistan has a history of fixing, with former captain Salim Malik and Aatur Rehman banned for life in 2000.

A spot-fixing case during Pakistan's tour of England in 2010 ended in five-year bans on then Test captain Salman Butt, Mohammad Asif and Mohammad Amir.

Pakistan leg-spinner Danish Kaneria is also serving a life ban on charges of spot-fixing during a county match in England in 2009. — AFP



Shahzaib Hasan

## Alvarez, Golovkin promise fireworks in May 5 rematch

**LOS ANGELES:** World middleweight champion Gennady Golovkin and Saul "Canelo" Alvarez promised to deliver an explosive sequel to their epic draw here Tuesday as they faced off ahead of their May 5 rematch.

Hard-hitting Kazakh Golovkin was widely believed to have won last September's first battle against Mexican star Alvarez, when a bizarre judging controversy dominated the aftermath of the bout. While one judge scored the fight for Golovkin and another had it even, there was widespread astonishment at the card of judge Adalaide Byrd, who marked it 118-110 in favour of Alvarez.

On Tuesday the two fighters came face-to-face before a crowd of fans in downtown Los Angeles and both vowed that judges would not be a factor when they climb into the ring again at Las Vegas's T-Mobile Arena in what is likely to be one of the fights of the year.

"Everything is ready for an amazing show," Golovkin told reporters, unsurprisingly adamant that he had won the first bout. "I felt very comfortable. I felt I won 100 percent," added Golovkin, 37-0 with one draw and 33 knockouts.

Golovkin's trainer, Abel Sanchez, meanwhile taunted Alvarez's hit-and-run strategy in the first meeting. "I definitely think he ran a lot more than we thought he was going to," Sanchez said. "I talked to (Michael) Jordan about it and asked if he could make us some

shoes so that we can go a bit faster and are able to catch him. "I hope for the fans that he puts on the fight that he said he was going to do the first time."

### CANELO UNIMPRESSED

Alvarez, 49-1 with two drawn and 34 knockouts, was unimpressed with Sanchez's barbs, insisting he had done enough to win the first instalment. "I went in there, I outboxed him, I went on the ropes, I made him miss, I controlled the centre of the ring," Alvarez said.

"I'm a technical fighter. I'm not a jack-ass who just comes forward, throwing punches and gets hit. "I hope he (Sanchez) goes home tonight and really thinks about what he says. Because he's saying stupid, idiotic things."

Alvarez however acknowledged he could have been more aggressive in the first fight, maintaining that he had not taken advantage of openings that presented themselves. That was something he plans to rectify in the rematch.

"I learned a lot," Alvarez said. "When I made him miss there were a lot of openings that I didn't take advantage of. Now I'm going to work in the gym to take advantage of those chances."

"We both want to win convincingly. We both want to erase any doubt. And that's going to make the fight more interesting—because if we take more risks, there's going to be more openings."

Golovkin promoter Tom Loeffler meanwhile said his team would pay close attention to the judges chosen for the Nevada fight, and would not hesitate to object to any appointed individual they were unhappy with. "There's going to be a lot more focus on the judges going into this fight," Loeffler said.

"We have the right to object to any judges we think aren't going to be satisfactory. Hopefully the judges won't be a factor." — AFP



Gennady Golovkin