

Williams scores 23 points, Sparks topple Dream 76-71 in OT

Howard plays amid abuse allegation, Storm beat Liberty

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, July 15, (RTRS): Results and standings from the MLB games on Sunday.

NY Yankees	4	Toronto	2
Phillies	4	Nationals	3
TB Rays	4	Baltimore (12 Ins)	1
Cleveland	4	Twins	3
NY Mets	6	Miami	2
SF Giants	8	Brewers	3
Detroit	12	KC Royals	8
St Louis	5	Arizona	2
Chic Cubs	8	Pittsburgh	3
Astros	12	Texas	4
Colorado	10	Cincinnati	9
LA Angels	6	Seattle	3
Oakland	3	Chic W. Sox	2
Atlanta	4	SD Padres	1
LA Dodgers	7	Boston	4

American League

East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
NY Yankees	59	32	.648	-
Tampa Bay	55	40	.578	6
Boston	52	47	.538	10
Toronto	35	59	.372	25-1/2
Baltimore	28	65	.301	32

Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Minnesota	58	34	.630	-
Cleveland	51	40	.560	6-1/2
Chic W. Sox	42	47	.472	14-1/2
Kansas City	32	62	.340	27
Detroit	29	59	.330	27

West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Houston	59	35	.628	-
Oakland	53	41	.564	6
Texas	50	44	.532	9
LA Angels	48	46	.511	11
Seattle	39	58	.402	21-1/2

National League

East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Atlanta	57	37	.606	-
Washington	49	43	.533	7
Philadelphia	48	45	.516	8-1/2
NY Mets	42	51	.452	14-1/2
Miami	34	57	.374	21-1/2

Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Chic Cubs	50	43	.538	-
Milwaukee	48	46	.511	2-1/2
St Louis	46	45	.505	3
Pittsburgh	44	48	.478	5-1/2
Cincinnati	42	48	.467	6-1/2

West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
LA Dodgers	62	33	.653	-
Arizona	47	47	.500	14-1/2
Colorado	46	46	.500	14-1/2
San Diego	45	48	.484	16
San Francisco	43	49	.467	17-1/2

Nets sign Nwaba

LA Lakers' Davis pulls out of Cup

LOS ANGELES, July 15, (RTRS): Los Angeles Lakers forward Anthony Davis is pulling out of participation in Team USA and the FIBA Basketball World Cup this summer.

Davis, acquired by the Lakers this month in a trade from the New Orleans Pelicans, said he will not participate in the USA Basketball training camp and FIBA Basketball World Cup to focus on the upcoming NBA season, per multiple reports.

Davis, 26, won gold medals with Team USA at the 2012 Olympics in London and at the 2014 World Cup in Spain.

He is reportedly still interested in playing in the 2020 Olympics.

Lonzo Ball learned via Twitter that he had been traded from the Los Angeles Lakers to the New Orleans Pelicans.

But Ball is not bitter about being included in the Anthony Davis blockbuster. If anything, he told ESPN in a story published Sunday, he is grateful for the change of scenery.

"I was kind of excited, honestly," Ball told ESPN when asked about his first reaction to the trade. "I kind of figured someone was going to get moved soon enough. I knew Anthony Davis wanted to come bad. Anytime you can get a guy like that, you are going to have to do what you have to do to get him. So I was kind of already just waiting for it, honestly, and I was happy to go with two guys I am comfortable with in B.I. (Brandon Ingram) and J-Hart (Josh Hart). I am excited to see what we can do."

BASKETBALL

Ball, 21, averaged 9.9 points, 5.3 rebounds and 5.4 assists in 47 games (45 starts) last season with Los Angeles. That followed a rookie campaign in which he averaged 10.2 points, 6.9 rebounds and 7.2 assists in 52 games (50 starts).

Throughout his tenure with the Lakers, Ball was the subject of trade speculation. "Yeah, I've been hearing my name for two years now," he told ESPN. "So it didn't bother me at all. We were all ready for it."

The Brooklyn Nets signed guard David Nwaba to a two-year deal, according to a report Sunday from The Athletic.

Nwaba, 26, averaged 6.5 points, 3.2 rebounds and 1.1 assists in 51 games (14 starts) last season with the Cleveland Cavaliers. He shot 48.1 percent from the field.

The Nets will be Nwaba's fourth team in as many seasons. He played for the Los Angeles Lakers as a rookie and the Chicago Bulls in his second season before moving on to the Cavaliers. In 141 career games (37 starts), Nwaba is averaging 7.2 points, 3.9 rebounds and 1.2 assists.



Los Angeles Dodgers' Russell Martin (55) tags out Boston Red Sox's Rafael Devers at home plate during the fifth inning of a baseball game in Boston on July 14. (AP)

Rays carry combined perfect game into 9th to top Orioles

Dodgers rout Red Sox 11-2, snap 4-game losing streak

BALTIMORE, July 15, (AP): The Tampa Bay Rays took a combined perfect game into the ninth inning before Hanser Alberto beat the shift with a leadoff single against Ryan Yarbrough, wrecking history in the making and taking some of the edge off their 4-1 victory over the Baltimore Orioles.

Ryne Stanek pitched the first two innings before Yarbrough took over. Yarbrough was literally unhittable — until the ninth.

Tampa Bay's try for the first combo perfect game in the majors came two days after a pair of Los Angeles Angels pitchers teamed up for a no-hitter. Alberto pushed a grounder to the right side, precisely where the second baseman usually stands. Stevie Wilkerson followed with a single, and an RBI single by Anthony Santander off Oliver Drake enabled Baltimore to break up the shutout.

Emilio Pagan struck out Trey Mancini for his sixth save.

Dodgers 7, Red Sox 4, 12 Innings
In Boston, Max Muncy drew a bases-loaded walk and Alex Verdugo had an RBI single during a three-run 12th inning, and Los Angeles beat Boston in another late-night showdown of last year's pennant winners.

The teams needed 5:40 to decide the series finale. It was Los Angeles' third win in 14 tries (including World Series games) at Fenway Park.
Boston got back-to-back homers from Xander Bogaerts and J.D. Martinez in the eighth against Pedro Báez but stranded seven runners over the final four innings.

Yankees 5, Blue Jays 2
In New York, Masahiro Tanaka pitched six strong innings, Gio Urshela drove in two runs, and New York beat Toronto.

Tanaka (6-5) allowed two runs, four hits and struck out five without a walk. Aroldis Chapman pitched a perfect ninth for his 25th save in 28 chances.

The Yankees took a 2-0 lead in the second inning on Urshela's two-run single to left field off Toronto starter Marcus Stroman (5-10).

Stroman, a New York native, started for the first time since June 29 after being sidelined with a left pectoral cramp. He gave up three runs and seven hits in six innings while striking out seven and walking two.

Phillies 4, Nationals 3
In Philadelphia, Maikel Franco homered with one out in the bottom of the ninth inning and Philadelphia avoided a sweep by Washington.

J.T. Realmuto, who had an RBI single in the fourth, also homered for the Phillies, who also got a two-run single from Jean Segura. Trea Turner, Matt Adams and Howie Kendrick drove in runs for the Nationals, who lost for just the third time in 15 games. Matt Grace (0-2) took the loss.

Washington's pitching staff entered having allowed 102 homers, fewest in the NL and second-fewest in the majors behind Tampa Bay.

Indians 4, Twins 3
In Cleveland, Carlos Santana hit a solo home run that broke a seventh-inning tie and Cleveland avoided a sweep against AL Central-leading Minnesota.

Santana lined an 0-2 pitch from Trevor May (3-2) into the right-field seats



New York Yankees starting pitcher Masahiro Tanaka winds up during the first inning of a baseball game against the Toronto Blue Jays on July 14 in New York. (AP)

for his 21st homer of the season.
Adam Cimber (5-2) pitched 1-1/3 innings and worked out of two jams. The right-hander struck out Nelson Cruz with the bases loaded to end the seventh and whiffed Miguel Sanó with the tying run on second to finish the eighth. Brad Hand pitched the ninth for his 24th save in 25 opportunities.
Shane Bieber took a three-hit shutout into the seventh before Minnesota rallied with three runs and tied the game.

Angels 6, Mariners 3
In Anaheim, California, rookie Matt Thaiss hit a tie-breaking three-run homer in the eighth inning, and Los Angeles completed a three-game sweep.

Mike Trout left the game before the third inning due to right calf tightness, but the Angels (48-46) kept rolling two days after their cathartic no-hit victory in their first home game since the death of pitcher Tyler Skaggs.

BASEBALL

After Kole Calhoun walked and went to third on pinch-hitter Justin Bour's two-out single off Anthony Bass (1-3), Thaiss connected off Seattle's Roemis Elias for his first career homer and helped the Angels to their sixth win in nine games since Skaggs' death.

Braves 4, Padres 1
In San Diego, Freddie Freeman hit a three-run homer in the eighth inning and All-Star rookie Mike Soroka struck out a career-high nine to win his 10th straight decision as Atlanta finished off a three-game sweep.
The NL East-leading Braves have won seven of eight.
Soroka (10-1) lost his season debut on April 18 against Atlanta but has won each of his last 10 decisions since April 24, a span of 15 starts.

He got Sunday's decision thanks to Freeman's shot deep to right field off Trey Wingenter (1-2) with two outs in the eighth. Soroka allowed six hits in seven scoreless innings and walked one. His previous strikeout high was eight in a 3-1 home win against San Diego on April 29. The 21-year-old made five starts in 2018.

Athletics 3, White Sox 2
In Oakland, California, Chad Pinder scored all the way from first base when White Sox shortstop Jose Rondón made a throwing error trying to start a double play in the ninth inning and Oakland beat Chicago.

After acquiring pitcher Homer Bai-

ley from Kansas City earlier in the day, the A's completed a three-game sweep. They have won 10 of 12 to put themselves in solid playoff contention.
Pinder singled as a pinch-hitter off Jace Fry (1-4) to begin the ninth. Ramón Laureano, who homered in the eighth to tie it at 2, followed with a sharp grounder to the left side of the infield. Rondón made a backhanded stop, hurried and threw on the run. But the ball sailed past second baseman Yolmer Sánchez and rolled into the large foul territory near Chicago's bullpen, and Pinder scored standing up.

Astros 12, Rangers 4
In Arlington, Texas, Justin Verlander followed a two-run first inning with five no-hit innings and José Altuve hit Houston's franchise-record ninth grand slam of the season.

Verlander (11-4) gave up four hits, all singles, and struck out seven. He retired his last 15 batters following a leadoff walk in the second inning as the Astros salvaged a split of the four-game series after losing the first two games.

Verlander didn't allow a home run for the first time since June 6. He has given up a major league high 26 homers this season — four shy of his career high in a full season.

Rockies 10, Reds 9
In Denver, Ryan McMahon singled, doubled, tripled and drove in three runs to lead Colorado.
A day after the Reds romped 17-9, Colorado bounced back with a couple of big innings.

McMahon hit a two-run double as the Rockies scored four times in the first inning. He had an RBI triple in a six-run fifth that made it 10-5.
Phillip Ervin, who tied a Reds record with six hits on Saturday night, had a leadoff triple in a four-run sixth that made it close.

It took the back end of the Rockies bullpen to finally quiet down the Reds. Scott Oberg pitched two scoreless innings and Wade Davis worked a perfect ninth for his 14th save.

Mets 6, Marlins 2
In Miami, Robinson Cano homered for the second consecutive game, helping New York beat Miami.
Cano finished 4 for 5 for his first four-hit game since May 7 at San Diego.

Jacob deGrom (5-7) pitched five innings and allowed six hits and one run for the Mets. He struck out six and walked three.

Jeff McNeil also homered and knocked in a pair of runs for the Mets. Pete Alonso, Michael Conforto, and

Adeiny Hechavarria each drove in a run.

Giants 8, Brewers 3
In Milwaukee, Tyler Beede pitched effectively into the seventh inning, had two hits and drove in the go-ahead run in San Francisco's win over Milwaukee.
Brandon Belt homered for the Giants, who took two out of three in the series.

Belt's solo homer with one out in the fifth, his 11th of the season, off Milwaukee starter Jhoulys Chacin put the Giants in front 2-1.
Christian Yelich hit his 32nd homer of the season in the sixth.

Corbin Burnes (1-5) gave up four hits and four runs without retiring a batter. Beede (3-3) gave up seven hits and three runs in 6-2/3 innings. He struck out seven and didn't walk a batter.

Cardinals 5, Diamondbacks 2
In St. Louis, Paul Goldschmidt homered, Adam Wainwright pitched seven scoreless innings, and St. Louis held on to beat Arizona.
Wainwright (6-7) allowed four hits, walked one and struck out seven. Carlos Martínez earned his fifth save.

Domingo Leyba and Jarrod Dyson had RBI singles for Arizona.
Tigers 12, Royals 8
In Kansas City, Jeimer Candelario hit a bases-clearing double and Gordon Beckham added a two-run homer during a seven-run third inning, and Detroit beat Kansas City.

Harold Castro had a pair of hits during the marathon game, when the Tigers trotted 11 batters to the plate against fill-in starter Brian Flynn (2-1). The first six reached base safely, and Brandon Dixon and Niko Goodrum also drove in runs before reliever Jorge Lopez finally ended the inning.

Cubs 8, Pirates 3
In Chicago, Jason Heyward, Albert Almora Jr and Kyle Schwarber hit home runs and Chicago completed a three-game sweep of Pittsburgh.

The NL Central leaders posted their first series win since taking all three from St. Louis on June 7-9.

Robel Garcia had a pair of doubles and Anthony Rizzo added two hits as Chicago improved to 32-16 at Wrigley Field. Bryan Reynolds got two hits and drove in a run for Pittsburgh, which has dropped five of seven.

Cubs starter Jose Quintana (7-7) allowed three runs on six hits in six innings to win his third straight start. The left-hander struck out four and walked two.

Trevor Williams (3-3) took the loss.



Tampa Bay Rays designated hitter Nate Lowe hits a single during the sixth inning of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles on July 14 in Baltimore. (AP)

SEATTLE, July 15, (AP): Natasha Howard scored 14 points a day after abuse allegations were raised against her to help the Seattle Storm beat the New York Liberty 78-69.

The team says it is looking into allegations on social media that Howard physically threatened and abused her wife. No charges have been filed.

Howard was in her regular starting forward position, and there was no noticeable backlash from the 6,733 fans. She was the first of the five starters introduced, receiving the same loud round of applause as the other four starters. She scored 10 of her points during the first 6-1/2 minutes, and was cheered on all four baskets.

On Saturday, Howard's wife posted a minute-long, expletive-filled video on Twitter from March in which she yelled at Howard about being threatened by the Storm forward. She also posted screen shots of conversations with Howard's agent and the team's general manager.

Howard, the 27-year-old former Florida State player, was selected to the All-Star Game for the first time in her career, being voted as a starter for the July 27 contest in Las Vegas.

Crystal Langhorne led Seattle (10-8) with 19 points, hitting a career-high four 3-pointers. Kami Whitcomb added 11 points. Kia Nurse had 19 points to lead the Liberty (7-10).

Lynx 75, Mercury 62

In Minneapolis, Sylvia Fowles set a WNBA record with her 157th career double-double and Minnesota pulled away in the second half to beat Phoenix.

Fowles finished with 14 points and 13 rebounds for her fourth consecutive double-double and broke Lisa Leslie's mark of 156 set from 1997-2009. Odyssey Sims led Minnesota (10-7) with 15 points and Napheesa Collier had 14 points, 11 rebounds and three steals. Danielle Robinson and Stephanie Talbot added 13 points apiece.

BASKETBALL

DeWanna Bonner led the Mercury (7-8) with 27 points. Diana Taurasi, who made her season debut on Friday night after recovering from off-season back surgery, did not play Sunday. She scored five points in 16 minutes Friday in a loss at Connecticut, but tweaked her back.

Sparks 76, Dream 71

In Atlanta, Riquna Williams scored 23 points, hitting five 3-pointers, and Nneka Ogwumike added 17 points and 15 rebounds to help Los Angeles beat Atlanta.

Kalani Brown, the No. 7 overall pick in the April draft, tied her season high with 12 points and Chelsea Gray added 10 points and nine assists for Los Angeles (9-7). The Sparks have won five of their last six games.

Tiffany Hayes led the Dream (5-11) with 24 points, making a driving layup with a second left in regulation to force overtime. Alex Bentley scored 12 points, and Monique Billings added nine points and a career-best 16 rebounds.

Sky 89, Wings 79

In Arlington, Texas, Diamond DeShields had a season-high 26 points, matching her career high with five 3-pointers, and Allie Quigley scored eight of her 12 points in the decisive third quarter in Chicago's victory over Dallas.

Jantel Lavender had 16 points, and Courtney Vandersloot added eight points and eight assists for the Sky (9-8).

Arike Ogunbowale led the Wings (5-11) with 20 points, and Isabelle Harrison had 15.

Sun 76, Fever 63

In Indianapolis, Jonquel Jones had 16 points, eight rebounds, three steals and three blocks and Connecticut beat Indiana to snap a four-game road losing streak.

Jasmine Thomas added 14 points for the Sun (11-6).

Kelsey Mitchell led the Fever (6-12) with 14 points.