

Organizers hope to run another ticket lottery next month for residents of Japan

Got a Tokyo Olympics ticket? Unrivaled demand causes turmoil

Windies sign off with win over Afghanistan



West Indies' Nicholas Pooran (left), bats during the Cricket World Cup match between Afghanistan and West Indies at Headingley in Leeds, England on July 4. (AP)

Gayle fails in World Cup swansong

LEEDS, England, July 4, (RTRS): West Indies won the battle of the Cricket World Cup's basement dwellers, beating Afghanistan by 23 runs in their final group match at Headingley on Thursday.

Chris Gayle managed only seven runs in his final World Cup appearance but Shai Hope capitalised on an early reprieve to score 77 and help the eliminated Caribbean side to 311-6 after electing to bat.

While Gayle disappointed, 18-year-old Ikram Alikhil top-scored for Afghanistan with a career-best 86 before falling to the 39-year-old part-time spinner from Jamaica.

Afghanistan were all out for 288 in exactly 50 overs – their highest score in the World Cup – to finish their campaign with nine defeats in as many matches, denying their West Indian coach Phil Simmons a winning send-off.

The match against the tournament's weakest side was an opportunity for Gayle to produce a special perfor-

CRICKET

mance but the prolific left-handed opener failed to take it.

Gayle slashed at a wide Dawlat Zadran delivery to be caught behind, finishing his last World Cup with only one half-century.

West Indies could have been in bigger trouble but Rashid Khan dropped a sitter at mid-wicket off Zadran when Hope was on five.

By the time Rashid caught him, at mid-wicket in the 38th over, Hope had laid a strong foundation for a 300-plus total.

Opener Evin Lewis celebrated his return to the team with 58 and Nicholas Pooran also made 58, his third 50-plus score of the tournament.

Skipper Jason Holder clobbered four sixes in his 45 off 34 balls to help the team past the 300-mark.

Dropped catches, squandered run-out opportunity and misfields marred Afghanistan's fielding, best illustrated in the final over of the West Indies innings.

Afghan captain Gulbadin Naib got himself under a skier at long-off but flinched at the last moment, possibly losing the ball in sunlight, allowing

Windies vs Afghanistan Scoreboard/Standings

LONDON, July 4, (Agencies): Scoreboard at close of play of match 42 between Afghanistan and West Indies on Thursday.

WEST INDIES

C. Gayle c Ali Khil b Zadran7
E. Lewis c Nabi b Khan58
S. Hope c Khan b Nabi77
S. Hetmyer c (sub) b Zadran39
N. Pooran run out Ali Khil58
J. Holder c Zadran b Shirzad45
C. Brathwaite not out14
Extras: (4lb, 9w)13
Total: (60 overs, 6 wks)311
Fall of Wickets: 1-21 (Gayle), 2-109 (Lewis), 3-174 (Hetmyer), 4-192 (Hope), 5-297 (Pooran), 6-297 (Holder)

Did not bat: Allen, Roach, Cottrell, Thomas
Bowling: M. Ur Rahman 10-0-52-0, Zadran 9-1-73-2, Shirzad 8-0-56-1, Naib 3-0-18-0, Nabi 10-0-56-1, R. Khan 10-0-52-1

AFGHANISTAN

G. Naib c Lewis b Roach5
R. Shah c Gayle b Brathwaite62
I. Ali Khil lbw Gayle86
N. Zadran run out Hetmyer31
A. Afghan c Holder b Brathwaite40
M. Nabi c Allen b Roach2
S. Shinwari c Hetmyer b Roach6
R. Khan c Holder b Brathwaite9
D. Zadran c Cottrell b Brathwaite1
S. Shirzad c Allen b Thomas25

M. Ur Rahman not out7
Extras: (2lb, 2nb, 10w)14
Total: (60 overs, all out)288
Fall of Wickets: 1-5 (Naib), 2-138 (Zurmatai), 3-189 (Khil), 4-194 (N. Zadran), 5-201 (Nabi), 6-227 (Shinwari), 7-244 (Afghan), 8-255 (D. Zadran), 9-260 (Khan), 10-288 (Shirzad)

Bowling: Cottrell 7-0-43-0, Roach 10-2-37-3, Thomas 7-0-43-1, Holder 8-0-46-0, Allen 3-0-26-0, C. Brathwaite 9-0-63-4, Gayle 6-0-28-1
Match result: West Indies win by 23 runs
Umpires: Nigel Llong, Christopher Gaffaney
TV Umpire: Ian Gould
Match Referee: Brian Broad

	P	W	L	NR	T	NR	Pts
Australia-x	8	7	1	0	0	+1,000	14
India-x	8	6	1	1	0	+0,811	13
England-x	9	6	3	0	0	+1,152	12
N. Zealand	9	5	3	1	0	+0,175	11
Pakistan	8	4	3	1	0	-0,792	9
S. Lanka	8	3	3	2	0	-0,934	8
B'desh	8	3	4	1	0	-0,195	7
S. Africa	8	2	5	1	0	-0,080	5
W. Indies	9	2	6	1	0	-0,225	5
Afghans	9	0	9	0	0	-1,322	0

Note: x denotes semifinals
Standings read as played, won, lost, no result, tie, net run rate and points.



Afghanistan's Sayed Shirzad bowls during the Cricket World Cup match between Afghanistan and West Indies at Headingley in Leeds, England on July 4. (AP)

what would have been a regulation catch to go for a boundary.

Naib could not impress with the bat either and fell for eight.

TOKYO, July 4, (AP): Overwhelmed by unprecedented demand, Tokyo Olympic organizers said Thursday they hope to run another ticket lottery next month for residents of Japan who got nothing the first time.

Millions of Japanese were let down last month when they came away empty-handed in a lottery for next year's Olympics.

The bad news is that – despite a last-minute change of plans – most applicants will be disappointed again.

There simply aren't enough Olympic tickets to go around with demand soaring in Japan and elsewhere as Authorized Ticket Resellers – the Olympic agents contracted to sell tickets outside Japan – have also opened sales worldwide.

Demand is being driven by the 35 million people who live in Greater Tokyo, and is in sharp contrast to the last Olympics in Rio de Janeiro where tickets were being given away or went unsold.

Takaya said another lottery – open to all Japan residents – would be held by the end of the year as organizers rejigger their plans.

Greg Harney is the senior adviser for Cartan Global, the authorized reseller for much of Latin America and the Caribbean. He's attending his 19th Olympics, and this is a first.

"I've never, never seen interest in attending the Olympics like we have in Tokyo," Harney told the AP.

OLYMPICS

Takaya did not say how many tickets had been purchased in Japan so far. He said he would give the number on Friday.

Organizers say there are about 7.8 million tickets for all events. However, an estimate from one previous Olympics suggests that up to 25% of these are off the table immediately, going to sponsors, international federations, 200 national Olympic committees, dignitaries, and so forth. In addition, Tokyo says between 20-30% are set aside for foreign buyers.

An informal estimate by the AP suggests there may be 4-5 million tickets for Japan residents. And that's probably generous.

Organizers said last month that 7.5 million residents of Japan registered to apply for tickets in the lottery. If each applied for only six tickets – and that seems low – demand would be 10 times over supply.

"This is probably going to be the most popular Olympics, and possibly one of the most popular events of all time," Ken Hanscom, the chief operating officer of TicketManager, told the AP in an interview.

His Los Angeles-based company does not buy or sell Olympic tickets, but manages tickets for corporate clients.

Alexander Dmitrenko, a Canadian lawyer with residency in Japan, said he applied for 24 tickets – and got two. And was thrilled.

CoSport, an Authorized Ticket Reseller that handles sales for the United States and other countries, has delayed its ticket allocations and acknowledged a shortage in an email to customers.

The demand is sure to drive scalping. Japan passed a law last month that prohibits ticket scalping with the penalty of a 1 million yen (\$9,100) fine and a one-year jail term – or both.



A woman pauses for photos with Tokyo 2020 mascots and displays showing the number of days to go until the opening ceremony of next year's Olympics, on July 4 in Tokyo. (AP)

Ineos' rivals sharpening their knives

Colombian Bernal takes Tour spotlight in Froome's absence

PARIS, July 4, (RTRS): In the absence of injured four-time winner Chris Froome, all eyes will be on his 22-year-old Ineos team mate Egan Bernal to fill the void at the Tour de France.

Bernal, looking to become the first Colombian to win cycling's most prestigious race, has been promoted to Ineos co-leader after defending champion Geraint Thomas' preparations were hampered by a crash at the Tour de Suisse won by Bernal.

"It's no secret my build-up has been affected by the crash at Tour de Suisse, but I've had a good block of training since and I feel ready," said Thomas.

"Discussing with the team, we believe it makes sense to go into the race with joint leaders as it gives us more options. Egan and I will work hard for each other and the team over the three weeks of the race."

Froome, winner in 2013, 2015, 2016 and 2017, was ruled out after suffering serious injuries in a crash at the Critérium du Dauphine and the race now has the feel of 1976 or 1983 – when

CYCLING

Eddy Merck and Bernard Hinault respectively did not start.

Bernal, who looks a cut above the other top climbers and is also won Paris-Nice in March, is the bookmakers' favourites ahead of Thomas.

But Ineos' rivals are sharpening their knives, sensing that the British team, deprived of Froome's authoritative figure, might not take their usual grip on the race.

In France, excitement has been mounting as the absences of last year's runner-up Tom Dumoulin and Froome increase the chances of the French celebrating a first local champion since Bernard Hinault won the last of his five titles in 1985.

"This year or never," sports daily L'Equipe wrote on their front page last month.

While Romain Bardet, in the top 10

in the last five editions and two podium finishes in 2016 and 2017, seems to have reached his peak, Thibaut Pinot, third in 2014, has added a new dimension.

The Groupama-FDJ climber won the Tour of Lombardy Monument classic last season and has shown impressive strength in the mountains this year, also rediscovering his time-trialing form.

"On the other hand, this is a year in which I'm hitting peak form. I'm ambitious, I'm calm because I've done everything I can to be ready."

Pinot noted that several climbers would be at "the same high level" and he is right.

Jakob Fuglsang won the Dauphine in impressive fashion and is the bookmakers' third favourite, but the Astana rider has yet to shine on the Tour, where his best finish was seventh in 2013.

Astana is one of the best-equipped teams for the race with Ineos and Movistar, who will rely on the formidable triumvirate of Mikel Landa and former podium finishers Nairo Quintana and Alejandro Valverde.

Italian Vincenzo Nibali, second in the Giro this year, will wait until the first hilltop finish at La Planche des Belles Filles to assess whether he has the legs to fight for a second title after 2014.

There will be further excitement for the French crowds as world number one Julian Alaphilippe and newly crowned French champion Warren Barguil look set to battle it out for the mountain classification's polka dot jersey.

Barguil won it in 2017 and Alaphilippe prevailed last year.

Peter Sagan of Slovakia will be bidding for a record-breaking sixth green jersey for the points classification after flying under the radar this season.



Bernal

Heat rally to beat Warriors in Summer League action

Norvell Jr's late 3 lifts Lakers to big comeback victory

SACRAMENTO, California, July 4, (AP): Zach Norvell Jr made a 3-pointer with four seconds remaining to lift the Los Angeles Lakers over the Sacramento Kings 99-97 on Wednesday, completing a comeback from 21 points down early in the fourth quarter.

Sacramento led 86-65 with less than 8 minutes left, but the Lakers rallied with 34 points down the stretch to improve to 2-1 at the California Classic in Sacramento. The Lakers closed on a 12-1 run over the final 2:16.

Jordan Howard led the Lakers with 25 points on 10-of-15 shooting, including 5 of 8 from 3-point range. He scored 17 in the fourth quarter. Nick Perkins had 20 points, Devontae Cacok added 13 and Norvell scored 11.

Sacramento (1-2) had five players score in double figures, led by Wenyen Gabriel with 16 points. Second-round pick Kyle Guy added 14, but shot just 5 of 17 from the field. Semaj Christon scored 13.

Gabriel had a chance to win the game at the buzzer but missed a contested 25-footer.

Heat 73, Warriors 65

In Sacramento, Kendrick Nunn scored 21 points,

Tyler Herro added 20 and Miami rallied to beat Golden State.

Golden State led by as many as 11 in the second quarter and had a 50-45 advantage after the third quarter. Miami pulled even by midway through the fourth quarter and Nunn's step-back 3-pointer with 35 seconds remaining sealed the win.

It was the second straight good game for the 23-year-old Nunn, who led the Heat (3-0) with 27

BASKETBALL

points in the team's comeback win over Sacramento on Tuesday.

Herro scored 13 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter. This year's 13th overall draft pick shot 7 of 21 from the field, including 2 of 11 from 3-point range.

Damian Jones had 15 points and seven rebounds for Golden State (0-3).

Grizzlies 81, Cavaliers 68

In Salt Lake City, Keenan Evans scored 20 points, Yuta Watanabe added 12 points and nine rebounds,

and Memphis beat Cleveland in Salt Lake City Summer League action.

Memphis (2-1) pulled ahead late in the first quarter and never trailed again. The Grizzlies had a 47-29 rebounding edge. John Konchar added 11 points and eight rebounds.

Naz Mitrou-Long led Cleveland (0-3) with 12 points and six rebounds. Jalen Hudson added 10 points.

Jazz 84, Spurs 81

In Salt Lake City, Miye Oni scored 17 points, Jarrell Brantley added 16 and Utah never trailed in a victory over San Antonio.

Oni, the 58th overall pick in this year's draft out of Yale, shot 5 of 12, including 4 of 8 from 3-point range. Willie Reed added 14 points and 16 rebounds.

Utah (2-1) jumped out to a 24-8 lead in the first quarter before hanging on. San Antonio had a chance to tie the game in the final seconds but a 3-pointer by Lonnie Walker IV was off the mark.

Walker had 19 points and eight rebounds for San Antonio (2-1). Drew Eubanks scored 15 and Quindary Weatherspoon added 13.

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