

Sports

# Washington Nationals hit eight home runs in 16-8 rout of Milwaukee Brewers

## Cubs rely on long ball to top Pirates in Williamsport

**WASHINGTON:** The Washington Nationals capped off a productive week on offense by slugging a franchise-record-tying eight home runs in a 16-8 rout of the visiting Milwaukee Brewers on Sunday afternoon. Brian Dozier (three hits, four RBIs) and Juan Soto smacked a pair of homers, and Matt Adams (three hits) and Anthony Rendon mashed three-run shots. Victor Robles and Adam Eaton notched solo dingers for the Nationals, who tallied 19 hits and won for the sixth time in seven games, including a 17-7 win over Cincinnati on Wednesday. Catcher Yan Gomes went 3-for-5. For the Brewers, Mike Moustakas had three hits, two homers and five RBIs, and Ben Gamel went 4-for-5 with a homer.

### Astros 4, Athletics 1

Right-hander Zack Greinke earned his 200th career victory, and visiting Houston avoided a series sweep with a win over Oakland. Alex Bregman went 4-for-4 and belted his 30th home run of the season, a three-run shot in the fifth inning that erased a 1-0 deficit and allowed the Astros — who had lost the first three games of the series — to snap a five-game losing streak. Greinke (13-4) held the A's to one run and four hits in seven innings en route to his third consecutive win since joining the Astros in a trade last month.

### Mets 11, Royals 5

Pete Alonso hit his 40th home run of the season, establishing a National League record for rookies, as New York defeated host Kansas City. Alonso's ninth-inning blast cleared the Mets bullpen in left. He broke a tie with the Dodgers' Cody Bellinger, who hit 39 in 2017. Trailing 4-3, the Mets scored six runs off the Kansas City bullpen in the seventh inning to seize the game. Jeurys Familia (4-1) picked up the win after a scoreless sixth before the Mets rally.

### Braves 5, Dodgers 3

Rafael Ortega, recalled from the minor leagues last week, hit his first career grand slam to lift Atlanta over visiting Los Angeles. Ortega connected in the sixth inning against reliever Dustin May (1-2) for a long homer to right field, his first since being recalled from Triple-A Gwinnett on Tuesday. The Braves won the final two games of the three-game series between two division-leading clubs. The Dodgers won four of six against Atlanta this season.

### Cubs 7, Pirates 1

Nicholas Castellanos, Jason Heyward and Anthony Rizzo homered to help Chicago drub Pittsburgh in the MLB Little League Classic in Williamsport, Pa. Kyle Schwarber added a two-run single, and Kris Bryant an RBI double for the Cubs, who won their second in a row following a four-game losing streak. Chicago won its first road series since taking two of three against Washington from May 17-19. The first two games of the series were played at PNC Park in Pittsburgh.

### Indians 8, Yankees 4

Mike Clevinger struck out 10 in five scoreless innings to win his seventh straight decision. Mike Freeman hit a three-run homer and Cleveland gained a split of its four-game series at New York. Freeman, who started at third base as Jose Ramirez rested, hit his fourth homer of the season in the second and doubled twice. Francisco Lindor barely cleared the fence with a solo drive, and rookie Oscar Mercado accounted for Cleveland's final three runs with a double and a two-run homer in the eighth. The Indians scored 27 runs and hit 10 homers in their two wins at Yankee Stadium.

### Red Sox 13, Orioles 7

Rafael Devers lined a tie-breaking RBI double that sparked a six-run sixth inning as Boston rallied to beat visiting Baltimore. Boston has won five in a row. The Red Sox rallied from an early 6-0 deficit with help from Devers, who finished 4-for-5 with two doubles, a two-run homer and four RBIs. The Orioles have lost seven in a row and 12 of 13.

### Rockies 7, Marlins 6 (10 innings)

Garrett Hampson hit a soft single to left field with the bases loaded in the 10th inning, and Colorado beat Miami in Denver. Nolan Arenado hit a pair of home runs, Charlie Blackmon also went deep and Carlos Estevez (2-2) got the win for the Rockies, who posted their first sweep since claiming a three-game set against the Arizona Diamondbacks from June 18-20. Harold Ramirez had three hits and drove in a pair of runs for the Marlins.

### Rays 5, Tigers 4

Ji-Man Choi hit a two-run single in the bottom of the ninth to give Tampa Bay a win over visiting Detroit. Tommy Pham hit a two-run homer and scored twice for the Rays, who took two of three in the series. D'Arnaud knocked in the other run for Tampa Bay, while Jose Alvarado (1-5) pitched a scoreless inning of relief to pick up the win. Tigers starter Matthew Boyd reached the 200-strikeout mark for the season. He held the Rays to one run on two hits and walked just two in seven innings.

### Cardinals 5, Reds 4

Paul Goldschmidt belted a two-run homer, and Tommy Edman also went deep as visiting St. Louis edged Cincinnati. Lane Thomas and Marcell Ozuna each drove in a run for the Cardinals, who earned a split of the four-game series against Cincinnati with their seventh victory in their past nine contests. Tucker Barnhart ripped a two-run single to right field in the ninth inning off Carlos Martinez to trim St. Louis' lead to 5-4, but the right-hander struck out two of the next three batters to secure his 14th save.

### Padres 3, Phillies 2

Joey Lucchesi pitched six strong innings, and



WASHINGTON: Brian Dozier No 9 of the Washington Nationals and Juan Soto No 22 celebrates a win after a baseball game against the Milwaukee Brewers at Nationals Park in Washington. —AFP

Austin Hedges went 4-for-4 with a tiebreaking home run in the seventh as San Diego defeated host Philadelphia. Phillies superstar Bryce Harper left the game after five innings because of dehydration, the team said. The heat index on the field exceeded 100 degrees. Luis Urias also homered for the Padres, who took two of three games in the series.

### Mariners 7, Blue Jays 0

Yusei Kikuchi pitched a two-hitter on the way to his first major league shutout and was supported by four home runs as visiting Seattle topped Toronto. Kikuchi allowed one walk and struck out eight. Kyle Seager, Austin Nola, Tom Murphy and Keon Broxton homered for the Mariners, who took the rubber match of the three-game series. It was the first win for Kikuchi (5-8) since June 23, a span of eight starts in which he lost three times. His previous win had been May 19.

### Twins 6, Rangers 3

Jorge Polanco hit a three-run triple with two outs in the eighth inning to break a 3-3 tie and carry Minnesota to a four-game series sweep of host Texas. Sam Dyson (5-1) picked up the win, allowing one run on three hits over an inning of relief. Taylor Rogers struck out Rougned Odor with runners on first and second for the final out for his 19th save. Shin-Soo

Choo went 2-for-5 with a home run, Hunter Pence had three hits and a walk, and Jeff Mathis drove in two runs for Texas, which lost its fourth straight game.

### Diamondbacks 6, Giants 1

Merrill Kelly allowed one run and six hits over 5 2/3 innings to help Arizona end a four-game losing streak with a win against visiting San Francisco. Wilmer Flores had two hits, including a solo homer. David Peralta also homered, and Adam Jones had two RBIs in his first start in center field this season for Arizona. Giants left-hander Madison Bumgarner (8-8) was aiming to win his third straight start and sixth consecutive decision. He allowed four runs and six hits in six innings, striking out nine and walking two.

### Angels 9, White Sox 2

Matt Thaiss finished a triple short of the cycle and drove in four runs, and Kole Calhoun, Shohei Ohtani and Anthony Bembboom homered to back seven strong innings from Griffin Canning and lift host Los Angeles to a win over Chicago. Los Angeles out-hit Chicago 15-7 in the series finale and won three of four games over the weekend. Thaiss provided the only run support the Angels needed in a pitching matchup of rookie right-handers, drilling a three-run home run to right field against the White Sox's Dylan Cease with one out in the second inning. —Reuters

## Power takes wreck-marred, storm-shortened IndyCar win

**NEW YORK:** Australia's Will Power won Sunday's storm-shortened and crash-marred Pocono 500, stretching his string of IndyCar seasons with a victory to 13 while American Josef Newgarden boosted his season points lead.

Racing was stopped for lightning after 128 of 200 scheduled laps over the unique 2.5-mile (4km) tri-oval course at Long Pond, Pennsylvania.

A few minutes later, leader Power was declared a winner with New Zealand's Scott Dixon second, France's Simon Pagenaud third, US rookie Santino Ferrucci fourth and Newgarden fifth.

"Over the moon," Power said. "I had a few issues during the race but I just kept coming back. When it was time to go I went.

I was so determined. "It'll be my 13th year in a row winning a race. I had been thinking about that."

Power won at Pocono in 2016 and 2017 and was second last year, but it was only his second victory since taking last year's Indianapolis 500. He will defend his only other title next week at Gateway in Madison, Illinois.

The race was marred by a stunning first-lap crash that caused no severe injuries but involved five of the 22 drivers, including defending race champion Alexander Rossi, whose season title hopes suffered a blow despite a front-row start.

Newgarden improved his gap over Rossi from 16 to 35 points with three races remaining in the season, although Dixon, the defending IndyCar season champion, and Pagenaud, this year's Indianapolis 500 winner, tightened their gap behind Rossi.

It was Dixon's fourth consecutive top-two finish. A qualifying rainout left season points to decide starting spots with Newgarden on the pole alongside 2016 Indy 500 winner Rossi and Pagenaud and Dixon in row two.

But just outside the second turn of lap

one, Japan's Takuma Sato moved down from the outside, his left rear tire hitting the front right tire of Rossi's car, sending Sato careening into Ryan Hunter-Reay, the crash also collecting Swedish rookie Felix Rosenqvist and James Hinchcliffe.

Rosenqvist, who was evaluated at a nearby hospital and released, skidded along the outer retaining wall and fence in a wreck eerily like one last year that left Canadian racer Robert Wickens unable to walk.

"I can't even begin to understand how after last year Takuma thinks any sort of driving like that is acceptable," Rossi said. "Turning across two cars like that at that speed is disgraceful and upsetting."

"This is ridiculous," Hunter-Reay said. "I thought we learned our lesson here... it all hand-grenaded." "After last year, I don't think anybody had to say anything," said Hinchcliffe. "It's such a waste."

Sato explained: "I thought it was all clear. Everybody got close and unfortunately we made contact. I'm not really overly aggressive overtaking or anything." Rossi strategist Rob Edwards saw it differently, saying, "Someone made something pretty silly happen going into turn two." —AFP

## 76ers' Bolden pulls out of Australia World Cup campaign



Jonah Bolden

**SYDNEY:** Australia have suffered a setback after Jonah Bolden joined Philadelphia 76ers' teammate Ben Simmons as a no-show for the upcoming basketball World Cup in China.

The power forward, who starred for the Boomers in their 81-73 win over Canada in an exhibition game on Friday, with 12 points and five rebounds off the bench, cited "personal reasons".

Australia coach Andrej Lemanis said he supported the decision. "My first thought is always with the player in these situations — having to withdraw from the national team is tough for anyone," he said in a statement late Sunday.

"From a team perspective, the timing is sub-optimal, but again, we are very fortunate to have the depth of talent we

have in this country available to take up this opportunity."

A replacement will be named soon, likely ahead of the Boomers' two pre-World Cup clashes against a depleted United States in Melbourne this week. Bolden's withdrawal follows a decision by Simmons — who recently signed a five-year, US\$170 million contract extension with 76ers — to also skip the World Cup, which tips off on August 31.

Other Australian NBA standouts who will not be playing include Thon Maker (NBA commitments), Ryan Broekhoff (birth of his child) and Dante Exum (injury). Despite their no-shows, Australia still boasts several NBA stars, including Utah Jazz's Joe Ingles and Patty Mills of the San Antonio Spurs —AFP



Will Power