

Sports

England romp home, claim ODI series on Bairstow ton

Our bowlers really did set the tone: Morgan

CHRISTCHURCH: A masterful century by Jonny Bairstow complemented an exceptional bowling spell as England cruised to a seven-wicket victory over New Zealand to claim the one-day international series 3-2 in Christchurch yesterday.

Bairstow's heroics with the bat — 104 off 60 deliveries — backed by 61 from fellow opener Alex Hales saw England overhaul New Zealand's 223 with a colossal 104 balls remaining to wrap up the winner-takes-all showdown.

"Our bowlers really did set the tone," said captain Eoin Morgan who won the toss and made New Zealand bat first. Chris Woakes, the man of the series, led the way with three for 32 off his 10 overs while spinner Adil Rashid finished with three for 42. "Johnny (Bairstow) played particularly well... but really the game today was won by our bowling unit," Morgan added in a sentiment shared by Bairstow who ensured an early end with his 104 from 60 deliveries.

"They set the platform and they have done first up

SCOREBOARD

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand: Completed scoreboard in the fifth one-day international between New Zealand and England in Christchurch yesterday:

New Zealand	
M. Guptill c Stokes b Rashid	47
C. Munro c Buttler b Woakes	0
K. Williamson b Wood	14
T. Latham c Stokes b Rashid	10
M. Chapman b Ali	0
H. Nicholls c Morgan b Curran	55
C. de Grandhomme c Curran b Rashid	6
M. Santner c Hales b Woakes	67
T. Southee c Bairstow b Woakes	10
I. Sodhi c Stokes b Curran	5
T. Boult not out	2
Extras:(w7)	7
Total: (all out; 49.5 overs)	223
Fall of wickets: 1-1 (Munro), 2-26 (Williamson), 3-60 (Latham), 4-61 (Chapman), 5-79 (Guptill), 6-93 (de Grandhomme), 7-177 (Nicholls), 8-213 (Santner), 9-214 (Southee), 10-223 (Sodhi).	
Bowling: Woakes 10-1-32-3 (2w), Wood 8-0-26-1 (2w), Stokes 4-0-23-0 (2w), Rashid 10-0-42-3, Ali 10-1-39-1, Root 2-0-15-0, Curran 5.5-0-46-2 (1w).	

England	
J. Bairstow hit wicket b Boult	104
A. Hales c Williamson b Santner	61
J. Root not out	23
E. Morgan c de Grandhomme b Sodhi	8
B. Stokes not out	26
Extras (lb4, w3)	7
Total: (for 3 wickets; 32.4 overs)	229
Fall of wickets: 1-155 (Bairstow), 2-177 (Hales), 3-192 (Morgan)	
Bowling: Southee 5-1-20-0, Boult 6-0-50-1 (3w), de Grandhomme 4-0-33-0, Santner 10-0-44-1, Sodhi 7.4-0-78-1.	

Result: England won by seven wickets
Series: England won 3-2

“England were outstanding and they deserved to win the series”

all the way through the series," said Bairstow. "The way the guys have taken wickets early on has enabled us to turn the screw through the middle. My job is to go out and try and score big hundreds and contribute to match winning scores and that's something I'm trying to do." The stark contrast in performances was highlighted in the middle of the 26th over in each innings when New Zealand were 93 for six while England were 192 for two at the same stage.

'REALLY DISAPPOINTING'

Disappointed New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson struggled to find something positive say about his side apart from "a good showing" by Mitchell Santner and Henry Nicholls who put on 84 for the seventh wicket.

"It was a really disappointing effort from our part," he said. "You want to come out and play a performance you'd be proud of and today we (didn't) in all



CHRISTCHURCH: The England team poses after winning the One Day series following the fifth and final ODI cricket match between New Zealand and England at Hagley Oval in Christchurch yesterday. — AFP

facets. It was a shame. England were outstanding and they deserved to win the series."

Bairstow toyed with the best of New Zealand's bowling stocks as he smacked nine fours and six sixes. He eventually brought about his own downfall by belting the stumps as he stepped back to cut a wide Trent Boult delivery.

Hales was at the crease for 74 deliveries for his 61 which included nine boundaries. Both sides were hit with late replacements but with marked differences. New Zealand's batting maestro Ross Taylor failed a late fitness test and was replaced by Mark Chapman who made a three-ball duck.

England lost Jason Roy to a back spasm and his replacement Hales opened with Bairstow in a 155-run stand for the first wicket. Hales was the second wicket to fall when England were on 177 and just 47 runs

short of victory.

Morgan had a short stay for eight while Ben Stokes was 26 not out at the end with Joe Root on 23. After the first four ODIs, which had the series level at 2-2, England had the New Zealand batsmen well worked out.

Colin Munro went on the second ball he faced, caught behind off Woakes for the third time in five innings and for his second consecutive duck. Mark Wood bowled Kane Williamson for 14 before spinners Rashid and Moeen Ali stepped up to decimate the middle of the New Zealand innings as Tom Latham (10), Chapman, Martin Guptill (47) and Colin de Grandhomme (six) fell in quick succession.

Santner, who rescued New Zealand in the first match, hit a personal-best 67 while Nicholls was out for 55 to give the innings some substance. — AFP

Raptors halt Rockets' win streak at 17 games

LOS ANGELES: Kyle Lowry scored 30 points and the Toronto Raptors survived a furious rally by the Houston Rockets in claiming a 108-105 win on Friday at Air Canada Centre, sweeping the season series and ending the Rockets' 17-game winning streak. DeMar DeRozan answered a game-tying 3-pointer by Rockets guard James Harden with a difficult turnaround jumper over Harden to reclaim the lead with 1:49 left. Lowry and Jonas Valanciunas followed with two free throws each sandwiched around an Eric Gordon trey. The Rockets trailed by as many as 19 points. But Houston shot just 9-of-27 on 3s; Lowry alone finished 7-for-9 from behind the arc. Harden led Houston with 40 points. DeRozan scored 23 for Toronto while Valanciunas paired 14 points with 10 rebounds. Gordon and Chris Paul scored 14 each for Houston but shot a combined 10-for-27.



TORONTO: Serge Ibaka #9 of the Toronto Raptors shoots the ball against the Houston Rockets on Friday at the Air Canada Centre in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. — AFP

WIZARDS 116, PELICANS 97

Otto Porter Jr. led six Washington players in double figures with 19 points in a rout of streaking host New Orleans. The Pelicans had won a franchise-record 10 games in a row, but were playing without All-Star forward Anthony Davis because of a sprained ankle he suffered two nights earlier in a victory at Sacramento. Darius Miller came off the bench to lead the Pelicans with 20 points. Markieff Morris added 17 points, Bradley Beal scored 16, Mike Scott had 14, Kelly Oubre Jr. had 11 and Jodie Meeks 10 for Washington, which played its 18th consecutive game without star guard John Wall, who is recovering from knee surgery.

JAZZ 95, GRIZZLIES 78

Reserve Jae Crowder scored a season-high 22 points as visiting Utah pulled away in the fourth quarter to cruise past Memphis, which has lost 16 straight games. The Jazz won their 10th straight road game and for the 17th time in 19 games despite a quiet showing from rookie Donovan Mitchell, who was held to 12 points on 4-of-15 shooting. Rookie Dillon Brooks scored 18 for Memphis, which is on the longest losing streak in the NBA this season. The skid also is the franchise's longest since moving from Vancouver following the 2000-01 season.

shooting and Giannis Antetokounmpo had 28 points and 10 rebounds as Milwaukee defeated New York in Milwaukee. Tim Hardaway Jr. had 26 points on 10-for-20 shooting and Troy Williams added 18 points off the bench to lead the Knicks, who lost their sixth straight game and for the 14th time in their last 15 games. The Bucks snapped a two-game losing streak by scorching the New York defense. Milwaukee finished 41-for-73 from the field (56.2 percent) and hit 8 of 18 from 3-point range as it won for just the second time in eight games.

PACERS 112, HAWKS 87

Bojan Bogdanovic paced a balanced attack with 21 points, and Indiana routed Atlanta in Indianapolis. Myles Turner finished with 17 points and 12 rebounds, and Victor Oladipo had 17 points, five rebounds and five assists for the Pacers, who bounced back from a 20-point blowout loss to Utah to win for the fourth time in the last five games. The Pacers are getting healthy for the stretch run. Veteran point guard Darren Collison returned after missing the last 12 games recovering from knee surgery. Collison scored 17 points off the bench in 21 minutes.

PISTONS 99, BULLS 83

Blake Griffin scored 25 points with eight rebounds and eight assists as Detroit snapped its four-game losing streak with a rout of Chicago in Detroit. Reggie Bullock added 21 points and Andre Drummond grabbed a game-high 17 rebounds and blocked four shots while scoring only five points for the Pistons. Cameron Payne had 17 points off the bench to lead Chicago. Kris Dunn was the Bulls' only other double-digit scorer with 13 points as they fell back to earth following Wednesday's 119-110 victory against Memphis. — Reuters

BUCKS 120, KNICKS 112

Khris Middleton had 30 points on 11-for-16

South Africa edge ahead on the day the music died

PORT ELIZABETH: AB de Villiers scored a stylish, unbeaten half-century as patient South Africa edged ahead of Australia on a slow wicket on the second day of the second test, going to the close at 263 for seven at St George's Park yesterday.

The home side have a narrow advantage of 20 runs with the brilliant De Villiers on 74 from 81 balls and all-rounder Vernon Philander to resume on 14 in the search for what could be crucial first innings runs in an engrossing contest.

Opener Dean Elgar (57 from 197 balls) and Hashim Amla (56 from 148 balls) had earlier put on 88 in 46.2 overs for the third wicket as South Africa crawled towards Australia's first innings total of 243, including adding just 43 runs in 26 overs in the middle session of the day.

But once De Villiers came to the wicket, he immediately started scoring all round the wicket, injecting urgency into the South African innings and putting the pressure back on the Australian bowlers.

The tourists continued to chip

away at the other end though, with the reverse-swinging ball collecting four quick wickets after tea. Amla was bowled by an excellent delivery from Mitchell Starc (1-78) that cannoned into his off-stump, before Elgar edged Josh Hazlewood (1-73) to wicketkeeper Tim Paine.

Mitchell Marsh (2-26), who had been ill on day one, looked full of energy as he got two balls to tail in late and remove home captain Faf du Plessis (9) and Theunis de Bruyn (1) leg before wicket.

When spinner Nathan Lyon (1-29) bowled Quinton de Kock (9), South Africa still trailed by 16 runs with three wickets remaining, but De Villiers continued to play positive cricket as he looked supremely comfortable at the crease, in stark contrast to just about every other batsman in the game.

BAND STAND

One of the elements that had livened up a slow day out in the middle, the brass band that has been a popular fixture at St George's Park for two decades, was asked to stop playing by umpires Kumar Dharmasena and Sundaram Ravi, who claimed they could not hear the nicks off the bat.

That left large sections of the crowd chanting their displeasure but with each run scored by the home side, those jeers turned to cheers as South Africa look to level the four-match series having lost the first Test in Durban by 118 runs. — Reuters

NBA results/standings

LA Clippers 116, Cleveland 102; Toronto 108, Houston 105; Portland 125, Golden State 108; Sacramento 94, Orlando 88; Denver 125, LA Lakers 116; Memphis 78, Utah 95; Milwaukee 120, New York 112; New Orleans 97, Washington 116; Detroit 99, Chicago 83; Indiana 112, Atlanta 87.

Eastern Conference					Western Conference				
	W	L	PCT	GB		W	L	PCT	GB
Toronto	48	17	73.8	-	Houston	51	14	78.5	-
Boston	46	20	69.7	2.5	Golden State	51	15	77.3	0.5
Cleveland	38	27	58.5	10	Portland	40	26	60.6	11.5
Washington	38	28	57.6	10.5	New Orleans	38	27	58.5	13
Indiana	38	28	57.6	10.5	San Antonio	37	28	56.9	14
Philadelphia	35	29	54.7	12.5	Minnesota	38	29	56.7	14
Miami	35	31	53.0	13.5	Oklahoma City	38	29	56.7	14
Milwaukee	35	31	53.0	13.5	LA Clippers	35	29	54.7	15.5
Detroit	30	36	45.5	18.5	Utah	36	30	54.5	15.5
Charlotte	28	38	42.4	20.5	Denver	36	30	54.5	15.5
New York	24	42	36.4	24.5	LA Lakers	29	36	44.6	22
Chicago	22	43	33.8	26	Sacramento	21	45	31.8	30.5
Brooklyn	21	45	31.8	27.5	Dallas	20	45	30.8	31
Orlando	20	46	30.3	28.5	Phoenix	19	48	28.4	33
Atlanta	20	46	30.3	28.5	Memphis	18	47	27.7	33

SCOREBOARD

PORT ELIZABETH: Scoreboard at stumps on the second day of 2nd test between South Africa and Australia yesterday at Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

Australia 1st innings - 243 all out	
South Africa 1st innings	
D Elgar c Paine b Hazlewood	57
A Markram lbw Cummins	11
K Rabada b Cummins	29
H Amla b Starc	56
AB de Villiers Not Out	74
F du Plessis lbw M Marsh	9
De Bruyn lbw M Marsh	1
De Kock b Lyon	9
V Philander Not Out	14
Extras Ob 2lb Onb Open 1w	3
Total (95.0 overs)	263-7
Fall of Wickets: 1-22 Markram, 2-67 Rabada, 3-155 Amla, 4-155 Elgar, 5-179 du Plessis, 6-183 de Bruyn, 7-227 de Kock	
To Bat: Maharaj, Ngidi	
Bowling: Mitchell Starc 26-4-78-1; Josh Hazlewood 24-4-73-1; Pat Cummins 20-6-55-2; Nathan Lyon 16-5-29-1; Mitchell Marsh 9-1-26-2.	