

Miller lifts Canucks past Sabres in OT

Avs snap Bruins' win streak

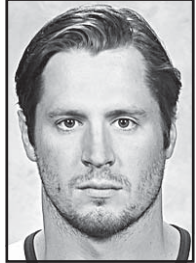
VANCOUVER, British Columbia, Dec 8, (AP): J.T. Miller scored a power-play goal 3:21 into overtime and the Vancouver Canucks beat the Buffalo Sabres 6-5.

Buffalo's Marcus Johansson scored with 59 seconds left and his team's goalie pulled in the third period to tie it at 5, but Miller scored his 13th of the season off a pass from rookie defenseman Quinn Hughes in OT.

The Sabres thought they had scored in overtime, but the goal was disallowed because of a delayed interference penalty to Henri Jokiharau. Miller scored on the ensuing power play.

Antoine Roussel and Josh Leivo had two goals each for the Canucks. Tyler Myers added a short-handed goal and an assist, while Jake Virtanen had two assists.

Thatcher Demko, making his second consecutive start, stopped 23 shots.



Miller Rookie Victor Olofsson

had a goal and an assist for Buffalo, which battled back from deficits of 2-0, 3-2 and 5-3. Kyle Okposo, Zengus Girgensons and Rasmus Ristolainen also scored for the Sabres. Jack Eichel had three assists. Carter Hutton made 24 saves.

Flyers 4, Senators 3

In Philadelphia, Scott Laughton had a goal, an assist and a hard check in a chippy contest to lead Philadelphia.

Ivan Provorov, Travis Konecny and Shayne Gostisbergh also scored for the Flyers, who have won six of seven.

ICE HOCKEY

Carter Hart stopped 27 shots.

Anthony Duclair scored twice for Ottawa, and Brady Tkachuk also had a goal.

Avanche 4, Bruins 1

In Boston, Ian Cole scored his first goal of season in his 500th career NHL game, backup goalie Pavel Francouz stopped all 16 shots he faced in relief and Colorado got its season-high sixth straight win.

Andre Burakovsky, Valeri Nichushkin and Gabriel Landeskog also scored for Colorado, which has won 11 of its last 14 games.

The Avalanche posted their 11th win in their last 12 games in Boston, with their lone loss in the stretch coming in the last trip on Feb 10 last season.

Panthers 4, Blue Jackets 1

In Sunrise, Florida, Sergei Bobrovsky made 33 saves against his former team and Josh Brown scored the winning goal in Florida's win over Columbus.

Bobrovsky made his first start against the Blue Jackets since signing with the Panthers on July 1. He played the previous seven seasons with Columbus.

Evgenii Dadonov, Brett Connolly and Mike Hoffman also scored for Florida. Aleksander Barkov had two assists.

Hurricanes 6, Wild 2

In Raleigh, NC, Sebastian Aho had three goals and two assists for his first career five-point game as Carolina ended Minnesota's five-game winning streak.

Teuvo Teravainen added three assists and Lucas Wallmark, Andrei Svechnikov and Joel Edmundson also scored for the Hurricanes, who won for the third time in four games. Petr Mrazek stopped 22 shots for his NHL-leading 10th home win.

Ryan Donato and Mats Zuccarello scored for Minnesota. Alex Stalock had 34 saves.

Maple Leafs 5, Blues 2

Auston Matthews broke out of a slump with two goals, Zach Hyman also scored twice and Toronto beat St. Louis.

Jason Spezza capped the Maple Leafs' four-goal first period outburst with his fourth of the season. Frederik

NHL Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Dec 8, (RTRS): Results and standings from the NHL games on Saturday.

Philadelphia	4	Ottawa	3
Vancouver	6	Buffalo	5
Colorado	4	Boston	1
Carolina	6	Minnesota	2
Pittsburgh	5	Detroit	3
Florida	4	Columbus	1
Toronto	5	St. Louis	2
Tampa Bay	7	San Jose	4
Nashville	6	New Jersey	4
Dallas	3	NY Islanders	1
Calgary	4	Los Angeles	3

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

W	L	OTL	GF	GA	Pts	
Boston	20	4	6	105	73	46
Florida	14	9	5	100	98	33
Buffalo	13	11	6	93	93	32
Montreal	13	11	6	97	102	32
Toronto	14	13	4	100	103	32
Tampa Bay	14	10	3	102	87	31
Ottawa	12	17	1	79	95	25
Detroit	7	21	3	66	124	17

Metropolitan Division

W	L	OTL	GF	GA	Pts	
Washington	22	4	5	115	88	49
NY Islanders	19	7	2	81	68	40
Philadelphia	17	8	5	96	85	39
Pittsburgh	17	9	4	103	81	38
Carolina	18	11	1	97	82	37
NY Rangers	14	11	3	88	91	31
Columbus	11	14	4	71	91	26
New Jersey	9	15	5	74	109	23

Western Conference

Central Division

W	L	OTL	GF	GA	Pts	
St. Louis	18	7	6	92	83	42
Colorado	19	8	2	107	79	40
Dallas	17	11	3	82	76	37
Winnipeg	17	10	2	84	80	35
Minnesota	14	12	4	90	98	32
Nashville	13	10	5	95	92	31
Chicago	12	12	5	80	89	29

Pacific Division

W	L	OTL	GF	GA	Pts	
Edmonton	18	10	3	95	90	39
Arizona	17	10	4	85	72	38
Las Vegas	15	11	5	93	88	35
Vancouver	15	11	4	103	91	34
Calgary	15	12	4	81	92	34
San Jose	15	14	2	87	106	32
Anaheim	12	13	4	77	87	28
Los Angeles	11	18	2	77	102	24

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

Andersen made 26 saves for Toronto, which had lost seven in a row against St. Louis.

David Perron and Ivan Barbashev scored for the Blues, who have lost two in a row following a four-game winning streak.

Penguins 5, Red Wings 3

In Detroit, Evgeni Malkin and Jake Guentzel each had a goal and two assists to help Pittsburgh win its third straight.

Chad Ruhwedel, Dominik Kahun and John Marino also scored for the Penguins, and Matt Murray made 26 saves for his first win in nearly a month.

Murray didn't help his case to compete with Tristan Jarry for playing time, giving up two goals in the third period.

Predators 6, Devils 4

In Nashville, Tennessee, Nick Bonino, Dante Fabbro and Rocco Grimaldi each had a goal and an assist to help Nashville end a two-game skid.

Yakov Trenin scored his first NHL goal, and Daniel Carr and Filip Forsberg also scored for the Predators. Mattias Ekholm had two assists and Pekka Rinne stopped 29 shots.

Jesper Bratt, Travis Zajac, Kyle Palmieri and Taylor Hall scored for the Devils, losers of five straight. Louis Domingue finished with 31 saves.

Lightning 7, Sharks 1

In Tampa, Florida, Andrei Vasilevskiy made 37 saves, Steven Stamkos had two power-play goals and an assist, and Tampa Bay cruised past San Jose.

The Lightning also got two goals from Tyler Johnson. Alex Killorn, Victor Hedman and Carter Verhaeghe had the other goals, and Killorn added three assists.

Marc-Edouard Vlasic scored with 5:16 remaining for the Sharks, who had picked up a point in their previous five road games (4-0-1).

Stars 3, Islanders 1

In Dallas, Alexander Radulov returned with a goal and an assist on a revitalized Dallas power-play, and the Stars beat the New York Islanders.

Andrew Cogliano and Denis Gurianov also scored for the Stars, and Ben Bishop stopped 34 shots.

Mathew Barzal scored for the Islanders, and Thomas Greiss finished with 34 saves.



Ohio State wide receiver Chris Olave (17) is tackled by Wisconsin safety Reggie Pearson (2) and cornerback Caesar Williams (21) during the second half of the Big Ten championship NCAA college football game on Dec 7, in Indianapolis. (Inset) Ohio State coach Ryan Day holds the trophy following the Big Ten championship NCAA college football game against Wisconsin on Dec 8, in Indianapolis. (AP)

Ohio State rallies for 3rd straight Big Ten title

LSU locks up playoff spot, routing Georgia

ATLANTA, Dec 8, (AP): Joe Burrow finished off what seems like his Heisman Trophy coronation with another dazzling performance and No. 1 LSU locked up a spot in the College Football Playoff for the first time, dominating No. 4 Georgia 37-10 in the Southeastern Conference championship game.

The Tigers, going for their first national title since 2007 season, will either return to Atlanta or head west to suburban Phoenix for a semifinal game Dec 28. Their bowl site and opponent will be announced Sunday, but they surely made a persuasive case to be the top overall seed in the four-team field.

Burrow was all over the stat sheet for LSU (13-0, No. 2 CFP). He threw for 349 yards and four touchdowns. He was the Tigers' second-leading rusher with 41 yards on 11 carries, often leav-

FOOTBALL

ing the Bulldogs grasping at air as he twirled this way and that. He even caught a pass on a ball that was batted down at the line and wound up his arms, taking off for a 16-yard gain.

Tigers put up 481 yards of offense, but the most encouraging aspect of this game was another strong performance from LSU's defense. It followed up a 50-7 rout of Texas A&M in the regular-season finale with another championship-worthy showing against the Bulldogs, who were held to 286 yards.

Georgia (11-2) appears likely to make its second straight appearance in the Sugar Bowl against Baylor, loser of the Big 12 championship game.

Ohio St 34, Wisconsin 21

In Indianapolis, Justin Fields threw three touchdown passes in the second half, J.K. Dobbins ran for 172 yards and a score and Ohio State sealed its first playoff trip in three years by shutting out Wisconsin in the second half in the Big Ten championship game.

The Buckeyes (13-0, No. 1 CFP) claimed their third straight league title and enter the postseason with a 19-game winning streak.

Wisconsin (10-3, No. 8 CFP) has lost seven straight in the series though this one didn't follow the usual script.

The Badgers, who lost 38-7 at Ohio State in October, scored the first 14 points - Ohio State's largest deficit of the season. Wisconsin led 21-7 at the half. But just like the first game, the Buckeyes turned it on in the third quarter.

Jeremy Ruckert started the comeback with a spectacular one-handed



Clemson head coach Dabo Swinney (left) holds the trophy with ACC commissioner John Swofford following the Atlantic Coast Conference championship NCAA college football game against Virginia in Charlotte, NC on Dec 7. (AP)



LSU safety Grant Delpit (7) sacks Georgia quarterback Jake Fromm (11) during the first half of the Southeastern Conference championship NCAA college football game, on Dec 7 in Atlanta. (AP)

catch in the back of the end zone on the fifth play of the third quarter. The 16-yard pass cut the deficit to 21-14.

Four plays later, Wisconsin punter Anthony Lotti dropped the ball and was tackled at the Badgers 16. Ohio State converted that miscue into a 27-yard field goal.

And after Wisconsin missed a 48-yard field goal wide left on its next series, Fields hooked up with K.J. Hill for a 16-yard pass and 24-21 lead with 2:23 left in the third quarter.

Fields added a 13-yard TD pass to Hill early in the fourth quarter to give the Buckeyes a 31-21 lead and the Buckeyes closed the scoring with a 24-yard field goal. Fields was 19 of 31 with 299 yards and no interceptions.

Clemson 62, Virginia 17

In Charlotte, NC, Trevor Lawrence threw four touchdown passes, three to Tee Higgins, and Clemson beat Virginia to win its fifth consecutive Atlantic Coast Conference title.

The defending national champion Tigers (13-0; No. 3 CFP) have won 28 games in a row and head to the College Football Playoff with chance for a third crown in four years.

And while Virginia (9-4; No. 23 CFP) and quarterback Bryce Perkins put forth a game plan that caused the Tigers to sweat early on, there was no stopping Clemson's dazzling set of experienced playmakers led by Lawrence and Higgins on the way to ACC championship game records for points and yards (621).

Lawrence set an ACC title-game record with his four touchdown throws and had 302 yards passing, his second best total this season, and completed 16 of 22 passes before coming out in the third quarter.

Higgins finished with 182 yards

receiving yards and the three TDs, both bests in ACC Championship game play. Travis Etienne had 114 yards, his eighth game over 100 yards this season.

Oklahoma 30, Baylor 23, OT

In Arlington, Texas, Rhamondre Stevenson had a 5-yard touchdown run in overtime and Oklahoma made its bid for another playoff berth with the victory over Baylor in the Big 12 championship game.

A day after No. 5 Utah lost in the Pac-12 championship game, and before No. 4 Georgia lost to No. 1 LSU for the SEC title, the Sooners (12-1, No. 6 CFP) won their fifth consecutive Big 12 title, and 13th overall. Oklahoma went to the playoff three of the past four seasons.

Baylor (11-2, No. 7 CFP) tied it in the fourth quarter after two long passes by freshman Jacob Zeno, the second quarterback used after starter Charlie Brewer left the game in the second quarter following a big hit he delivered on a defender.

There was an 81-yard catch-and-run touchdown by Trestan Ebner with 9:41 left in regulation and a 78-yarder to Chris Platt that set up John Mayers' third field goal, a 27-yarder with 3:25 left to make it 23-all.

After Oklahoma scored on three plays to start overtime, Zeno was under tremendous pressure on Baylor's chance. There were two incompletions before he was sacked for a 10-yard loss, and then he was under distress again when he flung a game-ending pass that fell to the ground. The Bears had only 105 total yards before the 81-yard TD pass in the fourth quarter. They finished with 265.

Jalen Hurts, who last year led Alabama's comeback win over

Georgia in the SEC title game, was 17-of-24 passing for 278 yards and a touchdown for the Sooners. CeeDee Lamb had eight catches for 173 yards after missing the previous game against the Bears.

Memphis 29, Cincinnati 24

In Memphis, Tennessee, Antonio Gibson caught a 6-yard touchdown pass from Brady White with 1:14 left and Memphis beat Cincinnati in the American Athletic Conference Championship game.

After the game, two people with knowledge of the decision said Memphis coach Mike Norvell will be introduced Sunday as Florida State's coach. The people spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because an official announcement has not been made.

Memphis (12-1, No. 17, CFP) finally won the AAC title in its third straight conference championship game. The Tigers now wait for an invitation to the Cotton Bowl as the highest-ranked Group of Five team.

Eight days after beating the Bearcats 34-24 at home in the regular-season finale, Memphis rallied for another win. Along with scoring the go-ahead touchdown, Gibson ran for 130 yards, including a 65-yard TD dash.

Cincinnati quarterback Desmond Ridder, who did not play last week against Memphis, passed for 233 yards and ran for 113 more.

The game became a back-and-forth battle in the fourth quarter. Sam Cross's 33-yard field goal with 4:23 left gave the Bearcats (10-3, No. 20 CFP) a 24-23 lead. On the Tigers' next drive, Gibson caught two passes and ran five times, setting Memphis up at the Cincinnati 6. On the scoring play, Gibson was split right and caught White's pass.

Boise State 31, Hawaii 10

In Boise, Idaho, Jaylon Henderson threw for 212 yards and two touchdowns and ran for another score to lead No. 19 Boise State to a 31-10 victory over Hawaii in the Mountain West Championship game.

Boise State (12-1, No. 19 CFP) won its second conference title in three years, beating Hawaii again this season after winning the Oct 12th meeting, 59-37. After rolling up 518 yards of offense in the first game, the Broncos leaned on their defense in the rematch.

The Broncos made two defensive stands inside the 5, once in the second quarter and another early in the third.

Hawaii (9-5) was making its first appearance in the title game. It enjoyed some success through the air with Cole McDonald passing for 241 yards, but couldn't overcome early problems in the red zone.

Tied at 3 late in the first half, Boise State scored two touchdowns in a 53-second span on a pair of 36-yard touchdown strikes. Henderson dropped the first one into Khalil Shakir on a streak down the near sideline with 1:07 remaining in the half.

Then after Boise State stuffed Hawaii to get the ball back with 38 seconds remaining, Henderson fired a bullet to John Hightower, who made a leaping catch as he was undercut but used his left hand to maintain his balance before racing into the end zone.

Appalachian 45, Lafayette 38

In Boone, NC, Darrynton Evans scored three touchdowns and Appalachian State repeated as Sun Belt Conference Champions with the victory over Louisiana-Lafayette.

Evans won the game's MVP for the second straight season.

Zac Thomas threw for 149 yards and two touchdowns, and Daetrich Harrington and Marcus Williams added touchdown runs. The Mountaineers racked up 416 yards on offense, including 267 on the ground in a dominating first half.



Pittsburgh Penguins defenseman Jack Johnson (3) passes the puck past Detroit Red Wings defenseman Filip Hronek (17) in the first period of an NHL hockey game on Dec 7 in Detroit. (AP)