



UP, UP AND AWAY: South African batsman Herschelle Gibbs launches the sixth and record breaking six off Netherlands bowler Daan van Bunge as wicketkeeper Jeroen Smits looks on during their Group A World Cup match at Warner Park in Saint Kitts and Nevis on Friday.

## Gibbs devours Dutch

AFP, Basseterre



Herschelle Gibbs became the first man to hit six sixes in an over in a one-day international while Jacques Kallis smashed an unbeaten century as South Africa inflicted a 221-run World Cup defeat on the Netherlands here on Friday.

Gibbs hit a robust 40-ball 72 coupled with Kallis's unbeaten 128 as South Africa's batsmen pulverised hapless Dutch bowling to muster 353-3 in a Group A match reduced to 40-overs-a-side.

Ryan ten Doeschate then hit a fighting 57 as the Netherlands managed 132-9 in their 40 overs.

Doeschate shared a 42-run sixth wicket stand with Tim de Leede who made 21, in an otherwise dismal batting show by the Dutch.

Mark Boucher joined the run-feast with a rapid-fire 31-ball, unbeaten 75 which included nine boundaries and four sixes.

He also hit the fastest half-century in a World Cup match beating West Indian Brian Lara's 23-ball feat against Canada at Centurion in 2003 by two deliveries.

But it was Gibbs who grabbed the headlines.

He launched into Dutch right-arm leg-break bowler Daan van Bunge in the 30th over, hitting him for five straight sixes and one to deep mid-wicket at the Warner Park ground.

"It's up there with the best things I've done," said Gibbs.

"I never thought about getting six in a row, but if it's your day, it's your day."

"After the first three I thought I was in with a chance, but I decided I wasn't going to charge him, I'd wait to see what he does and luckily they fell into the right slot."

Kallis hit eleven boundaries and five sixes during his unbeaten 109-ball knock and added 115 runs for the third wicket with Gibbs off just 71 balls.

South Africa hit 18 sixes in all

beating Pakistan's record of most sixes in a one-day innings of 14 hit against Sri Lanka at Nairobi in 1996-97.

The 33-year-old Gibbs followed West Indian great Sir Gary Sobers and India's Ravi Shastri who both hit six sixes in an over but they came in first class cricket.

Sobers was the first to reach the landmark playing for

Nottinghamshire against Glamorgan at Swansea in 1968 with Malcolm Nash the bowler taking the punishment.

Former India all-rounder Ravi Shastri then equalled the feat playing for Bombay against Baroda in 1984.

Gibbs, playing his 199th match, finally holed out to van Bunge at long-on off Dutch captain Luuk van Troost in the 31st over much to the sigh of relief of some 500 orange-clad Dutch fans among a disappointing crowd of 3000.

He hit seven sixes and four boundaries during his entertaining innings.

Kallis, who watched Gibbs' onslaught at the other end, reached his 15th one-day hundred off 97 balls studded with ten boundaries and two sixes.

South African skipper Graeme Smith hit a 59-ball 67 with six boundaries and a six after his team had lost opener AB de Villiers, caught behind off the second ball of the innings to paceman Billy Stelling.

The historic feat will also cost a leading drinks firm one million dollars.

The Johnnie Walker company had already agreed to donate the money to charity in honour of the first player to register the landmark.

Gibbs also erased Sanath Jayasuriya's record of most runs in a one-day over which stood at 30 — achieved twice against Pakistan's Aamir Sohail in Singapore in 1996 and New Zealander Chris Harris at Sharjah five years later.

## If it's your day ...

BBC ONLINE, undated

Herschelle Gibbs said hitting six sixes in an over in South Africa's World Cup win over the Netherlands was "up there with the best things" he has done.

The 33-year-old said: "I never thought about getting six in a row, but if it's your day, it's your day."

"After the first three I thought I was in with a chance, but I decided I wasn't going to charge him (Daan van Bunge), I'd wait to see what he did."

"I just stayed in my crease and luckily they fell into the right slot."

Holland captain Luuk van Troost said van Bunge was somehow coming to terms with the day's events.

"He had some flashbacks — he started laughing when he was sitting in the dressing room," said Van Troost.

"I told him after the third ball to try to bowl a quicker one — he said, 'I just did'."

"There were a few good balls in it and a few bad balls in it as well."

"It's terrible to be a captain in that situation — I didn't know where to put my players anymore. It was a nightmare."

Former West Indies hero Sir Viv Richards had hoped on the eve of the World Cup that six successive sixes would be hit.

He said: "These days we are seeing more and more big totals"

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## 'A great relief'

AFP, Gros Islet

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming said his side now had a "game in hand" after beating England by six wickets in their opening match of the World Cup.

Both Test nations are overwhelming favourites to qualify from a Group C also featuring Canada and Kenya.

And, if that does happen, New Zealand will carry two points forward into the second phase, Super Eight stage.

That could yet prove important but the 33-year-old Fleming, a veteran of 271 one-day internationals and New Zealand's most experienced captain, said he wouldn't be getting carried away by Friday's victory.

"It's not the be all and end all. We tried to look at both sides of it and have two answers in case we didn't get the two points. It's somewhere in the middle. It's like a game in hand although we have to do the right work in these next two games."

"But the four teams carrying a win could easily lose the first game (in the Super Eights) and then you are back to scratch," the left-handed opening batsman added.

New Zealand and England both beat each other twice in the tri-series in Australia which England won last month.

But Friday belonged to the Black Caps.

They held England to 209 for

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## Styris, Oram see off Eng

AFP, Gros Islet



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Friday.

Chasing 210 for victory, New Zealand finished on 210 for four with nine overs to spare after having recovered from 19 for three in five overs.

They were still in trouble at 72 for four before an unbeaten stand of 138 between all-rounders Scott Styris (87 not out) and Jacob Oram (63 not out) saw them home.

The teams — who beat each other twice during England's tri-series triumph in Australia completed last month — are favourites to qualify from a group also featuring Kenya and Canada.

Assuming both Test sides do go through, New Zealand will carry forward two points into the second phase, Super Eight stage.

"It's not the ideal start but we will have to pick ourselves up in time to face Canada on Sunday," said England skipper Michael Vaughan.

"New Zealand played a good game. We got back into it but then lost a cluster of wickets in the middle," added the skipper in reference to a dramatic England collapse which saw them slump from 133-3 to 138-7.

New Zealand captain Stephen Fleming praised his team who will have a crucial two points to take through to the next round.

"It was a crucial game and both teams were battling for the points," said Fleming.

"Important players put their hands up at the right time — Shane Bond and then Styris and Oram. It's a big win and we're on the board."

England, whose modest total of 209 was achieved only after they were rescued from the depths of

New Zealand drew first blood against England as they won the teams' World Cup Group C opener by six wickets here

138 for seven by an unbroken partnership of 71 between wicketkeeper Paul Nixon (42 not out off 41 balls) and Liam Plunkett (29 not out), made a sensational start in the field.

James Anderson, doubtful for the match with a fractured finger, struck with the sixth ball when Lou Vincent fell for nought after edging to Nixon.

New batsman Ross Taylor then exited for a first ball duck, a nicked drive off Plunkett brilliantly caught one-handed by a diving Andrew Flintoff at first slip.

Black Caps captain Stephen Fleming at least managed seven before a miscued pull off Anderson was well-held by Ed Joyce, running round from square leg.

From 19 for three Styris, who'd earlier taken two for 25, counter-attacked alongside the experienced Craig McMillan.

Their stand was worth 53 when Monty Panesar came on and, with his second ball, the left-arm spinner had McMillan (27) lofting to Jamie Dalrymple in the covers.

Styris pressed on, completing a 70-ball fifty by sweeping off-spinner Dalrymple for his sixth four.

England's lack of runs now started to hurt and hopes of victory all but disappeared when Kevin Pietersen, at short cover, dropped a catch he should have held when Styris, on 61, checked a drive off Panesar.

Oram, who lofted Panesar for a straight six, got to his fifty in 68 balls with two fours in a well-paced display.

Earlier Pietersen, in his first full international since January after sustaining a rib injury in Australia, top scored for England with 60.

From 133 for three, England lost four wickets for five runs, three going down for one run in seven balls as key batsmen Paul Collingwood (31), Pietersen and Flintoff, out for a first ball nought, all fell in quick succession.

Fast bowler Shane Bond took two wickets in four balls as Pietersen tamely holed out to

James Franklin at long-on before Flintoff chipped to Styris at short cover.

Medium-pacer Styris had started the slump when he removed Collingwood after an attempted guide to third man was well-held by Brendon McCullum — one of four catches for the wicket-keeper — to end a fourth-wicket stand of 81, the best of England's innings.

Fleming, on a pitch freshened by early morning rain, which delayed the start by 30 minutes, saw his decision to field first vindicated second ball when left-arm quick Franklin had Ed Joyce caught behind for nought.

England captain Michael Vaughan, battling a hamstring injury that saw him play just three one-dayers in Australia, looked in good touch. But on 26 he bottom-egged a pull off Franklin into his stupor.

England play Canada on Sunday while New Zealand face Kenya, seven-wicket winners over the North Americans, on Tuesday.

### SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the World Cup Group C match between England and New Zealand at Beausejour Cricket Ground in St Lucia on Friday:

ENGLAND		
Joyce c McCullum b Franklin		0
Vaughan b Franklin		26
Bell c McCullum b Oram		5
Pietersen c Franklin b Bond		60
Collingwood c McCullum b Styris		31
Flintoff c Styris b Bond		0
Dalrymple c McCullum b Styris		3
Nixon not out		42
Plunkett not out		29
Extras: (lb-2, w-4, nb-7)		13
Total: (For 7 wks in 50 overs)		209
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-30, 3-52, 4-133, 5-133, 6-134, 7-138.		

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STERLING EFFORT: New Zealand batsmen Scott Styris (L) and Jacob Oram celebrate at the end of the match against England during their Group C World Cup match at the Beausejour ground in Gros Islet on Friday.

## Scott does it in style

AFP, Gros Islet



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England: bat.

And the 31-year-old did that and more, scoring an unbeaten 87 as the Black Caps ultimately cruised to victory in their World Cup opener here Friday by six wickets with nine overs to spare.

But victory looked anything but assured when Styris came in at three for two. He could only watch as the Kiwis slumped to 19 for three and then 72 for four.

But together with fellow seam-bowling all-rounder Jacob Oram (63 not out) he shared an unbroken stand of 138 to see New Zealand to

a victory that will secure them two points in the second phase, Super Eight stage should England qualify alongside them from a Group C also featuring Canada and Kenya.

"Just to bat really," said Styris when asked for his thoughts as he walked out at No 4 after a top-order collapse.

"We thought we could only lose the game if we got bowled out, so we really just had to go out and play and just take it as deep as we could. We have a naturally aggressive side and runs still came, probably for the last 30 overs, we didn't really need to take a risk."

Man-of-the-match Styris, who'd earlier taken two for 25, with his medium-pacers, faced 113 balls with nine fours.

It was a timely innings, representing his best performance with the bat since he returned in February from a back injury during the triangular series, won by

England, in Australia.

"I hadn't played very well since I came back from my back injury so it was great to contribute today (Friday). I set myself to have a good World Cup and I wanted to do well here and it's been a good start."

Styris, who in 124 one-day internationals has scored 2,746 runs at an average of 29.52 with three hundreds and 16 fifties, said he had felt under pressure for his place from in-form batsman Peter Fulton, not selected for this match after sustaining a finger injury.

"You can't take your position for granted and we've got Peter Fulton, who missed out today (Friday), who's had a good last three, four, five matches so I knew the heat was on me to go out there and deliver put on a performance worthy of keeping my position in the side."

"I'm pleased that that was able to happen."

## Luuk sees funny side

AFP, Basseterre



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Dutch captain Luuk van Troost wanted to make history against South Africa and he got his wish.

However, his hapless, hopeless team will be remembered as having suffered the third heaviest World Cup defeat, having conceded the most sixes in an innings and having played their part in accommodating the fastest tournament half-century ever made.

If that wasn't enough history for one day, his leg-break bowler Daan van Bunge then did his bit by allowing South Africa's Herschelle Gibbs to become the first man ever to hit six sixes in an over in an international game.

"Before the game we said let's make history by beating South Africa. Well, we made history but in another way," admitted van Troost,

whose team was dismissed for 131 to lose by 221 runs.

South Africa piled up 353-3 in a game reduced to 40 overs-a-side after overnight rain had delayed the start of the Group A mismatch at Warner Park.

Jacques Kallis smashed an unbeaten 128, Mark Boucher hit a 21-ball fifty while Gibbs boasted a 40-ball 72.

Even more embarrassing for the World Cup organisers was the fact that three of the heaviest defeats in tournament history have come in the last three days with Bermuda losing by 243 runs to Sri Lanka and Scotland being routed by 203 runs by defending champions Australia.

The Aussies remain the undisputed demolition kings having beaten Namibia at the last World Cup in 2003 by 256 runs.

The 31-year-old Gibbs is only the third man in the game's history to hit six sixes in an over.

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A young lady (L), dressed in national colours, skates on the city streets in support of the Bangladesh cricket team yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR