

Sports

Photo of the day



Ksenia Maricheva performs at the Red Bull Skate on water in Moscow, Russia.
—Photo taken from www.redbullcontentpool.com

Roglic denies doping as champion Bernal destroyed on Tour

CULOZ: Egan Bernal's defense of the Tour de France was reduced to cinders Sunday as the Colombian suffered a meltdown on the first major mountain of the race, while the overall leader Primoz Roglic denied any suggestions he was doping. With three massive mountains, the stage itself was won by 21-year-old rookie Tadej Pogacar, but the extent of the 2019 champion's astonishing collapse on the final climb is the story of the Tour so far.

"I lost three years of my life on that climb, I gave it everything," said Bernal. "But I just couldn't keep up." Jumbo-Visma's Roglic retained the overall lead after the concluding 17km ascent of the Grand Colombier, which he ascended with four teammates. Ineos captain Bernal slipped to eight minutes and 25 seconds behind in the yellow jersey standings in 13th place. Ineos, formerly known as Sky, have won seven of the last eight Tours led by such luminaries as Bradley Wiggins, Chris Froome and Geraint Thomas, and this jaw-dropping defeat marks something of a turning point for the British team.

Dutch team Jumbo led the peloton up the Grand Colombier's demanding climb in their yellow and black outfits with a relentless high tempo, but Roglic brushed off any suspicions of doping from the media. "At 6 am this morning I had a complete doping control, and just had another one right now," Roglic said, looking flabbergasted when asked. "There is nothing to hide from

my side. You can definitely trust me," Roglic added in his typical deadpan delivery.

Third on the day behind Australian Richie Porte, Roglic attacked first, but his 21-year-old compatriot had the edge over the final 50m. "Unfortunately I was a bit short on the last climb, but it was a great day for us," said the Jumbo leader, a former ski jumper who came to cycling late. Roglic leads Pogacar by 40 seconds with six stages remaining, with Colombia's Rigoberto Uran of Education First in third at 1min 34sec, while Miguel Angel Lopez and Adam Yates round out the top five.

Pogacar said he had bided his time and just kept up. "I need to be conservative, the perfect scenario would have been to take the yellow jersey, but we live in the real world. I don't know what happened to Bernal, but Jumbo set a terrible pace and some riders paid for it," the UAE leader explained. Another casualty was Nairo Quintana, who also dropped out of the running for the overall lead. "It was hot and all three climbs were really hard," Pogacar explained. Asked how he felt about the Tour's decisive penultimate stage 20 next Saturday, an individual time trial run over 30km of rolling terrain before a 6km climb up the Planche des Belles Filles, Pogacar said he could hardly wait.

"I did the recon of the Planche but that was just a trial run. It'll be different after three weeks' racing. I'm really looking forward to it though." The race left Lyon with 157 riders, some of whom had their dreaded nasal swabs early in the day as the final Covid-19 testing round of this Tour started. It will be concluded on the rest day. The first ascent of the Montee de la Selle de Fromental was the steepest and Ineos rider Luke Rowe, no wilting violet, shook his head in disbelief and laughed during one 18 percent section. —AFP

Cink ends title drought with Safeway triumph

SAN FRANCISCO: Stewart Cink ended an 11-year drought with a victory in the US PGA Tour Safeway Open on Sunday, his first win since his 2009 British Open triumph. Cink fired eight birdies in a seven-under par 65 at Silverado Resort in Napa, California, his 21-under total of 267 giving him a two-shot win over Harry Higgs. Cink, 47, acknowledged that he sometimes wondered in the years since he out-dueled Tom Watson in a playoff at Turnberry if he would reach the winner's circle again.

But he kept his nerve Sunday, following a three-putt bogey at 17 that reduced his lead to one stroke with a birdie at the par-five 18th—where he reached the green in two and two-putted from 44 feet. "When you get (to be) 47 like I am, you just don't really know if you're ever going to be able to close the door on another one," said a beaming Cink. "I've been at times in the position to get it done and haven't. This was just a really special week where I've had a lot of good things going with my golf."

Cink started the day two shots off the lead shared by Brian Stuard, James Hahn and Cameron Percy and one stroke behind Higgs. He birdied four

holes on the front nine, chipped in for birdie at 11 and drained a 20-foot birdie putt from the fringe at the 15th. He pushed his lead to two strokes with a birdie from the greenside bunker at 16, blasting out to eight feet and making the putt. But it was close after his bogey at 17, in part because Higgs eagled the 16th despite finding the rough off the tee.

Higgs, ranked 132nd in the world, had thrust himself into contention in the opening event of the 2020-21 PGA Tour season with an albatross at the ninth on Friday. He finished with four birdies and eagle and two bogeys in his four-under 68. "Today was a blast to be in contention all the way to the end," Higgs said. Doc Redman surged up the leaderboard with a 10-under par 62 that included six straight birdies to end the round. He headed a group sharing third on 270 that included Stuard—who carded a two-under 70 — Chez Reavie and Kevin Streelman.

Hahn closed with an even par 72 to join a group on 272, while Percy plummeted to 23Rd with a two-over 74. The long awaited victory was a family affair for Cink, with his wife, Lisa, in attendance and his 23-year-old son, Reagan, on the bag. It's the fourth PGA Tour event in which Regan has caddied for his father. "He did a great job of keeping me positive, keeping me loose," Cink said, adding that his son is "not just a ceremonial caddie out here. He understands golf to the very, very highest level." —AFP

Cubs blast Brewers

Mills tosses 16th no-hitter in Cubs history

CHICAGO: Alec Mills tossed the 16th no-hitter in Cubs history as Chicago rolled to a 12-0 win over the host Milwaukee Brewers on Sunday afternoon. It was the Cubs' first no-hitter since Jake Arrieta accomplished the feat on April 21, 2016, against the Cincinnati Reds. The catcher that day was David Ross, who now is in his first year as Cubs manager. Mills (5-3) lifted his arms after he got the milestone final out in only the 15th start of his major league career. Shortstop Javier Baez fielded a ground ball and zipped a throw to first base to retire Jace Peterson. The Brewers were no-hit for the first time since June 12, 2007, when Justin Verlander dominated them as a member of the Detroit Tigers.

Angels 5, Rockies 3

Albert Pujols' two-run home run in the top of the eighth inning not only propelled Los Angeles to a victory over Colorado in Denver, it also made history. It was Pujols' 660th career home run, tying Willie Mays for fifth on the all-time list. The 40-year-old Pujols, who is signed through next season, is 36 home runs away from tying Alex Rodriguez for fourth place. Pujols went 93 plate appearances without a homer before coming to the plate in the eighth inning on Sunday with the Angels trailing 3-2. Angels starter Andrew Heaney (4-3) gave up three runs on eight hits, striking out eight and walking none to earn the victory. Rockies starter Ryan Castellani went 5 2/3 innings, giving up only the one unearned run and one hit.

Dodgers 8, Astros 1

Chris Taylor had three hits, including a three-run homer in the eighth inning, and Los Angeles beat visiting Houston to avoid its first three-game losing streak of the season. Eight pitchers for Los Angeles combined to limit Houston to one run and four hits. Victor Gonzalez (3-0) was the only pitcher to throw more than one inning and was credited with the win. Los Angeles remains 2 1/2 games in front of the San Diego Padres for the NL West lead. George Springer homered for the Astros, who have lost nine of 11. Houston starter Zack Greinke (3-2) went five innings, allowing five runs and eight hits. He struck out three and didn't walk a batter.

Yankees 3, Orioles 1

Pinch hitter Gleyber Torres hit a tiebreaking two-run double with two outs in the eighth inning and New York ran its winning streak to five games with a victory over visiting Baltimore. With the four-game sweep of the Orioles, the Yankees moved 5 1/2 games ahead of Baltimore for the eighth and final playoff spot in the American League. New York dropped three of four last weekend in Baltimore but outscored the Orioles 21-3 this weekend. Baltimore lost its fifth straight after it had won six of eight to get back into the race. The Orioles also dropped their 10th straight game at Yankee Stadium.

Twins 7, Indians 5

Marwin Gonzalez homered and drove in three runs, and Nelson Cruz crushed his 16th home run as host Minnesota completed a three-game series sweep of Cleveland. Ryan Jeffers and Josh Donaldson also went deep for Minnesota, which won for the 10th time in 12 games this month, amassing 25 home runs during the span. Carlos Santana had three hits and two RBIs for Cleveland, which lost its sixth consecutive game.

Marlins 2, Phillies 1 (Game 1)

Rookie right-hander Sixto Sanchez haunted his former organization, allowing just one run in a complete-game effort as host Miami posted a win over Philadelphia in the front end of a doubleheader. Starling Marte, acquired from the Arizona Diamondbacks on Aug. 31, got the game-winning RBI with a third-inning single. Sanchez (3-1), acquired from the Phillies last year in the trade for catcher J.T. Realmuto, allowed three hits and three walks while striking out four in seven innings. Ramon Rosso (0-1) took the loss, allowing two runs on two hits with three walks in 2 1/3 innings. It was Rosso's first career major-league start and just his sixth appearance.

Marlins 8, Phillies 1 (Game 2)

Left-hander Braxton Garrett earned the victory in his major league debut to help host Miami complete a doubleheader sweep of Philadelphia. The Marlins jumped over the Phillies by a half-game into second place in the National League East. Garrett - the seventh overall pick in 2016 — allowed one run on three hits with six strikeouts in five innings. Philadelphia's Zach Eflin (2-2) was stunned by a 32-pitch, three-run first inning. He lasted four innings, allowing four runs on eight hits and two walks.

Red Sox 6, Rays 3

Martin Perez won for the first time in seven starts, Christian Arroyo homered for the second straight game, and Boston beat Tampa Bay in St. Petersburg, Fla. Perez (3-4) tossed five innings and gave up three runs (two earned) on five hits with six strikeouts. It was his first victory since Aug. 5 when he and four relievers combined on a 5-0 blanking at Tropicana Field—the only shutout against the Rays this year. Tampa Bay's Charlie Morton allowed three runs on six hits in 4 1/3 innings in his third start since returning from the injured list after right shoulder inflammation. Kevan Smith homered for the Rays, and Mike Brosseau went 2-for-5 with a double and an RBI.

Brewers 8, Nationals 4

Adam Duvall and Ozzie Albies each cracked a two-run homer in the sixth inning to help visiting Atlanta notch another come-from-behind victory and beat Washington. The home runs, and swing sixth inning, came against Washington ace Max Scherzer (4-3), who gave up six runs on nine hits with two walks and 10 strikeouts in 5 1/3 innings. The Nationals lost three of four games in the series, and are 4-6 against Atlanta this season. Kyle Wright (1-4) earned his first major league victory after giving up four runs—three earned—on eight hits with two walks and four strikeouts in six innings.

Reds 10, Cardinals 5

Eugenio Suarez hit an RBI double and a solo homer among his three hits as Cincinnati knocked off host St. Louis for its first series victory since Aug. 7-9. The Reds remained in fourth place, 6 1/2 games back of the NL Central-leading Chicago Cubs but within 2 1/2 games of the second-place Cardinals. Reliever Archie Bradley (2-0) earned the victory. Cardinals reliever John Gant (0-3) sustained the loss and also left the game with a groin muscle strain. Brian Goodwin and Aristides Aquino also homered for the Reds. Cincinnati starting pitcher Tyler Mahle lasted just 2 2/3 innings, allowing three runs on four hits and four walks. Cardinals starter Carlos Martinez struck out eight in four innings. He also allowed three runs on six hits and two walks.

White Sox 5, Tigers 2

Yoan Moncada had three hits and an RBI, and Eloy Jimenez had two hits and two RBIs—including a go-ahead solo home run in the fourth inning—to help host Chicago earn a series sweep of Detroit. Chicago remained atop the American League Central with its eighth win in nine games. After the Tigers rallied for a ninth-inning run against Steve Cishek, Alex Colome recorded the final three outs to notch his 11th save in 12 opportunities. The Tigers had early success against White Sox right-hander Jonathan Stiever in his major league debut, but were unable to sustain much offense en route to their 10th loss in the past 13 games.

Mariners 7, Diamondbacks 3

Donovan Walton's three RBIs led Seattle to a series victory over Arizona in Phoenix. Walton's big hit was a two-out, two-run double in the top of the sixth inning, turning a one-run game into a three-run lead for Seattle. The Mariners tacked on two more runs in the top of the eighth inning off Arizona's Junior Guerra, with Phillip Ervin's RBI double and a wild pitch to score Evan White from third base. Arizona couldn't do much against the Mariners' bullpen, with six pitchers covering seven innings and allowing only two runs on four hits. Casey Sadler (1-0) got the win with two innings of scoreless relief, and Kendall Graveman avoided further damage in the eighth.

Royals 11, Pirates 0

Brad Keller pitched his first career shutout as host Kansas City defeated Pittsburgh. Keller allowed just five hits and one walk as the Royals won their sixth straight. Salvador Perez and Hunter Dozier each had three hits, with a home run, for Kansas City. Dozier scored three times and Perez scored twice. Keller (4-2) is 3-0 with a 0.33 ERA (one earned run in 27 innings) at home this season. A one-out double in the sixth ended a stretch of one extra-base hit allowed in the last 157 opponents' plate appearances. Chad Kuhl (1-2) had a rough outing for the Pirates. He allowed nine runs on four hits—with six walks—in 2 1/3 innings.

Rangers 6, Athletics 3

Rougned Odor belted his second three-run home run in two days and right-hander Lance Lynn held visiting Oakland in check for seven innings as Texas managed a four-game split with the American League West leaders in the series finale. Derek Dietrich and Jeff Mathis also homered for the last-place Rangers, who won for just the third time in 10 games against the first-place A's this season. With Lynn (6-2) and A's right-hander Frankie Montas (3-4) both pitching well, the game was tied 1-1 entering the bottom of the sixth. But then, with one out, Isiah Kiner-Falefa and Nick Solak singled consecutively, setting the stage for Odor, who took Montas out to right field.

Blue Jays 7, Mets 3

Santiago Espinal delivered a three-run double in a five-run sixth inning, left-hander Hyun Jin Ryu struck out seven in six innings and Toronto defeated visiting New York at Buffalo. Lourdes Gurriel Jr added a two-run homer for the Blue Jays in the deciding game of a three-game series and also made a high-light defensive play in the first inning on a drive by JD Davis. Ryu (4-1) allowed one run, eight hits and no walks as he retired his final eight batters, four on strikeouts. Mets rookie left-hander David Peterson (4-2) allowed two runs, three hits and two walks in five innings. He struck out two.

Padres 6, Giants 0 (Game 1)

Right-hander Mike Clevinger allowed two hits over seven shutout innings and Greg Garcia and Wil Myers hit a pair of two-out, two-run singles as San Diego defeated visiting San Francisco in the first game of a doubleheader. Clevinger (3-2 overall, 2-1 with the Padres) issued one walk while striking out seven in the seven-inning complete game. The Giants had three baserunners and never had two runners on in the same inning. Clevinger retired the last seven Giants he faced and needed only 99 pitches with his final fastball clocked at 96 mph. The Padres scored two in the second and two in the third off Giants starter Johnny Cueto (2-1), who allowed six runs (four earned) on seven hits and three walks with two strikeouts in 5 1/3 innings.

Padres 3, Giants 1 (Game 2)

Jurickson Profar drove in the tie-breaking run by slashing a fake-bunt single off the glove of San Francisco third baseman Evan Longoria, and Manny Machado singled home a second run in the fifth inning as San Diego swept a doubleheader. The sweep extended the Padres' winning streak to seven games and raised their record to 31-17. San Diego is 19-5 over its past 24 games heading into a three-game series with the National League West-leading Dodgers starting Monday at Petco Park. The Giants had won five straight and were 15-5 over their previous 20 games before losing three straight to the Padres in a series that was interrupted for two days by a false positive on a COVID-19 test. The teams did not play Friday or Saturday and will make up the one unplayed game during the final weekend of the season in San Francisco. —Reuters