

Sports

Buffalo Sabres top Sharks in overtime for 10th straight win

Brown's overtime goal wins it for Kings

BUFFALO: Jeff Skinner scored 1:41 into overtime as the Buffalo Sabres extended the NHL's longest winning streak to 10 games with a 3-2 victory over the visiting San Jose Sharks on Tuesday. Skinner tallied in the three-on-three overtime period when San Jose goalie Martin Jones came out and made a weak play on the puck. Skinner collected it and sent a backhander in for his team-leading 19th goal for the win. The Sabres have their first 10-game winning streak since the 2006-07 season. Buffalo last lost on Nov. 4 against the New York Rangers. The win was Buffalo's sixth consecutive at home and broke a four-game losing skid against San Jose. Rasmus Ristolainen and Nathan Beaulieu also scored for Buffalo, and Joe Pavelski scored twice for San Jose.

KINGS 2, CANUCKS 1 (OT)

Dustin Brown's goal 53 seconds into overtime gave Los Angeles a victory at Vancouver. Brown fired home a long Alec Martinez rebound into a gaping net as the Kings won their second consecutive game. Interim Los Angeles coach Willie Desjardins enjoyed success in his first game in Vancouver since being fired by the Canucks following the 2016-17 season. The Canucks lost for the ninth time in 10 games (1-7-2). Alex Iafallo scored in the second period for the Kings, and Markus Granlund responded for the Canucks with 3:43 left in regulation.

GOLDEN KNIGHTS 8, BLACKHAWKS 3

Cody Eakin and Shea Theodore each had two goals and an assist, and Alex Tuch added a goal and an assist as Vegas won at Chicago. The Golden Knights scored a franchise-record eight goals while cruising to their fourth straight victory. William Karlsson, Ryan Reaves and Daniel Carr also scored goals and Deryk Engelland had a career-high three assists for Vegas, which has outscored its past four opponents 19-5. Marc-Andre Fleury made 21 saves for his 13th win of the season for the Golden Knights to move into a tie with Toronto's Frederik Andersen for the NHL lead. Dylan Strome had a goal and an assist, and Gustav Forsling and Erik Gustafsson also scored goals for Chicago, which lost for the third time in four games.

HURRICANES 2, CANADIENS 1

Curtis McElhinney stopped 48 shots as Carolina held off host Montreal. McElhinney, playing for the fourth time in a five-game stretch, has a personal four-game winning streak. Victor Rask and Trevor van Riemsdyk scored for Carolina, which has won four of its last five games. Carey Price made 20 saves for

Montreal, which controlled play for much of the latter part of the game. Phillip Danault scored in the third period for the Canadiens, who are winless in their past five games (0-3-2).

PENGUINS 4, JETS 3

Zach Aston-Reese's third-period goal gave Pittsburgh its first and only lead in a win at Winnipeg. Sidney Crosby, Riley Sheahan and Derek Grant also scored for the Penguins, who are 3-0-2 in their past five games. Three times they erased one-goal deficits. Mark Scheifele scored twice, Brandon Tanev scored, and Wheeler and Nikolaj Ehlers each had two assists for the Jets, who are 1-3-0 in their past four.

SENATORS 4, FLYERS 3

Matt Duchene scored with 2:59 remaining in the third period to cap a three-goal rally, carrying visiting Ottawa past Philadelphia. Brady Tkachuk had two goals and an assist while Thomas Chabot added a goal for Ottawa. Mark Stone and Colin White contributed two assists each for the Senators, who snapped a four-game losing streak. Senators goaltender Mike McKenna stopped 34 shots. Jakub Voracek, Travis Konecny and Radko Gudas each scored one goal for the Flyers, who fell to 1-5-1 over their last seven games. Anthony Stolarz made 20 saves for the Flyers, who dismissed general manager Ron Hextall on Monday.

COYOTES 4, WILD 3

Josh Archibald scored his first two goals of the season, the second on a breakaway midway through the third period, and Arizona broke a four-game losing streak with a comeback victory over Minnesota in St. Paul, Minn. The Coyotes, who had only one shot on goal in the second period, scored three goals in the first nine minutes of the third period, two by Archibald and one by Michael Grabner, to overcome a 3-1 deficit. Lawson Crouse had a goal and an assist and Archibald also had his first assist of the season for the Coyotes, who had lost eight of 10. Zach Parise scored his fourth goal in the past five games and Jared Spurgeon had three assists for the Wild, who had a two-game winning streak broken. Charlie Coyle and Jason Zucker also had goals for the Wild.

AVALANCHE 3, PREDATORS 2

Tyson Jost scored the game-winning goal, and Nathan MacKinnon tallied twice as Colorado beat host Nashville for its fifth consecutive victory. Semyon Varlamov made 36 saves in the win as Colorado beat



CHICAGO: Erik Gustafsson #56 of the Chicago Blackhawks moves against Pierre-Edouard Bellemare #41 of the Vegas Golden Knights at the United Center on Tuesday in Chicago, Illinois. The Golden Knights defeated the Blackhawks 8-3. — AFP

Nashville for the first time in 12 regular-season meetings. The Avalanche are 7-0-1 in their past eight, while the Predators lost for just the second time in six games. With the score tied after 40 minutes, Jost cashed in on a power play at 5:07 of the third period, ripping a glove-side shot past Predators goalie Pekka Rinne to settle the see-saw affair.

OILERS 1, STARS 0 (OT)

Oscar Klefbom's first goal of the season was the winner, and Mikko Koskinen made 28 saves for his second shutout of the year as host Edmonton beat Dallas. Klefbom finished off a two-on-one rush at 2:42 of the extra period for the game-winning goal, his first in 26 games. Leon Draisaitl created the odd-man rush with

his speed and fed a cross-ice pass to Klefbom, who quickly buried the marker. The result gave new Oilers head coach Ken Hitchcock a win in his first home game on the job. Anton Khudobin stopped 30 shots for the Stars, who are on a 1-3-1 slide.

DUCKS 3, LIGHTNING 1

Ryan Miller made 34 saves to lead Anaheim to a win at Tampa Bay, which came in averaging a league-leading 3.79 goals a game. Nick Ritchie had a goal and an assist, Carter Rowney scored in his first game back after missing the past 20 with a lower-body injury, and Josh Manson also scored for the Ducks. Brayden Point scored for Tampa Bay, and Louis Domingue made 19 saves. — Reuters

Yasir targets Australian legend's record

DUBAI: Pakistan leg-spinner Yasir Shah does not know much about Clarrie Grimmett but is aware that he has a strong chance of shattering a record set by the Australian 82 years ago. Yasir tormented New Zealand on his way to a match haul of 14-184 to help Pakistan achieve a series-leveling win by an innings and 16 runs in the second Test in Dubai on Tuesday.

The 32-year-old now has 195 wickets in 32 Tests and needs just five more in the third and final Test starting in Abu Dhabi from Monday to become the quickest bowler to reach 200 Test wickets. In fact, he will take the record if he can pick up those wickets any time in his next three Tests as Grimmett—also a leg-spinner—took his 200th wicket in his 36th Test against South Africa in 1936.

Yasir admits the record is in his mind but knows little about the holder of it. "Grimmett? I don't know much about him," said Yasir. "He played so many years ago, but I know about the record because his name comes first

whenever I see the list.

"I want to beat that record." Since taking seven wickets on debut against Australia in 2014, Yasir has been a key figure in Pakistan's Test team. He took 12 wickets in that 2-0 series win over Australia in United Arab Emirates in 2014 and followed that with 15 against New Zealand in a 1-1 draw the same year.

That was followed by 24 wickets against Sri Lanka in 2015 and ten wickets in a match to beat England at Lord's a year later. He took 21 and 25 wickets respectively in series wins over the West Indies.

Yasir reached 100 wickets in 17 Tests, second only to Englishman George Lohmann who reached the target in 16 matches during a Test in Johannesburg in 1896. "I am very happy to have contributed to the team's wins," said Yasir. "That is my job and I realise that responsibility to take wickets and get my team more and more wins."

Yasir's figures in Dubai are the second best match return ever for Pakistan in Test cricket, bettered only by former captain and current prime minister Imran Khan who took 14-116 against Sri Lanka in Lahore in 1982.

"I have equalled Imran Khan and that's a big honour for me," said Yasir. "My name will come with his and that's great and I await his message." Yasir admitted the loss of his mother just days before the New Zealand



Yasir Shah

series had made him anxious.

"It was tough coming here," said Yasir. "I was very tense. You are nothing without your mother. When I used to go out for the match I would call her to pray for me to get five wickets and she would reply that 'why not 10 or 15, why just five?' "I would like to dedicate this feat to my mother." — AFP

Former team mates clash over Australia's non-aggression pact

SYDNEY: Michael Clarke and Simon Katich famously clashed physically in the dressing room when they were Test players and this week they have become embroiled in a verbal disagreement over Australia's commitment to be less aggressive on the pitch.

Clarke joined a chorus of former players who have criticised the new ethos propagated in the wake of March's ball-tampering scandal, saying Australia's chances of success would be compromised if their aggressive streak was tempered.

"You don't need to be best mates with everyone. Australian cricket, I think, needs to stop worrying about being liked and start worrying about being respected," former Australia captain Clarke told Macquarie Sports Radio.

"Play tough Australian cricket. Because whether we like it or not, that's in our blood. If you try and walk away from it, we might be the most liked team in the world, we're not going to win (anything). We won't win a game. Boys and girls want to win."

Katich, a former test opener, has been touted as a candidate to join the Cricket Australia (CA) board in the wake of a highly critical cultural review that forced the resignation of chairman David Peever. Among the findings of the Longstaff Review was that on-field abuse of opponents had been "normalised" and a culture of "winning without counting the cost" had been fostered in the Australian game.

Katich thought Clarke had missed the point. "What's been forgotten in all of this is we blatantly cheated and the reason we're at this point now, and what led us to this point, and we talk about the line that was talked about for so long," he told SEN radio.



Simon Katich (left) has hit back following Michael Clarke's outspoken thoughts on the current Aussie cricket team.

"The point is, we were caught for blatantly cheating and we have to rectify that as soon as possible to earn back the respect of the cricketing public in Australia and worldwide. We've been a disliked team for a number of years through that on-field behaviour and it obviously came to a head in Cape Town.

"They can still play the Australian way in terms of playing competitive and playing fairly, but not going over the top and going across the rules like they did in Cape Town." Captain Steve Smith and his vice captain David Warner were banned for a year, while batsman Cameron Bancroft was suspended for nine months by Cricket Australia for the attempts to tamper with the ball in a test against South Africa in Cape Town.

Tim Paine will lead the side into a four-test home series against India next week, having vowed to eradicate the verbal abuse, or sledging, under his captaincy. — Reuters

Eddings named to lead Australian cricket

SYDNEY: Australian cricket's embattled governing body named Earl Eddings to lead the organisation out of crisis yesterday, opting for a safe pair of hands already serving on the board. Cricket Australia said in a statement that it had bumped Eddings—a director of a risk-management company—from deputy and interim chairman to have the role full time.

"I am honoured to serve in this position and am committed to making cricket stronger and a game that we can all be proud of," Eddings said. Cricket Australia has been buffeted by a series of bad performances by the men's test side, after a ball tampering scandal saw the captain and vice captain stood down for cheating. Amid the fallout from the fiasco,

former chairman David Peever also quit under intense pressure. The sport's top body had been under some pressure to appoint a former Australian player.

But likely replacement ex-captain Mark Taylor recently quit the board, while CA director and ex-fast bowler Michael Kasprovic was overlooked. The board instead opted for "a well-regarded member of the team with a solid understanding of our history," said director Jacquie Hey.

"Earl's involvement over the past decade provides continuity in a time of change," she added. In March, top players were caught using sandpaper to alter the ball at a Test match in Cape Town.

Then-captain Steve Smith and his deputy David Warner were banned for 12 months, and batsman Cameron Bancroft for nine months over their roles in the incident. Coach Darren Lehmann quit soon after and then-chief executive James Sutherland stepped down last month.

A Cricket Australia commissioned report, found an "arrogant" and "controlling" culture within the organisation contributed to players cheating in the pursuit of victory. — AFP

Bayliss wants exemplary Stokes to avoid ban

LONDON: England coach Trevor Bayliss is hopeful that Ben Stokes' "exemplary" conduct since an altercation outside a nightclub last year can help the all-rounder avoid a ban ahead of the side's tour of the West Indies starting in January.

Stokes and batsman Alex Hales face a disciplinary hearing early next month after the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) had charged the pair with bringing the game into disrepute following the September 2017 incident in Bristol. "I hope he (Stokes) is available for our next game. I think he's learnt a

lesson since that time. The way he's conducted himself since he's come back into the fold has been exemplary," Bayliss told reporters.

"The hearing coming up hasn't affected him, I haven't heard it mentioned once around the changing room." The pair could face any of a range of penalties from a warning to the termination of their contracts.

Stokes, who was cleared of affray in August, played an important role with bat and ball as England completed their first 3-0 test series sweep in Sri Lanka on Monday. "You can throw the ball to him, you can put him in any situation with the bat, you can put him where the ball is coming in the field. For me, he's the first picked," Bayliss added.

"His averages may not be the greatest in each of his positions, but you add those three disciplines together, it adds up to one hell of a player." England take on West Indies in three tests, five one-day internationals and three Twenty20 internationals from January to March. — Reuters