

13 Ravens dig into their bag of tricks to topple Texans



14 Ashes outcast Stokes eyes N Zealand hit-out



15 City's sharpshooter Sterling sets sights on Southampton



OAKLAND: JaVale McGee #1 of the Golden State Warriors dunks the ball against the Sacramento Kings at ORACLE Arena in Oakland, California. — AFP

Bogdan lifts Kings to 110-106 victory

Pistons snap Celtics home winning streak

OAKLAND: Bogdan Bogdanovic hit a driving banker over Draymond Green with 12.6 seconds remaining Monday night to break a tie and lift the Sacramento Kings to a 110-106 victory over the Golden State Warriors. Golden State, which was playing without Stephen Curry (bruised right hand) and Kevin Durant (sprained left ankle), led 106-102 before the Kings scored the game's last eight points over the final 3:08. Sacramento earned its first win in its past nine visits to Oracle Arena and snapped a nine-game road losing streak dating back to the first week of the season. Willie Cauley-Stein had 19 points and eight rebounds to lead the Kings. Klay Thompson paced the Warriors with 21 points.

PISTONS 118, CELTICS 108

Detroit ended Boston's eight-game home winning streak in a battle of the teams with the two top records in the Eastern Conference. Tobias Harris scored 31 points and Andre Drummond posted 26 points, a season-high 22 rebounds and six assists as the Pistons went on a late 13-3 run to put the game away. Detroit guard Reggie Jackson, who played his college ball at Boston College, had 20 points and seven assists in the win. Marcus Smart led the Celtics with 23 points.

CAVALIERS 113, 76ERS 91

LeBron James collected 30 points, 13 rebounds and six assists as Cleveland beat Philadelphia to win its eighth straight. Dwyane Wade added 15 points off the

bench for the Cavs, who owned a 57-30 advantage in bench points and limited the Sixers to 37.5 percent shooting, including 3-for-28 3-point accuracy. Cleveland shot 48.2 percent, including 40.5 percent (15 of 37) from beyond the arc. Joel Embiid led Philadelphia, which saw a three-game winning streak end, with 30 points and 11 rebounds. Rookie sensation Ben Simmons was limited to 10 points and eight rebounds before leaving the game in the fourth quarter with a sprained right ankle.

ROCKETS 117, NETS 103

James Harden produced another breathlessly efficient scoring performance and Houston rode his hot hand to a victory over Brooklyn. The Rockets extended their winning streak to five games behind Harden, who scored 37 points on 13-for-20 shooting while adding 10 rebounds and eight assists. He poured in 20 points without a miss in the first quarter as Houston took a 21-point lead it did not relinquish. Clint Capela added 20 points for the Rockets, Ryan Anderson scored 13 and Eric Gordon 12. Chris Paul shot just 1 for 7 but had 14 assists without a turnover, six boards and two steals.

PACERS 121, MAGIC 109

Victor Oladipo scored 26 points and Bojan Bogdanovic added 22 as Indiana sent Orlando to its ninth consecutive loss. Oladipo hit 11 of 14 shots, including 4 of 6 from 3-point range, and Domantas Sabonis chipped in with 19 points and eight rebounds for the Pacers. Indiana's Myles Turner scored 18 points, and Lance Stephenson matched his season high with 18 off the bench. The Pacers sank 15 of 26 from three-point range while the Magic were 16 of 41 on three-pointers. Jonathon Simmons scored 21 points to lead six players in doubles figures for Orlando. Aaron Gordon and Nikola Vucevic each had 16 points. Vucevic added a team-high 12 rebounds.

TRAIL BLAZERS 103, KNICKS 91

Damian Lillard had 32 points and Pat Connaughton added 17 as Portland defeated New York. Kristaps Porzingis returned from a one-game absence and scored 22 points to lead the Knicks, who lost their third consecutive game. Tim Hardaway Jr. added 18 points for New York but shot just 6 of 18 from the field. New York staged a furious rally in the fourth quarter, cutting

Portland's lead from 26 at the start of the quarter to eight with under a minute left. The Blazers scored just six points in the first 10 minutes of the fourth quarter, but New York went cold and was unable to come any closer.

SPURS 115, MAVERICKS 108

LaMarcus Aldridge scored a season-high 33 points and grabbed 10 rebounds for his eighth double-double off the Los Angeles Lakers. It was the 11th consecutive "home" victory for the Clippers over the Lakers, while the Clippers have also won 20 of the last 22 games in the matchup. Both teams call the Staples Center home. Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 29 points for the Lakers. It was Caldwell Pope's third consecutive game with 20 or more points. — Reuters

CLIPPERS 120, LAKERS 115

Lou Williams scored a season-high 42 points and Blake Griffin added 26 as the Los Angeles Clippers held off the Los Angeles Lakers. It was the 11th consecutive "home" victory for the Clippers over the Lakers, while the Clippers have also won 20 of the last 22 games in the matchup. Both teams call the Staples Center home. Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 29 points for the Lakers. It was Caldwell Pope's third consecutive game with 20 or more points. — Reuters

Buffon wins Italy's best player award

MILAN: Italy's veteran goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon has eased some of his World Cup heartache by winning the Serie A Best Player of the Year award. "I'm happy and proud. I never thought I'd get this kind of trophy, and I'll hold on tight to it because I never won best youngster!" said the 39-year-old Juventus goalkeeper at Monday night's ceremony. "The failure to participate in the World is the biggest disappointment in my career together with some (lost) Champions League finals."

Napoli's Maurizio Sarri was named the best coach in the Italian football awards, voted for by the players, for competing for the title with a smaller budget than Juventus.

Buffon quit international football last month as four-time champions Italy sensationally missed out on their first World Cup finals in 60 years after a playoff defeat to Sweden. "Italy-Sweden was the biggest disappointment of my life," he told Sky Sports Italia.

"But we need to move on, the season must end in the best way and with Juventus there are so many goals to be achieved." Buffon won a tenth Serie A title with Juventus and helped the Turin-based side reach the Champions League final for the second time in three years. He also won a third Italian Cup with the Juve. Despite the World Cup setback, he has left the door

open on a future return for the national side. "I've taken a period of rest, I'm getting on, I've always been a soldier signed up for the national side and Juventus, so I can't desert," he said. "Even at the age of 60, if there was a dearth of goalkeepers I'd be available because that's how I conceive the idea of a nation." It is the sixth straight year that a Juventus player has won the award with Buffon following in the footsteps of Andrea Pirlo (2012-014), Carlos Tevez (2015) and Leonardo Bonucci (2016).

Buffon has said he will retire at the end of this season, unless Juventus win the Champions League title. The Serie A champions play league leaders Napoli on Friday before a crunch Champions League game next week at Olympiakos when they need a win to guarantee passage into the next round. —AFP



Rookie sensation Ben was limited to 10 points



MILAN: Juventus' Italian goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon (L) poses with AIC President Damiano Tommasi after receiving the "Best player 2017" award. — AFP