



KUWAIT: Under the auspices and with the attendance of MOI's undersecretary, Lt. General, Suleiman Al-Fahad, MOI's assistant undersecretary for special security, Maj. General Mahmoud Al-Doussari, Sheikh Duaij Fahad Al-Duaij and the Police Sports Federation chairman, Maj. General, Faisal Al-Snain, the 10th late Salwa Sabah Al-Ahmed Futsal Championship was recently concluded at Sabah Al-Ahmed marine base.

## FRAZIER WINS ALL-STAR DERBY IN HOME PARK

**CINCINNATI:** Cincinnati third baseman Todd Frazier won the Home Run Derby on Monday, becoming only the second player to do so on his home field in the traditional lead-up event to the All-Star game.

Frazier topped Los Angeles Dodgers rookie Joc Pederson 15-14 with another late surge and one last perfectly timed swing.

"No pressure here with these fans," he said, after accepting the crossed bats trophy to one more standing ovation at Great American Ball Park. Frazier joined the Chicago Cubs' Ryne Sandberg for home-field homer titles; the Hall of Fame second baseman did it at Wrigley Field in 1990.



**CINCINNATI:** National League's Todd Frazier, of the Cincinnati Reds, holds the trophy after winning the MLB All-Star baseball Home Run Derby. — AP

After finishing second last year in Minneapolis, this one was as sweet as that winning swing. "That pushed me a lot," Frazier said. "I wanted to get back here. I'd been working in the offseason a little bit. I'm just glad it was in Cincinnati and they could enjoy it with me." Pederson was trying to become the first rookie since Wally Joyner in 1986 to win or share the title. He reached the final round by knock-

ing off Los Angeles Angels slugger Albert Pujols, who provided a blast after making the All-Star team for the first time in five years.

"I'm happy for Todd, especially being able to do it in front of his fans," Pujols said. "It's his night. He deserves it. I just hope the fans were pleased and happy with the performance every single guy did. The right guy won, too." Frazier topped Prince Fielder and Josh Donaldson to reach the finals, where he faced his biggest test. Pederson went first and matched the highest total of the night with 14 homers. Frazier needed a late surge to pull even, tying him with 11 seconds left in his round.

He'd hit enough long homers to earn an extra 30 seconds, giving him a chance to take a few deep breaths, regroup and refocus.

On the first pitch from brother Charlie in extra time, Frazier puffed his cheeks and exhaled as he hit one solidly, then mouthed the words "That's gone" as the ball headed for the left field stands. The ballpark was full of fans with arms raised even before the ball landed.

Meanwhile, not too long ago, Mike Trout, Bryce Harper and Gerrit Cole were the ones picking up the extra balls and getting pranked into paying the pricey checks. Now, along with the likes of Kris Bryant, Matt Harvey and many others, they've become the face of the All-Star Game and the future of the major leagues.

"The Derek Jeter generation in the last few years came to the end of their careers. We have a great new crop of young players," new Commissioner Rob Manfred said.

This is an age when The Kids are All Right - a record 20 of the 76 All-Stars for Tuesday night's game are 25 or younger, according to STATS.

"I think the young talent in baseball is better than it's been in years," said Yankees first baseman Mark Teixeira, one of the older All-Stars at 35. "These are exciting players, players that kids can look up to." His former teammates - baseball royalty, in the form of Mariano Rivera and Jeter - are gone.

The brash bats who rule the new era belong to Giancarlo Stanton, Yasiel Puig and Manny Machado, trying to solve bold arms led by Chris Archer, Cole and Harvey. Major League Baseball, which often relies on the nostalgia of its 19th-century roots, is striving to connect with 21st-century youth more familiar with Reddit and Tinder than Josh Reddick and Brandon Pinder. "We're working very hard to give our fans the kind of access to those players and others in order to raise their awareness of these players," Manfred said. "We do realize we have a challenge in that regard because of what I characterize as generational change." How different it was in 2011, when Trout was 19 and arrived at his first big league camp. Some Los Angeles Angels veter-

ans invited him to dinner Mastro's City Hall Steakhouse in Scottsdale, Arizona.

A waiter brought the check, which came to \$1,800, and ace pitcher Jered Weaver handed it to Trout and told him the bill was his to pay.

When Trout arrived at Tempe Diablo Stadium a few days later, he found a toy truck in front of his locker. Inside were 7,200 quarters.

And Weaver punked the newbie outfielder later in spring training with a message on the right-field scoreboard, urging fans to call "Mike Trout directly with your baseball questions" during an exhibition game - with his actual cell phone number, of course.

"It was pretty creative of them," said Trout, now a four-time All-Star and winner of an MVP award. "It's part of breaking into the big leagues."

At 23, Bryant looks more high school student than big-time ballplayer. He made his big league debut in April, and his 12 homers and 51 RBIs have given Chicago Cubs' fans hope of a first World Series title since 1908. Face of the game? He doesn't think so. "It is pretty cool to be mentioned in the same sentence as those guys," he said.

Cole, a new All-Star at age 24, hopes to bring the Pirates their first title since 1979. He's just two years removed from bringing the veterans balls and gloves out to the field every day during spring train-

ing and proving his worth to teammates with a different kind of pitch.

"We'd sing a lot of songs on the bus," he said. "My voice has gotten better - my pitch probably not so much." Production on the field. Personality off it. That's what baseball's bosses are looking for.

MLB announced in February it had hired Anomaly its new multimedia creative marketing agency. Its first campaign, "This in Baseball," debuted in April for opening day and featured Trout, Stanton and Puig. Others highlighted this season include Joc Pederson, Nolan Arenado and George Springer. "When you look at the Mike Trouts and the Bryce Harpers and the Kris Bryants of the world, we're just so fortunate and we need to take advantage of this opportunity to the fullest," said Jacqueline Parkes, Major League Baseball's senior vice president and chief marketing officer.

Yet as much as baseball tries to move forward, the sport always looks behind. Hosting the All-Stars for the first time since 1988, the Reds celebrate their history at Great American Ball Park, which opened in 2003. Statues of former stars Ted Kluszewski, Ernie Lombardi, Joe Nuxhall and Frank Robinson greet fans outside the home plate gate in Crosley Terrace, an homage to the sloped outfield at the team's home from 1912-70.

A Rose Garden outside the first-base stands was planted in tribute to - who else? - Pete Rose, the hometown hero banned from baseball for life for gambling on the Reds to win while playing and managing the club. The symbol of this year's Midsummer Classic is a handlebar mustache, befitting the club that became baseball's first professional franchise in 1869. Special old-style caps with horizontal stripes will be used, although not in the traditional "pill box" shape.

There are two smokestacks in right center, and a riverboat deck sits above the batter's eye in center field. For the Home Run Derby on Monday night, batters fell short in their efforts to hit the ball into the next state. A 1980 US Supreme Court decision determined the Ohio-Kentucky border was the low-water mark on the northerly side of the Ohio River - as it existed in 1792, when Kentucky became the 15th US state. Adam Dunn is said to have hit a drive off the Dodgers' Jose Lima on Aug. 1, 2004, that cleared the batter's eye in center, bounced on the street outside the ballpark - an estimated 535 feet from home plate - and was found among some driftwood in the river.

"I wasn't there for that," said Cincinnati's Todd Frazier, who beat Pederson 15-14 in the Home Run Derby final, "but I heard that ball is still going." —AP



**CINCINNATI:** National League's Kris Bryant of the Chicago Cubs hits during the MLB All-Star baseball Home Run Derby. — AP