

THE CUP FINALLY COMES HOME



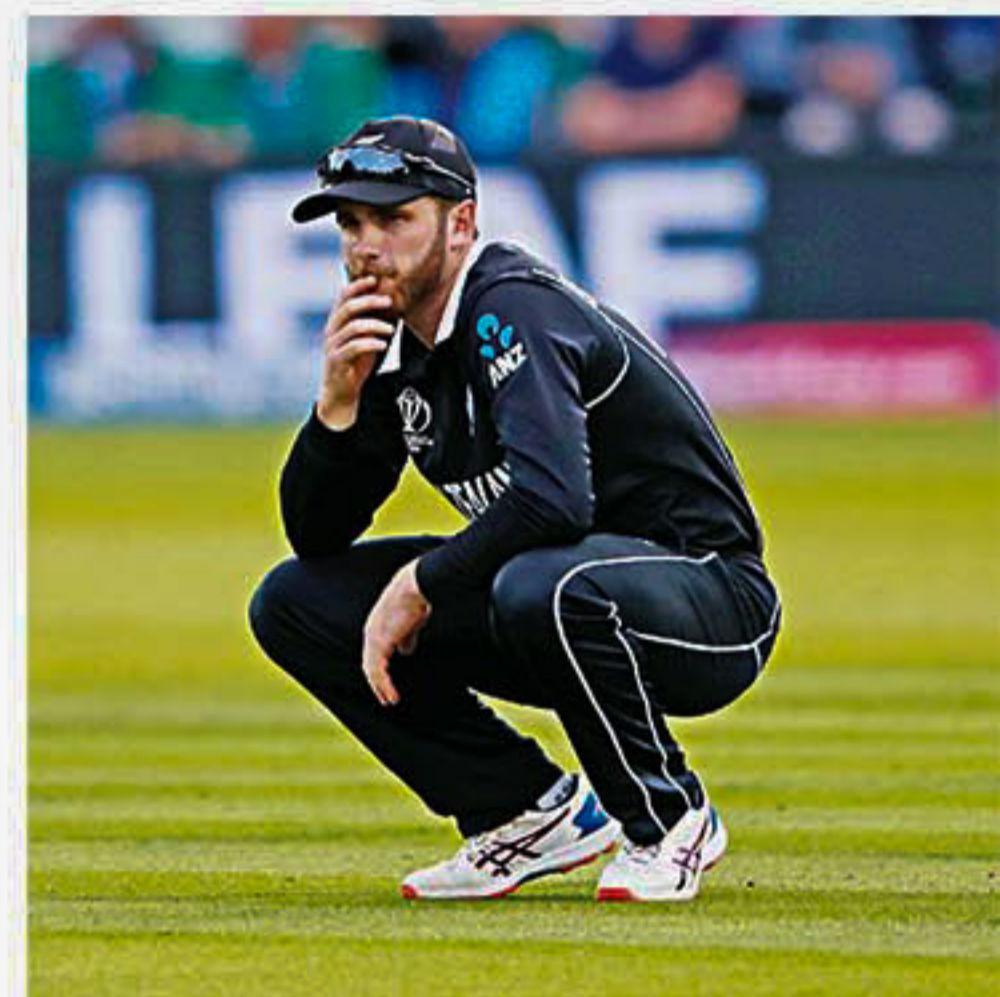
After a nailbiting finish in the final of the 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup, England were on the winning side for the first time. England's young pacer Jofra Archer kept New Zealand to 15 runs, helping the hosts win on boundary-count. Wicketkeeper-batsman Jos Buttler effected the last run-out before England captain Eoin Morgan proudly lifted the trophy. PHOTO: AFP/REUTERS



The topsy-turvy final had its fair share of lucky/unlucky moments. During the last over of England's innings, there was a huge touch of luck for England as Ben Stokes' desperate dive at the non-strikers' end saw the ball ricochet off his bat and go for four overthrows, keeping the hosts in the chase. PHOTO: REUTERS



Jimmy Neesham had almost seen New Zealand home in the Super Over, bringing the equation down to two runs needed from one delivery. However, he was left distraught as Martin Guptill was found short while taking a second run off the final ball. PHOTO: REUTERS



New Zealand batsman Martin Guptill, who had an ordinary World Cup by his standard, failed to see the side over the line while Trent Boult's judgement on a chance against Ben Stokes proved to be too costly as their skipper Kane Williamson was left to ponder what could have been. PHOTO: REUTERS/AFP

WHAT THEY SAID

I am lost for words. I can't believe what has happened. I can't get my head around it. I thought it was gone needing 30 off 16. It has probably been the best day for cricket in this country. I feel like everything that has happened today is destiny. Chris Woakes England fast bowler.

"I'm pretty lost for words," he says. "All the hard words that's gone in over these four years, this is where we aspired to be. To do it with such a game, I don't think there will be another like this in the history of cricket. Jos and I knew if we'd be there close to the end, New Zealand would be under pressure. Not the way I wanted to do it, ball going off my bat like that, I apologised to Kane. We backed the new kid, Jofra Archer, the talent that he's got, he showed the world today. The lads, in this one-day team, the Test team, my family, their support has been massive. Now I'm just looking forward to tonight, mate. Ben Stokes England all-rounder

We knew we would have to fire a few shots. Credit to England for the way they stuck at it. On another day the coin may have fallen our way. We'll look back in a couple of years and say this was a pretty good experience. That's the way we are as Kiwis, we get par scores and then scrap like hell. We don't blast teams off the park. Jimmy Neesham. New Zealand all-rounder

Was pretty sure I was going to bowl it. Just had a chat with Morgs (starts chuckling) heart's still racing, sorry. It's probably the only tournament I've ever won in my life. From the beginning, the guys did so well. Would have been disappointed if we didn't win. They've been a really good family to me. Jofra Archer England bowler

Hasn't sunk in yet. What a finish that was. Hats off to the Kiwi boys. Over the moon. Liam Plunkett England bowler

I thought I'd seen everything in cricket, and that



We wanted to take it deep. We didn't feel like the run rate would be an issue if we were both there in the end. A couple of good partnerships, we'll chase this down. Trying to put pressure back on New Zealand. Don't know what happened there in the end. Unbelievable. Jos Buttler England wicketkeeper-batsman

Massive commiserations to the New Zealand boys. Edges one way, edges another. The way the guys came back in the Super Over was fantastic, and Stokes was huge. To play at Lord's is one thing, to play a World Cup final at Lord's is something else. Jonny Bairstow England batsman

There's not one person who has left the ground. This is exactly what cricket needed. In five or six years' time, there'll be kids in the street who were inspired by Ben Stokes and Jos Buttler. Michael Vaughan Former England cricketer

Don't understand how the game of such



proportions, the #CWC19Final, is finally decided on who scored the most boundaries. A ridiculous rule @ICC. Should have been a tie. I want to congratulate both @BLACKCAPS & @englandcricket on playing out a nail biting Final. Both winners imo. Gautam Gambhir Former Indian cricketer

I don't agree with that rule! But rules are rules congratulations to England on finally winning the World Cup, my heart goes out for the kiwis they fought till the end. Great game an epic final!!!! #CWC19Final Yuvraj Singh Former Indian cricketer

This game will go down as one of the best matches in history. Congratulations to @englandcricket on your maiden @cricketworldcup title. Never be down @BLACKCAPS, you fought like champions. #CWC19Final Sir Vivian Richards Former West Indies cricketer

England held their nerve under pressure. New Zealand will be devastated for the rest of their careers because they had an opportunity to win the World Cup. They'll have respect for Eoin Morgan because England play incredibly brave cricket. They were beaten by a team that, when the pressure was on, they found a way to get across the line. Brendon McCullum Former New Zealand captain

I'm a wreck. I don't know what to say. It's completely unfathomable. The commitment, the effort, the drive, the determination, the hunger those guys showed under the upmost pressure, it was just extraordinary to watch. The greatest game of cricket in history! And it was in a Lord's World Cup final. Andrew Strauss Former England captain

England have been the best side through this tournament, I believe, but today I think New Zealand were the best team. The rub of the green went to England. Just think about it for a second -- everyone said it was overcast, bowl first, but Kane Williamson had the courage to bat first and trust his game plan. They got a score and defended that score to a tie -- a deflection off Stokes's bat for four, they win the game if that doesn't happen. Shane Warne Former Australia spinner

I can't believe it. England tied the match and then they tied the Super Over and then they win on countback. You go through seven weeks and it comes down to a bloke trying to dive in to try and win the World Cup. Nasser Hussain Former England captain

I am lost for words. I can't believe what has happened. I can't get my head around it. I thought it was gone needing 30 off 16. It has probably been the best day for cricket in this country. I feel like everything that has happened today is destiny." -- England fast bowler Chris Woakes. "Wow! It's hard to sum it up. What a day, what a tournament. Everyone has done everything asked of them. We have performed under pressure, it was almost written in the stars for Ben Stokes. He's had such a tough time, I'm so proud of him and pleased for him and his family. Joe Root England batsman



England pacer Liam Plunkett was a vital component for the hosts during the 2019 World Cup and the right-arm seamer once again displayed his abilities in the final against New Zealand. The 34-year-old was brilliant with the ball, picking up three crucial Kiwi wickets while conceding 42 runs from his ten overs. It was Plunkett who removed top-scorer Henry Nicholls to break his partnership with Kane Williamson. The tall pacer then picked up the all-important wicket of Williamson before following up with the dismissal of James Neesham. It was Plunkett's outstanding bowling that ensured New Zealand could post only a modest total of 241 for eight in 50 overs.