

Sports

Scherzer strikes out 15 as Nationals beat Cincinnati Reds

Dodgers erupt late to finish sweep of Phillies

CINCINNATI: Nationals ace Max Scherzer allowed just one run and three hits with a season-high 15 strikeouts over eight masterful innings as Washington defeated the host Cincinnati Reds 4-1 on Sunday in the rubber match of their three-game series. Anthony Rendon had three hits and an RBI, Brian Dozier had two hits and drove in two, and Kurt Suzuki had two hits and an RBI as the Nationals, who had nine hits overall, won for the seventh time in their last nine games. The Nationals also won four out of five on their road trip, which began with two victories in Atlanta. Scherzer (3-5) amassed his strikeouts in bunches, getting five in a row early in the game and three in a row on two other occasions. He walked only one batter.

ASTROS 6, ATHLETICS 4 (12 INNINGS)

Michael Brantley and Yuli Gurriel stroked RBI singles in the 12th inning, allowing Houston to complete a three-game sweep of host Oakland. The win was the Astros' seventh in eight meetings with the A's this season. Houston had a three-game home sweep earlier this season. Myles Straw led off the 12th with a single off Lou Trivino (2-3), Oakland's fifth pitcher, and stole second. With one out, Alex Bregman walked and Brantley gave the Astros the lead with his run-scoring single.

DODGERS 8, PHILLIES 0

David Freese hit a home run in the seventh inning and added an RBI single in a seven-run eighth as Los Angeles broke loose late after an early pitchers' duel to earn a shutout victory and a three-game sweep over visiting Philadelphia. Dodgers starter Rich Hill (2-1) gave up three hits over seven scoreless innings with nine strikeouts and three walks. Phillies starter Nick Pivetta also gave up three hits with nine strikeouts and no walks, doing it over six scoreless innings.

ROCKIES 5, BLUE JAYS 1

Nolan Arenado and Chris Iannetta homered, Antonio Senzatela tossed six strong innings, and Colorado beat Toronto in Denver. Arenado added a single to extend his hitting streak to 13 games and help Colorado win its eighth in a row. The Rockies finished their homestand 9-1, tying a team record for the best 10-game homestand. Eric Sogard had two hits and scored the only run for Toronto. The Blue Jays have lost six straight.

WHITE SOX 2, INDIANS 0

Lucas Giolito struck out nine over 7 1/3 innings to win his sixth straight start and Tim Anderson drove in both runs as host Chicago posted a shutout victory over Cleveland. Anderson homered to lead off the fourth inning and ripped a two-out RBI double in the eighth for the White Sox, who won three of four in the series to complete a 6-1 homestand. Zach Plesac (0-1) tossed seven strong innings and Francisco Lindor collected three of the six hits for the Indians, who have lost 10 of 14 to fall to one game under .500. Giolito (8-1)

scattered five hits and did not walk a batter during his 103-pitch performance.

GIANTS 8, ORIOLES 1

Brandon Crawford homered twice, and Evan Longoria homered and drove in three runs as visiting San Francisco defeated Baltimore. Crawford hit a pair of solo home runs to help the Giants win for the second time in the three-game series. He went 2-for-4 on the day. Longoria hit a game-tying solo homer and later added a two-run double that gave the Giants a three-run lead and broke the game open. He finished 3-for-5.

BRAVES 7, TIGERS 4

After Atlanta blew a three-run lead in the top of the inning, Freddie Freeman doubled in the go-ahead run in the bottom of the eighth to lead the Braves to a win over visiting Detroit. Dansby Swanson, who made the error that opened the door for the Tigers to score three unearned runs and tie the game, started the rally with a one-out walk off reliever Joe Jimenez (2-3). Freeman then laced his 14th double into right field and Swanson raced all the way from first to score.

CARDINALS 2, CUBS 1

Adam Wainwright threw eight shutout innings and St. Louis completed a three-game sweep of visiting Chicago. Wainwright (5-5) allowed two hits—none through the first 5 1/3 innings—struck out eight and walked a career-high seven. The 37-year-old right-hander threw 126 pitches, his most since throwing 128 against the Atlanta Braves on Aug. 23, 2013. St. Louis second baseman Kolten Wong had two hits and an RBI, scored a run and made a spectacular catch to end the eighth inning with a runner in scoring position.

DIAMONDBACKS 7, METS 1

Ketel Marte tied for the longest home run in the majors this season, Merrill Kelly pitched well into the eighth inning and Arizona beat New York in Phoenix. Marte launched a 482-foot home run on the third pitch of the game from left-hander Steven Matz. That matched the length of a blast earlier this season by the Texas Rangers' Nomar Mazara. Marte's homer ranked as the longest by a Diamondbacks player since Statcast started tracking distances in 2015. It was his 14th of the season, tying the career high he set last season in 153 games.

ANGELS 13, MARINERS 3

Albert Pujols had a double, home run and five RBIs as Los Angeles defeated host Seattle. Pujols' three-run homer capped a seven-run second inning. His ground-rule double with the bases loaded brought in the final two runs in a five-run fifth. Luis Rengifo added his first major league homer for the Angels, who took three of four games in the series and have won seven of their past nine games overall. Kyle Seager hit his first home



CINCINNATI: Derek Dietrich #22 of the Cincinnati Reds turns a double play ahead of the slide at second base by Kurt Suzuki #28 of the Washington Nationals in the second inning at Great American Ball Park in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Nationals won 4-1. — AFP

run of the season for the Mariners, who have lost 11 of their past 13 games. It was Seattle's fifth loss by 10 or more runs this season.

RANGERS 5, ROYALS 1

Adrian Sampson posted career highs of seven innings pitched and 11 strikeouts as Texas defeated Kansas City at Arlington, Texas. The Rangers took three out of four in the series, and the Royals finished their road trip with a 1-6 record. Sampson (4-3) scattered eight hits and did not walk a batter. He lost his first three decisions this season but has won his last four. Brad Keller (3-7) took the loss for Kansas City. He allowed just three runs on nine hits in seven innings. He struck out six and didn't walk a batter.

BREWERS 4, PIRATES 2

Eric Thames doubled, homered and drove in three runs to lead visiting Milwaukee to a victory over Pittsburgh. The Brewers took three of four games in the series between the National League Central rivals. The Pirates' Josh Bell belted his 21st double, most in the major leagues, and picked up his 53rd RBI, also tops in the big leagues, on a groundout.

RED SOX 8, YANKEES 5

David Price pitched 6 1/3 effective innings while J.D. Martinez and Xander Bogaerts hit early home runs as Boston averted a three-game sweep with a victory over New York at Yankee Stadium. The Red Sox snapped a four-game losing streak and avoided falling under .500 by beating the Yankees for the first time in five meet-

ings. Price (3-2) allowed two runs on six hits and improved to 1-6 in New York since joining Boston in 2016. He struck out six, walked one, threw 99 pitches and produced his longest outing in New York since Aug. 8, 2015 as a member of the Toronto Blue Jays.

MARLINS 9, PADRES 3

Right-hander Trevor Richards allowed one hit over five shutout innings and catcher Jorge Alfaro drove in four runs with a homer and a double as visiting Miami handed San Diego a second straight 9-3 defeat to take the rubber match of a three-game series. In addition to outscoring the Padres 18-6 in the final two games of the series, the Marlins, who have the worst record in the National League, outthit the Padres 24-8. The game was delayed 28 minutes during the third inning by a swarm of bees and saw third baseman Ty France pitch a scoreless ninth for the Padres.

TWINS 9, RAYS 7

Jake Odorizzi allowed three hits over six shutout innings, Jonathan Schoop hit a two-run homer and C.J. Cron had a three-run double to lead Minnesota to its third straight victory over Tampa Bay in St. Petersburg, Fla. It was the sixth time in his last seven starts that Odorizzi (8-2) didn't allow a run. Odorizzi, who extended his scoreless innings streak to 16 1/3, struck out nine and walked one while lowering his American League-leading ERA to 1.96. During his last seven starts, Odorizzi has allowed three earned runs and 23 hits over 41 2/3 innings (0.65 ERA), walking 11 and striking out 47. —Reuters

ABK sponsors Kuwait's youth basketball tourney

KUWAIT: As part of its activities for the Holy month of Ramadan, Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) was the platinum sponsor of the 2019 Kuwait Youth Basketball Tournament, which was organized specifically to increase sport activity during the Holy month of Ramadan. The tournament was held from 19-30 June 2019 at Gulf University for Science & Technology (GUST).

The tournament was organized in response to the poor activity levels of youth and the unhealthy lifestyle followed by many during the Holy month. It was also based on recent alarming studies that indicate that 42.8% of Kuwait's population are obese.

The tournament was open to male and female participants from ages 15 - 21 years, and was addressed to all private schools and universities in Kuwait. A total of 16 teams competed for the winning trophies.

The winning male team was Mayar who took 73 points in the final. Al Fataf ladies team won by 43 points. ABK's sponsorship is one of a series of activities the Bank took on during the Holy month.



Sami Asaad (Area Manager at ABK) with the winning teams.

NZ's Dixon celebrates royal honor with IndyCar win

LOS ANGELES: New Zealand's Scott Dixon, newly honored by Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, celebrated with a victory in the second race of IndyCar's Detroit Grand Prix double-header on Sunday. Dixon, who crashed in Saturday's first Detroit race, crossed the finish line 1.9419 seconds ahead of IndyCar rookie Marcus Ericsson of Sweden who posted his first podium finish in his seventh race.

For Dixon, it marked career win No. 45, which ranks third in Indy car history and moved the five-time series champion within seven victories of tying Mario Andretti for second place all time. The win came after Dixon learned he had been appointed a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in recognition of his services to motorsports.

"Huge day," Dixon said, adding that the honor from the queen "means a lot more". "When you race for wins and championships, that is in your wheelhouse," an appreciative Dixon said. "This is something outside of your sport." Dixon had qualified sixth for Sunday's race and led 44 of the 70 laps on the 14-turn, 2.35-mile (3.78 Km) temporary street course on Belle Isle Park in the Detroit River. Although the sunny skies marked a change from Saturday's weather-delayed and shortened race, some aggressive battling on the tight circuit saw five full-course cautions.

Dixon dodged the chaos and led the final 21 laps, including waiting out a six-minute red-flag stoppage when Chip Ganassi teammate Felix Rosenqvist crashed in turn one with five laps remaining. Dixon easily held off Ericsson on the lap 67 restart and pulled away for his first win since Toronto last season. Australia's Will Power recovered from early mechanical issues to finish third for Team Penske. But Penske teammates Simon Pagenaud and Josef Newgarden were both caught up in crashes. France's Pagenaud, winner of the Indianapolis 500 last week, was in the middle of a five-car incident on the first lap and after repairs finished 12 laps off the pace.

Newgarden, who won on the same course on Saturday, collided with James Hinchcliffe and Alexander Rossi as the three fought for position on lap 33. He too returned to the race after repairs, finishing 21 laps behind the leaders. — AFP

Ducati's Petrucci takes first MotoGP win at Mugello

MUGELLO: Danilo Petrucci, an Italian riding for local team Ducati, held off defending world champion Marc Marquez to gain a first ever MotoGP victory on Sunday in the Italian Grand Prix. The second place allowed Spaniard Marquez to increase his lead in the world championship ahead of another Italian on a Ducati, Andrea Dovizioso, who finished third on Sunday after a prolonged three-way battle.

Five-time MotoGP champion Marquez, on a Honda, briefly took the lead in the last lap but Petrucci recaptured first place and won. "It's amazing, I'm thrilled," said 28-year-old Petrucci, who finished eighth in the 2017 and 2018 world championships. "In front of my home crowd and in my town, it's incredible. I can't describe how I feel.

"I've achieved my aim for this year which was to win a race, now we have to win the championship with Ducati." Marquez-winner of three out of six races this season-started on pole but had to battle with the Ducati riders and Suzuki's Alex Rins, who challenged hard despite starting back on the grid.

The four riders overtook each other several times but Petrucci found the power to pull clear in the closing stages of the final lap of the fast Mugello circuit. The Italian finished 0.043sec ahead of Marquez with Dovizioso at 0.338.

Dovizioso had on Saturday established a new outright speed record in MotoGP, clocking 356.7km/h in the third practice, to overtake the mark of 356.5 km/h also achieved at Mugello last year. Marquez, who has won the MotoGP category race just once on the circuit north of Florence, leads Dovizioso by 12 points after six rounds this season.

"When I saw at the start that I couldn't pull clear I said to myself 'today isn't the day'," said Marquez. "I decided to ride defensively and I'm happy with the 20 points." Dovizioso added: "It was really hot and I wanted to be ahead in the final lap but Dani overtook us.

"The grip was not enough to try something desperate and Rins almost passed me. "In the championship we lose some points but I'm really happy for Petrucci because Mugello is the best race for us to win."

Italian star Valentino Rossi crashed out of his home race where the Yamaha rider has not won since 2008 after an impressive series of seven consecutive victories. The seven-time MotoGP champion had a forgettable weekend as he qualified down in 18th position.

Rossi made contact with Suzuki's Joan Mir on lap five, running through the gravel at Turn 4, and dropping to the back of the field, before crashing out three laps later, for his first retirement of the season. — AFP