

Warriors tie NBA record for most wins

BY STEVE HABEL
THE SPORTS XCHANGE

SAN ANTONIO — Stephen Curry poured in 37 points, 16 of them in a pivotal stretch of the third quarter, as the Golden State Warriors remained on track to set the NBA's single-season win record with a 92-86 victory over the San Antonio Spurs on Sunday night.

The Warriors (72-9) matched the victory total of the 1995-96 Chicago Bulls. Golden State can set the record with a home win over the

Memphis Grizzlies on Wednesday, the season's final night.

A nip-and-tuck game between the teams with the league's two best records turned in the first six minutes of the fourth quarter. Warriors forward Harrison Barnes had three big baskets and led a group of mostly reserves to a six-point lead over a mixture of San Antonio's starters and bench players.

From there, Curry and Klay Thompson took over as Golden State turned a four-point lead into a 90-79 advantage on Curry's finger-

roll layup with 1:34 to play. San Antonio cut the Warriors' lead to four points in the waning seconds but could not complete the comeback.

Golden State handed the Spurs their first home loss of the season and ended San Antonio's franchise-high, 48-game regular-season home winning streak that began on March 12, 2015. The Spurs' streak is the second longest in NBA history, right after the Warriors' mark of 54 consecutive home wins that ended last month.

The Warriors also ended their

streak of 33 consecutive regular-season defeats at San Antonio. Golden State's last regular-season win in the Alamo City was a 108-94 victory on Feb. 14, 1997.

Thompson added 14 points for the Warriors, while Draymond Green hit for 11 points.

The Spurs (65-15) were led by LaMarcus Aldridge's 24 points and Kawhi Leonard's 20 points and 13 rebounds. David West and Aldridge each pulled down 10 rebounds.

San Antonio held a 19-14 lead after the end of a raucous first

quarter. The Spurs outrebounded Golden State 18-11 in the quarter, 6-3 on the offensive boards, which created five second-chance points for San Antonio.

The teams fought through tautly played second quarter with the Spurs gaining a seven-point lead twice in the period before Golden State pushed within 31-30 after consecutive 3-pointers by Brandon Rush and Thompson and jumpers by Barnes and Thompson.

The Spurs opened the third quarter with a 10-2 run.

Bruins eliminated from playoffs

BY MIKE SHALIN
THE SPORTS XCHANGE

BOSTON — Sometimes, it really might be dangerous to schedule a promotion on the ice after a game.

The Boston Bruins ran into one of those times on Saturday.

On Fan Appreciation Day, the Bruins continued their "shirts off their backs" promotion, rewarding TD Garden faithful who had won a drawing at the final home game of the season.

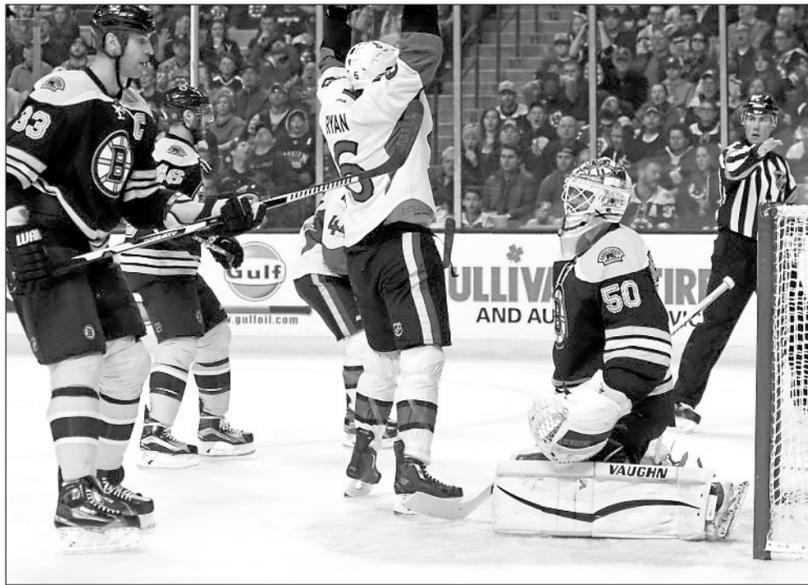
But before giving away their shirts, the Bruins tossed away their shot at the 2016 NHL playoffs — a stunning 6-1 defeat at the hands of the Ottawa Senators that led to the awkward shirt giveaway that included boos from those left in the stands.

"I don't think there's any words for it," Patrice Bergeron said after the Senators, who didn't make the playoffs, scored four goals in an 8:18 of the second period. "I think we all know it's disappointing, and there's not much to be said right now."

Philadelphia's victory over Pittsburgh, as well as losses by both Detroit and Boston, clinched a playoff spot for the Flyers for the first time since 2014 and eliminated the Bruins from a playoff berth.

The Senators poured the four goals on nine shots against backup goaltender Jonas Gustavsson, playing because Tuukka Rask was sick. They added a pair of empty netters late.

"It's unacceptable, the way that we showed up, and you can't win games if you do that," Bergeron said. "So we got it coming I guess, by



Ottawa Senators right wing Bobby Ryan (6) reacts as the puck goes past Boston Bruins goalie Jonas Gustavsson (50) for a goal Saturday during the second period at TD Garden in Boston. Ottawa won 6-1.

not showing up. We did score the first goal, and we should've kept going at them, and we didn't. We let them get back in the game."

With the Bruins not making the playoffs again, coach Claude Julien's job status is shaky, after a 42-31-9 season — just 17-18-6 at home.

Rask was on the ice before the game but did little in warmups as emergency recall Jeremy Smith dressed. Gustavsson, in his first start since March 18, was sharp in a 17-shot first period but then the roof caved in.

"I found out pretty much almost as soon as I got here," Gustavsson said. "I got the word that he was sick and there was a big chance that I

was playing and a few minutes later they said I was playing. So, it was just about getting ready as another game. I felt pretty good going into the game."

David Pastrnak gave the Bruins an early lead but James Neil, Zack Smith, Matt Puempel and Mika Zibanejad scored in the explosion.

The Bruins went on a power play with 9:26 left and Julien pulled Gustavsson, Jean-Gabriel Pageau scoring shorthanded into the empty net from his own end. Smith then scored his 25th of the season shorthanded into an empty net later in the period.

"It wasn't about Boston

today," said Ottawa coach Dave Cameron. "We knew what was at stake for Boston and we knew if we had any advantage in the game today, all the pressure was on them."

"No pressure on us other than to go out and be evaluated and play the right way and make sure that we can finish our season, disappointing not being in the playoffs, but finish it as strong as we could."

Gustavsson made 30 saves, while Andrew Hammond, severely tested in the third period, stopped 39 — 18 in the third — for only his seventh win of an injury-plagued season. He stopped the last 38 shots.

Judge nixes fans' deflategate motions

BY JORDAN GRAHAM
BOSTON HERALD

A federal judge has nixed two motions from New England Patriots fans seeking damages from the NFL over the deflategate saga, saying the suit is "highly unlikely" to succeed.

"After reviewing the complaint, it appears highly unlikely that plaintiffs will succeed on the merits of any of their claims," wrote Judge F. Dennis Saylor in an order late yesterday. Citing "emotional distress," a group of seven Patriots fans filed the civil suit earlier this week, asking the court to return

the Pats' confiscated draft pick to the team.

The fans' motions for a preliminary injunction and temporary restraining order, which would have effectively returned the Pats' draft pick in time for the NFL draft later this month, were both denied. Saylor said the plaintiffs were unlikely to be able to establish legal standing to bring the suit, which he said was "borrowing liberally" from an article published in Sports Illustrated.

"The Court is denying plaintiffs' motion without the benefit of an evidentiary hearing or an opposition brief," Saylor wrote. "However, the federal courts are

courts of limited resources, funded by the taxpayers, and it would not be a prudent expenditure of those resources to permit the motion to progress to the hearing stage."

The case was brought by seven Pats fans "on behalf of all Patriots fans who believe the New England Patriots professional football team were harmed by the Defendants' arbitrary and capricious decision to revoke the Patriots first round draft choice in the April 28, 2016 NFL Draft," the suit, signed by Seth Carey, a Maine attorney, stated.

The seven fans, who hail from Florida, New Jersey and Massachusetts, accused the league and Commissioner

Roger Goodell of fraud, negligence, intentional infliction of emotional distress and racketeering. One plaintiff had said in the filing that his daughter was so distressed she was considering changing her allegiance to another team.

The Patriots lost the pick, a fourth round pick in 2017 and were fined \$1 million after a league investigation found that quarterback Tom Brady was generally aware that footballs may have been partially deflated before the 2015 AFC Championship game.

The fans took aim at that report — dubbed the "Wells Report" — and said it failed to implicate the Patriots and Brady.

which added three sac bunts.

"We haven't been swinging it that well, so we tried to do something else that helped us produce more runs," Casals said.

Marble plated the first run of the inning when he hit Kevin Stypulkowski with a pitch, then Ridley crushed a 2-0 offering far beyond the right-field fence for a home run that gave UMaine a 6-0 advantage and sent the dugout into jubilant celebration.

"It's a game-changer," Fullmer said of the grand slam. "That took the momentum, gave it to us."

Brett Chappell singled, Schwanz laced a double to right-center and Brenden Geary added a sacrifice fly to give the Bears a commanding 7-1 lead.

NYIT rallied for four runs in the sixth, reaching Courtney for three hits, including Robert Fiato's run-scoring double and Lebel's three-run double. However, Courtney buckled down to get the last two outs.

Silva took over and allowed one baserunner, a hit batsman. "Silva did a good job. He really came in throwing hard and throwing strikes," Trimper said.

In Game 2, Fullmer continued his superb work as a starter, shutting down the Bears on four hits. The senior righty (1-1) struck out 11 and walked one.

He baffled NYIT with his late-breaking slider and mixed in enough fastballs to keep them off balance.

"I threw, frankly, a lot more sliders than fastballs today, but it was definitely working pretty well," Fullmer said.

Ridley and Casals each singled twice for UMaine, while Lebel posted an RBI double for NYIT.

NYIT grabbed the lead in the second inning as Sanacore and Lebel laced opposite-field doubles to right off Fullmer, who surrendered only two hits the rest of the way. Both of those runners were erased on double-play grounders back to the mound in the sixth and seventh innings.

The hosts turned three double plays in the game.

UMaine scored all the runs it would need in the second against starter David Plotkin (2-2). Jake Osborne opened with a single through the middle, Jon Salcedo walked and both advanced on Kerbs' sacrifice bunt.

The first run scored on a wild pitch, then Casals delivered a run-scoring single up the middle to make it 2-1.

"We knew we would click at one point," Casals said of the offense.

"These last two games was a product of what we can do and what we're capable of doing," he added.

Fullmer retired nine of the next 10 men he faced, with a wild pitch on a strikeout accounting for the only baserunner.

The Black Bears finally provided Fullmer with some breathing room in the sixth inning. Kerbs was hit by a pitch, then reached second when shortstop Sanacore failed to handle the throw from reliever Frank Valentino on Pena's grounder.

Stypulkowski lined a single to center, setting the stage for Ridley's sharp, two-run single through the right side that made it 4-1.

"The thing about baseball is, once you get a few things going, it's a domino effect," Ridley said.

UMaine next plays Wednesday at 4 p.m. against Division III Thomas College of Waterville.

Red Sox

Continued from Page B5

"He kept us in the game into the seventh," Red Sox manager John Farrell said. "I thought he minimized the damage as best possible in the first, and after that inning he settled in and controlled and commanded the knuckleball very well."

"We ran into an outstanding pitching performance from Estrada here today. A lot of strikes, first and foremost. But a well above-average changeup. Seemingly, you could almost sit on the changeup and it wouldn't get to home plate, kind of a Bugs Bunny type of change-up. He pitched a heck of a game against us. We've been swinging the bat well here and on this road trip, and he shut us down."

Estrada was hampered by a stiff back early in spring training and started the season on the disabled list.

"I really didn't know what to expect going into this game with the way spring training went, things like that," Blue Jays manager John Gibbons said. "But it was vintage Estrada, it really was. It's early in the sea-

son but we needed a game like that, crisp good all-around play."

Right-hander Roberto Osuna pitched around a single in the ninth to earn his third save of the season.

Kevin Pillar and Donaldson started the bottom of the first inning with singles. A passed ball put the runners at second and third. Bautista walked to load the bases.

Edwin Encarnacion's grounder to shortstop forced Bautista at second, but Pedroia threw wildly to first, allowing a second run to score.

Wright was replaced by right-hander Noe Ramirez with two out in the seventh and Goin at second after hitting a double. Ramirez retired Pillar to end the inning.

"They definitely put good swings on some not good pitches," Wright said. "They spoiled a lot of pitches. I felt like they had a good approach today. They hit some hard ones early on, they got the two runs but guys made some really good plays that kind of saved us some big innings."

Donaldson hit Ramirez's first pitch of the bottom of the eighth for his fourth homer of the season.

Busch

Continued from Page B5

with a spin by Ty Dillon and involved nearly 10 cars.

"I know the 78 (Truex), we just out-tired him there at the end. Just, overall, a great night for JGR and Toyota," who also won NASCAR's Xfinity race, the O'Reilly Auto Parts 300 Friday night.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. finished second Saturday night after passing Joey Logano with nine laps to go, relegating Logano to third. Earnhardt's Hendrick Motorsports teammates Jimmie Johnson and Chase Elliott finished fourth and fifth, respectively.

"We got a little behind and got caught on pit road on that one caution," Earnhardt said.

"We had a fast car, probably good enough to win. Martin probably had the best car, but the best car doesn't always win. Kyle did a great job on the outside on that last restart. Truex's tires were worse than I thought."

"We finished up there where we should have. We need a win. We'd love a win. I know our fans want a win really bad. Trust me, man, we're all working really hard and running great every week. Hopefully, that's fun for everyone to watch. I had a blast inside the car — a lot of sliding around sideways and good, hard racing. We'll go to the next one, I guess, and try again."

After a combined dominant performance by Carl Edwards and Martin Truex Jr., Edwards dropped out of contention when he fell off the pace and made an unscheduled pit stop for a loose wheel soon after a restart that followed a caution on Lap 211.

Truex continued to run up front, but staying out during two late cautions resulted in a backslide to sixth by the finish. Edwards finished seventh.

"We just ran out of tires, you know," Truex said. "Made it through (turns) one and two side-by-side; got to three and just didn't have the grip. Then, we fell back because we were sliding around. Everybody had new tires. We ran under caution for a long time; they keep building air pressure and losing grip."

Truex led a race-high 141 laps and Edwards led 124 laps of the 334-lap race.

Kasey Kahne, Kurt Busch and Kevin Harvick finished eighth through 10th, respectively.

Edwards was the leader at the halfway point with Truex and Earnhardt second and third. Edwards retook the lead from Truex by getting off pit road first during a Lap 135 caution for debris.

Truex took the lead from Edwards on lap 59 and pulled away from the field. By the time drivers began cycling through green-flag stops on lap 109, Truex had a seven-second cushion on Earnhardt — the second-place driver at the time.

North Dakota wins college hockey championship 5-1

BY JESS MYERS
THE SPORTS XCHANGE

TAMPA, Florida — Saturday's NCAA Frozen Four title game was televised by ESPN, but it was a trio known as "CBS" that made North Dakota the national FROZEN FOUR champions.

The Fighting Hawks' renowned top offensive unit of Drake Caggiula, Brock Boeser and Nick Schmaltz — known as the "CBS Line" — had a hand in a quartet of goals during North Dakota's 5-1 victory over Quinnipiac in the national championship game.

Caggiula scored twice, Boeser had a goal and three assists and Schmaltz set up a goal as North Dakota won its eighth NCAA hockey crown and first since 2000. Shane Gersich and Austin Poganski also scored for the

Hawks (34-6-4), who got 32 saves from Cam Johnson.

Tim Clifton scored for the Bobcats (32-4-7), who fell in the NCAA title game for the second time in four seasons. Michael Garteig finished with 31 saves for Quinnipiac.

It was a one-goal game until early in the third period, when Schmaltz and then Boeser set up Caggiula goals less than three minutes apart to blow the game open.

"Our line always says the third period has to be our best period, whether we're up or whether we're down," said Caggiula, who is an undrafted free agent and is expected to be signed after by a number of NHL teams.

Caggiula also scored twice in North Dakota's 4-2 victory over Denver in the semifinals on Thursday and was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player.

UMaine

Continued from Page B5

sophomore right-hander allowed six hits and five runs (four earned) with five strikeouts, a walk and two hit batsmen.

Silva, a freshman righty, made a three-run lead stand up over the last three innings. He used a lively fastball to strike out five while holding NYIT (13-17) hitless.

Frank Sanacore doubled and singled to lead the visiting Bears, who got a three-run double from Eliot's Jake Lebel, who played at Marshwood High School.

UMaine scratched out a run in the first inning against NYIT starter Dixon Marble (3-3), but the visitors countered with a single unearned run in the third on Louis Mele's RBI single.

The Black Bears broke the game open in the third.

Kerbs hustled out an infield single to get things started, then Casals bunted his way on for a base hit. Jeremy Pena followed with another punt single, one of four on the day for UMaine,