

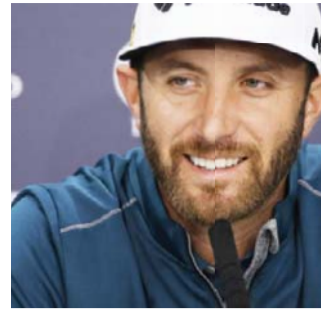
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SAN DIEGO: National League's Aledmys Diaz, of the St. Louis Cardinals, is struck out looking by American League's Will Harris, of the Houston Astros, during the eighth inning of the MLB baseball All-Star Game, Tuesday, in San Diego. — AP

AL RIDES EARLY HOMERS TO 4-2 WIN IN ALL-STAR GAME

SAN DIEGO: Second-inning homers by Kansas City teammates Eric Hosmer and Salvador Perez powered the American League to a 4-2 victory over the National League on Tuesday night in the 87th All-Star Game before 42,386 at Petco Park.

The National League was leading 1-0 thanks to a Kris Bryant homer in the first inning when Hosmer tied it with a one-out homer off National League starter Johnny Cueto. Two batters later, Perez connected for a two-run shot off Cueto. Hosmer, who finished 2-for-3 with two RBIs, was named the Most Valuable Player.

Cleveland right-hander Corey Kluber was the winning pitcher and Baltimore left-hander Zach Britton collected the save. Cueto suffered the loss.

The National League stranded 10 runners and left the bases loaded in the eighth when Houston right-hander Will Harris threw a full-count, called third strike past pinch-hitter Aledmys Diaz of the St. Louis Cardinals. The heavy San Diego influence of the pregame ceremonies carried into the first inning when Bryant, a University of San Diego alum, homered on the first pitch he saw from American League starter Chris Sale in an all-Chicago matchup. The Cubs third baseman drove the ball 410 feet into the left field stands off the White Sox right-hander. But the American League retaliated in the bottom of the second against Cueto, taking a 3-1 lead on two homers by members of the reigning World Series champion Royals. With one out, Hosmer dropped a 389-foot

drive into the left field stands to tie the score at 1.

Boston outfielder Mookie Betts singled and Royals catcher Eddie Perez hit a 373-foot blast into the left field stands peppered the night before by Home Run Derby champion Giancarlo Stanton. Hosmer and Perez were the first set of teammates to homer in the same inning since Steve Garvey and Jimmy Wynn of the Los Angeles Dodgers in the 1975 All-Star Game. Cole Hamels continued the host city story in the top of the third when the San Diego native struck out Bryant with the tying runs at second and third with two outs. The American League extended its lead to 4-1 in the bottom of the third against Jose Fernandez of the Miami Marlins. Boston designated hitter David Ortiz, who has announced he will retire at the end of the 2016 season, drew a one-out walk and received an ovation from the crowd and hugs from the American League bench when he came out for pinch-runner Edwin Encarnacion of the Blue Jays.

Encarnacion raced to third on a double by Boston's Xander Bogaerts and scored on a single by Hosmer, the second RBI by the Royals first baseman. But Betts grounded into a double play to end the threat.

The National League cut the deficit to 4-2 in the top of the fourth. Giants catcher Buster Posey drew a one-out walk from Toronto right-hander Aaron Sanchez and came around on back-to-back singles by Cubs first baseman Anthony Rizzo and Marlins center fielder Marcell Osuna. — Reuters

MANFRED SAYS DATES OF TOKYO OLYMPICS 'NOT IDEAL' FOR MLB

SAN DIEGO: As Major League Baseball prepares for talks about the 2020 Olympics, Commissioner Rob Manfred said "from a calendar prospective, the dates of the Tokyo Games are not ideal."

The International Olympic Committee executive board voted last month to support a six-nation tournament that year in both baseball and women's softball, and the full IOC is to vote in August on the inclusion of the World Baseball Softball Confederation for the Tokyo Games, which are scheduled from July 24-Aug. 9.

Baseball became a medal sport for the 1992 Barcelona Olympics but was dropped for the 2012 London Games and won't be played next month in Rio de Janeiro. MLB is reluctant to stop its season for the Olympics, and players are reticent to play anywhere other than the big league stadiums they are accustomed to.

"We're going to have some meetings with the international baseball and softball federation to fully understand what the program is going to be in Tokyo in terms of how long, how many, before we have any final decision on that issue," Manfred told the Baseball Writers' Association of America on Tuesday. "We like the idea of baseball being in the Olympics. We're supportive of baseball being in the Olympics."

The IOC wants the top players to appear in the Olympics, and the Japanese Central and Pacific Leagues appear open to interrupting their seasons for the Tokyo Games. The NBA has sent its players since 1992 and the NHL since 1998 - although the NHL has not yet committed for the 2018 Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea. In 2008, only those not on 25-man big league rosters as of late June were allowed to compete in the Beijing Games. The U.S. team included Jake Arrieta and Stephen Strasburg - both All-Stars this year.

Cuba won gold medals in 1992, 1996 and 2004, the US in 2000 and South Korea in 2008. "Is there an appreciation for the value of having baseball in the Olympics? Yes, there is," union head Tony Clark said Monday. "Is there an appreciation for the season and how or if it could work with our active players? Yeah, there's a conversation, but we run into the same roadblocks we always have." — AP

PACQUIAO PLANS TO FIGHT AGAIN THIS YEAR: PROMOTER

LOS ANGELES: Filipino boxing star Manny Pacquiao plans to come out of retirement to fight, his promoter said Tuesday, though the boxer said no fight has yet been set.

Bob Arum told American sports broadcaster ESPN that the former welterweight champion plans to fight on either October 29 or November 5 as a main event bout in Las Vegas as long as it doesn't clash with his senate duties in the Philippines. No opponent has been named thus far. "Manny wants to come back," Arum said. "The problem is he can only come back if it doesn't interfere with his senate duties."

Arum had previously planned an October 15 fight in Mandalay Bay Events Center, but scrapped it due to upcoming votes in the senate in Pacquiao's native Philippines.

"The question is building availability because we want to do the fight in Las Vegas," Arum said about the new dates.

Arum said the most difficult part of setting up a fight is working around the boxer's busy political schedule. "He now has given us the

go-ahead to shop for a venue and an opponent and see if we can do it on a particular date or dates," Arum said. "We've been trying to work out a date that doesn't interfere with his senatorial responsibilities and his ability to train."

But in a statement, Pacquiao, who has a record of 58-6-2 with 38 knockouts, denied any firm plans on a fight. "There is no truth to media reports that I'm planning to take a leave from my senate duties just to fight again atop the ring. I want to make it clear-my priority is my legislative works," he said.

"My next fight has not yet been discussed. Should there be any, I'll make sure it will not interfere with my senate duties."

The boxer said all his training would take place in the Philippines so that he can keep participating in senate proceedings. Pacquiao typically spends half his time training in the Philippines and the other half in the US.

"Boxing is my only means of livelihood to support my family and to help those who are in need," he said.

"Politics, to me, is a vocation not a means to eke out a living. I want to maintain that belief. I want to keep my dignity intact while in public service." The 37-year-old Pacquiao last fought in April, when he won a unanimous decision over Timothy Bradley. Pacquiao said at the time that the bout would be his last.

'WE ARE DOING THIS PROPERLY'

Pacquiao's advisor Michael Koncz told ESPN that he working with both Arum and Pacquiao on fight plans. "Manny's primary concern and obligation is to fulfill his senatorial duties," Koncz said.

"But he misses (boxing). He misses the training. He misses being in the gym. You can see when he trains it's like a stress reliever for him. So I am working with Bob and Manny is working closely with the senate president to make sure the dates are OK. We are doing this properly." Adrien Broner (32-2, 24 KOs) was being considered as a possible opponent, but Arum said that would not happen because Broner wanted too much money for the fight. — AFP



MANILA: In this April 28, 2016, file photo, boxing star Manny Pacquiao addresses supporters as he campaigns for a seat in the Philippine Senate at San Pablo city, Laguna province south of Manila, Philippines. Pacquiao, who said before his last fight in April that he would retire, now plans to return to the ring in November against an opponent who has yet to be selected. — AP