

SPORTS
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Stokes returns to England line-up

Reuters | London

Ben Stokes will start the third test for England against India at Trent Bridge on Saturday just four days after being cleared of affray.

England captain Joe Root confirmed on Friday that the all-rounder would be back in the starting eleven at the expense of the unfortunate Sam Curran, who was man of the match in the opening test at Edgbaston.

"It was one of the most difficult decisions I've had to make as captain. It's about us as a squad delivering over five games and on this occasion Sam is unfortunate to miss out," said Root.

"Ben is desperate to get back playing cricket. He's desperate to get out there, put in performances and concentrate on his cricket now. He feels ready to play."

"I have known Ben from being



England's Ben Stokes during nets

really quite young and I feel very confident he will be able to go out and put in a performance."

Stokes' return for the third test, with England leading 2-0, was always going to be a difficult call for Root with two other

all-rounders in the squad playing so well.

After the second test win, Root had described the selection dilemma as a "great headache" for him but Stokes has been welcomed back into the team's

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JOE ROOT

ranks after his acquittal in the high-profile case.

Stokes had played a big part in providing a winning start with his six wickets, including the prize one of Virat Kohli, in the tight opening test at Edgbaston.

Yet in his absence due to the court hearing, England were much more dominant in their second test innings victory at Lord's with Chris Woakes, the replacement for Stokes, winning the man-of-the-match award for his century and four wickets.

Curran had won the same award in the Edgbaston contest for his crucial half-century and five wickets, making it difficult for either him or Woakes to be dropped but it was the 20-year-old Surrey prospect who misses out.

"What Sam has done so far has been nothing short of high class," said Root.

Woakes is retained after his magnificent effort as batsman Ollie Pope who made a decent debut with his 28 at Lord's.

Spotlight

The 27-year-old Stokes is plunged straight back into the

spotlight after an 11-month saga ended when he was found not guilty of affray following the late-night street brawl in Bristol last September after England had won a one day international against West Indies.

Coach Trevor Bayliss has backed Stokes' return, saying it was "for his own well-being".

India's head coach Ravi Shastri faces a very different problem of how to raise spirits with his team, the world's number one ranked test side, staring at the indignity of losing the five-match series after just three tests.

In the first test to start on a Saturday in England since they played South Africa at the Oval in 1955, India have to improve their batting urgently and will be grateful that captain Kohli, the only one to shine amid the ruins, is fit after suffering back spasms at Lord's.

Hanan Redha and Salma Rachid to perform at Brave 14

TDT | Manama

Brave 14 hosted in Tangier, Morocco on 18th August will feature Arab music sensations Salma Rachid and Hanan Redha performing for the audience.

Brave Combat Federation is among the pioneers in the sport of mixed martial arts to bring together art and entertainment alongside the sport.

Brave 14 is the first mixed martial arts event hosted in Morocco.

The event is held under the patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, of Morocco.

Artists who were a part of Brave Combat Federation events in the past include Hanan Redha, Hala Al Turk, Jack Lukeman, Suniel Shetty and more.

The fight night will have nine bouts



Hanan Redha



Salma Rachid with Ottman Azaitar

featuring fighters from 12 nations.

Brave Combat Federation brings together aspects of sport, arts and culture of nations together through the platform of sports.

The event will be broadcasted live across the world through Brave TV, Abu Dhabi Sports, Fite TV, FloCombat, StarSat, VodaCom, B1B TV and Combate.

Pakistan ban batsman Jamshed for 10 years for corruption

Reuters | Islamabad

Former Pakistan batsman Nasir Jamshed has been banned for 10 years by an anti-corruption tribunal for his part in the spot-fixing scandal that engulfed the Pakistan Super League in 2017, the country's cricket board (PCB) said on Friday.

Jamshed, who played 48 one-day internationals and two tests, was suspended from all forms of cricket in February 2017 for violating the PCB's anti-corruption code and handed a one-year ban in December for failing to co-operate with the ACU's investigation.

PCB's legal advisor Taffazul Rizvi said Jamshed was the "lynchpin" in the scandal.

"The tribunal has reached the ver-



Nasir Jamshed

dict that the PCB's multiple charges against Nasir Jamshed have been proved and he was banned for 10 years," Rizvi told reporters.

"He will not be allowed to be involved with cricket or cricket administration even after his period of ban is over."

Jamshed did not participate in the first two editions of the PSL but was alleged to have played a major role in the spot-fixing scandal that engulfed the Twenty20 tournament last year.

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

Kohli urges India to embrace 'backs to the wall' mentality

AFP | Nottingham, United Kingdom

India captain Virat Kohli said "the only option is to win this game" as he urged his side to make a virtue of their dire position heading into the third Test against England.

The tourists will start Saturday's fixture at Nottingham's Trent Bridge 2-0 down in a five-match series after a narrow loss at Edgbaston was followed by a thumping innings and 159-run defeat at Lord's last week.

Only once in Test history have a side come from 2-0 down to win a five-match series and that was when a Don Bradman-inspired Australia beat England in 1936/37.

But Kohli, speaking to reporters at Trent Bridge on Friday, was in defiant mood.

"The only thing that is spoken about it to focus on what the team requires at all times, in this Test match," he said.

"You know when your back is against the wall, that is the time for you not to think about anything else."

"If you look at it from another point of view, it's actually a good situation to be in because you literally have no room for thinking about anything else apart from what the team requires at that particular moment from you throughout the course of the Test match," the star batsman added.

"The only conversation we've had is



Virat Kohli

that the only option is to win this game and nothing else.

"As I have mentioned in the past, (it's) up to the individuals to stand up and say 'I'm going to go out there and make a difference.'"

'Feeling fine'

Kohli's own back was a concern for India after he was clearly in pain at Lord's, where he managed scores of just 23 and 17 after his impressive tally of 200 runs at Edgbaston, which included an innings of 149 -- the 29-year-old's maiden Test century in England.

But Kohli insisted he was fit to play at Trent Bridge.

"I'm feeling absolutely fine. It's been an issue that's coming on and off again.

