

# Introduction

The 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup final was a cricketing spectacle like no other. It was a battle of titans, a showdown between England and New Zealand, and it had cricket enthusiasts around the world on the edge of their seats.

Exploring the unforgettable moments of the final we will be focusing on the remarkable performance of Ben Stokes, a man whose indomitable spirit and all-round prowess shone through in the most critical of moments.

## **Stokes' Journey to the Final:**

Before delving into the final, it's essential to understand Ben Stokes' journey leading up to this iconic match. Stokes, an English all-rounder, had faced numerous challenges, both personal and professional. His career was marked by highs and lows, but each experience had contributed to his growth and determination.

## England's Precarious Position

England won the toss and elected to bat first, setting a modest target of 241 runs for New Zealand. However, the English

team found themselves in dire straits, losing wickets early in the innings. Stokes stepped in to bat at a pivotal moment when the scoreboard read a worrisome 71-3.

## The Heroic Batting Performance

Stokes' batting performance in the final was nothing short of heroic. He displayed remarkable composure and controlled aggression, forming a crucial partnership with Jos Buttler. Stokes' unbeaten 84-run innings was the cornerstone of England's innings. He not only anchored the innings but also

exhibited a unique ability to rotate strike and find boundaries when it mattered the most.

## Pressure on New Zealand's Bowlers

New Zealand's bowlers were relentless, applying immense pressure on the English batsmen. Stokes, being an all-rounder, was expected to contribute with the ball as well. He did not disappoint, delivering a crucial spell that included one wicket and consistent pressure on the Kiwi batsmen.

## The Dramatic Final Over

The most unforgettable moment of the final came in the 49th over of New Zealand's innings when Stokes was entrusted with the ball. New Zealand needed 15 runs off the last over to secure victory. The tension was palpable as the match seemed to be slipping away from England. Stokes' last over proved to be nothing short of epic.

## The Super Over Drama

In an astonishing turn of events, the final over of the match ended in a tie, leading to the first-ever Super Over in a World

Cup final. England scored 15 runs in their Super Over, with Stokes and Buttler displaying their class. New Zealand had to chase 16 runs to clinch the title. However, the Super Over was not without its share of drama.

## Stokes' Fielding Brilliance

Stokes' defining moment came in the Super Over when he was called upon to bowl the final over. The Kiwis needed two runs off the last ball for victory. As Martin Guptill sprinted to complete the second run, Stokes dived in a spectacular effort to prevent it. The ball

inadvertently deflected off his bat and raced to the boundary. The moment was shrouded in controversy, but it added to the drama and made Stokes the central figure of the final.

## The Controversial Boundary Count Rule

As the Super Over ended in another tie, the boundary count rule came into play to determine the champion. This rule, controversially, favored England due to their higher number of boundaries throughout the match. England was declared the World Cup champion, but

discussions about the rule dominated post-match conversations.

## Ben Stokes: The Man of the Moment

While there may not have been an official "Man of the Match" award in the traditional sense, Ben Stokes undoubtedly emerged as the man of the moment. His exceptional batting, crucial bowling, and extraordinary fielding efforts showcased his all-round brilliance and unwavering determination. Stokes' performance in the final was not just about individual excellence; it



symbolized resilience and character under immense pressure.

## A Cricketing Legend in the Making

The 2019 Cricket World Cup final etched itself into cricketing history as one of the sport's greatest moments. Ben Stokes' contribution to England's victory was instrumental and unforgettable. Stokes' performance was a testament to his exceptional skills and his ability to perform under pressure. He cemented his status as one of the finest all-rounders of the modern era of cricket.

## Conclusion

The 2019 Cricket World Cup final was a rollercoaster of emotions, and Ben Stokes stood out as the hero of the match, even without an official "Man of the Match" award. His exceptional performance with the bat, his crucial role in the bowling department, and his spectacular fielding efforts made him the defining figure of a match that will forever be etched in cricketing lore. Ben Stokes' journey in the 2019 World Cup final was a testament to his unwavering determination and his remarkable all-round abilities, solidifying his place in cricket history.

