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FOOTBALL

Jesus shines as Manchester City thrash Liverpool 5-0

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FOOTBALL

Bounedjah powers Al Sadd to Sheikh Jassim Cup win

The win also helped Al Sadd avenge their 4-1 defeat last year to Lekhwiya, who have been now rebranded as Al Duhail



Qatar Football Association president Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa bin Ahmed al-Thani hands over the Sheikh Jassim Cup to Al Sadd's Xavi and Hassan al-Haydous after their win over Al Duhail yesterday. At right, Al Sadd fans wave a mural of His Highness the Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani during the match. At bottom, Baghdad Bounedjah celebrates his hat-trick goal. **PICTURES:** Shemeer Rashid and Noushad Thekkayil

By Sports Reporter
 Doha

Baghdad Bounedjah scored a scintillating hat-trick as Al Sadd downed Al Duhail 4-2 to win the season-opening Sheikh Jassim Cup at the Abdulla bin Khalifa Stadium yesterday.

The win also helped Al Sadd avenge their 4-1 defeat last year to Lekhwiya, who have been now rebranded as Al Duhail following their merger with El Jaish.

Algerian Bounedjah, who was a vital cog in Al Sadd's Emir's Cup and Qatar Cup successes last year, struck in the sixth, 20th and 66th minutes to help the Wolves bag their 14th Sheikh Jassim Cup, which pits the league winners against the Emir Cup champs of the previous season.

He also played a role in Al Sadd's fourth goal, winning his team a penalty

after he was brought down by Mohamed Moussa in the second half, which fellow Algerian Jugurtha Hamorun converted.

South Korean Nam Tae-hee and Moez Ali were on target for Al Duhail either side of the break, the second goal coming seconds prior to the close after seven minutes of injury-time were added to the match.

Al Sadd coach Jesualdo Ferreira had lamented his team's build-up to the season saying their preparations were hit by the World Cup qualifying commitments of his players but the huge margin of victory yesterday eased his concerns barely a week before the start of the QNB Stars League.

"We always expected to do well but I am thrilled that we won by such a convincing margin," he said. "It augurs well for the season ahead," he added.

But despite Al Duhail managing to rope in some top El Jaish players fol-



lowing the merger, they were thoroughly outplayed by Al Sadd, Qatar's most successful club by a long margin.

"We couldn't get going today although we had our chances," said Al Duhail coach Djamel Belmadi.

"I But there's a long season ahead and we will surely make amends for today's loss." Although Duhail made a strong start by making a couple of deep forays into the rival citadel, it was their own defence that let them down badly and allowed Al Sadd to establish control.

In fact, all the three Bounedjah goals were scored in identical fashion, low into the right corner of the net and with the left foot, courtesy of a non-existent Duhail defence.

In the sixth minute, Hamroun shook off the Duhail midfield and crossed to Bounedjah who had a free run on the left flank and eased the ball past goalkeeper Khalifa Ababacker.

The Algerian was at it again in the 20th minute, but it was Xavi it was who was the provider, steaming down the centre and passing to the Algerian, who again eased the ball past the goalkeeper with a left-footed shot.

It looked like Al Sadd will take a comfortable 2-0 lead into the second session but their goalkeeper Saad al-Sheeb failed to block a Nam Tae-hee shot properly from close resulting in Al Duhail's first goal in the 41st minute.

Bounedjah got his hat-trick in the 66th minute with Xavi once again providing the assist from the centre and shooting past Ababacker, much in the same way he had scored his first two goals.

A few minutes later Bounedjah could have had his fourth goal of the match but a heavy foul on him by Moussa saw him limp off the field. Hamroun made good of the resultant penalty.

TENNIS

Nadal and Anderson to clash for US Open title

AFP
 New York

Rafael Nadal moved one win away from a third US Open title and 16th Grand Slam crown Friday when he defeated weary Juan Martin del Potro 4-6, 6-0, 6-3, 6-2.

The 31-year-old Spaniard, the 2010 and 2013 champion in New York, will be playing in his 23rd Slam final and third this year, looking to add the US title to his record 10th French Open.

In today's final, the world number one will face 32nd-ranked Kevin Anderson, the first South African in the championship match in 52 years.

Anderson reached his maiden final at the majors by beating 12th-seeded Pablo Carreno Busta of Spain 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-4.

For 2009 champion Del Potro, Friday's match was one too many as the physical and emotional toll of seeing off Roger Federer in



four sets in the previous round left him spent.

"I have had an amazing season after some tough moments with injuries in recent years," said Nadal, who started 2017 by finishing runner-up to Federer in Australia.

"It's a very emotional year for me. I am in the final again and get the chance to fight for another title which is very important."

Nadal said the key to Friday's win was a change of tactics after the first set.

"I played too much to his backhand and I felt he was waiting for me there," said Nadal after his 15th successive Grand Slam semi-final win.

"I changed it and it worked very well. I made him move more and make it all more unpredictable."

Nadal finished with 45 winners and 20 unforced errors to Del Potro's 23 and 40.

Despite a 4-0 winning record over Anderson, Nadal said he will not underestimate his opponent on Sunday.

"He is a very dangerous player with a big serve

and plays very well on this surface. I have known him since we were 12.

"He's had many injuries but the way he has come back is a great example to the kids."

Del Potro, who saved two match points against Dominic Thiem in a last-16 tie from which he almost retired with illness, gained the only break of the first set in the fifth game off a fortunate net cord.

However, few would begrudge Del Potro a little luck after he was pushed to the brink of retirement by four wrist surgeries that saw his ranking slip as low as 1,045 and forced him to miss 10 Grand Slam tournaments.

Nadal hit back with venom, gathering three breaks to take the second set in just 26 minutes as the Argentine suffered a power cut of staggering proportions.

The Spaniard, watched by Tiger Woods in his player's box, then raced into a 3-0 lead in the third before Del Potro stopped the rot, having lost nine games in succession.

SPOTLIGHT

Healthy year a bigger prize for Nadal than US title

Nadal, who lost to Roger Federer in the Australian Open final but won his 10th French Open crown in June, has reached three Slam finals for the first season since 2011



Rafael Nadal of Spain celebrates his victory over Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina in their US Open semi-final match at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York on Friday.

AFP
New York

World number one Rafael Nadal, nagged for years by knee injuries but enjoying a stellar season, already has a prize more treasured than another Grand Slam title — a healthy campaign chasing them.

The 31-year-old Spaniard, who ousted Juan Martin del Potro on Friday to reach today's US Open final, said the year he has enjoyed has brought a happiness no Slam crown can match after past seasons of misery unable to unleash his best efforts.

"For me, more than winning Grand Slams or not — of course, if I win, I will be more happy — but is about being healthy and feeling well and competitive," Nadal said. "That's already happened in the

whole season. So that's the most important thing for me."

Nadal seeks his third US Open title after 2010 and 2013 and his 16th career major when he faces South African 28th seed Kevin Anderson.

"What is more important, more than winning Slams, is to be happy," Nadal said. "I am happy if I am healthy and happy if I feel competitive most of the weeks I'm playing and that's what happened this year."

"I am very happy to win Monte Carlo, Barcelona, Madrid and Roland Garros. I am very happy to be in the final here in the US Open... and I am going to fight to win another title here. But still, a great season for me."

Nadal, who lost to Roger Federer in the Australian Open final but won his 10th French Open crown in June, has reached three Slam finals for the first season since 2011.

He hasn't won multiple Slams in a season since 2013, but he did thump del Potro for his 15th consecutive Slam semi-final triumph, the last loss coming to del Potro in the South American's 2009 US Open championship run.

"Important day for me. Important victory against a great opponent," Nadal said.

"I woke up today and said to myself, 'Today is the day that I'll play. I need to play with the right energy, and I need to increase the level of my game.'"

"A lot of times I know that and it didn't happen, but today it happened."

Nadal said that sometimes the only way to get better is to win matches, victories building the final 20 to 30% he needs to maximise his potent game.

"You need to win matches," Nadal said.

"If you practice well and you feel yourself well, you have more chances to win matches in the tournaments."

"But this 20, 30%, that's a big difference. You only make this winning matches, because it's about confidence. It's about things that when you are on court comes automatic."

"You don't have to think about what you doing in some important moments. Things comes straightaway without thinking that much and all these things happen only when you are in a good moment."

Few were better than his clay court run with two Spain titles, Monte Carlo and the capper at Roland Garros.

"Clay court season was unbelievable, so that helps a lot for my confidence, to be more calm and I'm here in the final," Nadal said.

"It's a great result for me already. I will now face a very tough opponent, probably the most important match for me that remains this year, so I gonna try my best to play my best."

LATE BLOOMER

Anderson reaps rewards for patience and dedication

Reuters
New York

Even in tennis, good things come to those who wait. At the age of 31, Kevin Anderson reached his first grand slam final at the US Open on Friday thanks to a 4-6 7-6 6-3 6-4 victory over Spain's Pablo Carrena Busta.

In this era when players are winning grand slam titles well into their thirties, Anderson almost doesn't qualify as a late bloomer. But the South African, the first born there to make a grand slam final since Kevin Curren at Wimbledon in 1985, has shown patience, resilience and unending dedication to make his grand slam breakthrough.

"It's been a lot of hard work to get to this point," said Anderson, who will meet world number one Rafa Nadal in the final.

"It feels fantastic. 'It's been a long road to get here and sometimes tough. We've been dominated by a select few individuals and there are definitely times where you think those will be the guys who will always be competing for it.'"

Anderson was late to the Tour after choosing to go to college in the United States, at the University of Illinois, where he was coached by Craig Tiley.

Tiley, a former South Africa Davis Cup captain and now the tournament director at the Australian Open, said Anderson deserves every moment of his success.

"He had the same professionalism and dedication and attitude that you see on the Tour today when he was at college," Tiley told Reuters.

"Obviously he's been on a long journey. But he's always had a fantastic attitude and passion for the game. It was a privilege to coach him because of the attitude he had."

Anderson always used to be considered a nearly-man, for so long unable to get past the last 16 of a grand slam event, always finding someone just too good on the day.

But despite a series of injuries,



from shoulder to knees and at the end of last year, to his hip, he has bounced back brilliantly to put his name in the history books.

He will bid to go one better than Curren, who was runnerup at the 1984 Australian Open final before switching citizenship to the United States ahead of his run to the Wimbledon final.

Johan Kriek was the first South African to win a grand slam singles championship at the 1981 Australian Open but successfully defended the title in 1982 as a naturalised American.

"It's definitely about perseverance," Anderson said. "I feel like I've kept my head down and kept working hard."

"There have been a lot of ups and downs and I feel really happy, I've always kept belief."

"It's been a terrific couple of weeks and I've got an opportunity to step on the court in a final and that's something I'm going to be really excited about."

It has been noticeable at the US Open how pumped up he has been throughout the event, something Tiley said reminded him of Anderson's college days.

"At the University of Illinois we had really good teams and it's a great atmosphere, you have a lot of people around you," he said.

"After college, back out there on his own, maybe it was a bit more difficult for him to be (ex-troverted) but he's playing with a lot of confidence now."

Anderson has been working on his on-court presence with his team, including Alexis Castorri, the sports psychologist who has worked with Andy Murray.

"It think it helps me to play my best tennis," Anderson said.

Serena praises US Open runs of Keys, Stephens

New York: Former world number one and 23-time Grand Slam champion Serena Williams made her first public comments since giving birth to a daughter one week ago, tweeting praise to the US Open women's finalists.

Williams was pregnant when she won the Australian Open in January, moving within one Slam singles crown of Margaret Court's all-time record, and revealed in April on Twitter she was having a baby and would not play again this year.

The six-time US Open champion was excited for fellow Americans Sloane Stephens and Madison Keys, whose Saturday showdown for the title at Arthur Ashe Stadium will be

the first Grand Slam final for each of them.

"There are NO words to describe how proud and how happy I am for @Madison_Keys keys and @SloaneStephens for making the US open finals," Williams tweeted.

"These amazing women continue to change the game and bring excellence, power, finesse and change to tennis. 'What a joy it will be to watch this- hopefully first of many finals. Let's go ladies!'"

In Thursday's semi-finals, Stephens ousted Serena's older sister Venus, a seven-time Grand Slam champion who had been seeking her third US Open crown and first since 2001.

BOTTOMLINE

Wheelchair tennis rolls onto the big stage in New York

DPA
New York

Wheelchair tennis took the spotlight at the US Open as the competition was held for the first time on the big stage — the Arthur Ashe stadium.

First to put the showcase arena to the test was Britain's Alfie Hewett and Gordon Reid who beat Japan's Shingo Kunieda and Argentine Gustavo Fernandez 6-3, 6-2.

"We knew a few days ago that some matches would be played on Ashe," the 19-year-old Hewett said. "I found out at 8pm last night — it was a nice surprise."

Reid added: "It was incred-



Wheelchair tennis action from the Arthur Ashe Stadium.

ible to have that opportunity as wheelchair players. It's showing the respect that wheelchair ten-

nis is gaining, a great first match here. "It's probably the nicest court I played on, so for me, it

really is the stuff that dreams are made of, to play on Ashe. Hopefully, it's not the last time."

The competition ends on Sunday — day of the men's final between Rafael Nadal and Kevin Anderson — with wheelchair matches in the men's, women's and quad divisions. The sport uses the rules of tennis with the exception that the ball can bounce twice.

BOUCHARD TO MISS HOME WTA EVENT NEXT WEEK

Former top 10 player Eugenie Bouchard will miss her home WTA event, with the 76th-ranked Canadian calling in sick for the tournament which begins on Monday.

Bouchard, who went down in the first round of the US Open in her fourth loss in six matches

played since Wimbledon, cited a virus as reason for pulling out.

The high-profile absence drives a stake into the small event which could have used some hometown interest. Bouchard played the semi-finals in Quebec in 2013.

"I am extremely disappointed to have to withdraw from the National Bank Cup because it's a tournament that I enjoy and I am always motivated to play at home in front of the Quebec crowd," Bouchard said.

"I have been dealing with a virus for the past few days that has not allowed me to train since the end of the US Open and will prevent me from playing the tournament. 'I will focus my energy on recovering, but I don't know when I will be able to return to competition.'"

WEAKNESS

Del Potro's backhand fails against Nadal

Reuters
New York

World number one Rafa Nadal knew powerhouse Juan Martin del Potro's biggest weakness was his shaky backhand, and the Spaniard exploited the vulnerability repeatedly at their US Open showdown on Friday to advance to today's final.

The left-handed Nadal's strategy of attacking the backhand, which had the added benefit of avoiding the Argentine's thunderous right-handed forehand, did not initially pay off as Nadal dropped the first set.

But Nadal did not waiver and Del Potro began to lose control of the shot, committing 15 unforced backhand errors to just three winners from that side in the 4-6 6-0 6-3 6-2 win.

"Rafa just play even better the last three sets of the match and I couldn't hit my backhand



as good as I did in the beginning of the match," Del Potro told reporters after the two-and-a-half hour contest.

"I feel better with my backhand, but it's not good enough to win a title like this or to win the top guys in a row."

Del Potro's backhand has been hindered by a series of surgeries to repair problems with his left wrist. He knew it would be Nadal's strategy going into the match. "He was playing me all the time to my backhand," he said.

LIGUE 1

Mbappe nets debut strike as PSG thrash 10-man Metz 5-1

The victory is PSG's 5th in a row and takes them three points clear at the top of the table

AFP
Paris

Kylian Mbappe scored on his debut as Paris Saint-Germain eased to a 5-1 away thumping of 10-man Metz in Ligue 1 on Friday.

Neymar's pin-point through ball created the opening goal for Edinson Cavani in the 31st minute, only for Emmanuel Riviere to head in an equaliser before half-time.

But the game was all but ended in the space of three second-half minutes, as Benoit Assou-Ekotto saw red for a lunge on Mbappe, before the youngster netted his debut strike. PSG ran riot late on, with Neymar getting himself onto the scoresheet, Cavani stabbing in his second and Lucas Moura scoring the fifth.

The victory is PSG's fifth in a row to start the Ligue 1 season, and takes them three points clear at the top of the fledgling table, ahead of champions Monaco.

Mbappe was handed a starting spot on his debut after joining from Monaco on a season-long loan, with an option to buy for a fee that could reach 180 million euros (\$216.5mn).

Unai Emery's visitors started firmly on the front foot, with Cavani clipping the ball onto the post when he had only home goalkeeper Eiji Kawashima to beat and full-back Thomas Meunier volleying wide.

The hosts held firm throughout the first half-hour and almost forged ahead when PSG keeper Alphonse Areola was confident enough to leave Riviere's shot onto the post.

But the away side took the lead thanks to a moment of class from world-record signing Neymar.

The Brazilian threaded through a perfect pass with the outside of his foot for Mbappe and Cavani to run onto, with the latter rounding Kawashima and slotting in his sixth league goal of the season.

Mbappe, 18, continued to show his unselfish side with a wonderful cross for an unmarked Cavani, who was denied by a fantastic Kawashima save.

Metz delivered a sucker-

punch eight minutes before the interval, as Mathieu Dossevi's determination down the right-hand side created space for a cross that gave Riviere the simplest of tasks to nod in.

It was the former Monaco striker's first Metz goal since ending his torrid spell at Newcastle United in the close season.

Kawashima continued his virtuoso display in the home goal with a wonderful low stop to deny Neymar his fourth goal in France, and PSG a half-time advantage. Paris were desperately lucky not to fall behind soon after the restart, as Areola's dreadful blunder handed Riviere a golden opportunity, but he somehow contrived to scoop it over the bar. The capital-city giants were struggling early in the second half, until Assou-Ekotto's sending off changed the game.

The Cameroonian left-back was shown a straight red card for a strong tackle on Mbappe, despite taking the ball before making contact with the player.

Unperturbed, Mbappe picked himself up and duly put PSG back in front with his first goal of the campaign. A cross was only half-cleared as far as the world's second-most expensive player, and he rifled home a clinical volley from the edge of the area.

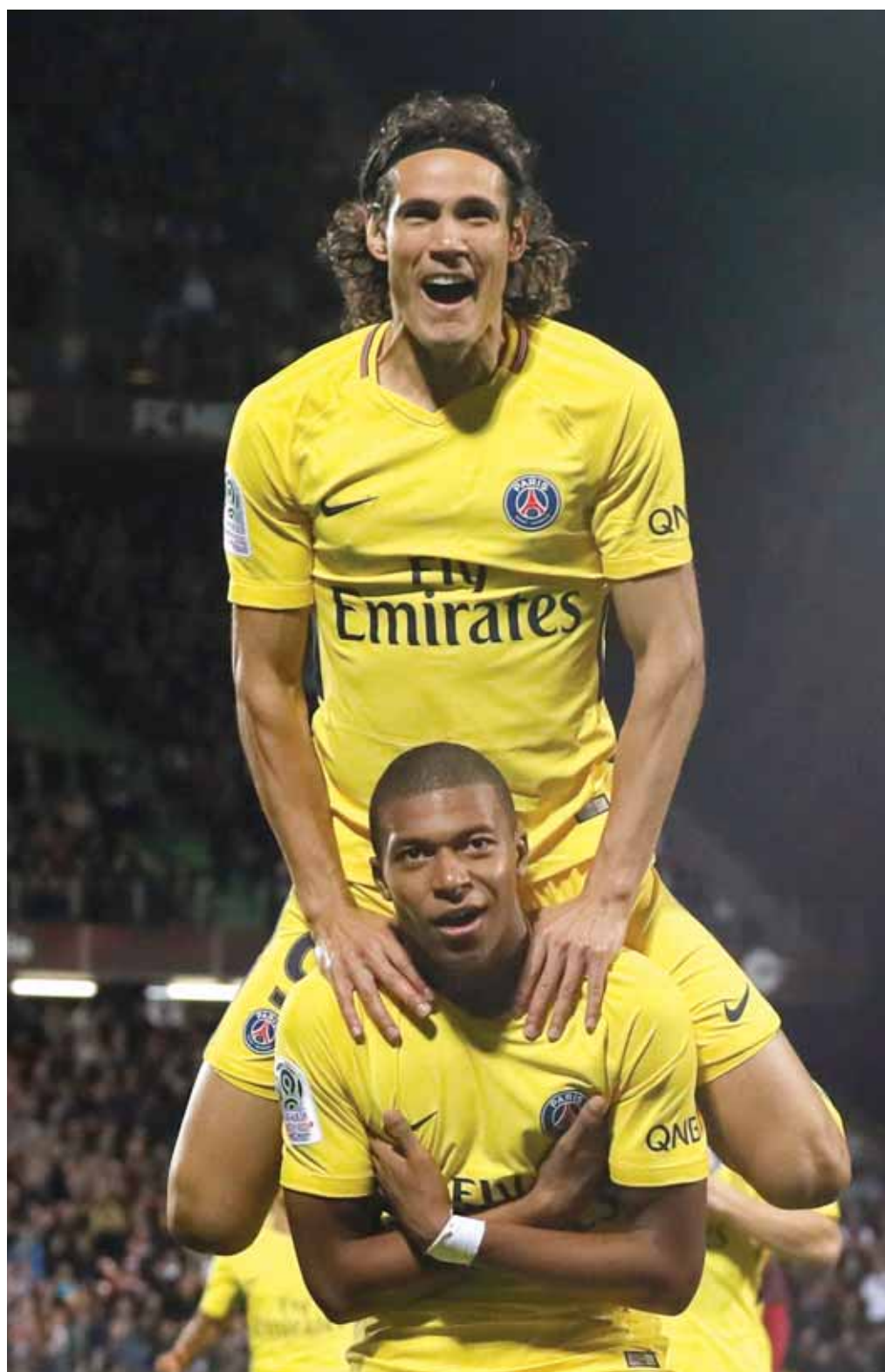
Cavani went close to a third from a routine long ball over the top, but his volley rattled the crossbar before bouncing on the goalline and away to safety.

Neymar made no such mistake though, as he collected the ball unchallenged outside the area and casually curled the ball into the far corner of Kawashima's net.

And Cavani prodded in a trademark effort from close range to complete a brace with 15 minutes to play, before a ricochet gave substitute Lucas a goal on his first appearance of the season.

Mario Balotelli scored a brace as Monaco's record 16-match winning streak was ended with a 4-0 thumping by Nice at the Allianz Riviera yesterday.

Results		
Nice 4	Monaco	0
Lille 0	Bordeaux	0
Metz 1	Paris Saint-Germain	5



PSG's Kylian Mbappe celebrates with Edinson Cavani after scoring a goal against Metz. (Reuters)

SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP

Sinclair double gives Celtic boost ahead of PSG visit

AFP
Glasgow

Scott Sinclair grabbed a brace as Celtic returned to the top of the Scottish Premiership with a comprehensive 4-1 victory over Hamilton on Friday.

The manner of victory will boost the confidence of the Scottish champions ahead of their Champions League opener against French giants Paris Saint-Germain on Tuesday at Parkhead.

Stuart Armstrong's composed finish gave Celtic a 17th-minute lead before Sinclair doubled their advantage with a curling effort 12 minutes later.

Sinclair - who has enjoyed a new lease of life to his career since joining Celtic before last season - added another three minutes before the break for his eighth of the season as the visitors ran rampant.

French forward Odossonne Edouard then marked a dream debut following his loan switch from Paris Saint-Germain with a 65th-minute strike before Alex Gogic headed home an 87th-minute consolation for Hamilton.

The win moves Celtic one point clear of Aberdeen - who visit Hearts on Saturday - at the top of the table as they extend their unbeaten domestic run to 54 matches.

"I thought technically the boys were brilliant, we played our shape really well and scored some wonderful goals," said Celtic manager Brendan Rodgers. "The composure and quality we played with was absolutely outstanding."

For his Hamilton counterpart Martin Canning it was a salutary lesson in the chasm in resources and class between the two sides.

"In the first half it was probably as good as I've seen Celtic and I think a lot of teams will struggle to cope with them in

that form," said Canning.

Despite the visit of PSG looming on the horizon, Rodgers resisted the temptation to rest his top players as he fielded a strong side. Armstrong carried on the excellent form he showed while on international duty with Scotland as he fired Celtic ahead.

The midfielder gathered the ball wide on the left after Callum McGregor's shot was blocked and played a one-two with his team-mate before cutting into the box and curling a shot into the bottom right-hand corner.

Edouard's power and pace helped set up Celtic's second.

The French forward latched on to Simunovic's through ball and brushed off two Hamilton defenders to reach the edge of the box where his run was halted by Scott McMann's sliding challenge.

However, the ball broke to Sinclair, who took a touch and curled the ball past Gary Woods. Celtic looked unstoppable and Sinclair added another three minutes before the break.

The English winger ran at the retreating Hamilton rearguard before Scott McMann nicked the ball off his toes.

The ball hit the base of his own post before rolling across the face of goal and Sinclair was the quickest to react as he lifted the ball into the net from a tight angle. Celtic's intensity dropped in the second half but teenage striker Edouard added a fourth. The 19-year-old striker charged forward and laid the ball off to Patrick Roberts at the edge of the box.

Roberts - making his second debut for the Glasgow giants since rejoining on loan from Manchester City - slipped a pass back to the Frenchman, whose powerful strike squirmed under Woods before trickling over the line. With time running out, Gogic powered a header past Craig Gordon.

SERIE A

Juventus ease past Chievo 3-0 ahead of Camp Nou trip

AFP
Rome

Juventus prepared for next week's Champions League opener at Barcelona by easing to a 3-0 win against Chievo yesterday to keep their unbeaten Serie A record.

Three days ahead of their trip to the Camp Nou Mas-similiano Allegri tested his troops after the international break which had deprived the champions of key players.

Giorgio Chiellini and Claudio Marchisio were out injured with Andrea Barzagli and Gianluigi Buffon rested.

Allegri rotated his side giving first starts to Polish goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny and midfielders Douglas Costa and Blaise Matuidi. But the hosts could thank Chievo for the first goal with Finnish midfielder Perparim Hetemaj accidentally heading in the opener after 16 minutes in Turin.

Bosnian midfielder Miralem Pjanic whipped in the free-

kick from a tight angle, and it came off the unfortunate Hetemaj's head at the near post.

The introduction of Argentine forward Paulo Dybala as a second-half substitute transformed Juventus and he assisted Gonzalo Higuain's second goal on 58 minutes.

The Argentine then added the third himself seven minutes from time - his fifth goal this season in Serie A.

It secured a third win in as many games for Allegri's side and a maximum nine points in their bid for a seventh straight title. The champions could be joined on Sunday by AC Milan, Inter Milan and Napoli depending on weather conditions which forced the postponement of yesterday's between Sampdoria and Roma in Genoa.

AC Milan will play Lazio in Rome, Inter host promoted SPAL while Napoli play at Bologna.

Results
Juventus 3 Chievo Verona 0
Sampdoria Roma postponed



Juventus' Argentinian forward Gonzalo Gerardo Higuain celebrates after scoring against Chievo in Turin yesterday. (AFP)

SPOTLIGHT

World Cup trophy starts tour in Moscow

Reuters
Moscow

Russian President Vladimir Putin and FIFA President Gianni Infantino yesterday launched the World Cup trophy on a tour across Russia ahead of the 2018 championship, with the head of world soccer's governing body lauding Russia's readiness for the event.

"To the people of Russia, I tell them: enjoy and celebrate the trophy tour and then the World Cup. And to the people of the world, I tell them: come to Russia, enjoy Russia and celebrate the World Cup," Infantino said, standing next to Putin on a stage in Moscow's Luzhniki stadium.

Surrounded by hundreds of young soccer players, Infantino and Putin took turns to hold the FIFA World Cup in their hands before it started its 123-day, 26,000km (16,250 mile) journey.

"We are starting now the tour...to prepare the whole world for next year's event when in this stadium three billion people around the world will watch this trophy being handed over to the next world champion," Infantino said.

Moscow has eased visa regulations for foreign soccer fans and pumped billions of dollars into stadiums, hotels and other infrastructure as the Kremlin is keen to improve Russia's image in its worst crisis with the West since the Cold War.

Russia has come under several rounds of Western sanctions over the annexation of Crimea and Moscow's role in Ukraine's conflict with pro-Russian separatists.

"Everything is proceeding according to plan, everything is financed properly," Putin told Infantino at a separate meeting later in remarks shown by state television.

The Luzhniki stadium, which has undergone a five-year reconstruction, will host the opening and final games of the World Cup 2018.



Russian President Vladimir Putin (R) holds the FIFA World Cup Trophy flanked by FIFA President Gianni Infantino (L) during the opening of the trophy tour ceremony at Luzhniki stadium in Moscow yesterday. (AFP)

EPL

City rout Liverpool, United held by Stoke

'The decisive decision in the whole game was the red card. I don't think it was a red card'

AFP
London

Manchester City capitalised on Sadio Mane's controversial red card to thrash title rivals Liverpool 5-0, while Manchester United lost their 100 percent record after a 2-2 draw at Stoke yesterday.

City goalkeeper Ederson was stretchered off in a neck brace after being caught in the face by Mane's boot as he raced out to head the ball away, with the Liverpool winger dismissed for the clash late in the first half at Eastlands.

City already led 1-0 through Sergio Agüero's opener at that point and braces from Gabriel Jesus and substitute Leroy Sané completed City's biggest win over Liverpool since 1937.

City are unbeaten in 12 Premier League games, their best run under Guardiola, while Argentina striker Agüero is now the outright leading non-European goalscorer in Premier League history with 124 goals.

"After 10 vs 11 it was a little bit easier for us and we played the second half the way we wanted to," said City manager Pep Guardiola.

Liverpool boss Jürgen Klopp said: "The decisive decision in the whole game was the red card. I don't think it was a red card. Sadio didn't see the goalkeeper."

After a blistering start to the season, United conceded for the first time in the league this term when Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting swept home from Mame Biram Diouf's 43rd minute cross to notch his first Stoke goal.

Jose Mourinho's side drew level at the bet365 Stadium as Henrikh Mkhitaryan's corner in first half stoppage-time was headed goalwards by Paul Pogba before deflecting into the net off Marcus Rashford.

The visitors moved ahead in the 57th minute when Mkhitaryan's defence-splitting pass was converted by Romelu Lukaku after the Belgian forward's initial effort was saved by Jack Butland.

But when United defender Phil Jones stumbled at a Stoke corner, Cameroon forward Choupo-Moting was unmarked to head the equaliser in the 63rd minute. Despite dropping points for the first time in four matches, United remain top of the table, above neighbours City on goal difference.

"It was a difficult match. My players, after the international break, are not the same," Mourinho said. "I'm not satisfied with a point because we were the team closer to winning."

At the Emirates Stadium,



Manchester City's Brazilian striker Gabriel Jesus (L) celebrates with teammates after scoring their third goal during the English Premier League match against Liverpool in Manchester yesterday. (AFP)

Arsenal eased the pressure on Arsene Wenger with a vital 3-0 win against Bournemouth.

Subjected to stinging criticism following Arsenal's damaging defeats against Stoke and Liverpool, it took just six minutes for Danny Welbeck to lift Wenger's gloom as the Arsenal striker headed home from Sead Kolasinac's cross.

France forward Alexandre Lacazette doubled Arsenal's lead in the 27th minute, bagging his second goal since his pre-season move from Lyon with a curling strike from the edge of the area.

Welbeck's second goal, from Aaron Ramsey's 50th minute pass, secured Arsenal's first win since the opening weekend.

Ton up for Kane

Alexis Sanchez came off the bench in the closing stages for his first Arsenal appearance this season following the collapse of

his mooted move to Manchester City on transfer deadline day.

"It was a serious performance. We played well all over the pitch," Wenger said.

Harry Kane reached his Tottenham century as the England striker's brace inspired an impressive 3-0 win at Everton.

Kane bagged his 100th Tottenham goal - and first this season - in the 28th minute, looping a long-range cross-shot over Everton goalkeeper Jordan Pickford. Christian Eriksen increased Tottenham's advantage with a close-range strike in the 42nd minute after Pickford spilled a Ben Davies shot.

Kane bagged his second from Davies's 46th minute cross to kill off Everton. Chelsea survived a tense finish as the champions made it three successive wins with a 2-1 success at Leicester.

Antonio Conte's side took the lead through Alvaro Mor-

ata's third goal for Chelsea as the Spain striker peeled away from Wes Morgan to meet Cesar Azpilicueta's cross with a bullet header in the 41st minute.

N'Golo Kante was a key member of Leicester's title-winning team two years ago and the Chelsea midfielder returned to haunt his old club with a 50th minute long-range strike.

Jamie Vardy got one back for Leicester with a penalty and Conte said: "We must be delighted. We were in total control and could have scored more."

Brighton secured their first top-flight win for 34 years, with Pascal Gross's double clinching a 3-1 win over West Bromwich Albion at the Amex Stadium.

Watford handed Southampton manager Mauricio Pellegrino his first league defeat, 2-0 at St Mary's, thanks to goals from Abdoulaye Doucoure and Daryl Janmaat.

Results & standings										
Manchester City	5	Liverpool	0							
Arsenal	3	Bournemouth	0							
Brighton & Hove	3	West Bromwich	1							
Everton	0	Tottenham Hotspur	3							
Leicester City	1	Chelsea	2							
Southampton	0	Watford	2							
Stoke City	2	Manchester United	2							
Standings										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Manchester United	4	3	1	0	12	2	10			
Manchester City	4	3	1	0	10	2	10			
Chelsea	4	3	0	1	8	5	9			
Watford	4	2	2	0	7	3	8			
Tottenham Htr	4	2	1	1	7	3	7			
Huddersfield Town	3	2	1	0	4	0	7			
Liverpool	4	2	1	1	8	7	7			
West Bromwich A	4	2	1	1	4	4	7			
Arsenal	4	2	0	2	7	8	6			
Stoke City	4	1	2	1	4	4	5			
Southampton	4	1	2	1	3	4	5			
Burnley	3	1	1	1	4	4	4			
Brighton & Hove	4	1	1	2	3	5	4			
Swansea City	3	1	1	2	4	4	4			
Everton	4	1	1	2	2	6	4			
Newcastle United	3	1	0	2	3	3	3			
Leicester City	4	1	0	3	6	8	3			
Crystal Palace	3	0	0	3	0	6	0			
Bournemouth	4	0	0	4	1	8	0			
West Ham United	3	0	0	3	2	10	0			

BUNDESLIGA

Bayern crash to shock defeat at Hoffenheim

AFP
Berlin

Striker Mark Uth netted twice as defending champions Bayern Munich slumped to a shock 2-0 defeat at Hoffenheim in the German Bundesliga yesterday.

Bayern coach Carlo Ancelotti paid the price for rotating his squad, having started with both Arjen Robben and Franck Ribery on the bench, ahead of Tuesday's Champions League match at home to Anderlecht.

Thomas Mueller started on the right wing but played poorly despite creating two goals in Germany's 6-0 mauling of Norway in World Cup qualifying on Monday.

Bayern stumbled to defeat despite 72 percent possession and 23 shots on goal, while Hoffenheim scored twice from just six chances. After three games Bayern are in the unusual position of fifth in the table - for the first time since August 2014. Hoffenheim are second behind leaders Borussia Dortmund who were held to a goalless draw at Freiburg.

Hoffenheim took the lead in Sinshiem after catching out the Bayern defence.

Bayern centre-back Mats Hummels cleared the ball, which had bounced out of play, but Andrej Kramaric took a quick throw-in and the defence was slow to react as Uth fired home past Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer on 27 minutes.

Bayern were furious as two balls were on the pitch for Uth's goal, but the referee dismissed their protests as the ball Hummels had cleared was in the other half of the pitch - nowhere near play.

Hoffenheim doubled the lead when Swiss defender Steven Zuber fired in a cross and Uth was unmarked to drill home on 51 minutes. Ancelotti threw on Ribery and James Rodriguez, the Colombian making his Bayern debut following his move from Real Madrid, for the final quarter of an hour but to no avail. Having failed to beat Bayern in their first 17 attempts, Hoffenheim now have back-to-back wins after April's 1-0 home victory.

Dortmund's double blow

Meanwhile, Borussia Dortmund could be without injury victims Marcel Schmelzer and Marc Bartra for Wednesday's opening Champions League group match at Wembley.

The pair picked up ankle and groin injuries respectively in Dortmund's frustrating goalless draw at 10-man Freiburg.

Freiburg's Yorik Ravet was sent off on 30 minutes for his tackle on Schmelzer after the video assistant referee spotted the midfielder had gone in studs up. Schmelzer was



Hoffenheim's Mark Uth celebrates scoring their second goal with Steven Zuber yesterday. (Reuters)

stretchered off and taken to hospital.

"It looks worse for Marcel, we will have to wait to see how it looks on Sunday," said Dortmund coach Peter Bosz.

It was the first time Dortmund dropped league points under Bosz, yet they had 82 percent possession and fired in 27 shots to Freiburg's five.

"I'm disappointed, we had the numerical advantage for an hour, so a draw isn't enough," said Bosz.

It was the first time the VAR, which is being trialled in the Bundesliga this season, had called for a red card in Germany's top flight. Dortmund's new signing Andriy Yarmolenko made his debut for the final 11 minutes after joining from Dynamo Kiev.

Historic Steinhaus

Ghana midfielder Kevin-Prince Boateng scored his first goal in Germany's top flight for three years as Eintracht Frankfurt won 1-0 at Borussia Moenchengladbach before going off concussed. Iceland striker Alfred Finnbogason hit a hat-trick in Augsburg's 3-0 win at home to struggling Cologne, who are bottom after three defeats. New signing Abdou Diallo and midfielder Suat Serdar scored second-half goals as Mainz earned a 3-1 comeback win at home to Bayer Leverkusen.

Japan striker Yoshinori Muto put Mainz level with an equaliser on the stroke of half-time after Leverkusen midfielder Dominik Kohr scored the opening goal. Wolfsburg drew 1-1 with Hannover 96 after Daniel Didavi's first-half free-kick gave the hosts the lead before Martin Hamik levelled for Hannover. History will be made on Sunday when Bibiana Steinhaus becomes the first female to referee in Germany's top flight when Hertha Berlin host Werder Bremen.

RESULTS

Freiburg	0	Dortmund	0
Borussia	0	Frankfurt	1
Augsburg	3	Cologne	0
Mainz	3	Leverkusen	1
Wolfsburg	1	Hannover	1
Hoffenheim	2	Bayern	0

LA LIGA

Real Madrid held by Levante as Marcelo sees red

AFP
Madrid

Real Madrid paid for the absence of Cristiano Ronaldo and a series of missed chances by Gareth Bale as they were held 1-1 at home by Levante on Saturday.

A slow start by a much-changed Real team was punished when Ivi Lopez fired newly-promoted Levante into a shock lead after just 12 minutes.

Real responded thanks to Lucas Vazquez's equaliser before half-time, but failed to break Levante's resistance despite incessant pressure as Bale, Marcelo and Toni Kroos came close in the second-half.

And their frustration boiled over when Marcelo was shown a straight red card for kicking out at Jefferson Lerma as the game entered stoppage time.

"We can't be happy with our performance, above all in the first-half," said Real boss Zinedine Zidane.

Madrid have now dropped

points in their opening two home league games of the season, handing the early initiative in the title race to Barcelona.

Barca could move four points clear of Real with victory at home to Espanyol later on Saturday.

"We don't need to go crazy. We need to have patience and think about the next game, which is just around the corner," added Zidane.

With an unusually early 1300 (1100GMT) kick-off time for Real on the back of an international break, Zidane left many of those who had been away with their national teams in reserve.

Despite Ronaldo's continued absence through suspension, Bale and Isco were left on the bench, whilst Luka Modric and goalkeeper Keylor Navas were left out the squad completely.

However, Zidane defended criticism of his rotation policy.

"I am not going to revolutionise what I want to do with this team due to one bad game," said the Frenchman.

"I believe in this team and

we need to play better, nothing more than that."

The European champions were caught cold by a sluggish start as Levante went in front thanks to some awful Real defending. A Levante throw from the right was allowed to bounce inside Madrid's six-yard box before Ivi spun and fired across Kiko Casilla into the far corner.

The hosts were dealt another blow midway through the first-half as Karim Benzema limped off and with no other natural striker on the bench, Bale was forced to play as an auxiliary centre-forward.

Madrid ramped up the tempo as the half wore on, but had to rely on a set-piece to level nine minutes before half-time.

Sergio Ramos's towering header was parried by Raul Fernandez, but Vazquez bundled home the rebound into an empty net. Bale then had a huge chance to turn the game around, but was denied by a smart stop from the Levante 'keeper as he tried to curl the ball home with the outside of his left foot.

The Welshman continued to be the focal point of the Madrid attack after the break, but, even after the introduction of Isco, Madrid missed Ronaldo's cutting edge in the final third.

A frantic finish saw Bale head inches wide from Isco's cross at the back post four minutes from time. Marcelo then saw a fierce effort from the edge of the box turned behind by Fernandez, but the Brazilian appeared to kick out at Lerma as he hit the ground and was shown a straight red card.

Despite their numerical disadvantage, Madrid still nearly grabbed all three points as Toni Kroos's effort from the edge of the area clipped the outside of the post.

Karim Benzema looks set to miss the holders' Champions League opener against APOEL Nicosia on Wednesday after limping off with a hamstring injury.

Results

Real Madrid	1	Levante	1
Valencia	0	Athletico Mad	0
Sevilla	3	Eibar	0



Real Madrid's Marcelo (R) is shown a red card by referee during the La Liga match against Levante. (Reuters)

MLB

Rosario, Escobar help Twins win again over Royals

'When you score the first five innings of a game and you have your best pitcher out there, you would like to think the game would be a little less stressful'



Minnesota Twins left fielder Eddie Rosario hits a home run against the Kansas City Royals in the third inning at Kauffman Stadium. PICTURE: USA TODAY Sports

By Phil Miller
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

The Kansas City Royals wore their gold-accented uniforms on Friday night, a reminder of the championship that they won just two seasons ago.

There was another relic of that title-winner on display, too: The way the Royals refuse to go away quietly into the night, and into history.

One night after a three-run ninth-inning rally stung and stunned the former champs, Minnesota scored in each of the first five innings on Friday and with its ace righthander on the mound, appeared headed to another statement victory in

Kauffman Stadium. But Kansas City didn't accept the faded-past verdict, scratched its way back with a couple of well-placed clutch hits, but lost 8-5.

Eddie Rosario, quiet in September after a memorable August, broke out of his 3-for-23 funk with four RBI in the first four innings, smacking a 434-foot home run far beyond the Twins' bullpen, and delivering a bases-loaded, two-out single in the fourth inning that helped build a 5-1 lead.

Brian Dozier and Eduardo Escobar got in on the offensive push, too. Dozier led off the game with a single, stole second base and scored on Rosario's sacrifice fly, then drove in Escobar with a two-out single in the second.

Escobar, after that second-inning single that Dozier cashed in, added another run with a home run of his own, his 16th of the season, and doubled and scored in the eighth.

But when the Twins' scoring seemed to recede, the Royals' suddenly took off, as if their pride had been wounded. Ervin Santana needed only 33 pitches to retire Kansas City in the first three innings, allowing one early run on a Melky Cabrera sacrifice fly.

But Eric Hosmer won a duel with Santana in the fourth inning, crushing a fastball into the Twins' bullpen just out of Max Kepler's reach, and the Royals followed up with three doubles in the fifth inning that eventually knocked the Twins' most

reliable pitcher out of the game after just five innings, his shortest start in a month.

Kansas City struck again in the seventh inning, stringing three straight singles together off relievers Tyler Duffey and Taylor Rogers, with Ramon Torres' hit driving in a run. But Trevor Hildenberger ended the threat with a double play and a fly ball.

The Twins answered in the eighth inning, thanks to Escobar once again. The third baseman doubled, and scored on Robbie Grossman's triple.

"There were a lot of momentum changes," Minnesota manager Paul Molitor said.

"When you score the first five innings of a game and you have your best pitcher out there, you

would like to think the game would be a little less stressful. But credit to the Royals and their fight, they kept finding ways to inch closer" he added.

RESULTS

Colorado	5	LA Dodgers	4
Seattle	4	LA Angels	3
Oakland	9	Houston	8
San Diego	10	Arizona	6
Minnesota	8	Kansas City	5
St. Louis	4	Pittsburgh	1
San Frans	9	Chic W Sox	2
Texas	11	NY Yankees	5
Milwaukee	2	Chicago Cubs	0
Miami	7	Atlanta	1
Cleveland	5	Baltimore	0
NY Mets	5	Cincinnati	1
Boston	9	Tampa Bay	3
Detroit	5	Toronto	4
Washington	11	Philadelphia	10

SPOTLIGHT

Judge clears path for Elliott to play games

The Sports Xchange
New York

A US District Court judge has put on hold Dallas Cowboys running back Ezekiel Elliott's six-game suspension, granting a request by the NFL Players Association for a temporary restraining order.

Elliott's suspension for violating the league's personal conduct policy was set to begin on Monday, one day after he was eligible to compete in the Cowboys' season-opening game against the NFC East rival New York Giants.

With the injunction, issued on Friday, Elliott likely will be able to continue playing as the legal process plays out. "Elliott didn't receive a fundamentally fair hearing, necessitating the court grant the request for preliminary injunction," Judge Amos Mazzant III said in his ruling.

The decision also said the "circumstances of this case are unmatched by any case this court has seen."

The NFL disagreed with the ruling. "We strongly believe that the investigation and evidence supported the commissioner's decision and that the process was meticulous and fair throughout," the league said in a statement.

"We will review the decision in greater detail and discuss next steps with counsel, both in the district court and

federal court of appeals." There's no timeline for Mazzant to make a decision on whether to allow the petition to move forward to trial, according to Gabe Feldman, director of the Tulane Sports Law Program.

While Friday's decision serves as a victory for the 22-year-old Elliott, it does not mean that he won't have to serve the suspension at some point. On Tuesday, appeals officer Harold Henderson upheld the suspension handed down from NFL commissioner Roger Goodell.

The player association called for a change in the NFL policy.

"Commissioner discipline will continue to be a distraction from our game for one reason: because NFL owners have refused to collectively bargain a fair and transparent process that exists in other sports," the NFLPA said in a statement on Friday. "This 'imposed' system remains problematic for players and the game, but as the honest and honourable testimony of a few NFL employees recently revealed, it also demonstrates the continued lack of integrity within their own League office."

Elliott, who was not arrested nor charged in the case, maintained his innocence after being accused of assaulting his former girlfriend, Tiffany Thompson. The original punishment was issued by Goodell on Aug. 11 after a 13-month investigation.



Brown banned for six more games

The National Football League slapped American Josh Brown with an additional six-game suspension for violating the personal conduct policy due to domestic violence accusations, the US media reported on Friday.

The former New York Giant kicker served a one-game suspension at the start of the 2016 season after domestic violence allegations were made by his ex-wife.

"We reopened the investigation based on new info," the NFL said in a text to American sports broadcaster ESPN.

"Concluded there was a violation of our personal conduct policy and imposed six-game suspension, which he accepted without appeal."

The new ban is mostly a procedural move since the 38-year-old Brown hasn't kicked in the NFL since the Giants cut him loose in October.

Brown is expected to begin serving the six-game suspension immediately even though he remains unsigned.

Brown was placed on the exempt list in October when the NFL decided to launch a further investigation into his May 2015 arrest for alleged domestic violence. The Giants cut Brown four days after he was put on the exempt list. Brown was never charged by police.

NBA

Wade wants to play for championship contender

By Barry Jackson
Miami Herald

Doing nothing to diffuse speculation that he would like a buyout from the Chicago Bulls, Dwyane Wade said he would like to play for a championship contender before his career is over.

Wade is under contract to the Bulls at \$24 million this coming season but reportedly isn't eager to play there because the Bulls are rebuilding after trading his close friend, Jimmy Butler, to Minnesota.

ESPN reported recently that LeBron James' associates believe Wade will sign with Cleveland if he reaches a buyout with the Bulls. A Wade associate said last week that Miami and Los Angeles also would hold appeal to him.

While not naming any other teams besides Chicago, NBA TV's David Aldridge asked Wade what his preference would be.

"First of all, obviously, everyone wants to compete," Wade said. "It's no secret. We would all love to compete for a championship at the end of my career. That is one thing I would love to do. I'm not in a position right now to do that, so I can't talk about what that preference is. Hopefully, one day before I'm done playing this game, I can be back in position to compete for a championship."

Aldridge asked whether it's fair to say he will report to the Bulls and provide leadership but "in a perfect world" would "be back on another team that can compete."

Responded Wade: "Definitely, definitely. It's no secret. And everyone knows that. I've been

lucky. I've been to five Finals. So if I never go to another one, I can't complain. But I would love to. I would love to, because I feel I can add to something a team that's in that position. That's not something I can focus on or something I can worry about right now."

Wade's comments suggest that Cleveland might have an edge over Miami if Wade gets a Bulls buyout. Vegasinsider.com has the Cavaliers with 4 to 1 odds to win the championship - behind only Golden State - and the Heat at 100 to 1.

Asked whether he wants a buyout, Wade said: "What's funny is I haven't said anything. ... There's a reason for that. I'm not about the going back and forth. A lot of people make it that way. I'm not about the going back and forth. When the time is right for me and the Chicago Bulls to sit

down and talk about the future, we will do that. The time hasn't been right, obviously, to this point. But I will be in Chicago soon enough, and hopefully we get an opportunity to sit down and talk about the future and the direction and go from there. I'm 35 years old. I'm a grown man. I can definitely sit across the room from you and listen to your truth and hopefully hear mine and go from there."

When Aldridge asked what team he will be playing for in November, Wade said: "Training camp is coming up, and I'm preparing for training camp. I'm under contract with the Bulls right now, and that's what I'm preparing for. The future, you don't worry about it too much. ... My job is to prepare for being the best Dwyane Wade at the age of 35 that I can be, and everything else will take care of itself."





RUGBY

All Blacks unleash 'the beast' to down Argentina

Fifita sprints over 50 metres to score a crucial try in second half

AFP
New Plymouth, New Zealand

The All Blacks unleashed "the beast" as they came from behind to beat a fired-up Argentina 39-22 in a Rugby Championship Test in New Plymouth yesterday.

Blindside flanker Vaea Fifita turned the game 10 minutes in to the second half when he outspurred Argentinian flyer Santiago Cordero over 50 metres to score a crucial try when the All Blacks were down by seven points.

It opened the way for a finishing burst in which they scored 24 unanswered points to remain unbeaten after three matches in the championship.

Coach Steve Hansen had billed Fifita as a "real physical beast" before the game and the 25-year-old did not disappoint using his 1.96 (6ft 5in) metre, 113 kilogramme (249 lb) frame to crash his way through Los Pumas.

It was only Fifita's second Test and Hansen said afterwards he can only get better.

"I don't think he's the finished product. He's got a long way to go. But it's a tank that's got plenty in it and our job now is to bring that out and his job is to work on his game and get better and better and reach his potential."

It was a Test the All Blacks were never expected to lose and they won the try count six to one.

But they were made to struggle for long periods by an Argentinian side determined to prove they still belong among the leading rugby nations.

Los Pumas coach Daniel Hourcade rated it his side's best performance of the year after back-to-back losses against South Africa.

But they lost their way when they had a one-man advantage with All Blacks fly-half Beauden Barrett in the sin-bin.

"It was really a tough game and perhaps our best, but the All Blacks showed the best of what they have when they have a player in the sin bin, they played really well."

In the first half, as the All Blacks continued to suffer from the indecision and handling errors that plagued



New Zealand's Vaea Fifita (right) on his way to score a try in the second half of the Rugby Championship against Argentina in New Plymouth, New Zealand, yesterday. (Reuters)

them in their last Test against Australia, Argentina were quick to cash in.

They led 16-15 at half-time and stretched the lead to 22-15 with two quick penalties at the start of the second half before Fifita's try brought the All Blacks back into the game.

On a cold wet night, once the All Blacks had weathered Los Pumas's initial onslaught, they put the first points on the board when Damian McKenzie scythed through the Argentine backline to put Nehe Milner-Skudder over for the try.

When Nicolas Sanchez replied with a close-range penalty, the All Blacks

were immediately back on the attack with Anton Lienert-Brown winning the race for the ball to score off a Beauden Barrett chip kick.

Los Pumas picked up another three points with a long-range penalty by left wing Emiliano Boffelli from a metre inside his own half and closed within one point at 10-9 with a second Sanchez penalty.

After Israel Dagg scored the All Blacks third try, Argentina came back to take the lead on the stroke of half-time, and from an All Blacks error when they lost a defensive lineout and Tomas Cubelli, a key player in the

Argentinian attack, sent Sanchez over for the try.

Boffelli and Sanchez landed further penalties at the start of the second half before Fifita's try which, with Lima Sopoaga's conversion, levelled the score at 22-22.

Sopoaga had taken over the kicking after Barrett had a woeful night in front of his home crowd, missing three conversions and being yellow-carded.

Damian McKenzie stretched the lead with the All Blacks fifth try and after a Sopoaga penalty, Barrett atoned for his errors with a late try.

GOLF

Thompson, Ko set for final round showdown in Indianapolis

Reuters
Indianapolis

Lexi Thompson and Lydia Ko are set for a final round showdown at the inaugural Indy Women in Tech Championship after finishing atop the leaderboard at the Brickyard Crossing Golf Course on Friday.

First-round leader Thompson fired a six-under 66 in the shadow of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway but was chased down by twice major champion Ko, who shot a 64.

The pair were on a 15-under total of 129 in the three-round event which finishes Saturday to give players more time to prepare for next week's Evian Championship in France, the season's final major.

They held a one-stroke lead over Taiwan's Candie Kung, who also shot a 64 and was three strokes clear of South African Ashleigh Buhai.

"I'm never going to complain with a six-under-par round, but I didn't really focus on anybody else like Lydia," said

Thompson, who went bogey-free and is looking for a second victory of 2017.

"I know she played great today, but I was just trying to go out with the same mindset I did yesterday and make sure I did my routine and commit to my golf shots."

Ko, who was world number one for 85 consecutive weeks before ceding the ranking in June, caught fire on the front nine where she made five straight birdies.

The 20-year-old New Zealander appears on the verge of ending a prolonged slump which has seen her without a victory since her Marathon Classic win in July, 2016.

"I felt like there were a lot of positives and a lot of good things going on but I just couldn't put it all together," said Ko of her form struggles.

"This week, the last couple of days, I've been able to hit it pretty good and make some good putts and that's what I've kind of been lacking the last few months."

Americans Cristie Kerr and Amy Olson are tied in fifth place on 10-under, five behind the leaders.



Lydia Ko of New Zealand waves to the crowd after making a birdie on the fifth hole during the second round of the Indy Women In Tech Championship at the Brickyard Crossing Golf Course in Indianapolis, Indiana, on Friday. (AFP)

ATHLETICS

Kiryu first Japanese to break 10-sec 100m

AFP
Tokyo

Yoshihide Kiryu yesterday smashed a national 100-metre record in a time of 9.98 seconds to become the first Japanese to break the 10-second barrier.

The 21-year-old, a member of Japan's silver medal-winning men's 4x100 relay team at the Rio Olympics, shattered the previous record by 0.02 secs at an intercollegiate meet in Fukui, central Japan.

The Toyo University student started moderately in the final but raced past his rivals in top gear and finished first with a 1.8-metre tailwind.

Kiryu screamed with joy after crossing

the line and pointed to a display clock showing his time.

"I'm thrilled to have done it in my last 100 race of the season," said Kiryu, according to Kyodo News.

"I'd been stuck for four years and I managed to rewrite my own record at last," he said. "I'm on the starting block of the world now that I've run a nine," he added.

Kiryu, who ran a wind-assisted 9.87 in the 100m in 2015, had long competed with his domestic rivals, including Japan teen sensation Abdul Hakim Sani Brown, to achieve the national feat.

Japan's previous national record of 10.00 was set by Koji Ito in 1998. Ito's time was the Asian record until 2007 when Nigerian-born Qatari Samuel Francis streaked over the line in 9.99.



Yoshihide Kiryu poses after winning the men's 100m final with a time of 9.98 seconds at an intercollegiate meet in Fukui, Japan, yesterday. (Reuters)

SPOTLIGHT

South Africa fight back to grab draw with Australia

AFP
Perth, Australia

Australia squandered a 10-point lead as South Africa stormed back to claim a 23-23 draw in their Rugby Championship Test in Perth yesterday.

The Springboks clawed back from 20-10 down early in the second half to hit the front 23-20 before Bernard Foley kicked a levelling penalty goal for the Wallabies 10 minutes from time.

The draw left South Africa unbeaten in six internationals this year, while the Wallabies now have three points in the Rugby Championship after two defeats to New Zealand.

It was the second draw in the 84 Test matches between the two teams, and the first since a 14-14 stalemate also in Perth in 2001.

The Wallabies looked on target to push on to victory when they extended their 13-10 half-time advantage to lead 20-10 seven minutes after the resumption.

It was the Springboks set-piece that turned the game in the second half, winning key lineouts and disrupting the Wallabies scrum.

The draw meant the Springboks have not beaten the Wallabies in Australia since their 38-12 romp in Brisbane in 2013.

"It was an awesome effort in the second half," Springboks skipper Eben Etzebeth said.

"We said at half-time that we had to work on a couple of things and we almost pulled it through.



South Africa's Eben Etzebeth (left) pushes off Australia's Sekope Kepu during their Rugby Championship match in Perth, Australia, yesterday. (Reuters)

"The scrums went really well for us and we also got rewards from the maul."

Asked how he felt about the draw Etzebeth said: "It's difficult, you always want to win these games and would have loved it to be us but unfortunately (it was) a draw."

Wallabies coach Michael Cheika said he was disappointed his team did not close out the match.

"We wanted to have a win tonight no doubt, but it's a young team learning about how to deal with those situations and we need to get better because with 10 points up we should have gone on with it," Cheika said.

Skipper Michael Hooper added: "Missed opportunity there. Set-piece didn't allow us to get momentum in the second half.

"Restarts weren't up to scratch but a lot to like there. Credit to the South Africans, they managed to grind and put the pressure on us."

Elton Jantjies and Bernard Foley exchanged penalties before the Springboks struck first in the 25th minute off a turnover.

Ross Cronje pinched the ball and Jesse Kriel kicked ahead with winger Raymond Rhule and Hooper jostling for the ball.

Rhule shouldered Hooper off the

ball and Kriel picked it and scored in the right corner for Jantjies to convert.

But the Wallabies hit back quickly with inside-centre Kurtley Beale spearing through a gap to score, and Foley converted to level the scores.

Foley kicked a penalty goal on the siren to give the Wallabies a 13-10 half-time advantage.

The Wallabies extended their lead to 20-10 seven minutes after the resumption with hooker Tafa Polota-Nau on the end of a push-over try from a lineout win.

Jantjies kicked a penalty for the Springboks to trail by seven points before hooker Malcolm Marx scored off a pushover try from a lineout win midway through the half to level the scores.

Jantjies kicked South Africa to the front when the Springbok scrum forced a penalty inside the Australians' quarter.

Foley levelled the scores with 10 minutes left and South Africa had the chance to snatch victory after the full-time siren but Jantjies' drop goal attempt was charged down by Hooper.

It has been a torrid year for Australia, winning only two of their six internationals and coming off a miserable Super Rugby season climaxed by the contentious axing of Perth-based Western Force from next year's competition.

Blue Western Force jerseys dominated the crowd as fans protested against the axing of their home-town team.

A chant of "Force, Force" went up before kickoff, and throughout the match as well as after.

HORSE RACING

Qatari group victories in Bordeaux, Kempton

Rajeh stays unbeaten and wins Prix Cheri Bibi



Francois-Xavier Bertras rides Rajeh, owned by His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Khalifa al-Thani, to victory in Bordeaux, France, yesterday. (Mr Polin)

Agencies
Bordeaux, France

Qatari colours shone and dominated at Bordeaux le Bouscat yesterday.

First up, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Khalifa al-Thani's Rajeh won the Prix Cheri Bibi (Gr3 PA) in an impressive style on heavy ground.

Rajeh was by far the best contender

in the field and has now stayed unbeaten in two outings.

"He is a top class horse. Today, we were a bit worried about the ground, but he is a real race horse and shows his versatility," Rajeh trainer François Rohaut said.

Rajeh should now be aiming the Qatar Total Arabian Trophy des Poulains (Gr1 PA) at Saint-Cloud, just before the Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe week-

end. He has also been entered in the French Arabian Breeders' Challenge - Poulains, to be run at Toulouse on October 26.

The next Qatari victory was secured by Khalifa bin Hamad al-Attiyah's Djahab.

In her first time out in France, the three-year-old filly won the Prix Nevada II (Gr3 PA).

Djahab travelled well in fourth position. In the straight line, she had to be tough to beat Easter de Faust by half a

Qatari-trained Djahab wins Prix Nevada II



Tomas Lukasek (foreground) rides Hadi al-Ramzani-trained Djahab to victory in Prix Nevada II yesterday. (Mr Polin)

Agencies
Kempton, England

Qatar Racing's Chemical Charge came with a blistering late run under Oisin Murphy to win the September Stakes (Gr3) in Kempton, England, yesterday.

The five-year-old horse trained by Ralph Beckett was a good third in the Hardwicke Stakes (Gr2) at Royal Ascot

length.

Djahab had won her first two races in Doha for Qatari trainer Hadi al-Ramzani in impressive style, with a margin of more than ten lengths. The filly was steered to win the Prix Nevada II (Gr3 PA) by jockey Thomas Lukasek, who is well known at QREC's Al Rayyan racecourse in Doha.

The main goal for her in France is the Qatar Arabian Trophy des Poulaines (Gr1 PA), the day before the Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe weekend.

Qatar Racing's Chemical Charge wins Gr3



Oisin Murphy (right) rides Chemical Charge to victory yesterday. (Racingfotos)

Agencies
Kempton, England

participate in the sixth round of the 2000m race, two owned by Al Shaqab, and one each owned by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa al-Thani, His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Khalifa al-Thani, Khalifa bin Mohamed Al Attiyah and Essa Mohamed al-Sulaiti.

Three other Qatari horses will participate in the international event; two owned by Qatar Racing and one in Al Shaqab colours.

this year and picked up a deserved first Group success. Scarlet Dragon came second while Wild Hacked was third.

"He got there in the end. The horse got him (Murphy) out of jail, but at the same time he doesn't want to get there too soon, either," Beckett said.

"He will go to Woodbine now for the Canadian International and that was the plan if he won today. You can't always guarantee a strong pace there, but Woodbine will suit him well."

CYCLING

Froome Vuelta king in waiting; Contador signs off in style

Froome leads Nibali by two minutes and 15 seconds going into Madrid

Reuters
Alto de L'Angriru, Spain

Chris Froome virtually secured his first Vuelta a Espana victory by coming third in the decisive stage 20 yesterday as Alberto Contador took the stage victory with a typically brave attack on the Alto de L'Angriru, a dream finale to his eventful career.

The Spaniard, who is retiring from cycling after La Vuelta, burst free of the breakaway group at the start of the final climb in the short, yet punishing, 117.5km stage, the last mountaintop finish of the contest.

But as long as Froome avoids disaster in the last of the 21 stages on today - a procession through Madrid - the Briton will make history by becoming the first cyclist since French great Bernard Hinault in 1978 to win the Vuelta and the Tour de France in the same season.

Froome leads nearest challenger Vincenzo Nibali by two minutes and 15 seconds in the general classification, increasing his advantage over the Italian by 38 seconds with a strong finish in the penultimate stage while the Italian struggled.

Inur Zakarin is third, two minutes, 51 seconds behind four-time Tour de France winner Froome.

Froome was well-versed in the infamous Alto de l'Angriru and its 12.5km ascent, coming second in a stage there in 2011, the year he shot to cycling fame by coming second overall in La Vuelta ahead of team leader Bradley Wiggins.

Nibali's faint chances of catching Froome overall went up in smoke when he crashed with 15km to go on a descent before reaching the Angriru as-



Trek-Segafredo's cyclist Alberto Contador celebrates his win in the 20th stage of Vuelta a Espana in Alto de L'Angriru, Spain, yesterday. (AFP)

cent, losing 20 seconds on the Briton, while Marc Soler and David de la Cruz also had falls as they struggled to negotiate the slippery surface in the rain.

Contador was part of the breakaway and extended his lead by attacking at the start of the Angriru, joining Colombian Jarlinson Pantano before dropping him and marching beyond

Tomasz Marczyński to finish the gruelling climb on his own, dancing on the pedals.

The Spaniard moved up to fourth in the general classification and is set to miss out on a podium place in his final professional race, but his magnificent stage win ensured he still signed off from his glorious career in style.



Sky's Chris Froome leads the overall classification. (AFP)

STAGE 20 RESULTS

1. Alberto Contador (Trek)	3:31:33"
2. Wout Poels (Sky)	+17"
3. Chris Froome (Sky)	
4. Ilnur Zakarin (Katusha)	+35"
5. Franco Pellizzotti (Merida)	+51"
6. Vincenzo Nibali (Merida)	
7. Steven Kruijswijk (LottoNL)	
8. Wilco Kelderman (Sunweb)	+1:11"
9. Romain Bardet (AG2R)	+1:25"
10. Michael Woods (Cannondale)	+1:36"

OVERALL CLASSIFICATION

1. Chris Froome (Sky)	79:23:37"
2. Vincenzo Nibali (Merida)	+2:15"
3. Ilnur Zakarin (Katusha)	+2:51"
4. Alberto Contador (Trek)	+3:11"
5. Wilco Kelderman (Sunweb)	+3:15"
6. Wout Poels (Sky)	+6:45"
7. Michael Woods (Cannondale)	+7:56"
8. Miguel Angel Lopez (Astana)	+8:59"
9. Steven Kruijswijk (LottoNL)	+11:04"
10. Tejay van Garderen (BMC)	+15:36"

MOTOGP

Vinales snatches San Marino pole

AFP
Misano Adriatico, Italy

Spain's Maverick Vinales left it late before grabbing pole position for the San Marino MotoGP yesterday ahead of Italy's world championship leader Andrea Dovizioso and Spaniard Marc Marquez.

With just four seconds left in qualifying for today's race at Misano the 22-year-old Yamaha rider crossed the line in a fastest final lap of 1min 32.439sec, upsetting local favourite Dovizioso.

Ducati's Dovizioso, 31, and defending world champion Marquez, who was unhurt after crashing on his final lap, will complete the front row.

In a three-way battle, Dovizioso was on provisional pole as Vinales and Marquez began their final pushes, with the young Spaniard going fastest after Marquez fell out of contention.

"It's by far my best qualification ever in Misano," said Dovizioso, a native of Forlimpopoli, a town just 65 kilometres (40 miles) from the Misano circuit in Rimini.

"In my opinion we are well-placed for the race. We'll wait to see what will come tomorrow: in the wet everything changes."

Rain is forecast for today when Yamaha's hopes are focused on Vinales after Italian teammate Valentino Rossi, fourth in the world standings, broke his leg in a training accident.

Vinales, sitting third overall behind Dovizioso and Marquez, claimed a fourth pole position of the season as he

aims to follow wins in Qatar, Argentina and France.

Marquez, winner in San Marino four times in all categories, blamed a change in tyres for his tumble.

"Happy with the pace although we expect rain tomorrow," Marquez later tweeted.

"I did a good first lap, then I wanted to try the other tyres," explained the reigning world champion who lost his overall lead to Dovizioso last time out in Silverstone.

"I made a small mistake straight away and after that another, more serious, going off onto the white line: (let's have) patience, my placing is still good, I'm happy!"

Britain's Cal Crutchlow (LCR Honda), riding with a finger injury, heads the second row after narrowly beating Jorge Lorenzo to fourth, with Tech 3 Yamaha's Johann Zarco completing the top six.

Spaniard Dani Pedrosa clocked the seventh fastest time, one place higher than last year when he went on to win.

Italians Mattia Pasini (Kalex) and Enea Bastianini (Honda) took pole position in the Moto2 and Moto3 categories respectively.

SAN MARINO MOTOGP QUALIFYING

1. Maverick Vinales (Yamaha)	1:32.439
2. Andrea Dovizioso (Ducati)	+0.162
3. Marc Marquez (Honda)	+0.197
4. Cal Crutchlow (LCR Honda)	+0.329
5. Jorge Lorenzo (Ducati)	+0.353
6. Johann Zarco (Yamaha Tech3)	+0.446
7. Dani Pedrosa (Honda)	+0.553
8. Danilo Petrucci (Ducati)	+0.558
9. Aleix Espargaro (Aprilia)	+0.710
10. Alvaro Bautista (Ducati)	+0.978



Yamaha's Maverick Vinales rides his bike during the qualifying session for the San Marino Moto GP at the Marco Simoncelli circuit in Misano yesterday. (AFP)

Schurter, Neff win world elite as Swiss dominate

Nino Schurter led a Swiss domination of all cross country categories at the mountain bike world championships in Australia yesterday.

Schurter defended his title in the Elite men's race, Jolanda Neff took the Elite women's title and Sina Frei won the Under-23 women's competition. The Swiss also won the team relay on the opening day to underline their depth of talent across all cross country disciplines in Cairns.

Schurter was the overwhelming favourite heading into Saturday's Elite race after dominating the World Cup this season winning all six rounds.

The race quickly became a contest between Schurter and 2012 Olympic champion Jaroslav Kulhavy of the Czech Republic.

It wasn't until the final climb on the last lap, when Schurter attacked and Kulhavy made a mistake in a corner, that the Swiss rider was finally able to get away, hanging on to win by seven seconds.

Kulhavy finally dropped another Swiss Thomas Litscher in the final kilometre to take silver.

"It was a really tough one," Schurter said. "Jaroslav was super strong today.

"I was lucky Thomas was always with us and I was able to leave him the work of leading, and luckily Jaroslav wasn't there at the finish.

"It has been an incredible year. I've won seven (six World Cups and the world title). This year it all came together."

Neff and Britain's Annie Last set the pace in the women's Elite and dropped everyone else by the end of the first lap and rode together until the fourth lap.

Neff attacked, quickly opening a 22-second gap and by the penultimate fifth lap had opened a gap of up

to two minutes and Neff was able to coast to her first Elite title.

Last took the silver medal, while Pauline Ferrand-Prevot of France, the 2015 world champion, claimed bronze.

"I just wanted to win it so much," Neff said. "The last three years I couldn't win the World Champs, it has been three years since my last win (as an Under-23).

"Coming into this race I wanted to win it so badly, I just wanted to go at every chance I could get. I just pushed from start to finish. I am over the moon. I am so happy."

ICC WORLD CRICKET LEAGUE DIVISION 5

Qatar edge out Italy for third place; Jersey win title

By Sports Reporter
Doha

On a day when Jersey won the ICC World Cricket League Division 5 title with an easy win over Vanuatu, Qatar won a thrilling encounter over Italy to grab third place.

The two finalists had already secured promotion to Division 4, with an eye on a spot in the 2023 World Cup, but yesterday, at Kingsmead Oval in South Africa, Ben Stevens ensured Jersey had the momentum starting in the 120-run win.

Vanuatu won the toss and elected to field first, but riding on an 86-run knock by Stevens, Jersey set a target of 256. In reply, Vanuatu were wrapped up for a mere 135, with Stevens' left-arm spin instrumental in causing damage.

With three wickets in the kitty, apart from the batting knock, Stevens was ad-

judged Man of the Match.

In Benoni, Qatar avenged their six-wicket group stages loss to Italy with a thrilling win.

A 46-ball 54 by Tamoor Sajjad and valuable batting performances by Kamran Khan, captain Inam-ul-Haq and Mohamed Tanveer, ensured that Qatar overhauled Italy's 225-run total with 2.1 overs to spare.

Opener Gian Meade was solid up the order after Italy elected to bat first. His 105-ball 62 was the stand out effort in the Italian top order before Joy Perera and Carl Sandri added 44 and 34 respectively as Qatar bowlers, led by Iqbal Hussain, restricted them for 225 for 7.

Hussain took three wickets for 51 runs, while Mohamed Nadeem scalped two, and Sajjad and Awais Malik took a wicket each.

In reply, opener Qalandar Khan was sent back early in the Qatar innings but a string of partnerships, including a 52-run stand between Inam-ul-Haq (37 runs, 3

fours) and Kamran Khan (43 runs, 1 four, 4 sixes) steadied the ship.

By the time Sajjad was sent back in the 30th over, Qatar were at 147 for 4, but Tanveer (35 runs, 1 four) did well to combine with Mohamed Rizlan (28 runs, 3 fours).

Imran Ashraf hit a boundary in the 48th over to seal the third place for Qatar. Qatar skipper Inam-ul-Haq said, "Staying in Division 5 is great for the Qatar team, the guys have done very well today."

Italy skipper Munasinghe said: "I was really disappointed with the result, we had a good start, but unfortunately we didn't make the important games."

Riding on an unbeaten 123 from Venkataran Ganesan, Germany beat Guernsey by four wickets, chasing down the 270 run target with 4.4 overs to spare.

Ghana picked up a six-wicket victory in the seventh place playoff chasing down the 137-run target set by Cayman Islands in the 20th over.



Action from the final between Jersey and Vanuatu yesterday. (Twitter/ICC)

SPOTLIGHT

Pakistan announces SL series schedule

AFP
Karachi

Pakistan yesterday announced the itinerary for a full series against Sri Lanka that will be played mainly in neutral venues but features a planned finale in Lahore.

The series will comprise two Tests — the second a day-night affair — five one-day and three Twenty20 internationals.

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) hopes to host the last Twenty20 in Lahore, depending on whether a three-match series against a World XI team next week passes off without incident.

PCB director Haroon Rasheed said he hoped the match would be held as planned.

"We have scheduled the last Twenty20 in Lahore with high hopes and it will follow our series with World XI," Rasheed told AFP.

Pakistan have been forced to play their home international games in the UAE since a 2009 terrorist attack on the Sri Lankan team bus in Lahore suspended all international matches in the country.

Rasheed said the second Test will be a day-night affair in Dubai.

"Day-night Tests are an innovation worldwide and it is aimed at attracting spectators to the

ground after their office timings," said Rasheed, a former Pakistan batsman.

Australia hosted the first day-night Test against New Zealand in Adelaide in 2015. Pakistan also hosted a day-night Test against the West Indies in Dubai last year.

PCB said the Test series commences in Abu Dhabi on September 28 and will be followed by a day-night Test in Dubai beginning October 6.

The five-match one-day series will be played in Dubai (October 13), Abu Dhabi (October 16 and 18) and Sharjah (October 20 and 23).

Abu Dhabi will host the first two Twenty20 internationals on October 26 and 27 while the last T20 will be in Lahore on October 29.

ITINERARY

- September 28-October 2: 1st Test, Abu Dhabi
- October 6-10: 2nd Test (day-night), Dubai
- October 13: 1st ODI, Dubai
- October 16: 2nd ODI, Abu Dhabi
- October 18: Third ODI, Abu Dhabi
- October 20: Fourth ODI, Sharjah
- October 23: Fifth ODI, Sharjah
- October 26: First Twenty20 international, Abu Dhabi
- October 27: Second Twenty20 international, Abu Dhabi
- October 29: Third Twenty20 international, Lahore

FOCUS

Anderson bowls England to series win

Pacer picks up 7 for 42 to wrap up Windies for 177, hosts score 107 for victory

AFP
London

James Anderson took the best innings figures of his Test career as England completed a nine-wicket and series-clinching victory against West Indies at Lord's yesterday.

Anderson followed up his Friday feat of becoming the first England bowler and only sixth in history to take 500 Test wickets by finishing with a return of seven for 42 in 20.1 overs as West Indies were dismissed for 177 in their second innings on the third day of the third Test.

That left England with a meagre target of 107 and they finished on 107 for one off 28 overs as they took the three-match series 2-1.

It was the second time this series England had won inside three days — they won the opener, the inaugural day/night Test in Britain, by an innings and 209 runs at Edgbaston last month.

Much of this match was a day/nighter in all but name and it was no surprise that batsmen on both sides struggled in overcast conditions against the red ball.

Mark Stoneman was 40 not out and Tom Westley 44 not out in an unbroken stand of 72.

"I'm very pleased. It's been a great week. It was a challenging wicket," England captain Joe Root told BBC Radio.

"The ball seemed to hoop around," added Root, whose first season as Test skipper ended with two series wins after South Africa were beaten 3-1 in a preceding four-match campaign.

"In the second innings Jimmy (Anderson) was outstanding — he mastered it.

"I don't know how he managed to get seven wickets with it."

Anderson's return just surpassed his previous best in 129 career Tests of seven for 43 against New Zealand at Trent Bridge in 2008.

'LIVE IN THE MEMORY'

"Playing a Test match here is always special but this week will live in my memory," said the 35-year-old Anderson, who made his Test debut at Lord's in 2003.

"I didn't think I'd play anywhere near as much for England," added the Lancashire swing bowler.

But it was England all-rounder Ben Stokes who was named man-of-the-match after taking a Test-best six for 22 in West Indies' first innings 123 and then top-scoring with 60 when the hosts made 194 in reply.

Shai Hope, whose twin hundreds were the backbone of West Indies' series-levelling win at Headingley, top-scored for the tourists on Saturday with 62.

But Hope's fourth ball after lunch saw



England's James Anderson celebrates the wicket of West Indies' Jermaine Blackwood on third day of the third Test at the Lord's cricket ground in London yesterday. (Reuters)

him caught behind undone off a superb Anderson leg-cutter.

West Indies' tail folded cheaply with Anderson, fittingly, ending the innings when he bowled Kemar Roach.

For the second time in the match, Anderson walked off to a standing ovation from a capacity Lord's crowd.

Leg-spinner Devendra Bishoo struck with his first ball to have Alastair Cook

(17) lbw but that merely denied England a 10-wicket victory.

Play started yesterday in bright sunshine but despite the improved batting conditions, it only needed four balls for Anderson to take another wicket.

Bowling from the Nursery End, where the eight-foot slope across the ground naturally takes the ball away from a right-handed batsman's off stump, Anderson

found Roston Chase's edge and wicket-keeper Jonny Bairstow held a simple catch.

Chase was out for his overnight three and West Indies were 94 for four.

Jermaine Blackwood, dropped on two and reprieved from lbw on four, fell for five when caught behind off Anderson.

Hope, 35 not out overnight, took 54 balls to score his first boundary yesterday but a cover-drive off Stokes was worth the wait.

A four off his legs against Toby Roland-Jones, bowling on his Middlesex home ground, then saw West Indies man-of-the-series Hope to a 127-ball fifty including eight boundaries as the 23-year-old Barbados batsman produced another significant contribution.

"It's a tough place to play cricket, it's good to get some runs under my belt," said Hope.

Meanwhile West Indies captain Jason Holder was encouraged by the progress of his side.

"I'm really proud of the guys," he said.

"I've seen a lot of fight which I haven't seen for a long time. In recent series, we've won games away from home and we've really competed. We're not too far away from clinching a series win."

SCORECARD

WEST INDIES 1st Inn **123**

ENGLAND 1st Inn **194**

WEST INDIES 2nd Inn (o/n 93-3)

K. Brathwaite b Anderson	4
K. Powell b Anderson	45
K. Hope lbw b Broad	1
S. Hope c Bairstow b Anderson	62
R. Chase c Bairstow b Anderson	3
J. Blackwood c Bairstow b Anderson	5
S. Dowrich c Broad b Roland-Jones	14
J. Holder c Anderson b Broad	23
D. Bishoo b Anderson	0
K. Roach b Anderson	3
S. Gabriel not out	0
Extras	(lb7) 17
Total	(all out, 65.1 overs) 177

Fall of wickets: 1-6 (Brathwaite), 2-21 (K Hope), 3-69 (Powell), 4-94 (Chase), 5-100 (Blackwood), 6-123 (Dowrich), 7-155 (S Hope), 8-155 (Bishoo), 9-177 (Holder), 10-177 (Roach)

Bowling: Anderson 20.1-5-42-7; Broad 19-9-35-2; Roland-Jones 11-4-31-1; Stokes 12-3-41-0; Ali 2-0-6-0; Root 1-0-5-0

ENGLAND 2nd Inn

A. Cook lbw b Bishoo	17
M. Stoneman not out	40
T. Westley not out	44
Extras	(b4, lb1, w1) 6
Total	(1 wkt, 28 overs) 107

Fall of wickets: 1-35 (Cook)
Bowling: Gabriel 5-0-22-0; Roach 1-0-4-0; Holder 6-1-16-0 (1w); Bishoo 11-2-35-1; Chase 5-1-25-0

AFTERMATH

Lehmann ponders winners and losers from Bangladesh tour

Reuters
Sydney

The next time Darren Lehmann sends out a team will be in the Ashes opener against England and the Australia coach already has some firm ideas of who will be playing in Brisbane after a mixed tour of Bangladesh.

Lehmann, who also sits on the selection panel, will be handing over to assistant David Saker for the limited overs tour of India after the Test squad battled back from losing to Bangladesh for the first time to square the series on Thursday.

Some players, most notably off-spinner Nathan Lyon and opener David Warner, bolstered their reputations further on the dusty sub-continental tracks but other spots on the team are now clearly up for grabs.

All-rounder Glenn Maxwell may have smashed a six to win the second Test but Lehmann suggested that 100 runs over four innings and a single wicket were not necessarily going to be enough to earn him a first cap on home soil.

"With number six in Australia, it's totally different to Asia," Lehmann told reporters before Australia left Bangladesh.

"We'll certainly be looking at that position, and anyone can jump out of the pack in the three Shield games and what we think the best make-up is for that first Test. Glenn is there at the moment, like everyone else, he'll have to perform."

Usman Khawaja was dropped for the second Test after mustering up just two runs in the first, but Lehmann suggested that his pedigree on home soil might get him back at number three in the batting order for the Gabba on November 23.

"I would think Usman would play the first Test match, al-



Australia's Nathan Lyon took 22 wickets in the two Tests against Bangladesh. (AFP)

though I'm only one of four selectors," the coach said.

"Obviously for the make-up of the side we changed it here, but we think he's a pretty special player and obviously he's got a really good record in Australia."

Matthew Wade, who scored 17 runs from three innings, is another player under pressure for his spot, despite becoming the first Australian wicketkeeper to effect three stumpings in a single match in the second Test.

"We obviously want runs from our keeper as well, which is important so for him and all the other keepers around the country," said Lehmann.

"The Shield games are going to be important."

Australia's fast bowling is expected to give them an edge against England and while Pat Cummins' performance in Bangladesh all but secured his place in the Ashes squad, Lehmann stressed that a place in the team will be found for Lyon.

Lyon's 22 wickets in two Tests means for the first time since Shane Warne's retirement a decade ago, Australia will go into an Ashes series with little or no debate over the identity of their best spinner. "Nathan is going to play. There's no doubt about that," Lehmann said.

Anderson eyes McGrath tally after joining 500 club

AFP
London

James Anderson said he hoped to get "somewhere near" Australia great Glenn McGrath's tally after joining Test cricket's 500-wicket club at Lord's on Friday.

Anderson became the first England bowler to the landmark and just the sixth in history when, having started the West Indies' second innings with 499 Test wickets behind him, he clean bowled opener Kraigg Brathwaite. The 35-year-old Lancashire swing king was just the third paceman to take 500 Test wickets behind McGrath (563

Test wickets) and West Indies great Courtney Walsh (519).

Anderson is the only active cricketer in the '500 club', with the spin trio of Sri Lanka's Muttiah Muralitharan (800 Test wickets), Australia's Shane Warne (708) and India's Anil Kumble (619), in common with McGrath and Walsh, all retired.

"I'm just trying to stay fit and stay on the field," Anderson, set to be England's spearhead during their upcoming Ashes defence in Australia, told Sky Sports after stumps.

"I'm loving playing cricket at the moment. I just want to keep playing as long as possible," he added.

"If I keep on playing for the next cou-

ple of years I might get somewhere near (McGrath's tally).

After dismissing Brathwaite, Anderson produced a near unplayable delivery to bowl Kieran Powell for 45, the ball spearing into the left-hander only to cut away and clip the top of off stump. West Indies were 93 for three — just 22 runs ahead — come the second day's close, with England pressing for a series-clinching win in a three-Test contest currently level at 1-1.

Anderson, as so often in his 129-Test career, led England's attack with stumps figures of two for 17 in nine overs.

But having been kept waiting for the landmark achievement since going

wicketless in the second innings of West Indies' series-levelling win at Headingley, Anderson said his main emotion at breaking the 500 barrier was one of relief.

"It's a bit surreal," the Lancashire pace-man said. "I'm more relieved to get to get it out of the way, to be honest." Anderson, who took his first Test wicket on debut against Zimbabwe at Lord's in 2003, added: "It's such a special place for me — to get my first wicket and 500th here will live with me a long time."

But Anderson's England career has not been one smooth upward curve. He had to wait to become established at Test level, missing England's 2005

Ashes triumph after being unable to force his way into the 'fab four' pace attack of Matthew Hoggard, Stephen Harmison, Andrew Flintoff and Simon Jones.

'DARK TIMES'

Relegated to the role of net bowler with England, he suffered a stress fracture in 2006.

But having forced his way back in, his England career blossomed.

"There were some dark times," he called Anderson.

"I got injured, left out of the side. It just made me more determined to improve.

able to bowl fast! I just tried to develop that and get back out there."

'BOY FROM NOWHERE'

Nasser Hussain, the swing star's first England captain who witnessed Anderson's 500th Test wicket live at Lord's in his current role as a Sky commentator, paid tribute to an "incredible talent".

"He was a boy from nowhere," said Hussain. "What we see is the end product. What we don't see is what we don't see — those years when he had to put out the cones in 2004-05 for that bowling attack, the injuries he's had and all the pain he's gone through."