

England win final Test to clinch series 3-1 over SA



England players pose for photographers after receiving their trophy at the end of day four of the fourth cricket Test match between South Africa and England at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg, South Africa on Jan 27. (AP)

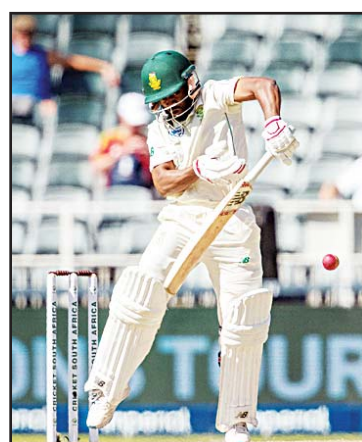
Poms beat Proteas by 191 runs

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 27, (AP): England blew through South Africa's resistance quickly in the end to win the fourth and final Test by 191 runs on Monday and clinch a convincing 3-1 series victory. South Africa were all out for 274 in their second innings on the fourth day at the Wanderers, way off the huge target of 466 that would have been a world record if South Africa got there.

The home team didn't come close as England took two wickets in the first session of the fourth day, two right at the end of the second session, and then ran through South Africa in dominant fashion in the late afternoon.

Joe Root said through the series that an England victory would be the most significant in his three-year reign. He has what he wanted.

The margin of victory was also significant. It's the most convincing performance by an England team in South Africa in more than 100 years, since England won a five-Test series 4-0 in 1914, six months before the



South Africa batsman Temba Bavuma takes evasive action against a high ball from England bowler Ben Stokes on day four of the fourth cricket Test match between South Africa and England at the Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg, South Africa on Jan 27. (AP)

outbreak of World War I. It's England's second straight series win in South Africa for the first time in 50 years.

Mark Wood was England's bowling hero with 4-54 in the second innings and nine wickets in the match, his second Test of an impressive return after being out of the team with injury for nearly a year.

Bowling fast, Wood clinched it with the wicket of Anrich Nortje, caught behind by wicketkeeper Jos

Buttler. The decision didn't immediately go England's way, but the tourists reviewed and the TV replays confirmed their triumph.

The England players were already celebrating in the Johannesburg sunshine anyway.

Star all-rounder Ben Stokes proved his worth on the final day, as he's done all series, with crucial breakthroughs to get rid of stubborn South Africa opener Dean Elgar (24) and captain Faf du Plessis (35). The wicket of du Plessis broke South Africa's most meaningful partnership. Du Plessis and Rassie van der Dussen put on 92 in a period of fight

of the day, a fierce, rising delivery in the direction of Temba Bavuma's throat that Bavuma gloved behind in an effort to fend it off. De Kock went down swinging, hitting six fours and a six before Wood forced him to mistime one and Chris Woakes took an easy catch at mid-off.

There was a nice moment when South Africa's Vernon Philander was out.

It was Philander's final Test before retiring from international cricket and he'd been struck down by a right hamstring tear the day before. He still came out to bat and England players lined up to shake his hand as he walked off after getting out for 10.

This tour was coined the tour of hell for England when it started a month ago, when as many as 11 players were affected by a flu-like virus that contributed to England losing the first Test.

Opening batsman Rory Burns and key fast bowler Jofra Archer were then injured in the days leading up to the second Test, and England also lost its most successful Test bowler, James Anderson, to injury after the second Test.

Despite it all, England turned the series around dramatically to win the second Test by 189 runs, the third Test by an innings, and the series decider by another big margin.

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from the home team after lunch but England removed both in the space of an over on the brink of tea and surged to victory from there.

Stokes roared in and his delivery kept low to bowl du Plessis. Van der Dussen was out for 98 when he lofted a catch to Stuart Broad off Wood next over to end his chance of a maiden Test century in his debut series.

That double blow knocked the resistance out of South Africa. England finished it off effectively, taking the last seven wickets for just 87 runs.

After tea, Broad produced the ball

Pakistanis win series 2-0

Pakistan keep top T20 ranking after 'washout' vs Bangladesh

LAHORE, Pakistan, Jan 27, (AP): Pakistan retained its No. 1 ranking in the Twenty20 format after rain washed out the third and final match of the series against Bangladesh on Monday.

Rain arrived an hour before the scheduled toss at 1:30 pm local time (0830 GMT) before umpires called off the play at 3:55 pm local time, to the disappointment of around 5,000 fans at the Gaddafi Stadium.

Pakistan clinched the series 2-0 after beating world No. 9-ranked Bangladesh by five wickets and nine wickets, respectively.

Bangladesh's batsmen struggled in the absence of banned Shakib Al Hasan as well as wicketkeeper-batsman Mushfiqur Rahim, who opted out of the tour because of security concerns.

"Result-wise, we are probably disappointed," Bangladesh captain Mahmudullah said.

"As a captain, I wanted to give a better performance, a better show which we didn't do. The talent was there, the skill was there, but I think we didn't execute our skills good enough and they were better than us, obviously."

The No. 1 ranking, which Pakistan earned in January 2018, was under threat after the team lost eight of its nine T20s in 2019, but the recall of veteran batsmen Shoaib Malik and Mohammad Hafeez strengthened the batting line-up. Malik scored an unbeaten 58 in the first match, while Hafeez remained not out on 67 in the second game in two easy run-chases. A 3-0 loss at home and a 2-0 de-

feat in Australia forced Pakistan head coach and chief selector Misbah-ul-Haq to recall ageing Hafeez and Malik after Pakistan batsmen struggled in the shortest format.

"We checked the resources against Sri Lanka and Australia, but after that we realized we needed experience in the team," Misbah said. "The experience (of Malik and Hafeez) came to our use and I believe the doors are not closed for any player. Form and fitness are important, and they both are in good form and are also fit."

Bangladesh will return to Pakistan next month for the first Test, as part of the ICC World Test Championship, after agreeing to split the T20 series and two Test matches into three phases.

The officials of both the national

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cricket boards reached consensus in Dubai this month during a meeting facilitated by International Cricket Council chairman Shashank Manohar.

The first Test will be played in Rawalpindi from Feb 7-11. After a break of almost two months, Bangladesh will play an ODI and the second Test in Karachi from April 3-9.

Late last year, Sri Lanka also split its tour to Pakistan into two phases when it played a T20 series in Lahore then returned in December for two Test matches in Rawalpindi and Karachi, staying in Pakistan for 16 days.



Pakistan cricket players celebrate their victory against Bangladesh at Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore, Pakistan on Jan 27. (AP)

Canoeist Lapointe wins doping case citing 'bodily fluids' from boyfriend

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, Jan 27, (AP): A world champion canoeist won a doping case Monday after persuading a tribunal that her positive test was caused by bodily fluid contamination from her boyfriend.

The International Canoe Federation ended its investigation into 11-time world champion Laurence Vincent Lapointe, who tested positive for a steroid-like substance in July. She faced a four-year ban and could have missed her event's Olympic debut at

contamination," the governing body said in a statement, clearing her to return to competition.

The legal debate is similar to tennis player Richard Gasquet's 2009 acquittal in the "cocaine kiss" case. The Court of Arbitration for Sport accepted Gasquet's defense that kissing a woman who had taken cocaine in a Miami nightclub, after he had withdrawn injured from a tournament, caused his positive test.

The 27-year-old Vincent Lapointe was provisionally suspended for almost six months and missed the 2019 world championships, which was a key qualifying event for the Tokyo Olympics.

"You can't even imagine how relieved I am," Vincent Lapointe said at the news conference. "It feels good to put an end to this journey and just be able to concentrate on what I love, and get back on the water to prepare for the (Olympics)."

Vincent Lapointe can still qualify for the Olympic debut of women's canoe sprint events, with May options at races in Brazil and Germany.

Monday's ruling can be challenged at CAS by the World Anti-Doping Agency if it is not satisfied with the full ruling. Gasquet's case was brought to sport's highest court by a WADA appeal seeking a longer ban.



Lapointe

CANOEING

the 2020 Tokyo Games.

The Canadian canoe sprint racer and her lawyer detailed in a news program that laboratory analysis of hair from her then-boyfriend showed he was likely responsible for a tiny presence of ligandrol in her doping sample.

"It's pretty incredible," Vincent Lapointe's lawyer, Adam Klevinas, said at a news conference on Monday in Trois-Rivieres, Quebec. "It took months to get results, and then at the end, we got the idea to analyze the hair of her ex and to test a product he finally admitted to taking."

The key evidence came back from a laboratory ahead of the tribunal hearing in December called by the governing body of canoeing in Switzerland.

"The ICF has accepted Ms. Vincent Lapointe's evidence which supports that she was the victim of third-party

Kuwaiti Al-Ansari dominates Syria's Al-Masri

KUWAIT CITY, Jan 27: The end of the preliminary rounds of the First Arab Juniors Boxing Championship revealed the possible top winners in the ongoing event at Sulaibkhat Sports Club until Jan 29 under the patronage of Director General of the Public Authority for Sports (PAS) Dr Hamoud Al-Fuleiteh.

The battle for the championship title has been limited to six national teams with Algeria getting the lion's share through the qualification of 12

boxers out of 13 weight categories to the semi-finals, followed by Syria with nine qualifiers, Kuwait with eight, Egypt with seven, Iraq with six, Tunisia with five, Morocco and Palestine with

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two each, and Libya with one.

The final matches will start at 5:00 pm Tuesday for all the 13 weight categories, which will

comprise of 26 boxers representing nine Arab countries. All the boxers are aiming for the gold medals in the championship.

Kuwaiti boxer Muhammad Al-Ansari had a promising performance in the 54 kilograms category as he dominated the matches against Syria's Jafar Al-Masri, winning through unanimous decision; whereas his compatriot Saeed Al-Shammeri lost to Egypt's Muhammad Mahmoud in the 63 kilograms category.



Photos taken from the First Arab Juniors Boxing Championship.

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