

Sports

Photo of the Day



Dominik Paris (ITA) races in Kitzbühel, Austria. — Photo taken from www.redbullcontentpool.com

Ingram rampant as depleted Lakers lose third straight

Suns beat Heat, Nuggets win behind Jokic's triple-double

LOS ANGELES: Brandon Ingram scored 36 points as the New Orleans Pelicans took full advantage of LeBron James' injury absence to pummel the Los Angeles Lakers 128-111 on Tuesday. Ingram, who was drafted by the Lakers in 2016 but traded away by the club in 2019, sent his former team sliding to defeat in a one-sided game at New Orleans' Smoothie King Center.

The Lakers were rocked on Saturday by an injury to James which has left the four-time NBA champion facing several weeks on the sidelines. With Anthony Davis and Marc Gasol already out injured, the depleted Lakers have now lost three consecutive games to fall to fourth place in the Western Conference standings at 28-16.

The Pelicans meanwhile remain in the hunt for a playoff berth after a win that sees them improve to 19-24. The Pels' superior firepower comfortably overwhelmed the Lakers on Tuesday, with Zion Williamson complementing Ingram's display with a 27-point effort.

Nickel Alexander-Walker added 18 points, while Kira Lewis Jr (16 points), Jaxson Hayes (15) and New Zealander Steven Adams (12) also weighed in with double-digit contributions. Montrezl Harrell led the Lakers scoring with 18 points, with Kyle Kuzma and Markieff Morris adding 16 points apiece for the reigning NBA champions.

Lakers coach Frank Vogel said his team must improve offensively in the absence of James and Davis, but insisted the squad could overcome their absence. "Getting us organized offensively is probably my top priority right now," Vogel said. "We're staying positive. We've got a great belief in this group that even with LeBron and AD out we can win games down this stretch and that there'll be a silver lining at the end of it."



NEW ORLEANS: Brandon Ingram of the New Orleans Pelicans shoots over Wesley Matthews of the Los Angeles Lakers during the third quarter of an NBA game at Smoothie King Center on Tuesday in New Orleans, Louisiana. — AFP

Suns rising

In other games Tuesday, Devin Booker scored 23 points and Deandre Ayton added a double-double as the Phoenix Suns extended their winning streak to three games with a 110-100 road win over the Miami Heat. The Suns are now in second spot in the Western Conference after improving to 29-13, two games back from leaders Utah.

The fifth-placed Denver Nuggets meanwhile are closing in on the fourth-placed Lakers after a 110-99 win over the Orlando Magic in Florida. Serbian international Nikola Jokic was once again the star man for Denver, delivering another MVP-

caliber performance with a triple-double featuring 28 points, 15 rebounds and 10 assists.

The Denver win played out against the tragic backdrop of Monday's mass shooting in a supermarket in Boulder, Colorado which left 10 people dead. In pre-game remarks to media, Nuggets coach Michael Malone fought back tears as he read out the names of each of the victims on Monday's massacre. "It's important to turn our attention to where it should be — which is back in Boulder," Malone said. "It feels like we've been here before. Yesterday was another tragedy. Hopefully we can find a way to prevent this happening in the future." — AFP

'One of our sweetest', says Kohli after England ODI win

PUNE: India skipper Virat Kohli said Tuesday's 66-run win over England was "one of the sweetest" after his bowlers hit back following a batting onslaught in the first one-day international. Chasing 318 for victory, the tourists were bowled out for 251 in 42.1 overs despite Jonny Bairstow's 94 and his opening stand of 135 with Jason Roy to trail the three-match series 1-0.

Shikhar Dhawan hit 98 while KL Rahul, 62 not out, and Krunal Pandya, unbeaten 58 off 31 balls, steered the hosts to 317-5 after being put into bat first. "This is one of our sweetest victories in the recent past," skipper Virat Kohli said in the post-match presentation. "It is right up there purely because from 135-1 getting nine wickets is simply outstanding. I am a really, really proud man right now."

Prasidh Krishna, who returned ODI figures of 4-54, a best by an Indian on debut, and fellow quick bowler Shardul Thakur shared seven wickets between them and turned the game on its head after the Bairstow-Roy blitz.

Krishna broke the stand to send back Roy for 46 and then struck in his next over with the key wicket of Ben Stokes for one. He nearly got his third on the next ball when Morgan edged his first ball to Kohli at slip but the

India captain dropped the catch.

Thakur soon took over from Krishna to deny Bairstow his hundred after getting the opener caught at deep midwicket. He then struck twice in his next over to send back Morgan, for 22, and Jos Buttler, lbw for two, as England slipped further to 176-5. Moeen Ali made a fighting 30 before falling to Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who combined with Pandya and Krishna to wipe out the tail.

"We need to execute better than we did today. India did really well and deserved to win," said England captain Eoin Morgan. "Being able to take the attack to the opposition is something that we pride ourselves on. We want to continue to push the envelope in that regard. It's better for us to lose like this than losing by 20 runs."

'Bigger scores'

The away side have fitness worries after Sam Billings "sprained his collar bone joint" and skipper Morgan needed four stitches on the webbing between his thumb and index finger. On the injuries Morgan said, "we are going to wait 48 hours, see how it is. Give them as much time as needed to hopefully be available for Friday (second ODI). When you have a split webbing fielding is a concern and



PUNE: India's captain Virat Kohli (C-R) celebrates with teammate Hardik Pandya (C-L) after the wickets of England's Sam Curran (L) during the first one-day international (ODI) cricket match between India and England at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Pune on Tuesday. — AFP

with Sam obviously landing while he is fielding."

For India, left-hander Pandya, who played alongside his younger brother Hardik Pandya, put on an unbroken stand of 112 with wicketkeeper-batsman Rahul as India finished with a flourish. Stokes struck first with his pace bowling, claiming Rohit Sharma caught behind for 28. He returned figures of 3-34 from eight overs. Dhawan put on 105 for the second wicket with Kohli. He made his 31st ODI fifty with a six off leg-spinner Adil Rashid. Kohli reached a run-a-ball fifty but fell for 56 to pace bowler Mark Wood.

"If I had stayed with Shikhar around that 40-over period we could have got 350," said Kohli. "England hit some amazing shots, and scores will be high scoring moving forward, and we'll look to get bigger scores moving forward."

Dhawan, who hit 11 fours and two sixes in his 106-ball knock, fell short of his hundred after he mistimed a pull off Stokes. Pandya completed his 50 in 26 balls to record the fastest fifty for an ODI debutant and later choked up with emotion while dedicating the innings to his father who died in January. — AFP

FIFA extends ban on Blatter and Valcke by six years

LAUSANNE: FIFA said yesterday it had extended the ban on its former president Sepp Blatter and former secretary-general Jerome Valcke by six years and eight months, in relation to the receipt of huge bonuses. Blatter, who is 85, received 23 million Swiss francs (\$24.6 million) in "extraordinary bonuses" linked to the 2010 World Cup in South Africa and the 2014 World Cup in Brazil as well as the Confederations Cup tournament in Brazil that preceded it, FIFA's Ethics Committee said in a statement.

Valcke, the 60-year-old Frenchman who was Blatter's right-hand man during his 17-year reign at the head of football's world governing body, received 30 million Swiss francs over the same period, the committee said. The Ethics Committee said Blatter and Valcke had broken rules in FIFA's Code of Ethics including "offering and accepting gifts or other benefits" and "abuse of position". The new bans will only come into force when the current bans on Blatter and Valcke, which last till October this year and October 2025, end. The Ethics Committee said it had also fined each man one million Swiss francs. — AFP



BERN: In this file photo taken on September 1, 2020 former president of World football's governing body FIFA, Sepp Blatter looks on as he arrives at the building of the Office of the Attorney General of Switzerland followed by his lawyer Lorenz Erni to a hearing summoned by Swiss prosecutor. — AFP

Battling Fernando leads Sri Lanka fightback in first Test

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA: Oshada Fernando and Lahiru Thirimanne led a Sri Lankan fightback as the tourists reached 255 for four in their second innings, a lead of 153, at close of play on the third day of the first Test against the West Indies in Antigua on Tuesday.

With the other Fernando in the team, fast-medium bowler Visha, doing just what was required in the taking the last two West Indies first innings wickets at the start of the day to dismiss the home side for 271, it was the fluent middle-order batsman Oshada who started with an innings of 91 in a 162-run second wicket partnership with Thirimanne.

Fernando, in just his eighth Test, came to crease in the fifth over of the innings when his captain Dimuth Karunaratne, failed for the second time in the match, driving loosely at Kemar Roach to give John Campbell a straightforward catch at third slip.

The 28-year-old Fernando was given a life on 17 when he was dropped at leg-slip by Jason Holder off off-spinner Rakheem Cornwall but looked assured throughout his innings which spanned 149 deliveries and included 11 fours. Fernando appeared destined for a second Test hundred until West Indies skipper Kraigg Brathwaite, in what was either a moment of inspiration or desperation, brought on Kyle Mayers as his seventh bowler of the innings.

The occasional medium-pacer met with instant



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA: Oshada Fernando (L) of Sri Lanka hits a 4 during day 3 of the 1st Test between West Indies and Sri Lanka at Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium in North Sound, Antigua and Barbuda, on Tuesday. — AFP

success as Fernando pushed at his first ball, a full-length delivery just outside off-stump, and edged a catch to wicketkeeper Joshua Da Silva. Mayers then removed Dinesh Chandimal in almost identical fashion two overs later. When Roach returned for another spell and bowled the obdurate Thirimanne for 76 to follow his first innings top score of 70, Sri Lanka were wobbling at 189 for four.

Just when the West Indies might have sensed a chance to sweep away the rest of the Sri Lankan batting, Dhananjaya de Silva and debutant Pathum Nissanka featured in an unbroken fifth-wicket partnership of 66 and will resume on the fourth morning seeking to extend their overall lead beyond 250 to give themselves a fighting chance of pulling off a come-from-behind victory.

"I think this is a good batting pitch because it has flattened out nicely," said Mayers in assessing the day's toil, even with his double-strike. "They had the upper hand today but the game is still evenly poised. We just need to pick up two early wickets (on the fourth day) and things can look very differently."

Earlier, West Indian hopes of extending their 99-run overnight lead ended in the second over of the day when Vishwa Fernando bowled Cornwall for a top score of 61 and then trapped last man Shannon Gabriel leg-before without scoring.

Suranga Lakmal missed out the tail but ended with career-best Test innings figures of five for 47, an improvement on the fast-medium bowler's previous best of five for 54 against New Zealand in the Boxing Day Test in Christchurch in 2018. — AFP