

Sports

Betts finishes off Twins in 10th as Devers gets Red Sox even

Brewers overpower Giants 3-1

MINNESOTA: Mookie Betts led off the bottom of the 10th inning with a home run as the Boston Red Sox snapped a two-game losing streak with a 4-3 victory over the visiting Minnesota Twins on Friday night at Fenway Park. It was Betts' 25th homer of the season and his first career walk-off homer. The blast over the Green Monster in left field came on the second pitch of the inning from Matt Belisle (1-1). Eddie Rosario had a two-run go-ahead double off Red Sox closer Craig Kimbrel with two outs in the ninth, and Jorge Polanco also had two hits for Minnesota, which had a four-game winning streak snapped. Rafael Devers tied the game leading off the bottom of the ninth against Fernando Rodney when he lined his 15th homer of the year just over the glove of Max Kepler into the bullpen in right.

Pirates 5, Mets 4

David Freese capped a big night with a walk-off single as Pittsburgh broke a two-game losing streak with a win over visiting New York. Freese drove in all five Pirates runs, including a two-run homer. Michael Conforto hit a three-run homer for the Mets, who had their three-game winning streak snapped. In the ninth tied 4-4 against Tim Peterson (2-2), the Mets' seventh pitcher, Josh Harrison had an infield single, Gregory Polanco singled and Elias Diaz was walked intentionally before Freese lofted the ball to deep right-center for the win.

Orioles 15, Rays 5

Adam Jones homered and drove in four runs, and Jonathan Schoop homered in a fifth consecutive game and had three RBIs as Baltimore routed visiting Tampa Bay. Andrew Cashner (3-9) broke a four-game losing streak and won for the first time this season at home. It was his first victory since May 21. Chris Archer (3-5) started for the Rays in what might have been his final time on the mound with Tampa Bay as the July 31 trade deadline nears. Archer gave up four runs (three earned) in six innings before the Orioles broke things open with an eight-run seventh.

Indians 8, Tigers 3

Pinch hitter Brandon Guyer smashed a three-run homer to highlight a four-run eighth, Francisco Lindor homered twice and drove in three runs and Cleveland rolled to a win at Detroit. Yonder Alonso also homered and drove in two runs for the Indians, who have won 11 of 14 meetings with Detroit this season. Cody Allen (3-4) pitched 1 1/3 innings of scoreless relief to get the victory. Victor Martinez homered for the Tigers. Losing pitcher Joe Jimenez (4-2) was charged with three runs while getting only one out.

Reds 6, Phillies 4

Mason Williams broke a fourth-inning tie with a three-run home run and Eugenio Suarez homered in his

fifth straight game, lifting host Cincinnati past Philadelphia. Suarez tied a club record when he connected for a solo shot in the second inning. He became the eighth Reds player to homer in five straight, last accomplished by Jay Bruce in 2016. The Cincinnati bullpen threw 4 2/3 innings of one-run relief, helping the Reds get even in the four-game series.

Nationals 9, Marlins 1

Max Scherzer earned his 14th win of the season on his 34th birthday and teenager Juan Soto homered for the third straight game as Washington defeated host Miami. The only run allowed by Scherzer was unearned, and Soto went 3-for-5 with three RBIs. Soto finished a double short of the cycle. Scherzer (14-5) retired the first 10 batters he faced and struck out the side in the third and sixth innings. He finished with 11 strikeouts to reach 200 on the season and gave up three hits and one walk in eight innings.

Dodgers 4, Braves 1

Clayton Kershaw gave up one run over a season-high 7 2/3 innings and drove in a pair of runs to help Los Angeles win at Atlanta. Kershaw (4-5) gave up six hits, struck out eight without a walk and improved to 4-0 in 10 career starts against the Braves. It was his first career start at SunTrust Park. Kershaw drove in two runs with a two-out single in the fourth inning to complete a three-run rally. He also walked three times, making him the first pitcher with three walks and a single since Whitey Ford in 1959 and the first Dodger pitcher with three walks since Don Sutton in 1976.

Blue Jays 10, White Sox 5

Lourdes Gurriel Jr led a five-homer barrage with two solo shots, Marcus Stroman pitched into the seventh inning and visiting Toronto pummeled Chicago. Randal Grichuk hit a two-run homer, and Curtis Granderson and Kendrys Morales each added solo blasts for the Jays. Gurriel also hit a double in going 3-for-5 and matching a club record (Tony Fernandez, 1986) with his ninth straight multi-hit game.

Rangers 11, Astros 2

Robinson Chirinos slugged his third home run against Houston this season, leading visiting Texas in a rout. Chirinos delivered the decisive blow with two outs and a 2-2 count in the fifth inning, belting a fastball from Astros left-hander Dallas Keuchel (8-9) 404 feet to left field. The Astros, playing without middle infielders Carlos Correa (back) and Jose Altuve (right knee), managed only two hits against Yovani Gallardo (5-1) in 5 1/3 innings after mustering just one off Rockies right-hander Jon Gray on Wednesday.

Cardinals 5, Cubs 2

Luke Weaver pitched six strong innings as St Louis



BOSTON: Jake Cave #60 of the Minnesota Twins dives into second base past the tag of Xander Bogaerts #2 of the Boston Red Sox in the bottom of the seventh inning at Fenway Park on July 27, 2018. — AFP

defeated visiting Chicago. Paul DeJong went 3-for-3 with a triple and three RBIs for the Cardinals, who improved to 8-6 in the season series against the National League Central leaders. Weaver (6-9) allowed two runs on eight hits. He didn't walk a batter and struck out five to defeat the Cubs for the first time in four tries this season. He suffered a 7-2 loss last Saturday in Chicago in his previous start.

Rockies 3, Athletics 1

Kyle Freeland pitched six shutout innings, Nolan Arenado homered and host Colorado beat streaking Oakland. Adam Ottavino pitched the ninth for his fourth save, and Carlos Gonzalez had three hits for the Rockies, who have won eight of 10. The A's had won 13 of their last 16 games to move to 18 games above .500 and climb into the playoff hunt. Heading into the weekend, Oakland was a game behind Seattle for the second American League wild card.

Angels 4, Mariners 3 (10 innings)

Kole Calhoun hit a game-ending home run in the 10th inning to lead Los Angeles past visiting Seattle. Calhoun's 12th home run of the season came on the first pitch against Mariners reliever Juan Nicasio (1-5). Albert Pujols had a second-inning double to give him 3,061 hits and move him past Craig Biggio and into sole possession of 24th on the all-time hit list. Next up at No 23 is Ichiro Suzuki, who has 3,089 hits.

Diamondbacks 6, Padres 2

Arizona erupted for six runs in the third inning off San Diego starter Luis Perdomo, and right-hander Zack Greinke held the hosts to a solo homer by Manuel Margot over seven innings in a win. Greinke improved to 12-5 on the season-and 11-2 lifetime against the Padres-while giving up six hits and no walks with six strikeouts. Steven Souza Jr's two-run double-one of four in the inning-was Arizona's biggest hit in the third-inning assault on Perdomo, who got only one out in the inning before being pulled. Seven straight Diamondbacks reached base ahead of his departure.

Brewers 3, Giants 1

Chase Anderson outduelled Madison Bumgarner and Ryan Braun drove in two runs, delivering Milwaukee a win at San Francisco. Jeremy Jeffress got Buster Posey to ground out with the bases loaded and two outs in the eighth inning, helping the Brewers hold on for their fourth win in their last five games. Following the win, the Brewers acquired two-time All-Star third baseman Mike Moustakas from the Kansas City Royals for outfielder Brett Phillips and right-hander Jorge Lopez.

Yankees-Royals, pppd.

The game between Kansas City and New York at Yankee Stadium was postponed roughly 30 minutes after its scheduled first pitch due to rain. The contest will be made up as part of a day-night doubleheader.— Reuters



Conor McGregor

MMA's McGregor makes plea deal to avoid jail time

NEW YORK: Irish mixed martial arts superstar Conor McGregor pleaded guilty in a Brooklyn criminal court to disorderly conduct, cutting a deal that allows him to avoid prison time over a New York brawl. The 30-year-old, who is nicknamed "The Notorious," had been charged with multiple counts of assault and criminal mischief after attacking a bus filled with Ultimate Fighting Championship contenders at the Barclays Center in April.

The frenzied attack injured two athletes. McGregor pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of disorderly conduct in a fleeting court appearance, and was handed a punishment of five days' community service and an anger management program. All felony counts were dropped. But he was served with "orders of protection," to stay away from three people. McGregor stood before the judge, looking somber in a dark suit and striped tie, for the brief appearance. "I

just want to say I'm thankful to the DA (district attorney) and the judge for allowing me to move forward," a visibly relieved McGregor told reporters outside the court.

"I want to say to my friends, my family, my fans — thank you for the support." "Now it's about getting back to business," said his manager, Audie Attar. He had faced up to seven years in prison if convicted on all counts, and was released on \$50,000 bail following his arrest. Last month, following an earlier court appearance, McGregor expressed "regret" over the attack on the bus of rival fighters. The Irishman pocketed around \$100 million for the superfight he lost in August in Las Vegas against ex-welterweight champion Floyd Mayweather.

Their matchup was one of the richest boxing bouts of all time. McGregor is ranked fourth on the Forbes list of the world's highest-paid athletes, with an estimated wealth of \$99 million, behind Mayweather in at number one, and soccer sensations Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo. He was filmed lobbying a dolly through a window of the bus in a New York stadium at the end of a media event on April 5. The bus was moving slowly through the Barclays Center loading dock at the time. The father-of-one was also captured on surveillance cameras throwing a chair toward a passenger window of the bus.—AFP

IAAF maintains ban on Russia

BUENOS AIRES: Russia's ban from international athletics over widespread doping has been maintained by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), the president of the sport's governing body, Sebastian Coe, said on Friday. Russia has been suspended from international athletics since November 2015 after the McLaren report discovered widespread doping. The Russians had hoped to be reinstated but IAAF officials meeting in Argentina on Friday unanimously upheld the ban and said that although Russia had taken positive steps in the right direction it had not done enough to merit inclusion.

"We have brought about change and it's change that is very viable," said Coe. "But we weren't yet at that point where every element of that criteria had been met." Russia's political and sporting leaders have repeatedly denied state involvement in doping, a key sticking point in lifting the ban, although Russian athletes cleared by the IAAF were allowed to compete as neutrals at last year's world championships. Such athletes will again be allowed to compete as neutrals in the European Championships, which are scheduled to start in Berlin on Aug 7.

Anti-doping rules

Meanwhile, the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) has welcomed new anti-doping regulations in the sport that put greater responsibility on national federations. Following an International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) council meeting, national federations will be divided into three categories with differing obligations based on

African, world players to meet in Africa Game

LOS ANGELES: NBA players with direct ties to Africa will play a world team in the third NBA Africa Game next month in Pretoria, South Africa, the National Basketball Association and National Basketball Players Association announced on



BUENOS AIRES: The head of the International Association of Athletics Federations' (IAAF) Russian taskforce team, Rune Andersen, speaks during a press conference in the framework of the IAAF Council's Meeting in Buenos Aires, on July 27, 2018. — AFP

their level of success and the perceived risk of doping.

"For too long the strict requirements of the anti-doping rules have fallen largely onto athletes," AIU chairman David Howman said in a statement. "The IAAF Council should be congratulated for adopting innovative new rules that also make all of its member federations accountable on anti-doping matters. This will help ensure lasting and meaningful change in athletics."

The doping scandal involving Russian athletes, which saw the country's track and field team banned from the 2016 Rio Olympics, has cast a long and enduring shadow over athletics. The AIU was set up a year ago as part of the IAAF's effort to separate itself from anti-doping and corruption and rebuild athlete

Friday. Luol Deng (Los Angeles Lakers, South Sudan), Bismack Biyombo (Charlotte Hornets, Democratic Republic of the Congo), Joel Embiid (Philadelphia 76ers, Cameroon) and Serge Ibaka (Toronto Raptors, Republic of the Congo) will be among the players competing for Team Africa in the Aug 4 game at the Sun Arena, with Biyombo and Embiid the co-captains.

Rudy Gay (San Antonio Spurs, US) and Khris Middleton (Milwaukee Bucks, US) will serve as co-captains for a world team that also features Harrison Barnes (Dallas Mavericks, US) and Danilo Gallinari (LA Clippers, Italy). The game will take place fol-

lowing the 16th edition of Basketball Without Borders Africa. In honor of the centenary of the birth of Nelson Mandela, it will be played in support of the Nelson Mandela Foundation. Two previous games, in Johannesburg in 2015 and 2017, were sell-outs.

Players Association Executive Director Michele Roberts and NBA Commissioner Adam Silver will attend the game along with Hall of Famer Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, NBA Global Ambassador Dikembe Mutombo (Democratic Republic of the Congo) and others. There are more than 80 current and former NBA players from Africa or with direct family ties to the continent, the NBA said.—Reuters