

Bonner, Taurasi lead Mercury over Sparks 86-78

Atlanta Dream's Montgomery hits 8 3s to tie WNBA record

WHITE PLAINS, New York, Aug 13, (AP): Renee Montgomery hit eight 3-pointers to match the WNBA regular-season record and scored a season-high 30 points to help the Atlanta Dream beat the New York Liberty 86-77 on Sunday for their sixth straight victory.

Diana Taurasi, Riquna Williams and Shekinna Stricklen also have hit eight 3-pointers in a game. Montgomery had 25 points in the second half, hitting seven 3-pointers to break the WNBA record for a half — one more than Taurasi, Sue Bird and Sami Whitcomb.

The Dream (22-10) erased a 16-point, first-half deficit by scoring 21 straight points early in the third quarter and out-scoring the Liberty 32-10 in the period. Atlanta had its largest lead at 72-58 on Montgomery's 3-pointer to open the fourth quarter.

Brittney Sykes added 17 points, Jessica Breland had 16 and Tiffany Hayes 10 for Atlanta, which has won 14 of its last 15.

Tina Charles had 20 of her 26 points in the first half, helping the Liberty (7-23) go into the break with a 48-37 lead. Rebecca Allen added 16 points and Bria Hartley had 12.

Storm 81, Lynx 72
In Minneapolis, Natasha Howard scored 21 points, Breanna Stewart had 17 points and a season-high 17 rebounds and Seattle beat Minnesota.

Seattle (24-8) maintained its two-game lead over second-place Atlanta and reduced its magic number for the top seed in the playoffs to one. Seattle and Atlanta each have two games remaining.

Jewell Loyd added 12 points, eight

rebounds and six assists for the Storm. Sylvia Fowles had 28 points and 13 rebounds for the Lynx (17-14).

Mercury 86, Sparks 78
In Phoenix, DeWanna Bonner had a season-high 31 points, Diana Taurasi had 20 points and a career-best 14 assists and Phoenix beat Los Angeles.

Brittney Griner added 20 points and 13 rebounds to help the Mercury (18-14) move a half-game ahead of the Minnesota Lynx for sixth place in the WNBA standings.

Candace Parker scored the Sparks' first 12 points and had 15 points and five rebounds in the first quarter. Parker finished with 23 points to lead Los Angeles (18-13).

BASKETBALL

Mystics 93, Wings 80

In Washington, Ariel Atkins scored 26 points, Elena Delle Donne added 23 and Washington beat Dallas for its sixth straight victory.

The Wings announced several hours after the game that coach Fred Williams was being relieved of his duties following an eighth straight loss.

Kristi Toliver added 17 points with a trio of 3s for Washington (20-11). Atkins hit all five of her 3-point attempts and Delle Donne was 3 of 5.

Skylar Diggins-Smith had 17 points for Dallas (14-17).

Sun 82, Sky 75

In Uncasville, Connecticut, Courtney Williams scored 22 points, Jonquel Jones added 17 points and a season-high 15 rebounds and Connecticut beat Chicago.

Chiney Ogumike had 13 points and a season-high 14 rebounds for the Sun (18-13). Connecticut had 21 offensive rebounds and a 51-33 edge on the glass overall.

Stefanie Dolson had 20 points, and Kahleah Copper added 16 for the Sky (11-19).



Montgomery

All Blacks on 'high alert'

Wallaby Genia rates Bledisloe over WCup

SYDNEY, Aug 13, (Agencies): Australia scrum-half Will Genia described the Bledisloe Cup against New Zealand as rugby's "pinnacle" Monday, ranking it even higher than the Rugby World Cup.

The Wallabies have not won the trans-Tasman series since 2002 and Genia is hungry for victory after playing in seven losing Bledisloe campaigns.

"To me, I'd have to say it's the pinnacle," he told reporters as Michael Cheika's men prepare to face the All

RUGBY

Blacks at Sydney's ANZ Stadium on Saturday.

"The World Cup is obviously up there, but how often do you get to play the best team in the world three times and have to win two out of three to win a trophy?"

"I've been trying for a while now so I'm really looking forward to another crack."

The influential 30-year-old said he relished the chance to prove himself against the back-to-back world champions.

"I haven't won a World Cup so I'm not going to say it's harder," he said. "But for me it's the number one priority... it would make it incredibly special if we're fortunate enough to do it."

Australia won their last meeting against New Zealand in Brisbane in

2017 and Genia said they wanted to repeat that form in Saturday's first Bledisloe Test, which doubles as the opening match of the Rugby Championship.

The All Blacks are on "high alert" over the threat David Pocock could pose at the breakdown when they meet the Wallabies in Saturday's Rugby Championship opener, according to flanker Sam Cane.

Pocock missed last year's championship while on a sabbatical but was back to his ball-poaching best upon his international return in the June tests against Ireland.

"He's always a big threat when he plays," Cane said of his fellow loose forward on Monday ahead of Saturday's championship opener in Sydney.

"The way he continually bounces back and plays at a high level is pretty outstanding. It just creates an awareness — we're on more of a high alert than normal around the breakdown."

"In every test match there's always a big emphasis on the breakdown — whether it's their ball or our ball, disrupting their ball or trying to get fast ball."

"It will be a focus again."
The Wallabies have some concerns about their back row, however, with captain and outside Michael Hooper lacking match fitness after being sidelined with a serious hamstring injury since June.



Kevin Harvick, driver of the #4 Busch Light/Mobil 1 Ford, leads a pack of cars during the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Consumers Energy 400 at Michigan International Speedway on Aug 12, in Brooklyn, Michigan. (AFP)

Harvick wins at Michigan for NASCAR-high 7th win of year

Penske Racing driver Keselowski finishes 2nd in Cup race, Busch 3rd

BROOKLYN, Michigan, Aug 13, (AP): Kevin Harvick capped off his father-son weekend by dominating a race and putting 6-year-old son Keelan in the passenger seat to hold the flapping, checkered flag out of the window.

"That was definitely way up there on the bucket list," Harvick said.

Harvick broke a tie atop NAS-

CAR RACING

CAR's Big 3 by easily winning at Michigan International Speedway for his Cup-high seventh victory of the season.

His No. 4 Ford finished 3-plus seconds ahead of Brad Keselowski's No. 2 Ford on Sunday in the Consumers Energy 400.

Points leader Kyle Busch finished third in his No. 18 Toyota — more than 4 seconds behind Harvick.

"I was front of him for about 5 laps," Busch joked.

Busch has won six races this year and Martin Truex Jr has finished in first four times. The rest of the field has combined to win just six of 23 races.

Truex Jr, the third driver in NASCAR's Big 3 with Harvick and Busch, was 14th in the 40-car field in his No. 78 Toyota.

Keselowski said he couldn't be more aggressive late in the 200-lap race because Harvick was simply so far ahead.

Austin Dillon, in the No. 3 Chevrolet, was fourth followed by Ryan

IndyCar leader Dixon signs extension with Ganassi

CHARLOTTE, NC, Aug 13, (AP): IndyCar Series leader Scott Dixon has signed a contract extension with Chip Ganassi that will likely take the four-time champion through the end of his career.

The extension announced Monday puts Dixon behind the wheel of the PNC Bank-sponsored entry and ends all speculation he'd leave Ganassi after 17 seasons to join Fernando Alonso on a new McLaren team.

he McLaren entry has not been announced, but Dixon is among the top IndyCar drivers who had been targeted to team with Alonso.

It's unclear if the McLaren team will come to fruition

for 2019, but Dixon will be back behind the wheel of Ganassi's No. 9 Honda.

"I have always said I have a massive amount of respect for Chip and what he's done in this sport. This is not an easy business," Dixon said.

"His resume speaks for itself, and he's the type of team owner any driver would want to drive for."

Dixon's career began in 2000 with PacWest Racing, but the team ran out of money three races into the 2002 season and Dixon was picked up by Ganassi. His tenure is the longest of any Ganassi driver.

Blaney's No. 12 Ford.

Denny Hamlin led the field to the

green flag for the second straight week, but his No. 11 Toyota could not stay



Kevin Harvick, driver of the #4 Busch Light/Mobil 1 Ford, celebrates with the trophy in Victory Lane after winning the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series Consumers Energy 400 at Michigan International Speedway on August 12, in Brooklyn, Michigan. (AFP)

ahead. He ended up eighth at MIS after finishing 13th in last week's race at Watkins Glen. **Who's hot:** Harvick won each of three stages and led 108 laps, more than four times more than anyone else on the 2-mile oval. His seven victories have helped Ford earn 10 Cup victories, matching its total from last year and pulling within one of Toyota's total.

Who's not: Jimmie Johnson has not finished better than 10th in his last nine races and sits 14th in the standings. The seven-time Cup champion was running in the top 15 late in the race when a loose wheel led to an unscheduled pit stop and a 28th-place finish a week after he was 30th at Watkins Glen.

Rough day: Truex was running with the leaders during the second stage before running out of gas and going into the pits, which were closed. He also was penalized for an uncontrollable tire and pushed to the back of the 40-car field.

NBA dashes Philippines' Jordan 'dream' at Asiad

MANILA, Aug 13, (AFP): A Philippines bid to have Cleveland Cavaliers shooting guard Jordan Clarkson play for their Asian Games team has been dashed after the National Basketball Association refused to release him.



Clarkson

Clarkson, who appeared off the bench in two 2018 NBA finals games against repeat champions Golden State Warriors, was included by the basketball-crazy Asian nation in their squad last week as they tried to get his paperwork done on time.

However Clarkson, who has never played for the Philippines, and the Philippine federation (SBP) said Monday they have been informed that the NBA would not release him for the Asiad.

"To my Filipino Brothers and Sisters, I am terribly disappointed to say that I have not received the required consent to participate in the upcoming Asian Games with our National Team," he said on his <http://192.168.221.4/newspress/backlog/files/imag->

BASKETBALL

es/2018/08/13/36554.png?tmp=1534173907 official Facebook page.

"Despite this, my desire and ambition to play with my countrymen in the future remains resolute and I am adamant that this dream will come true! Stout Heart!" added the 26-year-old, whose maternal grandmother came from the Philippines.

"Of course, very disappointed," Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas (SBP) president Al Panlilio told AFP in a text message.

"But knowing our team under coach Yeng (Guiiao), we will fight and play hard. We have always been resilient," Panlilio added.

SBP executive director Renauld Barrios told AFP the Asian Games was not included in the NBA's agreement with world governing body FIBA that allows NBA players to take part in the Olympics, the FIBA World Cup and continental cup competitions.

A 2014 second-round draftee of the Washington Wizards, Clarkson has an NBA career average of 14.1 points, 3.2 rebounds and 2.8 assists, most of them during a spell at the Los Angeles Lakers.

ahadaf NEW SERVICE Free

Subscribe to our service "AlHadaf WhatsApp" to stay updated

الهداف plus الهداف الهداف

To activate this Service:

- 1- Save our number on your contacts +965 55633508
- 2- Send a WhatsApp message with the word "Start" to the number you saved.