



St Louis Blues' David Perron (57) and Dallas Stars' Jamie Benn (14) battle for the puck during the second period of an NHL qualifying round game in Edmonton, Alberta on Aug 9. (AP)

Sports

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Ben to 'miss' rest of Pakistan series

LONDON, Aug 10, (AP) — England star all-rounder Ben Stokes will miss the rest of the ongoing Test series against Pakistan as he prepares to travel to New Zealand to be with his family. The England and Wales Cricket Board announced the news in a statement. Stokes has played a full part in England's red-ball team this summer, captaining his country for the first time in the series opener against West Indies, scoring important runs and taking wickets while fighting a thigh injury. He took part in a rousing three-wicket win in the first Test against Pakistan that concluded at Old Trafford on Saturday but subsequently informed the squad that he needs to return to his family home in Christch-

CRICKET

urch, where his father Ged and mother Deb are based. The second of three Tests between England and Pakistan starts Thursday at Southampton. The precise reasons for Stokes' departure have not been made public, with the ECB requesting respect for his privacy. Ged Stokes was rushed to hospital in Johannesburg on the eve of England's Boxing Day Test against South Africa. Stokes was encouraged by his father to play a full part in that game and the 3-1 series win that followed but spent regular time at his bedside when England returned for the fourth Test at the Wanderers. He later posted a picture of his father leaving hospital after 37 days and three operations praising him as "strong and stubborn."



Los Angeles Clippers guard Lou Williams (left), and Brooklyn Nets guard Caris LeVert (22) chase the ball during the first half of an NBA basketball game on Aug 9, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. (AP)

Spurs boost chances, Pelicans 'eliminated'

Lillard rebounds with 51, Blazers top Sixers

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla, Aug 10, (AP) — Damian Lillard scored 51 points after a frustrating finish a night earlier, and the Portland Trail Blazers beat the Philadelphia 76ers 124-121 on Sunday.

It was a day of redemption for the star point guard. On Saturday, he missed a pair of free throws with 18.6 seconds to go and a 3-pointer with 9.5 seconds left in a 122-117 loss to the Los Angeles Clippers.



Portland Trail Blazers' Damian Lillard makes a basket and draws the foul from Philadelphia 76ers' Norvel Pelle (left), during the third quarter of an NBA basketball game on Aug 9, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. (AP)

Portland bounced back and pulled within a half-game of Memphis for eighth place in the Western Conference. The Trail Blazers increased their chances of qualifying for the play-in series, which will start Saturday.

The 76ers lost much more than the game. All-Star center Joel Embiid left in the first quarter with what the team called a left ankle injury, and he did not return. He contested a shot, then backed up and stepped awkwardly into the stanchion. He had been averaging 30 points per game since the restart.

Josh Richardson scored a season-high 34 points and Alec Burks added 20 for Philadelphia. The 76ers would have moved into a tie with the Indiana Pacers and Miami Heat for fourth place in the Eastern Conference standings with a win.

Spurs 122, Pelicans 113

DeMar DeRozan scored 27 points, Rudy Gay added 19 off the bench and San Antonio wasted much of a 20-point, second-half lead before hanging on to beat New Orleans.

The loss, combined with Portland's win over Philadelphia later Sunday, eliminated New Orleans from playoff contention.

Dejounte Murray scored 18 for the Spurs. Derrick White added 16 before leaving early in the third quarter with a bruised knee.

J.J. Redick scored 31 points with a season-high eight 3-pointers for New Orleans, which got 25 from Williamson and 17 from Brandon Ingram.

The Spurs — bidding to become the first team in NBA history to make 23 consecutive playoff appearances — moved past idle Phoenix into 10th place in the West, percentage points behind Portland for the No. 9 spot that comes with a berth in the play-in series next weekend.

Raptors 108, Grizzlies 99

Pascal Siakam scored 26 points to help Toronto prevent Memphis from clinching a spot in the Western Conference play-in series.

Norman Powell scored 16 points

and Kyle Lowry added 15 for the Raptors, who clinched the No. 2 seed in the Eastern Conference and their fifth consecutive season with at least 50 wins. Dillon Brooks scored 25 points, Grayson Allen matched a season high with 20 and Ja Morant had 17 points and 10 assists for the Grizzlies.

The Grizzlies dropped to 1-5 in the restart and are barely hanging on to eighth place in the West, with Portland, Phoenix and San Antonio close behind. There will be a play-in series in the West, starting Saturday.

Nets 129, Clippers 120

Caris LeVert had 27 points and 13 assists, and Brooklyn used the best-shooting quarter in the NBA this season on its way to a victory over Los Angeles. Joe Harris added 25 points — 23 in the first half — for the Nets, who clinched seventh place in the Eastern Conference and a first-round playoff matchup with the defending NBA champion Toronto Raptors. Tyler Johnson scored 21 and Jarrett Allen had 16 points and 16 rebounds as Brooklyn improved to 4-2 in the restart.

The Nets shot 85.7% (18 of 21) from the field in the first quarter, racing to a 21-point lead. The Clippers battled back to tie it in the third quarter, but the Nets broke it open again early in the fourth.

Kawhi Leonard scored 39 points for the Clippers, who rested Paul George and had their lead over Denver for the No. 2 seed in the West trimmed to one game. They play the Nuggets on Wednesday in their next game.

Celtics 122, Magic 119, OT

Gordon Hayward hit three free throws with 2:29 left in overtime,

and Boston beat Orlando for its third straight victory.

The Celtics hadn't scored in overtime until Hayward went to the line after being fouled by Nikola Vucevic. His free throws put Boston up 115-114 as the Celtics scored 10 of the first 15 points in overtime.

Hayward finished with 31 points and Jayson Tatum scored 29, including the tying basket with 4.2 seconds left in regulation. Jaylen Brown had 19 points and 12 rebounds, and Brad Wanamaker had 10 points.

Vucevic led Orlando with 26 points and 11 rebounds. Terrence Ross had

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18 points and Markelle Fultz 16 off the bench. Gary Clark added 15 points, D.J. Augustin 12 and James Ennis III 10.

Rockets 129, Kings 112

Austin Rivers scored a career-high 41 points off the bench and Houston used a big third quarter to pull away and cruise to a victory over Sacramento.

Rivers made six 3-pointers as Houston improved to 4-1 at Disney on a night the Rockets played a second straight game without Russell Westbrook, who has a bruised right quadriceps.

James Harden added 32 points, eight rebounds and seven assists for Houston.

The Kings fell to 1-5 in the bubble after being eliminated from playoff contention earlier Sunday when Portland beat the 76ers. Sacramento's play-off drought is now 14 years, which is the longest active streak in the NBA.

De'Aaron Fox had 26 points for the Kings.

Thunder 121, Wizards 103

Rookie Darius Bazley scored a career-high 23 points off the bench, and Oklahoma City kept Washington the only winless team inside the NBA bubble.

Bazley was 5 of 8 from 3-point range. Danilo Gallinari scored 20 points, and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander added 18 as Oklahoma City led from the opening bucket and improved to 3-2 in the seeding games.

Mike Muscala also scored 18 points. Chris Paul had 13 points and nine assists, and Hamidou Diallo finished with 13 points for the Thunder.

Jerome Robinson scored 19 points off the bench for the Wizards, who came into this game already eliminated from playoff contention and dropped to 0-6 since the NBA restarted the season.

Blue Jackets advance with Game 5 win over Maple Leafs

Capitals earn East 3 seed, face Isles next

TORONTO, Aug 10, (AP) — T.J. Oshie and Tom Wilson scored. Braden Holtby made 30 saves and the Washington Capitals beat the Boston Bruins 2-1 in round-robin play Sunday to clinch the No. 3 seed in the Eastern Conference and set up a first-round matchup against former coach Barry Trotz's New York Islanders.

"We know their system well," captain Alex Ovechkin said. "It's gonna be tight games, it's gonna be tough games. It's not gonna be easy."

Boston, which won the Presidents' Trophy as the top team during the NHL regular season that was cut short in March, lost all three of its seeding games and fell to fourth in the East. The Bruins will face the Carolina Hurricanes in the first round in a rematch of the 2019 East final.

Trotz coached Washington to their first Stanley Cup title in franchise history in 2018, then left in a contract dispute. Trotz went to the Islanders, while the Capitals hired his top assistant, Todd Reirden, as head coach. This is the first time they've faced off in a playoff series since.

Washington shook off a shootout loss to Tampa Bay and a regulation loss to Philadelphia to continue its years-long dominance of Boston. The Capitals have now won 17 of their past 19 games against the Bruins and by earning the third seed cannot play the top-seeded Flyers until the conference final.

It's unclear whether Norris Trophy finalist John Carlson will be ready for Game 1 against the Islanders after missing the all of round-robin play with an injury. The 30-year-old defenseman went down to the ice awkwardly in Washington's exhibition game vs Carolina on July 29 and has



Toronto Maple Leafs defenseman Justin Holl (3) checks Columbus Blue Jackets center Liam Foudy (19) into the boards during the first period of an NHL Eastern Conference Stanley Cup playoff game in Toronto on Aug 9. (AP)

practiced but not played since. Jake DeBrusk scored and Tuukka Rask made 23 saves for Boston, which also got an assist from winger Ondrej Kase in his round-robin debut.

Blue Jacket 3, Maple Leafs 0

Joonas Korpi scored 33 shots and the Columbus Blue Jackets advanced to the first round of the NHL playoffs with a 3-0 win over the Toronto Maple Leafs in a decisive Game 5.

Zach Werenski's floater from the left point in the first period held up as the deciding goal. Liam Foudy sneaked in a shot from a bad angle with 8:20 remaining, and captain Nick Foligno sealed the victory by scoring into an open net with 23 seconds remaining.

Werenski played despite not being able to finish Game 4 with an apparent upper body injury. And Korpi also posted his second shutout of the series, while getting the start after Elvis Merzlikins was ruled to be unfit to play.

The Maple Leafs ran out of offense with captain John Tavares misfiring by hitting the post while facing a wide-open side in the first period. And Toronto ran out of remarkable comebacks two nights after rallying from a three-goal third-period deficit in a 4-3 overtime win in Game 4.

Frederik Andersen stopped 19 shots, and was caught cheating to his right in giving up Foudy's goal from a bad angle.

Columbus, which rallied from a three-goal second period deficit in a 4-3 OT win in Game 3, advances to the first round, where it will meet the second-seeded Tampa Bay Lightning in a rematch of last year's first-round series. The Blue Jackets swept the President's Trophy-winning Lightning in four games in their first playoff series victory in franchise history.

Stars 2, Blues 1

Joe Pavelski tied it with 31.4 seconds left in the third period, Anton Khudobin stopped all three shots he faced in the shootout and the Dallas

ICE HOCKEY

Stars beat the St Louis Blues 2-1 in round-robin play Sunday to clinch the No. 3 seed in the Western Conference.

After Denis Gurianov scored the only goal of the shootout, Dallas will face the Calgary Flames in the first round of the playoffs. The Stars have some momentum going into that best-of-seven series after picking up their first win of any kind since Feb 25.

Defending Stanley Cup champions St Louis went winless in the round robin and will next face the Vancouver Canucks. The Blues dropped from first in the West when the NHL season was halted in March to the conference's fourth seed.

Khudobin made 12 saves in regulation and overtime for the Stars, who were without top center Tyler Seguin and starting goaltender Ben Bishop. The team said they were "unfit to play".

Blues backup Jake Allen stopped 18 of the 19 shots he faced in his first action of the NHL's restart. Starter Jordan Binnington did not dress. Robert Thomas scored on the first shot of the game, and the Blues didn't have another goal the rest of the way.

The two teams that played in the 2019 Cup Final, the Blues and Boston Bruins, each went 0-3 in round-robin play to go from first to fourth.

NBA Results/Standings

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	121	103	103	0
San Antonio	122	119	119	0
Boston	124	121	121	0
Portland	129	112	112	0
Houston	129	120	120	0
Brooklyn	129	120	120	0
Portland	122	119	119	0
San Antonio	122	119	119	0
Phoenix	122	119	119	0
Portland	124	121	121	0
Houston	129	112	112	0
Brooklyn	129	120	120	0