

Sports Mail



FIFA officials to meet today to decide voting date for new chief

BACK FROM THE BRINK



YUKI Bhambri recorded his first-ever victory in a live fifth rubber after Somdev Devvarman levelled the tie as India advanced to World Group play-offs, following a 3-2 win over New Zealand in the Asia/Oceania Group I Davis Cup in Christchurch on Sunday.

Yuki was authoritative in his 6-2, 6-2, 6-3 demolition of Michael Venus in the decider after Somdev levelled the tie with his 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 win over Marcus Daniell in the first match of the day.

It was a do-or-die situation for India when Somdev stepped on the court and the country's top singles player ensured that India remained in the hunt.

Yuki, who was playing only his second live fifth rubber, came out all guns blazing against Venus, who had stunned Somdev in the first match of the tie. India were without the services of veteran doubles player Leander Paes who chose to skip the tie after winning the Wimbledon mixed doubles title. While top singles players like Andy Murray and Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, among others, have turned out to play for their country, Paes chose to take some rest and in his absence Rohan Bopanna and Saketh Myneni teamed up for the doubles rubber. India lost the doubles rubber which put India 1-2 behind at the end of the second day of the tie.

Agencies

Yuki clinches fifth rubber as India defeat NZ to qualify for play-offs

twitter
ROHAN BOPANNA:
 Greatest feeling to represent your country and get a win, especially when the chips r down. Victory feels sweeter. @DavisCup #TeamIndia. :)

Yuki won both his singles matches against New Zealand in the Asia/Oceania Group I Davis Cup tie; (above left) the victorious Indian team.

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