

Santner stars as New Zealand beat West Indies in T20 series opener



Mitchell Santner (L) of New Zealand celebrates the dismissal of Shimron Hetmyer (2nd L) of West Indies

AFP | Kingston

West Indies' season of white ball woe continued on Wednesday when New Zealand completed a 13-run win in the first T20 International of a three-match series at Sabina Park in Jamaica.

Fresh from a successful European sojourn, the Black Caps posted a formidable 185 for five batting first in a rain-interrupted innings before their premier bowlers combined to limit the Caribbean side to 172 for seven in reply.

Since getting the better of Bangladesh 2-0 in a T20I duel, the West Indies have been swept 3-0 by the Bangladeshis and India in successive One-Day International series before going down 4-1 to the Indians in another T20I campaign immediately preceding this assignment.

New Zealand almost paid for a period of complacency towards the end of the match as an explosive unbroken 58-run eighth-wicket partnership between Romario Shepherd (31 not out) and Odean Smith (27 not out) gave the hosts a glimmer of hope after they had crashed to 114 for seven in the 16th over.

But they were left with too much to do as "Man of the Match" Mitchell Santner's haul of three for 19 ripped the heart of the West Indies batting as he claimed the wickets of captain Nicholas Pooran first ball before adding Shim-

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MITCHELL SANTNER

ron Hetmyer and top-scorer Shamarh Brooks (42) to his list of victims.

"It was a bit surprising to see as much spin on this deck," said the left-arm spinner after receiving the award. "Bowling the right lengths is key against these guys because with the power they possess they can smash you away pretty easily."

New Zealand were set on their way after being put in to bat with an opening stand of 62 between Devon Conway and Martin Guptill. Skipper Kane Williamson's 47 off 33 balls kept the innings rolling along either side of the rain interruption but it was the late impetus from Jimmy Neesham, who belted an unbeaten 33 off just 15 balls with three fours and two sixes, which pushed the tourists to a target which ultimately proved to be just beyond the reach of the bludgeoning Shepherd and Smith.

For Smith the match was a personal triumph as his batting effort followed career-best T20I figures of three for 32.

Bahrain stun Iran in Asian volleyball

Senior men's national team defeat continental giants in four-setter for first win in main round of 2022 AVC Cup for Men in Thailand



Bahrain's Mohamed Abdulla hits a spike against Iran during their match yesterday



Bahrain players congratulate one another after scoring a point against Iran

● **Bahrain defeat Iranian counterparts in four sets for first Pool F win**

● **Nationals keep semi-finals hopes alive, must beat Pakistan today**

TDT | Manama

Bahrain posted a stunning 3-1 (25-16, 25-19, 22-25, 25-18) victory over Iran yesterday in the 2022 Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) Cup for Men, being held in Nakhon Pathom, Thailand.

The nationals were the aggressors and took the opening two sets and had a chance to complete a clean sweep of the contest with the scores tied at 22-all in the third. But the Iranians were able to make the necessary plays and extend the

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ISSANAYE RAMIRES

game to a fourth set.

There, the Bahrainis took command and went ahead 10-6 before widening the gap to 20-14. They rode their momentum to the end and soon closed out the victory.

The result earned Bahrain their first win in Pool F of the tournament's main round and kept their hopes of advancing to the semi-finals alive.

They must now win their final game against Pakistan today and

Pool F standings

	P	W	L	SW	SL	Pts
China	2	2	0	6	1	6
Bahrain	2	1	1	4	4	3
Iran	2	1	1	4	4	3
Pakistan	2	0	2	1	6	0

hope Iran lose to group leaders China in the other contest.

"It was a very important step towards our aim of reaching the semi-finals," said Bahrain head coach Issanaye Ramires from Brazil.

"We used experience and good attacks to beat them. I'm very proud of my team. They followed the staff coaches' instruction and plan."

Outside hitter Mohamed Abdulla scored a match-high 21 points, including 15 attacks and two aces for Bahrain. Amir Mohammad Golzadeh led Iran with 16 points.

Bahrain's match with Pakistan today is scheduled for a 5am start, Bahrain time. China

and Iran play next, at 8am, Bahrain time.

The other teams competing for a spot in the last four from Pool E are Japan, hosts Thailand, South Korea and Australia.

Bahrain are making their debut in the AVC Cup for Men, which is in its seventh edition.

The rest of the team competing in Nakhon Pathom includes setters Mahmood Hasan and Mahmood Alafyah; wing spikers Naser Anan, Mahmood Ahmed and Yusuf Ali; opposites Mohamed Anan and Ali Khamis; middle blockers Abbas Al Khabbaz, Husain Aljeshi, Mohamed Aldawiri and Mohamed Abdulla; and liberos Ayman Haroona and Husain Sultan.

Real Madrid defeat Eintracht Frankfurt to win fifth UEFA Super Cup

AFP | Madrid

Goals from David Alaba and Karim Benzema gave Real Madrid a 2-0 victory over Eintracht Frankfurt and a fifth UEFA Super Cup on Wednesday.

While Frankfurt were dangerous, particularly in the first half, Madrid's experience and individual quality saw them through, as it did so often in their victorious 2021-22 Champions League campaign.

Frankfurt had the best of the early stages, with Madrid keeper Thibaut Courtois forced into a stunning anticipation save when one-on-one with Daichi Kamada in the 14th minute.

Madrid almost got their first, when Benzema released Vinicius to curl past Kevin Trapp in the penalty box, only for Tuta to clear the ball off the line.

With Madrid dominating possession, Frankfurt mounted several counter-attacks until Madrid launched a counter of their own in the 37th minute.



Real Madrid's Karim Benzema lifts the trophy as he celebrates with teammates after winning the European Super Cup

A diving Trapp got his fingertips to a goal-bound shot by Vinicius, pushing the ball out for a corner.

From the ensuing play, Benzema linked with Casemiro just next to the right post.

The Brazilian sucked in several Frankfurt defenders and a

diving Trapp, before heading back to an unmarked Alaba who scored from close range.

After the goal, Madrid stepped it up a gear and should have gone 2-0 up, with Benzema uncharacteristically dragging the ball wide with the goal begging in the 41st minute.

Eintracht were very closed and we found it difficult to find our rhythm, but we did it well then. It's difficult at the beginning of the season to be in top form but we now have won to start the season well

CARLO ANCELOTTI

Vinicius, Benzema connect

Madrid's quality became more obvious in the second half, with Trapp saving a deflected Vinicius shot in the 54th minute and Casemiro hitting the crossbar with 61 minutes gone.

Borussia Dortmund loanee Ansgar Knauff had a chance saved just minutes later, before Vinicius and Benzema combined to put Madrid 2-0 up.

Vinicius skated down the

BETTER YOU KNOW

Frankfurt joined Hamburg (1977 and 1983), Dortmund (1997) and Bremen (1992) as losing Super Cup finalists from Germany, with only Bayern Munich (2013 and 2020) having won the show-piece event

left before slicing the ball back seemingly unsighted for the Frenchman to hammer home from the edge of the box.

Frankfurt fought hard in the closing stages but Madrid were able to dominate the game to win their fifth Super Cup from

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Super Cups have been won by Carlo Ancelotti becoming the only coach to achieve the feat

eight attempts.

The clash, in Helsinki's Olympic Stadium, was the first time these two sides had met in a European decider since 1960, when Madrid dismantled Frankfurt 7-3 through four goals to Ferenc Puskas and three to Alfredo di Stefano in the European Cup final.

The match also highlighted the growing gap between the Champions League and Europa League competitions, with Madrid being the ninth Champions League team to win the competition in the past 10 years.