



**KANSAS CITY:** Patrick Mahomes #15 of the Kansas City Chiefs points to the defense before the snap during the first quarter of the game against the Dallas Cowboys at Arrowhead Stadium on Sunday in Kansas City, Missouri. — AFP

## Chiefs defense stops Cowboys

### Kansas City's resurgence continues with fourth straight win

**LOS ANGELES:** Patrick Mahomes completed 23-of-37 passes for 260 yards and Clyde Edwards ran for 63 yards and a touchdown as the Kansas City Chiefs smothered the Dallas Cowboys 19-9 with the help of a stifling defense on Sunday.

Kansas City's defense provided all sorts of trouble for Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott as the Chiefs improved to 4-0 against NFC East opponents and extended their winning streak to four straight. The contest was another step in the Chiefs' resurgence this season as they toppled one of the league's most potent offenses in front of a crowd of 73,500 at Arrowhead Stadium.

"This entire season, there's been a lot of ups and downs for everybody," said Mahomes. "We've had games where we put up a lot of points and played good, and games we haven't, and we still found a way to get a win."

Kansas City's Charvarius Ward picked off Prescott in the end zone near the end of the first half, and Chris Jones had 3 1/2 sacks while forcing and recovering a fumble. After a shaky start which saw the 2019 Super Bowl champions stuck in the cellar of the AFC West on November 1, the Chiefs have recovered in recent weeks and now

head the division at 7-4. An emphatic 41-14 victory over the Las Vegas Raiders last weekend and now the win over Dallas is more evidence the worst may well be behind Andy Reid's team.

"We had a few rough weeks. We had a lot of guys injured. It wasn't clicking. But when you take everything into consideration, we were still able to compete," said Jones. "And to have everyone back and build that chemistry, I think it's a huge part of our success right now." Prescott was held to 216 yards passing and two interceptions for Dallas.

In Chicago, Devonta Freeman's three-yard touchdown run with 22 seconds left lifted the Baltimore Ravens to a 16-13 win against the Chicago Bears. Backup quarterback Tyler Huntley engineered the winning drive after getting the start in place of former league MVP Lamar Jackson, who was sidelined before the game with an unspecified illness.

That meant the undrafted Huntley got his first NFL start and completed 26-of-36 passes for 219 yards and one interception and ran for 40 yards. Bears rookie quarterback Justin Fields exited Sunday's game against the Ravens after injuring his ribs.

Andy Dalton came on early in the third quarter when Fields left after being hit on a six-yard run. Dalton finished 11-for-23 for 201 yards and two touchdowns. Bears coach Matt Nagy said he didn't have any information about Fields during his postgame news conference. "I don't know any of that right now," Nagy said. Fields completed

four of 11 passes for 79 yards. In Minneapolis, Kirk Cousins passed for 341 yards and three touchdowns, and Greg Joseph made a 29-yard field goal as time expired to lift the Minnesota Vikings to a 34-31 win over the Green Bay Packers. Justin Jefferson had eight catches for 169 yards and two touchdowns for

Minnesota. Adam Thielen added eight catches for 82 yards and one touchdown, and Dalvin Cook had 22 carries for 86 yards and a touchdown.

#### Rodgers injury worsens

Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers completed 23-of-33 passes for a season-high 385 yards and four touchdowns. After missing time earlier due to COVID-19 quarantine, Rodgers was unable to practice much this week because of a toe injury. He said the injury was aggravated on Sunday.

"It's very, very painful. I got stepped on in the first half, and that kind of activated all the symptoms that I was having," Rodgers said. "It's going to be another painful week next week, and then hopefully I can get healed up during the bye."

Davante Adams had seven catches for 115 yards and two touchdowns, and Marquez Valdes-Scantling had four catches for 123 yards and one touchdown. Also, Jonathan Taylor rushed for 185 yards and scored a franchise-record five touchdowns as the Indianapolis Colts clobbered the Buffalo Bills 41-15. In Seattle, Colt McCoy, substituting for the injured Kyler Murray, threw two touchdown passes as the Arizona Cardinals defeated the Seattle Seahawks 23-13. — AFP



#### Rodgers aggravates injury in loss

### LeBron James ejected in Lakers win over Pistons

**LOS ANGELES:** LeBron James was ejected after bloodying Detroit's Isaiah Stewart with a swipe to the face in the Los Angeles Lakers 121-116 victory over the Pistons on Sunday night in Detroit. The NBA superstar was thrown out for just the second time in his career after striking Stewart in the face while the pair were battling for rebounding position.

Stewart, who was cut above the right eye, tried to confront James. That led to a scrum of players from both teams coming together with several coaches and security people also joining the fray as the Piston player repeatedly tried to get back at James.

The incident occurred with 9:18 remaining in the third quarter and the Lakers trailing 79-67. The Lakers came into the contest on a three-game losing streak and a disappointing 8-9 on the season. Anthony Davis, who scored a team-high 30 points, came to the defense of his teammate after the game in which the Lakers came from behind to win.

"Everyone in the league knows that (James) isn't a dirty guy. As soon as he did it, he looked back and told him, 'My bad. I didn't try to do it.' I don't know what (Stewart) was trying to do. Nobody on our team, 1-15, was having it," he said.

Stewart was initially whistled for a loose ball foul. Following a video review, James was then slapped with a flagrant foul two and sent to the locker room. Stewart was handed two



**DETROIT:** Detroit Pistons' head coach Dwane Casey and guard Cade Cunningham calm down forward Isaiah Stewart after he was struck by LeBron James of the Los Angeles Lakers during the third quarter of the game at Little Caesars Arena on Sunday in Detroit, Michigan. — AFP

technical fouls and thrown out, and Lakers guard Russell Westbrook was called for a technical foul.

James finished with 10 points and five assists. Lakers coach Frank Vogel said he was relieved to see that it didn't escalate further. "Our guys did a good job of protecting our teammate. You want peacekeepers in those situations. Forming a wall around a teammate and standing up before it turned into something uglier."

The only other time James has been ejected from a game was November 17 against the Miami Heat. "His eye was cracked open. He (Stewart) was upset for a reason, but I don't think LeBron is a dirty player," said Pistons coach Dwane Casey.

The Lakers five-game road trip continues Wednesday against Indiana. Cade

Cunningham, the No. 1 overall pick in the entry draft, had 13 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists to become the youngest player in Pistons franchise history with a triple-double.

Elsewhere, Paul George scored a game-high 29 points as the Los Angeles Clippers beat the Luka Doncic-less Dallas Mavericks 97-91 in Southern California. Reggie Jackson scored 23 points for the Clippers, who won the first game of a back-to-back series between the two Western Conference teams.

Jackson made four threes and Ivica Zubac recorded his fifth double-double of the season with 16 points and 10 rebounds for the Clippers, who snapped a two-game losing skid. Kristaps Porzingis led Dallas with 25 points and eight rebounds while Jalen Brunson added 20 points and eight assists for the Mavs, who lost their third straight. — AFP

### Southgate rewarded with new deal

**LONDON:** Gareth Southgate has been rewarded with a two-year contract extension after leading England to the final of Euro 2020, the Football Association announced yesterday. Southgate, who also masterminded a run to the semi-finals at the 2018 World Cup in Russia, has transformed his team into serious contenders at major tournaments after years of underachievement. Reports in recent weeks suggested the 51-year-old was set to sign a new deal, which had been due to end after the Qatar World Cup late next year.

"The FA is delighted to confirm Gareth Southgate and (assistant) Steve Holland have signed new contracts through to December 2024," the FA said in a statement. "Southgate, who marks five years in charge at the end of this month, has overseen a period of positive progress, guiding England to a FIFA World Cup semi-final and UEFA Nations League third place before securing the best men's performance in 55 years with the UEFA Euro final this summer."

The new deal means the England boss will oversee qualification for Euro 2024, which is being held in Germany. "I

am delighted that Steve and I have been able to extend our stay in our respective roles," said the former Middlesbrough boss. "It remains an incredible privilege to lead this team."

"We have a great opportunity in front of us and I know they and the fans are all excited about what this squad could achieve in future," he added. Southgate, a former England international defender, took the England reins in 2016 after Sam Allardyce's reign ended after just one match in the wake of a newspaper sting.

Months earlier Roy Hodgson's England suffered humiliation at Euro 2016, crashing out at the hands of minnows Iceland in the last 16. Southgate took his young team to the semi-finals at the World Cup in Russia, where they lost 2-1 to Croatia in extra-time. His side, combining exciting attacking talent with a solid defensive base, came agonizingly close to ending their trophy drought at this year's Euro 2020 but lost to Italy on penalties at Wembley.

England booked their place at next year's World Cup in Qatar with a 10-0 hammering of San Marino last week to top their group. Expectations are high that England, whose only major tournament win came at the 1966 World Cup, can mount a strong challenge at the World Cup next year, with a crop of young players who now have invaluable experience under the belts. Their challenge will potentially be complicated by a lack of preparation time. — AFP