
Williamson's century leads New Zealand to tri-series final



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Kane Williamson's unbeaten 133 guided New Zealand to a comfortable six-wicket victory over South Africa, securing a spot in the tri-series final. His brilliant knock overshadowed Matthew Breetzke's record-breaking 150 on debut.

Breetzke's 150, the highest score by any batter in their first ODI, helped South Africa post 304-6 at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore. However, Williamson, supported by Devon Conway's 97, anchored New Zealand's chase, reaching 308-4 in 48.4 overs.

The tri-series serves as preparation for the Champions Trophy starting February 19 in Pakistan and the UAE. Pakistan will face South Africa on Wednesday in Karachi to determine who will meet New Zealand in Friday's final.

Despite losing early wickets, Williamson and Conway built a strong 187-run partnership. Even after Daryl Mitchell (10) and Tom Latham (0) fell, Williamson calmly finished the game with a boundary.

Breetzke's debut innings included 11 fours and five sixes, surpassing Desmond Haynes' 148 for West Indies in 1978 as the highest ODI debut score. South Africa fielded four debutants due to player injuries and league commitments.

New Zealand replaced Rachin Ravindra, injured in their win over Pakistan, with Conway.

Brief Scores:

South Africa: 304-6 in 50 overs (M. Breetzke 150, W. Mulder 64; M. Henry 2-59, W. O'Rourke 2-72)

New Zealand: 308-4 in 48.4 overs (K. Williamson 133*, D. Conway 97)

Result: New Zealand won by six wickets

Next Match: Pakistan vs South Africa, February 12, Karachi