

Sports

Daniel Jones rallies Giants past Buccaneers in first career start

Watson helps Texans rally past Chargers

TAMPA BAY: Rookie quarterback Daniel Jones led the Saquon Barkley-less New York Giants on a game-winning drive in the final two minutes in his first career start to defeat the host Tampa Bay Buccaneers 32-31 on Sunday. Matt Gay missed a 34-yard field goal as time expired to seal the victory for New York (1-2). Gay had made four previous field goals but had missed two extra points, one of which was blocked. Jones completed 23 of 36 passes for 336 yards and two touchdowns, plus two scores on the ground. He was 5 of 7 on the go-ahead drive that covered 75 yards and ended with his 7-yard rushing score with 1:16 remaining to put the Giants up for the first time all day. Jones was the team's leading rusher with 28 yards. Barkley, who hurt his ankle in the second quarter when tackled awkwardly by safety Mike Edwards, had to be helped off the field. The running back — who had eight carries for 10 yards — was later seen on the sidelines with a walking boot and using crutches.

CHIEFS 33, RAVENS 28

Patrick Mahomes passed for 374 yards and three touchdowns as Kansas City won its home opener by outlasting Baltimore. The 300-yard passing performance was the 13th for Mahomes in 20 career starts. Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson completed 22 of 43 passes for 267 yards and rushed for a 9-yard touchdown with 2:01 remaining, but his two-point rush failed. A 14-yard pass to LeSean McCoy with 2:07 left in the third quarter resulted in the Chiefs' last touchdown as Mahomes went 27 of 37. Tight end Travis Kelce topped the Chiefs with seven receptions, while Darrel Williams had 62 of the team's 140 rushing yards.

PATRIOTS 30, JETS 14

Quarterback Tom Brady threw for 306 yards and two touchdowns while passing Drew Brees for second place in career touchdown passes, and New England continued its early-season roll with a victory over New York in Foxborough, Mass. Brady was 28-of-42 passing and threw first-half touchdown passes to Phillip Dorsett and Julian Edelman, giving him 524 career touchdown passes, two more than Brees in league history and trailing only Peyton Manning (539). Brees is expected to miss another five weeks or more with a thumb injury. Sony Michel and Rex Burkhead had rushing touchdowns for the Patriots, who threatened an NFL record for fewest points allowed in the first three games of the season before Jamal Adams intercepted a Jarrett Stidham pass and went 61 yards for a touchdown with 6:23 remaining.

COWBOYS 31, DOLPHINS 6

Dak Prescott passed for 246 yards and two touchdowns and ran for a third TD as Dallas rolled past hapless Miami in Arlington, Texas and remained undefeated. Both of Prescott's scoring passes went to Amari Cooper, who led the Cowboys with six catches for 88 yards. Ezekiel Elliott ran for 125 yards on 19 carries, and Tony Pollard added 103 yards and a touchdown on 13 carries as Dallas recorded its first back-to-back games with 200 yards rushing since 2009. Josh Rosen, who was acquired in the offseason after starting 13 games last season for Arizona, started for the first time

for the Dolphins and passed for 200 yards. He was sacked three times by the Cowboys, who entered the game with just two sacks in their first two games.

PACKERS 27, BRONCOS 16

Aaron Rodgers threw for 235 yards and one touchdown as Green Bay beat visiting Denver in a battle of first-year head coaches and Super Bowl-winning quarterbacks. The Packers improved to 3-0 under coach Matt LaFleur, while the Broncos fell to 0-3 under Vic Fangio. Denver's Joe Flacco threw for 213 yards but tossed one interception and was sacked six times. The Broncos controlled the ball for more than 35 minutes and ran 21 more plays. Six of their first nine possessions reached Green Bay's side of the field. Their final possession in Green Bay territory came late in the fourth quarter, with Denver trailing by 11. The Packers got a turnover on downs when outside linebacker Preston Smith made his third sack of the game.

COLTS 27, FALCONS 24

Jacoby Brissett threw for 310 yards as host Indianapolis earned its second straight win, holding off Atlanta. Brissett completed 28 of 37 passes, including an 11-yard strike to Jack Doyle in the final two minutes for a first down to the Atlanta 16 that sealed the outcome. The Colts also got 74 yards and a touchdown on 16 carries from Marlon Mack, who provided the Colts' final score, running 4 yards with 8:40 left to lead 27-17. The Falcons drew back within a field goal on Matt Ryan's 10-yard touchdown pass to Julio Jones with 4:11 left, but never saw the ball again.

LIONS 27, EAGLES 24

Matthew Stafford completed 18 of 32 passes for 201 yards and one touchdown, and Detroit remained unbeaten with a victory at Philadelphia. Wide receiver Marvin Jones Jr. had six receptions for 101 yards and one touchdown as the Lions improved to 2-0-1. Eagles quarterback Carson Wentz was 19 of 36 for 259 yards and two touchdowns to Nelson Agholor, but Philadelphia fell to 1-2. The Eagles had one last chance to win when Malcolm Jenkins blocked a 46-yard field-goal attempt by Matt Prater just inside the two-minute warning. Wentz connected with running back Darren Sproles on fourth-and-5 for a 25-yard strike to get to the Lions' 20, but Sproles was called for pass interference to negate the play.

TEXANS 27, CHARGERS 20

Deshaun Watson connected with tight end Jordan Akins for two second-half touchdowns to lead Houston to a come-from-behind victory over Los Angeles on Sunday at Carson, Calif. Watson escaped the grasp of Melvin Ingram and hit Akins for a 53-yard scoring play with 9:40 left in the fourth quarter to make it 27-17. The Texans missed the PAT. The Chargers had appeared to stop the Texans' drive five plays earlier on Rayshawn Jenkins' interception, but the turnover was nullified by offsetting penalties, including a facemask infraction on Desmond King. Los Angeles' 14-play, 60-yard drive in the final minutes ended when Philip Rivers' fourth-and-14 pass fell incomplete.



TAMPA: Ronald Jones #27 of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers rushes during a game against the New York Giants at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Florida. —AFP

VIKINGS 34, RAIDERS 14

Minnesota got rushing touchdowns from three different players and totaled 211 yards on the ground in bulldozing visiting Oakland in Minneapolis. Adam Thielen scored twice, once on a pass from Kirk Cousins, and the Vikings' defense harassed Derek Carr into four sacks and an interception in the most lopsided game in 38 years in the 16-game all-time series between the Super Bowl XI combatants. Dalvin Cook rushed for 110 yards and a second-quarter touchdown, and also caught four passes for 33 yards. He went over 100 yards rushing for the third straight game, a feat last accomplished by a Viking when Adrian Peterson did it in 2015.

49ERS 24, STEELERS 20

Jimmy Garoppolo's 5-yard touchdown pass to Dante Pettis with 1:15 left boosted the error-prone San Francisco to a 3-0 start as it rallied past winless Pittsburgh in Santa Clara, Calif. Garoppolo completed 23 of 32 passes for 277 yards with two interceptions. The Niners won despite making five turnovers and committing 71 yards worth of penalties. Steelers quarterback Mason Rudolph hit on 14 of 27 passes for 174 yards and two touchdowns, including a 39-yarder to rookie Diontae Johnson with 10:22 left in the game for a 20-17 edge. But Pittsburgh (0-3) was outgained 436-239 on the day.

SAINTS 33, SEAHAWKS 27

Teddy Bridgewater threw two touchdown passes in his first start in place of Drew Brees as New Orleans won at Seattle. Bridgewater was making his second NFL start since the 2015 season as he fills in for Brees. The former Pro Bowl quarterback completed 19 of 27 passes for 177 yards. He hit running back Alvin Kamara on a 29-yard touchdown late in the second quarter and wide receiver Michael Thomas from 1 yard out in the third. The Saints' defense and special teams each contributed a touchdown as New Orleans improved to 2-1. It was just the third time in Saints history that the team scored a touchdown in all three phases in the same game.

PANTHERS 38, CARDINALS 20

Kyle Allen threw two of his four touchdown passes to tight end Greg Olsen as Carolina notched its first victory by defeating host Arizona at Glendale, Ariz. Allen, who made his first start of the season and second of his career, was filling in for injured Cam Newton (foot). For Allen, who is from Arizona, it was a happy homecoming as he completed 19 of 26 passes for 261 yards. For Arizona quarterback Kyler Murray and first-year coach Kliff Kingsbury, they'll have to wait to produce their first NFL victory. The Cardinals are 0-2-1. Murray finished 30-for-43 passing for 173 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions, taking eight sacks. —Reuters

Kohli wants India to step out of comfort zone ahead of World T20

MUMBAI: India captain Virat Kohli's decision to bat first against South Africa in the third and final Twenty20 International backfired but the 30-year-old says the hosts want to prepare for next year's Twenty20 World Cup by minimising the impact of the toss. It was the first time in seven T20Is at the Chinnaswamy Stadium that the captain winning the toss chose to bat, only for a revamped South Africa to claim a series-levelling nine-wicket win on Sunday.

"Nothing is a given or a guarantee before you start playing," Kohli told reporters. "I think if we as a team are willing to get out of our comfort zones a lot more, then we will be unfazed with what happens at the toss. Unless you do that and start taking those risks, you are always going to be put under pressure somewhere or the other. We want to make sure we iron all of those things out before we head into the World Cup."

India failed to capitalise on an aggressive start and ended with a below-par 134 for 9. Ahead of the T20 World Cup in Australia in Oct. 2020, Kohli's top priority is to recalibrate India's batting combinations in the shortest format. "You have to understand as well that it's a very young side, you have to give them time as a team to come together," he added. "We batted till nine tonight, and that's one area we're looking to strengthen." India's focus now shifts to the three-match test series against South Africa, with the opening match in Visakhapatnam starting Oct 2. —Reuters

Afghanistan sweat over Rashid fitness

DHAKA: Afghanistan captain Rashid Khan said he is unsure he will play in the tri-nation Twenty20 international final against Bangladesh today as he is nursing a hamstring injury. Rashid left the field injured against the same opponents in their last match of the league phase in Chittagong on Saturday, before returning to bowl two overs and picking 2-27 in their four-wicket loss.

"I can't say anything right now," Rashid said Monday about his chances of playing in the final. "I had some work on my hamstring yesterday and today. We will decide tomorrow." Rashid said he would rather not have bowled in the previous game, but the team needed his services. "The main reason to come back to bowl was that I wanted to know the severity of the injury," he said. "The physio and coaches didn't want me to bowl. I was OK with the first two overs, but after going for a run it got worse. —AFP

Anisimova sees dawn of new era in women's tennis

WUHAN: American youngster Amanda Anisimova believes Bianca Andreescu's US Open victory is the dawn of a new era in women's tennis, where the teens are ready to conquer. Canadian 19-year-old Andreescu upset Serena Williams in the final at Flushing Meadows to become the youngest female Grand Slam champion since Svetlana Kuznetsovna in 2004.

Anisimova, who turned 18 less than a month ago, joins Andreescu as part of a strong generation of teenagers coming up on tour, and made a splash with her run to the Roland Garros semi-finals in June, where she upset defending champion Simona Halep en route.

The world No.29 withdrew from the US Open due to the sudden death of her father-coach Konstantin Anisimov, but watched from afar as Andreescu blasted through the draw towards the title. "I don't think we should be as surprised anymore [by young players winning big titles]," said Anisimova, who enjoyed a winning return following a seven-week absence from the tour by defeating Guangzhou runner-up Sam Stosur 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 in the Wuhan Open first round yesterday.

"I feel like there are so many upcoming players and they're all doing really well," Anisimova, who next takes on world number two Karolina Pliskova, feels ready to make her own statement at the majors, and has her eye on next January's Australian Open, where she hopes to do better than her fourth-round

appearance there this year.

"Oh yes, for sure, I think I can do pretty well there, especially if I have a good pre-season," said the New Jersey-born player. Anisimova had only two practice sets prior to the Wuhan Open, and was pleasantly surprised with how well she performed against Stosur yesterday.

"I'm really happy to be back... I'm just focusing on having fun this tournament. I really don't have any expectations for myself," she said.

Meanwhile, two-time Grand Slam champion Kuznetsova says she's searching for a "new balance" as the Russian veteran tackles the next chapter of her two-decades-long career.

A winner via retirement over Yulia Putintseva in the opening round in Wuhan yesterday, Kuznetsova has dealt with a serious wrist injury over the past couple of seasons and, at 34, is looking to be more selective with her schedule.

"I think I over-trained my body when I was young," said Kuznetsova. "I understand (now) I cannot train five hours a day. It's important to maintain my desire." It was a good day for lucky losers in Wuhan as Tunisian Ons Jabeur, who took Victoria Azarenka's place after the Belarusian withdrew with a shoulder injury, upset No.16 seed Donna Vekic 4-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Sweden's Rebecca Peterson replaced Madison Keys — who has a left foot problem — in the draw and made the second round when her opponent Camila Giorgi retired after the first set of their encounter.

Grand Slam champions Caroline Wozniacki and Angelique Kerber suffered opening-round exits to Hsieh Su-Wei and Monica Puig respectively.

Ashleigh Barty remains the world number one for another week, according to the latest WTA rankings

England drop Bairstow from Test squad for N Zealand series

LONDON: England have dropped Jonny Bairstow from their Test squad for the tour of New Zealand, with paceman James Anderson unavailable for the two-match series due to a calf injury. Four uncapped players will be on the plane — Warwickshire opener Dominic Sibley, Kent batsman Zak Crawley and Lancashire pair Saqib Mahmood and Matt Parkinson.

Batsman Jason Roy, who starred in England's World Cup triumph, is another name missing from the 15-strong Test squad after a difficult Ashes series, which ended 2-2 last week. Surrey batsman Ollie Pope, who played two Tests against India in 2018, is back in the squad while Jos Buttler will be the wicketkeeper in New Zealand due to Bairstow's absence.

Bairstow, 29, scored just 214 runs in

the five Ashes Tests during the English summer at an average of 23.77. Anderson, England's top Test wicket-taker, has been out of action since the first Test against Australia and is targeting the South Africa tour, starting in December.

The first Test, at Mount Maunganui, starts on November 21. The series is not included in the new World Test Championship. National selector Ed Smith confirmed Bairstow, who will travel with the 15-man T20 squad, had been dropped rather than rested. "This feels like an opportunity for Jonny to reset," he said on Sky Sports. "He's not rested. He drops out of the Test team but it's an opportunity for Jonny after a very busy summer, very hectic schedule, to reset, to work on one or two things and to come back stronger," he added.

"My prediction is he comes back very strongly." World Cup-winning captain Eoin Morgan will captain the Twenty20 team, with the five-match series starting on November 1. Somerset's Tom Banton and Mahmood have earned their first England call-ups after impressive white-ball summers, along with Worcestershire seamer Pat Brown and Lancashire spinner Matthew Parkinson.

Test squad: Joe Root (capt), Jofra



LONDON: File photo shows Australia's Marnus Labuschagne (R) plays a shot as England's Jonny Bairstow (L) reacts behind the stumps during play on the fourth day of the fifth Ashes cricket Test match between England and Australia at The Oval in London on September 15, 2019. —AFP

Archer, Stuart Broad, Rory Burns, Jos Buttler, Zak Crawley, Sam Curran, Joe Denly, Jack Leach, Saqib Mahmood, Matthew Parkinson, Ollie Pope, Dominic Sibley, Ben Stokes, Chris Woakes

Twenty20 squad: Eoin Morgan

(capt), Jonny Bairstow, Tom Banton, Sam Billings, Pat Brown, Sam Curran, Tom Curran, Joe Denly, Lewis Gregory, Chris Jordan, Saqib Mahmood, Dawid Malan, Matt Parkinson, Adil Rashid, James Vince. —AFP