

BRIEF SCORE

South Africa 269 for 6
(Markram 94, Amla 82, Ashwin
3-90) v India

India fight back with late wickets

Centurion

South Africa lost their first wicket in the 30th over, their second in the 48th and their third in the 63rd and partnerships of 85, 63 and 51 underlined how infrequently India's bowlers struck in the first two sessions of play on day one of the second Test at Centurion.

But then, during the last half hour, India removed three batsmen in the span of 14 deliveries, one of them being the mighty Hashim Amla for 82.

Those strikes went a long way in turning a day of toil into a position of parity for India, and lifted their mood after two sessions of largely ineffective

bowling barring R Ashwin's two wickets.

At stumps yesterday, South Africa were 269/6 with skipper Faf du Plessis (24*) the last specialist batsman.

It was a stunning end for a day in which India underwhelmed for more than two sessions.

Amla, who before this Test averaged 24.43 versus India at home, was given lives on 14 and 30 and used those to move to 82 before a brilliant pick-and-throw from Hardik Pandya ran him out.

Two balls later, Quinton de Kock edged his first ball to slip, giving Ashwin his third wicket. Moments later, Parthiv Patel ran

out Vernon Philander.

After going wicketless in the morning session, and with Amla being dropped twice, India need such moments to spike their day at SuperSport Park.

All told, each session got better for India.

The opener Aiden Markram was a thorn in their side from the time South Africa opted to bat, as he and Dean Elgar played out the first hour and then cashed in on a period of wayward bowling to take the score to 78/1 at lunch. It did not take long for them to feel the absence of Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who was dropped for Ishant Sharma. (TOI)

Aiden Markram of South Africa is hit by a delivery (Picture courtesy: BCCI)

F1 needs more Donington-style turns: Hamilton

London

Lewis Hamilton says the Donington Park circuit he raced on during his junior single-seater career contains driving challenges that are "way harder than all the corners in F1".

Formula 1 is currently investigating whether grand prix circuits need to change to improve the quality of racing, in one of many exploratory projects taking place under the command of F1's new managing director of

motorsport Ross Brawn.

Reigning F1 world champion Hamilton was among those critical of the 2017 season finale in Abu Dhabi for promoting a lack of overtaking through its layout.

But he also believes F1 needs to consider making its tracks more challenging for drivers, arguing the proliferation of run-off areas on modern circuits has made them too easy to drive, which reduces the chances of drivers making mistakes.

"The FIA have done an amazing job, but they've really got to stop with these run-off areas - you shouldn't be able to cut a corner like you see [drivers doing]," Hamilton said.

"What I love about the olden days - of course you don't want to crash, but if you go wide you've got to lose time.

"Now you can approach a corner knowing that if you go in 5 per cent too much you can go wide and come back on. I don't love that.

"I used to love Oulton Park and Donington. Donington, Old Hairpin was a nightmare - you have to come off the brakes and run the speed in, use the downforce. "Then up the hill and the second right before the back straight - you can't even see the white line. There is white line and then gravel and the gravel sucks you off.

"Oh man! Finding the limit there, that corner is way harder than all the corners in F1." (Autosport)

Kubica in talks with Williams

London

Robert Kubica is in talks with Williams about taking a supporting role with the Formula 1 team in 2018.

Sergey Sirotkin is the favourite to get the race drive alongside Lance Stroll, having fended off competition from Kubica, Daniil Kvyat, Paul di Resta and Pascal Wehrlein.

Williams has insisted throughout the process that its decision on the driver to partner Stroll would be based purely on performance and Sirotkin is believed to have come out on top.

Kubica was purely focused on getting a race seat in F1 this season, but when it became clear that was unlikely to

happen, he and his team switched tact.

Talks regarding alternative options began, with Kubica keen to be involved with Williams in some guise during the coming campaign.

It is understood discussions are centred around a supporting role, helping drive car performance and development, with the potential for more time behind the wheel.

Such a move would make sense for both sides, with Williams gaining an experienced driver to support what is likely to be an inexperienced line-up, while Kubica will get more time to prove he can compete at the highest level again. (Autosport)

