

# De Kock stars as South Africa crush go-slow Australia in World Cup

South Africa made 311-7, with Quinton de Kock scoring his second successive century at the World Cup

● Australia lost six wickets with just 70 on the board and were eventually dismissed for 177 with 55 balls to spare

AFP | Lucknow

Quinton de Kock hit his second successive century at the World Cup yesterday as South Africa sent five-time champions Australia crashing to a 134-run defeat.

After the Proteas had made 311-7, Australia lost six wickets with just 70 on the board and then focused solely on attempting to limit the damage to their net run-rate.

They were eventually dismissed for 177 with 55 balls to spare.

For South Africa, it was a second win in two games while Australia have lost both of their matches.

"I'd be really greedy if I said there were areas to improve, a near-perfect game with the bat, and with the ball," said South Africa captain Temba Bavuma.

Australia skipper Pat Cummins admitted his team had been "well off the mark".

He added: "Not much needs to be said tonight, everyone's hurting."

Australia, who lost by six wickets to India in their opener, saw five catches dropped when South Africa batted.



South Africa's Quinton de Kock (R) plays a shot

## Scorecard

**South Africa 311 for 7 (De Kock 109, Markram 56) beat Australia 177 (Labuschagne 46, Rabada 3-33) by 134 runs**

Their mood did not improve once they began chasing a 312-run target, losing wickets on a regular basis as South Africa's fast bowlers ripped through their top order.

Marco Jansen and Lungi Ngidi sent back openers Mitchell Marsh (seven) and David Warner (13) before Kagiso Rabada took three quick wickets.

Rabada had Steve Smith lbw controversially on review for 19, clean-bowled Josh Inglis for five and had Marcus Stoinis smartly caught down the legside by wicketkeeper De Kock, also for five.

Australia were unhappy with the decision as Stoinis appeared to have his hand off the bat when the ball brushed his glove on its way to De Kock.

In between, off-spinner Keshav Maharaj claimed dangerous Glenn Maxwell off his own bowling as the Australian nicknamed "The Big Show" suffered stage fright and was out for just three.

With the match virtually lost, Australia went into damage limitation, hoping to ease the damage to their run rate with still seven pool matches to play in the marathon event.

At the halfway stage of 25 overs, they had crept to 95-6 before Marnus Labuschagne (46) and Mitchell Starc (27) put on 69 for the seventh wicket.

They fell in the space of seven balls before the innings collapsed with leg-spinner Tabraiz Shamsi wrapping up the tail.

## Dropped catches

Earlier, 30-year-old De Kock reached his 19th ODI hundred off

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Not much needs to be said tonight, everyone's hurting. We were well off the mark. If we want to be challenging for this tournament you've got to adapt to all conditions

PAT CUMMINS

90 balls with eight fours and five sixes having also made a century in South Africa's opening win over Sri Lanka.

De Kock, who will retire from international cricket at the end of the tournament, was batting in familiar surroundings at the Ekana Stadium where he plays in the IPL for the Lucknow Super Giants.

He was eventually dismissed for 109, bowled by off-spinner Maxwell while trying to reverse sweep in the 35th over.

South Africa were on 197-3 when De Kock departed before Aiden Markram then took up the charge.

Having made the fastest World Cup century off just 49 balls in the win over Sri Lanka, Markram raced to 56, making the most of being dropped by Cummins when he had made just a single.

It was a miserable day in the field for Australia as Bavuma was also dropped twice on 19 and 32.



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Marsh dropped Virat Kohli in their opening game when the Indian star was on 12. Kohli went on to make a match-winning 85.

Bavuma's luck ran out on 35 when he was caught at midwicket by Warner off Maxwell.

With De Kock, the skipper put on 108 for the first wicket.

Once Markram was dismissed by Cummins, the Proteas saw Jansen (26) and David Miller (17) take them past the 300 mark.

Both Miller and Jansen fell in the final over, a double-wicket maiden bowled by Starc.

They should have been dismissed in the penultimate over when Starc dropped Miller and Stoinis gave Jansen a lifeline, both off Cummins.

## Bagnaia expects intense fight for MotoGP lead in Indonesia

AFP | Lombok

Championship leader Francesco Bagnaia said yesterday he expected an intense battle at this weekend's Indonesia MotoGP to stay at the top of the standings, with rival Jorge Martin only three points behind.

Martin, of Ducati satellite team Pramac, reduced the Italian's lead with six races left after winning a Japan MotoGP cut short by rain this month.

"I think we can be competi-



Francesco Bagnaia

tive. The fight will be intense," Ducati's Bagnaia, 26, said before

the race at Pertamina Mandalika International Circuit.

"I feel good honestly, I think all the races in front of us are good for me," he told a news conference.

The Spaniard had already narrowed the gap in the previous race in India after his rival catastrophically crashed out just over halfway through the race.

"We are so close now in the battle. I think my mentality will be the same, trying to win, trying to win races," he told reporters.

"Hopefully we can keep the momentum."

The crash in India wasn't Bagnaia's first of the season, having come off at high speed at the Catalunya MotoGP at the start of September in a pile-up that also injured Italy's Marco Bezzecchi.

The race will be just one of the few left at Honda for six-time world MotoGP champion Marc Marquez after it was announced yesterday that he will join Ducati satellite team Gresini Racing for the 2024 season.

## Stoinis dismissal 'confusing', says Labuschagne after record Australia loss



Marcus Stoinis seeks clarification from Joel Wilson after being adjudged

AFP | Lucknow

Marnus Labuschagne said the TV umpire's decision to give Marcus Stoinis out caught behind during Australia's record-breaking World Cup defeat by South Africa yesterday was "confusing".

Stoinis was dismissed for five, caught down the leg-side off Kagiso Rabada, to leave Australia 70-6 in their doomed chase of 312 to win.

Labuschagne was at the other end and said the players in the middle were bemused by the decision, with some replays appearing to show the ball hit Stoinis' glove while it was off the bat.

"It was certainly confusing

and I'm sure we'll get clarity or we're going to seek for clarity because it's a World Cup and we don't want small decisions that can be avoided to change the outcomes of games," said Labuschagne, who was later out for 46 as Australia were thrashed by 134 runs to slip to a second straight group-stage loss.

"Obviously in the situation we're in it's hard to say that it was going to change the outcome but for the future you certainly want to make sure we get them right."

Steve Smith also looked unhappy at being given out lbw, although the Hawkeye system showed the ball, also from Rabada, was crashing into leg stump.

## Former world MotoGP champion Marquez to join Gresini Racing

AFP | Lombok

Marc Marquez will join Ducati satellite team Gresini Racing for the 2024 season, the team said yesterday, days after it was announced he would leave Honda, where he won six world MotoGP titles.

"The Gresini Family is pleased to announce the arrival of Marc Marquez for the 2024 season," the team said in a statement on the MotoGP website.

"Starting next season, he will be the new standard bearer of Gresini Racing MotoGP alongside his brother Alex," it said.

The 30-year-old Spaniard, who has been hampered by in-



Repsol Honda Team's Marc Marquez rides during a race

jury since the start of the 2020 season, had one year left on a four-year deal with Honda. Both parties agreed to go their

separate ways a year early.

"I'm excited about this new challenge. It wasn't an easy decision because it's a big change in every way," Marquez said in the statement.

"But sometimes in life, it's important to get out of your comfort zone and put yourself through the paces in order to keep growing."

Gresini owner Nadia Padovani said it was "a historical moment" for the team.

"The fact that Marc Marquez chose to race with us in the upcoming season is absolutely fantastic and I'm extremely happy to be able to make it official," she said.