

Sports

Yankees survive Red Sox as baseball makes history in London slugfest

Greinke, Escobar lead Diamondbacks past Giants

LONDON: DJ LeMahieu tied career highs with four hits and five RBIs, and Luke Voit added four hits as the New York Yankees outslugged the Boston Red Sox 17-13 on Saturday in London. The two teams brought the fireworks for Major League Baseball's first game in Europe. Taking advantage of a hitter-friendly setup at London Stadium, the offenses combined for 37 hits (19-18 Yankees) in the second highest scoring Red Sox-Yankees game in history. The game lasted 4 hours, 42 minutes-three minutes short of the modern era record for a nine-inning game. Aaron Hicks, Aaron Judge and Brett Gardner all hit two-run homers for the Yankees, who extended their record streak of consecutive games with a homer to 30. New York won for the 12th time in its last 13 games.

ASTROS 6, MARINERS 5 (10 INNINGS)

Yuli Gurriel delivered his second walk-off hit in as many nights, roping an RBI double to the right-center field gap in the 10th inning to lift Houston over visiting Seattle. Gurriel clubbed a solo homer in the 10th inning on Friday to push Houston to a victory in the series opener. His series-clinching drive Saturday came against Mariners closer Roenis Elias (2-1), who surrendered a leadoff single to Michael Brantley before unleashing a wild pitch that pushed Brantley into scoring position. Gurriel followed by walloping a 2-0 changeup that just eluded Mariners center fielder Mallex Smith. Tim Beckham, Domingo Santana and Daniel Vogelbach all homered for the Mariners.

DIAMONDBACKS 4, GIANTS 3

Right-hander Zack Greinke continued his mastery of San Francisco, and Eduardo Escobar ended a scoreless duel with a two-out, RBI single in the seventh inning, sending visiting Arizona to victory. Three insurance runs in the eighth gave the Arizona bullpen just enough of a cushion in order to preserve the club's fifth win in six games in San Francisco this season. Blanked for seven innings by Greinke and in the eighth by two relievers, the Giants gave those who stuck around a thrill when Stephen Vogt drilled a three-run home run off Greg Holland to get San Francisco within 4-3. But Holland bounced back to retire the next three batters for his 12th save.

BLUE JAYS 7, ROYALS 5

Danny Jansen hit a two-run homer with one out in the bottom of the ninth, and Toronto defeated visiting Kansas City. It was the fourth homer of the season and the first career walk-off homer for Jansen. Scott Barlow (2-3) walked Randal Grichuk to open the bottom of the ninth and struck out pinch hitter Rowdy Tellez before giving up Jansen's homer. Cavan Biggio hit his first career grand slam, and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit a solo homer for the Blue Jays, who have won the first two games of the four-game series.

BRAVES 5, METS 4

Nick Markakis and Austin Riley homered on consecutive pitches in the eighth inning for Atlanta, which

took advantage of the latest implosion by New York's bullpen. The Braves have won the first two games of the three-game series against the Mets, who have dropped seven straight. New York has led in the sixth inning or later in five of those losses. Mets relievers have a 7.62 ERA this month, the worst mark in the majors. The comeback made a winner out of Sean Newcomb (2-0), who tossed 1 1/3 scoreless innings of relief. Luke Jackson earned his 13th save by wriggling out of a two-on, none-out jam in the ninth.

MARLINS 9, PHILLIES 6

Neil Walker homered and drove in three runs as Miami rallied from a five-run deficit and defeated visiting Philadelphia. Walker's two-run home run in the sixth snapped an 0-for-15 slide and began the Marlins' comeback, cutting the Phillies' lead to 6-3. Starlin Castro and JT Riddle hit consecutive doubles that keyed a six-run seventh and put Miami ahead for good. The win was the Marlins' fifth straight over Philadelphia.

ROCKIES 5, DODGERS 3

Charlie Blackmon homered, Pat Valaika hit two hits, and Colorado beat Los Angeles in Denver. Jon Gray (9-5) struck out eight in 6 2/3 innings in his second straight strong start. He has allowed just three earned runs over his last three outings. Wade Davis pitched the ninth for his 12th save in 14 chances. Los Angeles has lost two straight to Colorado after winning 12 in a row against the Rockies.

CUBS 6, REDS 0

Javier Baez belted his fifth career grand slam, and Jose Quintana tossed six solid innings to end a nine-start winless stretch as visiting Chicago beat Cincinnati. Tempers flared after Chicago reliever Pedro Strop drilled Yasiel Puig with a 3-0 fastball in the left leg with two outs in the eighth inning. Puig tossed his helmet and walked toward Strop before initially being restrained by Cubs catcher Willson Contreras and first baseman Anthony Rizzo, then by teammate Joey Volto as players from both teams spilled onto the field. Jason Heyward homered for the second time in as many days, and Ohio native Kyle Schwarber ripped an RBI double for the Cubs, who posted just their third win in eight outings against Cincinnati this season.

PADRES 12, CARDINALS 2

Manny Machado and Frammil Reyes hit two home runs apiece including going back-to-back during a seven-run second inning-to power host San Diego over struggling St. Louis. Machado drove in five runs with his 18th and 19th homers of the season, while Reyes' two homers (Nos. 23 and 24) were both solo shots. Fernando Tatis Jr. later hit a 440-foot solo homer, giving the Padres 16 homers during a four-game winning streak. Meanwhile, the loss was the fifth straight for the Cardinals, who have been outscored 30-10 during the skid.



LONDON: Sam Travis #59 of Boston Red Sox watches the last hit of the game fly towards second base during the MLB London Series game between Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees at London Stadium in London, England. — AFP

BREWERS 3, PIRATES 1

Eric Thames tripled, homered and drove in two runs to help Milwaukee beat visiting Pittsburgh in the second game of their three-game series. Milwaukee right-hander Brandon Woodruff allowed one run and six hits in 7 2/3 innings to become the fifth 10-game winner in the majors, and the first in the National League. Woodruff (10-2) struck out six and didn't walk a batter. Yasmani Grandal had two hits in the leadoff spot for Milwaukee, which had lost three of four and eight of 11.

TWINS 10, WHITE SOX 3

Nelson Cruz and Max Kepler both homered twice to back six strong innings from Michael Pineda and lift visiting Minnesota over Chicago. Kepler smacked solo home runs in the fifth and seventh innings for the Twins, who got their attack going with Cruz's two-run shot in the first. Miguel Sano added a two-run homer in the eighth before Cruz punctuated the afternoon with a two-run blast in the ninth. Cruz finished 4-for-5 with five RBIs, while Jorge Polanco, Jason Castro and Kepler had two hits apiece.

RAYS 5, RANGERS 2

Brendan McKay took a perfect game into the sixth inning in his major league debut, and Tampa Bay beat visiting Texas. The Rays' top pitching prospect, McKay went six innings and gave up one hit and a walk while striking out three. McKay (1-0) retired the first 16 Rangers he faced before Danny Santana blooped a single to right in the sixth. After a sacrifice bunt, Shin Soo-Choo drew a walk, but McKay struck out Delino DeShields to end the inning and cap his day.

TIGERS 7, NATIONALS 5

Miguel Cabrera had three hits, knocked in three runs and scored two more as Detroit snapped an eight-game losing streak, beating visiting Washington. Niko Goodrum drove in two runs, while Nicholas Castellanos and Harold Castro scored two runs apiece for the Tigers. Victor Alcantara (3-1) was credited with the victory despite giving up two runs, one earned, in an inning of relief. Anthony Rendon homered among three hits and drove in two runs for the Nationals, who had won nine of their last 12 games.

ATHLETICS 4, ANGELS 0

Brett Anderson allowed only two hits in 7 2/3 scoreless innings to lead Oakland over Los Angeles in Anaheim, Calif. Anderson did not allow a runner to reach second base until Luis Rengifo doubled with two out in the eighth, the last batter Anderson faced in the game. Anderson, who threw 63 of his 100 pitches for strikes, allowed only one other hit in the game—a single by Andrelton Simmons leading off the fifth. He walked two and struck out three, improving to 8-5.

ORIOLES 13, INDIANS 0

Renato Nunez homered twice and drove in four runs, and host Baltimore used a six-run fourth inning to blow out Cleveland. Anthony Santander and Chance Sisco also homered, and Andrew Cashner pitched seven shutout innings for the Orioles, who walloped the Indians by a 13-0 score for the second straight day. Cashner (8-3) had arguably his best outing of the season. The right-hander allowed only three hits and one walk while striking out six. — Reuters

Injuries hit Crusaders ahead of Super Rugby showdown with Jaguares

WELLINGTON: New Zealand's Canterbury Crusaders and Argentina's Jaguares are preparing for a Super Rugby showdown that will be a clash of Test-match proportions in Christchurch next Saturday. But the Crusaders' march into the finals may have come at a price, with a question mark over injured All Blacks Ryan Crotty and Scott Barrett.

The Crusaders-aiming for a third consecutive title-were made to fight all the way against the Wellington Hurricanes before prevailing 30-26 in Christchurch on Saturday, while the Jaguares made light work of dismissing the ACT Brumbies 39-7 in Buenos Aires.

The final will be a shadow New Zealand-Argentina Test with the Jaguares including 14 Pumas in their run-on side against the Brumbies, while the Crusaders fielded 13 All Blacks. Crusaders coach Scott Robertson, who played for the red-and-blacks when they first won three Super finals in a row between 1998-2000, believes the final will come down to the top two inches.

"It is the mental side for us now," he said. "To be really clear in what we're going to do game-tactic wise, and then get excited. It is a pretty special opportunity for a lot of us guys." "We will get through so we're in the best physical nick as we possibly can and, more importantly, our mental condition to have a great night on Saturday," Robertson said, adding the team would not do any hard training runs this week.

Crotty, the backline general, suffered a suspected broken thumb in the intense semi-final against the Hurricanes while Barrett appeared to have fractured a finger. Aside from their injuries, prop Joe Moody and flyhalf Richie Mo'unga were nursing sore shoulders, but both are expected to be fit next week-as is battle-scarred flanker Matt Todd. The Crusaders and Jaguares did not face each other during the regular season this year, but Robertson said they know what to expect after the Argentiniens beat the Hurricanes 28-20 in Wellington.

"We did a little bit of homework. We were expecting to play them. We were a few days ahead on it, as you do, you're always planning. "They're tough and they're brutal. When they toured, we got a good feeling of how good they can be," Robertson said.—AFP



SPIELBERG: Red Bull Racing's Dutch driver Max Verstappen celebrates on the podium after the Austrian Formula One Grand Prix in Spielberg yesterday. Max Verstappen won the Austrian Grand Prix after overtaking Charles Leclerc's Ferrari in the closing laps with the stewards announcing an inquiry into the manoeuvre. — AFP

Verstappen ends Mercedes run

SPIELBERG: Max Verstappen overcame a poor start to storm to the sixth victory of his career and end Mercedes' record unbeaten start to the season when he triumphed in today's thrilling Austrian Grand Prix.

The 21-year-old Dutchman, who won last year's race at the Spielberg circuit, recovered after dropping to seventh and charged through to battle past Ferrari's Charles Leclerc in stirring fashion with two laps remaining.

His dramatic overtaking move was immediately announced as under investigation by the stewards, Leclerc feeling that he was given insufficient space as Verstappen forced him wide off the circuit. Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas came home third ahead of Sebastian Vettel in the second Ferrari and defending five-time champion Lewis Hamilton in the second Mercedes, the series leader having suffered front wing and heating problems.

British rookie Lando Norris was an excellent sixth for McLaren ahead of Pierre Gasly in the second Red Bull, Carlos Sainz who finished eighth in the second McLaren after starting from the back of the grid, Kimi Raikkonen and his Alfa Romeo team-mate Antonio Giovinazzi.

"After that start, I thought my race was over," said Verstappen. "But after the pit-stops we were flying. It was hard racing - and if that's not allowed, what's the point in racing in F1. We may as well go home."

His victory brought Red Bull's engine supplier Honda their first win since the 2006 Hungarian Grand Prix after returning to Formula One. Leclerc said: "I had more degrada-

tion than I thought at the end - we touched and I had to go wide and I didn't have a chance to fight back."

The race, which was a perfect antidote for the sport after the previous week's dreary procession in France, began in sweltering conditions with an air temperature of 35 degrees and the track at 58, Leclerc making a smooth start from his second pole position to lead into the newly-named Lauda Curve. Behind him, Verstappen - the other 21-year-old in the youngest front row in F1 history - was bogged down by his anti-stall and dropped to seventh as Bottas and the rest took advantage. By lap 15, Leclerc led by 3.6sec ahead of Bottas, Hamilton, Vettel and Verstappen with Norris taking sixth ahead of Raikkonen.

Both Ferraris traded fastest laps while the Mercedes men fought to preserve their tyres before Bottas and Vettel dived into the pits on lap 22, followed immediately by Leclerc. All switched to 'hards' in the pits, suggesting they hoped to drive to the flag while Hamilton continued on his original mediums. "Tyres are still good," he told the team after clocking a fastest lap.

Soon after this, he reported front wing problems were costing him down-force and time. After 30 laps, he pitted for tyres and a new wing, in 11 seconds, re-joining fifth behind Vettel.

Verstappen led briefly, but also pitted, gifting Leclerc with the initiative again ahead of Bottas and Vettel. The Dutchman rejoined fourth with Hamilton fifth. The champion, 13 seconds adrift in fifth, appeared unimpressed, especially by further instructions to lift and coast 400 metres before major curves to aid cooling. With Hamilton out of serious contention, it was Verstappen who supplied the thrills as he surged past Vettel, and then, on lap 56 and to the delight of the 'orange army' baking in open grandstands, dived past Bottas at Turn Three.—AFP

Lashley fires 63 to seize six-stroke PGA Detroit lead

WASHINGTON: Nate Lashley, the last player to make the field, fired a nine-under par 63 to seize a six-stroke lead after Saturday's third round of the US PGA Rocket Mortgage Classic. The 36-year-old American, ranked 353rd in the world, turned in a bogey-free round—the lowest score of the day-to stand on 23-under 193 after 54 holes at Detroit Golf Club with compatriot J.T. Poston second on 199.

"It was just one of those days when it seemed like nothing could go wrong," Lashley said. "Everything went right. Even when I didn't hit good shots, it went all right." Both Lashley and Poston are in position to capture the two available spots from this week's event for next month's British Open at Royal Portrush.

Cameron Tringale was third on 200 with 2018 Masters champion Patrick Reed another stroke back after both shot 65 Saturday. It would be an amazing long-sought victory, and in wire-to-wire fashion, for Lashley, who has had to overcome tragedy in his career. When he was a junior at the University of Arizona, his parents and girlfriend died in a plane crash while flying home from watching him play in a tournament.

After a knee injury cut short his 2018 PGA debut season, Lashley is playing on a secondary exemption after starting the season on a medical extension, his 2019-20 season status uncertain. No alternate has won a PGA title since Vaughn Taylor at Pebble Beach in 2016, but no player shooting 193 or better for 54 holes has lost this season, Rickie Fowler winning in Phoenix and Matt Kuchar winning at Mayakoba and the Sony Open in Hawaii.

"I'm just trying to stay in my routine and hit good shots," Lashley said. "We'll see what happens tomorrow."

Lashley, who only made the event when David Berganio withdrew on Wednesday, sank a 12-foot birdie putt on the opening hole, added back-to-back birdies on a five-foot putt at the par-5 fourth and a 13-footer at the par-3 fifth, then put his approach inside five feet and birdied the par-5 seventh to seize command at 18-under for the tournament, making the turn in the lead by two strokes.

"It was nice to get off to a good start," Lashley said. "It calmed my nerves a little bit." After opening the back nine with a birdie, Lashley sank a four-footer to birdie 12 and a three-footer to birdie the par-5 14th to reach 21-under, stretching his advantage to five shots. Lashley lipped out on a 10-foot birdie putt at 16 but sank a nine-footer for birdie at the par-5 17th and a four-footer to birdie the 18th. Lashley shared 28th at the US Open two weeks ago, making his major debut at Pebble Beach.—AFP