LeBron James scored 31 points and added 12 assists as the Los Angeles Lakers rallied for a 124-115 NBA victory over the Houston Rockets.

The Lakers avenged the Rockets’ 32-17 in the third quarter to turn around the game, rebounding from a Watson sweep that ended the third quarter at 92-76.

Bernal, who will keep his hopes with the Olympics and the Giro even four-time winner Chris Stew on the 2018 champion race.

Los Angeles Lakers’ forward LeBron James (right) drives with the ball as Houston Rockets forward James Harden (left) defends his Tour de France title some factors may conspire confidence in me and I really respect.

"I want to stay on an even road throughout the season, it’s an 11-game season, and we did that." he said.

"We had a chance to reshape, reframe and start the second half of the season the right way, and we did it!" Kyle Kuzma scored 23 points, and Danny Green and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope chipped in 20 points apiece for Los Angeles.

Bernal looked deter-

I’m just enjoying being out there. I’ve had some great pre-game sessions. I’ve done everything I could to prepare as well as I can for this tournament, hope for the best.

"I want to have just one big goal, it will obviously be the Tour: "I want to have just one big goal, it will obviously be the Tour: "Egan Bernal warned rivals that defending his Tour de France title remains his ‘big goal’ despite the competing attraction of the Tokyo Olympics which follow quickly in the spurt of the world’s greatest cycling race."

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Westwood captures 25th European Tour trophy

Jimenez overcomes Els in play-off

Roy wins QLM tournament

Kuchar clinches Singapore Open crown in Tokyo Olympics boost

McGregor demolishes Cerrone in 40-second return to UFC octagon

SPORT | 09

Monday 20 January 2020

Westwood captures 25th European Tour trophy

Former world No. 1-ranked player was challenged throughout the final round. Fitzpatrick, who was two shots off Westwood before the start of the day, got off to a strong start and an impressive front nine saw him pile on the pressure. Joe was an experienced veteran whose history books one more time," said Westwood.

Jimenez makes a 12-foot birdie putt on the 17th green, the second hole of a play-off with senior newcomer Ernie Els to win the PGA Tour Champions' season-opening Mitsubishi Electric Championship.

McGregor demolition

Conor McGregor made a triumphant return to the UFC octagon, pummeling Donald "Cowboy" Cerrone for the interim lightweight title in just 40 seconds.

The mixed martial arts superstar from Ireland -- returning to the Ultimate Fighting Championship for the first time since he was banned from submission by arch-rival Khabib Nurmagomedov in October 2018 -- overpowered his American opponent from the ground up.

After throwing a first punch, McGregor immediately followed a clinching Cerrone's nose with an uppercut shoulder strike -- quickly followed by another.

As soon as the referee declared McGregor winner, he was met with a standing ovation.

McGregor then took his victory in stride.

"I think I'm the best fighter in the world," he said.

"Cowboy" Cerrone was left speechless after the fight.
Clinical India beat Australia by 7 wickets to clinch ODIs series

A sparkling century by Rohit Sharma and a superior all-round performance by Team India’s bowling team helped India to a series-clinching seven-wicket win over Australia in the third one-day international yesterday.

Sharma made 119 and put on a key 137-run stand with skipper Virat Kohli, who made 94, as India chased down their target of 287 in just 39.5 overs in Bangalore.

The hosts batted in the series after India lost the opening game, but they were victorious in the second match. Kohli was not out for 89 as India won by seven wickets.

India took the 3-0 lead in the series and will look to complete the clean sweep in the fourth and final match on Sunday.

Kohli kept India on course with a patient 71 off 100 balls before he was bowled by Josh Hazlewood for 89.

In the third and final ODI at the MCA Stadium, Ahmedabad yesterday, India’s batsmen Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli put on 137 for the opening wicket.

Kohli was unbeaten on 71 when India reached 137 for one in 28.4 overs while Rohit was out for 89.

Kohli made 89 off 112 balls, including eight boundaries and a six, before being clean-bowled by Josh Hazlewood for 89.

The visitors were 80 for one in 19.3 overs when Rohit, who had put on 137 with Kohli, was out for 89.

The scorecard:

India: 137-1 in 28.4 overs (Rohit Sharma 89 not out; V Kohli 71 not out; Josh Hazlewood 4-89; Tim Paine 1-43)

Australia: 287-9 in 50 overs (Kohli 71, Rohit 89; Josh Hazlewood 4-89)

Scoreboard:

India: (4 Innings) ........................................ 137-1

Australia: (4 Innings) ................................. 287-9

Their first two ODIs ended with 2-2, but India won the third by seven wickets to clinch the series 3-0 and remain at the top of the rankings.

Kohli, who was the only wicket to fall, was clean-bowled by Josh Hazlewood for 71.

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**Djokovic, Williams lead old guard into new decade**

Belgrade's Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams set off the new year at the Australian Open on Monday, aiming to keep the younger generation of players waiting in the wings as Grand Slam titles continue a new decade at the Australian Open today.

After recentずっと strongly focused on Serena Williams as they are looking to win a fourth major title together, the US Open is hosting a record-breaking 30th singles match in 10 years.

**The clash between old and new will now be optimized in the first round today, when Serena Williams, who turns 35 this year, faces 15-year-old rising star Caroline Garcia Godlaeff at the Australian Open.

**Williams' decision that the tournament will be over for her at Melbourne Park.** "I've achieved a lot in my career. I've had some great moments in tennis and some not so great. I've had some good times, some bad times, but I've never given up and I've always tried to do my best. I've been able to overcome some very difficult moments in my career and I'm looking forward to the next challenge."

**While most of her rivals are looking for a strong showing at the Australian Open, Caroline Wozniacki is looking for a strong comeback.** After a promising start from her first round match against Simona Halep, Wozniacki has decided that the tournament will be over for her at Melbourne Park. "I've achieved a lot in my career. I've had some great moments in tennis and some not so great. I've had some good times, some bad times, but I've never given up and I've always tried to do my best. I've been able to overcome some very difficult moments in my career and I'm looking forward to the next challenge."

**Final curtain looms for Wozniacki at Melbourne Park**

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With 36-year-old Kim Clijsters planning another comeback, Djokovic and Williams are looking to put the younger generation to the test. Serena Williams is likely to be less choosy. While 38-year-old Williams is celebrating becoming world number one in a third decade, Djokovic of the NextGen era is chasing a sixth title in 2020. Wozniacki has decided that the tournament will be over for her at Melbourne Park. "I've achieved a lot in my career. I've had some great moments in tennis and some not so great. I've had some good times, some bad times, but I've never given up and I've always tried to do my best. I've been able to overcome some very difficult moments in my career and I'm looking forward to the next challenge."

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Serena Williams of the US and Novak Djokovic of Serbia share a lighter moment in Melbourne.**
Asian Men's Handball Championship: Qatar to take on South Korea in main round opener

THE PENINSULA — DOHA

Eying a place in the semi-finals, defending champions Qatar will take on South Korea today in their first match of the main round at the Asian Men's Handball Championship — a qualifying event for the 2022 World Championships in Kuwait.

Qatar reached the main rounds of the event after topping their group in the preliminary round, which concluded on Saturday.

By contrast, the Korean team were unable to take part in the tournament due to their ongoing Asian Games, where they are currently competing in basketball.

Qatar are currently the dominant force in the continent, having won three consecutive titles, while South Korea have never lifted the trophy.

With races for children and youth part of the programme, this is an event for all levels of ability and all the family. It is an individual sport but the Doha Triathlon also allows groups of friends to tackle one discipline each, competing for team relay awards.

The huge appeal of triathlon stems from its ability to challenge and provide a competitive environment accessible to everybody.

In recent years, new triathlons have been launched in Qatar, reflecting the sport’s popularity, but the Doha Triathlon remains the most prestigious event in the region, setting at the Museum of Islamic Art.

The swim takes place in the shadow of the iconic building itself, the cycling route extends along the Doha sea front (I-COMIC) to the ultra-modern West Bay business district, finishing with a run in the inspiring surroundings of Msheireb park.

This makes it among the world’s most scenic and a long-term ambition is to create a destination event attracting international competitors.

For Qatar’s seasoned triathletes it is the must-do race in Qatar, reflecting the sport’s popularity, but the Doha Triathlon remains the most prestigious event in the region.

For some, the Doha Triathlon will be a springboard into a new passion. This will be a priority event for Qatar’s best.

Doha Triathlon 2020 likely to attract record participation next month

Olympic Distance: 1500m swim, 40km cycling and 10km running

Sprint distance: 700m swim, 29km cycling and 5km running

Super-Sprint: 325m swim, 10km cycling and 2.5km running

Novak Djokovic says NextGen ‘very, very close’ to Slam success

SOFI — MELBOURNE

Novak Djokovic yesterday said some young players were “very, very close” to winning a Grand Slam with emotional maturity the only missing ingredient if they want to stay on top.

The 15-time Major winner, who is planning for an eighth Australian Open title, knows that the dominance of himself, Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal, who have 55 Slam crowns between them, is terminal.

But for that to happen, the likes of Stefanos Tsitsipas, Daniil Medvedev and Dominic Thiem still have work to do.

“I don’t think they’re coming close and closer,” Djokovic, said the Serb’s world number two who has been at the top of the game for over a decade.

He promised to Russia’s Medvedev pushing Nadal hard in last year’s US Open final.

Greek Tsitsipas making the semi-finals at Melbourne Park a year ago and Austria’s Thiem playing the finals at Roland Garros in 2019 and 2020.

“They’re literally one set away. On a given day, in the very near future, I think that can happen.”

He said the fact that top-ranked Nadal, 32, and world number three Federer, 38, were still playing at such a high level was inspirational.

“I mentioned many times before that the three of us have inspired each other throughout our careers and cases to be better, to understand we can overcome obstacles in the match-ups that we have against each other,” he said.

“I am more grateful today, in the very near future, I think that can happen. It’s going to happen. It’s inevitable.”

Serbia’s Novak Djokovic speaks during a press conference ahead of the Australian Open in Melbourne, yesterday.

“They have put in the hours and dedicated themselves on and off the court. I think a lot of these next generation players are working very hard, being very professional.

“That’s a good sign because that’s one of the precursors, I guess, for the success.”

But they still needed to develop another essential characteristic, and that generally comes with experience, he added.

“As a young player I undertook to approach each match with the same level of respect and to respect each opponent, to give my maximum and to be as aggressive as possible.”

To win a Slam and also to be consistently on the top level for many years, it takes a player to gain that mental and emotional maturity and experience to understand his own strengths, to kind of fight his own fears,” he said.

“Rafa, Roger, and I, obviously because of the past 10, 15 years, we know what we need to do mentally in this particular situation. That gives us probably a little bit of an edge.”