



Copenhagen's Pep Biel (right), challenges Manchester United's Brandon Williams (left), during the UEFA Europa League quarter-final soccer match between Manchester United and FC Copenhagen in Cologne, Germany on Aug 10. United won 1-0. (AP) – See Page 18

Sports

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Lakers snap 3-game losing streak

Suns improve playoff chances

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla., Aug 11, (AP): Kyle Kuzma hit a 3-pointer with .4 seconds left and the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Denver Nuggets 124-121 Monday night to snap a three-game losing streak.

LeBron James threw an in-bounds pass to Anthony Davis, who flipped it to Kuzma on the right wing for the game-winner as the clock ran down.

The Lakers, outplayed down the stretch by Denver's bench, got 29 points and 12 assists from James, who hit two 3-pointers in the fourth quarter. Anthony Davis had 27 points and Kuzma 25.

P.J. Dozier had a chance to put the Nuggets up by one with 4.4 seconds

BASKETBALL

left but missed the second of two free throws. Kuzma rebounded and the Lakers called timeout to set up the winning play.

Dozier had been fouled by Kuzma while driving the lane after a miss by James.

James had given the Lakers a 121-119 lead by converting a 3-point play with 45.7 seconds to go. Monte Morris made one of two free throws for the Nuggets.

The Lakers had clinched the No. 1 seed in the Western Conference before their losing streak started. They are 3-4 in the bubble with one game to go.

Dozier scored 18 and Michael Porter Jr had 15 for the Nuggets, who are currently the No. 3 seed in the West.

The Lakers took an 87-80 lead late in the third quarter after two buckets by Kuzma and two free throws by Davis. But the Nuggets went on an 8-1 run to finish the quarter in an 88-88 tie. Mason Plumlee made a jumper and Bol Bol and Morris each made a 3-pointer.

Davis grabbed the rebound of Kuzma's miss for a slam dunk at the halftime buzzer that gave the Lakers a 64-59 halftime lead. Davis also made a similar play off miss by Kuzma in the last minute of the first quarter.

Raptors 114, Bucks 106

Chris Boucher scored a career-high 25 points and grabbed 11 rebounds to help the Toronto Raptors defeat the Milwaukee Bucks 114-106.

Though the meeting featured the top two teams in the Eastern Conference standings, both teams were missing key players.



Milwaukee Bucks' Robin Lopez (42) is pressured by Toronto Raptors' Chris Boucher (25) and Rondae Hollis-Jefferson during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game on Aug 10 in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. (AP)

Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo, the reigning MVP, missed the game after undergoing oral surgery. Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said Monday it was uncertain whether Antetokounmpo would play in the team's final two seeding games Tuesday against the Washington Wizards and Thursday against the Memphis Grizzlies.

For Toronto, Kyle Lowry sat out with a sore lower back, Serge Ibaka missed the game with a bruised right knee and Fred VanVleet was out with a hyper-extended right knee.

Boucher made the most of it. The Bucks already had clinched the No. 1 seed in the Eastern Conference for a second straight season, and defending NBA champions Toronto was locked into the No. 2 spot, so there was little to gain for either team.

Rookie Matt Thomas scored a season-high 22 points. Raptors coach Nick Nurse said he was glad to see Boucher and Thomas and step up. Boucher averages 6.1 points per game and Thomas averages 4.3.

Norman Powell added points 21 for the Raptors, who improved to 5-1 in the restart.

Kyle Korver scored 19 points and Khriston Middleton added 17 for the Bucks, who fell to 2-4 since the restart.

Suns 128, Thunder 101

Devin Booker scored 35 points, and the Phoenix Suns rolled past the short-handed Oklahoma City Thunder 128-101 to improve to 6-0 in the restart and improve their playoff chances.

The Suns have surged in the Western Conference standings. They entered the day just 1-1/2 games behind eighth-place Memphis and a game behind ninth-place Portland in the race to qualify for a spot in the play-in series.

Williams appreciates the position the Suns are in.

"We've done a good job of getting to this point," he said. "No one knew we were going to be here, but we're here and we're thankful for that."

Phoenix center Deandre Ayton sat out the first quarter because he missed his coronavirus test on Sunday. He tested negative on Monday and was cleared. He started the second quarter.

With Ayton out, Oklahoma City led 37-23 at the end of the first quarter. After Ayton entered the game, Phoenix dominated the rest of the way. He finished with 10 points and six rebounds in just over 17 minutes.

Oklahoma City was without four of its top five scorers. Shai Gilgeous-Alexander (bruised right calf), Danilo Gallinari (left ankle maintenance), Dennis Schroder (birth of child) and Steven Adams (bruised left leg) sat out. Reserve center Nerlens Noel (sprained right ankle) also did not play.

Rookie Darius Bazley had 22 points and 10 rebounds for the Thunder.

The Suns rallied from 15 points down in the second quarter to take a 65-64 lead at halftime. Phoenix opened the second half on an 11-2 run and controlled the game from there.

Mavericks 122, Jazz 114

The short-handed Dallas Mavericks rallied from a 22-point deficit in the second half to stun the Utah Jazz 122-114.

Tim Hardaway Jr led the Mavericks with 27 points and Seth Curry added 22. Boban Marjanovic had 20 points and nine rebounds. It was the biggest comeback for the Mavericks since February 2016 and the win means Dallas still has a slim shot at earning the No. 5 seed in the Western Conference playoffs.

Dallas won despite playing without stars Luka Doncic and Kristaps Porzingis, who were both resting because of nagging injuries. Utah was



Dallas Mavericks Trey Burke (32) shoots under Utah Jazz's Rayjon Tucker (6) during the second half of an NBA basketball game on Aug 10, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. (AP)

playing without star Donovan Mitchell and coach Quin Snyder played backups for much of the game to rest his starters.

Utah has lost three straight games and five of seven in the Florida bubble. Snyder said his usual rotation players "came out really ready to play" and then the backups were a mixed bag. Snyder added it was important to get the backups meaningful playing time as he evaluates who can help the team in the playoffs.

The Mavericks trailed 78-56 with 10 minutes left in the third quarter after Utah's Emmanuel Mudiay made a 3-pointer. They slowly rallied throughout the third quarter and then scored the first 13 points of the fourth quarter to take a 101-100 lead with about eight minutes left.

Curry said the Mavericks weren't concerned about who was playing and who wasn't.

Dallas outscored Utah 34-14 in the fourth quarter. The Mavericks shot 12 of 24 (50 percent) from 3-point range.

Utah was led by Jordan Clarkson, who scored 18 points. Rayjon Tucker scored 17 points off the bench. Georges Niang, who finished with 13 points and made all four of his 3-point attempts, said he wasn't concerned about the three-game losing streak.

Doncic is dealing with a right ankle injury while Porzingis has an injured left knee. Dorian Finney-Smith also missed the game to rest a left hip strain. All three played in a win against Milwaukee on Saturday.

Heat 114, Pacers 92

Jimmy Butler returned to the Miami lineup and everything started clicking again for the Heat.

Butler returned from a foot injury and scored 19 points, Derrick Jones scored 18 off the Miami bench and the Heat kept T.J. Warren largely in check on the way to a 114-92 win over the Indiana Pacers.

Butler also had 11 rebounds, five assists and four steals.

Tyler Herro scored 17 while Duncan Robinson and Jae Crowder each added 14 for Miami, which snapped a two-game slide. The Heat took control for good in the third quarter, blowing open what was a tie game with a 35-17 run.

Goran Dragic scored 11 and Bam Adebayo added 10 for Miami.

Warren scored 12 for Indiana on 5 for 14 shooting in 29 minutes. He came into Monday averaging a bubble-leading 34.8 points per game on 61% shooting from the field, 56% from 3-point range, but never got rolling against Butler and the Heat.

Victor Oladipo scored 14 and Malcolm Brogdon added 12 for Indiana.

Miami moved a game ahead of Indiana in the race for the No. 4 seed in the Eastern Conference. The Heat (44-27) and Pacers (43-28) both have two games left, and sixth-place Philadelphia (42-28) ends its regular season with three games in four days

Nine players from same team test positive for COVID-19

Brazil's Serie A already in doubt

SAO PAULO, Aug 11, (AP): Brazil's championship didn't even complete its opening round over the weekend before its future was cast in doubt when a match was postponed after nine players from the same team tested positive for COVID-19.

Goiás officials said on Monday the team will travel to their second round match against Athletico on Wednesday only if new tests do not rule out more members of its squad.

Striker Rafael Moura said he and eight teammates who have the coronavirus fear they have infected more people.

Goiás expected to receive COVID-19 test results on Saturday, but received them only on Sunday morning with the shocking figures. The club asked Brazil's top sports court to postpone its match against Sao Paulo, and the answer came four minutes before kickoff.

"Our biggest concern is with our family members, with those we had contact before our time together and that were possibly infected," Moura said. "Unfortunately we are exposed to this invisible virus, it can happen to anyone and maybe one of us gave it to the others between one test and the other. We need to think about the way tests are done or increase the number of tests."

Goiás received the tests results on such short notice that the team's third goalkeeper was at lunch with his family when he had to be rushed to the stadium. The team's first two goalies tested positive and will remain in isolation for at least 10 days, abiding by the championship protocols.

Brazil's Serie A began on the weekend while the country is dealing with a virus with grim figures of 100,000 known deaths and three million registered cases. Only the United States has bigger totals in both categories.

One of the few footballers speaking out about Sunday's postponement in Brazil, Sao Paulo defender Dani Alves, said the situation was "unacceptable".

"Either we raise awareness and be professional or this will be just a waste of time," Dani Alves said on his social media without clarifying whether his criticism was to players, executives or both.

starting Tuesday.

The Heat own the tiebreakers over both Indiana and Philadelphia, so one more Miami victory would lock up a spot in the No. 4 vs No. 5 series that will start early next week.

The teams play again Friday in the seeding-game finale for both teams and could meet in the opening round of the playoffs that start next week — raising the possibility that Miami and Indiana could face off as many as nine times in a 10-game span.

It was the first meeting between the clubs since Jan. 8, a game in Indiana where Butler and Warren's individual match-up stole the show.

What happened that night, in seven seconds of court time, has been talked about for seven months since. Warren grabbed Butler's arm on a drive midway through the third quarter, and the reaction by each player resulted in double-technical.

Butler fouled Warren on the next possession. Warren taunted him with some clapping after the call and got ejected.

A third division match was also postponed on Sunday after 12 players of tiny Imperatriz tested positive for COVID-19. They found out only four hours before their match against Treze, in the northeastern state of Paraíba, after travelling by airplane and bus.

The lag in results of tests is also being criticized. Teams have to take them 72 hours before every match, but Albert Einstein Hospital in Sao Paulo — recommended by the national soccer federation — is so late in diagnosing that infected footballers might have played with the virus.

Five players of Serie C team Ypiranga had the virus when they traveled by bus to face Brusque in southern Brazil. Though none of the players who were positive appeared in the match, their teammates did not test again before the match and could have spread the virus.

Serie B team CSA tested for COVID-19 on Wednesday

SOCCER

but received its results only hours before Saturday's clash against Guarani. Eight players were positive and did not play, but their teammates that spent days with them did.

Local giant Corinthians announced it will not send its prematch samples to Albert Einstein due to "failings and inconsistencies". The club said it will use another clinic to perform the tests, a decision that will be followed by others, according to Brazilian media.

The restart of professional soccer in Brazil amid the pandemic is a victory for President Jair Bolsonaro, who has pushed for a return to normal due to a belief that a collapsing economy will kill more than the virus. Flamengo, the reigning Brazilian and South American champions, also pressured for the championship to get underway, after it was originally scheduled to start in May.

Paraguay and Uruguay have largely managed to stop the virus, and restart pro soccer. Argentina, which has a much less alarming situation than Brazil's, allowed teams to restart practice only on Monday.



Corinthians' Jo (top), is fouled by Palmeiras' Gustavo Gomez, resulting in a penalty kick during the Sao Paulo league final soccer match at Allianz Parque, Sao Paulo, Brazil on Aug 8. The match is being played without spectators to curb the spread of COVID-19. (AP)

NBA Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Aug 11, (AP): NBA results and standings after Monday's games.

| Eastern Conference | | | | Western Conference | | | |
|--------------------|----|-----|------|--------------------|----|-----|------|
| Atlantic Division | | | | Southwest Division | | | |
| W | L | Pct | GB | W | L | Pct | GB |
| x-Toronto | 51 | 19 | .729 | y-Houston | 44 | 25 | .638 |
| x-Boston | 47 | 23 | .671 | x-Dallas | 43 | 30 | .589 |
| x-Philadelphia | 42 | 28 | .600 | Memphis | 33 | 38 | .465 |
| x-Brooklyn | 34 | 36 | .486 | San Antonio | 31 | 38 | .449 |
| New York | 21 | 45 | .318 | New Orleans | 30 | 40 | .429 |
| Southeast Division | | | | Northwest Division | | | |
| W | L | Pct | GB | W | L | Pct | GB |
| x-Miami | 44 | 27 | .620 | x-Denver | 46 | 25 | .648 |
| x-Orlando | 32 | 39 | .451 | x-LA Clippers | 47 | 23 | .671 |
| Charlotte | 23 | 42 | .354 | Phoenix | 32 | 39 | .451 |
| Washington | 24 | 46 | .343 | Sacramento | 29 | 41 | .414 |
| Atlanta | 20 | 47 | .299 | Golden State | 15 | 50 | .231 |
| Central Division | | | | Pacific Division | | | |
| W | L | Pct | GB | W | L | Pct | GB |
| z-Milwaukee | 55 | 16 | .775 | z-LA Lakers | 52 | 18 | .743 |
| x-Indiana | 43 | 28 | .606 | x-LA Clippers | 47 | 23 | .671 |
| Chicago | 22 | 43 | .338 | Phoenix | 32 | 39 | .451 |
| Detroit | 20 | 46 | .303 | Sacramento | 29 | 41 | .414 |
| Cleveland | 19 | 46 | .292 | Golden State | 15 | 50 | .231 |

Note: 'x' denotes clinched playoff spot; 'y' denotes clinched division; 'z' denotes clinched conference.