

Sports

Torres, Cortes carry Yankees past host Chicago White Sox

Rizzo homers off Jansen, Cubs stun Dodgers

CHICAGO: Gleyber Torres hit a two-run homer, and Nestor Cortes Jr. pitched five-plus effective innings of relief for his first career win as the New York Yankees snapped a three-game losing streak with an 8-4 victory over the host Chicago White Sox on Saturday night. The Yankees won on a night in which they traded for Edwin Encarnacion from the Seattle Mariners, allowing New York to slot the American League's home run leader into its lineup as the designated hitter. Torres hit his 15th homer with one out in the fourth to cap a four-run inning off Reynaldo Lopez (4-7). His homer marked the 18th straight game that the Yankees homered in, their second-longest streak in team history and the third-longest in the majors this season. Chad Green started the game as the opener for the fifth time and struck out six in two innings. Cortes (1-0) followed and allowed two runs on six hits, striking out seven and walking none.

ANGELS 5, RAYS 3

Charlie Morton had his 21-start unbeaten streak come to an end as Los Angeles topped Tampa Bay in St. Petersburg, Fla. Angels left-hander Jose Suarez (2-1) went 5 2/3 innings for the win, allowing three runs and five hits, and Hansel Robles worked a perfect ninth for his 10th save. David Fletcher, Justin Bour and Kevan Smith homered for the Angels, who have won two of three in the series. Morton (8-1), who had won 11 games during his league-leading unbeaten streak, steadied after a rough start and went six innings, allowing four runs and five hits. He struck out nine and walked two.

RED SOX 7, ORIOLES 2

J.D. Martinez homered for the fourth time in his last three games, and Chris Sale struck out 10 as visiting Boston defeated Baltimore for its fourth straight win. Sale (3-7) went six strong innings. He allowed two runs on six hits and gave the Red Sox his third straight solid start after struggling at times during the first part of the season. Baltimore starter Dylan Bundy blanked the Red Sox for the first five innings before Boston got to him for three runs in the sixth. Overall, Bundy (3-8) gave up three runs (two earned) on eight hits in five-plus innings.

CUBS 2, DODGERS 1

Anthony Rizzo hit a two-run home run in the top of the ninth inning as visiting Chicago rallied to stun Los Angeles and closer Kenley Jansen. Three outs away from losing the first three games of the four-game series, the Cubs began their comeback when Kris Bryant was hit by Jansen's first pitch. Rizzo then crushed a 2-0 pitch into the Cubs' bullpen in right field for his team-leading 19th home run of the season. Kyle Ryan (2-1) picked up the victory for the Cubs. Jansen (2-2) blew his third save of the season and first since May 5 at San Diego. The Cubs' rally spoiled a solid start from the Dodgers' Walker Buehler, who took a no-hitter into the sixth inning and allowed only two hits over seven scoreless innings.

METS 8, CARDINALS 7

Pete Alonso's mammoth three-run homer fueled a five-run first inning, and New York held off visiting St. Louis. The Mets snapped a two-game losing streak but might have lost winning pitcher Noah Syndergaard, who exited with none out in the seventh due to a right hamstring strain. Syndergaard (5-4) allowed five runs (four earned)

on six hits and two walks while striking out five. Michael Wacha (4-3) allowed six runs (five earned) on seven hits and one walk while striking out four in four innings. Kolten Wong had two of six stolen bases by the Cardinals.

GIANTS 8, BREWERS 7

Kevin Pillar had a pair of RBI singles and scored the go-ahead run in the seventh inning as host San Francisco edged Milwaukee. Brandon Crawford collected a season-high three hits, and Stephen Vogt added a career-best two triples and an RBI infield single in the eighth inning for the Giants, who have won four in a row. Trevor Gott (3-0) got the win in relief. Christian Yelich belted his major-league-leading 26th homer with two outs in the ninth, and Manny Pina also went deep for the Brewers, who have lost three of their last four. Junior Guerra (2-1) took the loss.

PHILLIES 6, BRAVES 5

Cesar Hernandez poked a single into left field in the ninth inning to drive in two runs and help visiting Philadelphia turn the tables on Atlanta with a come-from-behind win. Hernandez went 2-for-4 and finished with three RBIs, including his seventh home run of the season, to end Atlanta's winning streak at eight. The Braves had beaten Philadelphia with a ninth-inning rally on Friday night. Atlanta starter Sean Newcomb exited in the third inning after he was struck in the back of the neck by J.T. Realmuto's 102 mph line drive. Newcomb was able to leave on his own power while Realmuto was credited with a ground-rule double as the ball flew into the Philadelphia dugout. The Phillies lost Realmuto after he took a foul ball to the groin in the fifth inning.

ASTROS 7, BLUE JAYS 2

Rookie sensation Yordan Alvarez slugged another home run, while left-hander Framber Valdez delivered a second consecutive quality start as Houston downed visiting Toronto. Alvarez, who added a pair of singles and posted his second consecutive three-hit game, has bashed four homers in five games since his promotion from Triple-A Round Rock last Sunday. Valdez (3-2) allowed two runs on four hits and two walks with eight strikeouts over six innings. Clayton Richard (0-3) lasted five innings for the Blue Jays, allowing five runs on seven hits and two walks with one strikeout. Toronto has dropped 13 of 17 games.

ROCKIES 14, PADRES 8

Charlie Blackmon had four hits for the third straight game, Ian Desmond hit a grand slam and Colorado roughed up San Diego in Denver. Blackmon became the first player in franchise history to have four hits in three straight games, and Desmond finished with five RBIs. German Marquez (7-3) allowed seven runs on 10 hits in 5 2/3 innings, walking four and striking out eight. Ian Kinsler had three hits and drove in three runs for the Padres, and Manny Machado had two hits before being ejected from the game in the fifth inning. San Diego skipper Andy Green and pitcher Matt Strahm were also ejected in the sixth. Eric Lauer (5-6) gave up five runs on 10 hits in 2 2/3 innings to take the loss.

TWINS 5, ROYALS 4

Marwin Gonzalez and Max Kepler both homered, and Jake Odorizzi won his 10th straight decision as Minnesota rallied to defeat Kansas City in Minneapolis. Odorizzi (10-



CHICAGO: Gary Sanchez #24 of the New York Yankees hits a two RBI double during the fourth inning against the Chicago White Sox at Guaranteed Rate Field in Chicago, Illinois. — AFP

2), who hasn't lost a game since April 10 at the Mets, gave up four runs on seven hits and two walks over six innings, tying his season high in earned runs allowed. Gonzalez finished 2-of-4 with two RBIs and a run scored, and C.J. Cron drove in the winning run with a sixth-inning double. Whit Merrifield went 4-for-5 with a home run and two runs scored, and Jorge Soler hit a two-run homer for Kansas City. Glenn Sparkman (1-3) suffered the loss allowing five runs (four earned) on five hits and two walks. He struck out three.

INDIANS 4, TIGERS 2

Leonys Martin stole home, and Shane Bieber struck out 12 in 7 2/3 innings as Cleveland doubled up host Detroit. Bieber (6-2), who retired the first 12 batters he faced, allowed two runs on four hits, and Brad Hand recorded his 20th save for the Indians. Martin's bold decision in the eighth inning was the Indians' first straight steal of home plate since Grady Sizemore on Aug. 26, 2005. Miguel Cabrera had three hits for the Tigers, who have lost 10 of their last 13 games. The Indians broke through with three runs in the fifth against reliever Nick Ramirez (3-1).

ATHLETICS 11, MARINERS 2

Marcus Semien and Jurickson Profar each went 3-for-4, with Semien hitting a home run and Profar driving in four runs, as Oakland romped over visiting Seattle. Athletics right-hander Frankie Montas (9-2) pitched six quality innings, allowing two runs on six hits with one walk and nine strikeouts. Mariners opener Gerson Bautista (0-1) lasted just two-thirds of an inning, giving up two hits and walking three while striking out one. Left-hander Wade LeBlanc followed and was rocked for six runs on eight hits in 2 2/3 innings as the A's built a 9-1 lead through four innings.

DIAMONDBACKS 10, NATIONALS 3

Ketel Marte hit two solo home runs, and Adam Jones

and Christian Walker also went deep off Stephen Strasburg as the Arizona routed host Washington. Nick Ahmed had four hits and scored twice for Arizona, which went deep five times overall. Reliever Yoshihisa Hirano (3-3) got the win in relief. Strasburg (7-4) gave up four homers in a game for just the second time in his career. He tied a season high by allowing six runs in five innings after he had given up two runs or less in five of his previous six outings.

MARLINS 4, PIRATES 3

Garrett Cooper went 3-for-4 and scored the tiebreaking run in the fifth, leading host Miami past Pittsburgh. Pablo Lopez (5-5) earned the win, allowing seven hits, one walk and three runs in seven innings, striking out four. Nick Anderson pitched a scoreless eighth, and Sergio Romo earned his 12th save with a seven-pitch ninth. Pirates starter Dario Agrazal made his major league debut and was betrayed a bit by his defense, allowing six hits and three runs (two earned) in four innings. Geoff Hartlieb (0-1) took the loss with one run allowed in two innings of relief.

RANGERS 4, REDS 3

Jeff Mathis had an RBI single among his two hits, and Mike Minor tossed 6 1/3 strong innings as visiting Texas edged Cincinnati. Shin-Soo Choo and Asdrubal Cabrera each had an RBI single, and Danny Santana added a pair of hits for the Rangers, who took advantage of three errors to win for the 21st time in their last 31 games. Minor (6-4) was tagged for three runs on four hits with four walks and six strikeouts. Cincinnati rookie Nick Senzel exited the game with two outs in the fifth inning after he fouled a pitch that caromed off both the ground and his foot before hitting the lid of his helmet near his left eye. Reds starter Tanner Roark (4-6) allowed four runs (two earned) on eight hits in seven innings, striking out five and walking none. — Reuters

Davis heading to Lakers in blockbuster trade: Reports

LOS ANGELES: Anthony Davis will form a high-powered NBA strikeforce alongside LeBron James next season after the New Orleans Pelicans agreed to a trade deal with the Los Angeles Lakers, US media reports said Saturday.

ESPN and the Los Angeles Times said unsettled star Davis will join the Lakers in a move which will see the Pelicans receive multiple players and draft picks in return. The Pelicans roster will be bolstered by the arrival of Lakers players Lonzo Ball, Brandon Ingram and Josh Hart.

More significantly, the Pelicans will also receive three first-round draft picks, including the number four overall pick currently owned by the Lakers heading into next Thursday's NBA draft.

It means the Pelicans now have the first and fourth picks in the draft, potentially giving the franchise the chance to build a championship-contending team. For the Lakers, the move gives James the sort of high-caliber roster reinforcement he has been craving since his arrival in Los Angeles from the Cleveland Cavaliers last summer.

Davis, 26, shares the same agent as James, and has been agitating for a move since January, when he informed the Pelicans he planned to leave. The Lakers made a bungled attempt to trade for Davis in February but pulled out of negotiations with New Orleans after complaining of "outrageous" demands by the Pelicans.

The Lakers had reportedly agreed to offload Ball, Ingram and Hart as well as Kyle Kuzma and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope in the earlier negotiations. The collapsed deal was reported to have destabilized the Lakers dressing room and the team's season tailed off dramatically as they failed to make the playoffs once again.

That disappointing finish to the Lakers season led to the shock resignation of president of basketball operations Magic Johnson. Johnson later said a rift with Lakers general manager Rob Pelinka had been behind his departure, accusing his former colleague of "betrayal." —AFP



Maria Sharapova

Returning Sharapova inspired by 'ultimate fighter' Nadal

SANTA PONSAS: Maria Sharapova says she will draw inspiration from Rafael Nadal's incredible powers of recovery as she resumes her injury-hit career on the Spanish great's island next week.

The 32-year-old Russian has not played a competitive match since pulling out of the St Petersburg Open in January and underwent surgery on her right shoulder a few weeks later.

She returns to action next week at the Mallorca Open grasscourt event as she prepares for Wimbledon, the tournament that launched her to fame and fortune 15 years when she claimed the title as a teenager.

Sharapova was already training on grass in the sunshine Balearic isle while Nadal was winning his record-extending 12th French Open last weekend, having battled back from knee injuries.

"He is the ultimate fighter and an amazing example of what you can achieve if you have the will and the passion for what you do," Sharapova said on Sunday.

"I've always admired the way he has fought through all the injuries he's had and he's the greatest example of that. The sport is so physical, especially the way he plays, but brings an optimistic perspective on his work that he can come back and be a champion. He is extremely motivated."

Five-time Grand Slam champion Sharapova, ranked

86th in the world, says she is pain free and happy to be back on court, although admits the real test will be in matches. "The shoulder is doing well, I took my time in order to come back to my first event and feel that I have a really good chance at it," Sharapova told Reuters. "With every match it will be a good test, but I need to get it out into the battlefield to test it. You can heal all you want but when you get back to your sport it's a different ball game."

Sharapova admits few people will "give her a shot" at challenging for the Wimbledon title, but believes she has a chance of making an impact if her shoulder holds up. Most of all, however, she is excited to return with her passion for the sport intact after so many injury setbacks and also missing 15 months because of a doping ban. "I still have many expectations on myself even though I think I also have many opportunities to do other things," said Sharapova.

"But this sport is very unique and special and I enjoy trying to be better every day."

She said she hopes the decision to undergo surgery will allow her to start enjoying the sport again. "Before it was about pain management, I wasn't really enjoying playing because after every match I was thinking about what I needed to do to help my shoulder," she said.

"There were some great matches at the start of the year but once I played that first match in St Petersburg I knew that I needed a clear mind."

Asked why she selected Mallorca for her return, she looked up to the blue skies.

"It's a great place to train," she said. "The conditions here are maybe better than the rain delays you may have in England, maybe playing a couple of matches in a day." Sharapova is scheduled to play her first match tomorrow. — Reuters

Woodland comes through in clutch to keep US Open bid on track

PEBBLE BEACH: Gary Woodland's whole sporting life has prepared him for Sunday, when he takes a one-shot lead into the final round of the 119th US Open Golf Championship.

The 35-year-old American is hardly a household name, despite three US PGA Tour titles, but he's confident he can hold his own against the game's best-including former world number one Justin Rose who will play alongside him in the final group. "I worked for this my whole life. I've trained since I started walking," Woodland said. "I've played sports, I've competed. I've learned how to win, even if I haven't done it as much as I'd like."

"I know what it takes to win. And my game is in a great spot." Woodland, who abandoned college basketball to pursue golf, has worked hard to polish up a short game long overshadowed by his booming length and worked with British putting coach Phil Kenyon to step it up on the greens. After failing to produce a top-10 finish in his first 27 majors, he has contended at the last two PGA Championships—where playing alongside Brooks Koepka and Tiger Woods gave him valuable lessons in performing on the big stage.

"I know if I play my game and play like the way I've been playing, the guys from behind me are going to have to do something really, really special," he said.

Woodland remained supremely poised Saturday in the face of back-nine adversity. He hit a shot at the 12th out of tall rough on the lip of a bunker, but chipped in from the fringe to save par. Two holes later he was in the rough again, and chucked his chip to come up short at the par five, where he was again looking bogey but rolled in a 42-foot putt from off the green for another par.

In between he missed the fairway at 13, but kept his round going with a four-footer to save par.

They were the kind of holes that once might have derailed a round, but his game has matured there, too.

"It took me a lot to learn to control adrenaline," Woodland said. "Other sports you use adrenaline to your advantage. Out here, when I get a little excited, I need to find a way to calm myself back down."

"I was able to control myself and get back in the moment. I've learned to take an extra deep breath and really start controlling everything, and not just the game, controlling the mental side, too." — AFP