

Sports

Yankees earn crazy 10-inning victory over Minnesota Twins

MINNEAPOLIS: Didi Gregorius went 5-for-5 with seven RBIs and scored the winning run in the 10th inning as the New York Yankees rallied for a wild 14-12 victory over the Minnesota Twins in a battle of division leaders Tuesday night in Minneapolis. Gregorius had a three-run homer and two two-run doubles. He singled with one out in the 10th off reliever Kohl Stewart (2-2), advanced to second on a bloop single by Austin Romine, then scored the winning run on a single by Gleyber Torres. Romine later scored the final run on a wild pitch. Aaron Hicks, who made a game-saving diving grab on a bases-loaded liner by Max Kepler in the gap in left-center to end the game, hit a two-run homer in the ninth. Aaron Judge went 3-for-6 with two doubles and two RBIs for New York, which snapped a two-game losing streak. Aroldis Chapman (3-2), despite walking three batters and allowing the tying run to score in the bottom of the ninth, picked up the victory. Minnesota's Miguel Sano hit two home runs, including a 457-foot two-run shot off Zack Britton in the bottom of the eighth to give Minnesota an 11-10 lead, and drove in five runs.

METS 5, PADRES 2

Robinson Cano snapped out of his season-long doldrums by producing the first three-homer game of his career, accounting for all of New York's runs in a win over visiting San Diego. After singling in his first at-bat, Cano hit a solo homer leading off the fourth against Chris Paddack (6-5) to break a scoreless tie. It was Cano's first homer at Citi Field since April 6 against the Washington Nationals. He added a two-run homer off Paddack in the sixth and a two-run shot off Logan Allen in the seventh. It was the 14th three-homer game in Mets history and only the third in a home contest after Kirk Nieuwenhuis (July 12, 2015) and Lucas Duda (July 29, 2015). Cano entered the night with just six homers and a .243 batting average.

NATIONALS 11, ROCKIES 1

Trea Turner hit for the cycle, and Stephen Strasburg threw six scoreless innings to win his sixth consecutive start as Washington smashed visiting Colorado. Turner hit a homer leading off the first inning, a single in the second, a triple in the fifth and a double in the Nationals' eight-run seventh. It was the second cycle of his career, with the first coming at Colorado on April 25, 2017. Turner, who grounded into a double play in the sixth inning, completed the fourth cycle in the majors this season. Strasburg (13-4) allowed just three hits and struck out eight while walking two. He has not lost since June 15.

GIANTS 5, CUBS 4 (13 INNINGS)

Pablo Sandoval went the opposite way for a walk-off home run to left field with one out in the 13th inning, sending San Francisco past visiting Chicago for its fifth extra-inning win in the past eight days. After the Cubs forced extra innings with single runs in the seventh and eighth to forge a 4-4 tie, neither team scored again until Sandoval, a switch hitter batting left-handed, launched a Brad Brach (3-3) pitch barely over the glove of a leaping Robel Garcia for his 12th homer of the season. Sam Coonrod, promoted Monday from Triple-A, recorded his first major league win in just his fifth big-league appearance with a 1-2-3 top of the 13th, including strikeouts of Javier Baez and Kris Bryant. The win was the Giants' 10th in their past 11 games and improved their record in extra innings to 10-2 after six straight victories.

BLUE JAYS 2, INDIANS 1 (10 INNINGS)

Justin Smoak tied the score with a ninth-inning homer and won it with an RBI single in the 10th inning as Toronto came back to defeat visiting Cleveland. It was the first win by the Blue Jays in six games this season against the Indians. Toronto's Ken Giles (2-2) pitched around a single and a walk in the top of the 10th to earn the win. Cleveland starter Trevor Bauer allowed no runs, three hits and three walks while striking out nine in 7 2/3 innings.

ATHLETICS 4, ASTROS 3 (11 INNINGS)

Ramon Laureano roped a run-scoring double down the third base line in the 11th inning, and Oakland pulled out a victory at Houston. The Astros had their six-game winning streak snapped after Laureano drove home Matt Olson, who reached on a one-out single and took second on a walk to Mark Canha. Olson also hit a three-run home run off Astros closer Roberto Osuna in the ninth. Yusmeiro Petit (3-2) pitched two scoreless innings with two strikeouts for the win. The blown save by Osuna negated the stellar effort of Astros starter Wade Miley, who took a shutout into the ninth inning.

PHILLIES 3, TIGERS 2 (15 INNINGS)

Rhys Hoskins smacked a go-ahead single in the 15th inning. Roman Quinn hit his first homer of the season, and visiting Philadelphia edged Detroit. Scott Kingery opened the 15th against Daniel Stumpf (1-1) with a triple off the right field wall. Hoskins followed with a single to right. Jose Alvarez (1-2) pitched two innings of scoreless relief to get the victory. Nicholas Castellanos had two hits and an RBI for the Tigers while Harold Castro scored both Detroit runs.



MINNEAPOLIS: Austin Romine #28 of the New York Yankees slides safely into home plate after a wild pitch by the Minnesota Twins during the tenth inning of the game. — AFP

ANGELS 5, DODGERS 4

Mike Trout and Kole Calhoun hit home runs and also threw out runners at the plate as the visiting Los Angeles Angels remained perfect against their crosstown rivals by holding on for a victory. Calhoun, the Angels' right fielder, threw out Cody Bellinger at the plate for the final out of the game after Enrique Hernandez's single. Trout, the Angels' center fielder, cut down Max Muncy at the plate in the second inning on a throw that was clocked at 98.6 mph, and he also hit a home run estimated at 454 feet into the second deck down the left field line in the fifth inning. The Angels improved to 3-0 against the Dodgers this season and will go for a sweep of the interleague season series Wednesday. Corey Seager had two hits for the Dodgers and drove in a run, but he missed out on a second RBI on Trout's throw home. The Dodgers got a sacrifice fly from Muncy in the ninth before Calhoun's throw nailed Bellinger.

RED SOX 5, RAYS 4

Christian Vazquez belted a tiebreaking, pinch-hit home run to lead off the seventh inning, and Chris Sale struck out 10 in six innings as Boston beat Tampa Bay

in St Petersburg, Fla. Vazquez stroked a 92 mph fast-ball from Colin Poche (2-4) deep to left for his 16th homer to snap a 2-2 tie. JD Martinez went 3-for-4 for the Red Sox, who have won six of their past nine. Travis Arnaud smacked a two-run homer, and Tommy Pham was 2-for-4 with a double and an RBI walk for Tampa Bay.

ROYALS 5, BRAVES 4

Pinch hitter Lucas Duda clubbed a 435-foot home run in the eighth inning to start a three-run rally, and Kansas City hung on for a victory at Atlanta. Duda connected for his fourth career homer off reliever Anthony Swarzak (2-3), who lost his first decision since joining the Braves from the Mariners in mid-May. The home run also ended Swarzak's 17-inning scoreless streak and sent the Royals to their eighth win in their last 11 games. Duda's 13th career homer against the Braves broke a 2-2 tie. Atlanta's Dallas Keuchel retired the first nine batters he faced, yielding his first hit on Whit Merrifield's bunt to lead off the fourth inning. He allowed two runs on three hits and two walks in six innings and struck out a season-high 12, one short of matching his career best. — Reuters

Tour de France top form guide with five stages to go

NIMES: AFP Sports takes a look at the form of the top four contenders for Tour de France victory ahead of three decisive Alpine stages starting today.

No.1 JULIAN ALAPHILIPPE (DECEUNINCK-QUICK STEP)

The daredevil 27-year-old classics specialist has been the star of the Tour. The number-one ranked cyclist in the world swept the French public up in a wave of enthusiasm after his swashbuckling attacks through the Champagne hills in the first week. Experts expected him to flame out quickly but he then stormed the Pau time-trial to inflict a psychological wound on rivals. Then came a personal triumph, coming second on the mythical Tourmalet mountain summit way above the treeline, leaving the Pyrenees 1min 35sec ahead of second placed Geraint Thomas. The former soldier showed his first sign of weakness on the final Pyrenean stage, but has otherwise tapped into deep resources whatever the challenge.

No.2 at 1min 35sec GERAINT THOMAS (INEOS)

The affable 33-year-old defending champion is well placed to take a second title as he waits for Alaphilippe to falter in the Alps so he can concentrate on dealing with Thibaut Pinot, seen as a bigger danger. The way he handled his stage eight fall brought widespread praise, and in the skirmishes atop La Planche des Belles Filles, he launched an impressive attack to put time into his key rivals. He then led Ineos as they joined the Alaphilippe-sparked 38km rampage that blew five rivals out of contention on the way to Albi. But Thomas fluffed his lines at the Pau time-trial complaining of overheating, and suffered weakness where he was expected to show strength, at the Col du Tourmalet, conceding time to Alaphilippe for a second day. Thomas fell again on Tuesday, a third tumble so far, and appears unsure who his real rival is.

No.3 at 1min 47sec STEVEN KRUIJSWIJK (JUMBO)

This quiet, clever 32-year-old has been under the radar after he suffered on La Planche des Belles Filles climb, which he dislikes, and because he was unable to follow Thibaut Pinot at the second Pyrenean stage. But The Dutch climber always rides best in the third week and has based his entire Tour preparations around repeated ascents of the final 33km climb to Val Thorens on Saturday. Coming out of the Pyrenees, however, he is well poised to challenge for final victo-



GAP: Great Britain's Geraint Thomas (C) rides with teammates of Great Britain's Team Ineos cycling team during the seventeenth stage of the 106th edition of the Tour de France cycling race between Pont du Gard and Gap. — AFP

ry. He has too strong climbers in his team in George Bennet and Laurens de Plus to back him up, and few could argue that Jumbo have been the form outfit of 2019. Detractors say he always has a bad day at some stage.

No.4 at 1min 50sec THIBAUT PINOT (FDJ)

The emotional Frenchman is a legendary climber but a nervy descender and says he dislikes the heat, of which he'll get a good dose this week as a heatwave engulfs France. After gaining

time on the early stages to lead the Ineos pair of Thomas and Egan Bernal he got caught napping on the narrow road to Albi losing a 1min 36sec advantage to Thomas, Bernal and others. But with true Gallic flair Pinot vowed to win on the Tourmalet and did so with a volcanic explosion of joy. He again gained time on the second Pyrenean mountain stage to set himself up as the man to beat in the mountains. There is a huge groundswell of public support for the handsome FDJ captain, who is cheered throughout each stage. — AFP

An Olympic dispute: Japan rejects Korea anger over map

TOKYO: Japan has rejected a South Korean complaint over an Olympic map that depicts disputed islands as Japanese territory, Tokyo said yesterday as it marks a year until the 2020 Games. The map of Japan, on a Tokyo 2020 website illustrating the Olympic torch relay route, depicts the islands known as Dokdo in Korean and Takeshima in Japanese as about the size of a full stop.

"South Korea, through the Japanese embassy in South Korea, has lodged a protest on the issue," cabinet secretary Yoshihide Suga told a daily briefing. "Japan told the South Korean side that the protest is not acceptable given that Japan owns Takeshima and given Japan's position on the Sea of Japan." South Korea's foreign ministry confirmed that the government had summoned an official from the embassy in Seoul last week over the issue.

The government will "continue to sternly respond to Tokyo's unreasonable claims", it added in a statement. The disputed islands are claimed by both countries, and their depiction in maps produced by the two sides has frequently caused tensions. At the Winter Olympics opening ceremony in Pyeongchang in February 2018, the two Koreas marched together behind a unification flag that did not include the islands, after Tokyo denounced the emblem used at a practice event.

Suga at the time said it was "unacceptable" for the flag to depict the disputed territory. And Tokyo was infuriated when custom-made furniture for a summit between the leaders of North and South Korea featured maps showing the disputed islands as part of Korean territory. Relations between Japan and South Korea have often been strained by lingering resentment over Japan's 1910-1945 occupation of the peninsula.

And ties have deteriorated in recent months, with Japan putting export restrictions on Seoul after South Korean courts ordered Japanese firms to compensate victims of wartime forced labor. The islands row comes as Tokyo marks the year-to-go countdown until the opening ceremony of the 2020 Games, with organizers touting "unprecedented" ticket sales. — AFP

Andy Murray 'excited' to team up with brother

LONDON: Andy Murray says he is "excited" to teaming up with his brother Jamie at the Washington Open, reuniting the pairing that helped Great Britain win the Davis Cup in 2015. The former world number one has so far been restricted to doubles action since returning to the game following a hip operation in January, winning his first tournament back at Queen's in June before suffering early exits at Eastbourne and Wimbledon.

"I am going to be competing in Washington next week in the doubles with my brother Jamie," Andy Murray said in a video posted on Twitter ahead of the tournament, which starts on Monday. "I am very excited to be on the court with him and go back to Washington. It is a city I have always enjoyed visiting. "It should be fun and I am hoping to have a good summer over in the States, keep progressing physically and hopefully get on the singles court soon."

Jamie Murray, 33, won the Washington doubles title last year with former partner Bruno Soares, a pairing that also won Australian and US Open titles. The Murray brothers last played together at the Rio Olympics, but were a prolific partnership during Great Britain's 2015 Davis Cup victory, while they have won two ATP Tour titles together, in Tokyo in 2011 and in Valencia the year before. — AFP

US track championships set for fastest show on earth

LOS ANGELES: The United States athletics championships are set to be the fastest show on earth this week as a new generation of sprinting stars take center stage in the battle for places at the World Championships in Doha. With Usain Bolt's near-decade of dominance now over, a crop of hungry young Americans are vying to fill the void left by the Jamaican's retirement in what promises to be a new golden era for US sprinting.

American sprinters have clocked the quickest times in the world this year over 100m, 200m and 400m, and have also set the pace in the 110m hurdles. With only the top three finishers in each event guaranteed a place on the team for Doha, the stage is set for four days of ferocious competition when the championships begin at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa today. Leading the pack are sprinters Christian Coleman and Noah Lyles, who are developing a burgeoning rivalry over the 100m and 200m.

Coleman has the fastest 100m time in the world this year, a tidy 9.81sec set at the Prefontaine Classic Diamond League meeting in Stanford three weeks ago. Lyles, meanwhile, whose 9.86sec in Shanghai is the second fastest time this season, has also been the man to beat over 200m, clocking a world-leading 19.50sec in Lausanne on July 5. Lyles has decided against running in the 100m this week, meaning his duel with Coleman will most likely come in his strongest event, the 200m on Sunday.

"Target on my back"

The rapidly maturing Coleman, a double silver medalist in the meanwhile says he is growing accustomed to being the sprinter everyone else wants to beat. "At one time I was one of those guys looking at the guys on the top saying 'I want to be like that,'" he said. "Now that I'm one of the guys with a target on my back I have to keep working hard to make sure it doesn't happen."

Coleman, a superb starter, believes his success this season can be traced back to brutal training sessions designed to help him sustain top speed once he explodes out of the blocks. "They're pretty hard," Coleman said of his training sessions. "Other guys will be tired, but I'll be throwing up." Lyles meanwhile will be relieved that he does not have to worry about the additional challenge of Michael Norman in the 200m. Norman, who beat Lyles over the 200m at the Rome Diamond League meeting in early June, will concentrate on the 400m, where he has been in electrifying form since turning professional in May. The 22-year-old from California clocked an astonishing world-leading 43.45sec in his first race since turning professional this year, the joint fourth-fastest time over the distance in history. — AFP