

BADMINTON

OLYMPIC CHAMP CHEN LONG OUT OF ALL ENGLAND

BIRMINGHAM: China's Olympic champion Chen Long was dumped out of the All-England Open on Thursday, losing in the second round to Tanongsak Saensomboonsuk, the world number 12 from Thailand, 21-16, 21-19.

Seven months and an absence of competition made Chen vulnerable and so did Tanongsak's sensible strategy of not too frequently attacking an opponent who creates brick-wall mid-court defence and turns it into damaging counter-attack.

Chen fought hard to close a five-point deficit to 19-19 in the second game, and might well have improved had the match gone to a decider.

Instead on the next point he hurtled a smashed wide, and then lifted the shuttle a little too short to

defend against Tanongsak's attack on match point.

"Every player wants to win this title and I did too," said 28-year-old Chen. "My ambition is to get back my form." The upset could help Lee Chong Wei, the top-seeded three times former champion from Malaysia, who survived for the second day with an ailing knee and who might now meet Tanongsak in the semis.

Lee again proved himself once again a master of adaptability and economy while enduring the discomfort of his knee injury and overcoming Wang Tzu Wei, a young and ambitious world number 21 from Taiwan, en route to the quarter-finals.

Lee defended economically, controlled most of the rallies at a pace at which he felt comfortable, and

mixed up the patterns cleverly as he squeezed through 21-18, 21-18.

"I just tried to forget my injury," the world number one said, when asked what he had been trying to do. One hour after Chen's defeat, the other Olympic singles champion almost followed him to the exit.

Carolina Marin was within two points of defeat at 17-19 in the second game against He Bingjiao, a 19-year-old left-hander who looks like China's next great women's singles hope, before surviving 15-21, 21-19, 21-10. Marin next plays Ratchanok Intanon, the former world champion from Thailand, while the top seeded Tai Tzu Ying saved three game points in a 27-25, 21-11 win over Minatsu Mitani of Japan and faces Pusarla Sindhu, the Olympic silver medallist. — AFP

BERNIER GETS 100TH WIN AS DUCKS STOP BLACKHAWKS

CHICAGO: Jonathan Bernier made 43 saves for his 100th NHL win as the Anaheim Ducks cooled off the Chicago Blackhawks with a 1-0 victory Thursday night. Corey Perry scored in the second period as Anaheim ended Chicago's seven-game winning streak despite being outshot 43-26 on the night. Corey Crawford stopped 25 shots for the Blackhawks. They lost for the second time in their past 14. Bernier's second shutout this season and 14th of his career helped the Ducks pull ahead of idle Edmonton for second place in the Pacific Division. Bernier made his sixth straight start with John Gibson sidelined by a lower-body injury. Perry stopped a 10-game scoring drought with his 12th goal at 17:44. He hadn't connected since scoring twice on Feb. 9 at Buffalo.

SHARKS 4, CAPITALS 2

Logan Couture scored two power-play goals as San Jose beat Washington in a matchup of division leaders. Joe Thornton



CHICAGO: Jonathan Toews #19 of the Chicago Blackhawks looks to pass under pressure from Brandon Montour #71 of the Anaheim Ducks at the United Center on Thursday in Chicago, Illinois. — AFP

NHL results/standings

Los Angeles 3, Nashville 2 (OT); San Jose 4, Washington 2; NY Islanders 4, Vancouver 3 (OT); Colorado 3, New Jersey 2; Calgary 5, Montreal 0; Ottawa 3, Arizona 2 (OT); Anaheim 1, Chicago 0; Toronto 4, Philadelphia 2; Tampa Bay 4, Minnesota 1; Carolina 4, NY Rangers 3.

Western Conference

Central Division

	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
Minnesota	42	17	6	214	155	90
Chicago	42	19	5	198	165	89
Nashville	32	24	11	197	191	75
St. Louis	33	27	5	178	183	71
Winnipeg	30	32	6	204	216	66
Dallas	27	30	10	188	216	64
Colorado	19	44	3	129	217	41

Pacific Division

San Jose	40	19	7	184	154	87
Anaheim	35	22	10	173	168	80
Edmonton	35	23	8	188	174	78
Calgary	37	26	4	184	182	78
Los Angeles	32	28	6	164	166	70
Vancouver	28	30	9	156	192	65
Arizona	23	35	8	159	213	54

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

Montreal	38	22	8	185	171	84
Ottawa	38	22	6	178	171	82
Boston	35	26	6	188	175	76
Toronto	30	22	14	201	197	74
Tampa Bay	31	26	9	183	182	71
Florida	29	25	11	162	183	69
Buffalo	27	28	12	169	196	66
Detroit	25	29	11	161	196	61

Metropolitan Division

Washington	44	15	7	214	143	95
Columbus	42	17	6	207	149	90
Pittsburgh	41	16	8	230	184	90
NY Rangers	43	23	2	219	179	88
NY Islanders	32	23	11	196	197	75
Philadelphia	31	27	8	172	197	70
Carolina	27	27	10	160	186	64
New Jersey	25	30	12	149	192	62

Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L)

and Joe Pavelski also scored for the Sharks, who have won five of their past six games. Jannik Hansen, acquired in a Feb. 28 trade with Vancouver, appeared in his first game with the Sharks and recorded the first assist on Thornton's goal. Daniel Winnick and Brett Connolly scored for the Capitals, who lost their second straight since winning five of six. Martin Jones had 25 saves for the Sharks. Braden Holtby stopped 20 shots for Washington.

LIGHTNING 4, WILD 1

Nikita Kucherov scored two goals, the first on a power play less than seven minutes into the game, helping Tampa Bay beat Minnesota. Kucherov assisted a goal by Andrej Sustr, giving him nine goals and eight assists in his past eight games. Victor Hedman also scored, and Andrei Vasilevskiy made 32 saves. Vasilevskiy is 4-0-1 since the trade of Ben Bishop to Los Angeles, and the Lightning are 9-2-3 in their past 14 games. Marco Scandella scored for Minnesota with 3:58 remaining, only the Wild's second goal in regulation time in their last three games. Western Conference-leading Minnesota has lost three of four for the first time since early December. The loss also broke the Wild's streak of 10 straight wins after a loss.

FLAMES 5, CANADIENS 0

Brian Elliott had 24 saves for his first shutout of the season while Johnny Gaudreau had a goal and three assists as Calgary beat Montreal for its eighth consecutive victory. Gaudreau has 13 points (three goals, 10 assists) during the Flames' streak. It's the longest streak for Calgary since it also won eight in a row in November 2005. Mark Giordano, Sean Monahan, Michael Stone and Micheal Ferland also scored. Montreal had won six in a row.

HURRICANES 4, RANGERS 3

Rookie Sebastian Aho scored the go-ahead power-play goal with 7:32 remaining in Carolina's comeback victory over New York. Aho also scored the tying goal with 10:56 to play and added an assist. Jeff Skinner also scored, Valentin Zykov had a goal in his first NHL game, and Cam Ward made a season-best 40 saves. Mika Zibanejad scored two power-play goals, and Chris Kreider added a power-play goal and an assist for the short-handed Rangers. They were without injured goalie Henrik Lundqvist and winger Rick Nash.

SENATORS 3, COYOTES 2, OT

Erik Karlsson scored his second goal of the game 40 seconds into overtime to lift Ottawa past Arizona for its fifth straight victory. Karlsson tied it at 2 midway through the third. Jean-Gabriel Pageau also scored, and Mike Condon made 39 saves. Brendan Perlini and Lawson Crouse scored for Arizona.

MAPLE LEAFS 4, FLYERS 2

Frederik Andersen made 36 saves while Tyler Bozak had a goal and an assist as Toronto beat Philadelphia. William Nylander, Mitch Marner and Nazem Kadri also scored for the Maple Leafs. They have won two straight after dropping five in a row. Wayne Simmonds and Shayne Gostisbehere scored for the Flyers.

AVALANCHE 3, DEVILS 2

Francois Beauchemin scored with 1:14 left to lift Colorado past New Jersey and hand the Devils their ninth straight loss. Nathan MacKinnon and Rene Bourque also scored for Colorado, and Calvin Pickard had 25 saves. Taylor Hall and Stefan Noesen scored for New Jersey, and Cory Schneider stopped 19 shots. —AP