

Sports

Skjei, Zibanejad and Lundqvist lead Rangers past Canadiens

Montreal had two goals disallowed earlier in opening period

NHL result/standings

NY Rangers 2 Montreal 0

	Western Conference					
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
Chicago	2	0	0	15	2	4
St. Louis	2	0	0	9	6	4
Colorado	1	1	0	5	6	2
Minnesota	0	1	1	6	9	1
Dallas	0	2	0	3	6	0
Nashville	0	2	0	3	8	0
Winnipeg	0	2	0	5	13	0
	Pacific Division					
Los Angeles	2	0	0	6	1	4
Las Vegas	2	0	0	4	2	4
Anaheim	1	0	1	7	7	3
Vancouver	1	0	0	3	2	2
Edmonton	1	1	0	5	3	2
Calgary	1	1	0	6	6	2
Arizona	0	1	1	5	7	1
San Jose	0	2	0	4	9	0

	Eastern Conference					
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS
Toronto	2	0	0	15	7	4
Detroit	2	0	0	6	3	4
Boston	1	0	0	4	3	2
Tampa Bay	1	1	0	9	8	2
Florida	1	1	0	8	9	2
Ottawa	0	0	2	5	7	2
Montreal	1	2	0	4	10	2
Buffalo	0	1	1	5	9	1
	Metropolitan Division					
Washington	2	0	0	11	5	4
Philadelphia	2	1	0	8	7	4
Pittsburgh	1	1	1	9	15	3
New Jersey	1	0	0	4	1	2
Carolina	1	0	0	5	4	2
Columbus	1	1	0	6	5	2
NY Islanders	1	1	0	6	8	2
NY Rangers	1	2	0	9	12	2

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



NEW YORK: Phillip Danault #24 of the Montreal Canadiens and Henrik Lundqvist #30 of the New York Rangers battle for the puck during the third period at Madison Square Garden on Sunday. — AFP

NEW YORK: Henrik Lundqvist bounced back after getting roughed up the previous night and helped the New York Rangers get their first win of the season. The veteran goalie stopped 34 shots for his 62nd career shutout to lead the Rangers to a 2-0 win over the Montreal Canadiens on Sunday night.

Lundqvist was stellar in getting his 406th career win one night after getting pulled after giving up five goals in the first period of an 8-5 loss at Toronto. He is now one away from tying Glenn Hall for ninth place on the NHL's career wins list.

"I felt like we played more our style where it's more in control and we use our speed when there's an opportunity for it," Lundqvist said. "And for me, every period a couple extra saves were enough. It was not like I needed to make eight, nine big ones. It was a couple extra here and there, and the rest, the guys took care of it. It was a great team win here tonight and a great bounce back for us."

Brady Skjei scored on a fortunate bounce in the first period and Mika Zibanejad got his fourth of the season in the third to help the Rangers improve to

41-12-4 in games following a loss dating back to Dec. 22, 2015.

"When we made some mistakes, Hank came up with the right saves at the right time," Rangers coach Alain Vigneault said. "That's what we need from our goaltender, that's what we needed from our team."

Montreal had two goals disallowed earlier in the opening period. The first was taken away after a video review when officials determined forward Andrew Shaw kicked the puck into the net 6:24 into the game. Just more than 2 1/2 minutes later, Vigneault challenged another Montreal score for goaltender interference and officials determined Canadiens captain Max Pacioretty made contact with Lundqvist on the play.

“We spent a lot of time in the other team’s zone”

"The positive thing is we had chances," Montreal's Tomas Plekanec said. "We had some pressure going. We have to find ways to get results. We have to keep working at it." Skjei tossed the puck to the front of the net and it deflected off Montreal defenseman Shea Weber's skate and in with 2:35 left in the first period, giving the Rangers a lead for the first time this season.

Zibanejad scored for the third straight game near the midpoint of the third period to double the Rangers' lead. Pavel Buchnevich and Chris Kreider assisted on the play, giving New York's top line four goals and five assists through three games this season.

"I try to shoot and the puck seems to go in right now," Zibanejad said. "I just am trying to place myself in a good spot out there and the guys are finding me

and the puck seems to be going in. That's just the mentality. You just have to keep shooting when you are hot, I guess."

Vigneault was all praises for the way Zibanejad - signed to a five-year, \$26.75 million deal in the offseason - has been playing at the start of the season. "There is no doubt that Mika knew that we put a lot of faith into his play, we signed him to a long-term deal and we expected him to be an impact player on our team," the coach said. "The way he started is the way he has to continue. He has to continue to be a force on the ice, a difference-maker."

Carey Price finished with 23 saves for the Canadiens, who have lost two straight after a shootout win at Buffalo in their opener. "We felt we played well," Montreal's coach Claude Julien said. "We need to find ways to finish better. We spent a lot of time in the other team's zone. Our next step is to find ways to capitalize on opportunities."

The teams were meeting for the first time since the Rangers eliminated the Canadiens in six games in the first round of the playoffs in April. — AP

Battling Stosur '100 percent' fit after injury-hit year

HONG KONG: Former US Open champion Sam Stosur declared she felt "100 percent" again after she battled into the second round of the WTA Hong Kong Open in three sets yesterday. Stosur, who is on the comeback trail after suffering a stress fracture of her right hand in June when in tip-top form, appeared to be cruising at a set and 3-1 up against the unheralded Lee Ya-hsuan of Taiwan. But the Australian dropped five of the next six games with a string of unforced errors to let the world number 303 take the set 6-4. Stosur, 33, drew on all her experience to race through the third set, cutting out the sloppy mistakes to progress 6-3, 4-6, 6-1 in a hard-fought hour and 57 minutes at Victoria Park.

"I was really happy with the third set, the way I came out and finished that off really quickly," Stosur said. "I really stepped it up, served better and was able to hit some winners. And once I got that lead I was able to keep it, unlike the second set," added the Australian world number 43.

A resurgent Stosur earlier this year had looked to be approaching the form that took her to the US Open crown in 2011, winning the WTA title in Strasbourg this May. She followed up in June by reaching the last 16 of the French Open where she was only edged out in a three-set epic by the eventual champion Jelena Ostapenko.

But soon after X-rays revealed the damage to her troublesome right hand was a bone fracture and she had to take a complete break. "After the French Open I really came to a sudden halt and I didn't hit a ball for about eight weeks which is the longest time I can ever remember not playing," said Stosur.

The enforced rest meant she missed Wimbledon and the US Open, returning to action only last month at the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo. "I was really disappointed not to make it back for the US Open and miss that whole US summer which is a time I feel like I can do well," Stosur said. "It felt like it took forever. But I feel like it's pretty much 100 percent now."

"Even when I first started in Tokyo and Guangzhou I was still really tentative with trying to hit my forehand. But now I feel like I can go out and practise and not think about it." The only seeded player in action on day one in Hong Kong, China's number two Zhang Shuai, wasted little time and energy in crushing her Japanese opponent Kurumi Nara with a "double bagel" 6-0, 6-0.

The number eight seed, ranked 31 in the world, had too much power, accuracy and guile for the hapless world number 101 and raced past Nara in a dominant 48 minutes on centre court. — AFP

Red Sox, Yankees stay alive with home wins

NEW YORK: The Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees kept their Major League Baseball playoff bids going on Sunday with the Red Sox offence coming alive and Yankees winning a pitching duel. Boston exploded for six runs in the seventh inning for a 10-3 win over the Houston Astros, while the Yankees held on for a 1-0 shutout of the Cleveland Indians after dropping the first two games in their best-of-five American League series. The Red Sox more than doubled the four runs they scored over the course of the first two games on the road with the help of home runs from Rafael Devers and Jackie Bradley. Boston, still trailing 2-1 in the series, will try to pull level when they host game four today.

Devers smacked a two-run homer in the third inning to put Boston up 4-3, their first lead of the series. The 20-year-old became the youngest Red Sox player ever to homer in a playoff game and just the sixth player in major league play in history to do so in the post-season before turning 21. "He's an extremely talented kid, and I think we marvel at the fact that he's 20 years of age," Red Sox manager John Farrell said. Bradley's three-run home run-his first career post-season homer-was part of the six-run seventh.

Seventh Ramirez went four-for-four with three runs-batted-in and Sand Leon drive in another run for the Red Sox. "We don't give up," he said. "We were in the post-season last year and unfortunately we couldn't do the job," added Ramirez, recalling that the Red Sox were swept in the first round last season.

"I told everybody it's not going to happen two years in a row." After the Red Sox fell into an early hole-with

Cancer victim gives Kyrgios 'higher purpose'

SYDNEY: Troubled Australian tennis star Nick Kyrgios says he has finally found a purpose in life and will build a facility for disadvantaged kids after being struck by the death of a young boy from cancer.

The combustible but talented 22-year-old, who had another meltdown in losing the China Open final to Rafael Nadal on Sunday, has long struggled with his demons, repeatedly losing focus mid-match and arguing with umpires and fans. He has made no bones about not taking tennis seriously enough, and on Monday said it was down to feeling like he had no real purpose in life. Now he has one. "You've no doubt noticed that I'm not all that good at hiding the fact I'd rather be somewhere



BOSTON: Boston Red Sox's Rafael Devers watches his RBI single to left field during the seventh inning of Game 3 of baseball's American League Division Series against the Houston Astros. — AP

Carlos Correa hitting a two-run homer and Josh Reddick driving in a run for the Astros in the first inning-Boston relief pitcher David Price produced four shutout innings with four strikeouts. "Monster," Ramirez said of Price's performance. "Great heart, great competitor." The winner of the series will take on either the Yankees or Cleveland for a World Series berth. In New York, Greg Bird led off the bottom of the seventh inning with a homer, and Aroldis Chapman posted a five-out save as the Yankees staved off elimination. Bird helped the Yankees force game four on Monday when he lifted a fastball on a 1-1 count from left-hander Andrew Miller into the second deck in right field. It was only the second homer allowed by Miller to a left-handed hitter this season.

'GRINDED IT OUT'

"He is one of best," Bird said of Miller. "I was just trying

else a lot of the time. So, what have I been doing it for?" he wrote in www.playersvoice.com.au, a website for sportspeople to air their views.

"You hear people talk about being motivated for their kids, or a cause, or something more than just themselves. It's inspiration, pure and simple, and it gives them focus when times are tough. There's a reason underpinning everything. It's a higher purpose than just collecting a pay cheque. I haven't had that and I've always been envious of those who did. I think I've found my purpose in the last couple of months. I'm building something." The world number 19 revealed he had a vision several years ago to create somewhere for disadvantaged and underprivileged kids to "hang out, be safe and feel like they were part of a family". There would be tennis courts, basketball courts, a gym, a sports field to kick a football, food and beds. "It's all I've been thinking about outside of tennis since then," he said, adding that he and his family were scouting out land in Melbourne and looking for organisations to partner with. The plan is to have it underway by the Australian Open in January. His dream came into focus after he had a hit-up with a little boy with terminal brain cancer called Piotr before a match at the Australian Open this year. — AFP



Nick Kyrgios