

## Sports

# Petry, Habs put Penguins on brink of elimination

## Toews' late tip-in lifts Blackhawks over Oilers

**TORONTO:** Jeff Petry's sharp-angle goal in the third period Wednesday gave the Canadiens a 4-3 win over the Pittsburgh Penguins in Game 3 of their qualifying-round series, moving Montreal ahead two games to one in the best-of-five set at Toronto. Montreal, seeded 12th and last among Eastern Conference postseason participants, pushed the fifth-seeded Penguins into an elimination game Friday. Petry, who scored in overtime in Game 1, broke a 3-3 tie and scored Montreal's third unanswered goal at 5:33 of the third. He lifted a shot from the bottom of the left circle that went off the mask of goaltender Matt Murray, off the crossbar and in. Shea Weber added a goal and two assists, Paul Byron a goal and an assist, Jonathan Drouin a goal and Ben Chiarot two assists for the Canadiens. Carey Price made 30 saves. Patric Hornqvist, Jason Zucker and Teddy Blueger scored for the Penguins, and Murray made 27 saves.

### PANTHERS 3, ISLANDERS 2

Mike Hoffman scored the go-ahead goal in the third period, and Florida stayed alive in its Eastern Conference qualifying series with a win against New York in Toronto. New York leads the best-of-five series 2-1, with Game 4 set for Friday. Hoffman added an assist and the Panthers also got goals from Erik Haula and Brian Boyle. New York, which got goals from Jean-Gabriel Pageau and Brock Nelson, had beaten Florida six straight times entering the contest.

### COYOTES 4, PREDATORS 1

Darcy Kuemper made 39 saves to lead Arizona past Nashville in Game 3 of their best-of-five Western Conference qualifying series in Edmonton. Taylor Hall had a goal and an assist, and Christian Dvorak, Conor Garland and Carl Soderberg also scored for the Coyotes, who grabbed a 2-1 series lead heading into Game 4 on Friday. Viktor Arvidsson scored and Juuse Saros made 24 saves for the Predators.

### BLACKHAWKS 4, OILERS 3

Jonathan Toews scored the game-winner with 76 seconds remaining, and Chicago claimed a stunning win over Edmonton to move within a victory of advancing to the Stanley Cup playoffs' round of 16. The Blackhawks, the lowest seed in the Western Conference to reach the qualifying round, lead the Oilers 2-1 in the best-of-five series. Chicago will look to complete the upset on Friday. With overtime looming, Toews got a piece of a Connor Murphy point shot that also deflected off Oilers defender Ethan Bear and past Oilers goalie Mikko Koskinen for his second goal of the game and fourth of the series. Chicago goalie Corey Crawford stopped 25 shots to earn the win.

### LIGHTNING 3, BRUINS 2

Tyler Johnson's tiebreaking rebound goal with 87 seconds remaining in regulation kept Tampa Bay's round-robin record perfect at the expense of Boston. Johnson, who also had an assist, punched in a rebound off Yann Gourde's shot



**TORONTO:** Kris Letang #58 of the Pittsburgh Penguins checks Tomas Tatar #90 of the Montreal Canadiens in Game Three of the Eastern Conference Qualification Round prior to the 2020 NHL Stanley Cup Playoffs at Scotiabank Arena in Toronto. — AFP

from the left circle to lift the Lightning (2-0-0, four points) to the top of the standings in the week-long tourney, which will set the top four seeds in the Stanley Cup playoffs. Alex Killorn notched a goal and an assist, and Brayden Point also scored. Andrei Vasilevskiy stopped 25 shots. Boston's Charlie McAvoy and Chris Wagner tallied goals, and Tuukka Rask made his first start of the post-season and allowed three markers on 35 shots.

### AVALANCHE 4, STARS 0

Pavel Francouz had 27 saves, Andre Burakovsky and Joonas Donskoi each had a goal and an assist, and Colorado beat Dallas in Edmonton. Cale Makar and Vladislav Namestnikov also had goals, and Sam Girard had two assists for Colorado, which has won its first two games of the seeding round of the NHL restart. Anton Khudobin had 36 saves for the Stars. —Reuters

## Hamilton forcing rivals to 'count sheep' at Silverstone

**SILVERSTONE:** Lewis Hamilton returns to Silverstone this weekend knowing he faces another "serious challenge" with even softer tyres and hotter conditions for the 70th Anniversary Grand Prix than those he overcame on his way to a dramatic triumph in last Sunday's British Grand Prix.

Just days after his victory on three working wheels, and one that was damaged and punctured, the championship leader and six-time world champion is braced for a similarly testing weekend with high temperatures forecast and tyre suppliers Pirelli switching to a less durable compound.

"One step softer is going to be a challenge for us all and, no doubt, will move us all to at least a two-stop (strategy)," explained Hamilton in the

aftermath of his 87th career win.

"Obviously, our cars are a lot quicker this year, but we're using the same tyres as last year.

"They (Pirelli) weren't able to develop a better tyre to deal with the forces for this season so it's going to be a really serious challenge."

Hamilton's heroics in bringing his damaged car home to win by five seconds ahead of the rapidly-closing Max Verstappen of Red Bull has given him folklore status within the sport as he moved 30 points clear of his Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas in the drivers championship.

"I think we cannot take anything away from Lewis, who I think is one of the greatest drivers in Formula One history," proclaimed Charles Leclerc, who finished third behind him for Ferrari last weekend.

"Always very constant, always 100 per cent, mentally very strong," he told Italian sports daily La Gazzetta dello Sport.

"There is nothing else to say. Mercedes and him — that combination, of these two elements, makes it so difficult to compete with them right now."

This weekend's race will commemorate the 70th anniversary of the inaugural world championship race, held at Silverstone in 1950 - an event that saw Italian Giuseppe Farina victorious in the first of three triumphant Alfa Romeo cars.

Juan-Manuel Fangio, who was to be a five-time champion, led briefly but failed to finish in his Alfa Romeo after rupturing an oil pipe.

This allowed Luigi Fagioli to come second ahead of Briton Reg Parnell, who hit a hare during the race.

Such hazards may be less likely this weekend, but after last Sunday's three tyre failures in the closing laps - Bottas and McLaren's Carlos Sainz were also hit by delamination and punctures - more unexpected incidents cannot be discounted.—AFP

## Giant Olympic rings towed away for maintenance

**TOKYO:** A giant set of Olympic rings installed off Tokyo's waterfront was towed away for inspections and maintenance yesterday after coronavirus forced the year-long postponement of the 2020 Games. The 69-ton interlocking rings went up off the Odaiba bay area at the beginning of the year, as the city began the final countdown to the Summer Olympics.

They were intended to stay in place until the original end date of the Olympics, on August 9, and then be replaced by the Paralympics symbol. But yesterday, the barge holding the monument — which is more than 15 metres tall and 32 metres wide (49 feet by 104 feet) — was towed back to shore. "The Olympic Symbol as

well as its salvage barge will undergo a safety inspection and receive maintenance for about four months. The date of re-installation to the current location will be determined after maintenance has been completed," the Tokyo Metropolitan Government said in a statement.

This year's Games were originally scheduled to open on July 24, but officials took the historic decision to push back the event by a year as the coronavirus pandemic spread across the globe. Olympic and Japanese officials have said they remain committed to holding the Games next year as planned, but experts have questioned whether the virus will be under control by then. —AFP