

25 Yelich 3 home runs, seven RBIs powers Brewers past Cardinals



26 Ex-cricketer Lewis on long walk back from disgrace to redemption

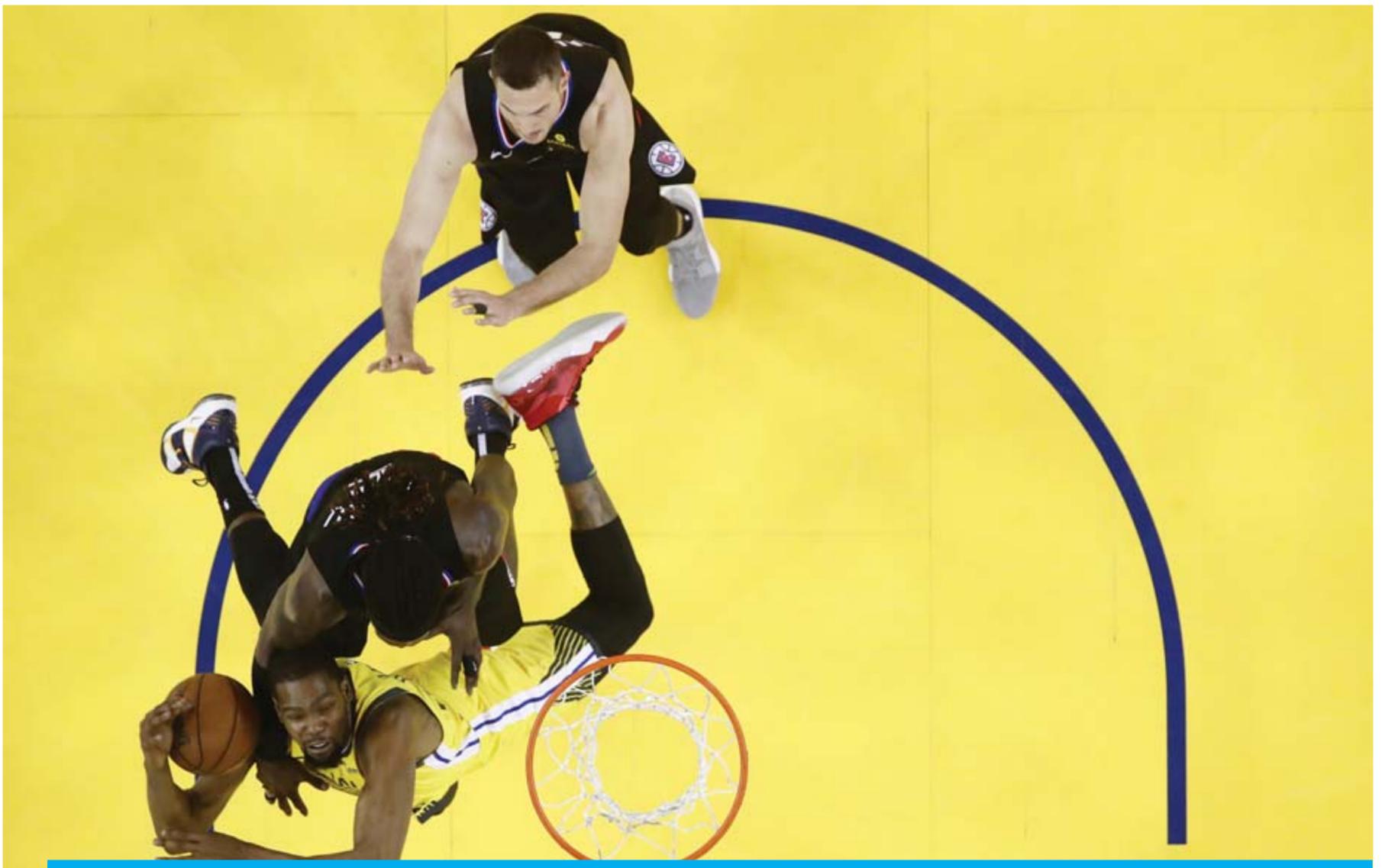


27 Madrid disappoint again in dreary draw with Leganes



Clippers pull off biggest comeback in history

76ers set franchise record with 51 points to rout Nets



OAKLAND: Kevin Durant #35 of the Golden State Warriors is fouled by Montrezl Harrell #5 of the LA Clippers during Game Two of the first round of the 2019 NBA Western Conference Playoffs at ORACLE Arena in Oakland, California. — AFP

OAKLAND: The Los Angeles Clippers delivered the biggest comeback in NBA playoff history Monday, rallying from a 31-point deficit for a shocking 135-131 win over the two-time defending champion Golden State Warriors. Lou Williams scored 36 points and Montrezl Harrell nailed a couple of clutch late free throws as the Clippers surprised even themselves to square the first round playoff series at 1-1.

Clippers coach Doc Rivers said he told his players at halftime, when they were down by 23 points, to not give up. "I said 'We are going to win this game.' I was honest with them. I said, 'I don't know how. Just hang in there with each other,'" Rivers said.

"This is who we are. We hung in there long enough. We found a way to win the game." Williams also had 11 assists, going 13-of-22 from the field and eight-of-10 from the free throw line. Game three is tomorrow in Los Angeles. The stretch drive featured the Clippers' consistent mid-range game against the Warriors' inconsistent

three-point shooting. But fouls and injuries also worked against the Warriors in game two of the first round series.

Warriors coach Steve Kerr described it as an epic meltdown. "Once you lose momentum in a game, it is hard to get it back," said Kerr. "We lost this game in the middle of the third quarter when we stopped playing."

"We got up by 31 and we shut down. We got exactly what we deserved." The Clippers topped the Los Angeles Lakers' rally from a 29-point deficit to beat the Seattle SuperSonics in 1989. The Clippers also came back from being 27 points down in a playoff win over the Memphis Grizzlies in 2012.

"We changed a couple things offensively and defensively on the fly in the third," Rivers said. "And it worked out for us." The Warriors got more bad news after the game when they learned centre DeMarcus Cousins suffered a serious injury. Cousins injured his left quad in the first quarter and is expected to have an MRI scan done on it today.

"It is a significant quad injury," said Kerr without going into detail. "We will get an MRI done tomorrow. He is going to be out a while. It is significant." Williams drained a key jump shot over Klay Thompson with 46 seconds remaining after Curry had put the Warriors ahead 131-128 on a three-pointer 12 seconds earlier.

After Klay Thompson missed a shot from beyond the arc, Clippers Landry Shamet hit a three pointer with 16 seconds left for the game winner. Harrell sank two free throws with five seconds left to cap the scoring.

Elsewhere, Ben Simmons heard cheers instead of jeers Monday as the Philadelphia 76ers set a franchise record with 51 points in the third quarter en route to a 145-123 playoff win over the Brooklyn Nets. Australia's Simmons, who had criticized the Philadelphia fans' booing in game one of the series, delivered a triple-double of 18 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds.

He joined Wilt Chamberlain and Charles Barkley as the only Sixers to get multiple triple-doubles in the postseason,

and this time he left to a standing ovation from the home fans. Philadelphia grabbed command of the contest with a 51-point third quarter, a team record for most points in a quarter.

The Sixers also set a club record for most points in a playoff game, squaring their best-of-seven opening round series 1-1. Game three is tomorrow in New York. Ailing Joel Embiid finished with 23 points and 10 rebounds to lead Philadelphia, who shot 56 percent from the field. Embiid was a game-time decision due to a sore left knee.

"Everybody's got to bring it," Embiid said. "We need everybody." Tobias Harris added 19 points, JJ Redick scored 17, reserve centre Boban Marjanovic had 16 and Mike Scott scored 15 for Philadelphia. Spencer Dinwiddie scored 19 and D'Angelo Russell added 16 for the Nets, who set a team record for points allowed in a postseason game. Rondae Hollis-Jefferson got 15, while Caris LeVert and Shabazz Napier scored 13 each. — AFP

Hertha Berlin coach Dardai to step down

BERLIN: Hertha Berlin coach Pal Dardai will step down at the end of the season after a string of poor results in 2019, the club confirmed yesterday. After a positive start to the season, Hertha have won just two of 13 games this year, plummeting to 11th in the table.

A 2-0 loss to Hoffenheim on Sunday was their fifth defeat in a row, piling the pressure on 43-year-old Hungarian coach Dardai. Yesterday, the club announced that Dardai would end nearly five seasons in charge at the end of this season.

"Four-and-a-half years of good, constructive work is a long time in professional football, but we have now decided that we need a new impetus in the summer," said Hertha's director of sport Michael Preetz.

"Pal is an important part of the positive development of the club and will remain a big part of the Hertha family in the future. Dardai has been associated with Hertha since his playing days, and still holds the club record of 373 appearances.

Even on Monday, he remained bullish about rumours that he would be sacked, saying that he and his team were doing a "great job" and that he "enjoyed the trust" of the club. On Tuesday, he said that Hertha "is and will remain my home". "I am thankful for the chance I was given here and very proud of what we have achieved," he said. The club confirmed that Dardai's "general" contract would not be cancelled, and that he would remain at the club as a youth team coach. —AFP



Pal Dardai

Arsenal move into top four

LONDON: Arsenal moved into the Premier League top four, but made hard work of seeing off 10-man Watford 1-0 thanks to Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's fortunate early opener on Monday. Aubameyang profited from an error by Watford goalkeeper Ben Foster as he blasted an attempted clearance in off the Gabon international.

Watford captain Troy Deeney was then shown a straight red card after just 11 minutes, but the Gunners failed to make the most of their man advantage and were fortunate as the hosts twice hit the woodwork.

However, Unai Emery's men held out for a first clean sheet away from home in the Premier League this season to move ahead of Chelsea on goal difference into fourth. "We didn't control the match like I wanted," admitted Emery.

"The team was anxious because they could (have) taken some moment. The most important for us is to score the second goal, which we didn't do." Arsenal also edge to within a point of north London rivals Tottenham and two clear of Manchester United in the four-way battle for the two remaining Champions League places behind Liverpool and Manchester City. FA Cup finalists Watford were already shorn of the man who helped book their place at Wembley against Manchester City next month as Gerard Deulofeu missed out through injury and Javi Gracia's side did themselves little favours early on. Firstly, Foster dallied as Aubameyang closed in to concede a comical opener. — AFP