



As likenesses of fans look on from the stands, Seattle Mariners' Kyle Lewis (right), lines out as Colorado Rockies catcher Elias Diaz (front left), looks on in the first inning of a baseball game on Aug 7, in Seattle. (AP)

# Sports

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## Nets clinch playoff berth

### 'Move unlawful' Squad salary caps 'introduced' in EFL

LONDON, Aug 8, (AP): Clubs in the third and fourth professional divisions in English football have voted to introduce squad salary caps, a move called unlawful by the players' union.

The cap will be set at 2.5 million pounds (\$3.2 million) in League One and 1.5 million pounds (\$2 million) in League Two.

The aim is to tackle wage inflation and make the leagues more sustainable a year after Bury was expelled due to financial troubles. There are also ongoing financial issues across the leagues with fans due to be prohibited from stadiums when the new season begins next month due to the coronavirus pandemic.

But the players' union said the salary caps were "rushed through without the proper consideration

or consultation" and is demanding their introduction is put on hold by the English Football League, pending arbitration.

"The legal advice we have received is clear that the salary cap envisaged by the EFL would be unlawful and unenforceable," the Professional Footballers' Association said in a statement. "The PFA has already served its notice of arbitration on the EFL."

The EFL said the cap would cover basic wages, taxes, bonuses, image rights, agents' fees and other fees and expenses paid directly or indirectly to all registered players.

The players' union expressed concerns about the proposals as they are drafted, and has called for further consultation and clarity around the objectives for introducing a cap.

Meanwhile, players in English football will be banned for six to 12 games for discriminatory conduct under new Football Association

### SOCCER

tion sanctioning guidelines. FIFA and UEFA imposed a minimum 10-game ban for racism or other forms of discrimination.

The FA said there is flexibility to issue bans for fewer than six matches if the discrimination was on social media or if specific mitigating factors are presented.

The FA can now pursue cases if an incident of discrimination took place in private setting or outside of a standard football environment.

The Premier League will revert to a maximum of three substitutions in matches next season with England's top division clubs deciding to no longer allow two additional changes.

Clubs previously backed the use of five substitutions to deal with the congested schedule after the league's pandemic-enforced 100-day shutdown ended in June.

Despite the International Football Association Board allowing the temporary use of five substitutions next season, the league won't be adopting it. The rule had been seen to favor bigger clubs with more depth in their squads.

A maximum seven substitutes will be allowed on the bench but only three can be brought on when the new season begins around Sept 12.

Tottenham has appointed former captain **Ledley King** to become an assistant manager under **Jose Mourinho**.

The 39-year-old King spent his entire 13-year playing career at Tottenham and has been a club ambassador since retiring in 2012.

"He has a tremendous affinity with this football club and the fans appreciate just how much he has accomplished as a true Spurs man both on and off the pitch," Mourinho said. "We have developed a good relationship since I arrived, and we hope to use his experience and insight to support the work we are doing with the squad."

The former center back made 323 appearances for Tottenham and lifted the League Cup as captain in 2008 which is the club's last major trophy.

King has joined Mourinho's backroom team in place of tactical analyst **Ricardo Formosinho**, who has left the club.



Oklahoma City Thunder guard Luguentz Dort (5) plays for the ball against Memphis Grizzlies forward Brandon Clarke (15) during the first half of an NBA basketball game on Aug 7, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. (AP)

### Pelicans boost chances

**LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla., Aug 8, (AP):** Caris LeVert scored 22 points, Jarrett Allen added 17 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists and the patchwork Brooklyn Nets clinched a playoff berth by beating the Sacramento Kings 119-106 on Friday.

The surprising Nets came to the bubble without stars Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving but continued to display plenty of fight, improving to 3-2 since coming to Florida. Joe Harris added 21 points, shooting 8 of 11 from the field, including 5 of 7 from 3-point range.

The Kings were one day removed from an impressive 140-125 win over the New Orleans Pelicans but couldn't string together two wins and fell further behind in a crowded race for the final Western Conference playoff spot. Sacramento is 1-4 in the bubble.

Bogdan Bogdanovic led the Kings with 27 points after scoring a career-high 35 against the Pelicans on Thursday. De'Aaron Fox added 21 and Buddy Hield added 17.

**76ers 108, Magic 101**  
Joel Embiid changed his disposition — and then the momentum of the game.

Tobias Harris had 23 points and 15 rebounds, Embiid locked in and turned aggressive in the second half and finished with 23 points and 13 rebounds as the Philadelphia 76ers held off the Orlando Magic 108-101 on Friday night in their first game without All-Star Ben Simmons.

Simmons is out indefinitely after injuring his knee Wednesday night. Orlando clinched playoff spot despite defeat after Washington lost to New Orleans 118-107, eliminating the Wizards from contention.

Alec Burks had 22 points off the bench and five-time NBA All-Star Al Horford stepped into the starting lineup and finished with 21 points and nine rebounds for the 76ers, who improved to 3-1 since the restart.

But Embiid's 16-point second half was a key for the 76ers.

Embiid was particularly effective inside the paint where he was 7 of 10 from the field. He was 0 for 8 from outside the lane.

That drew some criticism at half-time from NBA analyst Charles Barkley.



Philadelphia 76ers' Alec Burks (right), scores over Orlando Magic's Khem Birch (left), and Markelle Fultz (center), during the second quarter of an NBA basketball game on Aug 7, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. (AP)

Horford was pretty good too for the 76ers.

Evan Fournier had 22 points and Nikola Vucevic had 21 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Magic, which have lost three straight games in the NBA bubble after starting 2-0.

The Magic played without Aaron Gordon, who left Wednesday's game against the Raptors with tightness in his hamstring following a hard foul by Kyle Lowry.

The 76ers led 88-86 midway through the fourth quarter when Horford knocked down a 3 from the left wing to ignite a 11-4 run to create some breathing room. Embiid capped the mini-explosion with a two-dribble move from the right wing where he maneuvered under the basket and around Vucevic and skied for a powerful reverse dunk. He then celebrated with his hands outstretched as he back-peddled down the court.

The Magic led most of the game, but struggled to make shots in the fourth quarter and let up too many offensive rebounds.

**Pelicans 118, Wizard 107**  
Jrue Holiday scored 28 points, and the New Orleans Pelicans defeated the Washington Wizards 118-107 without star rookie Zion Williamson on Friday night, improving their chances of earning a Western Conference playoff spot while eliminating Wizards from contention.

Williamson, the top pick in the 2019 NBA draft, rested. The Pelicans continued their practice of holding him out of the second game of back-to-backs, as they did before

### NBA Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Aug 8, (AP): NBA Results and standings after Friday's games.

San Antonio	119	Utah	111	Philadelphia	108	Orlando	101
Memphis	121	Oklahoma	92	New Orleans	118	Washington	107
Brooklyn	119	Sacramento	106	Boston	122	Toronto	100

Eastern Conference					Western Conference				
Atlantic Division					Southwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
x-Toronto	49	19	.721	-	x-Houston	43	25	.632	
x-Boston	46	23	.667	3-1/2	x-Dallas	41	30	.577	
x-Philadelphia	42	27	.609	7-1/2	Memphis	33	37	.471	
x-Brooklyn	33	36	.478	16-1/2	San Antonio	30	38	.441	
New York	21	45	.318	27	New Orleans	30	39	.435	
Southeast Division					Northwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
x-Miami	43	26	.623	-	x-Denver	45	24	.652	
x-Orlando	32	38	.457	11-1/2	x-Utah	43	26	.623	
Charlotte	23	42	.354	18	x-Oklahoma	42	26	.618	
Washington	24	45	.348	19	Portland	32	38	.457	
Atlanta	20	47	.299	22	Minnesota	19	45	.297	
Central Division					Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
y-Milwaukee	55	14	.797	-	z-LA Lakers	51	17	.750	
x-Indiana	42	27	.609	13	x-LA Clippers	46	22	.676	
Chicago	22	43	.338	31	Phoenix	30	39	.435	
Detroit	20	46	.303	33-1/2	Sacramento	29	40	.420	
Cleveland	19	46	.292	34	Golden State	15	50	.231	

the hiatus while managing his recovery from a right meniscus tear. Williamson also left the team three weeks ago to attend to a family medical matter, which has affected his conditioning.

Without him, the Pelicans still shot 48 percent. New Orleans is 2-1/2 games behind eighth-place Memphis in the West and 1-1/2 games behind ninth-place Portland with three games remaining. To force a play-in, a team must be in ninth place and within four games of the eighth-place team.

The Pelicans were coming off a 140-125 loss to Sacramento on Thursday, so better defense was a focal point.

Rui Hachimura scored 23 points, Thomas Bryant scored 22 and Troy Brown Jr added 20 points and 10 re-

bounds for Washington.

"We're not winning any games," Wizards coach Scott Brooks said. "Nobody's happy with that, but I'm happy with the progress we can see on both ends."

The Wizards led 56-54 at half-time, but the Pelicans took control for good in the third quarter and led 91-81 heading into the fourth.

The Wizards want to make the most of their final three games in Florida.

"We have a job to do," Brown said. "There's a bigger picture to things. We're going to lead by example. We're going to go out here and try to win games, and regardless of the outcome, we're going to go out here and play our hardest."

**Wizard 122, Raptors 100**  
Jaylen Brown scored 20 points,



Brooklyn Nets' Garrett Temple (17) looks to pass the ball against the defense of Sacramento Kings' Harrison Barnes (40) during the second half of an NBA basketball game on Aug 7, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. (AP)

Jayson Tatum added 18 and Boston never trailed on the way to an emphatic win over Toronto.

Kemba Walker scored 17 points in 23 minutes for the Celtics, who led by 40 at one point and kept slim hope alive of catching the Raptors for the No. 2 spot in the Eastern Conference postseason race. Boston also won the season series against Toronto, taking three of the four meetings.

Fred VanVleet scored 13 for Toronto, which got 11 from Kyle Lowry and 11 more from Pascal Siakam. The Raptors' starters — VanVleet, Lowry, Siakam, Marc Gasol and OG Anunoby — combined to shoot 16 for 45 (36%) from the field, 3 for 19 (16%) from 3-point range.

**Grizzlies 121, Thunder 92**  
Dillon Brooks scored 22 points, and Memphis claimed its first win since the restart, beating Oklahoma.

Jonas Valanciunas had 19 points and 11 rebounds and Ja Morant had 19 points and nine assists for the Grizzlies.

Memphis shot 55% and avoided falling into a tie with Portland for eighth place in the Western Conference standings.

Chris Paul scored 17 points and Luguentz Dort added 16 for the Thunder. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, Oklahoma City's leading scorer this season, finished with 10 points on 3 for 13 shooting.

Oklahoma City led by 18 in the first quarter, but the Grizzlies rallied to take the lead in the second. Memphis led by nine in the final seconds of the first half. The Grizzlies outscored the Thunder 32-18 in the third quarter to go up 95-78 at the end of the period.

**Spurs 119, Jazz 111**  
Derrick White scored 24 points, Jakob Poeltl added 19 points and 10 rebounds and San Antonio got a much-needed win over short-handed Utah.

Lonnie Walker and Rudy Gay finished with 14 points for the Spurs, who moved into sole possession of 10th place in the Western Conference, a half-game ahead of surging Phoenix. The Suns are 4-0 since the NBA restart, but were idle Friday.

Jordan Clarkson scored 24 points off the bench to lead the Jazz, while Tony Bradley had 15 points on 7-of-9 shooting and 11 rebounds.

Rudy Gobert (rest), Donovan Mitchell (left peroneal strain) and Mike Conley (right knee soreness) did not play for the Jazz, who were held to 41.8% shooting from the floor. Royce O'Neale (right calf soreness) and Nigel Williams-Goss (left ankle sprain) also sat out.