

Hasan Nawaz's record Ton Powers Pakistan to dominant win

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Pakistan kept their T20 series hopes alive with a resounding nine-wicket victory over New Zealand in the third match, thanks to a record-breaking maiden century by opener Hasan Nawaz.

After failing to score in his first two international innings, the 23-year-old bounced back in spectacular fashion, smashing an unbeaten 105 off just 44 balls in Auckland. His innings, featuring 10 fours and seven sixes, marked the fastest T20 century by a Pakistani, surpassing Babar Azam's 49-ball ton in 2021.

Pakistan chased down New Zealand's 204-run target in just 16 overs, showcasing a stunning reversal of form after heavy defeats in the first two games. Nawaz was well supported by fellow opener Mohammad Haris, who struck 41 off 20 balls, and skipper Salman Agha, who remained unbeaten on 51 off 31.

Earlier, New Zealand seemed poised for a massive total, driven by Mark Chapman's blistering 94 off 44 balls, which included 11 fours and

four sixes. However, the rest of the lineup struggled, with captain Michael Bracewell's 31 being the only other notable contribution. Pakistan's bowlers fought back in the death overs, with Haris Rauf leading the attack, taking 3-29.

With the series now at 2-1, Pakistan will look to level the five-match contest in game four at Mount Maunganui on Sunday

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