

Sports

Warriors set NBA record with 51-point first quarter

Pacers roar from start in easy win over Suns

NBA results/standings

Atlanta 142, Oklahoma City 126; Denver 111, Golden State 142; Milwaukee 124, Miami 86; Indiana 131, Phoenix 97; Philadelphia 149, Minnesota 107; Los Angeles Lakers 107, Chicago 100.

Eastern Conference

	W	L	PCT	GB
Toronto	33	12	0.733	-
Milwaukee	31	12	0.721	1
Indiana	29	14	0.674	3
Philadelphia	29	16	0.644	4
Boston	25	18	0.581	7
Miami	21	21	0.500	10.5
Brooklyn	22	23	0.489	11
Charlotte	20	23	0.465	12
Orlando	19	24	0.442	13
Detroit	18	24	0.429	13.5
Washington	18	26	0.409	14.5
Atlanta	14	30	0.318	18.5
New York	10	33	0.233	22
Chicago	10	34	0.227	22.5
Cleveland	9	35	0.205	23.5

Western Conference

	W	L	PCT	GB
Golden State	30	14	0.682	-
Denver	29	14	0.674	0.5
Oklahoma City	26	17	0.605	3.5
Houston	25	18	0.581	4.5
Portland	26	19	0.578	4.5
LA Clippers	24	19	0.558	5.5
San Antonio	25	20	0.556	5.5
LA Lakers	24	21	0.533	6.5
Utah	24	21	0.533	6.5
Sacramento	23	21	0.523	7
Minnesota	21	23	0.477	9
New Orleans	21	23	0.477	9
Dallas	20	23	0.465	9.5
Memphis	19	24	0.442	10.5
Phoenix	11	34	0.244	19.5

DENVER: Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson scored 31 points apiece, Kevin Durant had 27, and the hot-shooting Golden State Warriors routed the host Denver Nuggets 142-111 on Tuesday night. The Warriors set an NBA record for a first quarter by scoring 51 points. The previous record of 50 points was held by five teams, with the Phoenix Suns the last club to accomplish the feat on Nov. 10, 1990. Overall, Golden State shot 60 percent from the floor, including 53.8 percent from 3-point range. The Warriors hit 10 3-pointers in the first period to set a franchise record and finished 21 of 39 from long distance. Curry finished 8 of 13 and Thompson 5 of 8 from 3-point range. Malik Beasley scored 22 points and Jamal Murray had 21 for the Nuggets.

HAWKS 142, THUNDER 126

Trae Young scored 24 points and added 11 assists and six rebounds as Atlanta blew out visiting Oklahoma City. It was his 14th double-double of the season. Atlanta's John Collins made his first 11 field-goal attempts and finished the night 12-for-14 to score 26 points. Many of Young's assists were turned into baskets by Alex Len, who scored 24 points on 9-for-14 shooting and grabbed 11 rebounds. Russell Westbrook had 31 points and 11 assists for the Thunder. Paul George added 24 points and eight rebounds.

76ERS 149, TIMBERWOLVES 107

Joel Embiid scored 31 points and grabbed 13 rebounds to lift host Philadelphia to an easy victory over Minnesota. Embiid recorded his league-leading 37th double-double. In addition, Embiid posted his league-best 30th game with at least 20 points and 10 rebounds. Ben Simmons had 20 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists, while Jimmy Butler added 19 points in his first game against his former team. JJ Redick also had 15 for the Sixers, who made a franchise-record 21 3-pointers. Derrick Rose topped the Timberwolves with 15 points.

BUCKS 124, HEAT 86

Giannis Antetokounmpo posted his 13th career triple-double with 12 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists, leading host Milwaukee to a win over Miami. It



DENVER: Trey Lyles #7 of the Denver Nuggets goes to the basket against the Golden State Warriors on Tuesday at the Pepsi Center in Denver, Colorado. — AFP

was the largest margin of defeat for the Heat this season. Antetokounmpo also had three steals in his third triple-double of the season. The leading scorers for the Bucks were Eric Bledsoe (17 points) and Malcolm Brogdon (16). Milwaukee, which has the second-best record in the NBA at 31-12, improved its home mark to a league-leading 20-4.

PACERS 131, SUNS 97

Bojan Bogdanovic scored 10 of his 20 points in the first 4:14 of the game as Indiana ran up a 19-point lead in the first quarter en route to a romp over visiting Phoenix. Myles Turner, returning from a four-game absence caused by a sore right shoulder, scored 18 points and was among seven Pacers in double figures. Indiana won its second straight in the opener of a five-game homestand. T.J. Warren had a team-high 18 points and Kelly Oubre Jr. 16 for the Suns, who were tipping

off a four-game trip.

LAKERS 107, BULLS 100

Lonzo Ball had 19 points and eight rebounds, and Los Angeles earned a victory against visiting Chicago, which took its eighth consecutive loss. Lakers coach Luke Walton moved veterans Tyson Chandler and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope into the starting lineup at center and shooting guard, respectively, and moved JaVale McGee and Josh Hart to the bench. Caldwell-Pope scored 17 points, Kyle Kuzma had 16 points and 12 rebounds, and Brandon Ingram had 16 points and nine rebounds. Jabari Parker scored 18 points off the bench to lead the Bulls, who hadn't lost eight in a row since a 10-game skid from Nov. 19-Dec. 6, 2017. Lauri Markkanen added 17 points, and Chandler Hutchison and Ryan Arcidiacono scored 12 apiece for Chicago. — Reuters

India hails Dhoni the 'finisher'

NEW DELHI: India's Mahendra Singh Dhoni won plaudits yesterday for a match-winning knock against Australia that raised expectations the veteran will play his fourth 50-over World Cup this summer.

The 37-year-old wicketkeeper-batsman kept his usual cool during an unbeaten 54-ball 55 as India chased down Australia's 298 in the second one-day international in Adelaide on Tuesday. Seen by some as losing his ability to finish matches, Dhoni rolled back

the years and secured the win with four balls to spare as the tourists levelled the three-match series.

The Indian Express headlined its report "Dhoni finishes, the Mahi way", using his nickname, and the Mail Today said the former captain's innings was "Just Like Old Times". Some observers have suggested India have better options behind the stumps and with the bat for the upcoming ODI World Cup in England, but former skipper Sunil Gavaskar thinks otherwise.

"Only those who are not really cognisant with the value of Mahendra Singh Dhoni will be asking this question," Gavaskar told TV channel India Today. "In the Indian dressing room, in the think tank that is the selection committee there is no doubt that Dhoni will be part of the Indian team for the World Cup."

Following his debut in 2004, Dhoni quickly became

one of India's key players, captaining the side to a World Cup win in 2011. He quit Tests in 2014, and stepped down as the limited-overs skipper three years later. "The consistency you might have at a younger age will obviously not be there and you have to bear with that," added Gavaskar. "But he is still tremendous value to the team."

Australia downed India by 34 runs in the first ODI in Sydney, where Dhoni was criticised for his 96-ball 51. But he rose to the challenge in Adelaide, building crucial partnerships in an innings skipper Virat Kohli described as an "MS Classic".

"We know he can absorb the pressure and release it back to the opponents when the time is right," said Dinesh Karthik, who was at the non-striker's end as Dhoni hit the winning run. — AFP

New Zealand's Bevin wins second Tour Down Under stage to lead

ADELAIDE: New Zealand time-trial champion Patrick Bevin swooped to take his first cycling World Tour stage and claim the overall lead in Australia's Tour Down Under yesterday.

Bevin, 27, riding for the CCC Team, capitalised on confusion in the peloton sparked by a mass crash inside the final kilometre of the 122-kilometre (70-mile) second stage to power home in the finish. The Kiwi unleashed a sprint on the uphill 700m finishing straight to reel in Spain's Luis Leon Sanchez before holding off Australian star sprinter Caleb Ewan and Slovakia's former triple world champion Peter Sagan at the line.

The stage win gave Bevin a 10-second time bonus, lifting him into the overall lead of the race, five seconds ahead of Italy's Elia Viviani, who won Tuesday's stage one but could only manage seventh the next day.

Bevin holds a five-second lead over Viviani in the race general classification with Ewan in third place ahead of Germany's Max Walscheid (Team Sunweb). Walscheid finished 23rd in Wednesday's stage through South Australia's famous Barossa Valley wine country in scorching temperatures of 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit).

"I got to pick a pretty good line in the hard, draggy finish. Once Sanchez was off the front in the final it gave me the perfect springboard and I just went long," Bevin said. "It was definitely a gamble, you could take five seconds today and lose two minutes in three days' time but that's bike racing, we're here to try to win it."

Bevin, whose previous race best in the UCI season-opening tour was 10th in 2016 and 11th last year, avoided a pile-up in the peloton which blocked the road to the Angaston finish line. The crash left around 25 riders to contest the finale with Bevin surging from deep before dipping in behind Sanchez's slipstream and crossing the line with enough time to clench and raise his hands in celebration.

His victory is CCC Team's maiden World Tour victory and his first triumph outside of a national championship since winning stage four of Australia's Herald Sun Tour in February 2015. The peloton once again had to endure brutal temperatures on the stage, which was cut pre-race by 26.9km because of the extreme weather conditions. Australia's Jason Lea (UniSA-Australia) retained the King of the Mountain jersey after stage two from Kazakhstan's Artyom Zakharov (Astana) and Bevin. Viviani edged Bevin for the sprint leader's jersey by a point and another for Germany's Phil Bauhaus (Bahrain Merida Pro Cycling Team).

Today's Stage 3 launches from Lobethal into a challenging six-kilometre hills circuit that finishes in Uraidla. — AFP

Scotland challenge for six Nations crown despite injuries

EDINBURGH: Head coach Gregor Townsend believes Scotland can challenge for the Six Nations crown despite an extensive injury list containing 19 internationals. Townsend has named seven uncapped players in his 39-man squad for the tournament, which starts early next month. Former skipper John Barclay, Zander Fagerson and Richie Gray are missing and Townsend admits he will be down to the bare bones in a number of key positions when they open their championship campaign at home to Italy on February 2.

But he is refusing to rule the Scots, who finished third last year, out of the title hunt. "Every team will have injury challenges, but every team will be going into the tournament believing they can win," said Townsend. "That's the only reason we take part—to win the next game and then win the trophy at the end of the tournament."

"We believe in our squad. We've seen how they've taken on the best in the world over the past few years and on some of those occasions we had a lot of injuries," Townsend hopes the recall of absentees will have reduced significantly in time for their third fixture away to France on February 23.

Glasgow hookers Fraser Brown and George Turner fall into that category, but currently their absences leave the head coach with Edinburgh's Stuart McInally as his sole experienced campaigner in the centre of his front row.

Three rookies-Edinburgh's David Cherry, Leicester's Jake Kerr and Grant Stewart of Glasgow—will offer cover and Townsend said he has faith in his uncapped new faces, despite their lack of international action.

With Ireland, Wales and England occupying three of the top four slots in the world rankings, Townsend said this year's Six Nations could be among the toughest ever. Townsend, who has also handed call-ups to the uncapped Gary Graham, D'Arcy Rae, Sam Johnson and

Chris Dean, said: "It's been competitive over the last few years, you've got teams finding it difficult to win away from home because the teams they are up against are so good."

"I don't believe there has ever been a championship where the number two, number three and number four teams in the world are Ireland, Wales and England, so it shows the quality of opposition we'll be facing."

Newcastle back-row John Hardie makes his return to a Scotland squad for the first time since the 2018 Six Nations, while stalwarts Jonny Gray and Tommy Seymour could rack up their half-centuries of caps after also being named in Townsend's selection.

Scotland squad

Forwards: Alex Allan (Glasgow), Adam Ashe (Glasgow), Simon Berghan (Edinburgh), Jamie Bhatti (Glasgow), David Cherry (Edinburgh), Allan Dell (Edinburgh), Grant Gilchrist (Edinburgh), Gary Graham (Newcastle), Jonny Gray (Glasgow), John Hardie (Newcastle/ENG), Jake Kerr (Leicester), Stuart McInally (Edinburgh), Willem Nel (Edinburgh), D'Arcy Rae (Glasgow), Jamie Ritchie (Edinburgh), Sam Skinner (Exeter/ENG), Grant Stewart (Glasgow), Josh Strauss (Sale/ENG), Tim Swinson (Glasgow), Ben Toolis (Edinburgh), Hamish Watson (Edinburgh), Ryan Wilson (Glasgow)

Backs: Chris Dean (Edinburgh), Darcy Graham (Edinburgh), Nick Grigg (Glasgow), Sam Johnson (Glasgow), Chris Harris (Newcastle/ENG), Adam Hastings (Glasgow), Stuart Hogg (Glasgow), George Horne (Glasgow), Pete Horne (Glasgow), Huw Jones (Glasgow), Lee Jones (Glasgow), Blair Kinghorn (Edinburgh), Greig Laidlaw (capt, Clermont/FRA), Sean Maitland (Saracens/ENG), Ali Price (Glasgow), Finn Russell (Racing 92/FRA), Tommy Seymour (Glasgow). — AFP



Eng Duaj Khalaf Al-Otaibi



Obaid Al-Osaimi

KSSC holds general assembly

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Shooting Sport Club (KSSC) Board of Directors held its first meeting after being chosen by acclamation by the general assembly to run the club until 2023, and the board was formed as follows:

Eng Duaj Khalaf Al-Otaibi - President, Mohammad Mustafa Karam - Vice President, Obaid Al-Osaimi - Secretary General, Essa Butaiban - Treasurer, Eng. Mohammad Al-Ghurba - Asst. Secretary, Adnan Al-Ibrahim - Asst. Treasurer, Dr. Nedal Alsayyed Omar - Member, Eng. Hussam Al-Roumi - Member, Nayef Jayez Al-Daihani - Member.

Secretary General Obaid Al-Osaimi thanked HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad and HH Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak as well as Information Minister and State Minister for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Jabri and Director General of Public Authority for Sport Dr. Humud Al-Shimmar.

Al-Osaimi, on behalf of board members, thanked Sheikh Salem Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the former member of the board for his efforts and welcomed new mem-

ber Nayef Al-Daihani.

Al-Osaimi appreciated the confidence of the KSSC general assembly's confidence in the board, adding the next stage requires work as one team at both the administrative and technical levels, to boost Kuwait's achievements during international events, bearing in mind that this time quotas for qualification for Tokyo 2020 will be awarded.

Meanwhile, President of Arab and Kuwait Shooting Federations Eng. Duaj Al-Otaibi said, we are happy to be with General Assembly members at the Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Olympic Shooting Complex, and we hope to always up to the confidence they put in us, in service of our country.

He said the upcoming season is highly important during which qualifications for the 2020 Olympics will be held and we are hopeful to have more qualifications to participate in the Olympics, as we qualified through shooter Abdelrahman Al-Faihan in the trap event.

He added "we are getting ready for the most important sports event in shooting which is HH The Amir International Grand Prix which starts February 9th, and we are looking forward to have it as successful as those held earlier."