

## MARC GASOL SIDELINED AFTER BREAKING FOOT

**LOS ANGELES:** Memphis Grizzlies star Marc Gasol faces a lengthy layoff after suffering a fracture in his right foot, the team confirmed Tuesday. The towering center exited early from Monday's defeat to the

Portland Trail Blazers but had complained of pain over the weekend. An MRI scan at Campbell Clinic in Tennessee confirmed the fracture. "Marc is a cornerstone of our franchise, and we are focused on getting

him healthy," Grizzlies general manager Chris Wallace said. "Marc will be out indefinitely and a further update will be provided after the All-Star break." Gasol had been averaging 16.6 points, 7.0 rebounds, 3.8

assists and 1.35 blocks after starting all 52 of the Grizzlies games this season. "It's certainly not great for Marc and his family. I know he's disappointed," Grizzlies coach Dave Jaeger told The Commercial Appeal

daily in Memphis. "It's bad for our team. This is a tight bunch of dudes. They care about each other. It hurts everybody. Marc is a guy who lays it out there for his teammates and the fans." — AFP

## ODI FALLOUT HAS AUSSIES FIRED UP FOR NZ TEST

**WELLINGTON:** Australia have warned of a "fiery clash" in the first Test against New Zealand starting in Wellington on Friday as tensions continue to simmer over the bizarre ODI dismissal of Mitchell Marsh.

Australian captain Steve Smith, who was clearly annoyed at the way Marsh was given out in the third one-day international on Monday, has diplomatically said there was no lasting animosity.

But Australian quick John Hastings gave a blunt warning Wednesday that relations remained strained between the two sides and there would be fireworks, and not just to celebrate New Zealand captain Brendon McCullum's 100th Test.

It will be "a nice fiery clash, I'm sure there will be plenty on it," Hastings said as the players took a look at the green Test wicket that offers venom for the quick bowlers.

"They (New Zealand) want to be the 'big spirit of cricket' in the ICC, but when it comes down to it, with a big series on the line, you're obviously going to take that one aren't you?"

Marsh was given out after a vociferous crowd reaction to replays on the big screen at the ground brought the umpire's attention to the caught and bowled dismissal.

The replays showed the ball had rebounded off Marsh's boot and not the ground to be caught by bowler Matt Henry and the batsman was given out. The loss of the wicket started an Australian collapse that gave New Zealand the game by 55 runs and the series 2-1. Both sides struggled in the middle order with their batting, but New

Zealand go into the Test with their tails up after their overall success. "I think we just take a bit of confidence," coach Mike Hesson said. "Knowing that if we're able to put Australia under pressure from a batting point of view then that can create opportunities for us." The Basin Reserve offers a typical New Zealand green wicket for the first Test, but David Warner expected that would matter less than the swing movement offered by the atmosphere to New Zealand strike bowlers Tim Southee and Trent Boult.

"The ball will swing for a lot longer than what it does in Australia," Warner said. "Looking at the wicket here it looks nice and green, but that's irrelevant."

I don't think the ball will do much off the wicket. "It will swing around a lot, and obviously with two world-class swing bowlers in the attack it's going to be a challenge for us guys at the top of the order."

Australia still have nightmares of the Ashes Test at Trent Bridge last year when they failed to cope with the swing and were all out for 60 in their first innings.

"Look at Trent Bridge, it was swinging around, you don't want those memories back again. We just have to adapt to whatever we face on game day," Warner said.

The last time Australia played at the Basin Reserve, in 2010, they won by 10 wickets. New Zealand last played at the Basin a year ago and beat Sri Lanka by 193 runs. In a drawn Test against India the previous year, McCullum hit his career best 302, the only triple century scored by a New Zealander. — AFP



**OAKLAND:** Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry, left, loses the ball while being guarded by Houston Rockets' Patrick Beverley (2) and Dwight Howard during the second half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, in Oakland, California. — AP

## CURRY LEADS WARRIORS PAST ROCKETS FOR 42ND HOME WIN

**OAKLAND:** Stephen Curry had 35 points, nine assists and six rebounds and the Golden State Warriors relied on a signature putaway fourth quarter to hold off the Houston Rockets 123-110 on Tuesday night. Andrew Bogut added 13 points, 11 rebounds, a season-high six blocked shots - three in the fourth - and three steals in one of his best games yet. Andre Iguodala and Harrison Barnes hit back-to-back 3-pointers to start the fourth to get the defending champions going after the game was tied at 93 after the third. Golden State won its 42nd straight regular-season home game and is 24-0 at Oracle Arena this season. The Warriors are within two home victories of matching the Chicago Bulls' NBA-record home winning streak of 44 games from March 30, 1995-April 4, 1996. James Harden overcame a scoreless first quarter to finish with 37 points, five assists and five rebounds in Houston's eighth straight loss to Golden State.

**SAN ANTONIO SPURS 119, MIAMI HEAT 101**  
LaMarcus Aldridge scored 28 points, Kawhi Leonard added 23 and the San Antonio Spurs got seven points on one possession in the fourth quarter to help them beat the Miami Heat 119-101 on Tuesday night. Danny Green added 15 for the Spurs, who have won six straight over the Heat going back to the 2014 NBA Finals. Dwyane Wade scored 20 points on 9 for 12 shooting for Miami, which goes into the All-Star break on a two-game slide. Chris Bosh scored 18 and Hassan Whiteside added 14 points and six rebounds before getting ejected in that pivotal possession in the fourth. Whiteside was assessed a flagrant-2 for elbowing the Spurs' Boban Marjanovic as they tried to get position for a rebound. That was part of a seven-point trip for the Spurs, who pushed an 87-80 lead to 94-80 in 16 seconds and weren't threatened again.

**JAZZ 121, MAVERICKS 119, OT**  
Gordon Hayward hit a fadeaway jumper at the buzzer in overtime and Utah extended its season-best winning streak to seven games. Rodney Hood had a tying 3-pointer with 1.5 seconds left in regulation as the Jazz ended a 10 game losing streak in Dallas. Their last win on the Mavericks' home court was Jan. 9, 2010. Hood finished with 29 points, and Hayward had 20, including 13 in the second half and overtime. Chandler Parsons led Dallas with 24 points but missed an open 3-pointer for the lead with 24 seconds left in the Mavericks' second straight overtime game and NBA-high eighth of the season.

**WIZARDS 111, KNICKS 108**  
John Wall had 28 points and 17 assists, Bradley Beal scored 26, and Washington beat New York in the Knicks' first game under Kurt Rambis. Wall made four free throws in the final 6.6 seconds and the Wizards held on when Langston Galloway's 3-pointer at the buzzer was just short. Carmelo Anthony had 33 points and 13 rebounds, but the Knicks lost their sixth straight in their first game since firing Derek Fisher on Monday. They have dropped 10 of 11 and started Rambis' era the same way Fisher's ended, by quickly falling in a huge early hole. Rookie Kristaps Porzingis scored 20 points, but just two after his 14-point third quarter.

**BUCKS 112, CELTICS 111**  
Khris Middleton made one of two free throws with 0.6 seconds left and Milwaukee defeated Boston. Middleton drew a foul on Avery Bradley to get to the line. Boston had tied the game when Kelly Olynyk made two free throws with one second remaining. Milwaukee appeared to have won the game on Greg Monroe's last-second hook shot, giving the Bucks a 111-109 lead. Olynyk then drew the foul with no time expiring off the clock. Monroe, who was removed from the starting lineup, had 29 points and 12 rebounds as the Bucks ended a five-game losing streak. Middleton had 20 points and Michael Carter-Williams, who also was benched, added 16. Crowder and Bradley had 18 points each for the Celtics. — AP

NBA results/standings									
San Antonio 119, Miami 101; Washington 111, NY Knicks 108; Milwaukee 112, Boston 111; Utah 121, Dallas 119 (OT); Golden State 123, Houston 110.									
Eastern Conference					Western Conference				
Atlantic Division					Northwest Division				
Toronto	35	16	.686	-	Oklahoma City	39	14	.736	-
Boston	31	23	.574	5.5	Utah	26	25	.510	12
NY Knicks	23	32	.418	14	Portland	26	27	.491	13
Brooklyn	14	39	.264	22	Denver	21	32	.396	18
Philadelphia	8	44	.154	27.5	Minnesota	16	37	.302	23
Central Division					Pacific Division				
Cleveland	37	14	.725	-	Golden State	47	4	.922	-
Indiana	28	24	.538	9.5	LA Clippers	35	17	.673	12.5
Chicago	27	24	.529	10	Sacramento	21	31	.404	26.5
Detroit	27	26	.509	11	Phoenix	14	39	.264	34
Milwaukee	21	32	.396	17	LA Lakers	11	43	.204	37.5
Southeast Division					Southwest Division				
Atlanta	30	24	.556	-	San Antonio	44	8	.846	-
Miami	29	24	.547	0.5	Memphis	30	22	.577	14
Charlotte	26	26	.500	3	Dallas	29	26	.527	16.5
Washington	23	27	.460	5	Houston	27	27	.500	18
Orlando	23	28	.451	5.5	New Orleans	19	32	.373	24.5



Umar Gul

## PAKISTAN PICK FIVE UNCAPPED PLAYERS, AXE GUL FOR WORLD T20

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan named uncapped bowlers Rumman Raees and Mohammad Nawaz in their squad for the World Twenty20 in India while leaving out experienced pacer Umar Gul, the second highest wicket-taker in the shortest format.

Left-arm fast bowler Raees and all-rounder Nawaz were rewarded for their strong domestic form and the same 15-man squad will play in the Feb. 24-March 6 Asia Cup in Bangladesh. Only skipper Shahid Afridi (91) has taken more wickets than Gul (85) in Twenty20 Internationals but the 31-year-old pacer, who was part of the Twenty20 squad that lost 2-1 in New Zealand last month, has been struggling for form as well as fitness in recent times.

"The T20 team has been selected keeping in mind the conditions during Asia cup and World T20 and the recent performances of some players in domestic and A Team tours," chief selector Haroon Rashid said in a statement. "The team is a fine blend of experience and youth and the selectors believe that team will do well in both tournaments."

Opening batsman Ahmed Shehzad was also dropped from the squad with his place going to Khuram Manzoor, who has played 16 tests and seven one-day internationals but is yet to make his debut in Twenty20 international. Batsmen Babar Azam and Iftikhar Ahmed are the other players in the Afridi-led squad who have played one-dayers for Pakistan but are yet to represent them in the shortest format. Towering left-arm pacer Mohammad Irfan, who was rested for the Twenty20 series in New Zealand, also returned to the squad for the March 8-April 3 tournament.

Pakistan's participation in the World T20, which they won in 2009, across the border depends on government clearance as there are specific threats, according to Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Shaharyar Khan.

Squad: Shahid Afridi (captain), Mohammad Hafeez, Shoaib Malik, Umar Akmal, Sarfraz Ahmed, Babar Azam, Iftikhar Ahmed, Imad Wasim, Anwar Ali, Mohammad Irfan, Wahab Riaz, Mohammad Amir, Mohammad Nawaz, Khuram Manzoor, Rumman Raees. — Reuters

## WINDIES BOARD REJECTS CALL FOR NEW DEAL IN WORLD T20 ROW

**KINGSTON:** West Indies players will be thrown off the squad for the World Twenty20 if they do not agree to financial terms by Sunday's deadline, the head of the region's cricket board said on Tuesday. The hard-line stance comes in the wake of reports that the 15-man squad, upset at a huge pay cut, has rejected the contract offered by West Indies Cricket Board (WICB). Cricinfo.com on Tuesday published a letter from Darren Sammy to the WICB in which the West Indies captain said the financial terms for the World Twenty20, which starts in India on March 8, were unacceptable.

"We want to represent the West Indies but the financials on offer we can't accept," Sammy wrote. WICB chief executive Michael Muirhead did not sound in a negotiating mood, however, when he spoke on Jamaican radio. "The WICB is committed to

play in the tournament, let me say that first," Muirhead said on Hitz 92fm.

"No one will leave the shores of the West Indies without signing a contract and if these players in particular choose not to sign, then I guess we'll be left with no option but to substitute other players for them." Muirhead added that the board was not in a position to improve the remuneration package, negotiated with the players association nine months ago. "They have had lots of time to digest and argue and do everything," he said. "Five of the players were instrumental and were there at the onset, so at this point, I'm hoping that the players will sign and take advantage of the other benefits that are there." He said that players would receive half of any shirt sponsorship the board negotiates in addition to a portion of prize money. —Reuters



**NEW YORK:** Washington Wizards guard John Wall (2) and Wizards guard Grant Temple watch from the floor as New York Knicks forward Kristaps Porzingis (6) goes up for a shot in the second half of an NBA basketball game at Madison Square Garden in New York, Tuesday. The Wizards defeated the Knicks 111-108. — AP