

A's top Orioles, stretch win streak to 12

Tatis hits 2 HRs as Padres earn 3rd straight victory over Dodgers

BALTIMORE, April 24, (AP): The Oakland Athletics won their 12th consecutive game - their longest winning streak in almost two decades - with a 3-1 victory over the Baltimore Orioles.

Oakland's string is its longest since it won a franchise-record 20 in a row in 2002. It is the Athletics' third-longest winning streak since moving to Oakland in 1968, and is the longest in the majors since Houston's 12-game run from June 6-18, 2018.

Ramón Laureano homered and Cole Irvin won consecutive starts for the first time in nearly two years as the A's improved to 13-1 since dropping their first six games.

Baltimore has lost seven of its eight home games.

Irvin (2-2) had won back-to-back starts just once before, his first two career starts for Philadelphia in May 2019. Coming off six shutout innings against Detroit on Saturday, he stymied the Orioles for five innings. But Baltimore stitched together four singles in the sixth, capped by Pedro Severino's RBI single, to end Irvin's night.

BASEBALL

Jake Diekman worked the ninth to earn his second save in as many tries. Jorge López (1-3) was the loser.

Padres 6, Dodgers 1

In Los Angeles, Fernando Tatis Jr. hit two homers at Dodger Stadium on the 22nd anniversary of his father hitting two grand slams in one inning at the same park, and San Diego earned its third straight victory over Los Angeles.

Tatis hit solo homers in the third and fifth off Clayton Kershaw (3-2), and Yu Darvish (2-1) pitched seven strong innings in the Padres' second consecutive win at Chavez Ravine to open this four-game series. San Diego also won the finale of the clubs' first series last weekend at Petco Park.

Fernando Tatis Sr. famously hit two grand slams for St. Louis off the Dodgers' Chan Ho Park in the third inning on April 23, 1999 - a feat that had never been done before, and hasn't been done since.

Mets 6, Nationals 0

In New York, Jacob deGrom struck out a career-high 15, pitched a two-hitter and boosted the sagging Mets' offense with a go-ahead double from the No. 8 spot in the batting order, powering New York over Washington. DeGrom has struck out 43 in his last three starts and 50 overall this season, breaking the major league record for most in a pitcher's first four starts set just last weekend by Cleveland ace Shane Bieber with 48.

Perennially plagued by a lack of run support, just like Mets star Tom Seaver decades earlier, deGrom lowered his career ERA to 2.55 and overtook Seaver (2.57) as New York's franchise leader.

Twins 2, Pirates 0

In Minneapolis, Minnesota left-hander J.A. Happ lost his bid for a no-hitter when Jacob Stallings doubled with one out in the eighth inning, and the Twins beat Pittsburgh.

Happ, in his first season with the Twins, was immediately removed by manager Rocco Baldelli with a two-



San Diego Padres' Fernando Tatis Jr., (right), hits as Los Angeles Dodgers catcher Austin Barnes watches during the first inning of a baseball game, on April 23, in Los Angeles. (AP)

run lead and replaced by Tyler Duffey.

The 38-year-old Happ (1-0) walked two batters, both in the second, and struck out three. He threw 95 pitches, with 51 strikes, and lowered his ERA after three starts to 1.69.

Cubs 15, Brewers 2

In Chicago, Jake Marisnick homered and matched a career high with five RBIs and Chicago pounded Milwaukee for its fourth straight victory.

Anthony Rizzo, Javier Báez and Willson Contreras also homered for Chicago, and Nico Hoerner had three hits in his first start of the season. The Cubs were coming off a three-game sweep of the New York Mets.

Kyle Hendricks (1-2) pitched six innings of two-run ball in his first win of the season. He struck out six and walked one, bouncing back nicely after a rough start against Atlanta.

Yankees 5, Indians 3

In Cleveland, Giancarlo Stanton busted out of his slump with two rocketed home runs - one with the highest exit velocity this season - and New York connected four times, sending the Yankees past Cleveland.

Stanton hit a 429-foot solo shot in the third inning off Logan Allen (1-3) and another in the fifth for his first multi-homer game since Sept. 27, 2018. New York has won two straight and three of four after a horrendous start.

Rougned Odor added a two-run homer and Aaron Hicks also went deep for New York.

Red Sox 6, Mariners 5

In Boston, Xander Bogaerts hit a two-run homer all the way out of

Fenway Park and added an RBI single to help Boston beat Seattle.

J.D. Martinez also homered for the Red Sox, who survived a late scare when Kyle Seager hit a three-run homer in the ninth to pull Seattle within a run.

One night after rallying with a four-run 10th inning for a 7-4 victory, Seattle couldn't quite pull off another comeback. Matt Barnes, who gave up Seager's drive deep to right, got Evan White to line out to Bogaerts and end it.

Reliever Hirokazu Sawamura (1-0) struck out three over 1 1/3 innings.

Yusei Kikuchi (0-1) allowed five runs in 4 2/3 innings for Seattle, which never recovered after Bogaerts' drive onto Landsdowne Street in the first put Boston up 2-1.

Astros 5, Angels 4, 10 Innings

In Houston, rookie pinch-hitter Robel Garcia's RBI single in Houston's three-run 10th inning lifted the Astros past Los Angeles.

The Angels scored two runs in the top of the 10th on RBI singles by David Fletcher and Albert Pujols off Ryan Pressly (2-0) to take a 4-2 lead.

Kyle Tucker started the 10th on second base and went to third on a fly ball by Aledmys Díaz. Myles Straw singled off Raisel Iglesias (1-2) to score Tucker and cut the lead to 4-3. Jason Castro then hit a ground-rule double into the right-field corner to send Straw to third.

White Sox 9, Rangers 7

In Chicago, rookie sensation Yermín Mercedes added to his scoring start with four more hits, including a tiebreaking double in the seventh inning, and Chicago held off Texas.

Yoán Moncada had three hits and a home run. Liam Hendriks got the final five outs and the White Sox (10-9) moved above .500 for the first time this season. They won for the fourth time in five games even though Texas' Adolis García hit two more homers.

Codi Heuer (2-1) worked 1 1/3 innings for the win. Hendriks came on with one out in the eighth and runners on first and second and struck out Willie Calhoun and Isiah Kiner-Falefa to end that threat. The closer gave up a solo drive to García in the ninth before striking out Nick Solak for his fourth save in five chances.

Kyle Cody (0-2) was the loser.

Giants 5, Marlins 3

In San Francisco, Alex Wood pitched seven crisp innings after allowing a home run on the game's third pitch and San Francisco beat Miami.

Mike Yastrzemski homered as the Giants improved to 7-1 at home and celebrated Buster Posey becoming the first player in franchise history to catch 1,000 games. Brandon Belt walked three times and had an RBI single.

Jazz Chisholm and Jesus Aguilar homered for the Marlins.

Royals 6, Tigers 2

In Detroit, Mike Minor held Detroit hitless until the fifth inning, and Andrew Benintendi and Ryan O'Hearn homered off Casey Mize to lift Kansas City.

Robbie Grossman went deep for Detroit in the fifth, but by then the Tigers were trailing 6-0 after another rough start for Mize (1-2). He allowed six runs and seven hits in 4 2/3 innings. Detroit has lost seven of eight.

Minor (2-1) allowed two runs and four hits in 5 2/3 innings with two walks and nine strikeouts. Detroit didn't have a hit until Jeimer Candelario doubled to lead off the bottom of the fifth. Grossman hit a two-run shot later that inning.

Braves 5, Diamondbacks 4

In Atlanta, Huascar Ynoa earned his first career victory, Austin Riley and Ozzie Albies homered and Atlanta



Oakland Athletics pitcher Jake Diekman delivers during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles on April 23, in Baltimore. (AP)

beat Arizona.

Ynoa (1-1) allowed only two runs on two hits in six innings. The right-hander led 3-0 before giving up a two-run homer to Carson Kelly in the fifth.

Ynoa's night to remember also included his first two career hits and his first RBI. The 22-year-old Ynoa, from the Dominican Republic, doubled to left field off Luke Weaver (1-2) in the third inning for his first hit and added a run-scoring single in the fourth.

Cardinals 5, Reds 4

In St. Louis, Yadier Molina homered and doubled to help St. Louis build a 5-0 lead, Alex Reyes pitched out of a ninth-inning jam and the Cardinals held on to beat Cincinnati.

Kwang-Hyun Kim (1-0) allowed one run on five hits with a career-high eight strikeouts to help St. Louis snap a two-game skid. Three of Kim's four major league wins have come against Cincinnati.

Sonny Gray (0-1) allowed five runs on six hits and three walks in 3 2/3 innings in his second start after opening the season on the 10-day injured list with a strained back muscle. The Reds have lost five straight.

Reyes got the final two outs for his fourth save.

Blue Jays 5, Rays 3

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Steven Matz won his fourth consecutive start, Marcus Semien hit a three-run homer and Toronto beat Tampa Bay.

Matz (4-0), acquired from the New York Mets in January, gave up three runs and five hits over five innings. The lefty went 0-5 with a 9.68 ERA with New York last year.

Randal Grichuk also homered for Toronto. Rafael Dolis, the fourth reliever, worked the ninth for his first save.

Rockies 5, Phillies 4

In Denver, Raimel Tapia hit a solo home run with one out in the ninth inning and Colorado rallied past Philadelphia for its third straight victory.

Trevor Story, C.J. Cron and Garrett Hampson also homered for Colorado. The Rockies trailed by two runs twice before Tapia ended it with a shot over the scoreboard in right off closer Hector Neris (1-2).

Stemming surging cases of coronavirus

Tokyo under emergency orders with Olympics 3 months away

TOKYO, April 24, (AP): Only three months before the postponed Olympics are set to open, Tokyo and Japan's second largest metropolitan area of Osaka have been placed under emergency orders aimed at stemming surging cases of the coronavirus.

The measures, which take place during Japan's "golden week" holiday period, are meant to limit travel and keep people out of public places.

OLYMPICS

They are to end on May 11, just ahead of a widely reported visit to Hiroshima by International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach.

Bach said this week that the visit, reported for May 17-18, is still in the "planning phase." But Bach's presence was immediately criticized by opposition lawmakers who say the Olympics are being prioritized ahead of public safety.

"Japan should decide its own public health policies. There is no reason we should be told by Mr. Bach what to do," said Yuichiro Tamaki, the head of the Democratic Party for the People.

Bach said the duration of the state of emergency had nothing to do with his planned visit to the city, where he would greet the Olympic torch relay. Hiroshima was destroyed in 1945 by the American detonation of an atomic bomb over the city, and is a favorite backdrop for visiting politicians and dignitaries.

"This (state of emergency) is absolutely in line with the overall policy of the government," Bach said. "But it is not related to the Olympic Games. It is related to the golden week."

Japan's third state of emergency is to include shutdown orders for bars, department stores, malls,

theme parks, as well as theaters and museums. Even restaurants that do not serve alcohol are being asked to close early, as well as public transportation. Schools will stay open, but universities are asked to return to online classes.

"I hope that the situation is going to be better as soon as possible," Seiko Hashimoto, the president of the organizing committee, said Friday in an online briefing.

Japan has attributed about 10,000 deaths to COVID-19, good by global standards but poor by standards in Asia. It has vaccinated less than 1% of the population and has not enforced lockdowns with people becoming impatient and less cooperative as cases have again accelerated.

Hashimoto said several test events would continue during the emergency period, but without fans. The Olympics open on July 23.

She was asked again if there were any plans to cancel the Olympics. The question had disappeared at briefings, but has surfaced again in the last several weeks.

"As the organizing committee, we are not thinking about cancellation," Hashimoto said.

The IOC gets almost 75% of its income from selling television rights and has seen that cash flow stalled by the postponement. It needs the games to happen, which will be followed in six months by the boycott-threatened Beijing Winter Olympics.

Tokyo is officially spending \$15.4 billion to organize the Olympics, with several government audits suggesting the number is much larger.

The IOC and organizers are hoping to muffle more cancellation questions next week by rolling out the second edition of the "Playbooks," guides that are to explain how the Olympics can be held safely in a pandemic.



Chicago White Sox's Luis Robert (88) steals second as Texas Rangers' Brock Holt is unable to catch the throw from Jose Trevino during the seventh inning of a baseball game, on April 23, in Chicago. (AP)

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, April 24, (AP): Results and standings from the MLB games on Friday.

Toronto	5	Tampa Bay	3	Chic. Cubs	15	Milwaukee	2
Oakland	3	Baltimore	1	NY Mets	6	Washington	0
Kansas City	6	Detroit	0	Atlanta	5	Arizona	4
Minnesota	2	Pittsburgh	2	St Louis	5	Cincinnati	4
NY Yankees	5	Cleveland	3	Colorado	5	Philadelphia	4
Boston	6	Seattle	5	San Francisco	5	Miami	3
Houston	5	LA Angels	4	San Diego	6	LA Dodgers	1
Chic. White Sox	9	Texas	7				

American League East Division				National League East Division			
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	13	8	.619	New York	8	7	.533
Tampa Bay	10	10	.500	Atlanta	9	10	.474
Toronto	9	10	.474	Philadelphia	9	10	.474
Baltimore	8	11	.421	Miami	8	11	.421
New York	8	11	.421	Washington	7	10	.412

American League Central Division				National League Central Division			
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB
Kansas City	10	9	.526	Milwaukee	11	8	.579
Chicago	10	9	.526	Chicago	10	9	.526
Cleveland	8	10	.444	Cincinnati	9	10	.474
Minnesota	7	11	.389	St Louis	9	10	.474
Detroit	7	13	.350	Pittsburgh	9	11	.450

American League West Division				National League West Division			
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB
Oakland	13	7	.650	Los Angeles	14	6	.700
Seattle	12	8	.600	San Francisco	13	7	.650
Los Angeles	9	9	.500	San Diego	12	10	.545
Houston	9	10	.474	Arizona	9	11	.450
Texas	9	11	.450	Colorado	7	12	.368



Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga (left), and President of the Japan Community Health Care Organization Shigeru Omi attend a press conference on April 23, in Tokyo, Japan. (AP)

Japanese GP to remain at Suzuka through 2024

SUZUKA, Japan, April 24, (AP): The Japanese Grand Prix will remain at Suzuka Circuit until at least 2024, Formula 1 announced on Saturday.

The track has been a regular fixture on the F1 calendar since 1987 and the multi-year extension is part of an effort to grow the sport in Asia.

"Japan holds a special place in the hearts and minds of F1 fans all over the

world, and Suzuka has played host to many of the sport's most legendary moments, with 11 Drivers' titles being

MOTOR RACING

decided there," F1 chief executive Stefano Domenicali said in a statement.

The Japanese GP, scheduled this year for Oct. 10, "has always showcased gripping, edge-of-your-seat drama," Domenicali said in announcing the extension with race promoter Mobilityland.

This season, 20-year-old Yuki Tsunoda became the first Japanese driver on the F1 grid since 2014. He