



Cleveland Cavaliers center Jarrett Allen (Left) competes for a rebound with Memphis Grizzlies center Steven Adams (4) during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Memphis, Tenn. Grizzlies won 132-121. (AP) -See Page 15

Sports

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Alvarez has three hits and three RBIs for Houston

Astros rout Red Sox for AL Championship Series lead

BOSTON, Oct 21, (AP): Framber Valdez lost his perfect game in the fifth inning and then bounced the next pitch off the batter's leg.

Astros manager Dusty Baker headed for the mound.

"It was surprising more than anything," Valdez said, noting that a visit from the manager usually means his night is over. "The first thing I did was look back to the bullpen to see if anyone was out there. I saw nobody was there.

"He just came out and told me... 'You know what you're doing out here, so just breathe,'" Valdez said. "He gave me the confidence to get out of the inning." And much more than that.

Perfect through four, the Houston left-hander took a two-hit shutout into the seventh and became the first pitcher this postseason to complete eight innings, leading the Astros over Boston 9-1 on Wednesday for a 3-2 lead in the AL Championship Series.

Yordan Alvarez had three hits and

three RBIs for Houston, which could clinch a second trip to the World Series in three years with a victory at home on Friday night.

The Red Sox need a win to force a deciding seventh game on Saturday.

BASEBALL

"We came back to Boston exactly where we wanted to be: We were 1-1," Red Sox starter Chris Sale said. "Not in a good spot going back to Houston. There's no denying that, but this team has won two games in the playoffs back-to-back before, and we think we can do it again." One day after the Astros scored seven runs to break a ninth-inning tie, they hung another crooked number on the Fenway Park scoreboard, chasing Sale while scoring five runs in the sixth. Alvarez, who homered in the second and singled in the fourth, had a two-run double to break things open.



Houston Astros' Yordan Alvarez hits a home run against the Boston Red Sox during the second inning in Game 5 of baseball's American League Championship Series in Boston. (AP)

Shakib stars

Bangladesh and Sri Lanka qualify for WCup Super 12

AL AMERAT, Oman, Oct 21, (AP): Shakib Al Hasan's brilliant allround performance helped Bangladesh advance in the T20 World Cup after beating Papua New Guinea by 84 runs on Thursday.

Shakib made 46 runs off 28 balls in Bangladesh's impressive total of 181-7, then the world's leading wicket-taker in T20s took 4-9, slicing through an inexperienced PNG top order. The T20 World Cup debutants were bowled out for 97 in 19.3 overs.

The thumping win ensured Bangladesh's place in the Super 12 from

Group B on net-rate with two wins from three games.

"It was much needed (the win)," Bangladesh captain Mahmudullah said. "The intent was there from the batters... the wicket was better in comparison, so the batters did well to get 180." PNG were reduced to 7-29 within 11 overs and No. 8 batsman Kiplin Doriga lashed out with 46 not out for nearly half of their runs.

Shakib, introduced in the batting powerplay, dismissed Charles Amimi and Simon Atai in his first over as Bangladesh held onto some superb catches.

Sese Bau holed out to long on off Shakib and the left-arm spinner rounded off his spell by seeing Hiri Hiri caught behind off a mistimed slog sweep for a duck in his T20 World Cup debut.

Earlier, Mahmudullah top-scored with 50 off 28 balls and Shakib hammered three sixes in a daunting Bangladesh total.

PNG skipper Assad Vala and fast bowler Kabua Morea finished with identical figures of 2-26, but medium fast bowler Chad Soper conceded 53 runs off his four overs without a wicket.

"We just couldn't execute our death bowling under pressure," Vala said. "We can take back executing our skills under pressure, we weren't good enough. Next time if we get the opportunity, we'll try to change it." Sri Lanka advanced to the Super 12 stage by beating Ireland by 70 runs, led by allrounder Wanindu Hasaranga's 71 off 47 balls in Abu Dhabi.

The win meant the Netherlands were eliminated from Group A after Namibia had earlier defeated the Dutch team by six wickets.

Sri Lanka slipped to 8-3 inside the first 10 deliveries before Hasaranga and opener Pathum Nissanka (61) wiped out Ireland hopes and carried the former champions to a daunting 171-7.

Ireland were bowled out for 101 all out with nine balls to spare despite Sri Lanka dropping a couple of easy catches. Only captain Andy Balbirnie (41) and Curtis Campher (24) reached double figures as Ireland crumbled against Sri Lankan pace and spin.



Hasaranga

CRICKET

"Of course it was a concern at 8 for 3, but they put on an awesome partnership," captain Dasun Shanaka said while praising Hasaranga and Nissanka's century stand. "Have to look at top-order batting, but other areas are okay, though fielding has been poor as well." Hasaranga, promoted in the batting order at No. 5, smashed 10 fours and a six and raised a 123-run stand as Sri Lanka recovered from a top order collapse as it did against Namibia in the first game.

Fast bowler Josh Little (4-23) had clean bowled Dinesh Chandimal (6) and Avishka Fernando in the second over after Kusal Perera was caught low in the covers by Gareth Delany in Paul Stirling's first over.

Hasaranga was finally caught at point off Mark Adair's (2-35) slower delivery in the 16th over before Little grabbed two more wickets that included the wicket of Nissanka, who was caught behind.

The winners of Ireland vs. Namibia on Friday will join Sri Lanka in advancing to the Super 12 stage.

United win in chaos; Bayern, Juventus, Chelsea do it easy



Atalanta's Merih Demiral, (left), challenges Manchester United's Cristiano Ronaldo during the Champions League Group F soccer match between Manchester United and Atalanta at Old Trafford, Manchester, England. Inset: Manchester United's Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates scoring their side's third goal of the game. (AP)

Juventus pip Zenit as Barca end winless run

GENEVA, Oct 21, (AP): Cristiano Ronaldo's late winning goal capped a classic Manchester United comeback win in the Champions League.

In a less chaotic manner, Bayern Munich and Juventus also recorded typical trademark wins to top their groups with three straight victories and no goals conceded.

SOCCER

Trailing 2-0 at halftime at home against Atalanta, with Paul Pogba left on the bench, United's wild season under manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer appeared ready to derail with last place in the group beckoning.

Ronaldo put the club back on top, 3-2, in the 81st minute after goals from Marcus Rashford and Harry Maguire to deliver a second straight comeback-against win at Old Trafford in the competition.

Bayern routed Benfica 4-0 with late goals including one from Robert Lewandowski after standout saves by Manuel



Barcelona's Gerard Pique celebrates after scoring his side's first goal during a Champions League Group E soccer match between F.C. Barcelona and Dinamo Kyiv at Camp Nou Stadium in Barcelona, Spain. (AP)

Neuer in the Lisbon stadium where they won the 2020 title 14 months ago.

It was an efficient 1-0 win for Juventus at Zenit St. Petersburg thanks to an 86th-minute goal by Dejan Kulusevski.

Defending champions Chelsea also cruised to a 4-0 win, against Malmö,

but lost strikers Romelu Lukaku and Timo Werner to injuries.

Salzburg were the other group leaders in action, beating Wolfsburg 3-1 with goals from the kind of young forwards the Austrian champion excels in nurturing then trading on.

Teenage Germany forward Karim Adeyemi scored early before 21-year-old Switzerland winger Noah Okafor scored twice in the second half.

Barcelona finally got a win, 1-0 against Dynamo Kyiv, to end some unwanted historic streaks for the club and stay in contact in the group led by Bayern.

Villarreal, which were beaten by Ronaldo's stoppage-time winning goal three weeks ago, won 4-1 against Young Boys to lift the Europa League champion from last to second in the group.

A 0-0 draw between Lille and Sevilla dragged down the average goals to three per game with 24 in total one day after a 35-goal rush in the eight games Tuesday.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has many critics outside Manchester United who doubt the club is getting closer to major titles as he approaches three years in charge.

They included the fans who jeered the team off at halftime having seen Mario Pasalic score for Atalanta in the

15th minute and Merih Demiral in the 29th.

Marcus Rashford started the comeback in the 53rd and - with Pogba now on the field - Harry Maguire leveled in the 75th, six minutes before Ronaldo got his 138th career Champions League goal.

Solskjaer praised the fans for helping lift and sing the players to victory, which "is what you do at Manchester United on a Champions League night." Bayern returned to the Stadium of Light in Lisbon without the new coach who replaced 2020 title-winner Hansi Flick.

Julian Nagelsmann was ill and stayed at the hotel while his team had two goals disallowed before striking four times, including two by Leroy Sané, from the 70th minute.

"The boys were sensational," Bayern assistant coach Dino Toppmöller said. They now lead Benfica by five points, with Barcelona a further point back.

The 34-year-old Gerard Piqué scored his 16th Champions League goal - tying the record for a defender - to ensure Barcelona beat Dynamo Kyiv.

The win ended Barcelona's five-game winless Champions League run and a club record streak of three

straight home losses in the competition.

Next up at Camp Nou is a "clásico" against Real Madrid in La Liga on Sunday.

Neither Ukrainian team - Dynamo and Shakhtar Donetsk in Group D - has scored in a combined six games so far.



Bangladesh's Mustafizur Rahman bowls during the Cricket Twenty20 World Cup match between Bangladesh and Papua New Guinea in Muscat, Oman. (AP)