

Back-to-Back Brilliance for Sinner

World No. 1 rallies from a set down to beat Alexander Zverev

Jannik Sinner was at his clinical best as he successfully defended his Wimbledon title with a bruising four-set victory over French Open champion Alexander Zverev in Sunday's final.

The world number one recovered from losing the first set in a match largely dominated by serve, eventually wearing Zverev down to secure a 6-7 (7/9), 7-6 (7/2), 6-3, 6-4 win.

The Italian was rewarded for his perseverance in an attritional contest with his first Grand Slam title since lifting the trophy at the All England Club 12 months ago.

Sinner's fifth Grand Slam crown is just two behind the majors tally of his injured rival Carlos Alcaraz after notching his



Italy's Jannik Sinner celebrates beating Germany's Alexander Zverev during their men's singles final tennis match

100th match win at tennis' four biggest events.

He hit 58 winners against only 25 unforced errors in three hours and 46 minutes on Centre Court, refusing to buckle against an in-form Zverev who

brought a 13-match winning streak at the majors into the final.

Sinner has banished the memories of his shock second-round exit from the French Open at the hands of Juan Manuel Cerundolo when he blew a two-set lead last month.

The closest Sinner came to crashing out of Wimbledon was in the first round when he had to come from behind to beat Miomir Kecmanovic in five sets.

It was

plain sailing from then on for Sinner, who has become a fear-some force on grass.

The 24-year-old now boasts a remarkable 44-3 win-loss record this year after winning his sixth title of the season.

Zverev had never even reached the quarter-finals in nine previous visits to Wimbledon, but had been a man reborn in London after finally breaking his Grand Slam duck in Paris.

He managed to take a first set off Sinner in seven meetings, but could not kick on to snap a now 10-match losing streak against a seemingly unbreakable rival.

Zverev, who was bidding to become the first German man to win the trophy since Michael Stich in 1991, will climb above Alcaraz to second in the ATP rankings.

Bellingham heroics edge England past Norway and into World Cup semis

● **Bellingham nets brace for England**

● **Three Lions win after extra-time**

● **Norway take shock early lead**

● **Controversial VAR disallows Norway goal**

AFP | Miami

Jude Bellingham was England's hero once more by scoring twice as the Three Lions came from behind to end Norway's historic run and reach the World Cup semi-finals with a 2-1 win after extra-time.

In their first ever quarter-final, Andreas Schjelderup fired Norway into a shock lead in the searing Miami heat.

But Bellingham, who also netted a double in a memorable 3-2 over Mexico in the last 16, produced a moment of magic to equalise just before half-time.

Norway had a second goal controversially disallowed after a VAR review in the second half for a foul by Erling Haaland as both sets of players were pushed to their physical limits by

going to extra-time.

Bellingham came up with another big moment as he pounced on an error by Orjan Nyland to sweep in his sixth goal of the tournament for the winner.

"We are in the last four. It's amazing but not happy with the performance, in every sense," said England boss Thomas Tuchel.

"We made life difficult for (ourselves) in the way we played and how we played -- sloppy, a lot of technical mistakes, not fast enough, not repetitive enough. We were lucky today."

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England broke a historic curse by winning their second match of this tournament after conceding the opening goal, a feat they had failed to achieve in World Cup knockout play since 1966

Haaland's spectacular run of scoring in his last 14 competitive matches for Norway came to an end against the land of his birth with Norway's exhausted talisman replaced at half-time of extra-time.

Having failed to win a World Cup knockout game after conceding first since the final of 1966 before this tournament, England have now done so twice in three matches.

Energy-sapping heat

The 5:00 pm local time (2100 GMT) kick-off in Florida meant that temperatures remained above 30 degrees Celsius throughout, with intense humidity making conditions for the players.

The heat looked like it would spoil the spectacle as the first quarter was played at a

walking pace.

However, it sparked into life after Schjelderup's effort flew over Jordan Pickford into the top corner.

Norway suddenly had Tuchel's men rattled and were left to regret not doubling their lead.

Pickford saved low from Martin Odegaard before Alexander Sorloth wasted a glorious chance when he failed to feed Haaland and instead went for goal himself.

Almost immediately Bellingham pulled his team out of the mire once more.

Bellingham had been well marshalled until he collected Anthony Gordon's pass, burst into the box at speed and then slotted home on his weaker left foot.

Momentum was suddenly in England's favour and they nearly went into the break ahead.

Bellingham was this time the creator for Kane, who dinked the ball coolly over Nyland, but had just drifted offside.

Tuchel introduced Bukayo Saka and Eberechi Eze at the break for the ineffective Noni Madueke and Declan Rice -- the Arsenal midfielder had been suffering with illness earlier in the week.

But those changes left England light in midfield and they were left hanging on at spells in the second half.

Torbjorn Heggem made the most of some sloppy defending to turn in at the back post, but Haaland was penalised for a push on new Manchester City teammate Elliott Anderson before the corner had been taken, and the goal was disallowed.

Norway were inches away from a winner again when Kristoffer Ajer hit the bar after England fail to deal with another dangerous corner.

Both sides visibly wilted in the

energy-sapping conditions late on but were forced to endure an extra 30 minutes.

Nyland had been Norway's supporting act in the last 16 win over Brazil with a series of saves before Haaland struck twice late on for a landmark victory.

This time the Sevilla goalkeeper was the villain as he spilled substitute Morgan Rogers' shot from distance and Bellingham

pounced and scored.

England were awarded a penalty moments later, but this time VAR intervened in Norway's favour to deem Djed Spence had initiated contact inside the box.

Yet, Norway's spirit was already crushed, epitomised by a slouched Haaland watching on from the bench with nothing more to give.

'We put Norway on the map', says Haaland

Erling Haaland said Norway's World Cup performances had inspired a new generation despite the disappointment of the defeat.

The Manchester City striker had scored seven times in his four games at a major international tournament to carry Norway to the quarter-finals in their first World Cup for 28 years.

That run included eliminating Brazil in the last 16 as Haaland struck twice to knock out the five-time winners.

"How we put Norway on the map is maybe one thing that touches me the most," said Haaland.

"Hopefully now we can establish something when it comes to Euros, World Cups and everything because our generation is amazing and also all this gives motivation to young people back in Norway that it's possible to play a big stage in the world

with a Norwegian shirt."

Haaland's brand as a global superstar has soared in recent weeks with waves of new American fans taking to his affable off-field personality as well as his goalscoring prowess.

He is hoping Norway can build on their success in the United States to become a powerhouse in the coming years.

"It's kind of difficult to take in this kind of a show or roller-coaster that we've been in now for the last six weeks," added the 25-year-old.

"I think this changes Norway, I think it changes me. I've said it many times, we're building on something in Norway.

"It's about maintaining this because again we've shown that it's possible to be one of the biggest football nations in the world."

