

Ricciardo still hoping for a high in Monaco

Leclerc dream and Lauda memories stir Monaco emotions

MONACO, May 22, (RTRS): Charles Leclerc will race around his home streets in a Ferrari for the first time in Sunday's Monaco Grand Prix, a boyhood dream come true, but dominant Mercedes also have sentiment on their side.

The death on Monday night of Austrian Formula One great Niki Lauda, a triple world champion and non-executive director of the Mercedes team, has cast the showcase race into a different light.

A week ago there were those who feared a sixth successive Mercedes one-two finish, at a tight and twisty track that has seen plenty of processions in the past, would have the fans turning off in droves.

Now that looks more like a fitting tribute to a man who won his titles with McLaren and Ferrari but would have been cheering on the Silver Arrows of Lewis Hamilton and Valtteri Bottas as loudly as anyone.

Various tributes are expected for one of the sport's greatest characters, who won for Ferrari in Monaco in 1975 and 1976.

Mercedes team principal Toto Wolff said his compatriot had been a guiding

light. "As a team-mate over the past six and a half years, Niki was always brutally honest - and utterly loyal," he said.

"It was a privilege to count him among our team and moving to witness just how much it meant to him to be part of the team's success."

MOTOR RACING

Hamilton leads Bottas by seven points going into one of the Briton's favourite races, and one he has won twice already, and the characteristics of the car suggest Mercedes will again be frontrunners.

"If you look at their performance in the low-speed section of this (Barcelona) circuit, you would expect them to be very strong (in Monaco)," Red Bull boss Christian Horner said after Hamilton won in Spain 10 days ago.

"They'll certainly be very much the favourites."

Red Bull won last year from pole position with Daniel Ricciardo, but the Australian has moved to Renault and Max Verstappen is the main hope now.



From left, Renault driver Daniel Ricciardo of Australia, Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas of Finland and Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc of Monaco attend a news conference at the Monaco racetrack, in Monaco, on May 22. (AP)

The young Dutchman does not have such happy memories of the track, wrecking his chances last year by hitting the wall in Saturday's final practice and lining up last.

"Looking at the low-speed performance in the last sector (in Spain), we are clearly not the favourite and I also don't expect it to be like last year when we were super strong in Monaco," he said.

Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel is a two-times Monaco winner but much of the attention will be on Leclerc, who was born in the principality and can become the first local driver to score points at home since Louis Chiron in the 1950s.

A first career F1 win for the Monegasque, who crashed out last year on his debut with Sauber, would be truly momentous.

"It's my first home GP as a Ferrari driver and it's bound to be a special weekend," he said.

"I remember as a kid, I would spend the afternoon with a friend who lived in a flat with a balcony overlooking the Ste. Devote corner. We used to play with toy cars while the real ones rushed past beneath us. "I always told myself that one day, it would be great to be driving in this race."

Ricciardo, who has finished only once in the points this year with a best result of seventh, is unlikely to be standing on top of the podium on Sunday but the Australian does expect a better showing.

"I've done it before so it's familiar territory. I'm really curious actually to see how I perform this year in Mo-

naco," he told Reuters. "I think we can get a good result. Maybe our best of the year. We'll see."

Meanwhile, Monaco has been good to Daniel Ricciardo and the Australian believes Sunday's showcase race could provide another highlight, even if a repeat of last year's heroics looks out of the question.

The 29-year-old has had just one scoring finish in five grands prix since he moved from Red Bull to Renault at the end of 2018, with his best result a seventh place in China last month.

Monaco is special - a throwback whose tight, metal-fenced streets demand absolute precision and balance - and a place where a Formula One driver's talent can shine.

"I've done it before so it's familiar territory. I'm really curious actually to see how I perform this year in Monaco," Ricciardo, last year's winner from pole position, told Reuters.

"The Red Bull was a great car but I always feel like Monaco is a track where, if you're comfortable with the circuit and the walls and all that and have the confidence, you can leapfrog maybe your car's position further up.



Chicago Cubs' Javier Baez hits a game winning RBI-single against the Philadelphia Phillies during the ninth inning of a baseball game on May 21 in Chicago. (AP)

Kenya's 2016 Olympic coach banned

Oly marathon silver medallist Kirwa suspended for 'doping'

MANAMA, Bahrain, May 22, (Agencies): Bahrain's Olympic women's marathon silver medallist Eunice Kirwa has been provisionally suspended after failing a doping test, the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) said in a statement.

Kenyan-born Kirwa, who switched allegiance to Bahrain in 2013 and finished second at the Rio Olympics in 2016, tested positive for erythropoietin (EPO), a banned blood-boosting hormone that improves endurance.

"The AIU confirms (a) provisional suspension against... Bahraini long-distance runner Eunice Jepkiri Kirwa... for a violation of the IAAF's (International Association of Athletics Federation's) Anti-Doping Rules," AIU said in a statement.

Kirwa becomes the second women's marathon finisher at Rio to test positive for the same substance after Kenyan gold medallist Jemima Sumgong, who was suspended for four years by her country's anti-doping agency (ADAK) in 2017.

Sumgong's ban was doubled to eight years by the AIU after the IAAF found her guilty of providing false information while defending herself against the initial sanction but was allowed to keep her gold medal as she tested positive in April 2017.

The coach of Kenya's Olympic track team in 2016 has been banned for 10 years for corruption after he asked for \$12,000 to give athletes advance notice to help them beat doping tests.

Michael Rotich was banned by the IAAF ethics board following a three-year investigation prompted by an undercover sting by British newspaper The Sunday Times.

Rotich promised to help British run-

ners dope with EPO and get away with it in a region in Kenya where he was the senior track official. The undercover reporters were posing as the coach and manager of a group of athletes and no doping took place.

The Sunday Times video caused a stir when it was released during the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics. Rotich was sent home from the games.

Another Olympic medalist has criticized the IAAF's testosterone regulations and said she will refuse to take hormone-reducing medication.

Margaret Wambui of Kenya, who won bronze in the 800 meters behind Caster Semenya at the 2016 Olympics, said she is affected by the new rules but won't take "any type of medication" to lower her natural testosterone.

Without medication or surgery, some female runners won't be allowed to compete at anymore international meetings this season, including this year's world championships.

"It's wrong of (the) IAAF to ask us to take medicine to alter our natural body function," Wambui said Tuesday, speaking Swahili in an interview in Kenya.

She said she was unsure what side effects any medication or treatment might have on her.

The 23-year-old Wambui, the world junior champion in the 800 in 2014, compared the regulations to "losing your job."

"This ruling is very unfair," she said. "I have grown up knowing that I want to do athletics as a career and achieve a lot through it. Why wait for me to establish myself as an 800-meter athlete then tell me that I need to take medication to compete in the same event?"

"The ruling has affected me greatly because you are not sure of what to train for ... this season I was focusing on the world championships and Diamond League races but all that effort has gone to waste."

OLYMPICS

Kershaw takes shutout in 7th, Dodgers rally past Tampa Bay

Báez's pinch-hit single lifts Cubs over Phillies 3-2

ST PETERSBURG, Florida, May 22, (AP): Clayton Kershaw took a shutout into the seventh inning in his first start at Tropicana Field and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Tampa Bay Rays 7-3 on Tuesday night.

The three-time NL Cy Young Award winner (4-0) wound up allowing two runs, six hits, one walk and had eight strikeouts in 6-1/3 innings.

The Dodgers, with the National League's best record at 32-17, have won six of seven. Tampa Bay dropped two games behind the AL East-leading New York Yankees.

Justin Turner, Austin Barnes, Kiki Hernandez, Corey Seager and pinch-hitter Joc Pederson had run-scoring singles for the Dodgers.

Kershaw had scattered four hits through six but was replaced by Pedro Báez with two on and one out in the seventh and Los Angeles up 6-0.

The Rays then got within 6-3 on a run-scoring single by Austin Meadows and Tommy Pham's RBI double off Scott Alexander.

Astros 5, White Sox 1

In Houston, Justin Verlander took a no-hitter into the seventh inning and struck out a season-high 12 to lead Houston over Chicago.

Verlander (8-1) allowed one hit and walked one in eight innings for his fourth straight win and the seventh in eight starts. The only hit off him came when Jose Abreu sent the first pitch of his at-bat just over the wall and out of reach of a leaping Jake Marisnick in straightaway center field with one out in the seventh to cut the lead to 5-1.

Yuli Gurriel hit a solo homer off Dylan Covey (0-3) in the fourth inning to give the Astros home runs in 18 straight games, tying the second-longest streak in franchise history.

Houston, a big league-best 33-16, won for the 12th time in 13 games overall and ninth in a row over the White Sox.

Yankees 11, Orioles 4

In Baltimore, Clint Frazier homered twice and had a career-high five RBIs, Gary Sánchez contributed a three-run drive and New York routed Baltimore.

New York made it easy for Domingo Germán (9-1) to win his sixth consecutive start and increase his major league-leading victory total. The right-hander pitched only five innings and left with a 9-3 lead.

David Hale worked the four innings to earn his first save since 2010 at Class A.

D.J. LeMahieu had three hits and Sánchez finished with four RBIs for the AL East leaders, who have won seven of eight.

Sánchez got it started, hitting his second three-run homer in as many nights before David Hess (1-6) got an out.

Blue Jays 10, Red Sox 3

In Toronto, Rowdy Tellez had two homers and five RBIs and Randal Grichuk also homered in Toronto's win over Boston.

Toronto won for just the fifth time against Boston at Rogers Centre since the start of the 2017 season.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr returned to the Toronto lineup, going 2 for 5 with a pair of runs. Brandon Drury was 2 for 3 with three RBIs. The 10 runs tied a season high.

Mitch Moreland, Rafael Devers and Jackie Bradley Jr all had solo shots for the Red Sox.

Marcus Stroman (2-6) lasted six innings, giving up one run, five hits and a season-high six walks.

Marlins 5, Tigers 4, 11 Innings
In Detroit, Chad Wallach hit a tie-breaking double in the 11th inning, and Miami beat Detroit.

Detroit forced extra innings by scoring two unearned runs off Miami closer Sergio Romo. The bottom of the ninth included an error, two replay re-



Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Clayton Kershaw delivers to the Tampa Bay Rays during the first inning of a baseball game on May 21 in St Petersburg, Florida. (AP)

versals and the ejection of Tigers manager Ron Gardenhire.

That was the only success Detroit had against the Miami bullpen, though, Nick Anderson (1-1) struck out the side in the 10th, then closed the Tigers out in the 11th for his first career win.

Wallach put the Marlins ahead in the 11th with a two-out drive to left-center field off Joe Jimenez (2-2). The Tigers have dropped seven in a row.

Giants 4, Braves 3

In San Francisco, Joe Panik hit a game-ending two-run single off Atlanta closer Luke Jackson with two outs in the ninth to lift San Francisco.

Brandon Crawford began the comeback with a one-out single. With two out, Kevin Pillar singled in Crawford. Pillar stole second, and moved to third on Pablo Sandoval's pinch-hit infield single. Pinch-runner Mac Williamson stole second before Panik slapped a 3-2 pitch from Jackson into right field to cap the three-run rally.

It's the fourth blown save this season for Jackson (2-1). Atlanta had won four straight against San Francisco and allowed one run in all four.

Trevor Gott (2-0) retired three batters to win.

Josh Donaldson, Nick Markakis, Ronald Acuña Jr and Dansby Swanson had two hits apiece for Atlanta.

Mets 6, Nationals 5

In New York, Pete Alonso hit a long tying homer in the eighth inning, Amed Rosario had a winning infield single with two outs in the ninth and New York rallied from deficits three times to beat Washington.

Edwin Díaz (1-2) worked around a ninth-inning single for his first win with the Mets. Washington lost its third straight.

Mets starter Zack Wheeler gave up three runs and four hits in seven innings, while Washington's Erick Fedde allowed one run and four hits in five innings.

John Soto and Brian Dozier homered for Washington.

Rockies 5, Pirates 0

In Pittsburgh, German Márquez struck out seven over eight dominant innings and Trevor Story hit his 11th home run as Colorado cooled off surging Pittsburgh.

Márquez (5-2) gave up three hits, walked one and didn't allow a runner to third base as the Rockies snapped a four-game losing streak.

Charlie Blackmon went 3 for 5 for Colorado, including a two-run triple to left off Chris Archer (1-4) in the fourth. Story homered for the second straight game. His shot to deep left field in the third inning glanced off the glove of Pittsburgh leftfielder Bryan Reynolds.

Athletics 5, Indians 3

In Cleveland, pinch-hitter Mark

Canha's two-run homer off struggling Cleveland starter Trevor Bauer in the third inning sent Oakland to its fifth straight win.

Canha replaced injured slugger Khris Davis and connected off Bauer (4-3).

Bauer walked four, struck out five and hit three while throwing a season-high 123 pitches.

Oakland reliever Liam Hendricks (2-0) pitched two scoreless innings and Blake Treinen, the A's fourth reliever, worked the ninth for his ninth save in 11 tries.

Jurickson Profar homered in the eighth as Oakland improved to 7-1 against AL Central teams this season. The A's are 59-20 vs Cleveland, Chicago, Minnesota, Detroit and Kansas City dating to Aug 23, 2016.

Reds 3, Brewers 0

In Milwaukee, Sonny Gray and three Cincinnati relievers held down Milwaukee, which was missing Christian Yelich because of back spasms.

BASEBALL

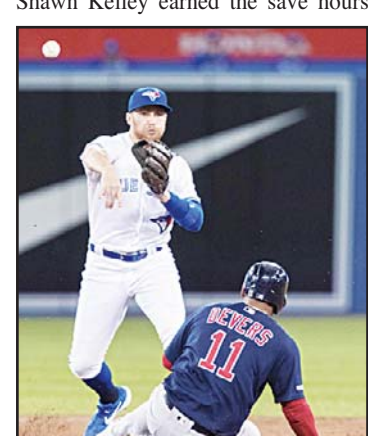
It was the major league-leading seventh shutout for the Reds as the Brewers were blanked for the first time this season.

Cincinnati scored all three runs in the first inning. Nick Senzel scored on a wild pitch, Phillip Ervin pushed a run across with a double and scored on a fielder's choice.

Gray (1-4) earned his first win of the season with six shutout innings in his first appearance at Miller Park. Gray tied his season-high with nine strikeouts. Raisel Iglesias earned his 10th save.

Rangers 5, Mariners 3

In Arlington, Texas, Lance Lynn allowed two runs over seven innings and Shawn Kelley earned the save hours



Boston Red Sox's Rafael Devers is out on the force out at second base as Toronto Blue Jays Brandon Drury turns the double play during the second inning of a baseball game on May 21 in Toronto. (AP)

after learning that two lumps removed from his throat last week were benign as Texas beat Seattle.

Lynn (6-3) gave up five singles and one walk and had a season-high 11 strikeouts and one walk in his 200th career start. Kelley, who was activated from the 10-day injured list on Tuesday, allowed a ninth-inning homer to Omar Narváez, who had three hits, in earning his third save of the season.

The loss continued a tailspin for Seattle, which is 10-26 since a 13-2 start.

Padres 3, Diamondbacks 2

In San Diego, Eric Hosmer's two-run, opposite-field home run off Zack Greinke highlighted the three-run sixth inning that carried San Diego past Arizona.

Greinke (6-2), who recorded his 2,500th career strikeout in the fourth, was working on a one-hit shutout when he ran into trouble in the sixth.

Ian Kinsler singled with one out, advanced on Frammil Reyes' groundout and scored on Manny Machado's single. Hosmer then drove Greinke's next pitch to left field to give the Padres the lead. It was Hosmer's seventh.

The Padres won their second straight to pop back above .500. The Diamondbacks lost their fourth straight.

Left-hander Matt Strahm (2-3) allowed two solo homers among his four hits in six innings. He struck out two and walked none.

Cubs 3, Phillies 2

In Chicago, pinch-hitter Javier Báez's single capped a two-run, ninth-inning rally and Chicago stopped Philadelphia's four-game winning streak.

Kris Bryant had three hits for the Cubs and scored two runs.

Phillies slugger Bryce Harper went 0 for 4, dropping his average to .224, and failed to reach base at Wrigley Field for the first time in 19 games. Jean Segura doubled in the first to extend his hitting streak to 12 games.

Chicago trailed 2-1 starting the ninth, but Juan Nicasio (0-2) walked Bryant leading off, Anthony Rizzo doubled and, after Willson Contreras hit a shallow flyout, Jason Heyward was intentionally walked.

Twins 8, Angels 3

In Anaheim, California, Marwin Gonzalez homered and drove in three runs as Minnesota rallied past Los Angeles.

Gonzalez's two-run shot in the sixth tied the game at three. Minnesota then broke it open with four in the seventh off Luke Bard (1-2). AL batting leader Jorge Polanco and Eddie Rosario each had two hits and drove in two runs for the Twins, who have won five of six on their road trip.

Luis Arraez had two hits, including his first home run in the eighth. Max Kepler also had two hits.

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, May 22, (RTRS): Results and standings from the MLB games on Tuesday.

Oakland	5	Cleveland	3
Colorado	5	Pittsburgh	0
NY Yankees	11	Baltimore	4
Chicago Cubs	3	Phillies	2
Toronto	10	Boston	3
LA Dodgers	7	Tampa Bay	3
Miami	5	Detroit (11 hrs)	4

American League				
East Division		Central Division		
W	L	Pct	GB	
NY Yankees	30	17	.638	-
Tampa Bay	27	18	.600	2
Boston	25	23	.521	5-1/2
Toronto	20	28	.417	10-1/2
Baltimore	15	33	.313	15-1/2
West Division		Central Division		
W	L	Pct	GB	
Minnesota	32	16	.667	-
Cleveland	25	22	.532	6-1/2
Chic W. Sox	21	26	.447	10-1/2
Detroit	18	27	.400	12-1/2
Kansas City	16	31	.340	15-1/2

National League				
East Division		Central Division		
W	L	Pct	GB	
Philadelphia	28	20	.583	-
Atlanta	26	23	.531	2-1/2
NY Mets	22	25	.468	5-1/2
Washington	19	29	.396	9
Miami	14	31	.311	12-1/2
West Division		Central Division		
W	L	Pct	GB	
Chic Cubs	28	18	.609	-
Milwaukee	28	22	.560	2
Pittsburgh	24	21	.533	3-1/2
St Louis	24	23	.511	4-1/2
Cincinnati	22	26	.458	7
West Division		Central Division		
W	L	Pct	GB	
LA Dodgers	32	17	.653	-
San Diego	25	24	.510	7
Arizona	25	24	.510	7
Colorado	21	25	.457	9-1/2
San Francisco	21	26	.447	10