

Almost perfect Rodón throws 'no-hitter' after HBP in 9th as Chisox down Indians

Red Sox sweep doubleheader against Twins, extend win streak to 9 games

CHICAGO, April 15, (AP): Carlos Rodón threw the second no-hitter of the young baseball season, losing his bid for a perfect game on a hit batter with one out in the ninth inning, and the Chicago White Sox cruised to an 8-0 victory over the Cleveland Indians.

The left-hander retired his first 25 batters before he plunked Roberto Pérez on the back foot with an 0-2 slider. An incredulous Rodón looked on almost in bewilderment as Pérez made his way to first.

Rodón (2-0) regained his composure in time to strike out Yu Chang looking and retire Jordan Luplow on a sharp grounder to third, starting a joyous celebration.

It was the first no-hitter for the White Sox since Lucas Giolito pitched one Aug. 25 last year against Pittsburgh and No. 20 in franchise history, second-most among major league teams behind the Los Angeles Dodgers (23).

BASEBALL

Rodón's gem came just five days after Joe Musgrove threw a no-hitter for his hometown Padres at Texas.

Rodón threw 75 of his 114 pitches for strikes. He struck out seven in his first career shutout and second complete game.

The closest call for Rodón and the White Sox occurred when Josh Naylor led off the ninth with a slow bouncer. First baseman José Abreu picked it up and got his toe on the bag just ahead of a sliding Naylor.

Red Sox 3, Twins 2, 1st Game

Red Sox 7, Twins 1, 2nd Game

In Minneapolis, Alex Verdugo had three hits, including a two-run single in a six-run fifth inning, and the Boston extended its winning streak to nine games, sweeping a doubleheader against Philadelphia.

In the second game, Eduardo Rodríguez (2-0) pitched five innings and gave up one run on five hits for Boston, which has come from behind in six of its nine wins this season. The Red Sox have their longest winning streak since a 10-game run in 2018, a season that ended with a World Series title.

Verdugo had five hits in the doubleheader and capped the day with his second homer of the season in the seventh inning.

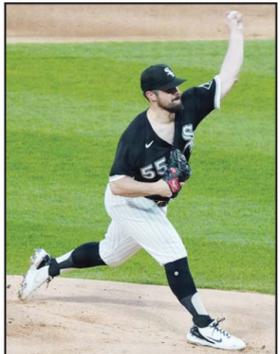
José Berrios (2-1) surrendered four runs in 4 1/3 innings for Minnesota, giving up four hits and three walks. Berrios walked Franchy Cordero with the bases loaded for the first run of the fifth before departing.

The Twins have lost five straight.

Dodgers 4, Rockies 2

In Los Angeles, Justin Turner homered and drove in two runs, and rookie Zach McKinstry added a late homer as Los Angeles beat Colorado for its fifth consecutive victory.

Luke Raley got his first career hit in the eighth inning for the major league-leading Dodgers, who have won 10 of



Chicago White Sox starting pitcher Carlos Rodón (55) throws against the Cleveland Indians during the first inning of a baseball game, on April 14, in Chicago. (AP)



Los Angeles Dodgers' Corey Seager, left, hits a solo home run as Colorado Rockies catcher Elias Diaz, right, watches along with home plate umpire Tom Hallion during the first inning of a baseball game, on April 13, in Los Angeles. (AP)

11 while remaining unbeaten in their past 11 games at Dodger Stadium since last Sept. 23.

C.J. Cron slowed his slump with two hits for the Rockies, who lost their fifth straight despite snapping their 26-inning scoreless streak since last Saturday with Trevor Story's RBI single in the fifth. Colorado couldn't score in the final four innings against Los Angeles' bullpen.

Victor González escaped a jam in the fifth after the Rockies chased Dustin May. Corey Knebel (1-0) retired the side on six pitches in the eighth, and Kenley Jansen got three strikeouts for his third save.

Marlins 6, Braves 5, 10 Innings
In Atlanta, Jesus Aguilar drove in the winning run with a 10th-inning double and Miami overcame two homers by Ronald Acuña Jr. for its third straight win at Atlanta.

Leading off in extra innings with Starling Marte placed at second, Aguilar dumped a low pitch from Tyler Matzek (0-1) down the left-field line to bring home the tiebreaking run.

Acuña led off the bottom of the 10th with a chance to do more damage after erasing Miami's 5-0 lead almost single-handedly. But Yimi García struck out the Atlanta slugger on three pitches before retiring Freddie Freeman and Marcell Ozuna to earn his second save.

Blue Jays 5, Yankees 4

In Dunedin, Florida, Bo Bichette homered twice, including a game-ending drive leading off the ninth inning that lifted Toronto over New York.

Bichette drove a pitch from Chad Green (0-2) the opposite way to right-center field as Toronto took two of three from its AL East rival.

Brewers 7, Cubs 0

In Milwaukee, Corbin Burnes struck out 10 in six dominant innings and also delivered a two-run single for his first career RBIs as Milwaukee beat Chicago.

Burnes (1-1) allowed just two hits to continue his sizzling start to the season. His bases-loaded single up the middle capped the Brewers' four-run outburst in the sixth.

Jackie Bradley Jr. doubled to lead off the first against Jake Arrieta (2-1) and scored on Travis Shaw's single. Shaw moved to third on Avisail García's double and came home on Omar Narváez's sacrifice fly.

Nationals 6, Cardinals 0

In St. Louis, Joe Ross pitched six sharp innings and Washington threw its first regular-season shutout at St. Louis.

Ross (1-0) improved to 3-0 in four career starts against the Cardinals. He allowed four hits, struck out five and walked one. He also singled and scored a run.

Giants 3, Reds 0

In Kansas City, Mo., Salvador Pérez pitched neatly into the sixth inning before exiting with a tight lat muscle, and San Francisco finished off Cincinnati.

Cueto (2-0) removed himself from the game after fanning Nick Castellanos for the second out in the sixth. The 35-year-old Cueto surrendered three hits and walked none while striking out four.

Royals 6, Angels 1

In Kansas City, Mo., Salvador Pérez homered and doubled to cap off an impressive series, leading Brad Keller and Kansas City past Los Angeles.

Pérez drove in two runs and went 2 for 4 with four RBIs this week against Los Angeles.

Carlos Santana also homered as the Royals took two of three from the Angels.

Rangers 5, Rays 1

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Nate Lowe hit a solo homer and rookie Kohei Arihara got his first major league victory, pitching into the sixth inning as Texas beat Tampa Bay.

Arihara (1-1) allowed two singles and a double over 5 2/3 scoreless innings in his third start since signing with the Rangers after six seasons with the Hokkaido Nippon-Ham Fighters of Japan's Pacific League.

Pirates 5, Padres 1

In Pittsburgh, Gregory Polanco homered and Pittsburgh beat San Diego's Joe Musgrove in his first start since throwing the first no-hitter in franchise history.

Polanco hit a solo shot into the right-field stands in the second inning. That ended a 32-inning scoreless streak by Musgrove that dated to last season when he was still with the Pirates.

Mets 5, Phillies 1

In New York, David Peterson matched a career high with 10 strikeouts in six dominant innings and batterymate James McCann hit his first home run with New York, sending the Mets past Philadelphia for their third straight win.

McCann had three hits, including a two-run homer in the eighth. Brandon Nimmo and Dominic Smith also got three hits apiece, and Francisco Lindor scored twice.

Tigers 6, Astros 4

In Houston, Michael Fulmer earned his first win since 2018 and Detroit built a big lead before holding off short-handed Houston for a three-game sweep.

Outscored 14-4 in losing the first two games with a full roster, the Astros went into the wrapup after putting five players, including stars José Altuve, Alex Bregman and Yordan Álvarez, on the COVID-19 injured list.

MLB Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, April 15, (AP): Results and standings from the MLB games on Wednesday.

Toronto	5	NY Yankees	4
Boston	3	Minnesota (7 innings 1st game)	2
Kansas City	6	LA Angels	1
Boston	7	Minnesota (7 innings 2nd game)	1
Texas	5	Tampa Bay	1
Chic. Wht. Sox	8	Cleveland	0
Detroit	6	Houston	4
Washington	6	St Louis	0
Milwaukee	7	Chicago Cubs	0
San Francisco	3	Cincinnati	0
NY Mets	5	Philadelphia	1
Pittsburgh	5	San Diego	1
Miami	6	Atlanta (10 innings)	5
LA Dodgers	4	Colorado	2

American League				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Boston	9	3	.750	3
Toronto	6	6	.500	3-1/2
Baltimore	5	6	.455	4
New York	5	7	.417	4
Tampa Bay	5	7	.417	4
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Kansas City	6	4	.600	-
Cleveland	6	5	.545	-1/2
Chicago	6	6	.500	1
Detroit	6	6	.500	1
Minnesota	5	7	.417	2
West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Los Angeles	7	5	.583	-
Seattle	6	5	.545	-1/2
Houston	6	6	.500	1
Oakland	5	7	.417	2
Texas	5	7	.417	2

National League				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
New York	5	3	.625	-
Philadelphia	6	6	.500	1
Miami	5	6	.455	1-1/2
Washington	3	6	.333	2-1/2
Atlanta	4	8	.333	3
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Cincinnati	7	5	.583	-
Milwaukee	7	5	.583	-
St. Louis	6	6	.500	1
Chicago	6	7	.417	2
Pittsburgh	5	7	.417	2
West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Los Angeles	10	2	.833	-
San Francisco	8	4	.667	2
San Diego	8	5	.615	2-1/2
Arizona	4	8	.333	6
Colorado	3	9	.250	7

Azam hits sensational 122 from 59 balls

Pakistan ahead in T20 series in SAfrica

CENTURION, South Africa, April 15, (AP): Babar Azam hit a sensational 122 from 59 balls to lead Pakistan to 205-1 for a resounding nine-wicket win over South Africa and a 2-1 lead in their Twenty20 series.

Babar marked the day he unseated Virat Kohli to become the top-ranked ODI batsman in the world with another brilliant limited-overs innings, albeit in the shortest format this time.

The Pakistan captain opened the batting and blasted his way to a century as Pakistan chased down a seemingly testing target of 204 with ease.

CRICKET

The tourists romped home in 18 overs, with Mohammad Rizwan crashing 73 from 47 balls at the other end after opening with Babar. Their partnership of 197 from 107 balls ripped the game away from a South African team that felt it was in position for victory after posting its own strong score of 203-5 in 20 overs.

Babar fell just two balls from the end trying to ramp a delivery from Lizaad Williams over third man and edging it to wicketkeeper Heinrich Klaassen.

That denied Pakistan the world record for the highest successful chase in T20s without losing a wicket.

Fakhar Zaman smashed two fours off the next two balls to end it and ensure Pakistan can't lose the series with one game to play.

Pakistan also won the ODI series in South Africa.

Babar has 186 runs from three innings at an average of 62.00 in the T20 series and averaged 76.00 in the ODI series. Earlier Wednesday he ended Kohli's more than three-year stay at the top of the ODI rankings.

South Africa appeared to have exposed Pakistan's decision to bowl first at SuperSport Park when openers Aiden Markram (63) and Janneman Malan (55) made half-centuries and the host posted its highest total ever against Pakistan.

But Babar stroked 15 fours and four sixes to underline his scintillating form and see Pakistan to a highly impressive victory.



South Africa's bowler George Linde dives as he attempts a catch from own bowling during the fourth T20 cricket match between South Africa and Pakistan at Centurion Park in Pretoria, South Africa, on April 14. (AP)

Bangalore 'successfully' defends 149 runs against Sunrisers in IPL

CHENNAI, India, April 15, (AP): Royal Challengers Bangalore remarkably defended 149 runs successfully against Sunrisers Hyderabad and won their Indian Premier League contest by six runs.

Hyderabad was cruising to victory at 96-1 in the 14th over, but the departure of captain David Warner triggered a collapse.

Hyderabad ended up needing 16 off the last over, scored nine, and finished on 143-9 to Bangalore's 149-8.

Bangalore's innings was led by captain and opener Virat Kohli, 33 off 29 balls, and man of the match Glenn Maxwell, 59 off 41.

They scored only 44 runs together off six overs, but ensured the team started well and finished better. In between, however, they struggled, especially against legspinner Rashid Khan, who took 2-18 including AB de Villiers for 1.

Fast bowler Jason Holder led with 3-30, including Kohli and

Maxwell, who was out off the last ball after hitting three sixes and five boundaries.

Hyderabad captain David Warner looked like winning the match on his own as he struck a six and seven boundaries, but when he hit Kyle Jamieson to long on after 54 off 37, his side's suspect middle order was exposed.

CRICKET

Nobody else, including a wasteful Manish Pandey, could get on top of the bowling except for Khan, who was run out for 17 off nine with two balls to go.

Left-arm Shabaz Ahmed took 3-7 from two overs, and medium-pacer Harshal Patel was given the last over and conceded 5 from a no ball but little else, and took two wickets.

The 149 was the lowest total successfully defended by Bangalore in 12 years.

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