

Sports

Jokic lifts Nuggets over Sixers; Timberwolves frustrate Kings

Good news for slumping Dallas Mavericks

LOS ANGELES: The Denver Nuggets continued their march toward the Western Conference top seed Monday with a 116-111 win over Philadelphia, while the Sacramento Kings' hopes of ending a 16-year NBA playoff drought remained on hold. Two-time reigning NBA Most Valuable Player Nikola Jokic had his 29th triple-double of the season for Denver with 25 points, 17 rebounds and 12 assists.

But he was unhappy that the Nuggets let a 20-point fourth-quarter lead dwindle to just three with 28.9 seconds remaining against a Sixers team missing star center Joel Embiid and playmaker James Harden. "We didn't do a good job today," Jokic said. "We had control of the whole game, and then in the fourth quarter, we lost control. We took bad shots, we didn't play defense, and that's why they came back." The Nuggets pushed their lead to three and a half games over Memphis atop the West with a fourth straight victory.

The absence of MVP candidate Embiid took some shine off the contest, but Philadelphia coach Doc Rivers said the decision to hold him out because of a sore calf was "not a hard decision for us." "We want to get him and the whole team healthy for the playoffs," Rivers said. The stage was set for a celebration in Sacramento, but the Minnesota Timberwolves crashed the party with a 119-115 victory over the Kings, who could have sealed their first playoff berth since 2006 with a victory.

Jaden McDaniels scored 20 points to lead seven Minnesota players in double figures as they notched a fourth straight win and tied reigning champions Golden State for sixth in the West. Trailing by one entering the fourth quarter, the Timberwolves gradually pulled away, a dunk by McDaniels giving them a 114-104 lead with 3:52 to play - to the dismay of

the sell-out crowd at the Golden 1 Center. De'Aaron Fox scored 29 points and Domantas Sabonis added 24 points and 10 rebounds for the Kings, who are third in the West and will try again this week to end the longest active playoff drought in any major US professional sports league.

Doncic delivers

Elsewhere, there was good news for the slumping Dallas Mavericks, who snapped a four-game skid with a 127-104 victory over the Indiana Pacers. Luka Doncic led the Mavs with 25 points - starting the game after the NBA rescinded the technical foul he was assessed in a loss at Charlotte on Sunday, which would have been his 16th of the season and triggered an automatic one-game suspension. Doncic made the most of the reprieve, adding seven rebounds and six assists - one of them an impressive side-armed pass across the court to rookie Jaden Hardy for a three-pointer when Doncic himself couldn't get a shot off in the face of a fierce double team.

"I didn't think he saw me at first," Hardy said. "Then, when saw me, I didn't think he was going to be able to get it to me. But he did ... so I was like, I've got to knock this down for him." Mavs coach Jason Kidd wasn't surprised. "He's one of the best passers in the league," Kidd said. "He can find guys - he's strong enough, I don't know if anybody else can make that pass." Kyrie Irving added 16 points and six assists for the Mavericks, who are half a game behind the Los Angeles Lakers and Oklahoma City Thunder in the hunt for the final two Western Conference play-in tournament berths.

Milwaukee's Khris Middleton scored a season-high 34 points as the Bucks improved their



DENVER: Nikola Jokic #15 of the Denver Nuggets handles the ball during the game against the Philadelphia 76ers on March 27, 2023 at the Ball Arena in Denver, Colorado. —AFP

NBA-best record with a 126-117 victory over the Detroit Pistons despite the absence of superstar Giannis Antetokounmpo. Antetokounmpo, out with a sore knee, was just one of the Bucks' high-profile absentees, with Jrue Holiday away for personal rea-

sons and Jae Crowder sidelined by a calf injury. In New York, Immanuel Quickley scored 40 points to help the Knicks rout the Houston Rockets 137-115. Julius Randle added 26 points for New York, who are holding down fifth place in the East. —AFP

US beat El Salvador 1-0 in CONCACAF Nations League

MIAMI: Second-half sub Ricardo Pepi needed almost no time to make his presence felt, delivering the game-winning goal in the United States' 1-0 victory over El Salvador on Monday in the CONCACAF Nations League. The Netherlands-based striker, who scored twice in a starting role in the United States' 7-1 thrashing of Grenada on Friday, came on in the 60th minute at Exploria Stadium in Orlando, Florida. He'd barely had a chance to touch the ball when Weston McKennie's crisp through ball found him in the area and he shook off defender Roberto Dominguez and lofted a shot over Salvadoran keeper Mario Gonzalez in the 62nd minute.

Although the defending champions needed only a point against El Salvador to assure themselves of a place in the final four of the Nations League in June, Pepi said the win at home mattered. "I think it was important for me personally and for the team," said the 20-year-old, who missed out on a place in the US World Cup squad last year. "It was a roller coaster," he said. "Up and down, not making it to the World Cup and now back with the squad. Happy to be back."

The first half saw the United States struggle to create openings against El Salvador's suffocating defense. El Salvador threatened less than two minutes into the game, with Jairo Henriquez's shot from the edge of the box pushed wide by a diving Turner. Gio Reyna, playing his first match before home fans



ORLANDO: Brayan Paz #17 of El Salvador and Weston McKennie #8 of United States of America battle for a header in the first half of a game at Exploria Stadium on March 27, 2023. —AFP

since he was engulfed in World Cup controversy, had one of the best first half efforts for the United States with a long range shot that Gonzalez tipped wide with his fingertips.

The hosts opened the second half aggressively. Reyna hit the post in the 46th minute and seconds later Tim Ream went close with a volley. Pepi had a chance to double the lead in the 79th minute when

Taylor Booth found him on the left side of the area, but his shot skimmed wide of Gonzalez's far post. The match was the United States' second competitive fixture under interim coach Anthony Hudson. The United States are trying to retain the Nations League title they won in 2021 with final victory over Mexico—who have also secured their place in the final four by finishing top of Group A. —AFP

Tottenham focus on saving season after Conte's departure

LONDON: Tottenham chairman Daniel Levy admits the Premier League club have a "fight" on their hands as they scramble to save their season after Antonio Conte's turbulent reign came to an end. The Italian's departure appeared almost inevitable after his extraordinary post-match rant following a 3-3 draw at bottom club Southampton earlier this month. But Sunday's divorce by "mutual agreement", with just 10 Premier League games remaining, is a gamble by the Spurs hierarchy, who are desperate to secure a place in the lucrative Champions League next season.

Tottenham are fourth in the Premier League table but are just two points ahead of Newcastle having played two games more - finishing in the top four guarantees entry into Europe's elite club competition. Cristian Stellini, Conte's assistant at Spurs, will take charge for the rest of the campaign, with former midfielder Ryan Mason working as his deputy. With the club out of all cup competitions, at least Stellini can afford to put all of his eggs in one basket.

"We have 10 Premier League games remaining and we have a fight on our hands for a Champions League place," Levy said in a club statement issued late on Sunday. "We all need to pull together. Everyone has to step up to ensure the highest possible finish for our club and amazing, loyal supporters." The writing appeared to be on the wall for Conte when he tore into his "selfish" players after they let a 3-1 lead slip against Southampton, saying they did not want to play under pressure and criticizing the club's culture. —AFP

Saad Al-Tameemi Ramadan football tournament

KUWAIT: Organizing Committee of the first Saad Al-Tameemi Ramadan football tournament said the number of participating teams has increased from 32 to 64 as many people want to participate in the tournament which will be launched on Thursday. It was decided that the number of teams to win financial prizes has increased as third place team will now receive KD 1000, besides what was allocated earlier (KD 5000) for first place and KD 3000 for second place, in addition to gifts for fans. The matches will be played on five outdoor fields in a knockout system and each match will last for 20 minutes.

Spanish police scuffle with Peru football players

MADRID: Spanish police scuffled with Peru national football players in front of their hotel in Madrid and detained a member of the squad, police and Peruvian officials said Tuesday. The altercation happened when the squad arrived at their hotel in Madrid on Monday night where some 300 fans were waiting to greet them, a police spokeswoman said.

The Peru squad are in Madrid to play a friendly against Morocco on Tuesday night at Atletico Madrid's Metropolitan stadium. "The supporters tried to reach the players and police got in the middle between the fans and the players to avoid a crush," the spokeswoman said. "A player hit an officer in the eye. The player was then detained and taken to a police station," the spokeswoman added without naming the player. Peru's foreign ministry said in a tweet that the detained player was Peruvian goalkeeper Pedro Gallese, who was released without being charged.

The Peruvian government has demanded a "clarification" of what happened from the "concerned authorities", it added. Videos shared on social media showed officers pushing and shoving the crowd gathered outside the hotel. Among the players who can be seen in the crowd are Gallese and fellow goalkeeper Jose Carvallo as well as midfielder Yoshimar Yotun. Some Spanish media said some of the officers failed to recognize the Peruvian players and confused them with supporters.

In a statement, the Peruvian Football Federation said it was "totally supportive and backs" Gallese, who it had "accompanied since the incident occurred". "We reiterate that we are respectful of the authorities and the procedures of each country that we visit," it added. The Moroccan squad's team stay in Madrid was marked by the arrest on Sunday of a 27-year-old Spanish employee of the hotel where they are staying for allegedly racially insulting members of the team on social media. —AFP

Classifieds

Hospitals & Clinics

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134

Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401

Change of Name

I, SYED AAHIL (old name), S/o SHAIK MAHA-BOOB BASHA, resident of D.No. 2/361, Sastri Nagar, Akkayapalli, Kadapa City, YSR Kadapa Dist, hereby declare that I have changed my surname as SHAIK AAHIL (new name) hereafter for all purpose in future. (C #3190)

I, AZIZ, holder of Passport No: L5937953, do hereby change my name to AZIZ (as given name) MAIMOON (as surname) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name AZIZ MAIMOON and I also undertake in all my documents. (C #3191) - 28-03-2023

Automated enquiry about the Civild card is 1889988