

tuesday — (all times are kuwait local)

07:15 vargas vs salka/boxing ..... bein sports 8 hd  
 09:30 nishikori vs berdych/tennis ..... bein sports 12 hd  
 13:59 bangalore vs rajasthan/cricket ... bein sports 13 hd  
 20:30 deportivo vs sevilla/soccer ..... bein sports 1 hd  
 21:45 brighton vs hotspur/soccer ..... bein sports 2 hd  
 21:45 inter vs cagliari/soccer ..... bein sports 4 hd  
 22:00 celta vs barca/soccer ..... bein sports 3 hd  
 22:30 villarreal vs leganes/soccer ..... bein sports 3 hd

# Sports

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## Pacers 'upset' Cavs in opener

Harden powers Rockets, Celtics win

CLEVELAND, April 16, (AP): Victor Oladipo scored 32 points and the Indiana Pacers held off Cleveland's second-half rally for a stunning 98-80 victory Sunday in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference series, handing LeBron James and the Cavaliers' their first loss in the opening round in eight years.

Indiana was in control from the outset, opening a 21-point lead in the first quarter and leading by 23 in the third. The Cavs stormed back and got within seven, but Oladipo hit a big 3-pointer and Bojan Bogdanovic helped put Cleveland away with a 3 to make it 88-71.

The Pacers completely outplayed the three-time defending conference champions, whose turbulent regular season has carried over into the playoffs.

Game 2 is Wednesday night.

James scored 24 with 12 assists and 10 rebounds for his 20th career triple-double. But James got little help as Cleveland's four other starters — Kevin Love, Jeff Green, Rodney Hood and George Hill — combined for 25 points.

This is all new to James, who had won 21 consecutive first-round games and lost a postseason for the first time in his 13th playoffs. The 33-year-old is trying to get to his eighth straight Finals, and already the path is tougher than imagined.

Cleveland had won 14 straight first-round games, last losing on April 22, 2010, the last season of James' first stint with the Cavs. Indiana was swept by Cleveland in last year's opening round.



Houston Rockets' Clint Capela (right), blocks a shot by Minnesota Timberwolves' Derrick Rose during the first half in Game 1 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series on April 15, in Houston. (AP)

Celtics 113, Bucks 107, OT

In Boston, Al Horford had 24 points and 12 rebounds and Boston overcame Khris Middleton's long 3 that beat the fourth-quarter buzzer to top Milwaukee in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference series.

The Celtics led 99-96 with 0.5 seconds left in regulation when Middleton took an inbound pass on the far right wing and hit a contested 35-footer.

Terry Rozier added 23 points, four rebounds and three assists for Boston in his first career playoff start. Jaylen Brown finished with 20 points, and rookie Jayson Tatum added 19 points and 10 rebounds.

Giannis Antetokounmpo led the Bucks with 35 points, 13 rebounds and seven assists before fouling out in overtime. Middleton had 31 points, eight rebounds and six assists.

Game 2 is Tuesday night in Boston.

Rockets 104, Timberwolves 101

In Houston, James Harden scored 44 points and powered a big fourth-quarter run that allowed Houston to outlast Minnesota in Game 1 of the first-round playoff series.

Minnesota scored four straight points to get within 3 with about 30 seconds left. Chris Paul added two free throws after that for Houston, but a tip-in by Karl-An-

### BASKETBALL

thony Towns got Minnesota back within 3. After a bad pass by Paul gave Minnesota a chance to tie with 1.5 seconds left, Jimmy Butler's shot was short.

The top-seeded Rockets had their hands full with the No. 8 Timberwolves on a night where Houston made just 10 of 37 3-pointers. Harden made 7 of 12 3-pointers, but Trevor Ariza, P.J. Tucker, Eric Gordon and Paul combined to make just 3 of their 22 tries.

Houston kept All-Star big man Towns in check, limiting him to just eight points. Andrew Wiggins scored 18 points to lead Minnesota.

Game 2 is Wednesday night in Houston.

Thunder 116, Jazz 108

In Oklahoma City, Paul George scored 36 points to help Oklahoma City beat Utah in Game 1 of the Western Conference series.

George set an Oklahoma City playoff record with eight 3-pointers, blowing past the previous record of five. He made 8 of 11 shots from long range, and 13 of 20 shots overall. It was his first playoff game with the Thunder since being acquired in a trade with Indiana in the offseason.

Russell Westbrook had 29 points, 13 rebounds and eight assists, and Carmelo Anthony added 15 points for the Thunder. Jazz rookie Donovan Mitchell had 27 points and 10 rebounds, but he left in the second half with left foot soreness. He returned in the fourth quarter but was noticeably hobbling.



J.R. Smith #5 of the Cleveland Cavaliers and Cory Joseph #6 of the Indiana Pacers drive for a ball during the first half in Game One of the Eastern Conference Quarter-finals during the 2018 NBA Playoffs at Quicken Loans Arena on April 15, in Cleveland, Ohio. (AFP)

Greatest day of my life, says tearful Japanese

## Kawauchi, Linden win landmark titles

### Pele confident Neymar can lead Brazil at World Cup

DUBAI, April 16, (AFP): Brazilian legend Pele says he is confident about Brazil's chances at the upcoming World Cup and expects injured star Neymar to be fully fit to lead the side in Russia.

Speaking to AFP in Dubai, the 77-year-old, who has been in ailing health recently, put his faith in Paris Saint-Germain striker Neymar's ability to recover from a fractured foot in time to lead Brazil to a possible sixth global football title.

"We don't know exactly what is going to happen, but I think for the World Cup he's going to be in shape because his injury is not so bad," said Pele, the only person to have won the World Cup three times as a player.

"I wish he has the same luck I had in the World Cup."

PSG's Neymar, the world's most expensive player, has not played since breaking a metatarsal bone in his right foot on Feb 25 in a Ligue 1 match against Marseille. He said last week he

is still recovering following surgery but expects to be fit in time for the World Cup from June 14 to July 15.

In the last World Cup on home soil four years ago, Brazil were humiliated 7-1 by eventual winners Germany in the semifinals but Pele feels the team under "psychologist" Tite, which breezed through South American qualifying, has the tools to go all the way.

"I am confident because Tite, the new coach, now (has) had a little time to set up the team."

"We have a lot of excellent players in Europe. The problem is to put the team together."

"I think we're going to have a good team in the next World Cup."

Pele said he expected few surprises at the tournament, identifying Lionel Messi's Argentina, Germany, England and France as potential challengers — although he didn't mention 2010 world champions Spain or current European laureates Portugal, led by their talisman Cristiano Ronaldo.

race day, postponed their Fenway Park contest for the first time since 1984.

Kirui, who set the halfway pace at 1:05:59, failed in his bid to become the first back-to-back Boston men's winner since compatriot Robert Kip-

koech Cheruiyot in 2006-2008.

Kirui removed his gloves after 85 minutes then pulled away from the lead pack over a 400-meter span only to falter just ahead of the finish. Daska surged from the halfway

mark but Linden and Chesir, in only her second marathon, maintained pursuit.

Linden, 34, surged past them both just after the 21-mile mark and pulled away for the win.

### MARATHON

tu Daska and Kenya's Gladys Chesir at Heartbreak Hill after the 20-mile mark and kept the lead from there to win in 2:39:54. American Sarah Sellers was a distant second in 2:44:04 with Canada's Krista Duchene third, another 16 seconds adrift.

No US woman had won the Boston crown since Lisa Larsen Weidenbach 33 years ago, but Linden did it after making six of her 16 marathon starts in beloved Boston.

"I love this city, this race, this course. It's a storybook. I'm thrilled to be here and to get it done," Linden said.

"This is a race the entire city cares about. Even on a day like today when it's pretty miserable, the people show up and embrace the race." Linden lost by only two seconds in 2011 and was fourth in 2015 and 2017.

Linden said she felt early on as if she would not be able to finish the race, but slowed early to help compatriot Shalane Flanagan recover after a toilet stop and found herself boosted by working to help the reigning New York Marathon champion, who placed seventh.

"At mile 2-3-4 I didn't even feel like I could make it to the finish line," Linden said. "Helping her helped me and I got my legs back from there."

The race marked five years since the Boston Marathon bombing tragedy in which two explosions near the finish line killed three people and wounded more than 260.

Elite competitors began in rain coverings and at a slow pace in the coldest start since 1988 at 38 degrees (3.3 Celsius) with rain often blowing into runners' faces.

Weather conditions were so bad the Boston Red Sox, who usually play a Major League Baseball home game on



Yuki Kawauchi of Japan crosses the finish line as the winner of the 2018 and 122nd Boston Marathon for Elite Men's race with a time of 2:15:58 on April 16 in Boston, Massachusetts. (AFP)



Desiree Linden of the United States crosses the finish line as the winner of the 2018 and 122nd Boston Marathon for Elite Women's race with a time of 2:39:54 on April 16 in Boston, Massachusetts. Her personal best finish was previously second place in the Boston Marathon in 2011 with a time of 2:22:38. (AFP)

### Injured Batshuayi could miss WCup

BERLIN, Germany, April 16, (AFP): Borussia Dortmund striker Michy Batshuayi is set to miss the rest of the season — and possibly the World Cup — after injuring his ankle during a defeat by Schalke at the weekend.

"Well, it's not good news for now, my season is probably over and I won't be able to pay Dortmund back for their confidence," Batshuayi, who joined the Bundesliga club on loan from Chelsea in January, wrote on Twitter.

"Wishing my teammates the best for the final days."

Batshuayi injured his left ankle late in Dortmund's 2-0 defeat at Schalke on Sunday and left the stadium in Gelsenkirchen on crutches.

Dortmund, who have four league games left, put out a statement on Monday saying Batshuayi is "probably" out for the rest of the season.

However, the club added he could "possibly" still play for Belgium at the World Cup in Russia which runs from June 14 to July 15.

If Sunday's defeat proves to be his last Dortmund game, then it is a sad exit for Batshuayi who is on loan until June.

The 24-year-old scored nine goals in 14 games, including seven in the Bundesliga, after arriving at Dortmund as a replacement for Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang.

His injury would leave Dortmund short of an experienced goalscorer.

Despite their defeat at Schalke, Dortmund are fourth in the table — which carries a Champions League place for next season — and have a four-point cushion over RB Leipzig.

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