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All Blacks coach Steve Hansen

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test against youth kings Ajax



Jackets edge Leafs on OT penalty

Avalanche fall to Blues as Rantanen exits



TORONTO: Ryan Murray #27 of the Columbus Blue Jackets looks to get a puck at Frederik Andersen #31 of the Toronto Maple Leafs during an NHL game at Scotiabank Arena in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. — AFP

TORONTO: Gustav Nyquist scored on a penalty shot at 1:57 of overtime, and the visiting Columbus Blue Jackets defeated the Toronto Maple Leafs on Monday. The penalty shot was awarded after Toronto's Mitch Marner hooked Nyquist on a breakaway. Nyquist responded by scoring his second goal of the season. Riley Nash, Pierre-Luc Dubois and Alexander Wennberg also scored for Columbus. Nick Foligno had two assists. It was the seventh straight game decided by one goal for the Blue Jackets, who improved to 2-2 in overtime this season. They lost in overtime Friday and Saturday. Auston Matthews had a goal and an assist for the Maple Leafs while Kasperii Kapanen and William Nylander added a goal each.

Jake Muzzin and Andreas Johnsson had two assists apiece.

FLYERS 6, GOLDEN KNIGHTS 2
Michael Raffl scored two goals and added one assist as host Philadelphia ended a four-game losing streak by trouncing Vegas. Oskar Lindblom and Travis Konecny each scored one goal and added one assist, and Kevin Hayes and Matt Niskanen added a goal apiece for the Flyers, who scored the game's first five goals. Flyers goaltender Brian Elliott stopped 33 shots, while Golden Knights counterpart Oscar Danks struggled despite making 31 saves. Jonathan Marchessault and Reilly Smith scored the goals for Vegas, which had won four of five entering this game.

BLUES 3, AVALANCHE 1
Vladimir Tarasenko scored a goal and set up two others as host St. Louis handed Colorado its first regulation loss of the season. The defeat could prove costly for the Avalanche. Top-line winger Mikko Rantanen exited the game with a left leg injury in the second period, and he needed help getting back to the Colorado dressing room. Brayden Schenn and David Perron also scored for the Blues, who snapped a four-game losing streak. Goaltender Jordan Binnington stopped 17 of 18 shots. Nathan MacKinnon scored for the Avalanche, extending his season-opening scoring streak to nine games (five goals, seven assists).

STARS 2, SENATORS 1
Joe Pavelski scored a rare power-play goal, and backup goaltender Anton Khudobin was solid as Dallas earned its first home win of the season at Ottawa's expense. Radek Faksa also scored for the Stars, who outshot Ottawa 43-20 to improve to 3-7-1 and win back-to-back games for the first time this season. They were 0-2-1 at home before finally breaking through one night after several players, including stars Tyler Seguin and Ben Bishop, sustained damage to their homes from a tornado that swept through the north Dallas area. With Bishop not in the lineup, Khudobin, who had yielded 10 goals while losing his first three starts of 2019-20, needed to make only 19 saves. He improved to 8-0-1 in his career against Ottawa. — Reuters

Rapinoe named but Modric, Neymar miss out on Ballon D'Or shortlist

PARIS: While Megan Rapinoe is the leading candidate for the second ever women's Ballon D'Or, the holder of the men's award, Luka Modric, and the world's most expensive player Neymar missed out as France Football unveiled nominees in four categories on Monday.

Modric, fresh from guiding Croatia to a World Cup final, broke the 11-year Cristiano Ronaldo-Lionel Messi, who are both included, stranglehold on the men's award last year.

Paris Saint-Germain's Neymar, who cost the French club 222 million euros (\$247 million) in 2017, failed to make the 30-man shortlist after a year overshadowed by injury, suspension and controversy for both club and country.

Messi has just collected the FIFA Best award, as did Rapinoe, which split from the Ballon D'Or in 2016. Rapinoe dominated the Women's World Cup, on and off the field, in the summer. She was joint top scorer and was voted player of the tournament as she led the United States to victory in France in July.

The 34-year-old Reign FC playmaker, already a campaigner for LGBT rights and gender equality, made headlines during the tournament by publicly taking on US President Donald Trump.

Last year, Norwegian Ada Hegerberg was the first women's winner. The Lyon forward did not play in the World Cup but is among the 20 nominees as are stars who were present at the competition, such as Australia striker Sam Kerr, England's Lucy Bronze

and France captain Amandine Henry.

Virgil Van Dijk, 28, who has had an impressive six months with Liverpool lifting the Champions League, could become a rare defensive winner of the men's award. Fabio Cannavaro was the last defender to win in 2006, and only the fourth since the award began in 1956.

Another nominee, Kylian Mbappe, the top goal scorer in Ligue 1 last season, would represent a genuine change of the guard. The Paris Saint-Germain striker is ineligible to defend his Kopa trophy for the best player under 21 last year as he celebrates his 21st birthday on December 20.

This year also sees the introduction of the Yashin trophy, named after the only goalkeeper to win the Ballon D'Or, Lev Yashin of the Soviet Union, to give that ignored minority a chance to get their hands on a prize of their own. The award winners will be unveiled on December 2 during a ceremony in Paris after a voting process including journalists from 180 different countries. — AFP

Asian football final moved from North Korea after blacked-out match

KUALA LUMPUR: The final of an Asian club tournament has been moved from Pyongyang to Shanghai, football officials said yesterday, a week after North and South Korea played out a surreal World Cup qualifier in an empty stadium. The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said it had been "compelled" to shift the November 2 AFC Cup match between North Korea's 4.25 SC and Al Ahed from Lebanon to a "neutral venue" due to logistical and other issues.

Its statement did not mention the inter-Korean showdown in Pyongyang but said that commercial partners had warned of challenges in broadcasting the highly anticipated final of Asia's second-tier continental competition. Last week's match — a historic encounter between two countries still technically at war — took place with no live broadcast and no foreign media in attendance, and with FIFA president Gianni Infantino one of just a handful of spectators.

Infantino said he was "disappointed" after attending the match and "surprised" by the absence of fans and lack of media access.

Tottenham Hotspur star Son Heung-min described the game, which ended 0-0, as "very aggressive" and one South Korean official likened it to warfare.

Last week's debacle raised doubts over the prospects for further North-South sporting co-operation, once a driver of nuclear diplomacy.

The South's team had expected large crowds and until the last minute had no idea that even North Korean spectators would be absent. — AFP