

Sports

Henrique's two goals help Anaheim earn a 3-1 victory over Boston

Pittsburgh defeat visiting San Jose

BOSTON: For the first time in nearly two months, the Boston Bruins lost a game in regulation. Adam Henrique had two goals and Jakob Silfverberg also scored to help the Anaheim Ducks earn a 3-1 victory Tuesday in Boston, snapping the Bruins' league-best, 18-game points streak. Anaheim won its third straight game. Boston had won five straight and entered the night 14-0-4 since its last setback in regulation, a 5-3 defeat at Nashville on Dec. 4. John Gibson stopped all 25 shots he faced in net for the Ducks, but departed with 7:25 remaining in the game after being shaken up on a shot from Boston's Patrice Bergeron earlier in the period. He was replaced by Ryan Miller, who finished with five saves.

Rantanen had two assists. The Avalanche took their third consecutive loss since the end of their 10-game winning streak. Making matters worse for Colorado, Nathan MacKinnon, the NHL's second-leading scorer, left in the second period with an upper-body injury. MacKinnon, hurt in a collision with Vancouver defenseman Alex Edler along the end boards, went to the dressing room favoring his left shoulder.

PENGUINS 5, SHARKS 2

Evgeni Malkin scored three goals, including the tiebreaker in the third period, as Pittsburgh defeated visiting San Jose. The go-ahead goal came when San Jose goalie Martin Jones tried to clear the puck from behind the cage. However, his pass went just a few feet, and Patric Hornqvist picked it off and quickly fed Malkin, who put it into the empty cage 6:01 into the third for a 3-2 lead. Bryan Rust added his second goal of the game for insurance later in the third period, and Malkin completed his hat trick with an empty-net goal with 1:13 left for the 5-2 lead. Rust finished with two goals and one assist.

GOLDEN KNIGHTS 4, FLAMES 2

Eric Haula and Jonathan Marchessault stunned Calgary with goals 10 seconds apart late in the third period, and visiting Vegas scored three times during a 53-second span for the win. Moments after Haula evened the game 2-2 with 1:45 remaining, Marchessault potted the winner. David Perron added an empty-netter with 53 seconds left to round out the scoring. The Golden Knights, who sit atop the Pacific Division and Western Conference, won for the 33rd time this season, which ties them



COLUMBUS: Sergei Bobrovsky #72 of the Columbus Blue Jackets makes a save on a wrap around shot by Joel Eriksson Ek #14 of the Minnesota Wild as Seth Jones #3 of the Columbus Blue Jackets looks to clear any rebounds during the third period at Nationwide Arena in Columbus, Ohio. Minnesota defeated Columbus 3-2. — AFP

with both the 1993-94 Florida Panthers and 1993-94 Anaheim Mighty Ducks for the most wins by a first-year expansion team.

BLUES 3, CANADIENS 1

Ivan Barbashev, Patrik Berglund and Alexander Steen provided the scoring as St. Louis maintained its momentum in the first game back from the All-Star break, beating visiting Montreal. The Blues have won three consecutive games. Goalie Carter Hutton, who started his sixth straight game, finished with 34 saves and was just 1 minute, 7 seconds away from his third shutout of the year. Carey Price had 28 saves and took the hard-luck loss for the Canadiens, who have lost three of their past four games.

HURRICANES 2, SENATORS 1

Victor Rask scored on a third-period power play, lifting host Carolina to a win

over Ottawa. Sebastian Aho tied the game earlier in the final period. Hurricanes goalie Cam Ward stopped 29 shots. Jean-Gabriel Pageau scored in the second period for the Senators, who lost their sixth consecutive game. Senators goalie Craig Anderson made 37 saves.

JETS 3, LIGHTNING 1

Michael Hutchinson won in his first NHL action of the season, and second-period goals by Patrik Laine and Kyle Connor ignited host Winnipeg to a win over league-leading Tampa Bay. Hutchinson, who was part of the AHL all-star festivities in Utica, N.Y., on Monday, took to the net for his first big-league start since last season and provided a 23-save performance to reward Jets coach Paul Maurice on his 51st birthday. Laine erased a 1-0 deficit early in the second period by taking advantage of a

five-on-three power play to net his 12th man-advantage marker of the campaign. Connor netted the game winner just after another power play expired when he buried his second rebound opportunity against Lightning goalie Louis Domingue.

BLACKHAWKS 2, PREDATORS 1

Vinnie Hinostroza notched a goal and an assist while Anton Forsberg made 42 saves as Chicago posted a road win over Nashville. Chicago handed the Predators just their fifth regulation loss at home this season. Forsberg came up with 22 saves in the third period to guide the Blackhawks across the finish line, including five on the Predators' only power play of the night. He also got some help from the goal post, which denied Austin Watson a potential tying tally about five minutes into the period. — Reuters

WILD 3, BLUE JACKETS 2 (SO)

Zach Parise goal in the fourth round of a shootout gave Minnesota a 3-2 road victory over Columbus. Jason Zucker and Charlie Coyle scored in regulation as the Wild improved their road record to 10-14-1. Panarin led the Blue Jackets with a goal and an assist in regulation time, while David Savard also tallied for the hosts. The loss spoiled a 41-save effort from Columbus goaltender Sergei Bobrovsky. Minnesota netminder Devan Dubnyk posted 28 saves for the win.



Anton Forsberg made 42 saves for Chicago

CANUCKS 4, AVALANCHE 3 (OT)

Sven Baertschi's goal 1:07 into overtime gave host Vancouver a victory over Colorado. Bo Horvat, Michael Del Zotto and Daniel Sedin also scored for the Canucks, while Chris Tanev had three assists. Gabriel Landeskog led the Avalanche with two goals, J.T. Compher supplied a single marker, and Mikko

First McIlroy, now Malaysia as China's Li aims to extend streak



DUBAI: File photo shows Li Haotong of China plays a shot during the Dubai Desert Classic at Emirates Golf Club on January 28, 2018, in Dubai. — AFP

KUALA LUMPUR: China's rising golf sensation Li Haotong hopes his life-changing win over Rory McIlroy will pave the way for another title quest at this week's Maybank Championship in Malaysia.

The 22-year-old became the first Chinese men's golfer to break into the world top 50 after he edged four-time Major winner McIlroy at the Dubai Desert Classic last week. Brimming with confidence after outclassing the Irishman, the now 32nd-ranked Li is aiming for another good outing.

"Sometimes one week can change everything, sometimes it doesn't happen. My game is pretty solid, and I've been putting well," said Li, ahead of Thursday's opening round.

"This week I'll try to save as much energy and have low scores. It's a little bit warmer out here, but I'll go out and try to enjoy the pressure. The key is good tee shots and to get low scores."

In Kuala Lumpur three weeks ago, Li gave Team Asia two-and-a-half points in their 14-10 defeat to Europe at the Ryder Cup-style EurAsia Cup.

Top-ranked Henrik Stenson, who played for Team Europe, is expected to contend

with Li at the \$3.0 million event as he seeks his first individual victory on Asian soil.

"Now I would like to get an individual victory in Asia, and this is one of the opportunities," said Stenson, 41.

"If you've got a chance to win a golf tournament anywhere in the world these days, you've got to play well and we'll see if we can get that going this week." The world number 12 is in good form coming into the European Tour and Asian Tour event after consecutive top-10 finishes at the Abu Dhabi Championship and Dubai.

Austria's Bernd Wiesberger will also be

optimistic of another good week after creating fond memories at the Maybank Championship last year.

The 32-year-old carved his name into the record books after becoming the first player in European Tour history to notch nine consecutive birdies. Also in the hunt is Paraguay's defending champion Fabrizio Zanotti, who produced one of the biggest comebacks of 2017 to win by a single stroke.

Joining in the title race are Thailand's big hitter Kiradech Aphibarnrat and Englishman Lee Westwood, who previously won the Malaysian Open. — AFP

All Blacks take Bledisloe Cup clash to Japan with eye on 2019

WELLINGTON: New Zealand Rugby (NZR) have confirmed the third Bledisloe Cup clash with Australia later this year will be held in the Yokohama Stadium, the venue for the 2019 Rugby World Cup final.

NZR had already signalled they were keen on taking the trans-Tasman clash to Japan after announcing in May that they would face the Brave Blossoms before heading to Europe for the end-of-year tour. The world champion All Blacks face the Wallabies on Oct. 27 in Yokohama before

they play Japan at the National Stadium in Tokyo on Nov. 3.

"We're delighted to confirm that a Bledisloe Cup test match will be played in Japan for the second time in the history of this great rivalry," NZR chief executive Steve Tew said in a statement yesterday.

"The last match in 2009 was a fantastic event but this year's test at the 72,000-seat stadium in Yokohama will be at another level. "The All Blacks have huge support in Japan, so the Bledisloe Cup test will be important for the team as we build support ahead of Rugby World Cup 2019."

All Blacks coach Steve Hansen said having two tests on consecutive weeks in Japan would also help the side acclimatise for the 2019 World Cup. Hansen conducted a similar exercise in 2014 when he primed the All Blacks for their 2015 World Cup-winning campaign by replicating the final four weeks of the tournament on their end-of-season tour, with the team experi-

encing similar selections, tactics and preparation.

"It will be great for the team to prepare in two of the Rugby World Cup cities and play at the same venues," Hansen said of the two clashes in Japan. "As well as preparing for a huge Bledisloe Cup test and another important test against Japan, it'll also give the team a chance to have a really good 'dummy run' of the facilities, and experience the unique Japanese culture."

The All Blacks have held the Bledisloe Cup, the symbol of trans-Tasman supremacy, since 2003. The first Bledisloe Cup test, which doubles as the opening clash of the Rugby Championship, is in Sydney on Aug. 18, with the second match at Auckland's Eden Park on Aug. 25. After the Japan game, the All Blacks then face Eddie Jones's England side at Twickenham on Nov. 10, before meeting Ireland in Dublin on Nov. 17. They conclude their tour against Italy on Nov. 24. — Reuters

NHL results/standings

Anaheim 3; Boston 1; New Jersey 3; Buffalo 1; Florida 4; NY Islanders 1; Pittsburgh 5; San Jose 2; Carolina 2; Ottawa 1; Minnesota 3; Columbus 2 (SO); St. Louis 3; Montreal 1; Chicago 2; Nashville 1; Winnipeg 3; Tampa Bay 1; Los Angeles 3; Dallas 0; Las Vegas 4; Calgary 2; Vancouver 4; Colorado 3 (OT).

Eastern Conference						Western Conference							
Atlantic Division						Central Division							
	W	LOTL	GF	GA	PTS		W	LOTL	GF	GA	PTS		
Tampa Bay	34	13	3	176	128	71	Winnipeg	30	13	8	167	137	68
Boston	29	11	8	157	119	66	Nashville	29	12	7	146	125	65
Toronto	28	18	5	162	146	61	St. Louis	31	18	3	151	131	65
Florida	20	22	6	136	159	46	Dallas	28	19	4	155	137	60
Detroit	19	21	8	126	146	46	Minnesota	27	18	5	147	142	59
Montreal	20	24	6	130	159	46	Colorado	27	18	4	160	143	58
Ottawa	15	24	9	125	168	39	Chicago	24	19	7	148	137	55
Buffalo	14	27	9	115	166	37	Pacific Division						
Metropolitan Division						Las Vegas	33	12	4	168	130	70	
Washington	29	15	5	150	138	63	San Jose	26	16	7	145	138	59
Pittsburgh	28	21	3	156	155	59	Los Angeles	27	18	5	142	121	59
New Jersey	25	16	8	147	147	58	Anaheim	25	17	9	144	142	59
Columbus	27	19	4	133	140	58	Calgary	25	17	8	139	139	58
Philadelphia	24	17	8	141	141	56	Edmonton	22	24	3	135	157	47
NY Rangers	25	20	5	153	151	55	Vancouver	20	24	6	131	162	46
NY Islanders	25	21	5	173	184	55	Arizona	12	29	9	118	172	33
Carolina	23	19	8	139	155	54	Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L)						

Tomic wants to return to tennis

SYDNEY: Australian tennis bad boy Bernard Tomic said he had a "huge wake-up call" after taking part in a reality TV show, leaving the programme early to return to the sporting world. Tomic, 25, has been pilloried for his poor attitude during a season to forget in 2017 where he admitted he was bored, and earlier this month missed out on the Australian Open after losing in the qualifiers.

He then took part in commercial broadcaster Channel Ten's reality show "I'm a Celebrity ... Get Me Out of Here!", held in South Africa, but pulled out after just three days. "I don't want to spend half my time depressed here and thinking about how I played the last year and where I should be," Tomic said on the programme aired late Tuesday as he explained his departure to other participants.

"And me being here with my thoughts now has just gave me a huge wake-up call ... I need to be competing and playing in what I do best and that's why I've decided to leave." Tomic blamed himself for his situation over the past year, saying

he was not focused.

Just two years on from attaining his highest world ranking of 17, Tomic is currently 168th, with Davis Cup captain Lleyton Hewitt saying Monday he was doubtful the Australian would ever play for the team again.

Tomic's exit from the show garnered little sympathy from other Australian professional sportsmen, who took to Twitter to slam his actions, including neglecting a charity he had supported which helps sick children.

"Ya got millions Tomic so while your (sic) busy counting it all when you get back home how's bout you donate 10k to your charity that have missed out on much needed \$\$\$," retired Australian rules footballer Dane Swan tweeted.

Veteran Australian NBA star Andrew Bogut wrote on Twitter that he believed Tomic's TV stint was "all orchestrated". "Spin off - The Biggest Loser has announced contestant Bernie! Can they help get his career back on track....??? The suspense!"

Retired football player Sarah Walsh took a different stance, stating on the social media website that Tomic "clearly needs help not ridicule". "Simply just a kid that's battling some form of depression and happens to be good at tennis," she wrote. — AFP