

Sports

Indians deny Sabathia 250th win, Mets defeat Rockies

Angels go back-to-back-to-back in win over Mariners

CLEVELAND: Roberto Perez homered in his fourth straight game and drove in three runs as the host Cleveland Indians denied CC Sabathia in his bid for his 250th career win with an 8-4 victory over the New York Yankees on Saturday. Rookie Oscar Mercado launched a two-run homer and Kevin Plawewski added a solo shot and a sacrifice fly for the Indians, who have belted 14 homers while winning four of their past five games. The offense was more than enough for Adam Plutko (2-1), who overcame Didi Gregorius' two-run homer in the first to allow just two runs on three hits in six innings. Oliver Perez permitted two runs on as many hits, but three other relievers combined to yield one hit over the final 2 2/3 scoreless innings to end the game. Gleyber Torres had an RBI double and scored on a sacrifice fly in the seventh inning for the Yankees, who have lost five of their past six games.

METS 5, ROCKIES 3

Carlos Gomez and Pete Alonso homered, Steven Matz tossed six solid innings, and host New York beat Colorado. Gomez, Todd Frazier and Wilson Ramos had two hits each, and Edwin Diaz pitched the ninth for his 14th save for the Mets. Nolan Arenado and Charlie Blackmon had RBIs for the Rockies, who fell to 2-3 on their six-game road trip.

ANGELS 12, MARINERS 3

Los Angeles hit back-to-back-to-back home runs in the fourth inning and cruised past visiting Seattle. Tommy La Stella, Mike Trout and Shohei Ohtani went deep off Mariners left-hander Yusei Kikuchi (3-4) in the fourth. Cesar Puello, who finished with four RBIs, homered in the eighth for the Angels. It was Ohtani's first showdown with Kikuchi in the United States and drew widespread interest in their native Japan, where they attended the same high school. The two faced each other five times in Nippon Professional Baseball, with Ohtani going 2-for-5 with a double and three strikeouts.

CUBS 9, CARDINALS 4

Victor Caratini delivered a pinch-hit, tiebreaking, three-run double in the sixth inning, and host Chicago pulled away for a win over St. Louis. Kyle Schwarber doubled, homered and drove in two runs for the Cubs, while Javier Baez finished with a triple and two RBIs. Chicago fell behind 4-0 in the first inning but scored the next nine runs to notch its fifth victory in the past six games. Marcell Ozuna and Harrison Bader homered for St. Louis, which dropped back to .500 with its third loss in the past four games. The Cardinals fell to 0-5 at Wrigley Field this season.

PHILLIES 4, REDS 1

Nick Pivetta pitched his first career complete game,

J.T. Realmuto homered and Philadelphia beat visiting Cincinnati for its fourth straight win. Coming off six scoreless innings against the Los Angeles Dodgers in his previous outing, Pivetta allowed a run on six hits and no walks while striking out six. He had never previously gone beyond 7 1/3 innings. Pivetta (4-1) allowed hits to the first two Reds batters and then didn't allow another baserunner until Joey Votto's leadoff single in the seventh inning.

DODGERS 7, GIANTS 2

Corey Seager had four hits and four RBIs to lift Los Angeles over host San Francisco. Seager finished 4-for-5 with a pair of doubles and has hits in 13 of his last 14 games. Justin Turner, who was questionable to play because of a tight hamstring, went 3-for-3 with two doubles, two runs and two RBIs. Los Angeles starter Rich Hill (3-1) earned the win with five innings of two-run ball, allowing seven hits, walking three and striking out six.

RAYS 9, RED SOX 2 (GAME 1)

Ryan Yarbrough pitched a career-high 7 2/3 superb innings, and Travis d'Arnaud backed him with a three-run homer as visiting Tampa Bay once again stymied Boston's bats in a win to kick off a day-night doubleheader. Yarbrough (5-2) gave up the two runs (one earned) on four hits and struck out seven as the Rays won their fourth straight to tie the New York Yankees atop the American League East standings. The Red Sox, who lost 5-1 Friday after entering the series outscoring opponents 31-13 over a four-game winning streak, were kept to one run until Jackie Bradley Jr. homered in the eighth. Star slugger J.D. Martinez was again sidelined by back spasms.

RED SOX 5, RAYS 1

David Price matched his season high with 10 strikeouts over six innings as Boston beat visiting Tampa Bay to salvage a split of a day-night doubleheader. Price (4-2) played stopper yet again after the Red Sox lost the first two of the four-game series. He gave up one run on five hits and walked two, recording seven of his strikeouts against the Nos. 3-5 hitters in the Rays lineup. Tampa Bay had a four-game winning streak come to an end. As part of a bullpen game, Colin Poche (0-1) took the loss in his major league debut.

WHITE SOX 2, ROYALS 0

Lucas Giolito outdueled Brad Keller, posting a career-high 11 strikeouts, as Chicago defeated host Kansas City. Giolito didn't give up his first hit until a lead-off single in the fourth by Alex Gordon. At one stretch, he got eight straight outs via the strikeout. He matched his career high of 10 strikeouts with two outs in the fifth inning. He broke it with his third strikeout of



CLEVELAND: DJ LeMahieu #26 of the New York Yankees singles against the Cleveland Indians in the first inning at Progressive Field in Cleveland, Ohio. —AFP

that inning. The victory for Chicago set up a rubber game for the series on Sunday, a contest that hasn't gone well for the Royals. They are 0-5 in rubber games in 2019 and 0-13 in rubber games dating back to May 30, 2018.

BREWERS 5, PIRATES 3

Ryan Braun produced a tiebreaking single in the fourth inning, and Milwaukee continued its success over visiting Pittsburgh. The Brewers moved to a season-high nine games over .500, won for the eighth time in 12 games and improved to 5-1 against the Pirates on a day in which they stranded 13 and went 2-for-14 with runners in scoring position. Braun, who hit a three-run homer in Friday's 10-4 win, snapped a 3-3 tie when he lined a single to center field off Michael Feliz (2-2) to score Lorenzo Cain. Mike Moustakas homered, Orlando Arcia had an RBI double and Cain produced a run-scoring single for the Brewers.

ORIOLES 4, ASTROS 1

Andrew Cashner worked six solid innings, Anthony Santander produced a sparkling defensive play, and Trey Mancini scored the go-ahead run on an error in the eighth inning as Baltimore scratched out a victory over host Houston. The Orioles will go for the series victory Sunday in the rubber match. Baltimore is 0-11-1 in its last 12 series, while the Astros are 9-0-1 over their last 10.

Left-hander Paul Fry (1-3) earned the win in relief for the Orioles. Miguel Castro notched his second save.

BRAVES 1, MARLINS 0

Julio Teheran pitched six scoreless innings, and rookie Austin Riley doubled and scored the game's only run as Atlanta defeated host Miami. Luke Jackson got four outs for his ninth save of the season, as the Braves have won 18 of their past 22 games against the Marlins, including the first two contests in this series. For Teheran (4-4, 3.03 ERA), this was the third time this year he has pitched at least five scoreless innings. He allowed just two hits—one single and one double—walked one and struck out five. He got eight ground-ball outs and three flyouts.

TIGERS 9, TWINS 3

JaCoby Jones homered twice and drove in five runs, and Christin Stewart also homered to lead Detroit to victory over visiting Minnesota. Jones finished 3-for-4 and also scored two runs while Miguel Cabrera, Gordon Beckham, Brandon Dixon and Harold Castro each added two hits for Detroit, which snapped a three-game losing streak and won for just the second time in its last 15 home games. Nick Ramirez (2-0), the second of five Detroit pitchers, picked up the victory, allowing one run on three hits and three walks over three innings. He struck out three. — Reuters

Golovkin brutally knocks out Rolls, calls for third Canelo fight

NEW YORK: Former unified middleweight champion Gennady Golovkin turned back the clock on Saturday night with a sensational fourth-round knockout of Steve Rolls in their super middleweight fight at Madison Square Garden.

The 37-year-old Kazakhstan fighter hit Rolls with a short left that sent the Canadian crumbling face first to the canvas with one minute to go in the fourth in front of a crowd of 12,357.

"I feel great, I feel like a new baby," said Golovkin. Golovkin, who was fighting for the first time in nine months and coming off the first loss of his career, chose to fight the heavy underdog Rolls as he jockeys for a third fight against champion Saul 'Canelo' Alvarez.

But in the back of everyone's mind was last week's shocking heavyweight upset that saw unheralded and overweight Andy Ruiz steal three titles by dismantling champion Anthony Joshua. Golovkin made sure there was no repeat of that, using the first three rounds of the 164-pound fight to figure out how to break down the undefeated Rolls.

Golovkin sized him up by winning a close first round. In the second, Rolls (10-1) hit him with a left hook and a left jab that snapped Golovkin's head back. But Golovkin started to see cracks in Rolls' defence in the third round. He stayed patient—even holding off and not throwing punches despite getting Rolls in a vulnerable position. Golovkin's the type of boxer who can put those moments away in his muscle memory bank for use later in the fight.

And that's just what he did to finish off the Canadian in the fourth, first landing a chopping left hand to the top of the head that hurt Rolls. The wobbly-kneed Rolls staggered backwards and then tried unsuccessfully to get Golovkin in a clinch.

Golovkin worked his way out of it and then slammed a short left from a southpaw stance into the face of Rolls for the knockout. "It is my style to knock people out," said Golovkin, who once had a 23 knockout streak. "I told my coach, 'OK I see it now, I see, I just need a little bit of time.'"

Asked who he wanted to fight next,



NEW YORK: Gennady Golovkin of Kazakhstan (red trunks) trades punches with Steve Rolls of Canada (white trunks) during their Super Middleweights fight at Madison Square Garden in New York City. — AFP

Golovkin didn't hesitate. "Everybody knows, I am ready for Canelo. Just bring him, ask him. If you want a big drama show, tell him." Golovkin (39-1-1, 35 KOs) made a number of key changes heading into the scheduled 12-round fight.

He split with long-time trainer Abel Sanchez and signed a lucrative six-fight

deal with US streaming company DAZN which may well smooth the way to a third bout with Alvarez, another DAZN fighter.

This was his first fight with new trainer Johnathon Banks and he hopes also a new beginning for his career. "I come back to my knockout (ways)," he said. — AFP

Neesham, Williamson lead the way as Kiwis demolish Afghanistan

TAUNTON: New Zealand cemented their spot at the top of the cricket World Cup league table with a seven-wicket victory over minnows Afghanistan thanks to a unbeaten half-century by Kane Williamson and fine bowling by their seam attack led by Jimmy Neesham.

The Kiwis, despite losing Martin Gupthill first ball of their innings, never looked in any serious trouble chasing a paltry 173 for victory at Taunton as Williamson and Ross Taylor shared a century partnership for the third wicket before getting home with more than 17 overs to spare.

It was the Kiwis' third consecutive victory and puts them in pole position for the semi-finals, while Afghanistan have recorded three straight losses. "The team have put together some strong per-

formances, but it is important that you just move on and look forward to the next challenge," Williamson told a press conference.

Williamson top-scored with an unbeaten 79 after surviving a missed run-out chance on 22. He hit nine boundaries in his 99-ball innings. Earlier, Afghanistan's batting woes continued after their openers got them off to a brisk start with openers Hazratullah Zazai and Noor Ali Zadran putting on 66 by the 11th over.

But man-of-the-match Neesham, who took a ODI career best 5-31, and Lockie Ferguson (4-37) then grabbed four wickets for four runs to reduce Afghanistan to 70-4. They never recovered and lost wickets steadily before being bowled out for 172 with nearly ten overs to spare. — Reuters

Dhoni removes dagger logo from keeping gloves

LONDON: MS Dhoni took the field without a controversial dagger logo on his wicketkeeping gloves in yesterday's World Cup game against Australia after being ordered to remove the symbol by cricket's governing body.

Dhoni's gloves in the opening game against South Africa bore an apparent military insignia that breached rules laid down by the International Cricket Council. But a different pair of gloves appeared to conform with ICC regulations when India fielded after making 352 for five batting first against world champions Australia at the Oval.

The ICC turned down a request by

the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to allow Dhoni to sport the symbol that gained widespread attention on television and on social media in India, with #DhoniKeepTheGlove trending on Twitter.

According to the World Cup clothing and equipment regulations manual, only two manufacturer identifications can be sported on the back of each glove. Also, any logos should not have any political or racial connotations.

Dhoni is an honorary lieutenant colonel in India's Parachute Regiment. In March, the India team wore camouflage-style caps provided by Dhoni during a one-day game against Australia as a tribute to India's armed forces after 40 troops were killed in a suicide bomb attack in Kashmir.

The ICC has previously ruled against players making political statements and in 2104 the global governing body banned England all-rounder Moeen Ali from wearing wristbands saying "Save Gaza" and "Free Palestine". — AFP

Captain Morgan grateful for Roy's 'luxury' runs

CARDIFF: England captain Eoin Morgan said Jason Roy was a "luxury" after the opener's latest big hundred helped England thrash Bangladesh by 106 runs as the hosts got their World Cup campaign back on course.

Roy's 153 — his third one-day international score of 150 or more in nine hundreds—took England to an imposing 386 for six in Cardiff on Saturday.

It was just the start the World Cup favourites, top of the one-day international rankings, needed after a surprise 14-run loss to Pakistan last time out. "It's a luxury," said Morgan after England made it two wins from three ahead of their match against the West Indies in Southampton on Friday.

"People in general, talk about scoring hundreds. He's an exception to the rule. "He just goes on and get big scores. The rate he can get them at is so difficult to defend.

"He scores all the way around the ground, he takes really good bowlers down, he hits good balls for boundaries. He's great to have in the side. "One of his biggest strengths at the moment is his temperament, compared to the start of his international cricket to right now, I think there is a considerable difference."

Roy has yet to play in a Test match but Morgan insisted: "I've said this before: I do think he could play Test cricket at some stage. "I think he has every attribute to be a Test cricketer." Meanwhile, Jonny Bairstow, who helped Roy put on a rapid 128 for the first wicket after England were sent into bat at Sophia Gardens, said: "Having opened the batting now for a long period of time for England, his confidence will be very high.

"It's great for him to score 150 in the World Cup and you are hoping we can both kick on from that start today, be that a chase or setting, in one of the huge games we've got coming up," added Bairstow, who made 51.

The only worry for England following a dominant display was a hip injury suffered by Jos Buttler when hitting a six during a typically dashing 64. Buttler did not keep wicket, with Test gloveman Bairstow behind the stumps instead. "He is going to be monitored over the next 48 hours, but at the moment it's more precautionary rather than not being able to do his job," said Morgan. "I am quite confident that it's not a serious injury." — AFP