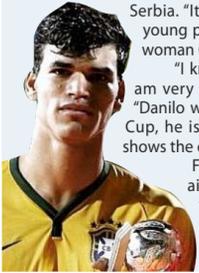


## VALENCIA SIGN DANILLO

**MADRID:** Valencia have added an extra option in central midfield by agreeing to sign Brazil youth international Danilo Barbosa on loan from Portuguese side Braga for the 2015-16 season, the La Liga club said yesterday. The deal, which Valencia announced on their website (www.valenciafc.com), includes a purchase option for the 19-year-old, who is valued at 7 million euros (\$7.7 million) on Transfermarkt.com.

Captain Danilo shone for Brazil at the under-20 World Cup in New Zealand last month, winning the Silver Ball as the second-best player of the tournament as the South Americans finished runners-up to Serbia. "It is pleasing to announce the signing of another young player of quality for the Valencia family," club chairwoman Chan Lay Hoon said.



"I know that many clubs were interested in him but I am very happy he chose to join our project," she added. "Danilo was one of the best players at the Under-20 World Cup, he is the captain of the Brazil team and I think this shows the character he has."

Following last year's takeover by Singapore billionaire Peter Lim, Valencia are ambitious to return to the top in Spain and Europe after a period of instability marked by financial troubles and disappointment on the pitch.

## LACK OF INTEREST IN CRICKET

**SYDNEY:** The Champions League Twenty20 tournament, which has been run since 2009 by the cricket boards of India, Australia and South Africa, has been discontinued with immediate effect because of lack of interest. The 2015 edition, which would have been the seventh and was scheduled for September and October, has been cancelled because of the tournament's "limited public following", organisers said in a news release on Wednesday. "It was a fantastic platform for players from around the world to showcase their talent and the participating teams thoroughly enjoyed the experience over the last six seasons," Anurag Thakur, the honorary secretary at the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said.

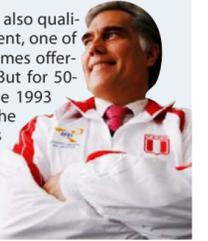
"Unfortunately, off the field, Champions League T20 wasn't sustaining the interest of the fans as we had hoped. This decision was made, after consultation with all our commercial partners and meeting the contractual obligations of all parties involved." Launched by BCCI, Cricket Australia and Cricket South Africa in 2008, the competition offered a highly lucrative prize pool of \$6 million with \$2.5 million going to the winners. It brought together teams from the India Premier League, Australia's Big Bash League, South Africa's Ram Slam T20 Challenge and Caribbean Premier League along with other qualifiers. The inaugural event was cancelled after the death of 164 people in coordinated attacks on Mumbai in November 2008, however, and the tournament failed to gain any real traction thereafter. The Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings were the most successful teams in the competition after they both won it twice with the Super Kings securing what will be the final title in Bangalore last year. — Reuters

## SHOOTER QUALIFIES FOR OLYMPICS

**TORONTO:** Peru's Francisco Boza Dibos gave up shooting three years ago but his decision to return paid off on Tuesday as he won the gold medal in men's trap at the Pan American Games to qualify for his eighth Summer Olympics.

Boza Dibos, who won the silver medal at the 1984 Los Angeles Games, hit 11 of his 15 targets in the gold medal match while Argentina's Fernando Borello missed his last three targets and settled for 10 of 15. "I never imagined that I would be so lucky to win the gold," Boza Dibos, who was Peru's flag bearer in the Opening Ceremony of the 2004 Athens Olympic, told reporters. "I left the sport three years ago and worked for the government. I started training in October 2014."

While Borello had to settle for the silver medal, he also qualified for the Rio Games as a top two finisher in the event, one of a handful of disciplines at the July 10-26 Pan Am Games offering a chance to secure an Olympic berth. But for 50-year-old Boza Dibos, who finished first in trap at the 1993 Shooting Championship of the Americas, winning the gold medal more than exceeded his expectations. "This is a surprise for me to win. I never expected to do it," said Boza Dibos. "I feel that this is good for the youth of Peru to get ready to represent our country in four years." — Reuters



**CINCINNATI:** American League's Brian Dozier, of the Minnesota Twins, hits a home run during the eighth inning of the MLB All-Star baseball game. — AP

# AL ALL-STAR TOP NL

**CINCINNATI:** Mike Trout flashed the skill that puts him at the front of baseball's new generation, just moments after four of the all-time greats walked off the field.

Trout became the first player in 38 years to homer leading off an All-Star Game, then became the first player to take home the Midsummer Classic's MVP award two years in row. A new-look All-Star Game finished with the same old result. The AL beat the NL 6-3 Tuesday night and will open the World Series at home for the 10th time in 13 years.

"It's obviously a humbling honor with the MVPs," Trout said in his usual understated, aw-shucks manner. After Trout completed a career All-Star cycle in just his fifth big league season, Prince Fielder delivered. He drove in two runs, sending Trout blazing home ahead of Joc Pederson's throw with the run off Clayton Kershaw that put the AL ahead for good.

In an age of dominant pitching, Felix Hernandez, winner David Price, Zach Britton, Dellin Betances and Wade Davis took scoreless turns in the AL's third win a row.

Playing on the AL West-leading Los Angeles Angels, Trout could add an even bigger honor this fall - his first World Series ring.

"He can do anything that anybody can do on a baseball field," AL manager Ned Yost said. "He can hit with power. He can run. He can drive the gap. He's a great defender. He's just special. When you look at Mike, you don't look at a 23-year-old. You look at a guy that is one of the best baseball players on this planet." A season after the retirement of Derek Jeter dropped the curtain on the turn-of-century greats, Trout was among six starting position players under 25 - the most since 1965. At last year's game in Minneapolis, he hit a tiebreaking triple and later a go-ahead double. This time Trout sent Zack Greinke's fourth pitch, a 94 mph fastball on the outer half of the plate, over the wall in right next to the visiting bullpen for an opposite-field homer.

Winner of his first season AL MVP award in 2014, the center fielder joined Willie Mays, Steve Garvey, Gary Carter and Cal Ripken, Jr. as the only two-time All-Star MVPs.

Stars old and young gathered in one of baseball's most traditional towns. The Reds became baseball's first professional team in 1869, and players wore caps with horizontal stripes in an attempt at a 19th century feel. Pete Rose,

Cincinnati's hometown hero and baseball's banned career hits leader, was given an 80-second ovation when he walked onto the field before the game to join Johnny Bench, Joe Morgan and Barry Larkin, elected by fans as the Reds' greatest players. Wearing a red jacket and tie and walking stiffly, the now 74-year-old Charlie Hustle was applauded as soon as his image appeared on the video boards, even before he emerged from the AL dugout.

And in the first All-Star Game at Great American Ballpark, which opened in 2003, fans got to see some great ballplayers. Bench, changed into a blue jacket, returned with Hank Aaron, Mays and Sandy Koufax, voted baseball's great living players by fans as part of the promotion. In a sentimental yet stunning reminder of generational change, Aaron, 81, and Morgan, 71,

needed canes to reach the infield, and Mays, 84, was aided on and off the field by an assistant.

"Growing up, I didn't get to see them play that much," Trout said. "But looking up, seeing highlights of all the Hall of Famers, it's something I really look forward to looking at and I'm learning more about them, just how great they played in every respect of the game."

Above the field, new Commissioner Rob Manfred watched from a luxury suite, the first All-Star Game not presided over by Bud Selig since 1992. Many players of the new generation love bling in a manner that puzzles the old guard: Posey wore a gold-colored helmet behind the plate, looking a bit like the Great Gazoo or a Praetorian Guard, accessorizing with a chest protector, shin guards and cleats all with gold-colored trim. Baltimore's Adam Jones was shod in

bright orange cleats, and Kansas City's Lorenzo Cain and Washington's Bryce Harper donned golden spikes.

Trout, a Generation Y star with a baby boomer work ethic, completed a unique cycle on a clear evening that followed a heavy afternoon downpour. He singled in his All-Star debut in 2012, doubled to open 2013 game and tripled in the first inning last year. He was just the ninth player to hit for an All-Star cycle in his entire career, joining an illustrious list that includes Hall of Famers Ted Williams, Roberto Clemente, Ernie Banks, George Brett, Mike Schmidt and Mays. Fielder later became the 10th.

No one had homered leading off an All-Star Game since 1977 at old Yankee Stadium, when Morgan connected off Jim Palmer. Greinke, coming off five scoreless outings, had not allowed a run since June 13. "It's not easy," Greinke said of pitching to Trout. "You've got like a 2-inch window up in the zone. If you throw it higher than that, he takes it. If you throw it lower, he does what he did."

Fielder and Lorenzo Cain had run-scoring hits in the fifth against Kershaw, the reigning NL MVP, that put the AL ahead 3-1. Manny Machado, at 23 another of the sport's fresh faces, hit a double off the right-field wall against Francisco Rodriguez in the seventh and scored on Fielder's sacrifice fly. And Brian Dozier, the last player added to the game as an injury replacement, hit a solo home run off Mark Melancon in the eighth.

NL runs came home on Jhonny Peralta's RBI single in the second, Andrew McCutchen's homer off Chris Archer in the sixth and Brandon Crawford's sacrifice fly in the ninth.

NL manager Bruce Bochy thought ahead to some future ceremony involving Trout, perhaps at an All-Star Game or World Series, perhaps at the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. "He's going to be standing there, I think, with the guys we saw tonight," Bochy said.

The AL is 21-6-1 in the last 28 games, losing three straight from 1994-96 and 2010-12. The NL leads the matchup 43-41-2. Jacob deGrom of the Mets, the NL Rookie of the Year, struck out Stephen Vogt, Jason Kipnis and Jose Iglesias on 10 pitches in the sixth, reaching 98 mph. ... Reds closer Aroldis Chapman threw 12 of 14 pitches at 100 mph or more in the ninth, reaching 103 mph and striking out the side. NL pitchers struck out 15. — AP



**CINCINNATI:** American League's Mike Trout of the Los Angeles Angels holds the MVP trophy after the MLB All-Star baseball game. — AP

## KIPSANG FOCUSED ON GOLD IN BEIJING

**NAIROBI:** Former Kenyan world marathon record holder and Olympic bronze medallist Wilson Kipsang is not planning to run another competitive race, but is focused on reclaiming the world title for Kenya in Beijing next month. The 33-year-old two-time London marathon winner says he has not been in the best of shape possible in his five recent races.

He was beaten into second place by compatriot Eliud Kipchoge at the London marathon in April, and finished fourth and fifth respectively in two half-marathon races in New York and the Czech Republic last month. "It has been a very busy year for me so far," said Kipsang, who is one of the star athletes to participate in an ongoing 836 kilometre (520 mile) "walk for peace" relay, organised by former Commonwealth champion John Kelai. The 22-day march, aimed to raise awareness to help end ethnic violence in northern Kenya, started in the semi-arid Rift Valley town of Lodwar on Wednesday.

"Since my last race in Olomouc, I have been back in Kenya recovering from all these races and starting my preparation for the upcoming world championships in Beijing. The conditions in Beijing are going to be very tough because of the heat and the humidity. That's why I have started training in similar conditions to get used to this type of climate."

"One of the few things lacking in my career is a medal at the world championships. This is why my focus is now completely on becoming a world marathon champion. I dream of reclaiming the title for Kenya in Beijing." Kipsang is included in a six-man provisional team, which includes the current world record holder, Dennis Kimetto, and Mark Korir, the 2015 Paris marathon winner.

Only three athletes will make the final team for the August 22-30 championships, with the national selection scheduled to be held on August 1 after the Kenyan trials at the Nairobi's Kasarani stadium. — AFP