

Sports

Boston Red Sox fail to clinch AL East title again after loss to Astros

Playoff-chasing Rockies homer 4 times to beat Dodgers 9-1

BOSTON: The Boston Red Sox once again failed to clinch the AL East, losing 3-2 to Alex Bregman and the Houston Astros on Friday night. The magic number for the Red Sox remained at one. Boston leads the New York Yankees by two games - both teams have two games left and they are each assured playoff spots. If Boston and New York wind up even, they will play a one-game tiebreaker tomorrow at Yankee Stadium for the division crown, with the loser going to the wild-card game. Bregman homered and drove in three runs for Houston, which reached 100 wins for the second time in team history. Charlie Morton (14-7) pitched into the sixth inning, and Ken Giles got three outs for his 34th save.

ROCKIES 9, DODGERS 1

Nolan Arenado hit the first of Colorado's four homers, and Chad Bettis picked up his second win since his return from testicular cancer. The Rockies have two games remaining and hold a two-game lead over Milwaukee for the second NL wild card. Mark Reynolds, Charlie Blackmon and Trevor Story also connected for Colorado. Bettis (2-4) allowed one run over seven innings. Los Angeles' Hyun-Jin Ryu (5-9) allowed five runs over two innings. It was his shortest outing this season.

BREWERS 5, CARDINALS 3

Stephen Vogt homered and drove in three runs, Chase Anderson pitched seven solid innings, and Milwaukee kept its playoff hopes alive. The Brewers entered two games behind the Rockies for the second NL wild card. Milwaukee has won four of its last six games. Anderson (12-4) allowed one run and three hits in his fourth win in

highest total since coming to the major leagues, and the playoff-bound Yankees won for the fourth time in five games. Tanaka (13-12) retired his first 14 batters before Ezequiel Carrera reached on an infield single up the middle. Aroldis Chapman worked the ninth for his 21st save in 25 chances. Greg Bird had two hits and two RBIs for New York, and Aaron Judge also drove in a run. Toronto right-hander Joe Biagini (3-13) allowed three runs and six hits in five innings.

MARLINS 6, BRAVES 5

Miami slugger Giancarlo Stanton had two hits, but remained at 59 home runs. Marcell Ozuna drove in three runs for Miami, which trailed 5-0 heading into the sixth inning. Adam Conley (8-8) pitched a scoreless seventh for the win, and Brad Ziegler got two outs for his 10th save. The Marlins scored four times in the seventh. Justin Bour's two-run single gave Miami a 6-5 lead. The Marlins also got run-scoring singles from Ozuna and Stanton off Dan Winkler (0-1). Ozzie Albies and Lane Adams homered for Atlanta.

CUBS 5, REDS 4

Ian Happ hit a three-run homer with two outs in the eighth inning, and the Cubs won for the 14th time in 17 games. With a second straight NL Central title in hand and their sights set on another World Series championship, the Cubs held sluggers Anthony Rizzo and Kris Bryant out of the lineup. Trailing 4-2 in the eighth, Tommy La Stella started the rally with a one-out single against Amir Garrett. Taylor Davis then singled to third off Michael Lorenzen (8-4). After Kyle Schwarber struck out, Happ drove his 24th homer to left. Brian Duensing (1-1) pitched a scoreless eighth. Justin Grimm worked the ninth for his first save in three chances.

NATIONALS 6, PIRATES 1

Stephen Strasburg pitched 7 2/3 shutout innings for Washington, and Ryan Zimmerman homered twice. Strasburg (15-4) gave up two hits, struck out eight and walked two. He is 5-1 with a 0.84 ERA since returning from the disabled list on Aug. 19. Zimmerman hit a two-run homer in the sixth and a solo shot in the eighth for the NL East champions. It was his seventh multihomer game of the season.

Pittsburgh's Gerrit Cole (12-12) was charged with three runs and eight hits in 5 1/3 innings.

INDIANS 10, WHITE SOX 1

Edwin Encarnacion hit a three-run double for the AL Central champion Indians, and Jay Bruce and Jose Ramirez drove in two runs apiece. Cleveland maintained its one-game lead over Houston for the best record in the AL with two games remaining. The top seed will play the winner of the wild-card game between the Yankees and Twins in the Division Series. The Indians' 101 victories are the second-most in franchise history and set a record for wins by an AL Central team. Cleveland's Trevor Bauer (17-9) allowed one run over six innings. Cleveland built a 10-0 lead after three innings, aided by six walks from Mike Pelfrey (3-12) and an error by shortstop Tim Anderson.

ROYALS 2, DIAMONDBACKS 1

Kansas City's Ian Kennedy picked up his first home



BOSTON: Boston Red Sox's Rajai Davis reacts after striking out to end the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Houston Astros at Fenway Park in Boston, Friday. — AP

victory in more than a year. Kennedy (5-13) snapped a franchise record of 18 winless home starts, holding the postseason-bound Diamondbacks to one run in five innings. It was his first Kauffman Stadium victory since Aug. 20, 2016. Jake Lamb hit his 30th homer in the second for Arizona. Zack Greinke (17-7) allowed two runs in four-plus innings in his final tuneup before starting the wild-card game Wednesday in Phoenix against Colorado or Milwaukee.

RANGERS 5, ATHLETICS 3

Shin-Soo Choo tied a career high with his 22nd home run, helping Texas end a seven-game skid. Rangers left-hander Martin Perez (13-12) allowed three runs in six-plus innings. The 13 wins are a career high for Perez and the loss guaranteed Oakland would finish last in the AL West. A's catcher Bruce Maxwell took a knee during the national anthem and was booed by a portion of the crowd before and after the song. It was the first time Maxwell has taken a knee on the field in an opposing ballpark. Oakland's Raul Alcantara (1-2) was charged with four runs in 4 1/3 innings. Alex Claudio worked a scoreless ninth for his 11th save.

RAYS 7, ORIOLES 0

Evan Longoria and Logan Morrison homered, and Tampa Bay clinched third place in the AL East. Longoria hit a leadoff drive in the fifth against Wade Miley (8-15), marking Longoria's fifth straight 20-homer season and the ninth of his 10-year career. Morrison hit his 38th homer off Chris Tillman in the seventh. Rays starter Jake Odorizzi

left his final start of the season after four innings with a sore right knee. Brad Boxberger (4-4) got the win.

PHILLIES 6, METS 2

Maikel Franco, Jorge Alfaro and Cesar Hernandez homered, powering Philadelphia to the victory. Earlier in the day, the Phillies (65-95) announced manager Pete Mackanin would not return to the dugout in 2018. Mackanin was given a role as a senior adviser to general manager Matt Klentak. Jose Reyes and Dominic Smith connected for New York, which had won three in a row. Matt Harvey (5-7) allowed four runs and seven hits in four innings. Ben Lively (4-7) pitched six effective innings for Philadelphia.

GIANTS 8, PADRES 0

Buster Posey hit three RBI doubles, Brandon Crawford drove in three runs and had three hits, and San Francisco ensured it won't finish with a 100-loss season. Joe Panik added a run-scoring double among his four hits to back Chris Stratton (4-4). The Giants needed one victory in the final series of the season to avoid their first 100-loss year since 1985. Jordan Lyles (1-5) took the loss.

ANGELS 6, MARINERS 5

Mike Trout hit two homers and Los Angeles rallied past Seattle. Luis Valbuena had a two-run, pinch-hit double to cap a four-run comeback in the eighth inning. Blake Wood (2-0) pitched the eighth to earn the win and Blake Parker got his eighth save. Marc Rzepczynski (2-2) was the losing pitcher. — AP



Brian Dozier hit a 3-run homer in the second inning

his last five starts. Cardinals rookie shortstop Paul DeJong hit his 25th homer in the fourth. John Gant (0-1) allowed four runs in five innings in his second start of the season.

TWINS 6, TIGERS 3

Brian Dozier hit a three-run homer in the second inning, leading Minnesota to the victory. Eduardo Escobar also homered and drove in three runs, helping the Twins bail Kyle Gibson out of a 3-0 deficit after an RBI triple by Alex Presley and a two-run home run by Nicholas Castellanos. Gibson was removed after 4 2/3 innings, so Jose Berrios (14-8) was credited with the win after recording four outs in a tune-up relief outing. Matt Belisle notched his ninth save with a perfect ninth inning for the Twins, who will visit New York or Boston on Tuesday in the AL wild-card game. Detroit's Matt Boyd (6-11) allowed five runs in five innings.

YANKEES 4, BLUE JAYS 0

Masahiro Tanaka struck out 15 over seven innings, his

Another win gives Phil Mickelson all-time record at Presidents Cup

JERSEY CITY: Phil Mickelson won the 25th Presidents Cup match of his career yesterday, a record one better than fellow American Tiger Woods. Mickelson achieved the mark when he teamed up with Kevin Kisner to beat the International duo of Jhonattan Vegas and Emiliano Grillo 2&1 in a morning foursomes match at Liberty National.

Mickelson also became the most successful player in foursomes, with 12 career victories—one more than Woods, who is an assistant captain this week.

The 47-year-old Mickelson, who has played every Presidents Cup since the event was created in 1994, deflected praise, instead heaping compliments on Kisner. "He drives it like a stallion and putts even better than that... pulling out the best golf in me," Mickelson said.

Mickelson improved his career record in the Cup to 25 wins, 16 losses and 13 losses. US captain Steve Stricker rewarded Mickelson with a rest, sitting him out of the afternoon four-ball matches. With the Americans enjoying a nearly insurmountable 11-1/2 to 2-1/2 lead, Mickelson's absence was not likely to be missed.

Stricker, suffering an embarrassment of riches, also rested Rickie Fowler, Kisner and Matt Kuchar. Price benched Adam Scott after three straight losses, continuing the Australian's miserable week, his woes compounded by the defeat of his beloved Adelaide Crows in the Australian Football League grand final overnight.

Price also omitted Canadian Adam Hadwin, Argentine Emiliano Grillo and



JERSEY CITY: Phil Mickelson and Kevin Kisner of the US Team react on the eighth green after winning the hole against Emiliano Grillo of Argentina. — AFP

South African Charl Schwartzel.

DRAW FOR AFTERNOON FOUR-BALL MATCHES, (US names first):

Jordan Spieth/Patrick Reed v Jason Day/Louis Oosthuizen Justin Thomas/Daniel Berger v Hideki

Matsuyama/Jhonattan Vegas Charley Hoffman/Kevin Chappell v Kim Si-woo/Anirban Lahiri Dustin Johnson/Brooks Koepka v Branden Grace/Marc Leishman (Reporting by Andrew Both; Editing by Clare Fallon). —Reuters

Rory McIlroy back in the groove at British Masters

NEWCASTLE: Rory McIlroy produced his lowest European Tour score in over two years with a sizzling six-under par 64 on day three of the British Masters at Close House in Newcastle yesterday. McIlroy didn't drop a shot in managing six birdies to move to a share of the clubhouse lead on 10-under par. He joined Swede David Lingmerth, who produced the lowest round of the week, an eight-under par 62. But as McIlroy and Lingmerth enjoyed lunch, overnight leader Tyrrell Hatton was struggling early in his round. McIlroy did shoot a closing 64 in June's PGA Tour Travelers Championship in Connecticut, however his British Masters effort is a lowest European Tour round since a second round 64 on route to victory in the 2015 Dubai Desert Classic. It also boosted McIlroy's hopes of winning for a first time this season in what is his penultimate event of the year. "I felt today I got the most out of my round as I scrambled well when I needed to," he said. "Some of these three or four footers that you leave yourself are pretty tricky as the greens are soft, along with some heel prints and stuff, so I was just trying to make a committed stroke as I could and thankfully they did for me today."

"So, it was nice as I gave myself plenty of chances and it is always nice to be bogey-free, as well." After a no-frills opening two days, McIlroy finally gave the crowd something to cheer about, including chipping-in from pin high and left of the green at the par three, fifth hole. Then for a third day running McIlroy birdied the par five sixth hole ahead of birdying the ninth and 13th holes for a second occasion in three days. McIlroy moved to 10-under for the event holding a five-footer from behind the flag at the par three 17th. "The crowds out there were brilliant today with a lot of people out there, so it was nice to have that support," McIlroy said. "It was also nice to hit shots like that chip-in on five in front of them and give a nice reaction but it has been great all week including a huge number on the tee when I teed-off on Thursday." —AFP

Sports economy course concludes

KUWAIT: The sports economics course, that was held under the patronage of Acting Director of Public Authority for Sports Dr Humoud Fulaitih concluded at the Abdallah Al-Salem Leaders Training Programs in the presence of representatives of clubs, associations and authorities.

Center Director Mahmoud Abul represented Dr Fulaitih in the ceremony, as the course continued for five days during which lectures on the world sports status and means of benefiting from economy and investment to develop sports federations

and clubs, and the possibility to turn clubs into companies to achieve the sought after goals. The course also dealt about the status of Kuwait sports and how problems can be overcome and go forward with the popular sport, and the expenditures on the rest of the games. Despite the large participation in the course, workers at the clubs were supposed to attend to benefit and get to know all what is new in the world of economics, investment, privatization and finance, which the country plans to implement soon.

