

SPORTS

Falcons dominate Pacs, Raiders keep Jets winless

Siemian ties career high as Broncos blow out Cowboys

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Brady joined Warren Moon as the only QBs age 40 or older to pass for at least 400 yards and three TDs in a game, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Rob Gronkowski had a 53-yard catch and run to highlight his six-catch, 116-yard performance, but left the game in the second half with a groin injury.

Broncos 42, Cowboys 17

In Denver, Trevor Siemian tied a career high with four touchdown passes and the Denver Broncos held Ezekiel Elliott to the worst game of his career — 8 yards on nine carries — in a blowout of the Dallas Cowboys in a game that included an hour-long lightning delay.

Aqib Talib's 103-yard interception return for a touchdown with 53 seconds left was the final indignity for the Cowboys (1-1), who watched Von Miller end a career-long five-game sackless streak by dumping Dak Prescott twice.

Elliott, who's playing while his appeal of a six-game suspension for domestic violence works its way through the courts, came into the game averaging 108 yards rushing per game and more than 5 yards a carry in his career.

The star in the backfield on this day was C.J. Anderson, who rushed for 118 yards and a score and also caught a TD pass for the Broncos, whose only big blemish in their fifth straight 2-0 start was the left leg injury to tackle Garrett Bolles, their No. 1 draft pick who got hurt on the opening drive of the second half.

Two plays after Bolles was carted off, Siemian found Virgil Green for a 2-yard TD. Chris Harris Jr.'s interception set up Anderson's 22-yard touchdown run that made it 35-10.

Seahawks 12, 49ers 9

In Seattle, Russell Wilson avoided two potential sacks and found Paul Richardson in the front corner of the end zone for a 9-yard touchdown with 7:06 left.

It was an offensive nightmare as both teams had combined for 14 total quarters without a touchdown this season before the Seahawks finally broke the seal on the goal line. Wilson avoided Arik Armstead in the pocket and got his pass away before DeForest Buckner could pull him down. Seattle (1-1) snapped a streak of more than 112 minutes without a touchdown, despite missing on opportunities twice inside the 49ers' 10-yard line earlier in the game.

Wilson was erratic at times and magical at the end. He was 23 of 39 passing for 198 yards. He rushed for another 34 yards, 27 coming on the decisive scoring drive. Wilson was 4 of 5 on the drive and aided by a 20-yard pass interference penalty against Dontae Johnson.

Falcons 34, Packers 23

In Atlanta, Matt Ryan and the Atlanta Falcons picked up where they left off against the Green Bay Packers, building a big halftime on the way to a dominating victory Sunday night.

The rematch of last season's NFC championship game was essentially a repeat: Ryan threw for 252 yards and a touchdown, Devonta Freeman had a couple of scoring runs, and Desmond Trufant raced to the end zone off an attempted pass by Aaron Rodgers that was ruled a fumble, leading the Falcons to a victory that wasn't as close as the scoreline suggested.

Last season, Atlanta earned a trip to the Super Bowl by racing to a 24-0 halftime lead and a 31-0 edge early in the third quarter on the way to a 44-21 blowout of the Packers.

Raiders 45, Jets 20

In Oakland, California, Marshawn Lynch ran for a touchdown in his first home game with Oakland and Derek Carr threw three TD passes to Michael Crabtree.

Cordarrelle Patterson and Jalen Richard added long touchdown runs to help put the game away and give the Raiders (2-0) wins in the opening two games of the season for the first time since their AFC championship season in 2002.

Josh McCown threw a pair of TD passes to Jermaine Kearse, but the Jets (0-2) proved to be no match for the more powerful and talented Raiders.

The Raiders' vaunted offensive line won the matchup against New York's front four, allowing no sacks and helping clear holes for a 180-yard rushing performance.

Redskins 27, Rams 20

In Los Angeles, Kirk Cousins threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to Ryan Grant with 1:49 to play to give the Redskins the victory against their former assistant coach, Rams and rookie head coach Sean McVay.

Cousins capped the winning 70-yard drive by finding Grant in the front left corner of the end zone.

The Rams (1-1) had tied the game at 20 on Greg Zuerlein's 40-yard field goal with 7:16 to play. It was set up on a trick play, when punter Johnny Hekker completed a 28-yard pass to Josh Reynolds to the Washington 17. But two penalties stalled the drive and the Rams had to settle for the field goal.

Chiefs 27, Eagles 20

In Kansas City, Missouri, chiefs rookie Kareem Hunt reached the end zone twice. Travis Kelce took a shovel pass 15 yards for the go-ahead touchdown and Kansas City held on.

Kelce's touchdown catch with 6:25

left and Hunt's second TD scamper appeared to have put the game away.

But Carson Wentz hit Nelson Agholor for an answering score with 14 seconds left, and Trey Burton jumped on the onside kick a few seconds later to give the Eagles one last throw to the end zone.

Wentz unloaded from just inside the 50-yard line, but his pass fell incomplete as time expired.

Cardinals 16, Colts 13, OT

In Indianapolis, Carson Palmer's late rally got the Cardinals into overtime and Tyrann Mathieu's interception set up Phil Dawson for a 30-yard field goal to win it.

Dawson made the most of his second chance after pushing a 42-yarder wide right as regulation time expired.

Arizona (1-1) never led until the final play. It hasn't started 0-2 since 2005.

Coach Bruce Arians won his 42nd career game and tied Don Coryell for the second-most wins in Cardinals history on the same field he called home when he won his first NFL Coach of the Year award in 2012 as an interim for the ill Chuck Pagano.

FOOTBALL

Steelers 26, Vikings 9

In Pittsburgh, Ben Roethlisberger threw a pair of first-half touchdown passes. Le'Veon Bell ran for 87 yards and the Steelers kept Minnesota in check.

Roethlisberger hit Martavis Bryant for a 27-yard score in the first quarter and flipped a shovel pass to JuJu Smith-Schuster that the rookie turned into a 4-yard score. Roethlisberger finished 23 of 35 for 243 yards and the two scores as the Steelers (2-0) improved to 10-1 in home openers under Mike Tomlin.

Minnesota (1-1) played without quarterback Sam Bradford, who sat out with a left knee injury. Case Keenum struggled to get anything going in Bradford's absence, throwing for 167 yards on 20 of 35 passing.

Buccaneers 29, Bears 7

In Tampa, Florida, Jameis Winston threw for 204 yards and one touchdown, helping the Buccaneers return from an unscheduled bye week forced by Hurricane Irma.

The defense stymied former teammate Mike Glennon with four takeaways. Robert McClain returned one of the quarterback's two interceptions for a TD, and the Bucs didn't let the Bears into the end zone until Deonte Thompson scored on a 14-yard reception with 1:43 remaining.

The Bucs (1-0) dominated despite having a short week of practice following the massive storm that forced postponement of the team's scheduled season opener at Miami. Winston completed 18 of 30 passes without an interception.

Ravens 24, Browns 10

In Baltimore, Baltimore relentlessly harassed two Cleveland quarterbacks, Joe Flacco ramped up his production with a pair of touchdown passes and the Ravens breezed.

Building on their season-opening shutout at Cincinnati, the Ravens picked off four passes and forced a fumble, giving them 10 takeaways in two games.

Most of the defense's damage came against Browns rookie quarterback DeShone Kizer, who left with a migraine headache in the second quarter after four ineffective series: a three-and-out, a lost fumble, an interception and a punt.

The former Notre Dame starter was replaced by second-year pro Kevin Hogan, but returned in the third quarter with Baltimore up 21-10. On his second series back, Kizer moved the Browns to the Baltimore 7 before being picked off in the end zone by Lardarius Webb.

Titans 37, Jaguars 16

In Jacksonville, Florida, Derrick Henry, Delanie Walker and Jalston Fowler each ran for touchdowns as the Titans dominated the Jaguars.

The result was probably more indicative of what to expect from the AFC South rivals than what each showed in their season openers.

Henry finished with a career-high 92 yards on the ground for the Titans (1-1), including 87 in the final two quarters. Starting running back DeMarco Murray spent much of the second half standing on the sideline and wearing a baseball cap backward, seemingly uninjured. There was no need to risk him in this one, the third consecutive lopsided score in the series.

Marcus Mariota, returning to the place where he broke his right leg last December, completed 15 of 27 passes for 215 yards. He had a 32-yard touchdown pass to Jonnu Smith in the final quarter.

Panthers 9, Bills 3

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Carolina's defense allowed only three points for the second straight week, and Graham Gano converted three field goals.

The Panthers (2-0) held Tyrod Taylor and LeSean McCoy in check all day, limiting the Bills (1-1) to 176 yards and 10 first downs. McCoy had 9 yards on 12 carries and Taylor had 125 yards passing. The Panthers had three sacks, two by Julius Peppers in his first home game since re-signing with them.

The Panthers needed a late stop to seal the win.

Buffalo rookie Zay Jones tried to make a diving catch on fourth-and-11, but couldn't haul in the pass at the Carolina 3 with 9 seconds remaining.



Arizona Cardinals' Larry Fitzgerald (11) tries to make a catch while being defended by Indianapolis Colts' Rashawn Melvin during the first half of an NFL football game on Sept 17, in Indianapolis. The pass was incomplete. (AP)

Sugita win 'keeps' Japan in Davis Cup world group

Australia will bounce back, says shattered Hewitt

Kerber exorcises New York demons in Tokyo

Van Uytvanck grabs 1st WTA title

OSAKA, Japan, Sept 18, (Agencies): Yuichi Sugita thrashed Thiago Monteiro on Monday as Japan preserved their Davis Cup world group status by wrapping up a comfortable playoff victory over Brazil in Osaka.

Celebrating his 29th birthday, world number 42 Sugita thrashed Monteiro 6-3, 6-2, 6-3 to give the home side an unassailable 3-1 lead in the best-of-five tie after Brazil had given themselves a lifeline by winning the doubles.

Marcelo Melo and Bruno Soares overpowered Yasutaka Uchiyama and Kiwi-born Ben McLachlan 7-6 6-4 6-2 in a rubber delayed by 48 hours because of heavy rain at the weekend with Japan on the brink of victory.

But Sugita, who became only the third Japanese man after Shuzo

MONTREAL, Sept 18, (Agencies): Belgian Alison Van Uytvanck claimed her first WTA title in dramatic style on Sunday, rallying from a set down to beat Timea Babos in the Quebec City final.

Van Uytvanck, ranked 98th in the world and seeded seventh, defeated the third-seeded Hungarian 5-7, 6-4, 6-1.

Babos took the tightly contested first set on her fifth set point, but Van Uytvanck fended off six break points in the first game of the second to slow the Hungarian's momentum.

Three games later Van Uytvanck broke Babos, and it proved enough to level the match.

From there the Belgian powered to a 4-0 lead against Babos, who was denied a third career title.

Meanwhile, former world number one Angelique Kerber thrashed Japan's Naomi Osaka 6-3, 6-4 at the Pan Pacific Open women's tennis tournament on Monday to avenge a humiliating loss at the US Open.

Frenchwoman Kristina Mladenovic suffered an epic Tokyo meltdown, meanwhile, as she was pulverised by China's Wang Qiang, who inflicted the dreaded "double bagel" on the eighth seed to win 6-0, 6-0 and reach the second round.

Kerber, seeded seventh, crashed to a shock 6-3, 6-1 first-round defeat by Osaka in New York last month as defending champion. But a repeat never seemed likely on Monday as the German quickly took control.

Kerber, who has slipped back to 14th in the world since winning last year's Australian and US Open titles, ripped forehands past her teenage opponent seemingly at will in the first set.

Osaka's game unravelled completely



Angelique Kerber of Germany returns a shot to Naomi Osaka of Japan during the first round match of the Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament in Tokyo. (AFP)

in the second, giving Kerber a welcome opportunity to work her way back to form after a poor run of results and to seal victory in an hour and 23 minutes.

"I was trying to come out, focus on every single point and make it better than last time," said Kerber.

"Naomi is a tough opponent and a great talent. For sure she will have great success in the future."

The 19-year-old Osaka, born of a Haitian father and a Japanese mother, went on to reach the third round of the US Open after stunning Kerber.

But the world number 44 almost appeared to be tanking at times at the

venue for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, such was her lack of gusto. She committed 38 unforced errors — including a wild forehand on match point — in a performance she will want to forget in a hurry.

Elsewhere, Japanese wildcard Kurumi Nara beat Kazakhstan's Yulia Putintseva 2-6, 6-4, 6-2.

"It gives me confidence that I was able to turn it around," said Nara. "Hopefully I can take that spirit into the next match."

Two-time champion Agnieszka Radwanska, seeded sixth, pulled out of the tournament with a virus, according to organisers.

Wimbledon champion and new women's world number one Garbine Muguruzza heads a strong field in Tokyo featuring several top 10 players including Karolina Pliskova, Caroline Wozniacki and Johanna Konta.

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Line judges face an uncertain future after the ATP announced that they will be replaced by "electronic line calls" at this year's inaugural Next Gen Finals in Milan.

For the first time at an ATP event, the chair umpire will be the only official on court, with 'Hawk-Eye Live' technology used to judge whether shots are in or out.

Decisions will be final with players unable to challenge calls as they do at most tournaments via Hawk-Eye playback.

Marginal calls will, however, still be accompanied by a visualisation on video screens around the stadium.

Foot-faults, usually called by judges positioned in line with the baseline, will be determined by a 'review official' who will monitor the feet of servers via cameras.

The Next Gen ATP Finals in November, which will be contested by the top eight players aged 21 and under, will feature a range of new innovations including a shot clock and short sets.

Electronic line calling, however, raises the possibility of judges being phased out for good — ending the ritual of players scowling at officials when decision go against them.

"This could be a landmark moment for officiating in our sport," Gayle David Bradshaw, executive vice president of the ATP's Rules and Competition department, said.

"Our athletes work incredibly hard and they deserve the very best and most accurate officiating we can offer. The technology is now in a place where we feel comfortable trialling this new system in a real tournament environment."



Yuichi Sugita of Japan returns the ball to Guilherme Clezar of Brazil during the first tennis match of the Davis Cup world group playoff in Osaka on Sept 15. (AFP)