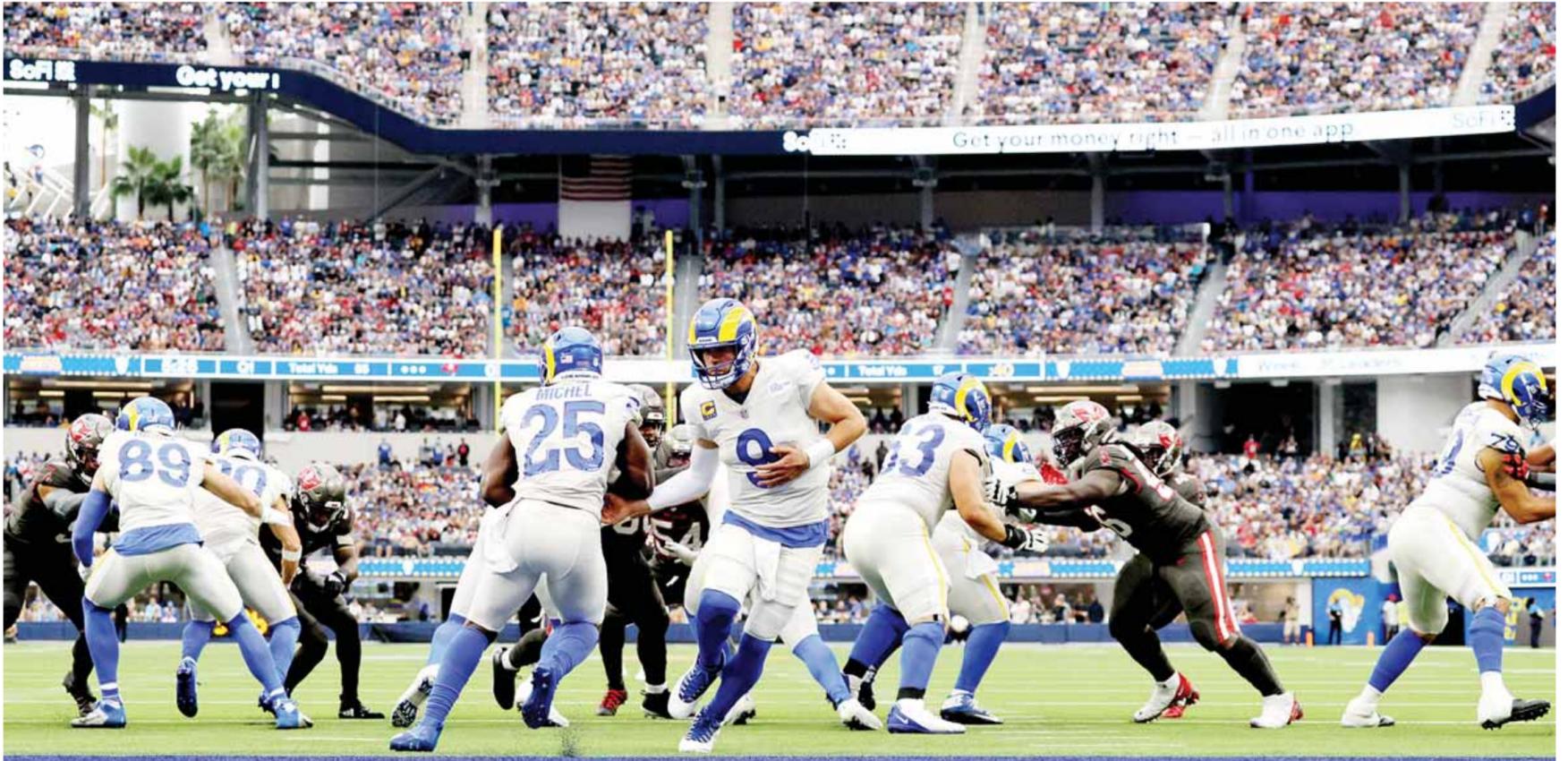


Brady outgunned as Stafford, Rams down Bucs

Tucker's record 66-yard field goal propels Ravens over Lions



INGLEWOOD: Matthew Stafford #9 of the Los Angeles Rams hands the ball to Sony Michel #25 during the first quarter in the game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers at SoFi Stadium on Sunday in Inglewood, California. — AFP

LOS ANGELES: Matthew Stafford threw four touchdowns as the Los Angeles Rams outgunned Tom Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers 34-24 in a heavyweight NFL showdown on Sunday. A potent offense and suffocating defense made it three wins out of three for Los Angeles as the reigning Super Bowl champion Buccaneers suffered their first defeat of the season.

Stafford, who joined the Rams from the Detroit Lions in a blockbuster trade earlier this year, finished with 343 yards with 27 completions and no interceptions as the Rams underscored their Super Bowl credentials with a convincing win.

Brady meanwhile threw for 432 yards but only one touchdown. The 44-year-old rushed for one score but was sacked three times during a torrid outing against a ferocious Rams defense led by Aaron Donald. Stafford found Tyler Higbee and Cooper Kupp for second-quarter touchdowns either side of a two-yard score by Tampa Bay wide receiver Chris Godwin to put the Rams 14-7 up heading into the second half.

DeSean Jackson's score put the Rams 21-7 ahead before Brady sneaked over for a close-range rushing touchdown to cut the deficit. Kupp's second touchdown and a 48-yard Matt Gay field

goal stretched the Rams lead to 31-14. After both sides swapped field goals, Tampa Bay rounded out the scoring with a consolation touchdown from Giovanni Bernard.

Elsewhere Sunday, Justin Tucker booted the Baltimore Ravens to victory over Detroit with the longest field goal in NFL history, sealing a dramatic 19-17 win. Tucker's monstrous 66-yard effort with three seconds remaining bounced off the crossbar and over at Detroit's Ford Field to complete a thrilling win for the Ravens.

'Best in history'

The long-range effort surpassed the previous longest field goal in NFL history, a successful 64-yard attempt by Matt Prater in 2013. "When it went off his foot, I thought it had a chance," Ravens coach John Harbaugh said. "He's the best kicker in NFL history." Tucker's winning field goal was his fourth of the day — he had also made successful kicks from 36, 50 and 32 yards.



Packers beat 49ers; Chiefs woes continue

In the late game, Green Bay also got a game-winning field goal with three seconds to go when kicker Mason Crosby made a 51-yard field goal to lift the Packers over the San Francisco 49ers 30-28. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers completed two long passes to Davante Adams during a last-minute drive to set the stage for Crosby's heroics.

In Kansas City, Justin Herbert threw for four touchdowns to win a thrilling shoot-out with Patrick Mahomes as the Los Angeles Chargers upset the Chiefs 30-24. The Chiefs slumped to their second consecutive defeat of the season after Herbert and a fired-up Chargers defense claimed victory in a tense divisional tussle at Arrowhead Stadium. Herbert threw for 281 yards with 26 completions and no interceptions to complete a win that leaves the Chiefs bottom of the AFC West after three games.

The Chiefs' Super Bowl-winning coach Andy Reid was taken to hospital following the game

after complaining of feeling ill but his condition was not believed to be serious, local media reported. The Rams' win over the Buccaneers means five teams now possess unbeaten records heading into week four.

The Arizona Cardinals — who face the Rams next week — maintained their undefeated start to the campaign with a 31-19 defeat of the Jacksonville Jaguars. The Jaguars had taken a 13-7 half-time lead after a remarkable touchdown from Jamal Agnew, the wide receiver galloping 109 yards to score after a missed Arizona field goal attempt. But a pair of second half touchdowns by running back James Conner and a pick six from Byron Murphy sealed victory for Arizona and left the Jags winless after three games.

In the AFC, the Las Vegas Raiders moved to 3-0 after a 31-28 overtime win over the Miami Dolphins. Daniel Carlson's 22-yard field goal settled a see-saw encounter which went to overtime after Dolphins quarterback Jacoby Brissett rushed for a touchdown in the dying seconds before a successful two-point conversion attempt. Raiders quarterback Derek Carr finished with 386 passing yards and two touchdowns in the win. — AFP

US young guns overwhelm Europe in Ryder Cup rout

KOHLER: The United States crushed Europe 19-9 to recapture the Ryder Cup on Sunday in a performance captain Steve Stricker called the "greatest of all time." Collin Morikawa, the 24-year-old world number three, delivered the winning half point when he tied his match with Viktor Hovland at Whistling Straits.

He was one of eight 20-somethings on a US team that featured nine players in the world's top 11 — all gunning to regain the coveted trophy won by Europe in France three years ago. "Speechless," US captain Steve Stricker said, tearing up as he talked of the commitment that resulted in dominant victory.

The Americans became the first team to notch 19 points, beating the previous record of 18.5 achieved twice by each team before. "This is the greatest team of all time right here," Stricker said. "These guys are unbelievable. They come with a lot of passion, a lot of energy, a lot of game. They are just so good."

World number two Dustin Johnson, at 37 the oldest member of the team, provided a template for his younger colleagues, his 1-up victory singles victory over Paul Casey giving him a perfect 5-0 record in a maximum five matches.

He became the first American since Larry Nelson in 1979 — and just the fifth player ever — to go five-for-five when he prevailed in a tightly contested battle with Casey that saw them tie the first five holes. Johnson took the lead for good at the eighth, but he

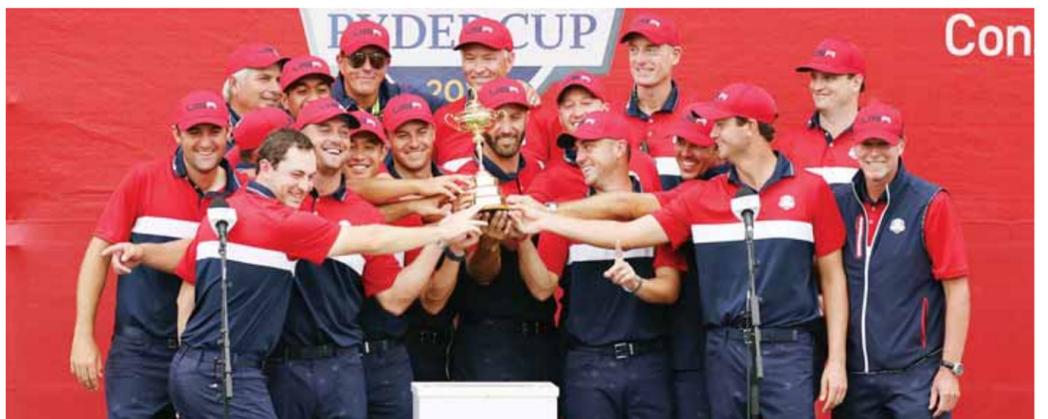
never led by more than two and couldn't put Casey away until the bitter end.

Johnson said he shared a key trait with his young teammates in that fueled their bid to stop Europe winning a fifth Ryder Cup in six editions. "We do not like to lose," he said. "We had a lot of rookies on the Ryder Cup, but it didn't feel like they were rookies ... and they didn't play like they were rookies ... and they stepped up to the plate and they all wanted it."

They made that clear from the start and took an 11-5 lead into Sunday's 12 singles matches, the six-point gap more than either team has ever overcome on the final day to lift the trophy. It meant the Americans needed just 3.5 points to win the Cup.

Pdraig Harrington's Europe needed nine to retain it, and it was clear when the US powered to the lead in most of the early matches that they wouldn't do it. Morikawa, who won his second major title at the British Open this year, had assured the US of victory with a brilliant birdie at the par-three 17th, where he blasted his tee shot to three feet, going 1-up with one to play. He missed a six-footer at 18 to win the match outright, but thanks to his half-point the American celebrations were already underway.

Scottie Scheffler, a Ryder Cup newcomer with the lowest ranking in the US team at 21 in the world, had opened the floodgates when he took out world number one Jon Rahm 4&3. Rahm, who had excelled all week amid Europe's overall struggles,



KOHLER: Team United States celebrates with the Ryder Cup after defeating Team Europe 19 to 9 during Sunday Singles Matches of the 43rd Ryder Cup at Whistling Straits on Sunday in Kohler, Wisconsin. — AFP

became just the third world number one to lose a Ryder Cup singles match. "We all saw it, we knew it was happening," Jordan Spieth said of Scheffler's convincing victory, which Johnson called "one thing that could really push the US team."

'Best event in golf'

Rory McIlroy gained the first point of the day with a 3&2 victory over Olympic champion Xander Schauffele, but his first win of the week was no cause for celebration as he contemplated the flood of red on the scoreboard. "(I'm) incredibly proud to be a part of this team," McIlroy said, his voice cracking. "I've been extremely disappointed that I haven't contributed more for

the team." Patrick Cantlay, the US PGA Tour's player of the year and FedEx Cup playoff champion, polished off European rookie Shane Lowry 4&2. Bryson DeChambeau followed with a 3&2 victory over Sergio Garcia, the Spanish Ryder Cup great who this week took his tally of match wins to a record 25.

DeChambeau's power proved too much for Garcia. The American set the tone at the first hole, driving the green at the par-four and striding off the tee to wild cheers with his driver held aloft. He won the hole with a 41-foot eagle putt and led the rest of the way.

Lowry, the 2019 British Open champion, had taken a 1-up lead over Cantlay with a birdie at the par-5 second, but Cantlay

roared away from there. The American won four straight holes for a 3-up lead, and didn't trail again, winning the last three holes for the convincing score.

Four-time major champion Brooks Koepka rallied for a 2&1 victory over Bernd Wiesberger and Justin Thomas led all the way in a 4&3 victory over Tyrrell Hatton. Veterans Ian Poulter and Lee Westwood delivered singles victories, Poulter beating Tony Finau 3&2 and Westwood edging Harris English 1-up. Tommy Fleetwood grabbed one more half point for Europe when he rallied from 1-down through 15 to tie Spieth — who has still never won a Ryder Cup singles match in four attempts. — AFP