

Sports

Boston Bruins top Rangers with Patrice Bergeron's hat trick

Islanders defeat Flyers for seventh straight win

NEW YORK: Patrice Bergeron netted a hat trick, and Brad Marchand added two goals and three assists as the Boston Bruins won 7-4 on Sunday in the New York Rangers' 2,000th regular-season NHL game at the current Madison Square Garden, which opened in 1968. David Pastrnak had a five-game goal streak snapped but contributed five assists as Boston's top line accounted for 13 points. Charlie Coyle and Zdeno Chara also had goals for the Bruins, who have at least a point in seven straight games (5-0-2). Goaltender Jaroslav Halak made 25 saves. Micheal Haley, Pavel Buchnevich, Chris Kreider and Brady Skjei scored for the Rangers, who dropped to 1-5-1 in their last seven. Goalie Henrik Lundqvist stopped 27 shots before being relieved with New York trailing 4-1 after two periods. The Bruins were coming off an emotional 3-0 victory Saturday at home against St. Louis, the team that defeated them in Game 7 of the Stanley Cup Final last spring. After trailing 1-0 through the first period, Boston came out strong in the second with two goals in the opening 1:08 and two more later in the period while outshooting New York 21-5 in the frame.

ISLANDERS 5, FLYERS 3

Anders Lee had a goal and an assist, and five different New York skaters scored in a win over Philadelphia in Uniondale, N.Y., stretching the Isles' winning streak to seven. Mathew Barzal, Derick Brassard, Ross Johnston and Ryan Pulock each contributed a goal for the hot Islanders, who set a season-high for goals scored. New York started the season 1-3-0 but hasn't lost since, matching the franchise's longest single-season winning streak since 1990. Islanders goaltender Semyon Varlamov made 28 saves. Jakub Voracek, Travis Konecny and Claude

Giroux scored a goal apiece for the Flyers, who had their three-game winning streak snapped.

PANTHERS 6, OILERS 2

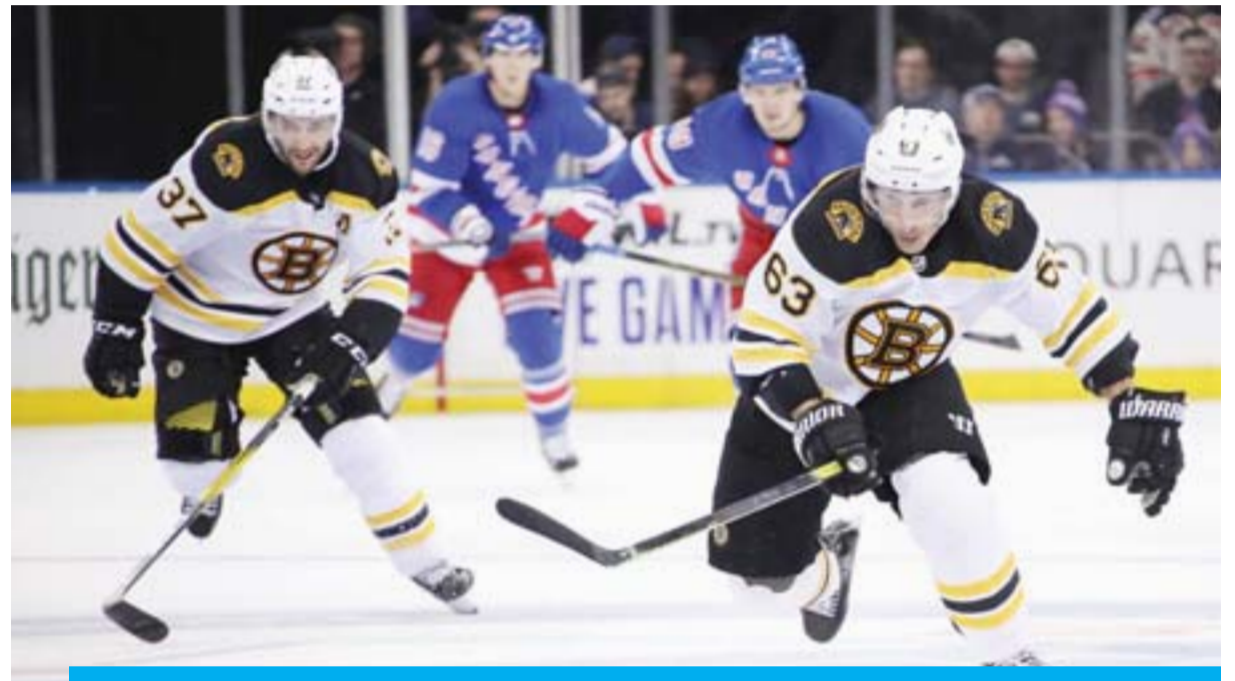
Florida scored on its first three shots of the second period and recorded at least one point for the eighth straight game with an easy win in Edmonton. Aaron Ekblad, Brian Boyle and Noel Acciari netted markers in a span of 125 seconds near the start of the second period for a 3-0 lead for the Panthers, who last failed to get a point in a 6-3 loss to Carolina on Oct. 8. Leon Draisaitl contributed a goal and an assist, and James Neal also scored for Edmonton, which lost for the first time at home after opening with five wins.

BLUES 5, RED WINGS 4 (OT)

David Perron scored at 1:28 of overtime as St. Louis Blues stormed back after blowing a two-goal lead to hand host Detroit its eighth consecutive loss. Ryan O'Reilly had two goals and two assists to lead the Blues. Schemm and Zach Sanford also scored for St. Louis, while Jordan Binnington made 29 saves. Tyler Bertuzzi and Dylan Larkin each had a goal and an assist for Detroit. Filip Hronek and Valtteri Filppula also scored. With the Blues leading 3-1 after two periods, Detroit scored three times before the 12-minute mark in the third to take a lead. O'Reilly tied the game at 15:42 to force the extra period.

BLACKHAWKS 5, KINGS 1

Dylan Strome tallied two goals and an assist, and Chicago pulled away for a win over visiting Los Angeles. Alex DeBrincat also enjoyed a three-point night with a goal and two assists for the Blackhawks, who snapped a four-game losing streak. David Kampf and Drake Caggiula scored one goal apiece for



NEW YORK: Brad Marchand #63 of the Boston Bruins skates against the New York Rangers at Madison Square Garden in New York City. The Bruins defeated the Rangers 7-4. — AFP

Chicago. Sean Walker scored the lone goal for Los Angeles, which has dropped three in a row and six of its past eight games.

SENATORS 5, SHARKS 2

Nick Paul had two goals and an assist for the first multi-point game of his NHL career in his 62nd game as host Ottawa beat San Jose. Brady Tkachuk finished

with a goal and two assists. Connor Brown had a goal and an assist, Anthony Duclair also scored, and Craig Anderson made 34 saves for the Senators. Evander Kane and Kevin Labanc scored, Brent Burns had two assists and Aaron Dell made 18 saves on 22 shots for the Sharks before he was replaced by Martin Jones at the start of the third period. Jones finished with seven saves on eight shots. —Reuters

Final competition in Asian bowling championship for both gender



By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: The gold medals of the total points for men and women of the 25th Asian Tenpin Bowling Championship will be distributed today at the Kuwait Bowling Center in Salmiya.

The previous gold medal of the same event was won by Hong Kong's Michael Mak in 2016 during the Hong Kong championship while South Korean Jung Dawun won the women's gold at the same championship. There will also be the first round of the final competition which is the Masters for both gender.

UAE team coach former world champion Mika Koivuniemi said he is impressed with Kuwait bowling center adding that it is among the best in the world if not the best. He added that he visited more than 70 countries as a professional during which he saw

many tournaments and Kuwait's is the best and can host the best and strongest championships in the world.

He said the UAE team is going through major changes at the players' level and is not as strong as it used to be adding "we need luck and surprise to win a medal". He said South Korea and Malaysia are considered the best and closer to get the medals. Egypt's manager Dr Mohammad Al-Kurdy said the championship is among the strongest in the world as far as level and competitions are concerned. He said the success elements came together through the availability of a facility of international standards as well as accurate organization and finally the scores that are being recorded by players. Al-Kurdy thanked President of International and Asian Bowling federations Sheikh Talal Al-Mohammad for inviting the Egyptian team.



Gatland to leave Wales in credit, targets Boks with Lions

TOKYO: Warren Gatland will bow out from his 12-year stint as Wales coach having earned the respect of the sport's powerhouses, but never reaching a World Cup final and with just one more chance to notch up a win over his native New Zealand. Wales went down 19-16 to South Africa in Sunday's Rugby World Cup semi-final in Yokohama, leaving them a third-place play-off with the All Blacks, who were beaten 19-7 by England on Saturday.

"The biggest thing I am proud of is that we have earned respect from the rest of the world in terms of what we have achieved in the last 12 years. I am not sure it was there before that," said the 56-year-old Gatland.

"World rankings, where we were at

(10th), what we have achieved in terms of Six Nations and Grand Slams." Gatland added of Friday's match: "It's my last game in charge of Wales and it will be monumental. I would love to beat the All Blacks. That is one I have not achieved."

Regardless of Friday's result, Gatland will end his time with Wales as one of the most highly respected coaches in world rugby, having led the Welsh to four Six Nations titles since taking over in 2007.

Appointed as the 20th Welsh national coach in November 2007, he could hardly have had a better start, leading Wales to the 2008 Six Nations championship title and the nation's 10th Grand Slam. The Kiwi also oversaw the British and Irish Lions' series victory in Australia in 2013 and the drawn series against New Zealand in 2017, but has come in for criticism for his poor record against southern hemisphere teams. As a player, the former hooker featured in 17 non-international matches for New Zealand, but never won an international cap. He racked up a record 140 appearances for Waikato before retiring in 1995.

He first touched down in Europe as player/coach for Irish side Galwegians, opting to stay on after the 1989 New Zealand tour. In 1996, he took over at unfashionable Irish province Connacht and succeeded Brian Ashton in 1998 as coach of Ireland, with whom he had a record of 18 wins, one draw and 19 losses. From Ireland, Gatland joined Wasps, winning a hat-trick of Premiership titles in 2003, 2004 and 2005, the European Challenge Cup in 2003 and European Cup in 2004.

Returning home, he won the 2006 Air New Zealand Cup title with Waikato's provincial side before joining the Waikato Chiefs Super 14 team and then moving to Wales.

Not only was there a Grand Slam in 2008, but a second in 2012, a Six Nations title in 2013, and a third championship clean sweep last season.

Cynics in Wales, however, will point at Gatland's poor record against the southern hemisphere trio of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, although that has slowly changed.

While Wales have never beaten the All Blacks in his reign, they have notched up four victories over the Springboks

and three over the Wallabies. The team's fourth place in the 2011 World Cup came after just one victory over a major power, Ireland, in the quarter-finals.

The 2015 World Cup saw Wales dramatically beat hosts England in pool play but go down to South Africa in the quarter-finals. But critics aside, there is no doubt Gatland has transformed the Welsh XV into viable contenders in Europe with a tight-knit group of players based around some individual excellence.

In 2021, Gatland, in his reprised guise of Lions coach, will likely come up once more again Rassic Erasmus, the Springboks director of rugby who has stepped into the head coach role in the lead-up to this World Cup.

"Warren is an absolute legend of the game. You very seldom see him in a mouth fight and mudslinging before Test matches," said Erasmus. "I've got a lot of respect for him as a person." Erasmus added: "I will see Gatland in the future. We will definitely compete again, and it is always a pleasure competing with him because he is a gentleman on and off the field, and he deserves all the credit that goes his way." — AFP

England want all bases covered against Springboks

TOKYO: England hope to have all bases covered should "cunning" South Africa coach Rassie Erasmus try to spring a tactical surprise in the World Cup final. While England won through to Saturday's showpiece match in Yokohama with a dynamic 19-7 win over New Zealand that ended the All Blacks' eight-year reign as world champions, South Africa ground out a 19-16 semi-final victory over Wales in a turgid set-piece contest dominated by box-kicks.

Nevertheless Jones, who together with England defence coach John Mitchell was among a crowd that saw the Springboks edge out Wales on Sunday, said: "They won a tough semi-final, and when you are in the final of a World Cup you have done a lot of things right."

"They are a massively aggressive physical forward pack, they probably played their stronger team in the second half as opposed to the first. They are going to be a difficult side to beat."

Wales were drawn into a kicking contest but if England can replicate the high-tempo yet physical game that stunned the All Blacks they will pose problems for the Springboks.

"We are going to enjoy the preparations this week, getting ourselves right," said Jones, the coach of his native Australia when England beat the Wallabies in the 2003 World Cup final.

"We know a couple of areas that we think we can expose in them and we'll make sure we are well-prepared in those areas," he added. "Rassic is a cunning coach, a good coach and has done a great job with the Springboks. We're prepared for the unexpected."

Jones highlighted the skills of South Africa half-backs Faf de Klerk and Handre Pollard as proof of the variety within the Springboks' game. "They can play in different ways. You saw Faf de Klerk do 15-20 box-kicks in the game but we know Pollard is an excellent kicker."

"The way he goal-kicked was fantastic," said Jones of Pollard's 14-point haul, which included four penalty goals and a conversion. "He was smooth, nice touch on the ball and that is a wonderful advantage for them."

But asked during a news conference on Monday if he had taken many notes while watching the match, Jones reverted to typical wise-cracking form. "I actually forgot my pen last night so I had to go for the high technology, the iPad, which I'm not that flash on. So there wasn't too many notes there."

Saturday's match is a repeat of the 2007 World Cup final when Jones was a consultant to the Springbok side that beat England 15-6 in Paris. And the England coach said he expected South Africa to utilise their traditional forward strength in the climax of this edition.

"We know they can play differently and we're aware of that, but we also know that they are going to come through the front door. There are not many Springbok teams that don't come through the front door. So we've got to be ready at the front door and have enough cover at the back door too." — AFP