

Canada dominate Dominican Republic

US overcome Puerto Rico to close in on World Cup



New Zealand's Finlay Christi runs at the defense during the rugby international between the All Blacks and Ireland at Eden Park in Auckland, New Zealand. New Zealand won 42-19. (AP)

14-man Wallabies edge England to end eight-game losing streak

Big 2nd half helps France top Japan

PERTH, Australia, July 2, (AP): A 14-man Australian side ended an eight-match losing streak against England with a 30-28 win Saturday in the first of three test matches, adding more pressure on embattled losing coach Eddie Jones.

England arrived in Western Australia last week after losses to Ireland, France and most recently a surprise 52-21 defeat by the Barbarians invitational side.

RUGBY

The Australians were forced to play a man down for more than half the match after lock Darcy Swain was sent off for head-butting his English rival Jonny Hill. But Australia scored three second-half tries to end England's domination of Australia that dated to 2015.

The visitors scored two late tries to make the result close before 47,668 spectators.

Australia was hard-hit by injuries early. Wallabies fullback Tom Banks sustained an apparent broken arm during the first half and Quade Cooper was a last-minute withdrawal after straining his left calf in the warm-up.

After leaping high into the air in a bid to catch Nic White's 22nd-minute restart, Banks' left arm bent the wrong way as he crashed to the ground and attempted to avoid a head-first landing.

The Wallabies were completing their warm-up when Cooper injured his calf. Noah Lolesio was moved into the starting lineup in place of Cooper at No. 10 while James O'Connor was brought onto the bench.

Cooper led the Wallabies to five straight wins last year after his four-year exile from the national side. O'Connor was part of a corporate function before the match but was rushed to the dressing room to get changed once Cooper's injury was confirmed.

The Wallabies led 30-14 but England scored in the 80th and 83rd minutes to close the margin to two points.

Swain's red card on 34 minutes will likely see him sit out the remainder of the series in Brisbane and Sydney over the next two weekends.

The 22-year-old Lolesio's kicking proved decisive for Australia, with the youngster booting three conversions and three penalties.

After the scores were level 6-6 at halftime, Australia extended its advantage to 28-14 in the 77th minute through Pete Samu, while England debutants Henry Arundell and Jack van Poortvliet crossed late.

Australia captain Michael Hooper said his side improvised well.

France broke out of a 13-13 halftime deadlock, scoring four second-half tries to beat Japan 42-23 in the first of two rugby tests.

Japan started well and might have been on the way to another giant-killing performance when it matched the Six Nations champions through a tough first half.

But winger Damian Penaud scored two tries, one in each half, to reach 18 international tries and help lift France to its ninth consecutive victory, their best post-war winning streak.

Flanker Charles Ollivon returned to captain France after a long period out following a serious injury.

Ollivon ruptured a cruciate ligament in his left knee in June last year and missed France's 40-25 win against New Zealand in November and its victorious Six Nations campaign earlier this year, where standout scrumhalf Antoine Dupont took the armband.

The match was played in hot conditions at the Tokyo Stadium in Nagoya and France, coming off a heavy test program, used its fitness to outlast a Japan team whose recent international play has been limited by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Flyhalf Matthieu Jalibert was instrumental in France's improved second-half showing. He helped to set up at least two tries and put the French team into good field position. Jalibert recently has been sidelined with a leg injury but made an impressive return and France improved consistently as the match went on.

Penaud scored the opening try of the match in only the second minute, touching down without a hand laid on him as France moved the ball quickly from an attacking scrum. Fullback Melyn Jaminet kicked the conversion, the first of his 17 points in the match.

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, July 2, (AP): Justin Jackson scored 26 points, Langston Galloway added 18 and the U.S. men's basketball team took another step toward qualifying for next year's World Cup by topping Puerto Rico 83-75 on Friday night.

John Jenkins scored 13 for the Americans, who improved to 4-1 in World Cup qualifying from the FIBA Americas region.

Jose Alvarado of the New Orleans Pelicans scored 20 for Puerto Rico (2-3), while Gian Clavell scored 17. Ismael Romero added 15 for Puerto Rico.

"It was just a matter of us having the respect for them and the physicality of FIBA basketball and just being prepared for that," Jackson said.

The U.S. closes first-round qualifying play Monday at Cuba. The Americans have already clinched a spot in the second round, as has Puerto Rico.

BASKETBALL

"We have a high-character group that came to work," U.S. coach Jim Boylen said. "And they were very prideful in everything they did. I'm really thankful for that."

Jordan Bell sent the U.S. into the half with a 42-37 lead by banking in a 3-pointer that just beat the buzzer, then had words for the Puerto Rico crowd as he left the floor for intermission.

That seemed to fire up the Americans, who came out flying in the third quarter.

Galloway hit back-to-back 3s for a nine-point lead early in the quarter, and then Jackson took over. He scored nine consecutive U.S. points, that run ending when Cook connected on a deep 3-pointer from the left wing with 2:49 left for a 63-46 lead.

Puerto Rico chipped away, but the Americans still carried a 15-point lead into the final quarter after another beat-the-clock score - Eric Mika's tip-in as time expired in the third for a 66-51 edge.

The Americans kept the lead the rest of the way. Alvarado made a 3-pointer with 14 seconds left to get Puerto Rico within 81-75, but the outcome was already decided.

"Regardless of the outcome, this is a special moment in my life, for my family and the guys that have the jersey on with me," Alvarado said.

"We're making memories, we're growing together and we've got a country on our side. We're going to represent as best as we can. I know we didn't win today but this is the beginning of a great start."

The records from the first round carry over to the second round, composed of six more games starting in August. Only Canada (5-0) and Brazil (5-0), who are playing in other first-round groups, have better records than the U.S.

The Americas Region will see 12 teams make the second round of qualifying, and of those, seven will play in the World Cup - the main qualifier for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Canada 95, Dominican Republic 75

In Hamilton, Ontario, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 15 of his 32 points in the third quarter to lead Canada to an easy win.

Kelly Olynyk scored 17 points and hauled in 11 rebounds for Canada. Nickeil Alexander-Walker, who is Gilgeous-Alexander's cousin, also had 17 points.

Victor Liz scored 12 points for the Dominican Republic.



Canada's Trae Bell-Haynes (25) drives to the net between Dominican Republic's Gelvis Solano (left) and Rigoberto Mendoza (2) during the second half of a FIBA World Cup qualifying basketball game in Hamilton, Ontario. (AP)



Los Angeles Sparks guard Jordin Canada (21) dribbles past Dallas Wings forward Kayla Thornton during the second half of a WNBA basketball game in Arlington, Texas. (AP)

Cabbage, Ogwumike each score 21 pts in Sparks' 500th win

Charles moves into 4th in career scoring

SEATTLE, July 2, (AP): Breanna Stewart scored 18 of her 20 points in the first half, Tina Charles moved into fourth in WNBA history for career scoring and the Seattle Storm beat the Indiana Fever 73-57 on Friday night.

Charles scored nine points to reach 6,902 for her career, passing Candice Dupree with 6,895. Tamika Catchings is third with 7,380.

Ezi Magbegor had 11 points and seven rebounds, and Gabby Williams added 10 points for Seattle (13-7), which led 46-27 at halftime. Stewart reached 20-plus points for the ninth time this season.

Queen Egbo had 14 points and 12 rebounds for Indiana (5-17). Kelsey Mitchell was held to three points and rookie NaLyssa Smith scored nine. Victoria Vivians did not play due to a right shoulder injury.

Indiana went nearly eight minutes without a field goal in the first half as Seattle built a 22-12 lead. The Fever scored just six points through the opening seven minutes of the fourth quarter.

Sparks 97, Wings 89

In Arlington, Liz Cambage had 21 points and 11 rebounds, Nneka Ogumike also scored 21 points and the Los Angeles Sparks beat the Dallas Wings 97-89.

It was the 500th win in franchise history for Los Angeles, the first WNBA team to reach that mark.

Katie Lou Samuelson added 14 points, Lexie Brown scored 10 of her 13 points in the first half and Kristi Toliver had 11 points and seven assists for Los Angeles (8-11).

Chiney Ogumike reached 1,000 career rebounds.

Samuelson made a contested layup in the lane to give Los Angeles a 92-85 lead and Toliver sank a deep 3-pointer to make it 95-87.

Arike Ogunbowale led Dallas (9-12) with 23 points. Marina Mabrey added 17 points, Teaira McCowan had 12 points and 10 rebounds, and Allisha Gray scored 10 points.

The Wings, who led 49-46 at halftime, have lost three straight games.

BASKETBALL

Aces 91, Lynx 85

In Minneapolis, Chelsea Gray scored 21 points on 10-of-12 shooting, A'ja Wilson had 15 points and 12 rebounds, and the Las Vegas Aces beat the Minnesota Lynx 91-85.

Minnesota took its first lead of the game with 5:54 remaining in the fourth quarter but Las Vegas answered with a 16-6 run. Jackie Young sank a 3-pointer from the corner to extend the Aces' lead to 89-81 with 1:19 left.

Kelsey Plum had 18 points and 10 assists, Dearica Hamby scored 16 points and Young finished with 10 for Las Vegas (15-5), which has won three straight against the Lynx this season. Gray also had six rebounds and five assists, and Wilson reached 2,500 career points.

Subscribe to our service "ArabTimes WhatsApp" to stay updated on the latest local and international news and events

To activate this Free Service:

- 1- Save our number on your contacts +965 55633483
- 2- Send "Start" WhatsApp message to the number you saved.

www.arabtimesonline.com | @arabtimeskuwait | #arabtimeskuwait | arabtimeskuwait | Join us on Telegram