

## SPORTS

## Bairstow, Root star in seven-wicket victory

## England complete series sweep of NZ

LEEDS, England, June 27, (AP): A dominant England swept New Zealand 3-0 in the Test series with an aggressive seven-wicket victory in the third and final Test on Monday.

After the first session was washed out due to rain on the final day, England motored to 296-3 in the middle session after resuming on 183-2.

"A 3-0 win against the best team in the world, it's absolutely phenomenal," Ben Stokes said after his team beat the world Test champions in his debut Test series as captain. "It's about the change of the mindset of the lads towards Test cricket. To say that we have done it so quickly is unbeliev-

able. Huge credit to (coach) Brendon McCullum and the backroom staff."

Joe Root (86 not out) and Jonny Bairstow (71 not out) played New Zealand bowlers at Headingley, hitting boundaries at will in a blistering 111-run stand as England cruised to the target in just over an hour on the fifth day.

## CRICKET

Bairstow, whose masterful 162 lifted England from a precarious 55-6 in the first innings, played yet another aggressive knock as he registered England's second fastest-ever test half

century off just 30 balls.

Bairstow finished off the game in style when he belted off-spinner Michael Bracewell for a four and a six in a superb 44-ball unbeaten knock.

"It was like some of the 50-over stuff," Root said while describing Bairstow as a "phenomenal player" after England knocked off the remaining 113 runs in 15.2 overs on the last day.

"He (Bairstow) has been hitting the ball really well ... it's great to see him do that, to bat with the confidence and freedom."

New Zealand had started the day on a high when Tim Southee had Ol-

lie Pope (82) clean bowled in the first over when play resumed after lunch. Pope, who hit 12 boundaries, took the game away from New Zealand with a brilliant 134-run stand with Root before his off stump was knocked over by Southee.

But Bairstow once again exhibited his power-hitting prowess as he provided Stokes and new coach Brendon McCullum a perfect start to their new roles.

Bairstow's classy century and debutant Jamie Overton's 97 revived England in the first innings before it was bowled out for 360 in reply to New Zealand's 329.



England's captain Ben Stokes, (center), holds the winners trophy as he stands with his teammates after their win on the fifth day of the third cricket Test match against New Zealand at Headingley in Leeds, England. (AP)

## 'So proud of our team'

## Elliott holds off 3 Joe Gibbs Racing drivers for 2nd Cup win of season

LEBANON, Tenn., June 27, (AP): Chase Elliott salvaged a crummy day for Hendrick Motorsports and interrupted a potential Toyota rout by winning the rain-drenched race at Nashville Superspeedway on Sunday night.

Elliott recovered from an early issue that dropped him deep into the field to take the lead with 38 laps remaining and hold off three Joe Gibbs Racing drivers for his second Cup victory of the season.

It took NASCAR's most popular driver nearly seven hours and a late four-lap shootout to get to victory lane. NASCAR moved the start up by 12 minutes because of looming bad weather, then sat through an hour-long stoppage for lightning in the area, followed by a later rain delay that stretched a tick past two hours.

"So proud of our team," Elliott said. "We had kind of a setback there about halfway and was able to get the Chevy dialed back in and get back in the mix. It was a long day, fun day."

The race resumed right at the halfway point with teams unsure if the full 300 laps would be completed or if the race would be stopped early because of more rain. Toyota controlled almost the entire event - four of its drivers combined to lead 253 laps - but the No. 5 Hendrick crew brought Elliott's Chevrolet to life in the closing stretch.

He had the race in hand when a caution came out with nine laps remaining and Elliott didn't pit from the lead for fresh tires. Nine other drivers stayed on track with him to create a pack of traffic that prevented the Toyotas from catching Elliott after they stopped for fresh tires.

"I figured it was coming. I was hoping not," Elliott said about the caution. He led two times for 42 laps. But he pulled away on the restart and beat Kurt Busch - in a Toyota for 23XI Racing - by 0.551 seconds.

"Getting a win is always huge. To do it in a really cool city like Nashville is even better. Looking forward to that guitar," Elliott said about Nashville's traditional winner's trophy.

"These things are hard to come by and you have to enjoy them. You never know when or if ever you will get another one. So, super thankful and looking forward to next week."

Elliott's other win this season was at Dover, which like Nashville is a concrete track.

Busch, who led three laps for Toyota, said he should have been harder on Elliott on the final restart.

"I got soft on him. I should have been throwing some fenders and moving some momentum around," said Busch. "I just needed to stick with our strength and I messed up. The way that we're running, a second is cool, but we're here for wins."

Ryan Blaney was third in a Ford and followed by Elliott's teammate Kyle Larson, the defending race winner. The JGR trio of Denny Hamlin, Kyle Busch and Martin Truex Jr. fell to sixth, 21st and 22nd after the late decision to stop for tires ahead of the final restart.

## CAR RACING

The race went bad for Hendrick Motorsports in a two-lap sequence shortly after it resumed following the early lightning delay.

William Byron headed to the garage with a broken steering rack on his Chevrolet minutes after the race resumed, and one lap later, Alex Bowman suffered severe damage when contact with Corey LaJoie caused him to spin.

Bowman derided LaJoie's talent on his team radio, while LaJoie asked his team to apologize to Bowman on his behalf. During a lengthy rain delay hours later, LaJoie posted to Twitter a T-shirt design that said "Really Good Race Car Driver" to mimic Bowman's insult.



Chase Elliott (9) passes JJ Yeley (15) during a NASCAR Cup Series auto race in Lebanon, Tenn. (AP)

## Chun edges Thompson to win third major title



In Gee Chun, of South Korea, holds the winners trophy after winning the KPMG Women's PGA Championship golf tournament at Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Md. (AP)

## Harrington holds off Stricker

BETHESDA, Md., June 27, (AP): In Gee Chun rallied after losing the rest of her once-sizeable lead, overcoming a bogey-filled front nine to win the Women's PGA Championship on Sunday when Lexi Thompson faltered with her putter.

Chun shot a 3-over 75 for the second consecutive day at Congressional, but that was enough to win her third major title by a stroke over Thompson and Minjee Lee.

Chun, after leading by six at the tournament's midway point, lost a three-shot advantage in the first three holes of the final round. Thompson was two strokes ahead of her after the front nine, but Thompson's putting problems were just beginning.

The 27-year-old Floridian botched a par putt from a couple feet on No. 14, but a birdie on 15 restored her lead to two. Then she was just right of the green on the par-5 16th, chipped over the green and made bogey while Chun made birdie, leaving them tied.

Thompson three-putted for bogey on 17, and after an impressive approach from the rough on 18, her birdie putt wasn't hit firmly enough.

## GOLF

Chun's approach on the par-4 18th bounced past the hole and just off the back of the green, but she putted to within about 5 feet and sank her par attempt for the win.

Thompson hasn't won an LPGA Tour event since 2019, and her lone major victory came as a teenager at Mission Hills in the California desert in 2014. She's certainly had chances. She lost a five-stroke lead during the final round of last year's U.S. Women's Open at Olympic Club.

Xander Schauffele won the Travelers Championship with a three-stroke swing on the final hole, hitting to 3 feet for birdie after rookie Sahith Theegala took two shots to get out of a bunker and made a double bogey in the group ahead.



Xander Schauffele hits from the rough on the second hole during the final round of the Travelers Championship golf tournament at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell, Conn. (AP)

A stroke in front entering the day, Schauffele finished with a 2-under 68 at TPC River Highlands to beat Theegala and J.T. Poston by two strokes. The Olympic champion had a 19-under 261 total.

Theegala shot a 67, and Poston had a 64.

Schauffele won for the sixth time on the PGA Tour and the second this season after teaming with Patrick Cantlay to win the Zurich Classic of New Orleans in April.

Theegala was lurking near the top of the leaderboard all day and grabbed a share of the lead on 15, driving the green on the par-4 hole and making a 4-foot birdie putt. He overtook Schauffele with an 11-footer for birdie on 17, pumping his fist.

But the former Pepperdine star hit his tee shot on 18 left and into the front lip of a fairway bunker. He needed two tries to get out the bunker.

His 12-foot bogey putt lipped out, and he fell to his knees in agony.

Padraig Harrington holed a 30-foot birdie putt on the 15th right when the last of his five-shot lead was about to vanish, and he closed with three tough pars for a 1-over 72 to hold off Steve Stricker and win the U.S. Senior Open.

Harrington never lost the lead at Saucon Valley on a day when he made it hard on himself.

Stricker, who started the final round eight shots behind, began making his run with consecutive birdies to finish the front nine, and he closed with two straight birdies for a 65.

That left him one shot behind, and the Irishman needed only pars to win for the first time on the PGA Tour Champions. It wasn't easy.

Harrington had to two-putt from above the ridge on the 16th, and he trickled it down to a foot. He was well below the ridge from about 50 feet away on the par-3 17th and, after running that by 6 feet, calmly rolled in the par putt.

On the closing hole, he was pin-high but some 35 feet away with a spine running through the line of his putt. He cozzied that to 3 feet and rapped it in for the win.

Harrington finished at 10-under 274. He is the third straight player to win the U.S. Senior Open in his debut, following Jim Furyk last year and Strick-

## Spain lose appeal, remain out of WC

DUBLIN, June 27, (AP): Spain will remain out of the Rugby World Cup next year after their appeal to overturn a penalty for using an ineligible player was dismissed Monday.

World Rugby said an independent appeal committee denied Spain's attempt to throw out a 10-point deduction that left them out of next year's tournament.

## RUGBY

The committee upheld the original decision that Spain used an ineligible player during qualifying matches. The points deduction came after World Rugby said copies of South Africa-born front-rower Gavin van den Berg's passport were altered to make him eligible.

Spain, which can't appeal Monday's decision, were trying to make their second World Cup appearance and first since 1999.

Spanish rugby officials tried to present new evidence but the committee denied it, saying they "had not adequately explained why this evidence was unavailable on reasonable enquiry ahead of the original hearing."

The appeal committee added that "it would not be in the interests of justice to do so after having regard for all of the circumstances, including consideration that part of the new evidence presented was not only incomplete, but contained allegations against the player and others relating to the alteration of a photocopy of a national identity document that was subject to ongoing investigations by the appropriate competent bodies in the Spanish jurisdiction."

Spanish rugby federation president Alfonso Feijoo had said he would resign when the appeal process was over. Feijoo said the federation was "deceived" by being given the forged copies of Van den Berg's passport, and that World Rugby and the European rugby federation also didn't see the irregularity.

er in 2019.

Haotong Li holed a 40-foot birdie putt on the first playoff hole to beat Thomas Pieters and win the BMW International Open for his first win in four years.

Li closed with a 2-under 70 and forced into a playoff by Pieters, who shot a 67.

The 26-year-old from China led the tournament since he tied the course record with a 62 in the opening round. Li looked like he might have blown his chance when a bogey on the 15th left him in a three-way tie with Pieters and Ryan Fox.

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