

Sports

# Davis, A's rally deep in the ninth to defeat Minnesota

**MINNEAPOLIS:** Khris Davis hit a two-run single with two outs in the top of the ninth, as the Oakland A's rallied for a 5-4 victory over the Minnesota Twins on Saturday night in Minneapolis. Oakland was down to its final out against Twins' reliever Taylor Rogers (2-2) when Mark Canha was hit by a pitch. Ramon Laureano followed with a double down the left field line, with Canha stopping at third. Davis then cracked a line drive off the glove of diving first baseman Ehire Adrianza to bring home the game-winning runs. Laureano finished a triple shy of the cycle, and Canha hit a two-run homer and scored twice for Oakland, which won for the eighth time in nine games. Robbie Grossman and Chris Herrmann each had two hits for the A's. Blake Treinen (3-3) picked up the win with an inning of scoreless relief, while Liam Hendriks picked up his eighth save, getting Mitch Garver to ground into a double play with the bases loaded and one out in the bottom of the ninth.

## WHITE SOX 2, RAYS 1 (11 INNINGS)

Yoan Moncada scored the go-ahead run all the way from first on a single by Jose Abreu, and visiting Chicago beat Tampa Bay, sending the Rays to their fifth straight loss. Chicago was down to its final out when James McCann homered off Emilio Pagan to tie it 1-1 in the ninth. Moncada led off the 11th with a walk against Adam Kolarek (3-3). Chaz Roe came on to face Abreu and Moncada broke from first on a 2-1 pitch. Abreu sent a slow bouncer to right field and Moncada came all the way around to score.

## YANKEES 11, ROCKIES 5

Edwin Encarnacion's RBI double capped a five-run second inning, as New York beat Colorado at sweltering Yankee Stadium. The Yankees won their fifth straight, improved to 23-6 in their last 29 games and to 14-0-1 in their last 15 home series on a 94-degree day with a heat index of 108. Encarnacion had three RBIs while DJ LeMahieu and Gleyber Torres had three hits apiece. The Rockies lost their sixth straight and dropped to 2-13 in their last 15 games.

## RED SOX 17, ORIOLES 6

Jackie Bradley Jr hit a pair of three-run homers, the second coming in an eight-run fourth inning, and visiting Boston blew out Baltimore. The 17 runs were a season high for the Red Sox, who hit five home runs overall. Bradley finished with six RBIs, while Mookie Betts, Rafael Devers and Sandy Leon also homered. Betts went 3-for-6, including a double, and drove in three runs. The 2018 AL MVP now has a 12-game hitting streak, and also has hit 15 homers at Camden Yards in 46 games.

## ANGELS 6, MARINERS 2

David Fletcher slapped a run-scoring single into right

field with two outs in the ninth inning to break a tie, and Mike Trout followed with a three-run homer as Los Angeles rallied to defeat host Seattle. The rally was aided by a routine pop fly hit by Luis Rengifo that fell between Mariners left-hander Roenis Elias (2-2) and first baseman Tim Beckham that would have been the third out of the inning and kept the score tied at 2-2. Instead, the Angels had runners at first and third for Fletcher, who grounded a 1-2 pitch into right field. Trout then blasted his 31st homer of the season into the Mariners' bullpen in left-center field.

## BLUE JAYS 7, TIGERS 5

Vladimir Guerrero Jr hit a grand slam, Brandon Drury blasted a go-ahead two-run shot and visiting Toronto handed Detroit its sixth straight loss. The game was delayed by nearly an hour in the fourth inning due to inclement weather. Guerrero's homer was the ninth of his impressive rookie campaign. Drury's homer was also his ninth. Freddy Galvis had three hits and scored a run for Toronto, while Guerrero, Eric Sogard and Teoscar Hernandez contributed two hits apiece.

## DODGERS 10, MARLINS 6

Matt Beatty hit a go-ahead, three-run homer in the eighth inning, and Los Angeles held on for a win over visiting Miami. Joe Pederson and Justin Turner also homered for Los Angeles, which squandered a 6-0 lead before bouncing back. The Dodgers won for the sixth time in nine games since the All-Star break.

Starlin Castro homered for Miami, which has lost two straight, five of seven and 11 of 15. Brian Anderson contributed a double and two RBIs, while Jorge Alfaro and Harold Ramirez drove in one run apiece.

## CUBS 6, PADRES 5

Javier Baez had a three-run home run among his three hits, while Anthony Rizzo drove in two runs, as Chicago's hot second-half start continued with a victory against visiting San Diego. Baez's home run in the fourth inning, his 24th of the season, allowed the Cubs to erase an early deficit on a day when starter Jose Quintana (8-7) was not at his best. The left-hander gave up five runs on eight hits over five innings with a walk and seven strikeouts. Fernando Tatis Jr, Manny Machado and Hunter Renfroe hit home runs for the Padres, who lost their third consecutive game and fell to 1-7 in the second half.

## ASTROS 6, RANGERS 1

Jose Urquidy recorded his first career victory, while Yuli Gurriel homered for the 13th time in 21 games as host Houston claimed the season series from Texas. Urquidy (1-0), the first Mexican-born player to appear with the Astros, surrendered two hits and did not issue a walk while recording nine strikeouts over seven innings.



MINNEAPOLIS: Khris Davis #2 of the Oakland Athletics hits a two-run single against the Minnesota Twins during the ninth inning of the game on July 20, 2019 at Target Field. — AFP

He threw 98 pitches, 63 for strikes. Gurriel extended his hitting streak to nine games with his 18th home run. He is batting .381 with 10 home runs and 23 RBIs this month.

## BREWERS 8, DIAMONDBACKS 3

Mike Moustakas hit a go-ahead three-run home run in the eighth inning as Milwaukee pulled away for a victory over Arizona in Phoenix. The Brewers were held in check for seven innings by Arizona starter Zack Greinke, who left leading 3-2 after seven innings. Christian Yelich singled and Ryan Braun walked to begin the eighth against reliever Andrew Chafin (0-2) before Moustakas smacked an outside fastball the other way over the left field fence. The Brewers added three runs in the ninth off Zach Godley. Yelich went 3-for-5 with two doubles, an RBI and three runs scored.

## NATIONALS 5, BRAVES 3

Adam Eaton had three hits and drove in a run, and Trea Turner, Anthony Rendon and Juan Soto each had two hits and an RBI as visiting Washington beat Atlanta, ending a 10-game winning streak by Braves pitcher Mike Soroka. Washington closer Sean Doolittle got a five-out save, while Anibal Sanchez (6-6) picked up the win despite going just five innings. Doolittle retired Dansby Swanson, Freddie Freeman (strikeout) and Josh

Donaldson in the ninth for his 21st save. The Nationals' starting pitchers have gone 27 games in a row without being hit with a loss. That is the longest streak since the 1917 Giants, who also went 27 games.

## METS 11, GIANTS 4

New York awakened from a two-night hitting slumber with four home runs, ending host San Francisco's seven-game winning streak. Dominic Smith, Jeff McNeil, Todd Frazier and Pete Alonso homered for the Mets, who had totaled just two runs in 26 innings in 3-2 and 1-0 losses to open the series. Right-hander Walker Lockett (1-1), promoted from Triple-A earlier in the day, benefited from the power surge to record his first major league win.

## ROYALS 1, INDIANS 0

Jakob Junis scattered two hits over six innings, and Hunter Dozier belted a solo homer as visiting Kansas City beat Cleveland. Kansas City center fielder Billy Hamilton made a leaping catch to deny Francisco Lindor of a potential home run to lead off the sixth inning. Junis showed his appreciation by tipping his hat in the direction of Hamilton. Cam Gallagher ripped a pair of doubles to account for two of the six hits for the Royals, who have won five of their last six games. — Reuters

## Pinot conquers Tourmalet as 'weak' Thomas fades in finale

**PARIS:** Thibaut Pinot conquered the Pyrenean summit of la Col du Tourmalet on Saturday with Julian Alaphilippe following him across the line to extend his overall Tour de France lead over defending champion Geraint Thomas, who admitted to feeling "weak". Thomas, in fact, lost time for a second day running. After saying he had overheated when losing time Friday, he dropped another 29 seconds in the overall after being distanced by the lead group at the death.

"I just didn't feel quite on it from the start really to be honest — just quite weak," said the 33-year-old Ineos man, claiming he had limited his losses. "So I decided to go at my own pace." For British outfit Ineos, however, their co-captain Egan Bernal can go into the most mountainous culmination of a Tour in years in full confidence after he finished

just a few seconds behind the winner at the first of seven summit finishes over 2000 metres.

Pinot had vowed to attack this stage after losing time to an Ineos-led attack in a crosswind on the narrow road to Albi today had angered him and his team. Thomas has two Frenchman to worry about and is now two minutes and two seconds behind Alaphilippe in the general classification after he started to suffer with 500 metres to go on Saturday.

Alaphilippe was as surprised as anyone at Thomas wilting. "I saw great riders blow up before me and in the end I went for the win, it's incredible," said the 27-year-old soldier. French president Emmanuel Macron followed the whole stage from the lead car in the vast caravan and appeared animated as he was flanked on the podium by his two compatriots. "This man has heart," he said looking at France's current national hero Alaphilippe.

On both the leader and Pinot, he added: "France is proud of them both." As the 117km stage 14 climbed above the tree-line and above the mist where the oxygen levels were lower, contenders for the overall victory gradually fell by the wayside. By the end there were just five men remaining with Dutch Jumbo Visma



France's Thibaut Pinot (L) and Spain's Mikel Landa make a last effort before the finish line of the fifteenth stage of the 106th edition of the Tour de France cycling race between Limoux and Foix Prat d'Albis. — AFP

captain Steven Kruijswijk third at 6sec, with German Emanuel Buchmann and Bernal another two seconds behind.

Not only Ineos, but their rivals too may now switch their attention to young climber Bernal in light of Thomas's underwhelming show. "Yesterday was

one of the worst days of my career," said the 22-year-old Bernal whose slender frame is unsuited to time-trialling. "Today I feel much better, the ascent was very hard and the best thing about it was managing to be amongst the best riders at the front." — AFP

## Depleted New Zealand survive onslaught to claim 450th Test win

**BUENOS AIRES:** Depleted New Zealand survived a second-half onslaught from Argentina to win a Rugby Championship first round match 20-16 in Buenos Aires Saturday. After trailing by 11 points at half-time, the Pumas kept the All Blacks scoreless in the second half only to fail narrowly in their quest for a first victory over the world champions.

New Zealand chalked up a 450th Test win despite resting many of the Canterbury Crusaders stars who won a third consecutive Super Rugby title two weeks ago. Clinical finishing helped the All Blacks to a 20-9 half-time advantage, but the Pumas scored early in the second half to leave just four points separating the teams. Playmaker Nicolas Sanchez missed a kickable penalty soon after that would have reduced the gap to a single point before a large, passionate home crowd.

A measure of the dominance of the hosts was that it took the visiting side 33 minutes of the second half to get into the Argentine 22. At the death, the Pumas forced two lineouts close to the All Blacks line, but the try that would have given them a historic victory proved elusive.

New Zealand gave first caps to run-on winger Sevu Reece and substitutes Atu Moli, Luke Jacobson and Braydon Ennor, and coach Steve Hansen was generally pleased.

"I observed a lot of things, and most of them were positive," said the 2015 World Cup-winning coach. "These are young guys and they were thrust into Test rugby in one of the most intimidating sporting environments in the world. "We were rusty at times which can be partly explained by the fact that we were testing new combinations.

### 'Outstanding'

"I thought our defending was outstanding, but we let a few scoring opportunities slip. We will grow from here in the Rugby Championship." Argentina made an encouraging start with Sanchez and Emiliano Boffelli slotting penalties inside seven minutes for a six-point lead at Estadio Jose Amalfitani. The home team squandered a chance to increase the advantage when a brilliant Reece tackle on Marcos Kremer forced the Puma flanker to knock-on with the line at his mercy.



BUENOS AIRES: New Zealand's All Blacks fly half Beauden Barrett (R) runs with the ball past Argentina's Los Pumas flanker Pablo Matera (C) during their Rugby Championship match against Argentina's Los Pumas at Jose Amalfitani stadium. — AFP

New Zealand scored the first of two opening-half tries on 18 minutes with Ngani Laumape powering over between the posts after a quick Aaron Smith tap penalty. Beauden Barrett converted and the All Blacks had a 7-6 advantage that lasted only two minutes before a second Sanchez penalty nudged Argentina ahead again. But

those proved to be the last points scored by the South Americans in the half as New Zealand took control to add 13 unanswered points through a converted try and two penalties. Brodie Retallick scored the try and Barrett kicked the conversion and two penalties to take him past 600 points in his Test career. — AFP

## Europe-based players dominate Fiji's Pacific series squad

**SUVA:** Fiji head coach John McKee yesterday named a strong 27-man squad, dominated by Europe-based players, for their opening Pacific Nations Cup match against Japan next weekend. He has recalled nine players who remained in Fiji after they beat the Maori All Blacks in Suva last week, and retained 18 players from the squad who lost the return match in Rotorua on Saturday.

"The players who remained in Fiji last week underwent specific physical conditioning so I expect them to come fitter and fresh this week," McKee said. "We expect Japan to play a very up-tempo game. Once again we will have to work very hard in our defensive system and look to dominate the physical collisions." Only five of the squad are Fiji-based.

McKee said the home and away matches against the Maori All Blacks were positive for the team despite the series being drawn. "There have been some good learnings from our two matches against the Maori All Blacks and players have benefited from the physical matches over the past two weeks," he said. However, there was no room for Toulon wing Josua Tuisova, who played in the opening match of the series when Fiji beat the Maori All Blacks for the first time in 62 years, while Bordeaux's Semi Radradra — a key member of the side that beat France in Paris last November — also missed the cut.

### Fiji squad

**Forwards:** Lee-Roy Atalifo (Jersey Reds), Campese Ma'afu (Leicester Tigers), Eroni Mawi (local), Peni Ravai (Bordeaux-Begles), Manasa Saulo (London Irish), Kalivati Tawake (local), Mesulame Dolokoto (local), Ratu Vere Vugakoto (local), Sam Matavesi (Toulouse), Leone Nakarawa (Racing 92), Apisalome Ratuniyarawa (Northampton Saints), Albert Tuisue (London Irish), Semi Kunatani (Harlequins), Viliame Mata (Edinburgh), Dominiko Waqaniburotu (Brive), Peceli Yato (Clermont)

**Backs:** Frank Lomani (local), Henry Seniloli (Doncaster Knights), Alivereti Veitokani (London Irish), Ben Volavola (Racing 92), Levani Botia (La Rochelle), Waisea Nayacalevu (Stade Francais), Jale Vatubua (Pau), Filipo Nakosi (Toulon), Patrick Osbourne (Kubota Spears), Josh Matavesi (Newcastle Falcons), Kini Murimurivalu (La Rochelle) — AFP