

## 'Frightening' Archer won't let-up against Australia says Stokes

AFP | London

England's Ben Stokes has told Australia to expect more bouncers from Jofra Archer in the remainder of the Ashes.

"It's part of the game and a big part of Jofra's game, being aggressive, not letting batsmen settle," said Stokes.

World Cup-winning fast bowler Archer produced a hostile and compelling display on debut as the rain-affected second Test ended in a draw at Lord's on Sunday.

Not only did he take five wickets, he repeatedly unsettled Australia with a short-pitched balls. The 92mph bouncer that hit Steve Smith on the neck forced the star batsman to miss the last day with concussion.

"When someone takes a nasty blow no bowler is going to say 'I'm not going to bowl that again because I don't want to hit them again,'" Stokes, a lively seam bowler, added.

## Serena to return to Auckland for Aussie Open warm-up

AFP | Wellington

Serena Williams announced yesterday she will warm-up for January's Australian Open at the Auckland Classic, a tournament that has mixed memories for the American superstar.

Williams slumped to a shock second-round loss in her only previous appearance in New Zealand in 2017, lashing out at windy conditions she described as some of the "least favourite" she had ever experienced.

But she went on to win the Australian Open later that month, claiming the most recent of her 23 majors to pass Steffi Graf's Open-era benchmark of 22.

Serena Williams



# Sandgren downs Murray

Andy Murray falls to Tennys Sandgren in Winston-Salem Open first round

## Lee Duck-hee becomes first deaf player to win an ATP main draw match

AFP | Washington

Andy Murray on Monday fell in the first round of the ATP Winston-Salem Open, where the three-time Grand Slam champion was giving his surgically repaired hip just its second test in singles.

Britain's Murray, who feared in January that his hip trouble would end his career, accepted a wild card into this week's tournament in North Carolina after falling in his singles comeback in Cincinnati last week.

He again showed glimpses of his once-dominant self, but was inconsistent in a 7-6 (10-8), 7-5 loss to 73rd-ranked American Tennys Sandgren in a match lasting 2 hours and 10 minutes.

"Some things were a bit better today I think," Murray said. "I was hitting the ball a bit cleaner than I did maybe in Cincinnati... I feel like I moved fairly well to some drop shots, which maybe last week I wasn't running to."

"So there's some good things in there but also some stuff I would like to do better."



Andy Murray, of Great Britain, returns to Tennys Sandgren, of the United States

Murray did not even reach the court until after 10 pm, thanks to a lengthy rain delay that pushed back his start time by more than three hours.

Sandgren gutted out a tough service hold in an opening game that went to deuce nine times, saving one break point as they went to the first-set decider without a break of serve.

The American needed four set points -- and saved one -- in taking the tiebreaker.

A deflated Murray was quickly down 3-0 with two breaks of

serve in the second.

He clawed one back, and broke again when Sandgren coughed up two double faults while serving for the match at 5-4.

But Sandgren broke Murray again in the next game and then took full advantage of his second chance, capping the match with a forehand winner on his first match point.

"Physically, (I'm) OK considering -- no pain, no discomfort. Just a little bit more tired than usual," Murray said.

## Landmark for Lee

Having said in Cincinnati he would discontinue doubles to focus on returning to peak singles form, Murray said he might consider playing an ATP Challenger Tour event before heading to Asia, where he is entered in September's Zhuhai Championships and the China Open.

"Maybe I need to play a level down to get some matches and build my game up a little bit before I start playing on the tour again," he said.



Andy Murray is still searching for his first singles win since hip surgery

In other action on a day when rain wreaked havoc on the schedule, South Korean Lee Duck-hee became the first deaf player to win an ATP Tour match, beating Switzerland's Henri Laaksonen 7-6 (7/4), 6-1.

"My message for people who are hearing impaired is to not be discouraged. If you try hard, you can do anything," said Lee, who will next face third-seeded Hubert Hurkacz of Poland.

Lee was two points from victory when thunderstorms swept through.

When he and Laaksonen returned some five hours later, Lee quickly polished off a win he admitted he hadn't been expecting.

"I thought that I was just going to do my best and try to stay focused," Lee said. "But I came out a winner."

## New Zealand better acclimatised after Galle loss: Southee

Reuters | Colombo

New Zealand's loss in the first test against Sri Lanka had been a lot closer than the six-wicket defeat suggested and the side had learned a lot about how best to play in local conditions, according to pace bowler Tim Southee.

New Zealand's only warm-up game was badly affected by torrential rain and the Black Caps went into the match in Galle a little underdone.

Despite that, Southee felt his side had been

competitive throughout and it was really only a century-stand between captain Dimuth Karunaratne (122) and Lahiru Thirimanne (64) as they chased 268 for victory that separated the two sides.

"We played some good cricket throughout the five days but Sri Lanka were just better in the back end of the game," said Southee, who was confirmed yesterday as the captain for the Twenty20 series following the second test in Colombo.

"We showed glimpses throughout and the guys learned a lot from playing in these con-

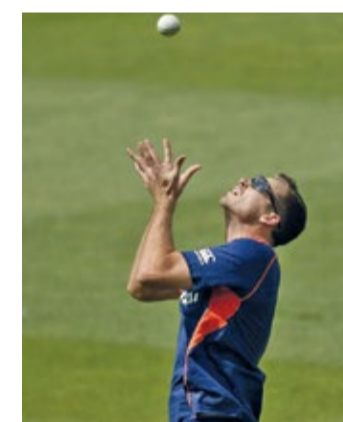
ditions.

"Hopefully we can put in the hard work and turn out a performance over the next test match."

Southee and his fellow pace bowler Trent Boult, who will miss the three-match T20 series along with regular captain Kane Williamson, were barely used on an unresponsive Galle pitch.

The spin trio of Ajaz Patel, Will Somerville and Mitchell Santner combined for 128 of the 179 overs bowled by New Zealand in the match.

Southee bowled just seven



Tim Southee takes a catch during nets overs in the first innings and 12 in the second.

"It's a tough one because you know that you're only going to get a short spell, so you walk a fine line of not trying too much and trying to keep it tight but still trying to take a wicket," the 30-year-old added.

"I guess we're doing more of a support role for the spinners who are more attacking in these conditions."

New Zealand's top-six batsmen failed to truly fire in the first test with only Ross Taylor, who scored 86 in the first innings, and wicketkeeper BJ Watling (77 in the second), posting substantial scores.

## Maguire calls for social media clampdown over Pogba racist abuse

AFP | London

Manchester United defender Harry Maguire called on social media giants Twitter and Instagram to be more pro-active to stop "pathetic trolls" after teammate Paul Pogba became the latest player to suffer racist abuse online.

Pogba was targeted after his penalty was saved in United's 1-1 draw at Wolves on Monday just days after Chelsea striker Tammy Abraham suffered similar abuse.

"Disgusting. Social media need to do something about it," Maguire, the world's most expensive defender after an £80 million (\$97 million) move from Leicester earlier this month, posted on Twitter.

"Every account that is opened should be verified by a passport/

driving licence. Stop these pathetic trolls making numerous accounts to abuse people. @Twitter @instagram."

United said they were "disgusted" by the abuse and "utterly condemn" it.

"The individuals who expressed these views do not represent the values of our great club and it is encouraging to see the vast majority of our fans condemn this on social media also," the club said in a statement.

"Manchester United has zero tolerance of any form of racism or discrimination and a long-standing commitment to campaigning against it through our #AllRedAllEqual initiative.

"We will work to identify the few involved in these incidents and take the strongest course of action available to us. We also encourage social media companies to take action in these

cases."

Many commentators argued that Pogba should have let Marcus Rashford take the vital penalty at Molineux after the England international scored from the spot against Chelsea on the opening weekend of the season.

However, Rashford also showed his public support for Pogba.

"Manchester United is a family. @paulpogba is a huge part of that family. You attack him you attack us all..." said Rashford.

As well as Abraham, Championship side Reading's Yakou Meite have suffered similar abuse in the past week.

Anti-discrimination charity "Kick It Out" published a report in July that stated incidents of racist abuse increased by 43 percent last season.

"The number of posts such as these since the start of the sea-

son further highlights how discriminatory abuse online is out of control," the body said yesterday.

"Without immediate and the strongest possible action these cowardly acts will continue to grow."

Abraham missed the final penalty in a shootout as Chelsea lost to Liverpool in the UEFA Super Cup last Wednesday. The posts aimed at him were described as "abhorrent" by Chelsea and manager Frank Lampard said he was "disgusted".

Lampard also called for

social media sites to do more to prevent players being abused while Abraham has said he wants to "silence the haters" with his performances on the pitch.

Chelsea banned a supporter for life in July for racially abusing Manchester City's Raheem Sterling last season.

Five others were excluded for periods of between one and two years for abusive language.

I v o r y Coast international Meite



Paul Pogba

Disgusting. Social media need to do something about it. Every account that is opened should be verified by a passport/driving licence. Stop these pathetic trolls making numerous accounts to abuse people. @Twitter @instagram

HARRY MAGUIRE

missed a penalty in time added on for Reading on Sunday against Cardiff but his side had the match already wrapped up at 3-0.