

Sports

Penguins extent winning streak, thump Hurricanes

Jets blank Blues 4-0; Blackhawks beat Sharks

RALEIGH: Phil Kessel scored a pair of second-period goals after the Pittsburgh Penguins already had the lead in a 6-1 victory against the Carolina Hurricanes on Friday night in Raleigh, N.C. Jake Guentzel, Olli Maatta, Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin also scored for the Penguins, who have a six-game winning streak. Kessel assisted on the game's first goal, so he had a three-point game. Guentzel, who assisted on both of Kessel's goals, and Malkin also each had three points. It continued a special week for the Kessel family: The Pittsburgh right winger's sister, Amanda Kessel, was one of the standouts for the US goal medal team in the Olympics. The Hurricanes have gone 0-3-1 across their last four games after they had moved into playoff position in the Eastern Conference.

Jets 4, Blues 0

Connor Hellebuyck had 34 saves en route to his sixth shutout of the season to help lead Winnipeg past host St. Louis. Hellebuyck, making his 10th straight start, also finished with his 32nd win of the season, second only to

Tampa Bay's Andrei Vasilevskiy, who has 35. It also was the 12th shutout of his career. Blake Wheeler and Kyle Connor each had a goal and an assist, Patrik Laine and Nic Petan scored goals and Mark Scheifele added a pair of assists for Winnipeg, which was playing its first road game since a 4-3 shootout loss at Anaheim on Jan. 25, a span of 28 days. The Jets remained in second place in the Central Division but closed to within two points of first-place Nashville.

Wild 4, Rangers 1

Eric Staal and Mikael Granlund registered two goals and assists apiece as Minnesota beat New York at Madison Square Garden. Staal recorded his 13th career game with at least four points and first since March 8, 2015, when he played for Carolina. Granlund tied a career high with his second career four-point game. For most of the game, Granlund had his third career hat trick. He was credited with Minnesota's second first-period goal until a scoring change with about a minute left gave the tally to Staal.



LAS VEGAS: Tomas Hyka #38 of the Vegas Golden Knights celebrates with teammates on the bench after he scored his first career NHL goal during the first period of a game against the Vancouver Canucks at T-Mobile Arena on February 23, 2018. — AFP

Blackhawks 3, Sharks 1

Goaltender Jean-Francois Berube made 42 saves to earn his first victory in more than a year, and host Chicago held off San Jose. Jan Rutta, Nick Schmaltz and Artem Anisimov each scored one goal apiece for the Blackhawks. Chicago won back-to-back games for the first time since January. Timo Meier scored the lone goal for the Sharks. San Jose lost its second game in as many nights.

Golden Knights 6, Canucks 3

William Karlsson scored two goals and Reilly Smith

had three assists as Vegas cruised past Vancouver in Las Vegas. Jonathan Marchessault had a goal and an assist and Tomas Hyka, Tomas Nosek and David Perron also scored goals for Vegas, which moved one point ahead of Eastern Conference-leading Tampa Bay for most points in the NHL. Marc-Andre Fleury finished with 30 saves for the Golden Knights, who improved to 24-5-2 at home this season. It was the 31st time this season that the Golden Knights scored at least four goals in a game, tying Tampa Bay for No 1 in the league. — Agencies

NHL results/standings

Minnesota 4, NY Rangers 1; Pittsburgh 6, Carolina 1; Winnipeg 4, St. Louis 0; Chicago 3, San Jose 1; Las Vegas 6, Vancouver 3.

Eastern Conference							Western Conference							
Atlantic Division							Central Division							
	W	L	OTL	GF	GA	PTS								
Tampa Bay	41	17	3	219	164	85	Nashville	37	14	9	192	155	83	
Boston	37	13	8	191	142	82	Winnipeg	36	16	9	203	161	81	
Toronto	38	20	5	209	175	81	Minnesota	34	20	7	185	172	75	
Florida	27	25	6	169	188	60	Dallas	35	22	4	181	159	74	
Detroit	24	26	10	159	180	58	St. Louis	34	24	4	173	160	72	
Montreal	23	29	8	154	189	54	Colorado	32	23	5	186	180	69	
Ottawa	21	29	10	163	211	52	Chicago	27	27	8	176	176	62	
Buffalo	18	32	11	146	200	47	Pacific Division							
Metropolitan Division							San Jose	33	21	8	180	173	74	
Pittsburgh	36	22	4	201	181	76	Anaheim	31	20	11	171	170	73	
Washington	34	20	7	189	183	75	Los Angeles	33	23	5	174	151	71	
Philadelphia	32	19	10	183	175	74	Calgary	31	22	9	177	184	71	
New Jersey	31	22	8	183	187	70	Edmonton	25	31	4	167	196	54	
Columbus	30	26	5	160	172	65	Vancouver	23	31	7	164	200	53	
NY Islanders	29	26	7	206	223	65	Arizona	17	33	10	145	202	44	
Carolina	27	24	10	163	186	64	Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L).							
NY Rangers	27	30	5	175	198	59								

KFH concludes Arabian Horse Festival



KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) concluded the Kuwait International Arabian Horse Festival 2018 organized by Bait Al Arab Kuwait Stud Show Arena as part of its continuing efforts to support the major events and forums held in Kuwait, especially sport-related events. The festival attracted huge number of visitors from the GCC

and other Arab Countries. Moreover, it included the Egyptian Horses championship Kuwait that took place amid huge participating. KFH was praised in recognition of its main sponsorship and keenness to participate in the national events and celebrations while sponsoring and supporting sport and the youth as part of its social responsibility.

List and Lovemark ahead in Florida; Woods struggles

FLORIDA: Luke List and Jamie Lovemark moved into a share of a one-stroke lead at a windy Honda Classic on Friday as Tiger Woods was left to rue a late lapse that left him four shots off the pace after he signed for a one-over 71. The leaders reached the halfway mark on three-under-par 137 with Woods in contention on a tightly packed leaderboard despite dropping three shots in two holes on his back nine at the PGA National in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. "Two bad swings and it cost me three shots," the 14-times major champion told Golf Channel after an errant tee shot led to a double-bogey five on the par-three 15th, which the American followed with a bogey five on the next hole.

However, the 42-year-old former world number one birdied the 17th and closed with a par to sit in a tie for 14th in his third tournament of 2018 as he continues his latest comeback following back surgery last year. "It's a strong test right now," said Woods, who also had two birdies and a bogey on the front nine to sign for a one-over-par 141 total after 36



FLORIDA: Tiger Woods plays a shot on the 18th hole during the second round of The Honda Classic at PGA National Resort and Spa on February 23, 2018. — AFP

holes in testing conditions, particularly on the greens. "It feels good," he said. "I feel solid. I feel I am making some good passes at the golf ball and I've got pretty good pace on the greens, except for that putt at 16."

Early starter List made five birdies in a four-under 66 to surge up the leaderboard with the low round of the day after he had opened with a one-over 71 on Thursday. "Only one bogey," List told reporters. "I'm really pleased the way I played. A bunch of

pars and kind of hang on." Fellow American Lovemark later shot a 69 for a share of the halfway lead. "I finally found a driver I like," said the American, who made three of his four birdies on the back nine. Overnight co-leader Webb Simpson was in a group of four one stroke behind the leading pair, the American shooting a 72 to join Briton Tommy Fleetwood (68), compatriot Russell Henley (70) and South African Rory Sabbatini (69) on two-under-par 138. — Reuters

Thai star Srisaket to shine in 2018

LOS ANGELES: Thai dynamo Srisaket Sor Rungvisai is ready to back up his spectacular 2017, starting with a defense of his World Boxing Council super flyweight world title against Mexico's Juan Francisco Estrada yesterday. Both fighters made weight on Friday for their world title showdown at the Forum in Los Angeles—former home of the Los Angeles Lakers. Srisaket, virtually unknown to US fight fans last year, shot to prominence with an upset of former pound-for-pound king Roman Gonzalez at Madison Square Garden last March. His majority decision win was tabbed the 2017 "Upset of the Year."

Some, however, believed Gonzalez deserved the decision. But Srisaket silenced doubters with a spectacular fourth-round knockout of Nicaragua's

Gonzalez in the rematch in September. Southpaw Srisaket knocked down "Chocolatito" twice in the final round, finishing him off with a right hook with 1:45 to go in the fourth. The performances brought plenty of notice, and his rags to ring riches story has prompted comparisons to Filipino icon Manny Pacquiao. Srisaket takes a record of 44-4-1 with 40 knockouts into the bout against Estrada, a former unified flyweight world champion who brings a record of 36-2 with 25 knockouts.

Estrada said he'll be looking for a knockout. "I am a fighter who goes from less to more and we will go looking for the knockout to leave no doubt and return with that belt," he said. "I am very motivated by this fight and very well prepared. I am excited to think about the WBC belt because it is a Mexican organization and I will not let this opportunity pass. He is a fighter that we have to be careful with." On the same card, International Boxing Federation flyweight world champion Donnie Nietes (40-1-4, 22 knockouts) defends against Juan Carlos Reveco (39-3, 19 knockouts). — AFP

No NHL at Olympics?

GANGNEUNG: The absence of NHL players at the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics was disappointing but "you don't need caviar every day," the International Ice Hockey Federation president said yesterday. Rene Fasel spoke on the eve of the men's final between Germany, never better than bronze in Olympic history, and the Olympic Athletes from Russia.

"Not having the NHL is still a disappointment, but in Germany nobody cares if the NHL is here or not," Fasel said. "Everybody can beat everybody in this competition." National Hockey League (NHL) officials decided not to shut down the season over money and injury issues, making these the first Games without the superstar players since 1994. A German-league all-star lineup stunned two-time defending champion Canada 4-3 in a semi-final Friday that excited as much as any NHL game.

"You don't need caviar every day," Fasel said. "I have to be honest, I miss the NHL here. But what can we do? We have to do our best to promote the game and Germany-Canada was all

about emotions." Even German coach Marco Sturm would like to see the NHL's top players competing for Olympic gold once more. "Everyone, the best players, should be in the Olympics," Sturm said. "All the NHL guys should be in the Olympics. That's just what the event is for and hopefully in the future they will be back on Olympic ice."

Fasel wants them back as well, but Olympic desires for more NHL spending on insurance and travel might have the league thinking twice about the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics—as much as the league wants to break into the China market. "Going to Beijing in 2022 will be another opportunity to promote the game in Asia," Fasel said. "We will then see about the possible participation of the NHL or not. I really hope in 2019, 2020, we can have some discussion and they can make a decision."

Fasel addressed the empty seats at games even though 80 percent of hockey tickets were sold. "This is a non-hockey country and I think the price was relatively expensive," he said. "In Sochi, we had a plan to fill the empty seats. They didn't have this concept here. "Not having the NHL? Maybe." Fasel also addressed Canadian complaints about having the women's gold medal game decided on a shootout. — AFP