

MOHINDER AMARNATH

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A remarkable recovery by India, lead by Virat

It was a remarkable recovery by the Indian team in Nottingham. They showed that they are on a par with England and once again it was the captain, Virat Kohli, who played the main role. India were superb as a unit but you can only win when you have runs on the board, so the boys should take a leaf out of the captain's book.

What is great about Virat is that he is playing in testing conditions and being able to adjust very well. Playing in England is totally different from playing anywhere else in the world. He has made the necessary adjustment to his technique, which has caused all the difference. Once he occupies the crease, he is always looking for and taking runs. He reminds me of Viv Richards who would do the same thing. I've never seen anyone playing with so much authority, and so consistently. He is a match-winner; whenever he performs India has always done well.

I don't know how the pitch at Southampton will play. There will probably be some grass as England know that the Indians play spin much better. To be honest, the pitch doesn't matter much. As Virat showed, it doesn't matter where you play, or in what conditions, you just have to go and perform.

As for the opening combination, I was glad to see Shikhar Dhawan back. He did look a bit vulnerable but who's not when you play in England? Barring Virat, the others have struggled, and on both sides. Shikhar and KL Rahul may not have scored very many runs but they gave India the necessary start.

The bowlers also did a wonderful job. Bumrah bowled a magnificent spell in the second innings when the pitch was not really offering much help. Pandya's spell in the first was crucial. The seamers have been absolutely fantastic, were moving the ball much more and looked sharper than England's bowlers. Despite his injury, Ashwin will definitely be in the scheme of things for the fourth Test. Should he not be able to play, Ravindra Jadeja is the best bet to replace him.

England will have to work on some aspects of their game to come back strongly. The hosts will shrug off the last match as a bad game. However, the openers — Cook and Jennings — don't seem to be in the best form to tackle the Indian pacers and Ishant and Bumrah will cause them problems. They rely heavily on Joe Root, and Ben Stokes. They may go in with the same bowling combination, though Stokes looked a bit rusty after his 'lay-off'. If the pitch has something to offer, they may need to choose between Woakes and Stokes.

It's been a very interesting series thus far, with several ups and downs from Test to Test. It was great to see India's fight-back. Every game is different but once you make a strong comeback after being on the mat, you carry that confidence and feel that you can do it again. I think that we are in for another cracking match. Hopefully, India will level the series so that we can look forward to a great final Test.

India had their opportunities but the batting let them down

India had gone to England with high hopes that we would do well and probably win the series. But that was not to be. It was the batting that let India down altogether, and what this showed was that they are not really great players of the moving ball. Apart from Virat, and, of course, Rahane and Pujara, none of the others looked comfortable even though some of them did get runs. However, the number of times the ball beat the bat was a sign that anything could happen, anytime. This was the main reason India lost the series.

Technique was probably the main reason the batting let them down. A lot of the boys got a start but just could not convert because of a lack of application, temperament, and rhythm. Virat has shown this right through the series. Of course, one can say the English batsmen also didn't score runs but they have won the series, and that's the big difference! It wasn't like India did not have opportunities. The bowlers did a fantastic job, especially the pacers who bowled their hearts out. At the end of the day, it was the Indian batting that was not up to scratch. Also, we missed a regular number six. You cannot go in with five batsmen and an allrounder, especially in England. They could be very handy in the subcontinent but overseas they get exposed. This didn't really help India's cause.

The last Test at the Oval will be challenging. Once you have lost the series, a lot of things play on your mind. Many have not scored runs and they'll be under pressure with the home season looming. It'll be a big test of character for them to come good, and play for pride, basically. But the series has been lost, and that's it! It's always about winning. If you're No.1, you have to win to show the world that you are good overseas too.

The Oval has a good batting pitch, a lot of runs have been scored there. But then, again, it's a fresh game and England will come hard at India. The hosts have played their part well especially Moeen Ali. His being brought in was a calculated risk that paid off. He didn't do anything different or try out anything new, he just kept bowling one length and varying his pace and flight in the air. That was the difference between Ashwin and him. Ashwin was trying too hard and didn't look 100 percent; that also went against India. England's Sam Curran also played an important part was. He's only 20 years old, but his batting technique is amazing. He showed a lot of guts and temperament.

India have to play well to win this Test. On paper, a 3-2 scoreline will not look like a bad result but as far as I'm concerned England played much better and deserved to win the series. So, well done, England!

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Growing up, I really wanted to be Chandu Borde

My father was a legend, and we had heard so much about him from other people while we were growing up. I never really got the opportunity to watch him play in his prime as I was very young when he retired... I did get to see him in action in some exhibition matches and I could visualise what a great player he must have been. He was always my role model.

I was also fascinated by Chandu Borde. I had heard about him from Dad, and radio commentators, and liked his style. Although there were some fantastic players in the '60s, this was the one name that stuck with me. He was a fantastic batsman, and had a particular style of bowling leg-spin before the shoulder injury. Growing up, I really wanted to be Chandu Borde.

In 1960-61, when Pakistan toured India, I remember going to watch a Test in Delhi with Dad. We went to the Feroz Shah Kotla where I saw Fazal Mahmood, Hanif Mohammed, Mushtaq Mohammed, and Saeed Ahmed... all the Pakistani big guns! On the Indian side, there was Milkha Singh, VV Kumar, Polly Umrigar, Nadkarni, Ramakant Desai, and Borde. It was big day for me: it was winter so we were all dressed up, sitting in the VIP stand, being treated like royalty. So exciting for a 10-year-old! It got me thinking that I would like to be an India Test cricketer one day!

India-Pakistan series were always very special. You always had people admiring you, home or away. That is very encouraging, and we liked the attention. Even now, if you go to England or Australia there are plenty of Indian fans but it's not only them — the locals also show their appreciation when you play good, tough cricket. It feels good to have people trusting, backing, and wanting to be like you.

The hospitality in Pakistan was also amazing. I remember a family I met in Lahore. They would take me to their home for khana-peena (food and drink), and the daughters, who were young, would pray for me: "Hum yehi dua karte hai ki Mohinder accha kare par jeete Pakistan (We pray that Mohinder does well, but Pakistan should win)"! I'm still in touch with the family.

There were some fans who would taunt us. On the 1982-83 tour, the whole team was taken to Jinnah's Mazhar. While on our way, a man sitting atop a bus shouted out, "Mohinder, yaad rahe Imran ne tere sar pe ball mari thi...phir waisa hi karaga...(Mohinder, remember Imran hit you on the head with the ball... he will do the same again...)" I looked up at the guy, with a look that I hope showed that the challenge he had thrown at me had just made me more determined to do better. Sometimes, a taunt like that can be a wake-up call.

Fan expectation has always been the same, whether in my playing days, or now. Fans see us as representing India as an extension of their hopes and aspirations, so they want us to make them proud. When things don't go well, they feel dejected and may say or do something silly. It's not that they don't love or respect us — they are just venting their frustration because the higher the expectation, the greater the disappointment. Whatever the experience we may have with the fans, good or bad, at the end of the day there is nothing like having thousands of people come watch you in action.