

## YELLOW JERSEY THOMAS KEEN TO STAY SAFE IN BUNCH SPRINT

**LONGWY:** Yellow jersey wearer Geraint Thomas will be looking to stay out of trouble as a bunch sprint finish is expected at the Tour de France. Thomas and his Sky team leader Chris Froome, the reigning champion, were both taken down in a crash on a wet and slippery bend 30km from the end of Sunday's second stage, which ended in a bunch sprint. On flat stages which favour the sprinters, the run-in to the finish is usually very fast, and when it's wet like on

Sunday, that increases the perils for riders.

"It looks like another bunch sprint, we'll try to stay up front and out of trouble, but saying that a crash happened (on Sunday) — there's not a lot you can do about that," said Thomas. He took the race leader's yellow jersey in Saturday's opening stage time-trial but his main job is to help Froome in his bid for a fourth Tour victory.

Froome is currently second behind

Thomas overall with another Sky teammate, Michal Kwiatkowski eighth, making it a great start to the Tour for the British team.

"Touch wood, we've all been riding really well together," said Thomas. "We still have the (yellow) jersey, it's been a great start but there are still 18 days to go and a lot of bike racing to come." The peloton's fast men will feel refreshed by Tuesday's fourth stage finish following Monday's tough, short climb.

It's an almost pan flat stage of 207.5km that starts in Luxembourg and finishes in the town of Vittel, known mostly for its bottled water and thermal baths. It's also the site of one of the top spa resorts in France and has a no pesticide policy around its water resources, making it an ideal place to relax after a tough stage of racing, even if the riders decline to try the local speciality: frog tart. As well as the battle for the stage win that should see Mark Cavendish,

Andre Greipel and world champion Peter Sagan rub shoulders with German powerhouse Marcel Kittel, the green jersey will be in play too. Kittel holds it but with 50 points on offer to the stage winner, others including Frenchman Arnaud Demarre and Sagan will have designs of ridding the Quick-Step rider of his prize.

With the sun out and only a small amount of cloud cover, temperatures of just over 20 degrees Celsius, it made for ideal racing weather. — AFP

### BASKETBALL

## TATUM HITS GO-AHEAD SHOT AS CELTICS EDGE FULTZ, 76ERS

**ORLANDO:** Boston's Jayson Tatum opened the Utah Summer League and his pro career with a go-ahead basket to beat No. 1 pick Markelle Fultz and Philadelphia.

The game in Salt Lake City was the most anticipated contest thus far, as summer play heated up Monday with the Orlando Pro Summer League entering its third day and the Utah Summer League tipping getting started. The 24-team NBA Summer League in Las Vegas starts on Friday. New York, Oklahoma City, Orlando, Dallas, Indiana and Miami were in action in Orlando on Monday. Boston, Philadelphia, Utah and San Antonio got going in Salt Lake City later on Monday.

A look at some of the notable action.

### DAZZLING DEBUT

Tatum's jumper and the Celtics' ensuing stop of Fultz gave Boston an 89-88 victory. Fultz played well on both ends of the floor and showed why the 76ers took him with the top pick they acquired from Boston. Fultz finished with three blocks, including a weakside swat of Kadeem Allen that had the crowd gasping. He had 17 points on 6-for-16 shooting, including two 3-pointers. "People have big expectations but, to me, it was just another day to play basketball and do what I love," Fultz said. "I love chasing down blocks and blocking shots. On defense I'm always going to give effort on both ends of the floor. That's one thing that goes unnoticed is just how hard I play on both ends. I'm a great shot-blocking point guard."

Tatum was not overshadowed as the 6-foot-8, 208-pounder showed the versatility he's known for and knocked down a pull-up jumper with 5.7 seconds left. Fultz's shot was blocked on the other end to end the game. Tatum, the No. 3 pick, may have had the most awe-inspiring play of the night with a thundering, one-hand tomahawk dunk on Kaleb Tarczewski. He posted 21 points, seven rebounds, three assists and five steals.

"He kind of has this old soul," Celtics coach Jerome Allen said. "This pro-like approach, doesn't get rattled, doesn't show a lot of emotions. Just kind of plays at his pace like he's been here before."

"We can say it's only Summer League, but he just made plays." While all eyes were on the two rookies, 2016 No. 3 overall pick Jaylen Brown was hands down the best player on the floor and looked like he had no business playing Summer League games. He finished with 29 points. Brown has taken Tatum under his wing since he joined the team. "Jaylen can help him with a lot of things," Celtics coach Brad Stevens said. "They've been in the gym a lot together. They've been working out together. I know Jaylen's picked him up and taken him to the practice facility a few times."

### LEAF EXCELS

Indiana Pacers first-round draft pick T. J. Leaf showed that his impressive debut wasn't a fluke by following that perform-

ance up with an even better second game in Orlando. Leaf improved on Sunday's 12-point debut by scoring 19 points and grabbing 10 rebounds to help lead the Pacers to an 86-83 win over Miami to move them to 3-0. The 6-foot-10 forward from UCLA, who missed the Summer League opener on Saturday to attend a family wedding, showed some versatility with scoring on the perimeter and in the paint while converting 9 of 17 from the field in 28 minutes.

Joe Young finished with 17 points and six assists, while Jarnell Stokes added 14 points and Chris Johnson contributed 12. Miami's first-round pick Bam Adebayo led all scorers with 29 points and grabbed 11 rebounds in nearly 32 minutes.

### COMEBACK MAVS

The Dallas Mavericks found themselves quickly in a 17-point hole against Orlando during Monday's game. They recovered in the second quarter and then separated in the third on the way to an 86-76 win. Dallas improved to 2-0. Guard Dwight Buysck led the Mavericks with 20 points, while forward Brandon Paul added 18.

No. 6 overall pick Jonathan Isaac had eight points in the first quarter but hurt his hip on a collision in the second and didn't return in the second half. Point guard Marcus Georges-Hunt, who was called up from the D-League by the Magic in April, contributed 20 points but he had little help.

### NTILIKINA UPDATE

Knicks rookie Frank Ntilikina has missed the first three games with a knee injury. It's unclear whether the No. 8 overall pick will participate in Summer League play. Knicks coach Jeff Hornacek did not talk to reporters following the game. New York dropped to 0-3 after Monday's 99-87 loss to Oklahoma City.

### HAYWARD CHANTS

Chants of "Gordon Hayward!" broke out in the stands early in Salt Lake City, confirming that minds are on the Jazz All-Star. Hayward, an unrestricted free agent, met with the Jazz in San Diego on Monday, the Celtics on Sunday and the Heat on Saturday. Celtics president Danny Angie and Stevens were both in Salt Lake City to watch Summer League.

Hayward is one of the marquee names in free agency this year and is expected to command a maximum contract.

### EX(UM) GONNA GIVE IT TO YA

Jazz Summer League coach Alex Jensen said Dante Exum needs to be heads and shoulders above the competition during the session as he enters his fourth year in the league. The 2014 No. 5 overall pick has yet to find his groove in the NBA, partially due to a torn ACL that cost him all of 2015-16. No other lottery pick from the 2014 or 2015 is playing in Orlando or Salt Lake City.—AP



**MONDORF-LES-BAINS:** Peter Sagan of Slovakia, left, sprints as Britain's Mark Cavendish, center, and Britain's Ben Swift crash, during the sprint of the fourth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 207.5 kilometers (129 miles) with start in Mondorf-les-Bains, Luxembourg, and finish in Vittel, France, yesterday. World champion Peter Sagan has been disqualified from the Tour de France for causing a crash in a chaotic sprint finish that left Mark Cavendish needing treatment for his injuries and further examinations in a hospital. — AP

### CYCLING

## SAGAN DISQUALIFIED FROM TOUR FOR CAVENDISH 'ELBOW'

**VITTEL:** World champion Peter Sagan was sensationally kicked off the Tour de France for elbowing Mark Cavendish in a hectic sprint finish to yesterday's fourth stage.

British sprint great Cavendish was taken to hospital by ambulance with shoulder and finger injuries after crashing to the ground when Sagan shoved him into the metal safety barriers 100 metres from the finish of the 207.5km stage from Mondorf-les-Bains to Vittel.

"We've decided to disqualify Peter Sagan from the Tour de France 2017 as he endangered some of his colleagues seriously in the final metres of the sprint which happened in Vittel," said the president of the race commission, Philippe Marien.

"We will apply article 12.104 of the rules of the UCI... in which case commissaires (the race jury) can decide to enforce a judgement to disqualify a rider." Cavendish had earlier demanded an explanation from Sagan for the elbow that could end the Briton's Tour, if like in 2014 he has suffered a broken collarbone.

Cavendish, 31, was following the wheel of eventual stage winner Arnaud Demare of France when Sagan jutted out an elbow, knocking the Briton into the barriers where he came crashing down to the ground. The 30-time Tour stage winner was treated by medical staff before crossing the finish line with a bloodied and bandaged hand. When he left for hospital,

he was also wearing a sling. "Injury-wise I'm going to go and get it checked out," he told a scrum of reporters outside his Dimension Data team bus. "I will definitely need stitches in this finger, it's bleeding a lot. "With the shoulder, it might be something to do with a previous injury, it's sat backwards so I'm not sure if I've done something to the ligament. "I'm not a doctor but from the feelings I'm not optimistic."

### 'NOT A FAN'

But Cavendish said Sagan had to explain his actions. "I was just following Demare round, and then Sagan just came over," he added.

"I get on with Peter well but I don't get it. If he came across it's one thing, but the elbow?"

"I'm not a fan of him putting his elbow in like that. I get on with Peter, a crash is a crash, but I'd just like to know about the elbow." Cavendish's sports director at Dimension Data Roger Hammond told journalists: "If I was Sagan, I'd apologise for that." Fellow sprinter Andre Greipel of Germany accused Sagan of doing the same thing to him the previous day.

### 'NOWHERE TO GO'

"Yesterday it was the same thing in the intermediate sprint, he (Sagan) gave an elbow to Andre," Greipel's Lotto-Soudal team manager Marc Sergeant told Eurosport.

Cavendish's was the second of two crashes in

the final kilometre as riders jostled for position to contest the sprint finish. Race leader Geraint Thomas was taken down in the first crash, along with around a dozen riders, but he emerged unhurt. "The crash happened right in front of me, I had nowhere to go really," said Thomas. "I managed to take off quite a bit of speed, I hit the deck but I'm fine." It was the second time in three stages that Thomas had been caught up in a crash. "It's ok, both times I managed to take off quite a bit of speed," he added. "I'm used to crashing, so it's fine, I'm all ok." In all the furor of another bunch pile-up, French champion Demare's achievement of becoming the first Frenchman to win a Tour stage in a sprint finish since 2006 was almost lost.

"It's amazing, beating all the best sprinters like that at the Tour de France is something I'd hoped for, for a long time," said Demare. "Now I've managed it once, I think I can do it again." His win allowed him to claim the sprinters' green jersey from German Marcel Kittel, winner of Sunday's second stage but who was held up by the first crash and unable to contest the sprint. With Slovak Sagan disqualified, Norway's Alexander Kristoff came second and Greipel third. Reigning champion Chris Froome retained second place, 12 seconds behind his Sky team-mate Thomas, with Australian Michael Matthews third on the same time as Froome. — AFP

### SOCCER

## DOM DWYER, SYDNEY LEROUX LIVE OUT SOCCER'S AMERICAN DREAM

**LOS ANGELES:** Dom Dwyer and Sydney Leroux are the quintessential American success story. Born abroad, each came to the United States and dreamed of playing for the national soccer team. Along the way they also found each other. This weekend, Dwyer scored in his international debut, a 2-1 exhibition victory over Ghana, just 31/2 months after he became a US citizen. Leroux, who holds dual citizenship, made her national team debut in 2011 and earned winner's medals at the 2012 Olympics and 2015 Women's World Cup.

Dwyer and Leroux are the first husband-and-wife duo to each score for the US national soccer team. "I think it's the coolest thing. The fact is that both of us weren't born here: We followed the American Dream," Leroux said.

The couple has a nine-month old son, Cassius, who was decked out in his own U.S. jersey to watch daddy's debut from the family's home in the Kansas City area. Leroux also plays for FC Kansas City of the National Women's Soccer League, while her husband plays for Major League Soccer's Sporting Kansas City.

"I'm very proud of Sydney and what she's achieved and still achieving in the national team, and I've got quite a few caps to catch up to her and a few goals, too, but hopefully I can live up to it," Dwyer said.

Born in England, Dwyer came to America as a college student, playing at Tyler Junior College in Texas before transferring to South Florida for the 2011 season. He was the 16th overall pick for Sporting Kansas City in the 2012 MLS draft. He has 60 goals in 133 competitive matches for Sporting KC. Dwyer met Leroux in 2013 and they were married in early 2015. The two cleverly announced they'd tied the knot on

Valentine's Day that year, holding hands and wearing their jerseys: No. 2 for her and No. 14 for him under the name Dwyer.

While the couple was starting a family, Dwyer was also working toward a personal goal: In March he became a US citizen. It was the first step toward playing for the national team, a dream that came true in East Hartford, Connecticut, on Saturday when the 26-year-old striker scored in the 19th minute and celebrated with a double back flip.

"It's been a long road to get here, and I really wanted to show the fans and show the country I'm very passionate about this country, and I'm very honored to play for this team, and hopefully it's something we can build on," he said.

He'll have more chances to prove himself in the CONCACAF Gold Cup, the biennial championship for the North America, Central America and Caribbean region. The United States opens Saturday against Panama in Nashville.

"I know that it's a fabulous story that a family has both parents playing for their respective national teams," men's national team coach Bruce Arena said. "That's a pretty incredible story, so I'm real pleased for the Dwyers."

Retired NBA star Kobe Bryant is a good friend of the couple's. "She's like my little sister. I would send her books that I'd read that had helped me, or talk to her every now and then about focus and training. I remember getting the call that she was having a baby and how excited we all were," Bryant said. "And Dom, Dom's just taken his game to another level. And now getting a call to the national team. They're like family." Dwyer and Leroux, a 27-year-old forward, are just the fourth married couple to play for the United States, joining Jim Gabarra and

Carin Jennings, Claudio Reyna and Danielle Egan and Zach Loyd and Casey Nogueira. Egan's only goal was in 1993, four years before she married Reyna.

### JUST THE BEGINNING

When Dwyer was named to the national team Leroux posted a loving tribute to social media. "Two kids from two different countries from two completely different walks of life that found their way to America and to each other because of our love for the beautiful game. I can't write a better story but I know this is just the beginning. Welcome to the club. You have some catching up to do though," she wrote.

Leroux was born in Surrey, British Columbia. At 15, and holding dual citizenship, she moved to Arizona in hopes of grabbing the attention of the US Soccer Federation. She played for UCLA and the US Under-20 team before making a single appearance for the senior team in 2011 and scoring five goals in her second appearance, a 13-0 rout of Guatemala in an Olympic qualifier in January 2012.

Leroux has 35 goals in 75 international appearances. She took last year off - missing the 2016 Rio Games and the FCKC season - because of her pregnancy. The couple welcomed Cassius Cruz Dwyer in September.

Cassius has become something of a celebrity on his own, with 62,000 Instagram followers. Leroux returned to the NWSL this season, starting at forward and working hard to regain her pre-pregnancy form. This season she has three goals and an assist. The couple's shared careers bring added challenges to parenthood. "It's not even the balance of being a mom and playing soccer. It's the balance of having your husband

doing the exact same thing that I do," she said following a recent FC Kansas City match. "We don't have family here. It's usually just us, and I think there's just two weekends in the entire season where we're in Kansas City at the same

time. Either I'm home and he's away or he's home and I'm away. So that balance is hard." But she quickly added that it's worth it. "We're both chasing our dreams and I wouldn't have it any other way," she said. — AP



**KANSAS CITY:** In this photo provided by Sporting Kansas City and taken March 16, 2017, from left to right, Dom Dwyer, infant son Cassius and wife Sydney Leroux gather for Dwyers naturalization ceremony at Charles Evans Whittaker Courthouse in Kansas City, Mo. Dwyer and Leroux are the first husband and wife duo to each score for the US national soccer team. — AP