

Sports

Thunder edge Sixers in thriller, Irving, Celtics rally past Hawks

Pacers drop Mavericks as Doncic ejected

PHILADELPHIA: Paul George scored 31 points, including a go-ahead four-point play with 5.1 seconds left, to lift the Oklahoma City Thunder to a 117-115 win over the 76ers on Saturday in Philadelphia. George's heroics came just moments after Jimmy Butler put the 76ers in front with a steal and a layup with 6.9 seconds remaining. It was Oklahoma City's 19th consecutive win over the 76ers. The Thunder have not lost to Philadelphia in more than a decade. Russell Westbrook finished with 21 points, 10 rebounds and six assists but fouled out with 14.9 seconds left when he fouled Joel Embiid shooting a 3-pointer at the top of the key. Westbrook and Embiid were each critical of the other when speaking to reporters postgame, with Westbrook saying defiantly that the two weren't "cool."

KINGS 103, PISTONS 101

Buddy Hield tossed in a 3-pointer at the buzzer, and Sacramento erased a 13-point, fourth-quarter deficit to edge host Detroit. Hield finished with 35 points, nine rebounds and three assists. De'Aaron Fox had 14 points and 10 assists, and Marvin Bagley III also scored 14 points. Blake Griffin led Detroit with 38 points, and Luke Kennard contributed 19 off the bench.

CELTICS 113, HAWKS 105

Kyrie Irving continued his hot shooting, scoring 32 points to lead visiting Boston over Atlanta. Boston won its third straight game, ended a three-game losing streak on the road and has beaten the Hawks three times this season. The Celtics outscored the Hawks 30-16 in the fourth quarter and pulled away in the final minutes. Things got testy in the third quarter after Marcus Smart was dealt his second technical foul and ejected. The Celtics guard charged after DeAndre Bembry, with whom he had exchanged words, and needed to be held back by his teammates, Hawks players and the referees.

BUCKS 118, MAGIC 108

Eric Bledsoe's season-high 30 points led visiting Milwaukee past Orlando. Giannis Antetokounmpo added 25 points, 13 rebounds and five assists, and Malcolm Brogdon had 18 points for Milwaukee. The Bucks own the NBA's best record and have won four straight, outscoring opponents by an average 19.3 points during the stretch. Nikola Vucevic led the Magic with 27 points, and Terrence Ross added 16 points off the bench. Orlando has lost three straight after blowing a 21-point, second-quarter lead against the Brooklyn Nets and falling to the Detroit Pistons in overtime.

HORNETS 135, SUNS 115

Kemba Walker led a balanced attack with 21 points, and Charlotte rolled to an easy victory over visiting Phoenix. Jeremy Lamb added 18 points for the Hornets, and six others also scored in double figures. Nicolas Batum scored 15; Marvin Williams and Tony Parker scored 14 each; Bismack Biyombo had 11 points, 13 rebounds and five blocked shots; and Michael Kidd-Gilchrist and Miles Bridges chipped in 10 each. Devin Booker led the Suns with 32 points, including 22 in the first half, and 11 assists. Phoenix also got 24 points from Kelly Oubre Jr., 16 from T.J. Warren and 10 from Deandre Ayton.

RAPTORS 119, GRIZZLIES 90

Danny Green scored 21 of his season-best 24 points in the third quarter and matched his career-best with eight 3-pointers as Toronto defeated visiting Memphis. Serge Ibaka added 18 points for the Raptors, who have won seven of their past eight games and nine straight home games. Pascal Siakam added 17 points and eight rebounds, Norman Powell 14, CJ Miles 13 and Kyle Lowry had 12 points and seven assists for the Raptors. Jaren Jackson Jr. had 16 points and nine rebounds for the Grizzlies, who have lost 11 of their past 12 games. Ivan Rabb added 13 points and 11 rebounds, Shelvin Mack had 14 points and Mike Conley added 10 points for Memphis.

PACERS 111, MAVERICKS 99

Domantas Sabonis scored 10 of his 16 points during a second-quarter runaway, helping Indiana ease past Dallas at Indianapolis in a game that featured rookie star Luka Doncic's first career ejection. Sabonis completed a double-double with a team-high 11 rebounds, and Tyreke Evans led five Pacers in double figures with 19 points. Making his first NBA visit to Indianapolis, Doncic was ejected after getting nailed with a second technical foul for somewhat politely kicking the ball into the stands with 3:00 remaining in the third quarter.

HEAT 117, BULLS 103

Josh Richardson scored a game-high 26 points as Miami sent host Chicago to its 10th straight defeat. The game marked Dwyane Wade's last visit to his hometown of Chicago as an active player. The 37-year-old shooting guard is retiring after this season. Wade had 14 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists off the bench. The Heat also got a season-high 21 points from reserve shooting guard Dion Waiters, who had complained earlier this week about a lack of playing time. — Reuters



PHILADELPHIA: Joel Embiid #21 of the Philadelphia 76ers shoots a three point basket against the Oklahoma City Thunder on Saturday at the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia. — AFP

NBA results/standings

Denver 124, Cleveland 102; Houston 138, LA Lakers 134 (OT); Atlanta 105, Boston 113; Toronto 119, Memphis 90; Chicago 103, Miami 117; Detroit 101, Sacramento 103; Indiana 111, Dallas 99; Orlando 108, Milwaukee 118; Charlotte 135, Phoenix 115; Philadelphia 115, Oklahoma City 117.

Eastern Conference				Western Conference				
	W	L	PCT	GB				
Milwaukee	33	12	0.733	-	Golden State	32	14	0.696
Toronto	35	13	0.729	-	Denver	31	14	0.689
Indiana	30	15	0.667	3	Oklahoma City	27	18	0.600
Philadelphia	30	17	0.638	4	Portland	28	19	0.596
Boston	28	18	0.609	5.5	Houston	26	19	0.578
Brooklyn	24	23	0.511	10	San Antonio	27	20	0.574
Miami	22	22	0.500	10.5	Utah	26	21	0.553
Charlotte	22	23	0.489	11	LA Clippers	24	21	0.533
Detroit	20	25	0.444	13	LA Lakers	25	22	0.532
Washington	19	26	0.422	14	Sacramento	24	22	0.522
Orlando	19	27	0.413	14.5	Minnesota	21	24	0.467
Atlanta	14	31	0.311	19	New Orleans	21	25	0.457
New York	10	34	0.227	22.5	Dallas	20	25	0.444
Chicago	10	36	0.217	23.5	Memphis	19	27	0.413
Cleveland	9	38	0.191	25	Phoenix	11	36	0.234

Marchessault hat trick powers Knights past Pens

LAS VEGAS: Jonathan Marchessault scored his second career hat trick and Marc-Andre Fleury had 34 saves and also garnered his 17th career assist to lead the Vegas Golden Knights to a 7-3 victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins on Saturday night in Las Vegas. Fleury picked up his league-leading 27th victory. William Karlsson and Max Pacioretty each added a goal and an assist, and Oscar Lindberg and Shea Theodore also scored goals for Vegas. Paul Stastny and Colin Miller both finished with two assists. Phil Kessel, who scored the game-winning goal in overtime on Friday night at Arizona, Sidney Crosby and Dominik Simon scored goals for Pittsburgh, while Jake Guentzel finished with two assists. Casey DeSmith finished with 28 saves for the Penguins, who went 2-3 on their five-game, 12-day Western road trip before heading into the All-Star break.

FLAMES 5, OILERS 2

Mark Giordano, Johnny Gaudreau, Mikael Backlund, Oliver Kyllington and Sean Monahan each scored as visiting Calgary handed Edmonton a defeat. Goalie David Rittich made 22 saves for the Western Conference-leading Flames, who won on consecutive nights and are on a 7-0-1 run. Calgary had lost five straight in Edmonton prior to Saturday's win.

WILD 2, BLUE JACKETS 1

Goals by Jordan Greenway and Zach Parise 89 seconds apart late in the first period were all the offense Minnesota needed for a victory over Columbus in St. Paul, Minn. Wild goalie Devan Dubnyk made 19 saves for the much-needed victory, as Minnesota had just one win in four previous outings as it's in the thick of the wild card battle. Greenway, the Wild's second-round draft pick in 2015, opened the scoring at 16:07 of the first period.

PANTHERS 4, PREDATORS 2

Vincent Trocheck and Aaron Ekblad each had a goal and an assist to lead visiting Florida to a win over Nashville. Frank Vatrano and Jared McCann also scored, and Colton Sceviour notched two assists for the Panthers. The win was the 800th in Florida franchise history.

FLYERS 5, CANADIENS 2

Nolan Patrick scored twice and Carter Hart made 33 saves as visiting Philadelphia earned a win over Montreal. Patrick's eighth and ninth goals of the season came in the third period, sealing the Flyers' third consecutive victory. After enduring a 24-game goal drought, Patrick now has four goals in his last three games. The center also had two goals against the Minnesota Wild on Monday. Hart improved to 6-5-1 after 12 career NHL games, as the rookie continues to stabilize Philadelphia's goaltending situation. Hart has a 2.66 goals-against average in his young career.



DALLAS: Ben Bishop #30 of the Dallas Stars blocks a shot on goal against Blake Wheeler #26 of the Winnipeg Jets in the third period at American Airlines Center on Saturday in Dallas, Texas. —AFP

LIGHTNING 6, SHARKS 3

Steven Stamkos had two goals and an assist while Alex Killorn and Yanni Gourde both snapped goal droughts as Tampa Bay entered its bye week on a positive note with a victory over visiting San Jose. The Sharks played without star defenseman Erik Karlsson. Killorn went 10 games without a goal before putting the NHL-leading Lightning up 2-0 with 2:09 left in the first period on his 11th of the season.

BLUES 3, SENATORS 2

Carl Gunnarsson scored the tie-breaking goal with 7:44 left in the third period for the host St. Louis, which hung on to edge Ottawa. Vladimir Tarasenko and Vince Dunn also scored for the Blues, who snapped a two-game losing streak in their final home game of the month. St. Louis is scheduled to embark on a five-game road trip spanning the All-Star break before returning to Enterprise Center on Feb. 9. Rookie Jordan Binnington recorded 28 saves to improve to 4-0-1 as an NHL starter.

RANGERS 3, BRUINS 2

Mika Zibanejad scored twice, and Henrik Lundqvist made 27 saves to move into sole possession of sixth place on the NHL's all-time wins list as visiting New York skated to a victory over Boston. Tuukka Rask, who was bidding to become the Bruins' all-time winningest goaltender, sustained a concussion with 1:28 remaining in the first period following a collision with Filip Chytil. The Rangers forward was credited with a goal despite barreling into Rask after being tripped by the stick of Bruins defenseman Charlie McAvoy. Rask, who won the 2013-2014 Vezina Trophy, remained on the ice for several minutes before being helped to his feet by the training staff. The 31-year-old Finn made six saves before being replaced by Jaroslav Halak, who turned aside 11 shots as Boston fell for the third

time in four games (1-2-1).

STARS 4, JETS 2

Tyler Seguin had a goal and an assist, and John Klingberg and Esa Lindell each had a pair of assists as Dallas outlasted visiting Winnipeg in the final game for both teams before the NHL All-Star break. The victory snapped a four-game losing streak for Dallas. It was just the Stars' second game in their past eight that they scored more than two goals. Dallas dominated early, scoring three times in the first 33 minutes and outshooting the Central Division-leading Jets 28-12 in the first two periods.

AVALANCHE 7, KINGS 1

Colorado erupted for six goals in the second period in its win against visiting Los Angeles. Tyson Barrie had a goal and two assists, Mikko Rantanen scored twice before leaving with an upper-body injury, and Carl Soderberg and Gabriel Landeskog each tallied a goal and an assist for Colorado in the opener of a five-game homestand. Sheldon Dries and Colin Wilson also scored for the Avalanche. Nathan MacKinnon and Matt Calvert each had two assists, and Semyon Varlamov made 30 saves.

DUCKS 3, DEVILS 2

Troy Terry had a goal and an assist, his first two points in the NHL, as Anaheim defeated the New Jersey in Newark, N.J. Daniel Sprong and Derek Grant also scored for the Ducks, who won their second in a row after snapping a monthlong, 12-game losing streak with a 3-0 victory Thursday at Minnesota. Goaltender John Gibson made 29 saves. Marcus Johansson and Jesper Bratt scored for the Devils, who lost their third in a row. Mackenzie Blackwood had a light workload, stopping 11 of 14 shots. — Reuters

Son trounces Chen in Malaysia badminton final

KUALA LUMPUR: South Korea's Son Wan-ho put on a masterful display of badminton to easily beat China's Chen Long 21-17, 21-19 and clinch the Malaysia Masters title yesterday. Chen appeared no match for Son throughout their showdown, with the South Korean hitting impressive baseline smashes and pushing his opponent to make a series of unforced errors.

After Son cruised through the opening game, third seed Chen put up more resistance in the second-but the South Korean stood firm to clinch victory. Son, seeded fourth in the Kuala Lumpur tournament, benefited from an extra rest day after his semi-final opponent Liew Daren conceded a walkover Saturday due to an injury.

"Matches against Chen Long are always tough, so I am honoured to become champion," said Son, who takes away \$26,250 for the win. "I have played him many times, but the final environment can be tricky sometimes."

Malaysian badminton ace Lee Chong Wei, who recently returned to training after recovering from nose cancer, presented prizes to the winners. In the women's singles, Ratchanok Intanon successfully defended her title with a 21-9, 22-20 triumph over Spain's Carolina Marin.

The Thai ace was totally dominant in the first game. Marin fought back in the second, racking up seven consecutive points but Ratchanok kept her at bay and took the match. "I just tried to be relaxed and enjoy the occasion as defending champion," she said.

"I noticed that (Marin) was struggling to control the shuttle, and I thought that I had to play my best. Today is my day." In the men's doubles, world number one pair Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo of Indonesia were outstanding in their 21-15, 21-16 win over Malaysian duo Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi.

Results (x denotes seeding)

Men's singles
Son Wan-ho (KORx4) bt Chen Long (CHNx3) 21-17, 21-19
Women's Singles
Ratchanok Intanon (THAx6) bt Carolina Marin (ESPx4) 21-9, 22-20
Men's Doubles
Marcus Fernaldi Gideon/Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo (INAx1) bt Ong Yew Sin/Teo Ee Yi (MAS) 21-15, 21-16
Women's Doubles
Yuki Fukushima/Sayaka Hirota (JPNx1) bt Greysia Polii/Apriyani Rahayu (INAx4) 18-21, 21-16, 21-16
Mixed Doubles
Yuta Watanabe/Arisa Higashino (JPNx1) bt Dechapol Puavaranukroh/Sapsiree Taerattanachai (THAx2) 21-18, 21-18. —AFP