

MATHEWS TELLS SRI LANKA TO UP THEIR GAME AGAINST ENGLAND

MALAHIDE: Sri Lanka captain Angelo Mathews said his side will have to be at their best to beat England in the five-match one-day international series which starts tomorrow. Mathews was speaking after overseeing a 2-0 ODI series victory over Ireland in Malahide after the second match was won by an emphatic 136-run margin on Saturday. Opening batsman Kusal Perera, who would have missed the tour had a drugs ban not been rescinded following a faulty doping analysis, made a century to build the platform for his side's huge total of 377 for 8. "We still can improve a lot in all departments. It was a pretty convincing victory today, but we need to be at our best to beat England," said Mathews. Eoin Morgan's England have improved dramatically in 50-over cricket since the Sri Lankans thrashed them by nine wickets in Wellington during last year's World Cup. Saturday's win was set up by dynamic top-order batting, and Mathews said: "Perera and Danuska Gunathilaka had a brilliant opening partnership (147) and after that solid foundation it was a tactical decision to bring in the pinch-hitter and take the game forward." — AFP

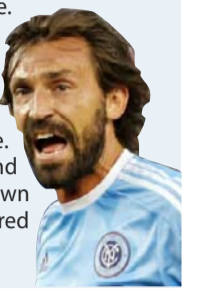


TABLE TENNIS PRODIGY LOOKS FORWARD TO 2020 OLYMPICS

TOKYO: Tomokazu Harimoto has become the youngest winner of an ITTF World Tour under 21 event at 12 years of age, moving one step closer to his dream of winning gold in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Hashimoto easily beat Kohei Sambe, a 18-year-old college student, 11-1, 11-6, 13-11 to triumph at the 2016 International Table Tennis Federation World Tour Laox Japan Open on Friday in Tokyo. The young Japanese star broke the previous age record of 15, set by compatriot Koki Niwa in 2010, by claiming gold in the under 21 event as he was 12 years and 355 days old. Harimoto dominated the game from the outset and let out a whoop of triumph while bending his body backward after securing the win. "I was so nervous yesterday when I heard that I would be the youngest winner," Harimoto said after the final. "But when the game began, I was able to play as I usually do," he added. "I think I have made progress as I beat a lot of higher-ranking players," he also said. "I'm happy to win under pressure." The 12-year-old, though delighted with the crown, was already looking ahead to a tougher goal in four years when the country hosts the Summer Games. "I want to win a gold medal in the Tokyo Olympics," he said. — AFP

STARS SHINE AS NYCFC TRAMPLE MLS LEADERS

NEW YORK: Frank Lampard, Andrea Pirlo and David Villa all scored as New York City FC's stars shined in a 3-2 victory over Major League Soccer Eastern Conference leaders Philadelphia Union on Saturday. The trio of former internationals—who have endured mixed fortunes since signing for big-spending City-powered their team into a 3-0 lead at Yankee Stadium before a late Union rally. Former England and Chelsea midfielder Lampard opened the scoring after only seven minutes, pouncing on a Tommy McNamara shot in the eighth minute to lash home. Spanish World Cup winner David Villa almost made it 2-0 five minutes later, audaciously attempting to lob the keeper from near the halfway line but his effort crashed back off the underside of the bar. Lampard had followed up but his shot from the rebound was comfortably saved by Philadelphia goalkeeper Andre Blake. Villa did not have to wait much longer to grab his team's second however, when teenager Jack Harrison raced from deep in his own half before backheeling into the path of the Spaniard, who steered his shot past Blake. — AFP



OAKLAND: Billy Burns #1 of the Oakland Athletics steals second base ahead of a tag from Andrelton Simmons #2 of the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim during the third inning at the Oakland Coliseum. — AFP

LINCECUM MAKES WINNING RETURN IN ANGEL'S VICTORY

OAKLAND: Tim Lincecum made a winning return to Major League Baseball, restarting his career after nearly a year away with six sharp innings and several ovations as the Los Angeles Angels beat the Oakland Athletics 7-1 Saturday. Sporting a bright red hat and Angels jersey that was in stark contrast to the black and orange he wore across the Bay Bridge for nine seasons with San Francisco, Lincecum gave up one run and four hits. The two-time National League Cy Young Award winner hadn't pitched in the majors since last June 27. He had hip surgery in September, signed with the Angels in May and made three starts in the minors. Mike Trout homered, doubled and drove in three runs to help Los Angeles to its third win in four games. Ryan Dull (1-2) lost in relief.

CUBS 4, PIRATES 3
Anthony Rizzo, Kris Bryant and David Ross homered, powering Chicago to the victory. The major league-leading Cubs (46-20) improved to a season-high 26 games above .500 while the Pirates lost for the ninth time in 10 games. Jon Lester (9-3) won his fifth straight start. Rizzo and Bryant each hit their 16th home run, and Ross made it 4-3 with a solo drive in the sixth that chased Jonathon Niese (6-4). The only damper for the Cubs was Dexter Fowler leaving the game because of discomfort in his right hamstring. Hector Rondon got four outs for his 12th save in 14 chances.

BRAVES 4, METS 3
Ender Inciarte used his speed to help Atlanta to its fourth straight win, matching its longest streak this year. Jeff Francoeur and Tyler Flowers homered for the Braves, who overcame a 3-0 deficit.
Dario Alvarez (1-0) got two outs for his second big league win and Jim Johnson earned his first save this year. With the score 3-all, Inciarte doubled against Addison Reed (1-1) leading off the eighth. Freddie Freeman was intentionally walked and Francoeur flied to Curtis Granderson in medium right. Granderson looked back Freeman, and then threw softly to second, prompting Inciarte to take off for third. Inciarte then scored the tiebreaking run on a wild pitch that bounced only 10 feet from home plate.

RED SOX 6, MARINERS 2
Xander Bogaerts and Jackie Bradley Jr homered to lead Rick Porcello and the Red Sox. Bogaerts, who entered the day leading the AL in batting, also singled while raising his average to .352. Adam Lind homered for the Mariners. Porcello (8-2) improved to 6-0 at home this year. He allowed two runs and eight hits. Adrian Sampson lost in his major league debut, giving up four runs and eight hits in 4 2/3 innings.

INDIANS 13, WHITE SOX 2
Mike Napoli homered during a five-run first inning as Cleveland became the latest team to tee off on James Shields. Rookie Tyler Naquin homered and drove in a career-high four runs, and Juan Uribe also connected for the Indians. Shields, making his third start since being traded from San Diego to Chicago, was tagged for eight runs and seven hits in 1 2/3 innings. Shields is 2-9 overall this year. He is 0-2 for the White Sox, giving up a whopping 21 earned runs in just 8 2/3 innings. Danny Salazar (8-3) won his fourth straight start, allowing two runs in 6 2/3 innings.

DIAMONDBACKS 4, PHILLIES 1
Arizona ace Zack Greinke won his seventh straight start by pitching three-hit ball for eight innings. Paul Goldschmidt, Jake Lamb and Nick Ahmed homered for the Diamondbacks. Greinke (10-3) allowed one run, struck out six and walked one. Odubel Herrera homered for the Phillies, who have lost five in a row and 22 of 28. Jerad Eickhoff (4-9) allowed three runs and nine hits in 5 2/3 innings. Brad Ziegler closed for his 14th save of the season and 42nd straight dating to May 2015.

DODGERS 10, BREWERS 6
Justin Turner hit a three-run drive for his third homer in two nights, helping Los Angeles rally for the win. One night after hitting two solo homers and a game-ending single in the 10th inning, Turner ignited the Dodgers' comeback by sending a 1-1 pitch from Chase Anderson (4-7) high over the left field wall for his ninth homer of the season. Joc Pederson and Howie Kendrick also homered for the Dodgers. Chris Hatcher (4-3) earned the victory with 2 1/3 shutout innings.

ORIOLES 4, BLUE JAYS 2
Jonathan Schoop homered, doubled and singled while Yovani Gallardo and the Baltimore bullpen helped end Toronto's four-game winning streak. Manny Machado got three hits for the Orioles, and then dropped his appeal of a four-game suspension for charging Royals pitcher Yordano Ventura earlier this month. Gallardo (2-1) allowed two runs in five innings. He hadn't pitched since April 22 because of shoulder tendinitis. Zach Britton earned his 21st save, getting Josh Donaldson to ground into a game-ending double play with the bases loaded. RA Dickey (4-8) fell to 0-5 against Baltimore while with the Blue Jays.

MARLINS 9, ROCKIES 6
Giancarlo Stanton singled in his first three at-bats to give his lowly average a boost, and the Marlins totaled 17 hits in the win. Stanton beat the shift with an opposite-field single in the first inning, setting up Miami's first run. He singled and scored in the third and fifth, giving him five hits in the past two games to hike his average from .193 to .210. Five Marlins regulars are batting over .300, among them JT Realmuto, whose four hits included a three-run homer that caromed off the home-run sculpture. Colorado's Tyler Chatwood pitched just 1 2/3 innings because of back spasms. Eddie Butler (2-4) replaced him and was rocked for six runs in 3 1/3 innings. Dustin McGowan (1-2) pitched 2 2/3 hitless innings for the win.

ASTROS 5, REDS 4
George Springer hit an RBI single in the 11th inning to lift Houston to the victory. Jason Castro and Colby Rasmus hit consecutive singles off Josh Smith (0-1) with one out before Springer's grounder rolled just out of reach of diving shortstop Zack Cozart and into the outfield.
Marwin Gonzalez and Evan Gattis each hit a two-run homer for Houston, and Adam Duvall tied it with a two-run shot for Cincinnati in the ninth. The series opener also went into extra innings, with the Reds winning 4-2 in 11 on Friday night. Scott Feldman (4-3) allowed two hits in two scoreless innings for the win. — AP

GIANTS 6, RAYS 4
Joe Panik had four RBIs, including a tiebreaking three-run homer in the ninth inning that sent San Francisco to its seventh straight win. Panik hit a two-out drive off Alex Colome (1-2) for the NL West leaders. Hunter Strickland (3-0) won in relief. Cory Gearrin allowed Logan Forsythe's solo homer in the ninth before getting his second save. Evan Longoria, Brad Miller and Logan Morrison also connected for Tampa Bay.

YANKEES 7, TWINS 6
Jacob deGrom hit a tiebreaking two-run single in the ninth inning and New York, boosted by Alex Rodriguez's 695th career homer, rallied past Minnesota. The Yankees scored three times in the ninth for a 7-4 lead. Aroldis Chapman gave up back-to-back homers to Eduardo Escobar and Kurt Suzuki with two outs in the bottom half before getting his 13th save in 14 chances. Byung Ho Park homered and drove four runs for the

PADRES 7, NATIONALS 3
Wil Myers had three hits and drove in three runs, keying a six-run rally in the eighth inning that carried San Diego to the victory. Myers, who homered in the first against Max Scherzer, tied it at three with a two-run double off Felipe Rivero that landed just in front of diving center fielder Michael Taylor. After Matt Kemp was intentionally walked to load the bases, Rivero (0-3) fielded Brett Wallace's comebacker but bobbled it before throwing it wide of catcher Wilson Ramos for an error that allowed Jon Jay to score the go-ahead run. Kevin Quackenbush (4-3) allowed an RBI single in one-third of an inning for the win.

ROYALS 16, TIGERS 5
Kendrys Morales drove in five runs with four hits, and Kansas City cruised to the victory. The Royals' 21 hits and 16 runs were season highs. It got so bad that Tigers utilityman Andrew Romine was summoned to pitch with one out in the eighth. Kansas City's Edinson Volquez (7-6) allowed five runs and eight hits in 6 1/3 innings.
Justin Upton hit a two-run homer for

YANKEES 7, MINNESOTA 6; ARIZONA 4, PHILADELPHIA 1; LA ANGELS 7, OAKLAND 1; BOSTON 6, SEATTLE 2; BALTIMORE 4, TORONTO 2; HOUSTON 5, CINCINNATI 4 (11 INNING); MIAMI 9, COLORADO 6; SAN FRANCISCO 6, TAMPA BAY 4; TEXAS 4, ST. LOUIS 3; CLEVELAND 13, CHICAGO WHITE SOX 2; ATLANTA 4, NY METS 3; KANSAS CITY 16, DETROIT 5; CHICAGO CUBS 4, PITTSBURGH 3; LA DODGERS 10, MILWAUKEE 6; SAN DIEGO 7, WASHINGTON 3.

MLB results/standings

American League				National League					
Eastern Division				Eastern Division					
W	L	PCT	GB	W	L	PCT	GB		
Baltimore	39	28	.582	-	Washington	43	26	.623	-
Boston	38	29	.567	1	NY Mets	36	31	.537	6
Toronto	39	32	.549	2	Miami	36	32	.529	6.5
NY Yankees	34	34	.500	5.5	Philadelphia	30	39	.435	13
Tampa Bay	31	35	.470	7.5	Atlanta	22	46	.324	20.5
Central Division				Central Division					
Cleveland	37	30	.552	-	Chicago Cubs	46	20	.697	-
Kansas City	37	31	.544	0.5	St. Louis	35	32	.522	11.5
Detroit	34	34	.500	3.5	Pittsburgh	33	35	.485	14
Chicago WSox	33	35	.485	4.5	Milwaukee	31	38	.449	16.5
Minnesota	20	48	.294	17.5	Cincinnati	27	42	.391	20.5
Western Division				Western Division					
Texas	44	25	.638	-	San Francisco	43	26	.623	-
Seattle	36	32	.529	7.5	LA Dodgers	37	33	.529	6.5
Houston	33	36	.478	11	Colorado	32	35	.478	10
LA Angels	30	38	.441	13.5	Arizona	31	39	.443	12.5
Oakland	28	40	.412	15.5	San Diego	28	42	.400	15.5