

BOXING: FURY DENIES DOPING CLAIM

LONDON: Controversial British heavyweight world champion Tyson Fury denied claims made in a Sunday newspaper he had failed a doping test last year. The Sunday Mirror had alleged that Fury—who won the belt in an upset defeat of Wladimir Klitschko last November—had returned a sample with a banned steroid in it. “We are baffled by today’s story in the Sunday Mirror,” read a statement from his promoter Hennessy Sports. “Tyson Fury absolutely denies any allegation of doping. He looks forward to recovering from his injury and defending his titles against Wladimir Klitschko in October.” The allegation comes only two days after the 27-year-old—who sparked a furore with sexist remarks about women made last year—announced he would not be able to defend the WBA, WBO and IBO belts in a rematch with Klitschko in July after injuring his ankle during a run. The Mirror claimed that banned steroid nandrolone—which aids muscle growth—had been discovered in a test he underwent either in February or March last year well before his win over the ageing Klitschko. According to the paper his cousin, also a boxer, failed a test for the same substance, although he also denied any wrongdoing. — AFP



HIDDEN MOTOR CHECKS FOR TOUR DE FRANCE

PARIS: A wide reaching series of checks for hidden motors in bicycles is to be employed at the 2016 Tour de France, Yesterday’s French weekly le Journal du Dimanche has reported. Three systems will be used for the checks; an already existing magnetic resonance method screening the start and finish lines, a motorbike mounted thermal detector and a third system provided by the French state from military sources. The Tour gets underway next weekend at Mont Saint Michel and runs from July 2-24. The Journal de Dimanche cited evidence suggesting motorised cycle use had been strongly suspected at recent Tour de France and other races. “This problem is worse than doping. The very future of cycling is hanging in the balance,” French Sports Minister Thierry Braillard told the newspaper. “Under my orders research centres have been hard at work to establish the best way to combat this menace.” Femke Van den Driessche of Belgium was banned for six years for the first recorded case of using hidden motors in racing last April after early motor check tests were used.— AFP

HODGSON HAPPY TO CONTINUE BUT WILL NOT ‘BEG’ TO STAY

LONDON: England manager Roy Hodgson has said he is prepared to remain in the job after Euro 2016 but will not be ‘begging’ for a new deal. Hodgson’s contract expires after the tournament in France and Football Association chairman Greg Dyke indicated last week that the 68-year-old may have to lead the team to the semi-finals to guarantee staying on. “I’m not begging for the job. I am prepared to carry on,” Hodgson told British media ahead of today’s last-16 match against Iceland in Nice. “It is different to wanting it. I’m prepared to carry on if the FA want me to. “If they don’t want me to, then my contract will have run out and that is how it will be. “I believe in the team I am working with and believe the team is showing such potential that it will go on to do good things and if the FA want me to continue with me looking after them, I will be happy to do so.” England reached the last 16 after finishing second to Wales, who have already reached the quarter-finals, in Group B. They beat Wales 2-1 but draws against Russia and Slovakia left them in what turned out to be a much tougher half of the draw. They have scored three goals from their three games to date. —Reuters



MLB results/standings

Baltimore 5, Tampa Bay 0; NY Yankees 2, Minnesota 1; Toronto 10, Chicago White Sox 8; Cleveland 6, Detroit 0; Colorado 11, Arizona 6; Miami 9, Chicago Cubs 6; San Diego 3, Cincinnati 0; Milwaukee 6, Washington 5; Baltimore 8, Tampa Bay 6; Houston 13, Kansas City 5; Pittsburgh 6, LA Dodgers 1; NY Mets 1, Atlanta 0 (11 innings); Texas 10, Boston 3; Oakland 7, LA Angels 3; Philadelphia 3, San Francisco 2; Seattle 5, St. Louis 4.

American League				
Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Baltimore	44	30	.595	-
Boston	41	33	.554	3
Toronto	41	35	.539	4
NY Yankees	37	36	.507	6.5
Tampa Bay	31	42	.425	12.5
Central Division				
Cleveland	43	30	.589	-
Kansas City	38	35	.521	5
Detroit	38	37	.507	6
Chicago White Sox	37	38	.493	7
Minnesota	23	51	.311	20.5
Western Division				
Texas	48	27	.640	-
Houston	39	36	.520	9
Seattle	38	37	.507	10
Oakland	32	42	.432	15.5
LA Angels	31	44	.413	17
National League				
Eastern Division				
Washington	43	32	.573	-
NY Mets	40	33	.548	2
Miami	40	35	.533	3
Philadelphia	32	44	.421	11.5
Atlanta	25	49	.338	17.5
Central Division				
Chicago Cubs	48	25	.658	-
St. Louis	38	35	.521	10
Pittsburgh	36	39	.480	13
Milwaukee	34	40	.459	14.5
Cincinnati	28	47	.373	21
Western Division				
San Francisco	48	28	.632	-
LA Dodgers	41	35	.539	7
Colorado	35	39	.473	12
Arizona	36	41	.468	12.5
San Diego	33	43	.434	15



NEW YORK: Brian McCann #34 of the New York Yankees is tagged out at home by Kurt Suzuki #8 of the Minnesota Twins trying to score on a fly ball in the eighth inning at Yankee Stadium on June 25, in the Bronx borough of New York City. —AFP

BULLPEN BRILLIANT AGAIN AS YANKEES EDGE TWINS 2-1

NEW YORK: Starlin Castro drove home the tiebreaking run in the eighth inning with a sharp one-hopper scored an error on shortstop Eduardo Escobar, and the New York Yankees edged the Minnesota Twins 2-1 Saturday with more dominant pitching from the back end of their bullpen. Dellin Betances, Andrew Miller (5-0) and Aroldis Chapman combined to throw three scoreless innings for the third straight game. They had teamed up to set down 26 consecutive batters during that stretch before Joe Mauer singled on a 99 mph fastball from Chapman with two outs in the ninth. The left-hander then struck out Brian Dozier, who homered earlier off a very effective Michael Pineda, for his 15th save in 16 tries. The 100 mph fastball that ended it was the only pitch Chapman threw that reached triple digits - after his first 10 on Friday night were all 100 mph or more on the scoreboard. In the eighth, pinch-runner Aaron Hicks advanced to third on Brian McCann’s single off Ryan Pressly (2-4), and Castro singled sharply to the left of Escobar one out later.

NL East. Jeury Familia worked the 11th for his majors-leading 26th save in 26 chances.

PADRES 3, REDS 0

Drew Pomeranz drove in a pair of runs and pitched seven innings, leading San Diego in a game delayed a few minutes by the Cincinnati Reds’ tribute to Pete Rose. Pomeranz hit his second career homer and had an RBI single against left-hander Brandon Finnegan (3-6). The Padres have won the first three games of the series, improving to 12-3 against the Reds over the last three seasons. The Reds inducted Rose into their Hall of Fame during a pregame ceremony that included his Big Red Machine teammates and went six minutes long. During a session with the media, Rose joked about taking volunteers for the Reds’ beleaguered bullpen, which is by far the worst in the majors. Pomeranz (7-7) gave up three hits, walked one and struck out six, including the last three batters he faced on a humid, 87-degree afternoon. Fernando Rodney retired the side in the ninth, completing a four-hitter while getting his 17th save in 17 chances.

ORIOLES 5, RAYS 0, 1st game; ORIOLES 8, RAYS 6, 2nd game

Matt Wieters hit two homers, and Baltimore rallied from four runs down in the second game to complete a doubleheader sweep and extend Tampa Bay’s losing streak to 10 games. Adam Jones and Chris Davis also homered for the AL East-leading Orioles, who trailed 4-0 in the third inning and 6-3 in the fifth. Orioles starter Chris Tillman gave up six runs and 10 hits in five innings before Baltimore’s comeback kept the right-hander unbeaten in 13 starts since April 14. Wieters hit a two-run shot in the fourth, Jones connected in the fifth and Davis led off the sixth with his 17th homer to get the Orioles to 6-5. Baltimore took its first lead in the seventh. Jones hit an RBI single off Erasmo Ramirez (7-6) and Davis greeted Xavier Cedenno with a run-scoring single. Wieters connected again leading off the eighth. T.J. McFarland (2-2) pitched two scoreless innings, Brad Brach worked the eighth and Zach Britton got three outs for his 23rd save. The first game of the day-night doubleheader was dominated by Kevin Gausman (1-5), who earned his first win in 13 starts since last September. He allowed four hits in 7 2/3 innings. Matt Andriese (6-1) gave up two runs and five hits in 4 2/3 innings for Tampa Bay. The right-hander was unbeaten in 10 starts since last June 22.

INDIANS 6, TIGERS 0

Francisco Lindor homered twice and Carlos Carrasco pitched a four-hitter to lead Cleveland to its eighth consecutive win. The Indians also improved to 8-0 against the Tigers this year, outscoring them 51-16. It was the first career outscoring game for the 22-

year-old Lindor, and Carlos Santana and Yan Gomes also went deep for AL Central-leading Cleveland. The Indians spoiled Anibal Sanchez’s return to the Detroit rotation. The right-hander allowed a homer to Santana on the game’s second pitch, and Lindor added another solo shot one out later. Carrasco (3-2) struck out seven and walked one. He threw a season-high 117 pitches in his third career shutout and first of the year. Sanchez (4-8) made his first start since May 31 after being demoted to the bullpen for a bit. He allowed four runs and five hits in five innings.

MARLINS 9, CUBS 6

Justin Bour and Giancarlo Stanton each drove in three runs, Paul Clemens got his first big league win in more than three years and Miami erased an early deficit to beat Chicago. Bour hit his 14th home run for the Marlins, who got to 40 wins in 75 games - or 20 games faster than they did a year ago. Ichiro Suzuki’s infield single in the fifth sparked what became a four-run inning that put Miami ahead for good. The Cubs lost for the fifth time in six games. Clemens (1-0) trailed 4-1 early but settled down and gave Miami five innings of four-run ball. It was his first win since June 12, 2013, and A.J. Ramos got the last two outs for his 24th save. Addison Russell hit a three-run homer and Miguel Montero added a solo homer for the Cubs. Chicago starter John Lackey (7-4) gave up a season-high seven runs in 4 1/3 innings.

BREWERS 6, NATIONALS 5

Chris Carter hit a three-run homer, Matt Garza pitched six innings for his first win of the season, and Milwaukee beat Washington. Carter connected for his 19th homer with two out in the first. Jonathan Villar had three hits for Milwaukee, including an RBI single in the second. Garza (1-0) gave up four runs and seven hits in his third start of the year. He was sidelined for the first two months of the season by a back injury. Washington left-hander Gio Gonzalez (3-7) pitched a season-low three innings in his sixth consecutive loss. He was charged with six runs and six hits with five strikeouts and one walk.

PHILLIES 3, GIANTS 2

Cameron Rupp chased Madison Bumgarner with a two-run homer in Philadelphia’s three-run seventh inning, helping the Phillies beat San Francisco. Andres Blanco singled in Tommy Joseph before Rupp connected for his seventh homer. Joseph had two hits for Philadelphia, which had lost 10 of 11. Bumgarner (8-4) carried a two-hitter into the seventh and then allowed three hits to the first four batters he faced in the frame, including Rupp’s shot over wall in center. The left-hander struck out seven and walked one. Bumgarner allowed more than two earned

runs in a game for the first time since giving up four to the Los Angeles Dodgers on April 15, a span of 12 starts. Jeremy Hellickson (5-6) gave up two runs and five hits in six innings for the Phillies. Jeanmar Gomez pitched the ninth for his 20th save.

ROCKIES 11, DIAMONDBACKS 6

Tony Wolters hit his first major league home run and drove in four runs, helping Colorado beat Arizona. Wolters hit a two-run double in the fourth off Shelby Miller and a two-run homer in the sixth that boosted Colorado’s lead to 7-1. DJ LeMahieu and Charlie Blackmon also homered for the Rockies, who stopped a three-game losing streak Jorge De La Rosa (5-4) improved to 9-1 with a 1.96 ERA in 13 Coors Field starts against Arizona, allowing one run, six hits and five walks in six innings. Gonzalez Germen got four outs for his first save this season. Miller (2-7) gave up seven runs and 11 hits in six innings, raising his ERA to 6.79.

PIRATES 6, DODGERS 1

Andrew McCutchen homered twice, Jeff Locke took a perfect game into the sixth inning, and Pittsburgh beat Los Angeles for the second straight night. McCutchen had a solo shot in the fourth inning for the game’s first hit and then a three-run shot to start a five-run sixth that increased the Pirates’ lead to 6-0. McCutchen raised his season total to 12 home runs with his 11th career multi-homer game - second this year. The nine-year veteran’s batting average had dropped to .239 after going 9 for 49 (.184) with 16 strikeouts in his previous 13 games. Locke (7-5) retired his first 15 batters before consecutive doubles by Scott Van Slyke and A.J. Ellis to start the sixth inning. Locke allowed one run and five hits in seven innings, striking out three and walking none. Kenta Maeda (6-5) gave up four runs and four hits in five-plus innings.

ASTROS 13, ROYALS 5

Jose Altuve went 4 for 5, including a home run and two doubles, and Houston won its seventh straight. Altuve drove in three runs and scored three runs. He is hitting .417 with a .484 on-base percentage while reaching base in 27 consecutive games, the longest active streak in the major leagues. Marwin Gonzalez, Altuve and Carlos Correa, the Astros’ two-three-four hitters, combined to go 8 for 15 with seven RBIs, six runs and two homers. Altuve and Correa hit consecutive homers in a seven-run second. Michael Feliz (5-1) won despite allowing two runs and three hits in 1 2/3 innings. Astros starter Mike Fiers, staked to a 9-1 lead in the fourth, was removed after 4 1/3 innings. He gave up three runs, nine hits and three walks and also a hit batter. Chris Young (2-7) yielded seven runs, seven hits

and four walks in 2 1/3 innings, raising his ERA to 6.54.

RANGERS 10, RED SOX 3

Elvis Andrus had a bases-loaded triple and Ian Desmond homered again to lead Texas. Desmond’s 13th homer, his sixth in June, tied the game leading off the fourth. Mitch Moreland had a tiebreaking two-run single later in the inning to put the Rangers ahead to stay. Andrus cleared the bases with his triple to the wall in left-center that chased knuckleballer Steven Wright (8-5) in the fifth. Andrus scored on a wild pitch by Robbie Ross Jr., capping a five-run inning when all the runs were unearned after two errors and a passed ball. Cesar Ramos (2-3), the third Texas pitcher, pitched 2 2/3 scoreless innings. The lefty struck out consecutive batters after taking over with runners and second and third, and one out in the sixth.

ATHLETICS 7, ANGELS 3

Coco Crisp hit a two-run single and scored four times, Danny Valencia homered and drove in three runs, and Dillon Overton pitched into the sixth inning to get the win in major league debut as Oakland beat Los Angeles. Angels slugger Albert Pujols hit his 574th homer to snap a tie with Harmon Killebrew for 11th place on baseball’s career list. It was Pujols’ second homer in as many nights and No. 14 on the season, but the Angels lost their sixth in a row and fell to a season-worst 13 games under .500 (31-44). The Angels loaded the bases with one out in the ninth, but Sean Doolittle retired the next two in order. Overton (1-0) gave up back-to-back homers by Kole Calhoun and Mike Trout in the first inning. The 24-year-old left-hander was charged with three runs and seven hits in 5 2/3 innings. Jhouly Chacin (2-4) allowed four runs and six hits in 4 2/3 innings for Los Angeles.

MARINERS 5, CARDINALS 4

Dae-Ho Lee drove in two runs and Leony Martin had three hits to help Nathan Karns get his first win in almost a month as Seattle beat St. Louis. Karns (6-2) gave up four runs and five hits in five innings for his first victory since May 30, and Steve Cishek got the last three outs for his 17th save of the season. The Mariners loaded the bases against Mike Leake (5-5) in each of the first two innings. Lee had two-run single in the first and Adam Lind followed with an RBI single to make it 3-0. In the second, a hard ground ball from Cruz got away from third baseman Johnny Peralta to drive in a run. Seager’s grounder was mishandled by Matt Carpenter as another run scored to make it 5-0 lead. Matt Holliday had an RBI single in the third and Almedys Diaz clubbed a three-run homer in the fifth for the Cardinals. — AP