

## South Africa Seal ODI Series with 84-Run Win Over Australia

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South Africa produced a dominant all-round performance to secure an emphatic 84-run victory against Australia in the second One Day International (ODI), clinching the three-match series with a game to spare. The result came on the back of a standout display from pace bowler Lungi Ngidi, who dismantled Australia's batting lineup with a five-wicket haul.

After winning the toss and electing to bat in Bloemfontein, South Africa's innings got off to a nervous start. Both openers departed cheaply, leaving the Proteas unsettled in the opening powerplay. However, Matthew Breetzke steadied the innings with a composed knock of 88 runs, showcasing patience and precision at the crease.

Tristan Stubbs provided valuable support, striking a fluent 74 before falling against the run of play. Their partnership rebuilt South Africa's momentum, helping the hosts recover from early setbacks. Despite some late wickets, the team managed to reach a competitive total of 277 before being bowled out.

Australia's Adam Zampa was the pick of the bowlers, finishing with three wickets and maintaining pressure during the middle overs. His spell gave Australia a brief hope of restricting the Proteas to a lower score.

Chasing 278, Australia struggled from the outset against South Africa's disciplined attack. Ngidi quickly made his presence felt with the new ball, striking early to put the visitors on the back foot. His pace and accuracy proved too much for the Australian batting order, as he claimed five wickets and dismantled any chance of a successful chase.

Wickets fell at regular intervals, with Australia unable to form the partnerships required to stay in contention. The Proteas bowlers, led by Ngidi's fiery spell, kept consistent pressure on both established and incoming batsmen.

The lone bright spot in Australia's batting effort came from Josh Inglis, who played a determined innings of 87. His counterattacking approach provided resistance as wickets tumbled around him, but without support from the middle and lower order, his efforts were not enough to alter the outcome.

Australia were eventually bowled out for 193, falling well short of the target and conceding the series to the Proteas.

The victory sealed a series win for South Africa, who now hold a 2–0 lead with one match remaining. The result highlights the Proteas' growing strength in the 50-over format, with a blend of dependable batting and incisive bowling delivering success on home soil.

Australia, meanwhile, will need to regroup quickly. Despite Inglis' heroics, the team's batting unit failed to adapt to the conditions or sustain partnerships under pressure. Questions will be raised about the middle order's consistency and the ability to handle South Africa's pace attack.

The third ODI will still carry significance, as both teams look to refine strategies ahead of upcoming international fixtures. For South Africa, it represents an opportunity to complete a clean sweep, while Australia will be desperate to salvage pride and avoid a whitewash.

With Ngidi's five-wicket haul and Breetzke's composed batting display, South Africa have announced themselves as serious contenders in the format. The series has provided a reminder that on their day, the Proteas remain one of the most dangerous sides in world cricket.