

Asada to begin her Grand Prix campaign at Cup of China

Miyahara, Gold headline season-opening Skate America

Oilers top Red Wings as Flyers edge Bruins in OT

Sabres pip Leafs

EDMONTON, Alberta, Oct 22, (AP): Connor McDavid scored his fourth goal of the season to help the Edmonton Oilers beat the Detroit Red Wings 3-1 on Wednesday night.

The No. 1 overall pick in the June draft, the 18-year-old McDavid beat Petr Mrazek with a deke on a breakaway to give the Oilers a 2-0 lead at 6:34 of the second period. He also has two assists in his first seven NHL games.

Edmonton has won three straight after losing its first four games. The Oilers also snapped an eight-game losing streak against Detroit.

Teddy Purcell scored 30 seconds after McDavid's goal. Mark Letestu scored his first goal for Edmonton on a first-period power play. Cam Talbot made 28 saves, allowing only Tomas Tatar's third-period goal.

ICE HOCKEY

The Red Wings have lost three straight after winning their first three games.

Flyers 5, Bruins 4, OT

In Boston, Claude Giroux scored his second power-play goal of the game at 2:09 of overtime to left Philadelphia past Boston.

Giroux one-timed a shot past Tuukka Rask from the left circle with Ryan Spooner off for hooking.

Philadelphia overcame a two-goal deficit in the third period. Giroux cut it to 4-3 at 7:48, and Wayne Simmonds tied it at 9:36. Pierre-Edouard Bellemare and Sam Gagner also scored for the Flyers.

Chris Kelly, Jimmy Hayes, Brett Connolly and Patrice Bergeron scored for Boston. The Bruins have lost their first four home games this season.

Sabres 2, Maple Leafs 1, SO

In Buffalo, New York, Evander Kane tied it with 4:29 left with his first goal for Buffalo, and Matt Moulson and Tyler Ennis scored in the shootout to beat Toronto.

Kane pushed a wrist past goalie Jonathan Bernier. Buffalo acquired Kane from Winnipeg in February, but he was unable to play until this season after having shoulder surgery.

Chad Johnson made 23 saves to help Buffalo improve to 2-4.

P.A. Parenteau scored for Toronto, and



Josh Gorges #4 of the Buffalo Sabres controls the puck against James van Riemsdyk #21 of the Toronto Maple Leafs at First Niagara Center on Oct 21, in Buffalo, New York. (AFP)

Bernier made 34 saves.

Hurricanes 1, Avalanche 0, OT

In Denver, Victor Rask scored 1:49 into overtime to end Carolina's 10-game losing streak in Colorado.

Cam Ward made 26 saves in his first shutout of the season and 23rd of his career.

Colorado's second group in the extra period got caught on the ice, leading to the goal. Ryan Murphy fed Rask in the slot, and Rask took the puck to the front of the net and beat Semyon Varlamov with a backhand. Varlamov finished with 18 saves.

John Tortorella hoisted a Stanley Cup in Tampa Bay and led the New York Rangers to the verge of a championship berth.

At woebegone Columbus, the Blue Jackets have a more modest goal for the veteran coach: Win a game.

Tortorella is back coaching in the NHL after the Blue Jackets fired Todd Richards on Wednesday with the team off to an 0-7 start.

Tortorella, who won the Stanley Cup with the Tampa Bay Lightning in 2004, has been out of hockey since the Canucks fired him in May 2014 after one season in

NHL Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Oct 22, (RTS): Results and standings from the NHL games on Wednesday:

Buffalo 2 Toronto (SO) 1

Philadelphia 5 Boston (OT) 4

Edmonton 3 Detroit 1

Carolina 1 Colorado (OT) 0

Western Conference

Central Division

Dallas 5 1 0 21 14 10

Nashville 5 1 0 19 13 10

St Louis 5 2 0 21 17 10

Winnipeg 4 2 0 20 13 8

Minnesota 3 1 1 14 15 7

Chicago 3 3 0 14 14 6

Colorado 2 3 1 16 17 5

Pacific Division

San Jose 4 2 0 17 12 8

Vancouver 3 1 2 16 11 8

Arizona 3 2 1 18 14 7

Edmonton 3 4 0 15 17 6

Los Angeles 2 3 0 6 14 3

Anaheim 1 3 1 5 12 3

Calgary 1 5 0 12 25 2

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

Montreal 7 0 0 23 7 14

Tampa Bay 4 2 1 23 20 9

Florida 3 2 1 18 12 7

Ottawa 3 2 1 19 17 7

Detroit 3 3 0 16 16 6

Boston 2 3 1 22 26 5

Buffalo 2 4 0 11 15 4

Toronto 1 3 2 13 19 4

Metropolitan Division

NY Islanders 4 1 1 21 15 9

NY Rangers 4 2 1 18 15 9

Washington 4 1 0 19 12 8

Philadelphia 3 2 1 13 16 7

Pittsburgh 3 3 0 10 11 6

New Jersey 2 3 1 11 16 5

Carolina 2 4 0 12 17 4

Columbus 0 7 0 13 34 0

Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L)

Vancouver. He takes over for Richards, who had been with the Blue Jackets since 2012 and led them to only their second

NHL playoff appearance in 2013-14, when they lost to the Pittsburgh Penguins in the opening round.

PARIS, France, Oct 22, (AFP): Japan's Satoko Miyahara opens her bid for a first gold at the season-opening ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating event Skate America in Milwaukee on Friday in a field that includes US hope Gracie Gold and Russia's Julia Lipnitskaya.

With former three-time world champion Mao Asada making her return to competition this season, the 17-year-old Miyahara will be looking to set herself up as a challenger to the 25-year-old Japanese superstar.

Asada, who took a year out after winning a third world title, will begin her Grand Prix campaign at the Cup of China from November 6-8 and will also compete in the NHK Trophy in Nagano from November 27-29.

In her absence, Miyahara took silver in the world championships in Shanghai in March behind Russia's Elizaveta Tuktamysheva and has been assigned Skate America and the NHK Trophy as her two events in the six-leg

FIGURE SKATING

Grand Prix series.

Miyahara, who finished runner-up behind Asada in the Japan Open earlier this month, will be among three Japanese women competing in Wisconsin along with Haruka Imai, 22, and Miyu Nakashio, 19.

With the world championships taking place in her native Boston from March 28 to April 3, Gold will be determined to get the season back on track after stumbling to last in the six-skater Japan Open.

Lipnitskaya, 17, will be looking to recapture her form of the Olympic season which saw her win the European title and team gold in Sochi in 2014 but struggle to ninth at nationals last season.

Young Kazakh skater Elizabet Tursynbaeva could also challenge after winning gold in this month's Autumn Classic in Canada.

In the men's field, Kazakhstan's Olympic bronze medalist Denis Ten is the top-ranked skater, although his coach Frank Carroll has said he is struggling with groin and hip problems.

"Of course, he is doing the best he can, but at the moment he's not up to snuff," said Carroll.

US champion Jason Brown will square off against Japan's world junior champion Shoma Uno, 17, who defeated Spain's world champion Javier Fernandez to win the Japan Open.

China's Han Yan, Russia's Konstantin Menshov and Max Aaron, the 2013 US champion, are also among the challengers.

Russia's Ksenia Stolbova and Fedor Klimov, the 2014 Olympic and world pairs silver medalists, will compete this weekend along with world silver medalists Sui Wenjing and Han Cong of China.

Olympic champion Yuzuru Hanyu of Japan gets his season underway at Skate Canada from October 30 to November 1, and will also compete in the NHK Trophy as Sochi silver medal-



Satoko Miyahara of Japan poses with her silver medal during the medal ceremony of the women's competition in the ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships in Seoul, South Korea, on Feb 15, 2015. (AP)



Gracie Gold holds her gold medal on the podium at the women's skating awards ceremony at the US Figure Skating Championships in Boston, on Jan 11, 2014. (AP)

list Patrick Chan of Canada returns after skipping the post-Olympic season along with Olympic women's champion Adelina Sotnikova.

Chan will compete at Skate Canada and the Trophée Bompard in France, two events which will also see women's world champion Tuktamysheva, with Sotnikova at the Cup of Russia.

World pairs champions Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford of Canada will compete in Skate Canada and the NHK Trophy.

Ice dance world champions Gabriella Papadakis and Guillaume Cizeron of France, whose season has been thrown into turmoil after Papadakis suffered concussion in a training accident, are entered in the Trophée Bompard and the NHK Trophy.

The top six skaters in the four disciplines - men's, women's, pairs and ice dancing - will qualify for the ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating Final in Barcelona from December 10-13.

'Beauty with attitude'

Brazil's women get their kicks in MMA fight



Brazilian Poliana Botelho celebrates after winning the MMA World Flyweight Championship fight for the belt against Argentina's Silvana Gomez Juarez aka 'La Malvada' in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on Sept 19, as part of the Xtreme Fighting Championships (XFC). (AFP)

SAO PAULO, Oct 22, (AFP): The black eyes, scrapes and sweat get a little in the way of Poliana Botelho's smile but her euphoria after winning a Mixed Martial Arts title fight in Sao Paulo is unmistakable.

Although the Brazilian gets battered in the Sept 19 clash in Brazil's biggest city, she wins the MMA's Xtreme Fighting Championships franchise belt and her opponent is left semi-conscious and receiving medical attention.

Botelho's compatriot Beth Correia had less luck just a few weeks earlier when she was knocked out within 34 seconds by the world's top female MMA fighter, the United States' Ronda Rousey, holder of the most prestigious UFC belt.

But whatever the ups and down, Brazilian women are rising in the world of MMA, a supremely gladiatorial discipline that has become a global pay-per-view success, often staged in cage-like rings where fighters combine facets of different martial arts, ranging from karate to wrestling to boxing.

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

With their long history of jiu-jitsu fighting and an MMA-precursor called "vale tudo," or "anything goes," Brazilians seem to have taken naturally to the sport. Subscriptions to Combate television, which specializes in showing MMA, have gone up 500 percent since 2010, the channel said.

Like other fighting sports, MMA has long been male-dominated, but the female version is especially strong in Brazil.

A survey by research group Ibope found that 45 percent of the most ardent fans here are women. And on Combate, the main website for MMA enthusiasts here, 20 of the 25 most popular articles in August were about female fighters.

Three years ago Botelho, then 23, took up Thai boxing as a way to lose weight. But her competitive attitude caught the trainer's eye and she learned quickly. Just a few months later she was taking part in her first MMA bout.

Despite this quick progress, she didn't fit what most people would consider the standard image of a fulltime fighter.

"When I turned professional, a friend said to me, 'But Poliana, you wouldn't hurt a fly!' I explained that this is just a sport. People imagine that it's all about

blood and blows, but that's not the case." From the start, Botelho got family support, even if one aunt said that with her good looks she shouldn't be going in the ring.

Taking hits and kicks isn't the only physical challenge of being a professional fighter. Severe weight controls mean that even drinking a glass of water can be an issue before a fight, when she must measure in below her weight category's limit of 56.7 kilograms.

Botelho says MMA has a special intensity between women.

"Men spend a lot of time studying their opponent, but women attack from the very start because there's more rivalry between us. We have a need to be the best, the most beautiful, and that's something we all share," Botelho said.

The combate.com website had an audience of about five million Brazilians during the weekend of the Correia-Rousey fight in August in Rio de Janeiro. Globo TV doubled its usual audience with the late-night bout.

Rousey is not just the best female MMA fighter in the world and last year the eighth highest paid sportswoman, but a Hollywood star whose good looks have helped her cross marketing boundaries, earning \$6.5 million between June 2014 and June 2015, according to Forbes magazine.

Correia has made huge sacrifices in her quest to displace Rousey as queen of the Ultimate Fighting Championship franchise, which gets some 800 million viewers from 129 countries for big fights.

She gave up her marriage and stable job as an accountant in exchange for the adrenalin of the ring four years ago.

"When my family found out I was going to turn professional they panicked. They thought I'd gone mad," said Correia, who at 32 has moved base to California, where she can get better training.

The image of the fighter is hard to square with the soft voice during a telephone interview with AFP, or Correia's appearance in make-up and flashy clothing along with Rousey before their bout.

But Correia says MMA is always about more than pure violence.

"We train a lot to learn to defend ourselves, to take blows without getting hurt. It is a very technical and professional sport," she said. "It is not street brawling. We confront someone of our weight and there are rules, referees and doctors."

Two-man battle for title

Rossi seeks to hold off Lorenzo in Malaysia GP

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 22, (AFP): Valentino Rossi and Jorge Lorenzo bring their two-man battle for the MotoGP title to Malaysia's tricky track this weekend for the penultimate race in a season streaking toward a nail-biting finish.

The contest between the Yamaha teammates tightened at last weekend's spectacular Australian Grand Prix, where Lorenzo shaved Rossi's season points lead down to just 11.

Rossi, 36, is a legend in the sport who has won seven world championships in the premier class over the course of his glittering career, but the Italian hasn't taken home the crown since 2009.

"There are only two races for the championship left and it will be important not to make any mistakes," said Rossi, whose slip to a fourth-place finish at Phillip Island opened a crack for Lorenzo.

"In Australia we had a good race but

it could have been much better. Now we need just two good races to finish this successful season off."

Rossi is comfortable on Malaysia's muggy, slippery Sepang circuit, winning six times in the top-tier class.

There is a chance he could clinch the title on Sunday if he tops the podium and Lorenzo falters to finish lower down in the pack.

But that looks unlikely, with Lorenzo a fixture on the podium all season, and the championship could go down to the wire next month at Valencia.

Lorenzo, 28, who won the world championship in 2010 and 2012, is yet to win in the premier race at Sepang.

He may need victories in the final two contests for a shot at his third MotoGP world title.

MOTORCYCLING

"The main goal is to cut some more points from Valentino's margin and I will try to arrive to Valencia with a smaller disadvantage. I feel strong and look forward to racing in Malaysia," said the Spaniard.

Rossi's lead would have been even slimmer had Lorenzo been able to close out a victory at Phillip Island.

But defending champion Marc Marquez swept beneath Lorenzo on the final go-around to win a thrilling race that saw 52 overtakes between the top four finishers.

Rossi has 296 points, followed by Lorenzo's 285.

Despite his stirring victory in Australia, Marquez is well back in third on 222 points.

His chances of repeating as champion were dashed by a broken left hand suffered last month while training on his mountain bike at home in Spain.

Rossi was the runner-up at Sepang last year in a race that was meaningless for the world title, as Marquez had already secured it with a dominant season.

Canadian skier Cook damages knee during 'crash' in Austria

SOELDEN, Austria, Oct 22, (AP): Canadian skier Dustin Cook will be out for an indefinite time after hurting his knee in a training crash in the Austrian ski resort of Pitztal on Wednesday.

The Canadian ski federation said Cook was preparing for the first race of the upcoming World Cup season, the traditional giant slalom on the Rettenbach glacier in nearby Soelden.

"During a giant slalom training run, Cook crashed causing ligament damage to his right knee," the fed-



Cook

SKIING

eration said, adding that the 26-year-old Cook will need surgery and misses the season-opener.

Specializing in the speed events, Cook took silver in super-G at the world championships in Beaver Creek in February and won his first World Cup race in Meribel, France, the following month. His best result in GS is 18th.

Cook became the second skier to damage his knee ligaments in a training crash Wednesday after women's overall champion Anna Fenninger, who was ruled out for the entire season.