

Sports

Rockies outlast Red Sox in 11 innings despite 24 Ks

Rays' Morton, three relievers combine to shut out Marlins

BOSTON: Mark Reynolds hit a tiebreaking RBI single in the top of the 11th inning as the Colorado Rockies overcame a near-historic number of strikeouts to beat the host Boston Red Sox 5-4 on Tuesday. The Rockies had fanned 24 times without a walk before Ryan McMahon and Nolan Arenado reached on ball four from Ryan Brasier (2-2) in the 11th. Reynolds' game-winning single came on an 0-2 count with two outs. Colorado narrowly avoided the major league record of 26 collective strikeouts in a game. Red Sox ace Chris Sale was responsible for a career-high 17 of them, becoming the first pitcher in major league history to reach that total in seven or fewer innings. Mike Dunn (1-0) finished the bottom of the 10th for the win, and Wade Davis worked around a two-out single for his seventh save.

CUBS 3, REDS 1

Kyle Hendricks pitched into the ninth inning and allowed only one run and three hits, and he had three hits and two RBIs at the plate, helping visiting Chicago win the opener of a three-game series against Cincinnati. Kris Bryant also had three hits and Javier Baez had two hits for the Cubs, who have won six of seven and 13 of 15. Joey Votto homered for the Reds, who had won three of four coming in. Hendricks (3-4) struck out seven and walked one in eight-plus innings. He hadn't allowed an earned run in his previous two outings covering 17 innings.

TWINS 4, ANGELS 3

Mitch Garver hit a two-run homer and Byron Buxton doubled in a run and also threw out the potential tying run at the plate in the eighth inning to lead Minnesota to victory over visiting Los Angeles. Kyle Gibson (4-1) allowed three runs on six hits over 5 2/3 innings to pick up the win as the Twins avoided their first three-game losing streak of the season. Blake Parker recorded the final four outs to pick up his seventh save. Shohei Ohtani

went 3-for-4 with an RBI, and Tommy La Stella and David Fletcher each had two hits for Los Angeles. Opener Cam Bedrosian (1-2) took the loss after yielding a run on two hits in one inning.

BREWERS 6, PHILLIES 1

Yasmani Grandal and Ryan Braun homered, and visiting Milwaukee dispatched Philadelphia as Grandal, Orlando Arcia and Keston Hiura had two hits apiece for the Brewers, who broke their three-game losing streak. Milwaukee starter Brandon Woodruff (6-1) allowed just one hit in six scoreless innings. Woodruff walked five and struck out five. Jean Segura's infield single in the first was the Phillies' lone hit against the right-hander. Segura produced two hits for the Phillies, who had their three-game winning streak snapped. Philadelphia managed only five hits overall. Phillies starter Jerad Eickhoff (2-2) struggled through four innings. He allowed eight hits and five runs and saw his ERA balloon from 1.50 to 2.65.

INDIANS 9, WHITE SOX 0

Jordan Luplow recorded his second two-homer game of the season and Carlos Carrasco (4-3) tossed seven strong innings to propel host Cleveland past Chicago. Luplow belted a two-run homer off Manny Banuelos (2-3) in the fourth inning before leading off the sixth with a blast against Josh Osich. Luplow, who has four homers this season, launched a pair of solo shots off Banuelos in Cleveland's 5-0 rain-shortened win last Thursday.

Jake Bauers, Roberto Perez and Jose Ramirez also went deep for the Indians, who answered Chicago's four-homer performance on Monday with a season-high five the following day. Cleveland's nine runs were the most it has scored in 2019.

METS 6, NATIONALS 2

Wilson Ramos hit a grand slam against his former



BOSTON: J.D. Martinez #28 of the Boston Red Sox hits a home run in the second inning against the Colorado Rockies at Fenway Park in Boston, Massachusetts. — AFP

team and starter Noah Syndergaard did not allow a hit in the first five innings as visiting New York whipped struggling Washington.

The Nationals have now lost the first game of a series 12 times in 14 occasions and are 7-17 since April 19. Syndergaard (3-3) had averaged less than five innings per start in his previous six games at Nationals Park but he went eight on Tuesday while allowing just two runs on four hits. Ramos, a catcher for the Nationals from 2011-16, smashed a two-out grand slam in the first inning off Washington starter Jeremy Hellickson (2-2).

RAYS 4, MARLINS 0

Charlie Morton pitched six scoreless innings and Avisail Garcia slugged a 471-foot homer and added two RBI singles to lead Tampa Bay to a win over host Miami. Morton (4-0) allowed just three hits—all singles—and no walks, striking out five and lowering his ERA from 2.64 to 2.32. Morton is 33-10 since the start of the 2017 season. Marlins starter Caleb Smith (3-1) took a hard-luck loss. In 5 1/3 innings, he allowed four hits, two walks and two runs, striking out eight. — Reuters

Zain's surprises at Al Roudhan tourney continues daily

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading digital service provider in Kuwait, announced the continuation of its daily surprises at the 40th edition of Abdullah Meshari Al Roudhan Ramadan Football Tournament. The company is the Diamond Sponsor of the tournament for the fourth year running, which comes under the patronage of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

Zain's support to this unique event for the fourth consecutive year comes in line with the company's belief in the importance of supporting the youth and sports sectors in Kuwait, as well as encouraging the various sporting initiatives that cater to young people. The event witnesses impressive participation of football enthusiasts from across Kuwait and the GCC, and Zain will remain committed to supporting and sponsoring sports, emphasizing its dedication to the elevation of Kuwaiti youth and sports.

Al Roudhan Ramadan Football Tournament is considered the most prominent sporting event in Kuwait during the Holy Month of Ramadan of every year. Football fans in Kuwait and the GCC look forward to it with great passion, given the fact that it witnesses high levels of professionalism through both the competing local teams as well as the international football stars hosted. This year, Al Roudhan tournament will witness the participation of three international football legends that have millions of fans around



One of the participating teams.

the world: Italian legend Francesco Totti, Ivorian legend Didier Drogba, and Croatian legend Luka Modri.

As it does every year, Zain will be present at Al Roudhan Tournament on a daily basis, where it will be interacting with the audiences through various competitions, activities, and entertainment programs. The company will also be distributing valuable prizes and holding daily challenges and competitions on its official social

media channels, and more.

Zain believes in the support of the various initiatives that contribute to the development of the Kuwaiti sports and youth sectors. The company reflects this belief through its support to such distinguished sports events as well as through its support to Kuwaiti athletes in various sports who proudly represent Kuwait in local and international arenas.



Football enthusiasts at Al Roudhan tournament.

Alonso frustrated as Indianapolis 500 practice opens

LOS ANGELES: Two-time Formula One world champion Fernando Alonso endured a frustrating day of Indianapolis 500 practice Tuesday, completing just 50 laps as he wrestled with electrical issues.

The Spaniard posted a best lap of 224.162 mph (360.75 Km/h), on the 2.5-mile Indianapolis Motor Speedway oval in his Chevrolet powered McLaren — 32nd-fastest out of 30. Australia's 2018 Indy 500 winner Will Power topped the practice speeds at 229.745 mph in contrast.

Team principal Gil de Ferran told NBCSPORTS.com that it was a difficult day, all the more so since the team are "baffled" by the problem. "Obviously, I'm disappointed and a little frustrated we had the issue in the afternoon," de Ferran said. "We are trying our best to understand what the problem is. So far, it's baffling. We lost the entire afternoon session."

De Ferran and McLaren had not determined the cause of the electrical issue late Tuesday as they continued to scour over reams and reams of data on their computers. NBCSports.com was allowed into the team's garage in Gasoline Alley as lead engineer Andy Brown continued to look for the cause of the issue.

"If we understood what the issue is, it would have been fixed," de Ferran said. "That's why it's so baffling. It's an electrical issue; not mechanical. It's been a difficult start. No doubt about that. We'll see what we can do."

Alonso, 37, led 27 laps as an Indianapolis 500 new-

comer in 2017 before a mechanical problem ended his race with 20 laps remaining. He was named the Indy 500 Rookie of the Year for his efforts.

Alonso's career includes F1 crowns in 2005 and 2006, Monaco victories in 2006 and 2007 and a share of the 2018 24 Hours of Le Mans title from the pole alongside teammates Sebastien Buemi of Switzerland and Kazuki Nakajima of Japan.

He's back again to try to join Britain's Graham Hill as the only drivers to have won the "Triple Crown" of LeMans, Monaco and Indy classics, taking the Indy 500 in 1966. In 2017, McLaren partnered with Honda and team Andretti Autosport.

This year, they are powered by Chevrolet and have an engineering alliance with the smaller Carlin Racing outfit. "We are under no illusions how big a challenge we have," de Ferran said. Practice for the May 26 race continues on Wednesday, with qualifying on the weekend. —AFP

Tiger, Koepka hunt more major glory in PGA at Bethpage

BETHPAGE: Masters winner Tiger Woods, chasing a 16th major title, and defending champion Brooks Koepka lead a powerhouse field into today's opening round of the PGA Championship at rain-drenched Bethpage Black.

Woods, who ended an 11-year major title drought last month at Augusta National, and Koepka, who held off Woods to win last year's PGA crown, join reigning British Open champion Francesco Molinari of Italy in the feature group of the first two days.

"I'm just looking forward to playing with him," Koepka said of Woods. "I don't think we've really been paired together too much, especially over the last couple years. It'll definitely be interesting."

It's the same layout where Woods won the 2002 US Open and shared sixth behind winner Lucas Glover at a rain-hit 2009 US Open, both times with the vocal support of New York crowds who made the Long Island trek.

"This week is going to be a lot of fun with the crowds, the excitement that we've had here," Woods said. "The pairing I'm involved in, it's going to be just a boatload of fun for all of us." Woods would match Sam Snead's career US PGA Tour win record of 82 with a triumph and move within two of the all-time major win mark of 18 by Jack Nicklaus with a victory.

The 43-year-old American would become the 10th oldest major winner, two days older than Ted Ray when he won the 1920 US Open, and match record co-holders Nicklaus and Walter Hagen with a fifth Wanamaker Trophy.

He would also be halfway to a calendar year Grand Slam, the PGA shifting to May for the first time since 1949 in a revamped world golf calendar. Woods won the first two majors of 2002 at the Masters and US Open at Bethpage, where two inches of rain has soaked the course.

"In order to win this one, driving is going to be at the forefront with the rough as lush as it is," Woods said. "Fairways are plenty wide because it's wet. You've got to hit it not only straight but you've got to hit it far."

Woods played a practice round last week but will have only two nine-hole sessions this week ahead of what could be an endurance test over the 7,459-yard, par-70 layout. "This is not only a big course, but this is going to be a long week the way the golf course is set up. This could be a hell of a championship," Woods said.

"There's definitely going to be a component to stamina as the week goes on. Four days over a tough championship that is mentally and physically taxing takes its toll."

Koepka could become the first golfer to own back-to-back titles in two different majors at once, having defended his US Open crown last June at nearby Shinnecock before denying Woods last August at Bellerive. —AFP