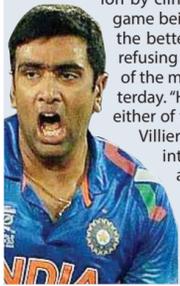


## DE VILLIERS REFUSES TO PANIC

**KANPUR:** South Africa one-day captain AB de Villiers swatted aside suggestions that India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin could prove his nemesis in the five-match series starting in Kanpur today.

Ashwin proved his ability to outsmart a key rival batsman in August when he soured Kumar Sangakkara's farewell by dismissing the retiring Sri Lankan great in each of his last four test innings.

South Africa have kicked off their longest ever tour of India in emphatic fashion by clinching the three-match Twenty20 series 2-0 with the final game being abandoned due to a wet outfield in Kolkata. Ashwin got the better of De Villiers in both matches but the Proteas captain is refusing to panic. "I think I can answer that very well," De Villiers, one of the most destructive batsmen in world cricket, told reporters yesterday. "He is a very good bowler but I don't think I got out to him in either of the two games. I got myself out in both the games," said De Villiers, keen to take the momentum from the Twenty20 series into the one-dayers. "When you start having technical flaws against a bowler, then you have to worry about it. I was looking to dominate against him. "In the last game I got little bit lazy perhaps and played for spin and didn't get spin. Not much to worry about except for the fact that he is a world-class bowler and needs to be respected."—Reuters



## MOODY IN, WOODCOCK OUT

**CHRISTCHURCH:** Loosehead prop Joe Moody was a late withdrawal from his Canterbury provincial rugby team yesterday and on his way to Britain after Tony Woodcock suffered a hamstring injury in the All Blacks' final Rugby World Cup pool game.

Moody had been expected to start Canterbury's provincial game against Southland in Christchurch but sat in the stands before leaving the ground at halftime, local media reported.

The 27-year-old was expected to fly out later on Saturday to join the All Blacks in Britain, should Woodcock be ruled out, the Press newspaper said. According to World Cup rules, replacements from outside the squad have a 48-hour stand down before they are able to officially join the team. The 34-year-old Woodcock limped off shortly into the second half against Tonga in Newcastle with coach Steve Hansen indicating the injury could be serious. "If it's a bad tear, obviously a lot of stress goes through their buttocks and hamstrings, then it's reasonably serious," Hansen said. "We won't know until he pulls up tomorrow." Woodcock is widely expected to retire after the World Cup, though the injury could end his 118-test career earlier than expected. "He's played a lot of games for the All Blacks and if this happens to be the end of his tournament it would be a sad way to finish because he's been a great All Black and probably deserves to go out better than that," Hansen added.—Reuters

## AGUERO OUT FOR A MONTH

**BUENOS AIRES:** Striker Sergio Aguero, injured during Argentina's shock 2-0 home defeat by Ecuador in a World Cup qualifier, said on Friday he would be out for a month.

Aguero tore a muscle in his left thigh half an hour into the team's opening South American qualifier for the 2018 World Cup in Russia at the River Plate stadium on Thursday.

"I think I'll be a month without playing," Aguero said as he left a Buenos Aires clinic where he had tests. "I'll go the AFA (Argentine Football Association) national team compound to carry on with treatment. To recover from the tear I'll surely need a month although it will depend how it evolves," he told TyC Sports. Now Aguero, out of Tuesday's second qualifier away to Paraguay in Asuncion, looks set to also miss next month's home match against arch-rivals Brazil.

"I'd been playing very frequently and was in doubt (for Thursday's match) until the last minute but as player you always want to be there and never know what can happen," Aguero added. Aguero had scored five goals in Manchester City's 6-1 win over Newcastle United last weekend, coming off before the end as a precaution.—Reuters



## RED WINGS DROP LEAFS

**DETROIT:** Justin Abdelkader had a hat trick and Dylan Larkin scored in his NHL debut, helping the Detroit Red Wings beat the Mike Babcock-led Toronto Maple Leafs 4-0 on Friday night.

Jimmy Howard stopped 21 shots for his 21st career shutout for the Red Wings, who won their season-opening game and dropped Toronto to 0-2 with its \$50 million coach. The Maple Leafs lured Babcock away from Detroit with an eight-year contract that more than doubled what any other coach is making per season in the league.

Abdelkader scored on Detroit's first shot, making the most of a power play 1:15 into the game. He had another goal midway through the first period off a centering pass from Larkin.

Larkin scored 20 seconds into the second to chase Toronto goalie Jonathan Bernier, and Abdelkader completed the hat trick at 3:54 of the period.

### BLACKHAWKS 3, ISLANDERS 2

**NEW YORK (AP)** - Patrick Kane scored on a power play at 1:49 of overtime to lift Chicago past New York, spoiling the Islanders' Brooklyn debut.

With the Blackhawks awarded an extra skater after a slashing penalty on the Islanders' Nick Leddy during the 3-on-3 overtime, Kane sent the puck toward the middle of the net from the right side.

Kane is the subject of a sexual assault investigation in western New York. He hasn't been charged, and has said he expects to be exonerated.

Kane also scored in the second period, Artem Anisimov added a goal and Corey Crawford stopped 34 shots. John Tavares and Marek Zidlicky scored for the Islanders.

### RANGERS 4, BLUE JACKETS 2

Mats Zuccarello had two goals and the New York Rangers scored three times in a 1:17 span in the third period to rally past Columbus.

Brandon Saad, the Blue Jackets' blockbuster acquisition in the offseason, scored

on a power play at 16:10 of the third to give the Blue Jackets a 2-1 lead in their season opener.

But after a Columbus turnover, Oscar Lindberg netted a low shot for his second goal in two games to tie it at 2. Just 17 seconds later, Kevin Hayes made it 3-2 with a shot from the right corner along the end line that found its way past Sergei Bobrovsky. Zuccarello capped the scoring a minute later. Henrik Lundqvist finished with 21 saves for New York. Cam Atkinson also scored for the Blue Jackets.

### COYOTES 4, KINGS 1

Max Domi had a goal and an assist in his NHL debut to help Arizona beat Los Angeles. Mike Smith made 40 saves for the Coyotes in their opener after a tumultuous summer that featured a contentious battle over the terms their arena lease.

Zbynek Michalek, Oliver Ekman-Larsson and Tobias Rieder also scored for Arizona. Domi became the first player to score multiple points in his debut with the Coyotes franchise since current captain Shane Doan had two assists for the Winnipeg Jets on Oct. 7, 1995, according to Stats LLC.

Tyler Toffoli has a short-handed goal for Los Angeles. The Kings lost their second straight after opening with a 5-1 home loss to San Jose on Wednesday night.

### JETS 3, DEVILS 1

Andrew Ladd and Blake Wheeler each had a goal and an assist in a big second period and Winnipeg beat New Jersey to spoil John Hynes' NHL coaching debut.

Mathieu Perreault had two assists in the three-goal second period and Michael Hutchinson made 20 saves to help the Jets win for the second time in two nights. They opened with a 6-2 victory at Boston.

Mark Scheifele ignited the Winnipeg outburst with his second goal of the season. Jiri Tlustý scored for New Jersey in his debut. It was actually an own goal that Winnipeg defenseman Jacob Trouba fired into his own net trying to clear a puck in front.—AP



**LOS ANGELES:** New York Mets' David Wright watches his two-RBI single against the Los Angeles Dodgers during the seventh inning in Game 1 of baseball's National League Division Series.—AP

## ROYALS EDGE ASTROS TO EVEN SERIES

**HOUSTON:** It was a survival game for the Kansas City Royals and a missed opportunity for the Houston Astros. Ben Zobrist drove in Alcides Escobar with the go-ahead run in the seventh inning as the Royals rallied from a three-run deficit to defeat the Astros 5-4 on Friday and even the American League Division Series at one win each.

Zobrist grounded a single to left on a curveball by Houston reliever Will Harris that scored Escobar, who led off the inning with a triple to right center.

The Royals play the next two games in Houston and on Sunday face left-hander Dallas Keuchel, who is 15-0 this season at Minute Maid Park.

"I just kept telling the boys we've got a long way to go, just keep plugging away," manager Ned Yost said after the Royals were trailing by three runs early. "Let it happen, don't try to make it happen. Just let it happen and it did."

Royals relievers Kelvin Herrera, Ryan Madson and Wade Davis shut down the Astros in the final three innings. Herrera picked up the victory and Davis logged his first postseason save.

Harris, the fourth of six Astros pitchers, took the loss. The Astros jumped out to a 4-1 lead but managed just two singles after the third inning.

Both starters-Astros left-hander Scott Kazmir and Royals right-hander Johnny Cueto-were acquired in late July trades to bolster their club's chances for the postseason.

Kazmir departed after 5 1/3 innings, charged with three runs, five hits and a walk. "From the first pitch of the game I felt I had good command of all my pitches," Kazmir said. "I was able to give the hitters a different look. I felt great. I felt I was getting stronger as the game was going on."

Cueto had a shaky first three innings, permitting four runs and six hits, including a home run by Rasmus, but only one hit after that. Cueto's final line was four runs, seven hits and three walks in six innings. "I felt strong," Cueto said via an interpreter. "I felt like I was aggressive. Obviously this was a very important game that I had to go out and perform for my team."

"I didn't feel any pressure at all. I know the magnitude of the trade and I know why I was brought here. I take a lot of pride in my stuff and a lot of pride in helping my club win."

The Astros again struck early and often, seizing a 4-2 lead after three innings. Rasmus doubled with two outs in the first, scoring right fielder George Springer, who had walked. Rasmus has an extra-base hit in his first six postseason games, a major league record. "I feel blessed," Rasmus said. "The Good Lord is with me. It's just one of those things."

"I'm just playing and not thinking about no records or none of that stuff. I'm just loving the game right now and trying to help these boys win a ball game." But the Royals got the win, scoring three runs in the sixth and seventh inning to pull out a badly needed victory.

In Los Angeles, the New York Mets extended the postseason woes of Clayton Kershaw and stunned the Los Angeles Dodgers in Game One of their National League Division Series on Friday.

Second baseman Daniel Murphy homered and Jacob deGrom struck out a career-high 13, sparking the Mets to a 3-1 victory over the Dodgers before a sellout crowd of 54,428 at

Dodger Stadium.

DeGrom limited the Dodgers to five hits and walked one in seven innings. His 13 strikeouts tied Tom Seaver's franchise mark for a postseason performance, which the Hall of Famer set in Game One of the 1973 National League Championship Series against the Cincinnati Reds.

"I think just mixing it up on them," said DeGrom, who retired the final 11 batters he faced, on why he was so successful against the Dodgers.

"My change-up was good tonight, and I threw a few strikeouts to lefties, but also was locating my fastball pretty good, too. So I think just trying to keep them off balance and get ahead."

DeGrom and Dodgers starter Clayton Kershaw, who struck out 11, became the first two opposing pitchers to strike out at least 10 hitters each in a playoff game.

It tied for second all-time in a postseason game, knotting the 24 fanned by Florida Marlins right-hander Livan Hernandez (15) and Atlanta Braves ace Greg Maddux (nine) in the NLDS in 1997. The pair fell one strikeout shy of the record 25 combined by Kevin Brown (16) of the San Diego Padres and Randy Johnson (nine) of the Houston Astros in the 1998 NLDS.

But deGrom had the upper hand in this affair. "I thought we did a pretty good job with him of not chasing the change or the breaking ball down, but with that you end up chasing some elevated fastballs, and I think he beat us with that a little bit," Dodgers manager Don Mattingly said. "We had a few chances. We just weren't able to get that hit early."

Mets closer Jeury Familia worked a perfect 1-1/3 innings for the save. With the win, the Mets took a 1-0 lead in the best-of-five series. Game Two is on Saturday, also at Dodger Stadium.

Kershaw lost his fifth straight playoff game. Kershaw, who is 1-6 in the postseason, was charged with three runs on four hits with four walks, which tied a season-high, in 6-2/3 innings. He lost to the Mets for the first time in 10 career starts.

Murphy gave the Mets an early lead, driving a 2-0 Kershaw fastball into the visitor's bullpen in right field for a solo blast to open the fourth inning.

"My first at-bat, he chewed me up and spit me out," said Murphy, who carries a .317 career batting average against the Dodgers with 14 home runs and 17 RBIs.

"The next at-bat I was able to get my foot down a little earlier. He doesn't make a lot of mistakes, and I felt really fortunate to put a good swing on the ball he threw me."

With two outs in the seventh and the bases loaded, third baseman David Wright laced a two-run single up the middle off reliever Pedro Baez to make it 3-0. "I was able to put a good swing on it," Wright said. "When a guy is throwing that hard, you allow him to provide the power and you just try to go nice and easy, and just make sure you just get to it and beat him to the spot." The Dodgers scored a run on first baseman Adrian Gonzalez's RBI single to left, scoring second baseman Howie Kendrick, who reached on a double, to slice the lead to two runs with two outs in the eighth. However, Familia induced third baseman Justin Turner to line out to first to limit the damage.—Reuters



**KANSAS CITY:** Royals relief pitcher Kelvin Herrera throws during the seventh inning of Game 2 in baseball's American League Division Series against the Houston Astros.—AP

## NHL results/standings

Winnipeg 3, New Jersey 1; NY Rangers 4, Columbus 2; Detroit 4, Toronto 0; Chicago 3, NY Islanders 2 (OT); Arizona 4, Los Angeles 1.

Western Conference					Central Division					Metropolitan Division										
W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS			
Winnipeg	2	0	0	9	3	4	Montreal	1	0	0	3	1	2	NY Rangers	2	0	0	7	4	4
Dallas	1	0	0	3	0	2	Ottawa	1	0	0	3	1	2	Philadelphia	0	0	1	2	3	1
St. Louis	1	0	0	3	1	2	Tampa Bay	1	0	0	3	2	2	NY Islanders	0	0	1	2	3	1
Nashville	1	0	0	2	1	2	Buffalo	0	1	0	1	3	0	Carolina	0	1	0	1	2	0
Minnesota	1	0	0	5	4	2	Boston	0	1	0	2	6	0	New Jersey	0	1	0	1	3	0
Chicago	1	1	0	5	5	2	Toronto	0	2	0	1	7	0	Columbus	0	1	0	2	4	0
Colorado	0	1	0	4	5	0	Florida	0	0	0	0	0	0	Pittsburgh	0	1	0	0	3	0
Pacific Division					Atlantic Division					Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L)										
Vancouver	1	0	0	5	1	2	Detroit	1	0	0	4	0	2							
San Jose	1	0	0	5	1	2														
Arizona	1	0	0	4	1	2														
Edmonton	0	1	0	1	3	0														
Calgary	0	1	0	1	5	0														
Los Angeles	0	2	0	2	9	0														
Anaheim	0	0	0	0	0	0														



**NEW YORK:** Chicago Blackhawks center Jonathan Toews (19) has his shot stopped by New York Islanders goalie Thomas Greiss (left) Johnny Boychuk (second from left) and Travis Hamonic (3) in the first period of an NHL hockey game.—AP