

# Key thing was to keep Virat quiet, says Philander

CAPE TOWN, JAN 9 /- The plan was to keep Virat Kohli quiet and South Africa's wrecker-in-chief Vernon Philander said his team executed it to perfection during the 72-run win over India in the opening Test here. "Virat is a good player and an aggressive player. The key thing is to obviously keep him quiet and to make sure you set him up for the other one. Initially it was for me to keep him quiet up front, and I always knew I had the one coming back," said Philander, who took a career-best six for 42.

It was probably two-and-a-half overs of away-swingers and then the one back at him (Kohli). It was definitely a plan to keep him quiet, and also to drag him across to make sure that when you do bowl the other one, he is on the other side of the off-stump. "I was not worried about his DRS review. I knew it was still his dead," he added, referring to the review asked by Kohli after on-field umpire ruled him out.

Asked if he had told anything to Kohli after the dismissal, Philander said: "I never said anything to Virat. It was in the spur of the moment. I just tried to spur my boys on; that's what we tend to focus on. We knew Virat was a big wicket to get, and trying him there and then I was just trying to motivate my boys on." With 208 to defend against India, Philander said he knew he had to quickly take the responsibility of spearheading the pace battery and put his team in a good position. "When you look at the type of score that you have to defend,

208, someone has to make the play. You can't wait for later in the game because there might not be a later on in the game," he said. "I knew that I had to bowl overs up front and put us in a good position, and I just wanted to bowl and make a difference." His 12th five-wicket haul in Test cricket also included the prized wicket of Ravichandran Ashwin, who had conjured up hopes of a revival for India with a fighting 37. The 32-year-old seamer credited his skipper Faf du Plessis for the tactics of having Quinton de Kock standing up to the stumps to get rid of Ashwin. "You have to be open to those suggestions, but I'll have to give this one to 'Faffie' (du Plessis)," he said. "Ashwin, at the time, was batting quite far out of his crease, and the wicket was a touch on the slow side and the ball was a bit older. I also felt that by pushing him back we could get all three dismissals into play." Ashwin shared a crucial 49-run eighth wicket stand with Bhuvneshwar Kumar to resurrect India's second innings after they were reduced to 82 for 7. Philander said: "You just have to remain calm. We had it in our arsenal to get those last three wickets. The team with the calmer head was going to come out on top. Coming out after Tea I was a bit on the stiff side and I had to bowl two or three overs to get myself going. Just before that last over I bowled, 'Faffie' was going to bowl Morne, and I said to him, Listen, I'm actually warm now, so I can bowl." Philander had to face criticism due to his lack of fitness during



the four-match Test against England last year and he said he initially took it personally before deciding to work on his fitness.

"I like people to be constructive and open and honest with us as players. There are two ways of taking it - you can take it personally and fade away, or you can take it on board and make a play," he said. "I took it a bit personally up front, you are all obviously human, but you try to get over it as quickly as possible, get better, do some work behind the scenes and come back stronger." With match-winning figures of 9-75 on his home ground, Philander gave South Africa a 1-0 lead in the three-Test series and he was all praise for the Newlands' pitch.

"Day one was a lot faster than we thought it was going to be. I walked out there and the spikes went straight in, and I said to Faf, I think it's going to be a touch on the slow side because of the moisture in the wicket," he said. "But it surprised all of us and was a bit harder than what we thought it's supposed to be. But it was a good cricket wicket," he added. Talking about the venue, Philander said: "It is a wonderful venue. The crowd is fantastic. Defending 208, there is no better place to play with crowd cheering you on and the momentum carrying you in." Bowling from the Kelvin Grove End is not unfamiliar but it's a bit out of my territory because I love the Wynberg End. But there was a little bit of pace from this end. I looked to be squatting a little bit. I had to use it to my advantage," he signed off. (PTI)

# Yusuf Pathan thanks BCCI for fair trial post doping ban

NEW DELHI, JAN 9 /- Indian all-rounder Yusuf Pathan has today handed a five-month retrospective suspension for failing a dope test, a sanction which will end on January 14 after the BCCI accepted his plea that the violation was inadvertent. "Mr Yusuf Pathan has been suspended for a doping violation. Mr Pathan had inadvertently ingested a prohibited substance during a domestic T20 match between his team Baroda and Tamil Nadu on March 16 last year." The sample was subsequently tested and found to contain Terbutaline. Terbutaline, a specified substance, is prohibited both in and out of competition in the WADA Prohibited List of Substances," the BCCI stated. Pathan, on his part, said he was confident of being cleared of deliberate usage and vowed to be more careful in future. "Competing for India and my home state Baroda has been a matter of immense pride and encouragement for me and I would never act in any manner to bring my motherland or Baroda, in any kind of disrepute," Pathan said in a statement. "In hindsight, I should have been more careful and checked the status of the medications with BCCI's dedicated Anti-Doping Helpline," he added. The all-rounder, who has played 57 ODIs and 22 T20 Internationals for India, was charged with the "commission of an Anti-Doping Rule Violation (ADRV) under the BCCI Anti-Doping Rules (ADR) Article 2.1 and provisionally suspended pending determination of the charge". He has not played for India since 2012 but has been seen in the Indian Premier League, turning up for the Kolkata Knight Riders. "Mr Pathan responded to the charge by admitting the ADRV and ascertained that it was caused by his ingestion of a medication containing Terbutaline that had been mistakenly given to him instead of the medication prescribed for him, which did not contain any prohibited substance," the BCCI explained. The BCCI said it is "satisfied" with Pathan's explanation that was using the medication to "treat an Upper Respiratory Tract Infection (URTI) and also as a performance-enhancing drug." Having considered all of the evidence and taken expert external advice, the BCCI has accepted Mr Pathan's explanation.



**Mr Yusuf Pathan has been suspended for a doping violation. Mr Pathan had inadvertently ingested a prohibited substance, which can be commonly found in cough syrup** —BCCI

# Picked Rohit over Rahane on current form: Kohli

CAPE TOWN, JAN 9 /- India captain Virat Kohli has defended the selection of Rohit Sharma in the opening cricket Test, saying he was picked ahead of "Hinky" Rahane on current form. "Well, we decided to go on current form. Mr Kohli scored runs in the last three Test matches that he has played, and he was batting well, even in the series against Sri Lanka," said Kohli in the post-match media conference. "These things can always be looked at in hindsight thinking what if or what if not. But we decided to go with this combination and current form was definitely the criterion," added Kohli. Rahane, who has not been among the runs of late, had a successful tour of South Africa four years ago. With 209 runs, he was third highest run-getter in the series behind Kohli (272 runs) and Cheteshwar Pujara (280). India lost the first Test by 72 runs with batting letting them down in both the innings. (PTI)

# Virat, Pujara slip in ICC Test rankings

DUBAI, JAN 9 /- The 72-run loss in the opening Test to South Africa has cost India skipper Virat Kohli a drop to the No.3 spot in the International Cricket Council (ICC) Test batsmen rankings, which were released here on Tuesday. Besides Kohli, India's batting mainstay Cheteshwar Pujara also dropped a couple of places to No.5 in the list headed by Australia skipper Steve Smith and followed by his England counterpart Joe Root.

India's Manjiv Vijay, Shikhar Dhawan and Rohit Sharma have also lost ground. Vijay is now 30th after dropping five places, Dhawan has slipped six places to 33rd, while Sharma has ended up 43rd. India's Murali Vijay, Shikhar Dhawan and Rohit Sharma have also lost ground. Vijay is now 30th after dropping five places, Dhawan has slipped six places to 33rd, while Sharma has ended up 43rd.

after falling three places. Among others, South Africa's Hashim Amla and Dean Elgar have slipped three places apiece to finish in 10th and 16th positions, respectively, but former skipper AB de Villiers has risen five places to 13th with a slot in the top-10 firmly within his sights. De Villiers struck 65 and 35 to stabilise the Proteas after their batting line-up faltered in both the innings.

South Africa opener Aiden Markram, who was declared Player of the Tournament in the ICC U19 Cricket World Cup in 2014, and India all-rounder Hardik Pandya are the other big movers from the Newlands Test. Markram has moved up six places to 48th, while Pandya is now ranked 49th after rocketing 24 places. Among the bowlers, South Africa pacer Kagiso Rabada has grabbed the numero uno spot in the ICC Test bowler's rankings, displacing Englishman James Anderson. Rabada starred with the red cherry, picking 3 for 34 and 2 for 41 in the opening Test at Newlands. Rabada, 22, earned five points for that performance, taking him past Anderson's tally of 487 by one point. Anderson's tally reduced by five points after the final Ashes Test in Sydney, where he took 1 for 56 in Australia's only innings. Vernon Philander, who was Man of the

Match for his nine wickets against India at Newlands, jumped from 12th place to sixth. Philander now trails Australia's sixth-ranked Josh Hazlewood by eight points and has an opportunity to break into the top-five following the Centurion Test, which begins on Saturday. Outside the top-20, India's Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Pat Cummins of Australia have achieved career-high rankings. Kumar has vaulted eight places to 22nd following figures of four for 67 and two for 38, while Cummins has led eight places and is now in 28th position after match figures of eight for 119, which also earned him the player of the match award.

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## AMWAY DARJEELING POLICE MARATHON

### Darjeeling Police & Amway India announce the 5th edition

EOI CORRESPONDENT

KOLKATA/SILIGURI, JAN 9 /- Darjeeling Police and Amway India, the country's leading Direct Selling FMCG Company, announced the fifth edition of Amway Darjeeling Police Marathon 2018 today. The marathon was held in Darjeeling in collaboration with GTA, Baghajatin Sports Club, Siliguri and to celebrate the 15th Birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. The objective behind organizing the Amway Darjeeling Police marathon is to spread awareness about health and fitness amongst people in

Darjeeling and North Bengal. The sporting event was also dedicated to establish peace and harmony between people of Hills and plains. Anju Bobby George, noted athlete, will flag off the Amway Darjeeling Police Marathon at Sukhika Pokhri 7.30 am. Chandra Chakraborty, Regional Manager, Eastern Region, Amway India, Mr. Siddh Nath Gupta, IPS, ADG - North Bengal, Mr. Manoj Kumar Verma, IPS, IG - Darjeeling, Mr. Ajay Kr. Nand, IPS, IG - CIE, Dr. Humayun Kabir, IPS, DIG - Darjeeling, Mr. Akhilesh Chaturvedi, IPS, SP, Darjeeling and Shri Amarnath K, IPS, Additional Superintendent of Police,

Darjeeling will also be present on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Akhilesh Chaturvedi, IPS, Superintendent of Police, Darjeeling, said, "Amway Darjeeling Police Marathon has moved on to become an international sporting event with introduction of half marathon in 2015. We hope this marathon will attract thousands of amateur and seasoned runners this year too from across the country as well as the globe."

Chandra Chakraborty, Regional Manager, East, Amway India, said, "We are delighted to continue our relationship with Darjeeling Mar-

athon for the fifth year in a row. The event has become bigger with each passing year. We hope that this marathon will inspire more people to live and adopt a healthy lifestyle." The Route: The fifth edition of Amway Darjeeling Police Marathon will be flagged off at Sukhika Pokhri, Forest depot Ground at 7.30 am on 12th January and traverse through Darjeeling city touching vantage points like Lapchey Jagat, Pooong Phatak, Ghoom Bhanjan, Ghoom Railway Station, Dali Fatak, Darjeeling Railway Station, Padmasa Naidu Zoological Garden, Himalayan Mountaineering Institute and conclude at Chowrasta.