

Kohli keeps New Zealand at bay in World Test final



New Zealand's Kyle Jamieson celebrates his dismissal of India's Rohit Sharma

AFP | London

India captain Virat Kohli held firm in the face of accurate pace bowling as New Zealand fought back in the inaugural World Test Championship final at Southampton yesterday.

After Friday's first day was washed out without a ball bowled, India had reached 120-3 when bad light led the umpires to take the players off for an early tea on the second day -- a decision greeted by jeers from the crowd given the floodlights were on full beam.

Kohli was 35 not out and Ajinkya Rahane 13 not out, with towering New Zealand pacer Kyle Jamieson having miserly figures of 1-14 in 12 overs.

Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill took India to 62-0 after New Zealand captain Kane Williamson won the toss in overcast conditions that assisted his pace attack.

But India lost three wickets either side of lunch to be 88-3. Their position might have been worse had star batsman Kohli been given out caught behind down the legside off left-arm quick Trent Boult on 17.

But amid some on-field confusion, an umpire review led to replays that indicated Kohli

YOU KNOW WHAT

India played their first Test since March whereas only last week New Zealand completed a 1-0 series win over England with an eight-wicket victory at Edgbaston

had not hit the ball.

Rohit and Gill made a fine start amid New Zealand's swing and seam, even if a still-wet outfield meant they did not always get full value for their shots.

Sharma confidently clipped the first ball of the match, from Tim Southee, off his pads for three while Gill showed his class by driving Jamieson down the ground for four.

Gill, however, had a nasty moment on 23 when hit flush on the helmet by a Jamieson delivery that leapt off a good length.

Rohit brought up the 50 partnership with a stylish cover-driven four off all-rounder Colin de Grandhomme.

Early header secures 1-0 win for Argentina against Uruguay

Rodriguez gives Argentina Copa edge in tense derby win over Uruguay

● Ben Brereton caps full Chile debut with winner against Bolivia

AFP | Brasilia

Guido Rodriguez scored the only goal of the game as Argentina edged past fierce local rivals Uruguay in a disappointing Copa America clash.

The victory sent Argentina joint top of Group A with Chile on four points while Uruguay remain pointless.

These two sides played the first ever international match outside the United Kingdom and have played each other more times than any other local rivals.

They've won the Copa 29 times between them but familiarity can breed caution and for much of the encounter they cancelled each other out.

Six time Balon d'Or winner Lionel Messi had the first real chance, cutting in from the right onto his favoured left foot to force a full stretch save from goalkeeper Fernando Muslera, who was relieved to see Lautaro Martinez unable to turn in the rebound.

Moments later, Cristian Romero rose highest in the area to meet a Rodrigo De Paul cross but Muslera made a comfortable save.

The pressure was relentless in the early stages and Argentina took a deserved lead on 13 minutes as Messi got to the byline and stood up a cross to the back post where Rodriguez rose above his marker to head



Argentina's Guido Rodriguez celebrates scoring their first goal

home off the far post.

Uruguay gradually stemmed the tide and started to get a foothold in the game, only to see Argentina counter at pace before Muslera parried a fierce Nahuel Molina drive at his near post.

Despite enjoying the lion's share of possession, Uruguay were unable to test Argentina goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez. A slew of early substitutions in the second half disrupted the flow of the game and chances were at a premium.

Despite boasting Luis Suarez and Edinson Cavani up front, Uruguay struggled to create any chances of note.

When Matias Vina put in a devil of a ball across the six yard box, neither Suarez nor Cavani could get a touch to turn the ball in.

Soon afterwards, Suarez went for the spectacular with a leaping bicycle kick but sent the ball high over the bar.

Up the other end, Messi fired a

free-kick from 20 yards straight into the wall as the game pertered into a scrappy affair.

English touch

Earlier, English-born Ben Brereton was the unlikely hero as Chile beat Bolivia 1-0.

The 22-year-old Blackburn forward was born in Stoke-on-Trent to an English father and Chilean mother, and only made his national team debut on Monday when he came off the bench in Chile's 1-1 draw with Argentina.

But Brereton, who has played his entire career in the English Championship, was in the right place at the right time to finish off a rapier counter-attack and hand Chile victory.

Chile dominated the first period and could easily have gone in at half-time with a larger lead.

Bolivia's goalkeeper Carlos Lampe mounted almost solo resistance at times, saving from Jean Meneses, Erick Pulgar and Brereton.

BETTER YOU KNOW

The result extended Argentina's unbeaten run to 15 games since they lost in the semi-final of the last Copa America in 2019

The goal came after Bolivia were caught out by a lightning counter-attack on 10 minutes, with Eduardo Vargas squaring to Brereton, who calmly took one touch to beat a sliding defender and then slotted home with his second.

Soon after, Meneses lashed a shot just past the post and veteran captain Arturo Vidal put a header straight at Lampe.

Bolivia were under the cosh for much of the first half but still came close themselves through Roberto Fernandez, Erwin Saavedra and Ramiro Vaca.

Lampe, though, had to make seven saves before halftime to keep his team in the tie.

Bolivia made a good start to the second half and Chile goalkeeper Claudio Bravo was forced into a sprawling save to deny Saavedra.

The Bolivians created the better second half chances and were unlucky when a shot from substitute Danny Bejarano took a huge deflection before sailing just past the post. But it wasn't enough to earn their first point of the tournament.

Lacklustre England held as Scotland make their point

AFP | London

England missed a chance to book their place in the last 16 at Euro 2020 as Scotland kept their own hopes alive with a well deserved 0-0 draw on Friday.

Gareth Southgate's side would have been guaranteed to advance from Group D with a win over their old rivals at Wembley.

But lethargic England managed just one shot on target and Scotland's combative display could easily have earned all three points.

Despite a flop that saw them booed off at full-time, England have four points and will be certain of qualifying if they avoid defeat by the Czech Republic in their last group game on Tuesday.

"It was a frustrating night. We know we can play better. We've got to give Scotland credit. They defended valiantly and played well," Southgate said.

"We didn't do enough to win the game. We have a young team and some of them won't have experienced a night under this intensity and pressure."

Scotland, in their first major tournament since the 1998



Scott McTominay and Stuart Armstrong of Scotland scramble to get rid of the ball with Declan Rice of England in pursuit

World Cup, looked far more composed than in their opening 2-0 loss to the Czech Republic.

They remain in with a chance of going through if they win their final match against Croatia.

Ponderous England's lack of cutting edge was a major issue for Southgate, who responded to Harry Kane's second successive lacklustre effort by hauling off his captain after 75 minutes.

There had been questions raised about Kane after he failed to make an impact in England's

1-0 win against Croatia on Sunday.

Kane admitted he was not undroppable this week and Southgate has a difficult decision to make over the Tottenham striker, who finished as the Premier League's top scorer this term but has suddenly lost his touch.

With an average age of 25 years and 31 days, England's starting line-up was their youngest ever in a major tournament match and as one of the few senior players, Kane hardly led by example.

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GARETH SOUTHGATE

"The whole team can look at ourselves, that starts with me. We've got to be better," Southgate said of Kane.

Meeting in a major tournament for the first time since England's win at Euro 96, this was a redemptive performance for Scotland, whose fans serenaded their team at full-time.

"We played well. We were unfairly criticised after the game on Monday. I have a good group of players and they showed that tonight," Scotland boss Steve Clarke said.

"I'm delighted for the players. You wouldn't have known which team was the favourite, which is a credit to us."

It was the 115th clash between England and Scotland, an ancient rivalry that dates back to 1872 on the pitch and centuries earlier off it.

Schick says goal celebration a tribute to MMA fighter

AFP | Glasgow

Czech striker Patrik Schick said yesterday his celebration after he scored a penalty in the 1-1 draw against Croatia at Euro 2020 was a tribute to his favourite MMA fighter.

The Bayer Leverkusen forward put the Czechs ahead on 37 minutes when Dejan Lovren caught him in the face with an elbow and the referee pointed to the spot after consulting VAR.

Ivan Perisic then scored early into the second half of Friday's game to secure Croatia their first point of the tournament.

With tampons up his bloodied nose and blood smears on his face, Schick ran to a TV



Patrik Schick celebrates after scoring

camera in the corner of the pitch, showing his flexed biceps.

"I wanted to look like Nate Diaz, who is usually covered with blood after each fight. I was just imitating him," Schick told reporters.

Diaz is an American mixed martial arts fighter signed with the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC).

Today's games

Euro 2020

Group A: Italy vs Wales (19:00, Rome)

Group A: Switzerland vs Turkey (19:00, Baku)

Results

EURO 2020

Team	Goals	Opponent	Goals
Hungary	1	France	1
Portugal	2	Germany	4
Spain	1	Poland	1

*Scores as of closing