

Romo returns as Cowboys end losing streak

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — Tony Romo, back after missing seven games due to a broken left collarbone, helped the Dallas Cowboys snap their seven-game losing streak with a 24-14 win over the Miami Dolphins on Sunday.

NFL ROUNDUP

Romo, perhaps a bit rusty, threw two interceptions. But he redeemed himself with his second touchdown pass, a 16-yard game-winner to wide receiver Dez Bryant with 14:55 left in the fourth quarter. Romo finished with 213 yards passing, completing 17 of 27.

The Cowboys (3-7) are 3-0 this season when Romo starts. They are 0-7 without Romo.

The Dolphins (4-6) were led by Ryan Tannehill, who threw two touchdown passes. He completed 13 of 24 passes for 188 yards and one interception.

Ravens 16, Rams 13

BALTIMORE, Maryland — A sack and forced fumble by linebacker Courtney Upshaw set up a 47-yard, game-winning field goal by Justin Tucker as time expired to give Baltimore a victory over St. Louis.

The win came at a cost for the Ravens (3-7), however, as quarterback Joe Flacco will miss the rest of the season with a significant knee injury.

Flacco went down with a torn ACL, and possibly a torn MCL, Baltimore coach John Harbaugh said after the Ravens' 16-13 win.

Harbaugh said Flacco suffered the injury on their last offensive series, which he still finished, with the Ravens winning on Justin Tucker's 47-yard field goal as time expired.

"It's just the nature of the game, man," said Flacco, Super Bowl MVP for the champion Ravens three seasons ago.

"Stuff like this happens. So you've just got to stand tall and get through it."

The injury will stop Flacco's streak of consecutive starts to open his career at 122 regular season games.

Upshaw hit St. Louis quarterback Case Keenum from the blind side, and the ball was recovered by defensive end Lawrence Guy at the Rams' 41. St. Louis (4-6) lost four fumbles and missed an extra point.

Panthers 44, Redskins 16

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina — Cam Newton threw five short touchdown passes as Carolina won its 10th game in a row, smashing Washington.

The Panthers (10-0) scored after four Washington turnovers to continue the best start in franchise history. Newton, who improved to 3-0 as a starter vs. the Redskins, threw a franchise-record four first-half touchdown passes. He finished 21

of 34 for 246 yards without an interception.

Kirk Cousins completed 22 of 30 passes for 207 yards for the Redskins (4-6), who have yet to win back-to-back games this season.

Broncos 17, Bears 15

CHICAGO, Illinois — Brock Osweiler made it look easy in his first NFL start with two touchdown passes to lead Denver over Chicago.

The win ended a two-game losing streak for the Broncos (8-2). Osweiler, on his 25th birthday, completed 20 of 27 passes for 250 yards and recorded a passer rating of 127.1. Injured Peyton Manning did not make the trip to Chicago.

The Bears (4-6) had three chances in the fourth quarter to tie the game with a touchdown and two-point conversion. Finally, with 24 seconds remaining, Jeremy Langford capped a 65-yard drive by running in for a touchdown from the 2-yard line. The Bears called another Langford run for the two-point conversion, but he was stopped.

Texans 24, Jets 17

HOUSTON, Texas — Backup quarterback T.J. Yates tossed two touchdown passes to DeAndre Hopkins as Houston unleashed a versatile offensive attack in the win over New York.

The Texans (5-5) claimed their third consecutive win by challenging the Jets' stout run defense with sur-

prising personnel packages, including deploying the Wildcat with running back Jonathan Grimes and receiver Cecil Shorts III taking snaps. That gambit enabled the Texans to feature Hopkins, who produced five catches for 118 yards.

Former Texans quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick passed for 216 yards, including a 21-yard strike to Brandon Marshall in the third quarter that pulled the Jets (5-5) even at 10-10.

Colts 24, Falcons 21

ATLANTA, Georgia — Indianapolis kicker Adam Vinatieri celebrated the 300th game of his career by kicking a 43-yard game-winning field goal in the comeback over fading Atlanta.

The Colts (5-5) overcame a dismal start to win their second straight game. After turning it over on each of their first two possessions, veteran quarterback Matt Hasselbeck led two long scoring drives to get Indianapolis back into the game. Hasselbeck threw two touchdown passes to running back Ahmad Bradshaw, the second trimming the Falcons' lead to 21-14 late in the third quarter.

The loss was the third in a row for the Falcons (6-4). It was especially painful, with running back Devonta Freeman leaving early in the first quarter with a concussion.

Buccaneers 45, Eagles 17

PHILADELPHIA, Penn-

sylvania — Jameis Winston threw five touchdown passes — including four in the first half — and Tampa Bay Buccaneers rolled over Philadelphia.

The victory gives the Bucs (5-5) a shot at an NFC wild-card playoff berth, while the Eagles (4-6) fell a game behind the idle New York Giants in NFC East.

It was, by far, the best game of Winston's rookie year. The first overall pick in the 2015 draft completed 19 of 29 passes for 246 yards, with no interceptions, and the five TD passes tied the NFL rookie record set by Detroit's Matthew Stafford in 2009.

Lions 18, Raiders 13

DETROIT, Michigan — Matthew Stafford scored the go-ahead touchdown on a quarterback draw and passed for 282 yards as Detroit edged Oakland.

Stafford scored early in the fourth quarter and the Lions' defense pitched a shutout the final 15 minutes to seal the win. Matt Prater kicked three field goals for the Lions (3-7), who have won two in a row after cleaning house, firing their general manager and team president on the heels of a loss in London.

Derek Carr was held to 169 passing yards as the Raiders (4-6) lost their third straight. Oakland was limited to 214 total yards.

Packers 30, Vikings 13

MINNEAPOLIS — Aaron Rodgers threw a pair of touchdowns and Mason Crosby made five field goals as the Green Bay Packers won 30-13 over the Minnesota Vikings at TCF Bank Stadium on Sunday.

The victory snapped a three-game losing streak for the Packers and moved them into a first-place tie with the Vikings with matching 7-3 records.

Minnesota had won five consecutive games and the 30 points were the most allowed by the Vikings this season.

The Packers led most of the way, taking a 3-0 lead on a 42-yard field goal by Crosby on their first drive of the game.

The Vikings answered back, as quarterback Teddy Bridgewater connected on a 47-yard catch-and-run score to tight end Kyle Rudolph. Kicker Blair Walsh missed the extra point to the right, giving Minnesota its only lead of the game at 6-3.

Crosby made a 47-yard field goal on the next drive and then drilled one from 40 yards out early in the second quarter for a 9-6 lead.

Green Bay took advantage of two Vikings penalties in the red zone as Rodgers hit receiver Randall Cobb on a 10-yard pass in the middle of the end zone six seconds before halftime. Crosby's kick gave the Packers a 16-6 lead at the break.

Ko earns \$1 million bonus while Kerr wins LPGA tourney

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

NAPLES, Florida — While world No. 1 Lydia Ko limped to the finish line, Cristie Kerr looked fresh as a daisy.

And she's 20 years older.

Sunday, they became a lot richer.

PRO GOLF

Despite playing even-par golf Sunday, Ko (11-under) held on to take The Race To The CME Globe and earn the \$1 million bonus for the second year in a row. She edged South Korea's Inbee Park, who shot 12-under.

Meanwhile, Kerr used an eagle on No. 17 to go to 17-under



Ko

271 to edge South Korea's Ha Na Jang and earn \$500,000.

"I think good golf is just good golf," Kerr said. "It doesn't really matter what age it is. I think I proved that."

"Good golf really doesn't know an age."

Ko joined Nancy Kopez, Annika Sorenstam and Beth Daniel as players who were Rookie of the Year in their first season and Player of the Year in their second.

"I know Beth, Annika and Nancy are legendary players," Ko said. "And their legacies are still here with us."

Ko broke a streak of 11 holes without a birdie with one at No. 17. She then gave it back when her putt on No. 18 lipped out for bogey but at the end of the day, it didn't matter.

"I tried to stay patient all day," she said. "Even up to the last minute, it had to lip out, it was tough. It's been a long season. Up and down, mostly ups, but I think every emotion kind of."

Park, 27, who had four birdies to one bogey Sunday, didn't go away empty-handed. By winning the Vare Trophy for lowest scoring average, she earned a point, which qualified her as the youngest player for the Hall of Fame.

"I thought Lydia had the youngest of everything," she said.

Kerr edged American Gerina Piller, who birdied No. 18, and South Korea's Ha Na Jang, who had a birdie on No. 17 when Kerr

made her 12-footer for eagle. She put it close with her 5-wood.

"I just got the visual of threading the needle," she said. "If you pull it going into that green, you can down in the dip, that's not an easy up-and-down. If you hit it right, you could be against that wall in the bunker. I knew I needed a perfect shot at that time. I stayed there and made my practice swing until I felt the shot I wanted and then I pulled it off."

On No. 18, Kerr put approach shot 40 feet from the hole where she rolled it within 3 feet from the cup where she knocked it down.

Players now will take off for two months. They'll return to action on Jan. 28 with the Pure Silk-Bahamas LPGA Classic in Paradise Island, Bahamas.

Kisner posts first PGA Tour win

Kevin Kisner, a runner-up four times this year, secured his first PGA Tour win with a flourish, firing his second successive 64 for a six-shot victory in the RSM Classic at Sea Island, Georgia on Sunday.

Kisner, 31, began the final round with a three-shot lead and turned it into a romp with five birdies on the front side to make the turn in 30.

He finished with a six-under round at the Seaside course at Sea Island for a tournament record 22-under-par 260 total.

American Kevin Chappell shot 67 to take second place on 16-under 266, one stroke better than Northern Irishman Graeme McDowell, who also returned a 67 on St Simons Island.

"I was just playing so well all year, I knew that one day it was going to happen where I would make all the putts on Sunday and I did it today on the front nine," said Kisner, who was greeted on the final green by his baby daughter Kate.

"I hope it's just opening the bucket and the floodgates are open. You got to believe you can win on Thursday and I hope this catapults me into believing that every week."

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NEW YORK — Center Brook Lopez continued his fine play with 23 points and 10 rebounds, and forward Joe Johnson scored 10 of his 17 points in a decisive second quarter, leading the Brooklyn Nets to a 111-101 victory over the Boston Celtics Sunday night at the Barclays Center.

NBA

Brooklyn (3-11) avenged a loss sustained at Boston just 48 hours prior.

Just as on Friday night, when the Celtics earned a 120-95 victory, Sunday's game was decided in the second quarter. The Nets totally reversed their fortune, outscoring the Celtics 35-23. On Friday, the Nets were outscored 43-23 in the second.

The Nets got 22 points from guard Jarrett Jack, including three clutch baskets in the final four minutes, and 12 points from reserve forward Andrea Bargnani, 10 coming in the second period. Forward Thaddeus Young added 11 points and a game-high 12 rebounds for the winners. Jack had 13 of his points in the final period.

The Celtics (7-6) received 27 points each from guards Avery Bradley and Isaiah Thomas. Guard Evan Turner added 13 off the bench for Boston.

Celtics guard Marcus Smart missed the game with a lower left leg injury and will be sidelined for at least two weeks.

After the Nets gained a 24-19 lead to close out the first period, they became unstoppable in the second, posting two 10-0 runs.

The first 10-point surge, capped by a slam dunk by reserve forward Thomas Robinson off an alley-oop pass from guard Shane Larkin, gave Brooklyn a 37-27 lead with 7:23 left in the second period.

The second 10-0 stretch



NOAH K. MURRAY | USA TODAY SPORTS

Boston Celtics guard Isaiah Thomas (right) drives to the basket against Brooklyn Nets guard Shane Larkin during first half at Barclays Center on Sunday.

featured two long 3-pointers from Johnson and was capped by an 18-foot jumper from Bargnani, pushing the lead to 51-35 with 2:22 left before halftime.

Brooklyn shot 67 percent (14-of-21) from the floor in the second period. Ten Nets scored at least three points in the first half.

The Nets led 59-42 at halftime, then pushed the lead to 20 in the early stages of the third. It marked the first time this season that Brooklyn led by as many as 20 in any game.

Bradley drained two long threes in the closing minute of the third quarter, as Boston cut the lead to 86-76 with 53 seconds left. Forward Tyler Zeller made a lane jumper to slice the lead to 86-78 entering the fourth quarter.

Raptors 905 use late surge to sink Red Claws

PORTLAND — The Maine Red Claws saw career highs in scoring from Boston Celtics asignee Jordan Mickey, Coty Clarke and Malcolm Miller, but could not hold off a late surge as they fell to Raptors 905 Sunday at the Portland Expo 96-87.

NBA D-LEAGUE

It was the first win in Raptors 905 franchise history.

The Raptors (1-4) opened the game on a 10-2 run while the Red Claws (3-2) missed their first eight shots. Mickey got things going with a

dunk, a three-point play and a three-point shot to get back into the game, cutting the lead to 12-11, but the Raptors ran off nine more points to run the score to 21-14 at the quarter break, holding Maine to just 17.6 percent shooting.

The Red Claws got the long ball working in the second quarter, with Miller converting on back-to-back trips to tie the game at 27 early in the quarter. The Raptors answered with Keanu Post's strong inside play, but Clarke, Mickey and Levi Randolph put

Maine back on top, with Clarke tying the score at the 5:47 mark and Mickey giving the Red Claws their first lead with 2:48 to go in the half.

The Red Claws closed out the half on a 12-0 run, holding 905 scoreless for the final 5:52 of the half.

Out of the locker room, the Raptors got a layup from Toronto Raptors assignee Bruno Caboclo, and Shannon Scott converted on back to back trips to cut the lead to five. Davion Berry scored six for Maine and Jay Harris had five for the Raptors as

sists and three steals, helping the Raptors (9-6) avoid blowing a 29-point first-half lead late in the contest. Toronto beat the Clippers for the third straight time, all of them by double-digit margins.

Guard J.J. Redick scored 17 points and point guard Chris Paul had 13 points and 11 assists as the Clippers (6-7) lost their third in a row. Center DeAndre Jordan finished with 13 points, 15 rebounds and five blocks.

Los Angeles made a run in the final quarter, pulling within 73-67 after a 3-point jumper by forward Josh Smith with 7:30 remaining. However, DeRozan ended a Toronto drought of more than nine minutes without a field goal, scoring on a layup to halt the Clippers' surge.

Two foul shots by guard Cory Joseph and a jumper by Scola pushed the lead back to 12 points. Los Angeles never got any closer than eight the rest of the way.

The Raptors led 33-23 after one quarter and dominated the second quarter, outscoring the Clippers 30-11 for a 63-34 advantage at the break. The Raptors limited the Clippers to 23.5 percent shooting in the second quarter, while converting 47.1 percent of their shots. For the half, the Clippers canned all five of their free throws, but Toronto owned a considerable edge there, too, making 17 of 19.

Forward Blake Griffin, one of three Clippers starters who failed to score in the first quarter, had a forgettable half, missing both of his field-goal attempts and coming up empty in more than nine minutes. Griffin sat out the final 8:29 of the half after picking up his third foul. Griffin finally scored 30 seconds into the second half and finished with nine points on 4-of-10 shooting in almost 29 minutes. He also had six rebounds.

the Red Claws fought hard to maintain a nine point lead.

Late in the third, Clark had a three-point play and a three-pointer to push the lead to 70-61, but Melvin Johnson scored on the next trip down and Harris banked in a three from half court at the buzzer to cut the lead to 70-66 heading into the final frame.

The Raptors were led by Suggs (19 points, six rebounds) and Harris (18 points, six rebounds). Post (10 points, eight rebounds) rounded out the players in double figures.