

Dillon, Bowyer and Almirola eliminated

Elliott wins at Roval as champ Busch bounced from playoffs



Martin Truex Jr (19) competes in a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Charlotte Motor Speedway in Concord, NC on Oct 11. (Inset): Chase Elliott stands by his trophy at Victory Lane after winning a NASCAR Cup Series. (AP)

Kim gets 1st major as Hatton bags PGA Championship title

Laird redeems himself in playoff to win again in Las Vegas

NEWTOWN SQUARE, Pa., Oct 12, (AP): Sei Young Kim shot the best round of the week in the KPMG Women's PGA Championship, closing with a 7-under 63 at Aronimink for a five-shot victory and her first major championship.

Kim had 10 victories, the most of any player on the LPGA Tour without a major. The 27-year-old South Korean changed that in dominant fashion. She won by five over seven-time major champion Inbee Park, who closed with a 65.

Kim became the ninth first-time champion in the last 10 majors on the LPGA Tour. This was hardly a surprise. She has won at least once on the LPGA Tour every year since 2015 and she came into Aronimink as the No. 7 player in the world.

Kim finished at 14-under 266. Nasa Hataoka (64) and Carlota Ciganda (65) tied for third at 273. Anna Nordqvist (71) and Brooke Henderson (72) both played in Kim's group and finished fifth and sixth.

Kim earned \$645,000. She closed out last year by winning the CME Group Tour Championship and its \$1.5 million prize.

GOLF

In Las Vegas, Martin Laird lost a chance to win by making bogey on the 18th hole, only to redeem himself in a three-way playoff by making a 20-foot birdie putt on the second extra hole to win the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open.

Laird ended seven years without a victory in a year filled with so much doubt, which included knee surgery right about the time golf was set to resume from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 37-year-old Scot needed a sponsor exemption to play the tournament he won in 2009. He ended it with a birdie to beat Matthew Wolff and Austin Cook. It was the third three-man playoff in Las Vegas for Laird, who won in 2009 and lost the following year when Jonathan Byrd made a hole-in-one on the 17th hole at the TPC Summerlin.

Laird contributed a pair of big shots on the par 3.

He had a one-shot lead with two holes to play when he sent his tee shot on the par-3 17th off a cart path and some 30 yards right of the green with the pin to the right. He hit a chip-and-run over the cart path, under the trees, between a pair of bunkers and then made a most improbable par with an 18-foot putt.

But he missed the green to the right on the 18th and chipped to 30 feet, two-putting for bogey and a 3-under 68 to fall into a playoff at 23-under 261 with Wolff and Cook, who each closed with a 66. They all made par on the 18th in the playoff, and then Laird ended it on the 17th.

In Virginia Water, England, Tyrrell Hatton held off a final-round challenge by Victor Perez to win the BMW PGA Championship by four strokes, giving the English player a first victory on home soil at a tournament that inspired him to become a



Sei Young Kim, of South Korea, holds the trophy after winning the KPMG Women's PGA Championship golf tournament at the Aronimink Golf Club on Oct 11, in Newtown Square, Pa. (AP)

professional.

Hatton shot 5-under 67 to finish on 19-under 269 overall, capping a week when he shot in the 60s every round around Wentworth's storied West Course.

It is the biggest win of his career, even topping his victory at the Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill in March that marked his breakthrough in the United States, where he has been playing for the past nine months either side of golf's hiatus for the coronavirus pandemic.

Hatton used to attend this tournament – the elite event on the European Tour – as a child, and recalled this week the time he came to Wentworth as a 5-year-old with his father and was nearly struck by an errant tee shot from Vijay Singh.

Hatton, who has sparked debate this week by wearing a hoodie, came into the final round with a three-stroke lead and was only really challenged by Perez, who moved into a share of the lead with Hatton after an eagle on the par-5 fourth hole.

Bogeys at Nos. 13 and 17 ended the challenge of the Frenchman, who didn't pick up a shot in his final six holes and shot 68.

Hatton gave Perez a glimpse of an opportunity by bogeying No. 13 – his only dropped shot of the round – but bounced back by making birdie on Nos. 15 and 18 to ultimately ease to the win.

Hatton was unaware of the state of play and almost sent his second shot on the 18th into the water.

It is Hatton's third victory at a Rolex Series event and he is set to move into the top 10 in the world for

Sabres agree to sign Hall to 1-year deal

BUFFALO, New York, Oct 12, (AP): Taylor Hall is betting on himself and choosing a surprising destination.

Hall agreed Sunday night to sign an \$8 million, one-year deal with the Buffalo Sabres, according to a person with direct knowledge of the move.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the contract had not been announced.

Hall joins his fourth NHL organization since being the No. 1 pick in the 2010 draft. He's reuniting with Sabres coach Ralph Krueger, for

Mumbai beats Delhi in IPL

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates, Oct 12, (AP): Mumbai Indians won the battle at the top of the Indian Premier League as the defending champions beat Delhi Capitals by five wickets with two balls to spare as Suryakumar Yadav and Quinton de Kock struck half centuries in Mumbai's run chase before both went for 53.

CRICKET

Mumbai reached 166-5 in 19.4 overs in reply to Delhi's 162-4 which came on the back of Shikhar Dhawan's 69 not out in his first half century of the season and captain Shreyas Iyer laboring to 42 off 33 balls. Spinner Krunal Pandya played a vital role in restricting Delhi by finishing with 2-26.

Leaders Mumbai and Delhi still occupy the top two places at the halfway mark in the league stage with 10 points each from seven

the first time.

In Cary, NC, Ernie Els birdied the final two holes, running in a 30-footer in the rain on the last, for a 6-under 66 and a one-stroke victory over Colin Montgomerie in the SAS Championship.

Jim Furyk missed a chance to become the first player to win his first three PGA Tour Champions events, closing with a 70 to tie for ninth at 8 under – four strokes behind Els. Furyk won at Warwick Hills and Pebble Beach.

Els won for second time in his first



England's Tyrrell Hatton hits on the third tee during day four of the PGA Championship at Wentworth Club, Virginia Water, England on Oct 11. (AP)

whom he played the 2013 lockout-shortened season with the Edmonton Oilers.

ICE HOCKEY

Buffalo is Hall's third team in two years after the New Jersey Devils traded him to the Arizona Coyotes in the middle of last season. The 28-year-old has played in just five career playoff games.

The 2018 Hart Trophy winner as the NHL MVP, Hall was regarded to be the top forward available on the free agent market once it opened Fri-

games.

"The kind of cricket we are playing gives us confidence going forward," Mumbai skipper Rohit Sharma said. "Really pleased how we have played in the first half of the tournament. Perfect day for us, we did everything right today. We bowled really well, then clinical with the bat."

De Kock smashed three sixes and four boundaries before top-edging against Ravichandran Ashwin (1-35) in the 10th over.

Yadav hit six fours and a six before attempting an ambitious shot off fast bowler Kagiso Rabada (2-28) in the 15th over to hole out in the deep, but by that time the match was in Mumbai's control at 130-3.

"We were 10-15 short, 175 would have looked completely different," Delhi skipper Iyer said. "We need to work on our mindset next game ... I feel it is important for us to not take anything lightly."

10 starts on the 50-and-over tour. The South African star, a four-time major champion with 19 PGA Tour titles, finished at 12-under 204 at Prestonwood Country Club.

Els tied Montgomerie, playing three groups behind, with the birdie on the par-5 17th and pulled ahead with the long putt on the par-4 18th.

Montgomerie, tied for the second-round lead with Darren Clarke and Woody Austin, parred the final four holes – giving himself little chance on 18 when he hit his 190-yard approach 50 feet left. He shot a 70.

Vijay Singh (70) was third at 10 under. Austin (72) was 9 under with Gene Sauers (67), Robert Karlsson (68), Kirk Triplett (69) and David Toms (71). Clarke (74) tied for 11th at 7 under.

In Winter Garden, Florida, Trey Mullinax started with a three-shot lead and had to rally down the stretch with birdies on two of his last three holes for 2-under 69 and a one-shot victory in the Orange County National Championship.

In the final Korn Ferry Tour event of the year, Mullinax won for the second time on the circuit. He also won in 2016.

Brandon Wu (65) and Stephan Jaeger (67) tied for second.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic that shut down golf for three months, the Korn Ferry Tour season will resume next year, with no one graduating to the PGA Tour until the end of the 2021 season.

CONCORD, NC, Oct 12, (AP): Kyle Busch, leading a race he had to win, not once believed he was driving toward a season-saving victory. He doesn't even think he can get to victory lane this year.

"Do we even have a shot to win? I don't think we have a shot," Busch said after he was eliminated from the playoffs.

NASCAR will crown a new champion this year and the worst season of Busch's career extended to mark the earliest the reigning Cup champion has been eliminated since the format debuted in 2014.

Chase Elliott won on the hybrid road course-oval at Charlotte Motor Speedway, where Busch and three others were trimmed from title contention. It was Elliott's fourth straight road course victory dating to last season.

CAR RACING

Elliott is in the round of eight for the fourth consecutive year and still seeking his first appearance in the championship final four.

"We've been fortunate to get to the round of eight the last couple years, that's kind of been the stopping point," Elliott said. "We're just eyes ahead trying to assert ourselves amongst the next group."

Busch, meanwhile, won't be in the title-deciding finale for the first time in six years. He needed his first win of the season to advance, a tall ask in this bumpy year. He seemed good as done when a flat tire at the end of the second stage should have ended his chances.

He seemed resigned when he keyed his mic and said, "Good job this year, guys," to his No. 18 Joe Gibbs Racing crew. He still somehow recovered and was third when he gambled on not pitting to take over the lead.

His fate was in his hands but Busch knew he didn't have a chance.

"We were trying something, anything," Busch said. "I didn't have anything for nobody."

Busch led just one lap after the restart before both teammate Erik Jones and Elliott passed him and then his Toyota began to fade. Busch finished 30th. There are only four races remaining for him to extend his streak to 16 consecutive seasons with at least one victory.

He acknowledged the mental toll of this disappointing year and didn't rule out personnel changes for his team.

"There have certainly been times this year where I've thought, 'Man, there was something wrong with me. I'm not doing it right, I don't know what I'm doing,'" Busch said. "I don't know what to think, but certainly it would be nice to score a win. To have a win for this year, that would be the consolation prize for the way this year has gone."

Austin Dillon in a Chevrolet for Richard Childress Racing, and Stewart-Haas Racing teammates Clint Bowyer and Aric Almirola in Fords also were eliminated. Bowyer, who this week said he's retiring at the end of the season and will move to the television booth, was treated for exhaustion after driving the second half of the race without power steering.

Elliott, meanwhile, won for the second consecutive year at "The Roval" and

third time this season. It's his second win this season at Charlotte – he won on the oval in May when NASCAR resumed racing during the pandemic.

Elliott will try to take that momentum into the round of eight, which he advanced to for the fourth-straight year. Elliott has never made it to the championship finale.

"Best way to get into the next round is to win," Elliott said. "Looking forward to the opportunity and looking to make some noise."

Elliott advanced along with Denny Hamlin and Kurt Busch, who won the first two races of the second round, along with Kevin Harvick, Martin Truex Jr, Joey Logano and Alex Bowman.

Bowman battled anxiety through the race as he worried Kyle Busch would win and bump him from the playoffs. When Busch didn't pit, Bowman nervously asked his Hendrick Motorsports team if he was about to be eliminated.

"You come to the Roval, stressful. It's a cutoff week, stressful. You're surrounded in points by champions of the sport, extra stressful," Bowman said. "You're trying to beat Kyle Busch, and it's going to rain. It's like how many stressful elements can you add to one thing? It didn't matter as Elliott took control of the race to win in his Hendrick Chevrolet and proved to be the best active road course racer in NASCAR with a 42% winning percentage."

"I feel like road courses have been fortunate to us the last few trips, but I feel like we just try to get a little better every time and tweak on the small things," Elliott said.

Logano finished second in a Ford and was followed by Erik Jones, who is not in the playoffs, in a Toyota. Kurt Busch was fourth in a Chevrolet.

The playoff race at hometown Charlotte was the first time this season the speedway could allow spectators and the allotted 7,000 seats were sold out for two rain-soaked days. The Xfinity Series race on Saturday was run in a deluge and there was considerable angst about a repeat of that slippery show on Sunday.

Drivers stressed over the potential conditions, particularly as heavy rains soaked the speedway in the hours leading into the race. Conditions that certainly would have qualified as dangerous ultimately lifted, the rain stopped and held off until after Elliott's victory celebration, when a tornado warning was called for the next county over.

NASCAR did insist all teams start the race on rain tires, the first time they were used in official Cup competition in at least 60 years. Although the track was puddled in some places, damp in others, the conditions didn't come close to Saturday's blinding storm.

Charlotte brought it additional lights because it was too dark through the infield during the Xfinity race but they were not needed despite all the consternation.



England's Marcus Rashford (right), is challenged by Belgium's Thomas Meunier during the UEFA Nations League soccer match between England and Belgium at Wembley stadium in London on Oct 11. (AP)

Italy remain on top of group

Portugal & France lose perfect records; England beat Belgium

MILAN, Oct 12, (AP): Portugal and France lost their perfect records in this season's UEFA Nations League after playing out a 0-0 draw against each other, and Belgium saw their 13-match unbeaten run ended by a 2-1 defeat against England.

Two of the sport's best forwards were kept quiet at a chilly Stade de France.

Portugal star Cristiano Ronaldo had a good chance in the second minute of injury time, but goalkeeper Hugo Lloris palmed away his angled shot from the left. France's Kylian Mbappe was substituted near the end after having failed to make an impression against the Nations League champions' resolute defense.

Portugal stay top in Group 3 of League A, ahead of France on goal difference, with both teams on seven points.

Third-place Croatia have three points after beating Sweden 2-1. Substitute Andrej Kramaric scored the winner in that match, nine minutes after coming off the bench.

England came from behind to beat Belgium and move top in Group 2 of League A.

Marcus Rashford's penalty canceled out Romelu Lukaku's spot-kick in the first half before Mason Mount's looping, deflected shot clinched England's first victory over a top-ranked team in nine years.

England moved a point ahead of second-place Belgium and three above Denmark who beat Iceland 3-0.

Italy were held to a 0-0 draw against Poland but remained top of their group after The Netherlands drew by the same

score against Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The match was supposed to pit two of Europe's top goalscorers against each other in Robert Lewandowski and Ciro Immobile. However, Italy coach Roberto Mancini surprisingly left Immobile on the bench.

Italy are a point above The Netherlands and Poland in Group 1 of League A. They play The Netherlands on Wednesday.

Erling Haaland netted a hat trick to help Norway thrash Romania 4-0 and assuage their European Championship playoff disappointment.

SOCCER

Alexander Sørloth scored Norway's other goal. Haaland already has six goals in the competition.

Norway lost a Euro 2020 playoff to Serbia on Thursday.

Norway are level on six points with leaders Austria in Group 1 of League B.

Austria beat hosts Northern Ireland 1-0.

Finland beat Bulgaria 2-0 in Group 4 of League B and Ireland drew 0-0 against Wales.

Also in League B, it was: Israel vs Czech Republic 1-2; Scotland vs Slovakia 1-0; Russia vs Turkey 1-1; and Serbia vs Hungary 0-1.

There were four draws in League C: Armenia vs Georgia 2-2; Estonia vs North Macedonia 3-3; Kazakhstan vs Albania 0-0; and Lithuania vs Belarus 2-2.

Also, Greece beat Moldova 2-0 and Slovenia won 1-0 in Kosovo.