

ANDRE AYEW JOINS WEST HAM FROM SWANSEA

PARIS: Ghana midfielder Andre Ayew has joined West Ham United on a club record three-years deal from their Premier League rivals Swansea, the London outfit said on Monday. The former Marseille winger and son of one-time African player of the year Adebisi Pele, joined the Hammers for a fee of £20.5million (24 million euros). "I am very proud and happy to be at this magnificent Club," the 26-year-old told West Ham's website. "The Club have a lot of ambition and have a great manager. They want to become a bigger Club every year and with the new Stadium and a new training ground, you can feel they are moving onto another level and I want to be part of this project," he said. Ayew scored 60 times in over 200 appearances at French outfit Marseille before joining Swansea last season. Playing a key role in their 2014 World Cup campaign, Ayew has extensive international experience with Ghana. —AFP



WOMEN'S RUGBY PLAYER ACCEPTS OLYMPIC MARRIAGE PROPOSAL

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazilian women's rugby player Isadora Cerullo melted hearts when she accepted a marriage proposal from her girlfriend at the medals ceremony for the first Olympic rugby sevens competition on Monday. Television cameras and photographers captured the moment that Marjorie Enya, a manager at the Deodoro stadium in Rio where the competition was played, took the microphone to pop the question to Cerullo on the pitch. A tearful Cerullo accepted and, with no ring, 28-year-old Enya tied a ribbon to her finger. Cerullo, 25, was a member of the Brazilian squad at narrowly missed out on reaching the knockout rounds of the competition, which was won by Australia. Many of the defeated players, however, watched the medals ceremony taking place. — Reuters

JAPAN SHOCK KIWIS AS SONNY OUT OF OLYMPICS

RIO DE JANEIRO: Japan stunned New Zealand 14-12 in their opening match of the Olympic rugby sevens yesterday as All Blacks star Sonny Bill Williams sustained a tournament-ending achilles tendon injury. The opening pool match upset was an echo of Japan's famous victory over South Africa in the 15-a-side World Cup in Brighton, the biggest shock the sport has ever seen. "It's unbelievable, you never see a minnow team come here and beat a team supposed to be a gold medal contender. I'm still shocked, to be honest," said Japan's New Zealand-born playmaker Lomano Lemeki. There was worse news to come for New Zealand with news that Williams had been ruled out with a partial achilles rupture and replaced in the 12-man squad by Sione Molia. At a sun-kissed Deodoro Stadium, with massive support for the underdogs, Truya Goto squeezed past Rieko Ioane's tackle to dot down in the corner to open Japan's account. Their lead was short-lived, however, as Gillies Kaka exchanged passes with Akira Ioane before putting in skipper Scott Curry. —AFP



MLB results/standings

Toronto 7, Tampa Bay 5; San Francisco 8, Miami 7 (14 innings); Atlanta 4, Milwaukee 3 (12 innings); Minnesota 3, Houston 1; St. Louis 5, Cincinnati 4; Texas 4, Colorado 3; Oakland 3, Baltimore 2; Seattle 3, Detroit 0; LA Dodgers 9, Philadelphia 4.

American League

Eastern Division

	W	L	PCT	GB
Baltimore	63	48	.568	-
Toronto	64	49	.566	-
Boston	60	50	.545	2.5
NY Yankees	56	55	.505	7
Tampa Bay	45	66	.405	18

Central Division

Cleveland	62	47	.569	-
Detroit	61	51	.545	2.5
Chicago White Sox	53	58	.477	10
Kansas City	53	58	.477	10
Minnesota	46	66	.411	17.5

Western Division

Texas	66	47	.584	-
Seattle	58	53	.523	7
Houston	57	55	.509	8.5
LA Angels	49	62	.441	16
Oakland	49	63	.438	16.5

National League

Eastern Division

Washington	66	45	.595	-
Miami	59	53	.527	7.5
NY Mets	57	54	.514	9
Philadelphia	52	62	.456	15.5
Atlanta	42	70	.375	24.5

Central Division

Chicago Cubs	69	41	.627	-
St. Louis	59	53	.527	11
Pittsburgh	55	54	.505	13.5
Milwaukee	49	61	.445	20
Cincinnati	45	66	.405	24.5

Western Division

San Francisco	64	48	.571	-
LA Dodgers	63	49	.563	1
Colorado	55	57	.491	9
San Diego	48	63	.432	15.5
Arizona	45	66	.405	18.5



SEATTLE: Detroit Tigers starting pitcher Michael Fulmer tosses the ball to first after fielding the grounder from Seattle Mariners' Robinson Cano, left, to end the third inning of a baseball game, Monday. —AP

IWAKUMA TOSSES GEM, MARINERS BEAT TIGERS

SEATTLE: Right-hander Hisashi Iwakuma outduelled rookie Michael Fulmer to lead Seattle to a shutout win over Detroit. Iwakuma (13-7) threw seven scoreless innings, allowing just five hits, before new Mariners reliever Arquimedes Caminero and rookie closer Edwin Diaz finished off the win. Diaz, who replaced Steve Cishek as closer last week, now has five saves in as many chances as Seattle (58-53) won for the sixth time in seven games.

CARDINALS 5, REDS 4

The St. Louis Cardinals scored five runs in the bottom of the ninth to beat the Cincinnati Reds 5-4 at Busch Stadium, the two-out rally capped when Yadier Molina was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded from Ross Ohlendorf. Molina started the inning with a leadoff single but Tony Cingrani (2-4) retired the next two hitters.

Tommy Pham then walked, and pinch hitter Kolten Wong was plunked by a pitch to fill the bases. Matt Carpenter singled home two runs and Stephen Piscotty lined a single to left to drive in a third run. After Matt Holliday drew a four-pitch walk, Ohlendorf relieved Cingrani. Ohlendorf issued a game-tying walk to Brandon Moss on a 3-2 pitch, setting the stage for the walk-off hit by pitch. Braves 4, Brewers 3 (12 innings) Gordon Beckham's sacrifice fly in the 12th inning gave Atlanta a victory over Milwaukee at Miller Park. The Braves loaded the bases against Brewers right-hander Carlos Torres (2-2) to open the 12th and Beckham followed by popping a fly ball to deep center that scored Matt Kemp. Brewers center fielder Keon Broxton dropped the ball, allowing Beckham to reach keeping the bases loaded with nobody out.

BLUE JAYS 7, RAYS 5

Devon Travis drove in the go-ahead run in the seventh inning with his fourth hit of the game, Jose Bautista followed with a two-run double and Toronto defeated Tampa Bay. Edwin Encarnacion added three RBIs and a solo home run for the Blue Jays (64-49) who had lost their two previous games. Brad Miller had two doubles and two RBIs for the Rays (45-66). Bautista also had three RBIs.

TWINS 3, ASTROS 1

Tyler Duffey pitched six innings of one-run ball, leading Minnesota to a win over Houston at Target Field. Duffey (7-8) allowed just four hits and struck out eight while walking one in earning his second consecutive win. The right-hander had allowed at least five runs in three consecu-

tive starts entering the night and at least four in four straight.

RANGERS 4, ROCKIES 3

Mitch Moreland lined a double into the right-field corner with two outs in the ninth, completing a three-run uprising and giving Texas a win over Colorado. Rockies closer Carlos Estevez (2-7) blew a save for the second straight start and gave way to left-hander Boone Logan, who had held left-handed hitters to an average of .141 (11-for-78) with 27 strikeouts before Moreland connected.

GIANTS 8, MARLINS 7 (14 INNINGS)

Brandon Crawford stroked a franchise-record seven hits, including a go-ahead RBI in the 14th inning, as the San Francisco Giants beat the Miami Marlins 8-7 at Marlins Park. Crawford became the sixth player in baseball history to get seven-plus hits in a

game and the first since Rennie Stennett on Sept. 16, 1975 for the Pittsburgh Pirates.

ATHLETICS 3, ORIOLES 2

Kendall Graveman pitched seven strong innings, Stephen Vogt hit his ninth home run of the season and Oakland defeated Baltimore in the opener of a four-game series. Graveman (8-7) allowed one run on six hits, struck out four and walked none as he beat the Orioles for the first time in four career starts.

DODGERS 9, PHILLIES 4

Corey Seager homered twice and set a club record for homers in a season by a Los Angeles shortstop, leading Los Angeles to a victory over Philadelphia before 48,370 at Dodger Stadium. Seager, who now has a club-leading 21 home runs, broke Hanley Ramirez's 2013 mark of 19. —Reuters



LEXUS TASTES SUCCESS ONCE AGAIN WITH SECOND PLACE FINISH FOR DENSO KOBELCO SARD

KUWAIT: The No 39 Denso Kobelco Sard Lexus RC F driven by Heikki Kovalainen and Kohei Hirate came a creditable second in Round 4 of the 2016 Autobacs Super GT to make it yet another podium finish for Lexus in the GT 500 class. The No. 38 Zent Cerumo RC F driven by Yuji Tachikawa and Hiroaki Ishiura finished third to make it two podium finishes for Lexus. The No. 6 WAKO'S 4CR RC F came in fourth followed by the No. 19 WedsSport ADVAN RC F thereby making it a very successful race for Lexus with 4 positions in the top 5. The race

took place recently at the Sportsland SUGO (Miyagi Prefecture) in Japan.

At the start of the race, the No. 6 WAKO'S 4CR RC F (Andrea Caldarelli) was in pole position. However, Andrea lost the lead when his car became involved in a collision in the sixth lap. By lap 16, the No. 38 Zent Cerumo RC F moved into the lead, and approaching it from behind was the No 39 Denso Kobelco Sard RC F (Heikki Kovalainen) that had been moving up steadily from its 8th-position grid start. However, the Lexus RC F cars lost their grip on

the lead soon afterwards.

Midway through the race, the No 39 Denso Kobelco Sard RC F (Kohei Hirate) had made its way into second place. As the race entered the 72nd lap with not much time remaining, the gap narrowed even more between the top five cars. On the 76th lap, in the midst of this battle, the No 38 Zent Cerumo RC F succeeded in passing the No 39 Denso Kobelco Sard RC F. There were five laps remaining and it looked as if the battle for the lead was intensifying. However, on the last turn of that 76th lap, one

of the competitor cars crashed. For this reason, the Red Flag was displayed to control the race, and the decision was made to end the race as of the running order of the 74th lap. As a result, the 2nd place went to the No. 39 Denso Kobelco Sard RC F and the third spot on the podium went to the No 38 Zent Cerumo RC F. Places 2nd to 5th all went to LEXUS RC F cars. Round 5 of the 2016 championship now takes place in Fuji on August 6-7, 2016.

According to Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa

Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation. "It was an impressive performance by the Lexus RCF powered teams who have come up with great performances to stamp their class on the 2016 season. For Lexus, motorsports has played a vital role in giving us significant insights into our cars and their performance in extreme conditions, thereby helping us make ever better cars. We sincerely appreciate the support of our fans who have backed our racing initiatives over the years."