

Ross Taylor puts NZ in command

Hamilton

New Zealand edged closer to sealing the series in comprehensive fashion as they set Windies an intimidating target of 444 to win the second Test and level the series. Even though there are still two full days of Test cricket left, Windies' chances of doing the improbable took a massive hit before stumps yesterday with Kieron Powell and Shimron Hetmyer falling very early in the chase. By the close of play, Windies finished on 30/2, needing another 414 runs to win the game.

The victory was set-up by one of the very best in the country's history as Ross Taylor smashed his 17th Test ton, to equal the tally of the late Martin Crowe and current captain Kane Williamson, for the most number of Test centuries by a New Zealand batsman. Taylor joined Williamson at the crease when New Zealand had lost both their openers. They had fetched a healthy lead of 152 after Trent Boult picked up the remaining two Windies wickets very early in the morning but the two quick wickets gave the visitors a sniff.

The experienced duo though batted with precision, with Williamson especially being positive, to once again turn the tables on the Windies. The visitors started off the second session in bright fashion though. The first half of the session clearly belonged to Miguel Cummins, who went through an outstanding spell to get rid of Kane Williamson and Henry Nicholls. He first bowled a scorching yorker to Williamson to breach his defence and then followed it up by bowling a well-directed bouncer that was gloved to the wicketkeeper by Nicholls.

He also went on to rattle Mitchell Santner by hitting him on the helmet once, but the allrounder was eventually dismissed by Roston Chase. Taylor at the end displayed calmness despite witnessing the procession. He cut and pulled well on his way to a half-century and once he went past the landmark, the boundaries started flowing at a quicker rate. (*cricbuzz*)



Kane Williamson was cleaned up by a scorching yorker from Miguel Cummins, New Zealand v West Indies, 2nd Test, Hamilton

Pakistan ban Jamshed for one year in corruption probe

Islamabad

Fomer Pakistan batsman Nasir Jamshed has been banned for a year for failing to co-operate with the Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) regarding an investigation into corruption, the governing body said yesterday.

Jamshed, who has played 48 one-day internationals for Pakistan, was suspended from all forms of cricket in February for violating the PCB's anti-corruption code.

"Anti Corruption Tribunal has imposed one year ban on cricketer Nasir Jamshed for

non-co-operation with PCB ACU, more charges will be brought up in near future," the PCB said on their official Twitter account.

The 27-year-old did not participate in the first two editions of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) but is alleged to have played a major role in the spot-fixing scandal that engulfed the Twenty20 tournament earlier this year.

Batsmen Sharjeel Khan and Khalid Latif were handed five-year bans for their role in the scandal, while paceman Mohammad Irfan and all-rounder Mohammad Nawaz received respective suspensions for 12 and two months. (*Reuters*)



Nasir Jamshed

Roger Federer named Swiss Male Athlete of the Year



Roger Federer

Geneva

For the seventh time in life after 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2012, 2014, Roger Federer was awarded as Swiss Sportsman of the Year. The Basel native won seven titles this year, including two Grand Slams (Australian Open and Wimbledon), returning in a great style after taking a six-month break from competition last year.

In 2017 Federer also got three ATP Awards: Fan Favourite, Stefan Edberg Sportmanship, ComeBack player. Through a video-message from Dubai, where he is having the pre-season, the World No.

2 revealed: 'My children said to me, "Why are you maybe going to get a prize tonight? It's Rafa who is number one.' With 36.88% of votes, Federer prevailed over Nino Schurter (mountain bike) who got 25.63% and the ski racer Beat Feuz (third with 15.55%).

Also Roman Josi (ice-hockey), Andy Schmid (handball) and Pablo Brägger (gymnastics) were among candidates. The ski racer Wendy Holdener was awarded on the female side. 'So honoured to have won this award', Federer wrote on Twitter. (*tennisworldusa*)

Serena Williams hints at return

Washington

American Serena Williams dropped a large hint that she could soon be back on court competing when she posted an *Instagram* photo of a pair of dazzling gold and white tennis shoes.

Williams, who won her 23rd grand slam singles title at last year's Australian Open before taking time out to have her first child, has entered next month's tournament in Melbourne.

"Be excited. Be very excited..." the 36-year-old said in the post which attracted 135,000 likes in the space of an hour.

Williams gave birth to Alexis Olympia Ohanian Jr. in September and was married to Alexis Ohanian last month.

Few female players have won grand slams after taking a break to start a family, although Kim Clijsters won the 2009 U.S. Open in her third tournament back after having a daughter.

Australians Evonne Goolagong and Margaret Court also managed it. Court's 24 grand slam singles titles remains a record although only 11 of them were in the professional era. (*Reuters*)



Serena Williams