

SPORTS

Gallo HR ends power drought as Rangers quiet Angels' bats

Diamondbacks keep rolling, Rays cool off Athletics

ARLINGTON, Texas, April 28, (AP): **Joey Gallo ended the longest home run drought of his career at 20 games with the Texas slugger's hardest hit of the season, an early tiebreaking two-run shot in the Rangers' 6-1 victory over the Los Angeles Angels.**

Nick Solak homered twice to take the Texas team lead with seven as the Rangers stopped a second four-game losing streak, their longest of the season.

Shohei Ohtani was 0 for 4 with a strikeout as the LA designated hitter a day after getting the win, scoring three runs and driving in two while becoming the first home run leader to start as a pitcher since Babe Ruth a century ago.

Diamondbacks 5, Padres 1

In Phoenix, Merrill Kelly gave the Diamondbacks another strong pitching performance, Carson Kelly hit a two-run homer and Arizona beat the San Diego Padres.

BASEBALL

The Diamondbacks have won seven of their past eight games, improving to 12-11 for the season. It's the first time they've been above .500 this year.

Coming off a doubleheader sweep in Atlanta on Sunday in which Madison Bumgarner pitched a no-hitter and Zac Gallen threw a one-hitter in a pair of seven-inning shutouts, Merrill Kelly kept up the mound mastery.

Kelly (2-2) gave up one run and four hits in six innings, striking out five. He lowered his ERA to 6.33 after struggling in his first four starts of the season.

Carson Kelly's long, high-arching homer in the sixth pushed the D-backs ahead 5-1 and chased San Diego starter Chris Paddock (1-3) from the game. It was the catcher's sixth homer of the season.

The Diamondbacks took a 2-0 lead in the second inning after Trent Grisham dropped Nick Heath's line drive into the left-center gap. It looked like Padres left fielder Jurickson Profar could have made the easier play, but Grisham called him off and the ball ricocheted off his glove and rolled to the wall.

Rays 4, Athletics 3

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Brett Phillips hit a two-run homer in the sixth inning and the Tampa Bay Rays held on for win over Oakland, handing the Athletics their second loss in 16 games.

Joey Wendle's two-out single in the seventh tacked on another run for the Rays and ended Tampa Bay's 0-for-26 stretch with runners in scoring position.

Rays 6, Dodgers 5

In Los Angeles, Joey Votto hit a go-



Texas Rangers' Joey Gallo hits a two-run home run next to Los Angeles Angels catcher Anthony Bemboom during the third inning of a baseball game, on April 27, in Arlington, Texas. (AP)

ahead double, Jesse Winkler homered and drove in two runs and the Cincinnati Reds rallied for the second straight night to defeat the scuffling Los Angeles Dodgers.

The defending World Series champions have dropped six of eight, including three straight for the first time since 2019.

Rockies 5, Giants 5, 10 innings
In San Francisco, Ryan McMahon and C.J. Cron hit back-to-back home runs in the 10th inning and the Colorado Rockies finally won on the road, beating the San Francisco Giants.

Garrett Hampson also went deep for Colorado, and Charlie Blackmon added two hits and two RBIs.

Tigers 5, White Sox 2

In Chicago, Miguel Cabrera and Niko Goodrum homered, José Ureña threw seven innings for his first win in two years, and the Detroit Tigers overcame a season-high five errors to beat the Chicago White Sox.

Owners of the worst record in the majors, the Tigers matched their highest error total since they committed five against the White Sox in Chicago on Aug. 31, 2014. Third baseman Jeimer Candelario allowed a run to score in the first when he missed a throw and helped bring home another in the third with a throwing error as Chicago grabbed a 2-1 lead. But despite the struggles on defense, Detroit came away with the win after losing 10 of 11.



San Diego Padres starting pitcher Chris Paddock throws against the Arizona Diamondbacks during the first inning of a baseball game, on April 27, in Phoenix. (AP)

Brewers 5, Marlins 4

In Milwaukee, Adrian Houser pitched effectively into the sixth inning and hit his first career home run, leading the Milwaukee Brewers over the Miami Marlins.

Houser began the day 2 for 28 (.071) with 21 strikeouts in his career at the plate. With two outs and no one on base in the second, he lined the first pitch from Daniel Castano over the wall in center field.

Astros 2, Mariners 0

In Houston, Cristian Javier combined with two relievers on a two-hitter, and the Houston Astros beat the Seattle Mariners to get above .500 as they bounced back from a long skid.

Javier (3-0) allowed two hits in seven innings - both by Kyle Seager - struck out six and walked three. He extended his scoreless streak to 17 innings over three starts and lowered his season ERA to 0.87.

Cardinals 5, Phillies 2

In St. Louis, Carlos Martinez pitched two-hit ball into the eighth inning for his first win as a starter since 2018, leading the St. Louis Cardinals over the Philadelphia Phillies.

Paul Goldschmidt and Tommy Edman hit two-run doubles and Nolan Arenado doubled twice as St. Louis won for the fourth time in five games.

Braves 5, Cubs 0

In Atlanta, Ian Anderson allowed one hit in seven innings, Ronald Acuña Jr. hit a long home run and the Atlanta Braves beat the skidding Chicago Cubs.

Anderson (2-0) won his second consecutive start, after throwing 6 2/3

shutout innings in a 4-1 win at Yankee Stadium last Wednesday. He walked only one Cubs batter and struck out eight.

Yankees 5, Orioles 1

In Baltimore, Corey Kluber has his best start in two years to gain his first win for the Yankees, Kyle Higashino homered again as he gains playing time from Gary Sánchez and New York beat the Baltimore Orioles.

Aaron Judge and Giancarlo Stanton also homered - the Yankees are 9-0 when they go deep in the same game, including the playoffs. New York stopped a four-game skid at Camden Yards and at 10-13 moved into a tie with the Orioles for last in the AL East.

Blue Jays 9, Nationals 5

In Dunedin, Florida, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit three home runs, including a grand slam and solo shot off Washington ace Max Scherzer, and had seven RBIs as the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Nationals.

Guerrero's slam in the third put the Blue Jays ahead 4-3 and ended Scherzer's scoreless streak at 19 innings.

Red Sox 2, Mets 1

In New York, Garrett Richards finally found the strike zone and punched out 10, Bobby Dalbec hit his first homer of the season and the Boston Red Sox beat the New York Mets.

Richards (1-2) allowed a run and seven hits over seven innings, issuing no free passes one start after walking six. The right-hander trimmed his ERA from 6.48 to 4.94.

Indians 7, Twins 4

In Cleveland, Franmil Reyes homered twice, including a 452-foot drive that landed in the left-field bleachers about six rows in front of the scoreboard, and the Cleveland Indians beat the slumping Minnesota Twins.

Reyes broke a sixth-inning tie with his second homer off Kenta Maeda to give the Indians a 4-3 lead. Reyes led off the second with a majestic clout that sent fans in the bleachers scrambling and tied the game after Minnesota scored twice in the first.

Pirates 2, Royals 1

In Pittsburgh, pinch-hitter Wilmer Difo delivered the go-ahead single in the seventh inning, and the Pittsburgh Pirates beat Kansas City to end the Royals' five-game winning streak.

Pittsburgh (12-11) has won three straight games and 11 of 16 since a 1-6 start, moving back above .500 for the first time since it was 1-0 in the opening week.

Royal take IPL lead

Bangalore beats Delhi by one run

AHMEDABAD, India, April 28, (AP): Royal Challengers Bangalore hung in against Shimron Hetmyer and Rishabh Pant's late charge to beat Delhi Capitals by just one run and go atop the Indian Premier League.

Bangalore's fifth win in six games took them to 10 points, leaving Delhi and Chennai Super Kings both at eight points.

Bangalore, which scored 171-5 on the back of AB de Villiers' electrifying unbeaten 75 off 42 balls, had the game in control until the 17th over before Hetmyer brought Delhi back with some powerful hitting.

Needing 46 off the last three overs, the West Indian left-hander blazed three sixes off Kyle Jamieson to bring down the target to 25 runs from two overs.

Although Harshal Patel conceded just one boundary, his penultimate over went for 11 which left Mohammed Siraj with 14 runs to defend in the last over.

Siraj made the task difficult for Delhi by conceding four off his first four balls before Delhi captain Pant's back-to-back boundaries could only take his team to 170-4.

That left Hetmyer on his knees in disappointment as the left-hander smashed an unbeaten 53 off just 25 balls, but could face only a ball in Siraj's last over. Pant consumed 48 balls for his unbeaten 58 which featured six boundaries.

CRICKET

"The way Siraj started the last over, it gave us confidence," Bangalore skipper Virat Kohli said. "For the most part, I think we were top in this game with our bowlers ... there wasn't any dew tonight thanks to that little sandstorm in the middle and we ended up bowling with a dry ball."

Earlier, Delhi had the strong Bangalore batting lineup in check at 139-5 until the 18th over. Past bowlers Avesh Khan (1-24) and Ishant Sharma (1-26) bowled well upfront to dispatch opening pair of Kohli (12) and Devdutt Padikkal (17).

But Pant's decision to give Marcus Stoinis the 20th over cost Delhi 23 crucial runs. De Villiers turned the tide in Bangalore's favor as the experienced South African Twenty20 batsman smacked three sixes and in the process also completed 5,000 runs in the IPL.

N. Zealand Rugby debates selling All Blacks 'share' to US investors

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, April 28, (AP): New Zealand Rugby will face a momentous decision on the future of the All Blacks at its annual meeting Thursday, when it debates whether to sell a stake in the commercial value of the national team to American investors.

RUGBY

New Zealand's 26 provincial unions will vote on a recommendation from New Zealand Rugby that it should bundle its commercial interests into a new entity and sell a 12.5 percent stake in that entity to California-based Silver Lake Partners for 387.5 million New Zealand dollars (US\$279 million).

If the recommendation is carried, it will mark the first time in more than 115 years that the All Blacks - the most successful team in world rugby - do not wholly belong to New Zealanders.

Rugby officials argue the sale is necessary to secure the future financial sustainability of New Zealand Rugby after its finances were battered last year by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In documents to be presented to the annual meeting, NZR proposes transferring its commercial assets to a new company to be called Commercial LP and to transfer NZ\$43.75 million (\$31.5 million) from the sale price to that entity as operating capital. A further NZ\$39 million (\$28 million) will be distributed to stakeholders, mainly the provincial unions, who are also cash-strapped after last year's disrupted season.

NZR said it will also establish a legacy fund for "longer-term strategic initiatives to ensure the sustainability of all levels of rugby in New Zealand."

Silver Lake Partners was launched in 1999 and has focused mainly on investment in the technology sector with holdings in companies such as Airbnb, Twitter and Dell Technologies.

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, April 28, (AP): Results and standings from the MLB games on Tuesday.

Pittsburgh	2	Kansas City	1	Detroit	5	Chic. Wht. Sox	2
Cleveland	7	Minnesota	4	Atlanta	5	Chicago Cubs	0
Boston	2	NY Mets	1	St. Louis	5	Philadelphia	2
NY Yankees	5	Baltimore	1	Milwaukee	5	Miami	4
Toronto	9	Washington	5	Arizona	5	San Diego	1
Tampa Bay	4	Oakland	3	Colorado	7	San Francisco (10 inn)	5
Houston	2	Seattle	0	Cincinnati	6	LA Dodgers	5
Texas	6	LA Angels	1				

American League				National League				
East Division			GB	East Division			GB	
W	L	Pct		W	L	Pct		
Boston	15	9	.625	New York	9	9	.500	
Tampa Bay	12	12	.500	Atlanta	11	12	.478	-1/2
Toronto	11	11	.500	Philadelphia	11	12	.478	-1/2
Baltimore	10	13	.435	Miami	10	13	.435	1-1/2
New York	10	13	.435	Washington	8	12	.400	2
Central Division			GB	Central Division			GB	
W	L	Pct		W	L	Pct		
Kansas City	14	8	.636	Milwaukee	14	9	.609	
Chicago	12	10	.545	Pittsburgh	12	11	.522	2
Cleveland	11	11	.500	St. Louis	12	11	.522	2
Detroit	8	16	.333	Cincinnati	11	12	.478	3
Minnesota	7	15	.318	Chicago	10	13	.435	4
West Division			GB	West Division			GB	
W	L	Pct		W	L	Pct		
Oakland	15	9	.625	Los Angeles	15	9	.625	
Seattle	13	11	.542	San Francisco	15	9	.625	
Houston	12	11	.522	Arizona	12	11	.522	2-1/2
Los Angeles	11	11	.500	San Diego	13	12	.520	2-1/2
Texas	10	14	.417	Colorado	9	14	.391	5-1/2



Tampa Bay Rays catcher Francisco Mejia, (left), is late with the tag as Oakland Athletics' Matt Olson (28) scores on a sacrifice fly by Mitch Moreland during the sixth inning of a baseball game, on April 27, in St. Petersburg, Florida. (AP)

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