

Sports

Photo of the day



Julian Wilson Project at Urban Surf Wavepark in Melbourne, Australia. — Photo taken from www.redbullcontentpool.com

Kershaw shines; Dodgers on brink of World Series crown

Dodgers shake off a crushing defeat to beat Tampa Bay 4-2

ARLINGTON: The Los Angeles Dodgers, led by pitcher Clayton Kershaw's gutsy performance, shook off a crushing defeat to beat Tampa Bay 4-2 and move within one win of their first World Series title in 32 years on Sunday. Joc Pederson and Max Muncy homered for the Dodgers and Kershaw notched the 13th post-season win of his career - his fourth this post-season - as Los Angeles took a three-games-to-two lead in Major League Baseball's best-of-seven championship series.

"Tonight was a grind, all the way through," said Kershaw. "My slider wasn't as good as it was in game one. But I stuck with the game plan." "To only give up two runs is huge for me," Kershaw and the Dodgers, who came up agonizingly short in World Series appearances in 2017 and 2018, can lock up their first title since 1988 in game six at Globe Life Field in Arlington today. "It is very exciting, but at the same time we've got to win one more. I am going to keep it together for one more game," Kershaw said.

Kershaw, a three-time Cy Young Award-winner whose Hall of Fame resume is lacking a World Series title, pitched 5 2/3 innings, giving up two runs on five hits. His six strikeouts took his career post-season tally to a record 207 - sur-

passing the 205 of Justin Verlander. Perhaps his most memorable throw to home on the night, however, wasn't a pitch, but a sharp throw to cut down Manuel Margo as he tried to steal home and thwart a Rays rally attempt.

The Dodgers insisted they were over the disappointment of game four, when a couple of Dodgers errors helped the Rays walk off 8-7 winners after being down to their last strike. It certainly looked as if they had put it behind them when they leapt on Rays pitcher Tyler Glasnow in the first inning. Dodgers shortstop Corey Seager said battling Glasnow and pushing up his pitch count would be key, and Los Angeles did a good job of it.

Mookie Betts led off with a stand-up double and scored on a single from Seager. Seager reached second and third on two wild pitches from Glasnow and scored on a single from Cody Bellinger before Glasnow - who became the first pitcher to throw three wild pitches in a World Series game - ended the inning after throwing 34 pitches. Pederson led off the second with a home run, clubbing a 98-mph fastball from Glasnow over the left centerfield wall to give the Dodgers a 3-0 lead. Muncy's towering homer off a Glasnow fastball with two outs in the fifth put the Dodgers up 4-2. "That one felt

pretty good," Muncy said. "(It's) not to many times you connect right middle of the barrel. It felt really solid."

The Rays had pulled back two runs in the bottom of the third when Yandy Diaz belted a line drive down the right field line that Betts couldn't corral for a run-scoring triple. Diaz scored on a single from Randy Arozarena, whose 27th hit of these playoffs gave him the record for most in a single post-season. Kershaw kept the Rays from building any momentum, despite the aggressive efforts of Manuel Margot, who drew a walk to lead off the fourth, stole second and reached third when the attempt to catch him at second failed.

Kershaw nailed Margot as he tried to steal home to end the inning and retired three straight in the fifth and two in the sixth before handing over to Dustin May. "It has happened to me before," of Margot's attempt to steal home. "I work on that with the first baseman. I just know now to step up fast and throw it." "That was a big out for us right there." Rays manager Kevin Cash called it a "frustrating inning." "Man on third, no outs, first and third, no outs. Pop-up, strike out and then get thrown out trying to do that. Ideally, we've got to find a way to get that guy in to tie the game there."

Dodgers fans, the majority of the 11,437 in attendance at the neutral venue, booed when Dodgers manager Dave Roberts went to the mound to tell Kershaw his night was done after he retired the first two batters of the sixth inning. But they cheered Kershaw as he headed to the dugout and the Dodgers bullpen didn't let them down. May recorded five outs before yielding to Victor Gonzalez, who faced the potential go-ahead run at the plate in the eighth but retired Arozarena and Brandon Lowe to end the inning.

Rays aim to rebound

Blake Treinen gave up a leadoff single in the ninth, but retired the next three to gain the save. While the Dodgers looked toward Tuesday saying they needed to keep focused on the game at hand, and not on hoisting the trophy, the Rays said they would come ready to bounce back. Tampa Bay won game-five and game-seven series clinchers this post-season, and Kiermaier said they could do it again. "If there's any team who can respond well with their backs against the wall, knowing what's at stake - we're in a situation now where it's win or go home - our group is the group to come through," he said. —AFP

Qadisiya tops standings with nine points

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: The final score of 2-1 in favor of Qadisiya football club does not reflect how tough and complicated the match was. The match of the third round between Qadisiya and Sahel saw Sahel's Talison score first in the 17th minute and the match continued with the same score though Qadisiya had the most possession until the 45th minute when the referee awarded Qadisiya a penalty kick which the veteran Bader Al-Mutawaa used to equalize the score.

In the second half, it was not until the 84th minute when Salem Al-Buraiki snatched the three points for Qadisiya, which now tops the standings with 9 points in goal difference with Fahaeel. Qadisiya started the match in an attacking mood from the first whistle while relying on Lucas in front of Bader Al-Mutawaa and Eid Al-Rashidi as Ahmad Al-Thafiri and Sultan Al-Enezi backing them up at midfield.

Meanwhile, Sahel made sure the defense remained solid and relied on counterattacks as the goalkeeper Nawaf Al-Mansour was able to thwart the scoring opportunities by Qadisiya, then Sahel surprised Qadisiya



by scoring a goal of their own in the 17th minute. Sahel almost scored again if not for the heroics of Qadisiya's goal keeper Khalid Al-Rashidi.

Qadisiya continued their attack in the second half as Sahel maintained a balanced performance - defending and attacking - until Qadisiya's substitutes Udai Al-Saifi and Salem Al-Buraiki arrived, thus yielding the winning goal in the 84th minute. The second match between Kuwait and Kazma ended in a 1-1 draw. Kuwait's Abdallah Al-Buraiki scored in the 73rd minute only to have Kazma's Nasser Faraj scoring the equalizer 7 minutes later from the penalty spot. Kuwait now has five points while Kazma has two.

It was a lively match between the two teams as both were trying to make up for lost opportunities in their pre-

vious matches. Kazma had the better start and attempted to carry out attacks but Kuwait's defense was very effective. The second half saw both teams adopting an attacking philosophy and it was in the 73rd minute when Abdallah Al-Buraiki scored after receiving a pass from Sami Al-Sane.

Kazma did not relent and remained on the attack and gained a penalty kick that was converted into a goal by Nasser Faraj in the 80th minute. Al-Nasr Sports Club defeated Khaiteh by the score of 2-0 as Salem Al-Mislati scored in the 49th minute and Mishal Favaz in the 60th. Al-Nasr now has 6 points while Khaiteh has a lonely one. Finally, the match between Tadhamon and Jahra ended in a scoreless draw. Tadhamon now has 4 points in 4th place as Jahra is in 5th place with 3 points.

Jahra Club honors Sheikh Mubarak Al-Abdallah

KUWAIT: Chairman of Jahra Sports Club Nawaf Jaded Al-Thabyan has lauded the support given by Sheikh Mubarak Abdallah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah to the club. The club honored Sheikh Mubarak Al-Abdallah during a ceremony attended by Chairman and members of the club in appreciation of the Sheikh's role. Sheikh Mubarak Al-Abdallah said his support of the club is a continuation of what his father Sheikh Abdallah Al-Mubarak had instilled in the form of supporting sports and athletes in Kuwait, as well as the sports establishments and sports facilities.

Sheikh Mubarak expressed respect for the clubs including that of Jahra - that is exerting all efforts to be one of the distinguished clubs. He praised Kuwait sport and lauded the support of HHI the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HHI the Crown Prince Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Chairman Nawaf Jaded presented Sheikh Mubarak a commemorative plaque at the end of the ceremony.



Sheikh Ahmad congratulates Tunisia over Ons

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: President of Kuwait and Arab Tennis Federations Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Abdallah Al-Sabah congratulated Tunisia Minister of Youth, Sports, and Vocational Integration Kamal Daqish as Tunisian tennis player Ons Jabeur reached the WTA's rank of 31 in the world. He also sent two similar letters to the President of Tunis Olympic Committee Mehrez Boussayene and President of Tunis Tennis Federation Dr Salma Al-Mouelhi.

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber expressed his pleasure towards this unprecedented Arab achievement. Ons reached this rank

following her distinguished performance in Grand Slam tournaments, especially at Roland Garros - reaching the fourth round. Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber said the Arab federation is ready to extend all possible support to the Tunisian federation and other Arab federations in order to make the sought after achievements.

He wished Ons Jabeur success in her career. Ons, who turned pro in 2010, became the first Arab woman to reach the quarterfinals of a Grand Slam tournament. She is also the highest ranked Arab Player in WTA history.



Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Abdallah Al-Sabah

News in brief

Real Sociedad back at top

MADRID: Real Sociedad overtook Real Madrid on Sunday to reclaim their place at the top of La Liga after thrashing Huesca 4-1. Mikel Oyarzabal scored twice, including one from a penalty, before Portu and Alexander Isak rounded off an impressive victory after Rafa Mir had briefly pulled Huesca level. La Real go one point above Real Madrid, although having played one game more than the reigning champions, and also become the first team to hold onto top spot for two consecutive rounds this season. Imanol Alguacil's side were in the mix for a Champions League qualification place last term, only for their form to fizzle out following the three-month break due to the coronavirus pandemic. But they have hit the ground running again in recent weeks, with only one defeat from their opening seven games and new signing David Silva showing against Huesca what an asset he could be for their bid for the top four. —AFP

Fluminense extend unbeaten run

RIO DE JANEIRO: Fluminense extended their unbeaten run to seven games with a convincing 3-1 win at home to Santos on Sunday. Luccas Claro put Fluminense ahead after 28 minutes when he headed home a loose ball and although Marinho equalized nine minutes before halftime, Nino gave Fluminense the lead again in the 56th with another header. Marcos Paulo made the points safe with a third in the dying seconds for the home side that lifted them to fourth place in the 20-team Serie A table with 29 points from 18 matches. Santos, who fell to their second league defeat in three games, slipped to sixth, two points behind their opponents. —Reuters

Zverev closes on top six

PARIS: German Alexander Zverev edged closer to the world's top six yesterday after his weekend triumph in Cologne, while Novak Djokovic chalked off another week in his bid for the record amount of time as world number one. Zverev beat Diego Schwartzman on home soil in Sunday's final to secure a second straight title. He remains seventh in the ATP rankings, but cut the gap to world number six Daniil Medvedev and the fifth-ranked Stefanos Tsitsipas. Roger Federer has been world number one for a record 310 weeks in his career. But Djokovic, who is at the ATP tournament in Vienna this week having not played since Roland Garros earlier this month, has now spent 292 weeks as the world's best player. —AFP

Dixon takes 6th IndyCar crown

MIAMI: New Zealand's Scott Dixon captured his sixth career IndyCar points crown Sunday with American Josef Newgarden settling for his second consecutive victory in the season-ending Grand Prix of St. Petersburg. The 40-year-old Kiwi driver finished third in the race, good enough to hold off Newgarden 537-521 to complete a wire-to-wire season title run and move one shy of AJ Foyt's all-time record of seven IndyCar championships. "Six is good. Seven sounds better," Dixon said. "That's obviously going to be the goal. It's going to be tough." Newgarden began the day needing a win or runner-up effort to have a hope of taking the title while Dixon knew a top-nine result was enough for the crown no matter how his rival fared. "We had a smooth race," Dixon said. "We were able to put it together when we needed to. Credit Jose. He put us under a lot of pressure." —AFP

Sabalenka eyes WTA top 10

PARIS: Belarusian Aryna Sabalenka moved to 11th in the WTA world rankings yesterday after winning her seventh Tour title in Ostrava. The 22-year-old beat compatriot Victoria Azarenka in straight sets in Sunday's final in the Czech Republic. Serena Williams is 10th in the rankings. US Open runner-up and former world number one Azarenka jumped a place to 13th after reaching her third final of the year. Australia's Ashleigh Barty remains at the top of the rankings despite not having played since February due to the coronavirus pandemic. —AFP

Ronaldinho tests positive

RIO DE JANEIRO: Former Brazil playmaker Ronaldinho said on Sunday he had contracted coronavirus but had no symptoms. The 40-year-old ex-Barcelona and AC Milan midfielder, who won the Champions League and World Cup in an illustrious career, will remain in isolation in a Belo Horizonte hotel. "Hi friends, family, fans. I took a Covid-19 test and the result was positive, I'm doing well, I'm asymptomatic for now," he said in a video posted on Instagram. In August, Ronaldinho returned to Brazil following more than five months in detention in Paraguay over a fake passport scandal. The former Ballon d'Or winner and his brother had both been held for a month in jail and another four months under house arrest in a hotel in Asuncion. Brazil has registered more than 156,000 deaths from coronavirus, behind only the US in terms of fatalities. —AFP