

Sports

Photo of the day



Timmy Hansen (SWE) performs during World Rallycross Championship Finland in Kouvola, Finland. —Photo taken from www.redbullcontentpool.com

'I acted like a fool': Neymar regrets Marseille red card

PARIS: Neymar said he "acted like a fool" following his red card against Marseille but called on football officials to do more to combat discrimination after accusing Spanish defender Alvaro Gonzalez of racism. The Brazil forward was one of five players sent off after a mass brawl at the end of PSG's 1-0 loss in Ligue 1 on Sunday, and later claimed Gonzalez had called him a "monkey" in a series of furious tweets.

PSG have stood by the world's most expensive player, saying the club "strongly supports" him, but Neymar conceded he would accept his punishment which is expected to be revealed by the French league's disciplinary commission on Wednesday. "Yesterday I revolted. I was punished with red because I wanted to hit someone who offended me," Neymar said in a lengthy Instagram post Monday.

"I thought I could not leave without doing something because I realized that those in charge would not do anything, did not notice or ignored the fact." Neymar was dismissed for slapping Gonzalez on the back of the head, with team-mates Layvin Kurzawa and Leandro Paredes also sent off, as well as Marseille's Dario Benedetto and Jordan Amavi. "In our sport, aggressions, insults, swearing are part of the game, of the dispute. You can't be affectionate. I understand this guy partly, all is part of the game, but racism and intolerance are unacceptable," Neymar continued.

"Should I have ignored it? I don't know yet... Today, with a cool head, I say yes, but in due course, my companions and I asked the referees for help and we were ignored. "I accept my punishment because I should have followed the path of clean football. I hope, on the other hand, that the offender will also be punished. "Racism exists. It exists, but we have to stop it. No more. Enough!" "The guy was a fool. I also acted like a fool for letting me get involved in that," he added. —AFP

Padres pound Dodgers 7-2

Padres win their eighth consecutive game

LOS ANGELES: Rookie Jorge Ona hit a tiebreaking double to left in the seventh, and the host Padres added four more runs in the inning after a pair of fielding miscues by Dodgers first baseman Max Muncy to score a 7-2 victory on Monday night. The Padres won their eighth consecutive game and cut their deficit to the first-place Dodgers in the National League West to 1 1/2 games. The big inning broke up a pitching duel between the Padres' Dineson Lamet and the Dodgers' Clayton Kershaw. Lamet (3-1) surrendered one run on three hits and two walks with 11 strikeouts over seven innings. He retired the last 12 Dodgers he faced and became the first pitcher to fan 10 Los Angeles hitters in a game this year. Kershaw (5-2) was charged with three runs on five hits with no walks and nine strikeouts in 6 1/3 innings.

Brewers 2, Cardinals 1 (Game 1, 8 innings)

Keston Hiura delivered a sacrifice fly to cap a two-run eighth inning, and host Milwaukee opened a doubleheader with a victory over St. Louis. After Ryan Braun tied the score with a run-scoring double off the center field wall in the bottom, Hiura came through with the sacrifice fly to left to give the Brewers a walk-off victory. The Cardinals broke a scoreless tie in the top of the eighth when Tommy Edman delivered a two-out single to center field to score Tyler O'Neill, a pinch runner for Yadier Molina, who was placed on second base to start the extra inning. Milwaukee answered in the bottom of the frame to snap a 21-inning scoring drought and avoid a third consecutive defeat.

Cardinals 3, Brewers (Game 2, 9 innings)

Paul DeJong delivered an RBI single in the ninth inning for his third hit of the game, and St. Louis earned a split of a doubleheader at Milwaukee in the nightcap. The Cardinals stranded 14 runners in the second game, but DeJong drove in a run when it mattered with his single to left. The Brewers, two games behind the second-place Cardinals in the NL Central, stranded the bases loaded in the bottom of the eighth and left a man on third in the ninth.

Orioles 14, Braves 1

Baltimore cracked three home runs during a nine-run third inning and set a season high for runs in a game to cruise past visiting Atlanta. Baltimore sent 12 batters to the plate in the third. The Orioles got a three-run homer from DJ Stewart — his seventh home run this season, all of them this month — and a solo shot

from Ryan Mountcastle in back-to-back fashion against Atlanta starter Touki Toussaint, then added a three-run homer from Jose Iglesias. Baltimore added a solo homer in the seventh inning from Pat Valaika, whose fly ball bounced off the glove of right fielder Nick Markakis and caromed over the fence. The 14 runs came on the heels of a four-game series against the Yankees that saw the Orioles score only three times.

Reds 3, Pirates 1 (Game 1)

Tyler Stephenson's two-run homer in the seventh inning gave Cincinnati a walk-off victory over visiting Pittsburgh in the first game of a doubleheader. Joey Votto hit a solo homer for Cincinnati, which won consecutive games for the first time in nearly two weeks. Colin Moran hit a home run for the Pirates, who have lost five consecutive games. Cincinnati starter Trevor Bauer was dominant for most of the game. In 6 1/3 innings, he struck out 12 and walked two, giving up one run and four hits. Raisel Iglesias (3-3) got the final two outs of the seventh to earn the victory.

Reds 9, Pirates 4 (Game 2)

Mike Moustakas, Brian Goodwin and Joey Votto homered to lift Cincinnati past visiting Pittsburgh for a sweep of the teams' doubleheader. The Reds, who have won three straight, scored their nine runs on just five hits but were helped by nine walks by Pittsburgh pitching. Ke'Bryan Hayes hit a two-run homer, Josh Bell a solo homer and Colin Moran drove in a run with a double for the Pirates, who lost their sixth in a row.

Marlins 6, Phillies 2

Pablo Lopez snapped his three-game losing streak, leading host Miami to a win over Philadelphia. Miguel Rojas, now batting .370, led Miami's offense, going 2-for-3 with a homer and two runs. Right fielder Matt Joyce led the defense with a pair of over-the-shoulder catches on the warning track. Lopez (4-4) allowed three hits, no walks and one run in seven innings, striking out six and earning his first win since Aug. 24. Vince Velasquez (0-1) gave up seven hits and four runs.

Mariners 6, Athletics 5 (Game 1)

Kyle Lewis hit a two-run homer and walked with two outs and the bases loaded in the bottom of the sixth to break a tie as Seattle rallied from a five-run deficit to defeat visiting Oakland in the opener of a doubleheader. Mariners ace Marco Gonzales (6-2) allowed a season-



SAN DIEGO: Fernando Tatis Jr #23 of the San Diego Padres is tagged out by Brandon Crawford #35 of the San Francisco Giants as he tries to get back to second base during the fifth inning of a baseball game at Petco Park on September 13, 2020. —AFP

high five runs but became the first left-handed starter to defeat the American League West-leading Athletics in 10 attempts this season. Gonzales, who won his fourth straight start, allowed the five runs on six hits in six innings, with one walk and seven strikeouts. Luis Torrens and Jose Marmolejos added solo homers for the Mariners while Tim Lopes had three doubles.

Athletics 9, Mariners 0 (Game 2)

Mike Minor pitched a two-hitter to earn his first victory of the season as Oakland defeated host Seattle to split a makeup doubleheader. Minor (1-5) entered the game with a 6.35 overall ERA on the season. The left-hander walked two and struck out eight in the seven-inning game. Mark Canha and Jake Lamb both homered for the first-place Athletics. The Mariners were shut out for the second time this season and saw

your family, which is the most important thing." That perspective just might do the 31-year-old Northern Irish world number four some good as he seeks to end a six-year major drought this week and lift his second US Open after winning his maiden major at Bethesda way back in 2011.

Treachery afoot

This week will mark the sixth US Open at Winged Foot, rated as the most treacherous host of all, with its notorious rough, vast bunkers and multi-crested greens so slick that 2006 runner-up Colin Montgomerie regarded them as harder to master than Augusta. Since it first played host in 1929, only one player has won with a score under par, Fuzzy Zoeller in 1984. Hale Irwin's victory in 1974's "massacre at Winged Foot" saw him finish seven-over-a score that remains the highest to win a major since the word "par" entered the golfing lexicon in 1911.

"They had trouble finding their ankles, much less the golf ball," said one player that year as a succession of the world's best lost balls in the rough and watched putts run off the greens. The last time Winged Foot staged the US Open, in 2006, Geoff Ogilvy won without breaking par in any round after one of the wildest finishes ever seen in a major. A stroke behind were Montgomerie and Phil Mickelson, who both double-bogeyed the 72nd hole when needing a par to win, and Jim Furyk, who missed a five-foot putt to force a playoff.

Someone has bet \$45,000 on Mickelson to win this week at odds of 75-1. If the 50-year-old does complete his career slam at Winged Foot, the payout would be an astronomical \$3.375 million. "Hoping for both of us I have a 3 shot lead on 18 tee," Lefty tweeted. "The golf course gets tough on the first tee and never gets any easier," Jack Nicklaus famously said. He should know. In 1974 on his opening hole of the tournament he had a

their three-game winning streak snapped.

White Sox 3, Twins 1

Pinch hitter Adam Engel grounded a go-ahead single to center field in the eighth inning, and Tim Anderson went 3-for-5 with an RBI as host Chicago defeated Minnesota to extend its lead atop the American League Central. Chicago moved two games ahead of second-place Minnesota behind a two-run eighth that began with two consecutive walks from Twins left-hander Taylor Rogers (1-4). After he showed hurt on the previous pitch, Engel pulled back his bat and delivered a hit past a charging infield. Minnesota stranded 15 runners, and Chicago left 12 on base. White Sox pitching issued 10 walks. Max Kepler had two hits for the Twins while Jose Abreu and Eloy Jimenez both had a pair of hits for the White Sox.—Reuters

Great wall of Dinah

With no fans, the massive blue barrier behind the 18th green for the LPGA's ANA Inspiration at the Dinah Shore course in Rancho Mirage should have been surplus to requirements. But the 'Great Wall of Dinah,' which normally fronts a temporary grandstand perched above, was installed anyway and ended up stealing the show at the second women's major of the year. Lee Mi-rim was trailing by two when she deliberately powered her second at the par-five closing hole into the blue fence, which handily also prevents overhit approaches from finding a watery grave. She then chipped in for an eagle and won her first major in a playoff with Nelly Korda and Brooke Henderson. "I definitely thought to utilize the backboard," the caddy Lee said. "I practiced that shot." Some were not so enamored. "Honestly, I wish they didn't have that wall there," Korda said presciently earlier in the week. Television commentator Judy Rankin chimed in: "It has been way too artificial. There was no real reason for it to be there. It has affected play way too much." World rankings - Top 10s, week beginning September 14, 2020:

Men - (1) Dustin Johnson (USA) 10.16; (2) Jon Rahm (ESP) 9.85; (3) Justin Thomas (USA) 8.68; (4) Rory McIlroy (NIR) 7.91; (5) Collin Morikawa (USA) 7.68; (6) Webb Simpson (USA) 7.11; (7) Xander Schauffele (USA) 6.42; (8) Brooks Koepka (USA) 6.09; (9) Bryson DeChambeau (USA) 5.88; (10) Patrick Reed (USA) 5.79

Women - (1) Ko Jin-young (KOR) 7.97; (2) Nelly Korda (USA) 6.68 (+1); (3) Danielle Kang (USA) 6.43 (-1); (4) Park Sung-hyun (KOR) 5.51; (5) Minjee Lee (AUS) 5.43; (6) Brooke Henderson (CAN) 5.42 (+3); (7) Kim Sei-young (KOR) 5.24 (-1); (8) Nasa Hataoka (JPN) 5.14 (-1) (9) Park In-bee (KOR) 4.90 (-1); (10) Lexi Thompson (USA) 4.77 (+2). —AFP

Al Ahli into last 16; Asian Champions League returns

DOHA: Saudi club Al Ahli beat Iraq's Al Shorta with a late goal from German international Marko Marin to become the first team into the knockout stages of Asian Champions League as the continental club competition returned in Doha on Monday. Seven months after grinding to a halt because of the COVID-19 pandemic, action in Asia's premier club competition got back underway with three matches in the West Asian hub in Qatar.

The withdrawal of Al Wahda after the Emirati side failed to arrive in the Qatari capital left Group A with only three teams and Al Ahli, runners up in 2012, took full advantage to progress to the last 16. Al Shorta's resumption hit a road bump just before halftime at an empty Khalifa International Stadium when defender Ali Mhawi was sent off for a second bookable offence. The Iraqis still had the better of the second half and it was not until four minutes from time that winger Marin finished coolly from just outside the six-yard box.

"I am happy to play an official game after a long time on the sidelines," the former Werder Bremen and Chelsea player told the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) website. "I am happy to start the competition with a win against a strong team like Al Shorta. It was a great performance ..." In later action, reigning champions Al Hilal made it a good night for Saudi clubs when they also got a late winner to beat Uzbeki champions Pakhtakor 2-1 and move three points clear at the top of Group B. Al Hilal lost the services of five players and a coach when they tested positive for COVID-19 last week. —Reuters

McIlroy in the dad club as toughest test looms: Golf talking points

HONG KONG: The second majors of the year for both men and women dominate AFP Sport's golf talking points this week:

Baby boomers

Rory McIlroy will play his first major as a dad at the US Open this week, after his wife Erica gave birth to daughter Poppy on August 31, and now he can join in the baby talk with plenty of his rivals on course. World number one, FedEx Cup champion, PGA Tour player of the year and 2016 US Open champion Dustin Johnson has two sons with partner Paulina Gretzky, five-year-old Tatum and three-year-old River. Defending champion Gary Woodland has three children with wife Gabby: three-year-old son Jaxson and year-old twin girls, Maddox and Lennox.

McIlroy's Ryder Cup teammate Tommy Fleetwood, the 2018 US Open runner-up, and partner Clare's son Franklin will be three at the end of this month. While fellow Europe star and 2013 US Open champion Justin Rose has Leo, 11, and Lottie, eight, back home in the Bahamas with wife Kate. And of course McIlroy's good friend Tiger Woods is a doting dad to 13-year-old daughter Sam and 11-year-old son Charlie—reportedly no mean junior golfer himself—from his previous marriage to Elin Nordegren. "If you look at fathers in all different sports, golf, tennis, it's not a new lease of life, but it's a different perspective," said McIlroy after practice at the New York course at the weekend. "It's your career, but at the end of the day you get to go home to