

25 Simmons' rare triple-double carries Philadelphia 76ers



26 Kohli falls to Lyon as Australia closing in on overdue victory



27 Liverpool draw Bayern as United face PSG in Champions League last 16



PITTSBURGH: Joe Haden #23 of the Pittsburgh Steelers intercepts a pass intended for Julian Edelman No 11 of the New England Patriots in the fourth quarter during the game at Heinz Field on Sunday in Pittsburgh. —AFP

Steelers knock off Brady, Patriots

Bears pick off Rodgers, take NFC North division title

PITTSBURGH: Ben Roethlisberger threw two touchdown passes, and the Pittsburgh Steelers' defense stopped Tom Brady and the visiting New England Patriots twice in the red zone in the fourth quarter to seal a 17-10 win Sunday. The Steelers (8-5-1) ended a three-game losing streak. New England (9-5) lost its second straight and missed a chance to clinch the AFC East title. It was Pittsburgh's first win against New England since October of 2011, with the Patriots winning the previous five meetings (including playoffs). Roethlisberger threw for 235 yards, with scoring passes to Vance McDonald and Antonio Brown, and was intercepted twice by Duron Harmon. Rookie Jaylen Samuels ran for 142 yards on 19 carries (7.5 average). Brady threw for 279 yards, including a touchdown to Chris Hogan, and one interception. Rob Gronkowski, who has been a Steelers-killer, was held to two catches for 21 yards.

EAGLES 30, RAMS 23

For the second time in as many seasons, Nick Foles took over as Philadelphia's quarterback at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum and guided his team to a victory, leading the Eagles past the suddenly struggling Rams. Starting in place of injured Carson Wentz on Sunday night, Foles threw for 270 yards and the visiting Eagles (7-7) improved their playoff chances while Los Angeles (11-3) lost consecutive games for the first time this season. Wentz was also injured in a December game at Los Angeles last season, with Foles finishing off that victory and then guiding the Eagles to a Super Bowl title. The Rams looked out of sorts for the third consecutive week since their dynamic 54-51 Monday night victory over the Kansas City Chiefs on Nov. 19.

BEARS 24, PACKERS 17

Mitchell Trubisky completed 20 of 28 passes for 235 yards

and two touchdowns, and Chicago clinched its first NFC North division title since 2010 with a win over visiting Green Bay. Tarik Cohen and Trey Burton each hauled in touchdowns for the Bears, and Jordan Howard scored on the ground. Chicago (10-4) snapped a five-game skid against Green Bay and clinched its first division crown at home since 2006. Aaron Rodgers completed 25 of 42 passes for 274 yards, no touchdowns and one interception. Jamaal Williams scored the lone touchdown for Green Bay (5-8-1), which dropped to 1-1 under interim head coach Joe Philbin and was eliminated from post-season contention.

COLTS 23, COWBOYS 0

Marlon Mack rushed 27 times for 139 yards and two touchdowns as host Indianapolis ended Dallas' five-game winning streak in emphatic fashion with a shutout at Lucas Oil Stadium. Adam Vinatieri added three field goals for Indianapolis (8-6), which remains in contention for the AFC's second wild-card spot. The Colts, Baltimore Ravens and Tennessee Titans are tied at 8-6. Dallas (8-6) could have wrapped up the NFC East title with a win but will have to wait for a Week 16 home game with Tampa Bay. The Cowboys were shut out for the first time since Nov. 16, 2003, when they fell 12-0 at New England.

RAVENS 20, BUCCANEERS 12

Gus Edwards rushed for 104 yards and a touchdown as Baltimore topped Tampa Bay on a cold and rainy afternoon in Baltimore. The Ravens (8-6) remain in control of the second AFC wild-card spot and in contention for the AFC North crown, rushing for 242 yards to become the first team since the 1976 Steelers with five straight games with 190 or more rushing yards. Jameis Winston completed 13 of 25 passes for

157 yards and one interception for Tampa Bay (5-9). Peyton Barber rushed for 85 yards and a touchdown. Mike Evans had four catches for 121 yards.

49ERS 26, SEAHAWKS 23 (OT)

Robbie Gould's fourth field goal of the day, a 36-yard kick with 3:06 remaining in overtime, gave San Francisco the victory over Seattle in rainy Santa Clara, Calif., denying the Seahawks an opportunity to clinch a playoff spot. Doug Baldwin caught two touchdown passes for Seattle (8-6), which can clinch a playoff spot with a win against Kansas City or Arizona in the next two weeks. It would be the Seahawks' sixth playoff berth in the last seven seasons. The win was the first for the 49ers (4-10) over their NFC West rival since December of 2013, snapping a nine-game, regular-season losing streak against Seattle. San Francisco, which surprised Denver 20-14 last week, won its second straight.

TITANS 17, GIANTS 0

Derrick Henry followed up a record-setting performance with 170 yards and a pair of short touchdown runs as Tennessee eliminated New York from postseason contention with a shutout in East Rutherford, N.J. A week after setting a franchise record with 238 yards in a Thursday night game against the Jacksonville Jaguars, Henry recorded his second 100-yard game of the season and fourth of his career as the Titans (8-6) are tied for the sixth seed along with Baltimore and Indianapolis.

The Giants (5-9) had won four of their last five games but could never develop a consistent rhythm while playing without Odell Beckham Jr., who missed his second straight game with a quadriceps injury. New York was shut out at home for the first time since Dec. 15, 2013, against Seattle.

VIKINGS 41, DOLPHINS 17

Minnesota set the tone in the first quarter with a three-touchdown outburst on the way to an easy win over visiting Miami. Quarterback Kirk Cousins threw touchdown passes to Stefon Diggs and Aldrick Robinson, and Dalvin Cook rushed for two scores and Latavius Murray ran for another as the Vikings (7-6-1) set a season high in points scored. Minkah Fitzpatrick and Kalen Ballage scored touchdowns, and Jason Sanders added a 25-yard field goal for Miami (7-7), which lost for the sixth time in seven road games.

REDSKINS 16, JAGUARS 13

In a game lacking offense, visiting Washington put together two late scoring drives and got a Dustin Hopkins field goal as time expired to earn a win over disappointing Jacksonville. The win ended a four-game losing streak for Washington (7-7) and keeps the Redskins alive in the NFC playoff picture. In his first NFL start since 2011, Redskins quarterback Josh Johnson was 16-of-25 passing for 151 yards and a touchdown. Cody Kessler had just 57 yards passing as the Jaguars (4-10) lost for the ninth time in the past 10 games.

FALCONS 40, CARDINALS 14

Linebacker Deion Jones began a 26-point first-half outburst with a 41-yard interception return for a touchdown and Atlanta ended its five-game losing streak with a blowout over visiting Arizona. Atlanta (5-9) was led by quarterback Matt Ryan, who was 22 for 36 for 231 yards and two touchdowns. He also ran three times for 18 yards and one touchdown. Tailback Tevin Coleman rushed 11 times for a career-best 145 yards and one touchdown. He had a career-long 65-yard run. Rookie Josh Rosen suffered a long afternoon for the Cardinals (3-11). He was 13 for 22 for 132 yards and two interceptions, getting lifted midway in the fourth quarter for backup Mike Glennon. —Reuters

Qatar won't decide on 48-team WCup until it's seen FIFA study

DOHA: Qatar will not take a decision on whether to expand its 2022 World Cup to 48 teams from 32 until it has seen the details of a feasibility study from FIFA, an official from the country's World Cup organising com-

mittee said yesterday.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino said last week that a majority of national soccer federations were in favour of expanding the tournament and a decision is expected by March ahead of the draw for qualifying matches.

"FIFA is undergoing a feasibility study and is now in the consultation process and we don't have any details to know what the feasibility study has," said Nasser Al Khater, Assistant Secretary General for Qatar's Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy.

The study is expected to include aspects of scheduling, the number of required venues, training sites, and how many games per day would be played under an expanded format, Khater said.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and

Egypt launched a diplomatic and trade boycott of Qatar in June 2017 that has complicated the prospect of sharing the tournament under an expanded format.

The countries accuse Qatar of supporting terrorism, which it denies. "We need to remember that Qatar won the right to host the World Cup with a 32-team World Cup, so at the end of the day FIFA will take the decision with Qatar and only if Qatar agrees," said Khater.

The tiny but wealthy state has pushed ahead with an ambitious scale-up of its infrastructure ahead of 2022 that includes \$6-8 billion on eight stadiums and sporting facilities, many of which will be either broken down and re-purposed after the event or donated to promote sports in developing countries.

Last week, Qatar unveiled the design for its final and

largest stadium. Lusail Stadium, an 80,000 seat venue, is expected to host the tournament's opening and closing matches and be the centrepiece of a city being developed north of Doha.

FIFA last year voted to increase the tournament to 48 teams starting from 2026 but, since then, Infantino has been mulling the possibility of bringing the change forward to 2022, saying that would likely require playing some matches outside of Qatar.

"Who actually is ready with four years to go?" Khater said of regional countries that could help host the tournament. "You have to see FIFA compliant stadiums, FIFA compliant training sites, the correct infrastructure. These are things that have to be discussed first," he said. —Reuters