

Sports

Harris, 76ers hand Lakers first road defeat of NBA season

Brooklyn Nets escape with overtime victory over Hawks

LOS ANGELES: Tobias Harris drove in the final dagger as the Philadelphia 76ers thwarted a late Los Angeles Lakers rally to hand the reigning NBA champions their first road defeat of the season - 107-106. In a bruising heavyweight clash, the Eastern Conference leading Sixers made a statement against the league-leading Lakers. "Some people think we haven't played anybody," Harris said. "For us, we wanted to go against the champs. We wanted to see where we're at."

Joel Embiid scored 28 points, Ben Simmons notched a triple-double of 17 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists and Harris, fed by Seth Curry, sealed the victory with a pull-up jump shot with three seconds remaining. The Lakers, who had won a franchise-best 10 road games to start the season, nearly kept the streak alive despite trailing by 14 points in the fourth quarter.

The Lakers, down by 12 with 3:07 remaining, produced a 13-0 scoring run launched by Alex Caruso's finger-roll layup. After three-pointers from Caruso, Dennis Schroder and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope, Anthony Davis gave the Lakers a 106-105 lead on a layup set up by LeBron James. After a timeout, Philadelphia inbounded the ball with 11.2 seconds remaining. They got the ball to Harris, who drove left and fired.

Davis' desperation heave from halfcourt as time expired was never close. James, coming off a 46-point performance at Cleveland on Monday, led the Lakers with 34 points, Davis added 23 and Schroder had 16. Cameroonian center Embiid got an injury scare in the third quarter, when he came down hard on the small of his back after he was pushed by James as he rose for a dunk.

James was assessed a flagrant foul and Embiid, who missed the 76ers' previous game with back tightness, gingerly tested himself after he rose but stayed in the game. "That's a very dangerous play,"

Embiid said. "I guarantee if that was me I would have probably been ejected from the game."

89 points for Nets 'Big 3'

The Brooklyn Nets, with a big night from their big three, escaped with a 132-128 overtime victory over the Hawks in Atlanta. Kevin Durant scored 32 points, James Harden added a double-double of 31 points and 15 assists with eight rebounds and Kyrie Irving added 26 points for Brooklyn, who won their third straight.

Trae Young led the Hawks with 28 points and 14 assists. Cam Reddish scored 24 points off the bench for Atlanta, including a driving layup that tied the score at 118-118 with less than 30 seconds left in regulation. Brooklyn jumped to a 127-121 lead midway through overtime, buoyed by Jeff Green's three-pointer and a dunk from Durant. A Durant three-pointer made it 129-123 with 1:25 remaining and the Nets held on to win a close game that featured 21 lead changes, with neither team leading by more than seven.

Giannis Antetokounmpo pressed their pursuit of the 76ers lead in the East with a 115-108 victory over the Toronto Raptors. Two-time reigning NBA MVP Antetokounmpo fueled the Bucks with 24 points, 18 rebounds and nine assists. Norman Powell scored 26 points and Kyle Lowry added 21 for the Raptors. Indiana forward Damontas Sabonis delivered a triple-double of 22 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists as the Pacers beat the Hornets in Charlotte 116-106. Sabonis was doubtful to start the game with a bruised left knee, but he showed no sign of trouble as he connected on nine of 10 shots from the floor, including two of three from three-point range. Doug McDermott led the Pacers with 28 points off the bench. Malcolm Brogdon added 25 points and Justin Holiday had 19 for Indiana.

Elsewhere, Brandon Ingram and Zion Williamson scored 32 points



PHILADELPHIA: Joel Embiid #21 of the Philadelphia 76ers tries to drive past Montrezl Harrell #15 of the Los Angeles Lakers during the fourth quarter at Wells Fargo Center on Wednesday. —AFP

each as the New Orleans Pelicans overcame a 47-point performance by Bradley Beal to defeat the Washington Wizards 124-106. Ingram and Williamson scored 30 points in a game for the first time as Ingram tied a career-high by making seven three-pointers.

Eric Bledsoe scored 18 for the Pelicans, who started a five-game homestand with just their second win in 10 games. Also, Rudy Gobert finished with 29 points and 20 rebounds, and Jordan Clarkson scored 31 points as the Utah Jazz rolled over the Dallas Mavericks 116-104 for their 10th consecutive win. —AFP

Bestaven wins dramatic Vendee Globe race

LES SABLES-D'OLONNE, France: France's Yannick Bestaven won the Vendee Globe round-the-world solo yacht race yesterday after a dramatic finish when one of his rivals hit a fishing trawler in the home stretch. The 48-year-old, in Maitre CoQ IV, was the third across the line, nearly eight hours behind the leader, but won because of his 10hr 15min time bonus for helping rescue a competitor off the Cape of Good Hope.

Charlie Dalin (Apivia) was the first to finish in 80 days, six hours, 15 minutes and 47 seconds, followed by fellow Frenchman Louis Burton in Bureau Vallee 2, but they were placed second and third owing to Bestaven's time bonus. Bestaven's win, in his second attempt after he lasted just 30 hours in 2008, caps an eventful race when he rushed to the aid of Kevin Escoffier, whose yacht sank in heavy seas.

The race then developed into an unusually tight affair in the closing stages, with Dalin heading a five-way sprint to the line at Les Sables d'Olonne. "I feel like I'm living a dream, hallucinating," said Bestaven, who was greeted by a fireworks display. "We go from total solitude to this, to this party, to these lights. This result is beyond my expectations. After struggling as we struggled, a victory with Maitre CoQ IV is a dream!" —AFP

Intanon downs Sindhu

BANGKOK: Former world number one Ratchanok Intanon landed a crucial victory over Indian star PV Sindhu at badminton's World Tour Finals in Bangkok yesterday. It was a double victory for Thailand's hopes, as 13th-seed Pornpawee Chochuwong also booked a semi-final spot after a shock win over Taiwanese top-ranked Tai Tzu-ying. Intanon trailed for most of the first game against Sindhu, but showed a ballerina's footwork and killer instinct to take it 21-18.

The 25-year-old Thai claimed the match taking the second game 21-13. "I just want to keep going and focus on winning, point-by-point," Intanon said afterwards. "It wasn't my day," said Sindhu. "Losing the first game made the difference. My timing was a bit off, so a bit disappointed." Both players were coming off an initial loss in the round-robin tournament: Tai beat Sindhu, the Rio Olympics silver medalist, in a three-game thriller on Wednesday. Chochuwong upset fifth seed Intanon in three games on Wednesday. Yesterday, Chochuwong, 22, went into her match having never won a game against Tai in previous encounters, but won 21-17, 21-11 in 37 minutes.

Earlier, Carolina Marin - looking for a hat-trick of titles - marched towards a swift victory over Canada's tenth-ranked Michelle Li 21-16, 21-13. "I think I keep getting better and better," Marin said. In the men's singles, Taiwan's 12th-ranked Wang Tzu-wei was victorious over India's 14th-seed Srikanth Kidambi in a three-game match that lasted 78 minutes, finishing 19-21, 21-9, 21-19. The delayed 2020 season finale is the third tournament behind closed doors in three weeks in Bangkok, as badminton resumes after months of coronavirus cancellations. The top eight players in all singles and doubles disciplines are contesting this week's tournament, but China and Japan are absent because of coronavirus problems. Despite the strict biosecurity arrangements, four people inside the tournament "bubble" have tested positive, including two players who were forced to withdraw. —AFP



BANGKOK: Thailand's Ratchanok Intanon hits a shot against India's PV Sindhu during their women's singles match at the World Tour Finals badminton tournament yesterday. —AFP