

Five-wicket Duffy prompts West Indies collapse as New Zealand win series 2-0

Historic twin centuries from openers set the platform for a comprehensive New Zealand triumph

- New Zealand win by 323 runs
- West Indies collapsed after strong start
- Conway and Latham set world records

AFP | Mount Maunganui

New Zealand crushed West Indies by 323 runs after tea yesterday to win the third Test at Mount Maunganui and seal a 2-0 series victory, with Jacob Duffy's five-wicket haul proving crucial to the win. The hosts set a target of 462 and bowled out the tourists for 138, wrapping up the innings in just four overs after tea following a dramatic collapse either side of lunch.

Duffy finished with 5-42, backed up by Ajaz Patel, who claimed 3-23, while opener Brandon King top-scored for West Indies with 67.

New Zealand's Devon Conway scored 227 and 100 in two innings, while captain Tom Latham scored 137 and 101 -- the first opening pair in first-class cricket history to score twin cen-



New Zealand's Tom Latham (L), Jacob Duffy and Kane Williamson (R) leave the field at the end of play

turies in the same match -- to help set up the Black Caps' win. The series began with a draw in Christchurch, before New Zealand won the second Test in Wellington.

On a cracked surface offering uneven movement and bounce, seamer Duffy and spinner Patel posed constant danger to both

edges of the bat. West Indies collapsed from 87-0 to 112-8 either side of lunch. The visitors had started the day 43-0, with Brandon King on 37 and John Campbell on two. King dominated early, hitting a flurry of cuts and drives and scoring 53 of the teams first 59 runs.

Initially, New Zealand captain Latham's fields lacked aggression on a pitch that looked increasingly difficult to bat on, but that changed after the drinks break.

Duffy broke the opening stand at 87, King gloving a rising delivery to Glenn Phillips at gully for 67.

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Devon Conway and Tom Latham became the first opening pair in first-class history to score twin centuries in the same match, while combining for a world-record 515 runs as an opening duo

Patel struck in the next over, removing Campbell for 16 after a rash attempt to slog down the ground. Phillips then took another good catch in the deep.

Patel claimed another soon after, first-innings centurion Kaven Hodge falling for a duck with Rachin Ravindra taking a catch at silly square leg.

Hodge's preparation before the match was hampered by a series of poor throwdowns dished out by a coaching assistant, with head coach Daren Sammy stepping in.

Duffy then dismissed Alick

Athanaze for two and Justin Greaves for nought in successive overs, leaving the West Indies reeling.

Duffy struck again two overs later, with Alick Athanaze edging to keeper Tom Blundell for 2, before removing Justin Greaves for nought with an edge to Daryl Mitchell at slip.

Duffy had Roston Chase caught off the gloves by Tom Latham at slip for five, capping a miserable series for the West Indies captain.

Chase scored just 42 runs at an average of seven in three matches, the second worst figures for a skipper dismissed six or more times in a Test series.

Patel claimed Shai Hope's wicket for three from 78 balls after a controversial lbw review. Having not played a shot, the ball was deemed to be hitting Hope's foot on the full and going on to hit the stumps.

Glenn Phillips then took his first wicket of the match, bowling a hobbled Kemar Roach for four, who is nursing a hamstring strain.

Ravindra was introduced in the final session and snared Anderson Phillip's wicket with an lbw, before Duffy wrapped up the innings bowling Jayden Seales.

Jesus could start for Arsenal in League Cup, says Arteta

AFP | London

Mikel Arteta has hinted that he is ready to hand Gabriel Jesus his first start in nearly a year in Arsenal's League Cup quarter-final against Crystal Palace on Tuesday.

The Premier League leaders host Oliver Glasner's side at the Emirates, desperate to end the club's six-year trophy drought.

Jesus scored a hat-trick in Arsenal's last-eight win against Palace last season before they fell to Newcastle in the semi-finals.

The Brazil international then spent 11 months on the sidelines after he ruptured the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee.

But, following three substitute appearances, Jesus could be unleashed from the start against Palace, with Arteta set to rotate



Gabriel Jesus is seen during a warm-up (file photo)

a side that faces six matches in 20 days. Chelsea await the winners. Arteta said former Manchester City forward Jesus, 28, was

ready to start. "You can see now, not only in games but every day in training how much he wants it so he's going to deserve a chance soon,"

he said. "It has been a real intense journey. When he joined us he lifted the belief, the spirit and the energy of the team and he gave something very different to what we already had and was very impressive.

"Then he had some very bad injuries and that hasn't allowed him to have the consistency we need from a very important player.

"He is back and his fighting spirit, his desire to always prepare in the best way is unbelievable. The team is together now and we need to use it."

Jesus could take the place of Viktor Gyokeres, who, despite scoring from the penalty spot in Arsenal's 1-0 win at Everton on Saturday, has not found the back of the net from open play in his past six appearances.

Knicks' Brunson scores 47, Bulls edge Hawks epic

AFP | New York

Jalen Brunson scored a season-high 47 points as the New York Knicks toppled the Miami Heat 132-125 on Sunday.

Star point guard Brunson also managed eight assists and three rebounds, in his highest-scoring performance ever at the Knicks' Madison Square Garden home.

The in-form New York team's eighth win in nine games improves their record to 20-8 in the Eastern Conference, where they sit second behind the Detroit Pistons.

That hot streak includes the Knicks' NBA Cup final victory last week, which ended their 52-year trophy drought.

Kel'el Ware top scored for



New York Knicks' Jalen Brunson in action

Miami, with 28 points as well as 19 rebounds. The Heat have now lost seven of their last eight, and fall to 15-14.

Elsewhere, the Chicago Bulls edged the highest-scoring game of the NBA season so far, holding off a late rally in a tight clash against the Atlanta Hawks to prevail 152-150.

Man City players face Christmas weigh-in as Guardiola issues 'fatty' warning

AFP | London

Manchester City's players face a Christmas City's players weigh-in to check they have not over-indulged over the festive period -- with Pep Guardiola warning they will be dropped if they have piled on the pounds.

City enjoyed a comfortable 3-0 win over Premier League strugglers West Ham on Saturday to keep the pressure on leaders Arsenal.

But Guardiola, who has won six league titles during his spell at the Etihad, is famously demanding, revealing his men had



Pep Guardiola

been weighed before their short

break. "Every player makes a weight," said the City boss. "They come back on the 25th and I will be there controlling how many kilos come up, (to see if) they come fatty.

"The moment they arrive after three days I want to see how they come back. They can eat but I want to control them."

The Spaniard said players who returned to the club overweight would not play against Forest on December 27.

"Imagine one player and now he's perfect but he will arrive with three kilos more. He will

(stay) in Manchester," he said. "He will not travel to Nottingham Forest."

Guardiola said it was important his men relaxed during a packed calendar as he heads to Barcelona for a brief rest.

"The schedule is so tight and the players have to forget," he said. "The more they arrive in the right moment (the better). The moment of the game they will be fresh in the legs.

"The players have to go with the families and forget football. It's good. For them to see the manager every day -- that's so tough."

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