

Sports

George's season high 3-pointer and 36 points lead Thunder past Bucks

Seven Spurs score in double figures to beat Wizards

OKLAHOMA: Paul George hit a season-high eight 3-pointers and scored 36 points to lead the Oklahoma City Thunder to a 118-112 home win over the visiting Milwaukee Bucks on Sunday. The Thunder have won five consecutive games, sweeping their three-game homestand that also included wins over New Orleans and Portland. The loss snapped a six-game winning streak for Milwaukee, which was playing the first of five consecutive games away from home. Russell Westbrook had a triple-double in all three games of the homestand, finishing with 13 points, 13 rebounds and 11 assists. Six Thunder players scored in double figures. The Thunder made life miserable for Giannis Antetokounmpo early, as the All-Star missed all six of his first-half field goals, scoring just three points before intermission. But Antetokounmpo scored 24 second-half points to lead Milwaukee with 27. Khris Middleton added 22. Antetokounmpo also had 18 rebounds.

RAPTORS 123, MAVERICKS 120

Toronto drained 17 3-pointers and Kawhi Leonard scored 33 points, offsetting a triple-double by rookie sensation Luka Dončić in defeating host Dallas. The Raptors salvaged the final game of their three-game road trip, while Dallas couldn't cap its three-game home stand with a third consecutive win. Dončić, finished with a career-best 35 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists for his second triple-double of the season. At 19, Dončić became the first teenager in NBA history with a 30-point triple-double. LeBron James had been the youngest at age 20 years, 100 days, in 2005.

ROCKETS 103, MAGIC 93

James Harden sank his first 3-pointer of the second half with 75 seconds left and host Houston finished off a comeback win against Orlando. Harden finished with 40 points, 11 rebounds, six assists and three blocks. It was his 23rd consecutive game with 30-plus points. Houston's Chris Paul had 12 points and six assists in his return from a 17-game absence with a hamstring injury. Aaron Gordon (23 points, 10 rebounds) and Nikola Vučević (19 points, 17 rebounds) posted double-doubles for Orlando, which also got 18 points from Evan Fournier and 15 off the bench from Terrence Ross.

CLIPPERS 122, KINGS 108

Montrezl Harrell scored 25 points on 11-of-13 shooting off the bench and Tobias Harris added 18 points as Los Angeles returned home and trounced visiting Sacramento. Rookie Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 17 points and Patrick Beverley added 16 as the Clippers got off to a hot start by making six of their first seven 3-point attempts, while ending a four-game home losing streak. Los Angeles was 3-1 on a just-completed cross-country road swing. De'Aaron Fox scored 21 points for the Kings, who displayed their typical pattern of starting slow before rallying late, but could not overcome a deficit that was as large as 25 points in the first half. The Kings ended a six-game road trip with a 2-4 record.

JAZZ 125, TIMBERWOLVES 111

Donovan Mitchell scored 29 points and dished out five assists to lead Utah past host Minnesota. Ricky Rubio added 18 points and eight assists and Rudy Gobert chipped in 17 points and three blocks. Seven players scored in double figures for Utah, which beat the Timberwolves for the second time in three days. The Jazz shot 46 of 86 (53.5 percent) from the field. Andrew Wiggins scored 35 points to lead Minnesota. Karl-Anthony Towns added 22 points and Jerryd Bayless chipped in 19 for the Timberwolves.

SPURS 132, WIZARDS 119

LaMarcus Aldridge scored 30 points to lead seven San Antonio players in double figures in defeating visiting Washington. Davis Bertans hit 5 of 8 3-pointers and added 21 points for the Spurs. Derrick White and Bryn Forbes hit for 16 points apiece, Patty Mills scored 15, and Marco Belinelli and Rudy Gay added 13 and 11 points, respectively. Bradley Beal and Tomas Satoransky led the Wizards with 21 points each, while Trevor Ariza scored 20, Jeff Green and Thomas Bryant hit for 15 each, Otto Porter Jr. added 13 points and Chasson Randle chipped in 11 points.

LAKERS 116, SUNS 102

Ivica Zubac had 24 points and a career-high 16 rebounds and host Los Angeles avoided a season-long



OKLAHOMA CITY: Brook Lopez #11 of the Milwaukee Bucks shoots the ball against the Oklahoma City Thunder on Sunday at Chesapeake Energy Arena in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. — AFP

four-game losing streak by sending Phoenix to its eighth straight loss. Kentavious Caldwell-Pope also scored 24 points. Brandon Ingram finished with 22 points, and Lance Stephenson scored 10 of his 17 points during a key fourth-quarter stretch for the Lakers. Devin Booker scored 21 points to lead the Suns. Kelly Oubre Jr. scored 17 off the bench and Mikal Bridges had 16 points.

CAVALIERS 104, BULLS 101

Alec Burks scored 18 points, including a putback jumper with 17 seconds left, to lift Cleveland to a road win over Chicago. The victory snapped the Cavaliers' six-game losing streak and was just their second win in 20 games. The Bulls have now dropped three straight and 13 of their last 14 games. The game stayed tight throughout, with 23 lead changes and 14 ties. Jordan Clarkson also

had 18 points for Cleveland, making 8 of 11 shots from the field, while Cedi Osman scored 17. Ante Zizic had a career-high 14 rebounds. Chicago was led by Lauri Markkanen's 21 points and 15 rebounds. Zach LaVine added 17 points and 12 boards.

HEAT 106, KNICKS 97

Wayne Ellington scored 10 of his team-high 19 points in the final 2:16 as Miami held off host New York, which has lost nine straight and 17 of 18. Hassan Whiteside had 13 points and 16 rebounds. Dwyane Wade added 15 points and 10 assists for Miami. Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 22 points for the Knicks and was the only starter with more than six points. Trey Burke (16 points), Danyele Lawson (14), Mario Hezounja (12) and Allonzo Trier (11) all reached double figures off the bench. — Reuters



Who will be crowned 2019 Kuwait King of Drift?

KUWAIT: With just a few days remaining until the Red Bull Car Park Drift Qualifier, Kuwait is gearing up to find out who will be crowned the 2019 National King of Drift. Only a couple months since Lebanon welcomed elite drifters competing for the 2018 King of Drift



thrown at the Red Bull Car Park Drift Series Final, Kuwait is ready to rev-up its engines for the local qualifier of the 2019 series on February 1 at Sirbb Circuit.

Last year's final in Lebanon witnessed an exciting turnout, with Lebanese drifter, Oliver El Kik, securing the King of Drift crown after a stellar performance.

Twenty drifters will go head to head to impress the reputable judges and clinch the crown of the Kuwait 2019 King of Drift. Having had hosted a successful adrenaline-filled Series Final in 2017, Kuwait is, no doubt, in the position to impress thousands of drifting and motorsport fans alike.

Red Bull Car Park Drift is organized by Basel Salem AlSabah Motor Racing Club and is sponsored by Falken Tyres, Platinum Gym and Acqua Eva.

In order to be crowned the 2019 King of Drift, the drifters will have to score the highest on a variety of

criteria. This year their performance will be determined based on Car Look & Design (10%), Tire Smoke (10%), Car Sound (7%), Section 1 Drifting (15%), Section 2 Drifting (15%), Boxes (15%), Gates (15%), and Pendulum (13%).

This challenging competition leaves no room for error, as participants will lose points if they hit obstacles, drift the wrong way, or spin their car. In case of three penalties, the drifter will be disqualified.

The 2019 series will kick off in Kuwait on February 1 and the competition will continue with qualifiers in Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Algeria, Mauritius, Tunisia, Morocco, Turkey, Georgia, and Jordan. With only one drifter from each participating country, Turkey will welcome the 2019 Kuwait King of Drift at the Series Final where he will compete to claim the Series Final thrown.

NBK sponsors Flare sports festival for 3rd consecutive year

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) sponsored the Flare sports festival for the third consecutive year. The festival was organized by Flare Fitness at Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) and was attended by a large number of young participants.

The sponsorship comes in line with NBK's commitment to support youths' health. This sponsorship aims to spread physical awareness and attract youth to participate in sporting events.

NBK Public Relations Executive Manager, Abdul Mohsen Al Rushaid, said: "The competition participants were for public and University students. NBK's booth witnessed various sports challenges and distributed rewards to the winners and participants. The purpose of this event was to increase fitness awareness for all Kuwait citizens. It shed light on the potential of youth in regards to fitness and sport awareness".

Al Rushaid added: "NBK's sponsorship to this sports event comes in line with the bank's customary and ongoing spirit of corporate citizenship as well as the vital role it plays in supporting youth and their health. NBK always strives to empower youth to realize their potentials, pro-



viding different supportive opportunities".

Minister of Industry and Commerce Khaled Al-Roudhan who attended the awarding ceremony awarded NBK along with Yousef Al-Shaya, Managing Partner at Flare Fitness for its support towards this social oriented event. The Flare sports festival included sports challenges that attracted more than 900 participants from professional sports players and more than 4000 attendees.

The competitions in this festival comprised a range of physical challenges that depend on the strength, flexibility and endurance. All of which contribute to raise the spirit of

positive competition among student circles. NBK has always considered supporting youth an essential part of its social and philanthropic outreach which comes in line with the bank's commitment to encourage a merit-based system in health, education and environment that promotes the best and the brightest the country has to offer.

It's worth mentioning that this is the fifth year Flare Fitness is running the Festival. The Festival is a fitness challenge and a health weekend for sports enthusiasts. This event aims at increasing fitness awareness and elevates Kuwait's Fitness.

Djokovic, Osaka tighten grip on top of rankings

PARIS: Novak Djokovic strengthened his grip at the top of the men's ATP tennis ranking yesterday following his destruction of Rafael Nadal in the Australian Open final.

An outclassed Nadal, beaten in straight sets in just over two hours, held on to second spot in the rankings while Roger Federer slipped from third to six place.

Federer, the defending champion, was eliminated in the round of 16 by Greek giant-killer Stefanos Tsitsipas. Alexander Zverev replaces Federer in third position ahead of Juan Martin Del Potro, fourth, who missed the Australian Open.

Despite his early elimination in Melbourne, South African Kevin Anderson, a Wimbledon finalist last year, moved up a spot into fifth.

Japan's Kei Nishikori, meanwhile, rises two places to seventh after reaching the quarter-finals in Melbourne.

Tsitsipas, eliminated by Nadal in the semi-finals, jumped three places and is knocking on the door of the top 10 in 12th place.

Latest ATP ranking:

1. Novak Djokovic (SRB) 10,955 pts
2. Rafael Nadal (ESP) 8,320
3. Alexander Zverev (GER) 6,475 (+1)
4. Juan Martin Del Potro (ARG) 5,060 (+1)
5. Kevin Anderson (RSA) 4,845 (+1)
6. Roger Federer (SUI) 4,600 (-3)
7. Kei Nishikori (JPN) 4,110 (+2)
8. Dominic Thiem (AUT) 3,960
9. John Isner (USA) 3,155 (+1)

Meanwhile, Naomi Osaka, winner of the Australian Open, has jumped to the top of women's tennis with her beaten opponent Petra Kvitova rising to second in yesterday's WTA rankings. Osaka climbed three places after beating the Czech in Melbourne on Saturday. Kvitova moved up four places.

The 21-year-old Japanese player has only won three career titles, but those include the last two majors, after she won the US Open in September. Romanian former number one Simona Halep, knocked out by Serena Williams in the round of 16 in Melbourne, fell two spots to third. Dane Caroline Wozniacki, whose defence of her Australian Open title ended in the third round, fell six places to ninth.

The biggest rise of the week was by the 25-year-old American Danielle Collins who leaped 12 places to 23rd after her run to the semi-finals. The other semi-finalist, Czech Karolina Pliskova, who saved four match points against Williams in their quarterfinal, also advanced, gaining three places to fifth in the world.

Williams, who fell to 491 after her maternity break last year, continued her rise, gaining five places to 11th.

WTA rankings:

1. Naomi Osaka (JPN) 7,030 pts (+3)
2. Petra Kvitova (CZE) 6,290 (+4)
3. Simona Halep (ROM) 5,582 (-2)
4. Sloane Stephens (USA) 5,307 (+1)
5. Karolina Pliskova (CZE) 5,100 (+3)
6. Angelique Kerber (GER) 4,965 (-4)
7. Elina Svitolina (UKR) 4,940
8. Kiki Bertens (NED) 4,430 (+1)
9. Caroline Wozniacki (DEN) 3,566 (-6)
10. Aryna Sabalenka (BLR) 3,485 (+1)