

Sports

Cole scores as Islanders top Senators, stretch winning streak to 10 games

Maple Leafs stun Kings on third-period goals

NEW YORK: Cole Bardreau scored his first NHL goal — on a penalty shot — to give the red-hot New York Islanders the lead for good Tuesday night, when the Islanders ran their winning streak to 10 games with a 4-1 victory over the visiting Ottawa Senators. Cal Clutterbuck, Casey Cizikas and Josh Bailey also scored for the Islanders, whose winning streak is the second-longest in team history behind only a 15-game run during the 1981-82 season, when New York won the third of four straight Stanley Cups. It is also the longest winning streak in the NHL since the Tampa Bay Lightning won 10 in a row from Feb. 9-27, 2019. Islanders goalie Thomas Greiss recorded 27 saves. Jean-Gabriel Pageau scored for the Senators, who have alternated losses with wins over the last seven games. Ottawa's Craig Anderson made 28 saves.

CANADIENS 5, BRUINS 4

Ben Chiarot scored the tiebreaking goal in the third period as host Montreal snapped Boston's six-game winning streak. Victor Mete scored twice, Tomas Tatar posted a goal and an assist, and Paul Byron also tallied for the Canadiens, who won for the fourth time in five games. Jeff Petry recorded two assists, Chiarot added an assist for a two-point night, and Canadiens goalie Carey Price made 21 saves. Boston's David Pastrnak extended his career-best point streak to 13 games with his NHL-leading 15th goal. Torey Krug notched an assist on the goal for his 300th career point. Connor Clifton, Anders Bjork and Sean Kuraly scored for the Bruins, and Rask (26 saves) fell to 7-1-1.

SHARKS 4, BLACKHAWKS 2

Patrick Marleau scored a goal while becoming the sixth player in NHL history to play in 800 consecutive games and Timo Meier and Tomas Hertl both had a goal and an assist to lead host San Jose past Chicago. Marleau joined Doug Jarvis (964), Garry Unger (914), Steve Larmer (884), Andrew Cogliano (830) and Keith Yandle (811) as the only players in NHL history to play in 800 consecutive games.

India's Pant currently 'one-trick pony': Jones

MUMBAI: India batsman Rishabh Pant needs to improve his off-side game if he wants to graduate from being a one-trick pony, former Australia batsman Dean Jones has told Reuters. The young stumper-batsman is perceived as Mahendra Singh Dhoni's natural successor in limited overs cricket for India when the former captain eventually hangs up his gloves.

But the 22-year-old has received lots of flak lately from India's coaching staff, pundits and the media after losing his wicket through loose shots and his position in the India test side has been taken by fit-again Wriddhiman Saha. "He's still a young kid, still learning his craft, still doesn't know what's going on a little bit," Jones, who now works as a television media pundit, said in an interview. "He needs to work more on his strokeplay through the offside. At the moment, he's just a bit of a one-trick pony."

"We know he's got an off-side game, he's just got to work more. It wouldn't take long to change but he needs to be very specific in his training programme right now," Jones, an expert for Star Sports' Select Dugout, cited the example of South Africa stumper-batsman Quinton de Kock, who top-scored for them in the recent Twenty20

series in India.

"Quinton de Kock changed his game, that was very evident in the last T20 series against India," said Jones, who played 52 tests and 164 one-day internationals for Australia. "Everyone thought he struggled to hit the ball between point and mid-off and they bowled there. But through lots of net practice and good technique work, he hit a lot of boundaries. "And all of a sudden they couldn't line him up properly because he had other options to score."

Pant played 11 Tests in the absence of the injured Saha and used his chances well, hitting a century in an Oval Test against England last year while smashing an unbeaten 159 versus Australia in Sydney in January.

His six-hitting ability makes him a limited-overs asset, but India head coach Ravi Shastri and batting coach Vikram Rahour have said in recent interviews that the left-hander's shot selection has occasionally let the team down.

Pant played within himself and seemed to curb his natural instincts in his 26-ball knock of 27 during India's loss to Bangladesh in the first T20 in Delhi on Sunday. "When you are going through a bad phase you start doubting your strokeplay," Jones said. "Ultimately you've got to go with the gut feel when you play T20 cricket. And at the moment I think he's second guessing his talents. "We want him to be a 360 degree style player but at the moment he feels to me that he's only 180. He only scores down the ground or on the leg side and once you get a player doing that, you can control them and shut them down."

Guardiola says he did not mean to brand Mane a diver

LONDON: Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola said on Tuesday that he had no intention of branding Liverpool's Sadio Mane a diver, after comments to that effect at the weekend that angered Reds manager Jurgen Klopp.

The two teams meet in a top-of-the-table clash on Sunday, with league leaders Liverpool six points ahead of City. Guardiola said last weekend that Mane dived sometimes, after the forward was booked in the first half against Aston Villa for simulation. Klopp responded by taking a dig at City's "tactical fouling".

Guardiola said on Tuesday that his comments had been taken out of context. "What Liverpool has done this season and last season many times is

because they have this incredible quality to fight until the end... Sometimes at 94 minutes against Leicester (City) with the penalty (in the 2-1 win) it was like 'wow,'" he told reporters ahead of City's Champions League group stage match at Atlanta.

"But it was far from my intention to say that Sadio Mane is that type of player. Even with that, the ref and the VAR said penalty. Maybe I was wrong to think it wasn't a penalty." "Jurgen says he knows Sadio better than me," Guardiola added. "With Jurgen he tries to be positive, when he says it's not like this."

City have a perfect record in the Champions League with three wins in Group C and they face an Atlanta side that have lost all

Brandon Saad and Duncan Keith scored goals for Chicago, which wrapped up its four-game road trip with a 1-2-1 record. Robin Lehner finished with 28 saves.

GOLDEN KNIGHTS 2, BLUE JACKETS 1

Reilly Smith scored two goals and Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 29 shots for his league-leading ninth victory as visiting Vegas snapped a two-game losing streak with a win at Columbus. It was the 15th career two-goal game for Smith, who has now scored against every team in the National Hockey League. William Karlsson added two assists to extend his points streak to five games and also reach 200 career points. Boone Jenner scored for Columbus, which had its winless streak extended to five games (0-4-1). Joonas Korpisalo finished with 23 saves as the Blue Jackets fell to 0-7-3 when not scoring the game's first goal.

FLYERS 4, HURRICANES 1

Sean Couturier and Claude Giroux each had a goal and an assist as Philadelphia cruised past Carolina to improve to 5-1-1 at home in the early season. Travis Konecny and Joel Farabee each had one goal while Matt Niskanen registered two assists for the victorious Flyers, who got 33 saves from goaltender Carter Hart. Lucas Wallmark scored the lone goal for the Hurricanes, who dropped their second in a row immediately following a three-game winning streak. Hurricanes goaltender Petr Mrazek stopped 24 shots.

STARS 4, AVALANCHE 1

Radek Faksa scored two goals and red-hot Dallas extended its winning streak to four with an easy win over visiting Colorado. With a 7-1-0 record in their past eight games, the Stars have recovered from an ugly 1-7-1 start to the season. Two of the wins in Dallas' current four-game run have come against Colorado in the last five days. The Avalanche are on the opposite track from their Central Division rivals. Colorado is now winless in



NEW YORK: Thomas Greiss #1 of the New York Islanders makes a save against the Ottawa Senators during their game at Barclays Center in New York City. — AFP

five games (0-4-1) after posting an 8-1-1 record over its first 10 outings.

FLAMES 4, COYOTES 3 (OT)

Matthew Tkachuk scored twice, including the game winner, and added an assist as Calgary erased a late two-goal deficit and beat Arizona at home. With 33.9 seconds remaining in overtime, Tkachuk appeared poised to send a pass across the crease, but instead ripped home a five-hole shot for the winning tally. Flames goalie David Rittich stopped 34 shots, including five in overtime, in the comeback victory. Goalie Antti Raanta stopped 39 shots for the Coyotes, who were on

the verge of sweeping Alberta after beating the Edmonton Oilers in overtime the night before.

MAPLE LEAFS 3, KINGS 1

Auston Matthews and William Nylander scored goals 30 seconds apart in the third period and Toronto defeated visiting Los Angeles. Matthews jammed in his 12th goal of the season from the edge of the crease at 12:36 of the third period to snap a tie. Nylander and Andreas Johnsson earned the assists. Nylander took advantage of a Kings turnover, worked a give-and-go with Matthews and scored his fourth goal of the season on the backhand at 13:06. — Reuters



Rishabh Pant

India's quest for the perfect number four batsman dominated the headlines in the lead-up to this year's 50-over World Cup in England, where they went out in the semi-finals to New Zealand, and they continue to fret over the position in T20s too.

With India boasting a top three of Rohit Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan and talisman Virat Kohli, Jones

thinks the number four batsman should be one who can hold the innings together when the side suffer an early loss of wickets. "He's a very important player, the number four has to come in at 10-2 or 100-2," he said. "(India) probably didn't have a glue player — to be able to work singles, still hit boundaries and be able to put on a good score — coming in at 10-2. — Reuters

T20 right format to groom young stars: Rohit

RAJKOT: The Twenty20 format can be used to groom young talent and prepare them for one-dayers and Tests while not distracting players from winning games, stand-in India skipper Rohit Sharma said yesterday.

Sharma, who is captaining the side in the second T20 against Bangladesh in Rajkot today with Virat Kohli rested for the series, is leading a young Indian side with several veterans rested. The hosts need to win to keep the three-match series alive after going down in the opening game by seven wickets.

"We want to try a lot of players to make them ready for the other formats," Sharma told a press conference. "Because this is the format where these

individuals can come out and express themselves so that they are ready for ODI and Test cricket."

Sharma has been one of India's brightest stars in limited-overs cricket, but also proved his mettle in the Test format after making a successful debut as opener in during his team's 3-0 sweep of South Africa. Nicknamed "hitman" for his attacking style of play, Sharma — who made his Test debut in 2013, six years after his first ODI match — scored 529 runs with two centuries and a double ton in the three matches.

"We have seen a lot of players who have emerged from this format," Sharma said, adding players would learn valuable lessons even in defeat. "But having said that, winning games is the first priority," he said.

Paceman Khaleel Ahmed and all-rounder Shivam Dube — who made his debut in Delhi on Sunday — are just some of the players being trialled by the team's management with an eye on the T20 World Cup in Australia next year.

Sharma, 32, said the hosts could adopt a "different" approach with the bat and ball in the second match if they get a good pitch. — AFP

Australia's women footballers get landmark equal pay deal

SYDNEY: Women footballers playing for Australia's national team will earn the same as their male counterparts under a deal unveiled yesterday and hailed as landmark for gender equality in sport. Under a new centralised contract system announced by Football Federation Australia (FFA), Matildas stars such as Sam Kerr and Ellie Carpenter will be paid an equal amount as big-name Socceroos like Aaron Mooy and Mat Ryan.

They will also be afforded business class flights to international fixtures and tournaments, like the men. The breakthrough will be a big boost for America's women footballers, who have filed an equal pay lawsuit against the US Soccer Federation due to be heard in May next year.

The United States triumphed at the Women's World Cup in France this year with chants of "equal pay" ringing out after they defeated the Netherlands in the final. "Football is the game for everyone, and this new collective bargaining agreement is another huge step toward ensuring that we live the values of equality, inclusivity and opportunity," said FFA chairman Chris Nikou.

Under the four-year deal, through the next World Cup cycles, the Socceroos and Matildas will receive a 24 percent share of national team revenues, rising by one percent each year. In other words, the better they do, the more they get paid.

FFA chief David Gallop said it was the "Socceroos' choice to share the revenue", and national captain Mark Milligan said women were getting "what they deserve". "It's been clear for everybody how much

the women's game has grown over the past few years and how well our Matildas have been doing," he said, adding that the success of the World Cup in France, where the Matildas were knocked out on penalties in the last 16, underscored this.

"It really drove home for me in these negotiations that they got what they deserved. Going forward, what a value they are to the Australian football community." From the national revenues, the players have agreed to plough five percent back into Australian youth national teams, guaranteeing a minimum level of investment for future generations.

There has also been an increase from 30 to 40 percent in players' share of prize money earned on qualifying for a World Cup. Matildas midfielder Elise Kellond-Knight said the deal showed "respect" towards women.

"As a female footballer, it's kind of what we always dreamed of," she said. It follows a more general deal struck earlier this year that will see all professional female footballers in Australia receive the same minimum wage as their male counterparts.

Professional Footballers Australia chief John Didulica called the agreement "unique" in world football. "We believe it sets the model for where all federations and players — male and female — can take the game to unlock the incredible social and commercial opportunity that, in particular, women's football presents," he said. Australia has emerged as a champion for equality in the sports arena with netballers and women cricketers also winning better pay deals in recent years. — AFP



Pep Guardiola

their games so far. With a five-point lead over Dinamo Zagreb and Shakhtar Donetsk, a win for City would guarantee progress to the knockout stages. Guardiola said he would pick a strong squad to wrap up qualification.

"I'm wanting to qualify as

soon as possible, if not tomorrow then in one of the others," the Spaniard said. "I'm not thinking of rotating my squad. I go game by game, (we) will try to win tomorrow... But if not we have Shakhtar and Zagreb and we will see then." — Reuters