

## Sports

# Chicago Blackhawks blast Penguins, end 8-game skid

## Kase nets hat trick, Ducks rally to top Stars

**CHICAGO:** Marcus Kruger scored the tiebreaking goal in the third period Wednesday, and the Chicago Blackhawks broke an eight-game losing streak with a 6-3 win over the visiting Pittsburgh Penguins. At 3:49 of the third, Kruger was at the lip of the crease when he converted a centering pass from the corner by Andreas Martinsen to give the Blackhawks a 4-3 lead. Jonathan Toews and Brandon Saad added empty-net goals in the last 62 seconds. Toews finished with a goal and two assists while Kruger, Martinsen, Saad and Brent Seabrook each had a goal and an assist for Chicago. Alex DeBrincat also scored for the Blackhawks, who moved out of last place in the NHL, a point ahead of the Los Angeles Kings. Bryan Rust broke a goal slump with a hat trick to account for the goals for Pittsburgh, which had been 3-0-1 in its previous four games. The Penguins fell to 0-6-3 in their past nine games against the Blackhawks.

### FLAMES 6, FLYERS 5 (OT)

Johnny Gaudreau scored the overtime winner to cap a three-point night, and Sean Monahan tallied twice, including a game-tying goal with seven seconds left in regulation, as host Calgary stormed to a comeback over Philadelphia. Trailing 5-3 and with their goalie pulled, the Flames rallied late. After Rasmus Andersson scored his first NHL goal with 68 seconds left on the clock, Monahan netted his 20th of the season as time

was nearly up. Monahan set up Gaudreau on an odd-man rush for the winner 35 seconds into overtime. David Rittich, who took the net at the start of the third period, stopped four of the five shots he faced to record the victory.

### DUCKS 6, STARS 3

Ondrej Kase recorded his first career hat trick and Brandon Montour added the go-ahead goal with eight minutes remaining as Anaheim scored four times in the third period to rally for a victory over visiting Dallas. Kase's third goal and Montour's game-winner came 1:21 apart in the third period as the Ducks earned their seventh win in eight games. Jakob Silfverberg added a quick insurance goal, and Hampus Lindholm sealed the win with an empty-netter as the Ducks matched their season high for goals in a game. Brandon Montour produced a goal and three assists—all four points coming in the third period—for Anaheim. Miro Heiskanen, Blake Comeau and Alexander Radulov scored for the Stars, who lost for just the second time in their last six games.

### GOLDEN KNIGHTS 3, ISLANDERS 2

Tomas Nosek scored the tiebreaking goal early in the third period, and visiting Vegas beat New York. Jonathan Marchessault and William Karlsson also scored the Golden Knights, who earned their first-ever win against the Islanders. New York was the only team Vegas had not



CHICAGO: Patrick Kane #88 of the Chicago Blackhawks passes around Riley Sheahan #15 of the Pittsburgh Penguins at the United Center on Wednesday in Chicago, Illinois. —AFP

beaten since joining the NHL last season. Anthony Beauvillier and Adam Pelech scored for

the Islanders, who have lost two straight (0-1-1) and six of eight (2-4-2). —Reuters

## Cowboys, Colts carry momentum into clash

**DALLAS:** The game-winning touchdown catch Amari Cooper made in overtime last week might have been pure luck, but there is no receiver in the NFL currently having a greater impact on his team than the one Cooper is making with the Dallas Cowboys.

Reeling and losing prior to Cooper's acquisition from the Oakland Raiders for a first-round pick, Dallas has rattled off five straight wins since dropping his debut game with the team to Tennessee. A sixth consecutive victory Sunday against the Colts in Indianapolis, coupled with losses by the Philadelphia Eagles (6-7) and the Washington Redskins (6-7), would clinch the NFC East title for the Cowboys (8-5).

In his six games with Dallas, Cooper has 40 catches for 642 yards and six touchdowns. Pro-rate that over a full season and you have more than 100 receptions for more than 1,700 yards. In his last 20 games with the Raiders, Cooper managed just 960 yards.

Cooper registered 10 catches for 217 yards and three scores last week as the Cowboys topped the Eagles 29-23 in overtime. With every catch and every big play, the question comes up: Why did Oakland owner Mark Davis think it was good business to trade his top receiver?

"He was a great, great player," Davis told the Dallas Morning News. "We always had the fastest guy on the field no matter what. It just didn't work out in our system." While few things work out in whatever system the Raiders use these days, business is booming for the Cowboys and the Colts (7-6). Indianapolis earned a 24-21 win at Houston last week, not only snapping the Texans' nine-game winning streak but also keeping the Colts in contention for the AFC's second wild-card spot.

Indianapolis, which is tied with the Baltimore Ravens, Miami Dolphins and Tennessee Titans, may have the NFL's hottest quarterback. Andrew Luck strafed Houston for 399 yards and two touchdowns last week, and outside of an unfathomable clunker two weeks ago in a 6-0 loss at Jacksonville, he has been playing at perhaps the highest level of his career over the past seven games.

In the Colts' six wins in that seven-game span, Luck posted a passer rating of more than 100. His return to health and dominance has led to success for first-year coach Frank Reich. "Really proud of how the guys came out and fought," Reich said of the win in Houston. "Looking forward to keeping that same mindset and approach coming back home against another hot team. It will be a good test for us."

Containing Cooper might determine if the Colts can pass that test. "He's trying to get integrated into our team, and he's done that really quickly," Dallas coach Jason Garrett said. —Reuters

## Djokovic, Halep named 2018 ITF world champions

**LONDON:** Novak Djokovic and Simona Halep were yesterday named as the 2018 ITF world champions by the governing body of global tennis. World number one Djokovic receives the honour from the International Tennis Federation for the sixth time, while it is the first year that Romania's top-ranked Halep has been recognised.

"I am very honoured to be named ITF world champion again," said Serbia's Djokovic, who stormed back to the top of the rankings after injury, winning Wimbledon and the US Open.

"I am particularly proud of this achievement after all that I've been through physically this year, but part of me always believed I could make it back to the top. It is very satisfying to join Pete Sampras by winning my sixth award."

Halep also enjoyed Grand Slam success in 2018, claiming her maiden major title at Roland Garros and reaching the final at the Australian Open. "It's a great honour to be named as ITF world champion for the first time," she said. "I had an incredible year, winning my first Grand Slam at Roland Garros and finishing the year as world number one."



Simona Halep

US pair Mike Bryan and Jack Sock won the men's doubles award while the women's doubles world champions are Barbora Krejčíková and Katerina Siniakova. The ITF uses an objective system that considers all results during the year but gives special weight to the Grand Slam tournaments and two ITF international team competitions, the Davis Cup and Fed Cup.

"Congratulations to our 2018 ITF world champions who have demonstrated immense skill, talent and dedication on their way to achieving great success on the court," said ITF president David Haggerty. "They are a credit to our sport and have all contributed to another memorable year for tennis." —AFP