



Nashville SC's Walker Zimmerman (right) heads the ball over Sporting Kansas City forward Gianluca Busio (left), during the first half of an MLS soccer match in Kansas City, Kan on Oct 11. (AP)

# Sports

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Timbers win

## Toronto extends 'winning' streak

CINCINNATI, Oct 12, (AP) — Patrick Mullins scored his first goal of the season and Toronto FC extended their winning streak to five games with a 1-0 win over FC Cincinnati on Sunday night.

Mullins scored in the 29th minute when Patrick Laryea drove deep to the right of the goal and passed it back out to Mullins, who had a clear shot on net.

Toronto (12-2-4) have not lost since Sept 5, when Vancouver notched a 3-2 win.

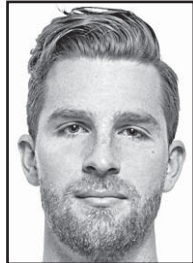
Cincinnati (3-11-4) have lost four in a row and haven't won since a 1-0 victory over the New York Red Bulls on Sept 19.

**Timbers 3, Earthquakes 0**  
Jaroslav Niezgodra scored two goals and the Portland Timbers won their fifth straight match with a 3-0 victory over the San Jose Earthquakes.

Felipe Mora also scored for Portland (9-4-3), who are tied with the defending champions Seattle Sounders with 30 points atop the Western Conference. It was Portland's third shutout in their last four games.

After a scoreless first half in rainy conditions, Diego Chara served up a cross to Niezgodra for a header a minute into the second.

Niezgodra, who is from Poland and signed by the Timbers earlier this year, scored again in the 52nd minute for his fifth goal of the season and his first two-goal game.



Mullins

Portland's Eryk Williamson got his second straight yellow card in the second half and will miss Wednesday's game against Real Salt Lake.

Vancouver's Tanner Beason appeared to score in the 71st minute but he was ruled offside after a video review. Shea Salinas' attempt in the 81st minute went just wide to the right.

Mora, who scored twice in Portland's 6-3 victory at the LA Galaxy on Wednesday, scored his seventh goal of the season in the 86th minute. Mora has scored in three straight matches.

Chara got the assist, his team-leading sixth of the season.

The last time the teams met, Portland came away with a 6-1 victory in San Jose. That touched

## SOCCER

off the Timbers' winning streak, during which they've outscored opponents 17-4.

### Union 2, Impact 1

Jamiro Monteiro and Sergio Santos scored in a nine-minute span and the Philadelphia Union beat the Montreal Impact 2-1.

Monteiro took a well-placed lead pass from Ilninho on the right side and just beat the keeper on the near post in the 39th minute. Santos — also set up by Ilninho — took a cross and tapped it in a largely untended net.

### Sporting KC 2, Nashville 1

Gerso Fernandes and Erik Hurtado scored and Sporting Kansas City rallied to beat Nashville SC 2-1.

Hurtado slipped a volley under the cross bar to cap the scoring in the 79th minute. Amadou Dia played a long, arcing ball to Hurtado for the right-footed finish.

Kansas City (9-5-2) have won three games in a row.

Walker Zimmerman scored his first goal since the season opener on Feb 29, giving Nashville a 1-0 lead in the 15th minute.

Gerso tied it in the 53rd, redirecting a cross by Johnny Russell and scoring from point-blank range.

### Fire 2, D.C. United 1

C.J. Sapong scored in his first start in nearly three months. Boris Sekulic had his first MLS goal and the Chicago Fire beat D.C. United 2-1.

Sapong — who missed five games, first for personal reasons and then when he was quarantined as part of COVID-19 protocols — put away a volley to open the scoring in the third minute. Alvaro Medran bent a free kick to the top of the 6-yard box where Sapong flicked in a sliding right-footer.

Sekulic side-netted a header off a corner-kick by Medran in first-half stoppage time to give Chicago (5-8-4) a 2-0 lead.

# Bubble Kings: LA Lakers run past Heat for 17th NBA championship



The Los Angeles Lakers players and coaches celebrate after the Lakers defeated the Miami Heat 103-88 in Game 6 of basketball's NBA Finals on Oct 11, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. (AP)

James wins his fourth title

**LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla., Oct 12, (AP) — The ultimate anguish. The ultimate joy. This season, for LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers, had it all. And it ended in the only fashion that they deemed would be acceptable, with them back atop the basketball world.**

For the first time since Kobe Bryant's fifth and final title a decade ago, the Lakers are NBA champions. James had 28 points, 14 rebounds and 10 assists, and the Lakers beat the Miami Heat 106-93 on Sunday night to win the NBA Finals in six games.

"Our organization wants their respect. Laker Nation wants their respect," James said. "And I want my damn respect, too."

Anthony Davis had 19 points and 15 rebounds for the Lakers, who dealt with the enormous anguish that followed the death of the iconic Bryant in January and all the challenges that came with leaving home for three months to play at Walt Disney World in a bubble designed to keep inhabitants safe from the coronavirus.

It would be, James predicted, the toughest title to ever win.

"We have a PhD in adversity, I'll tell you that much," Lakers coach Frank Vogel said. "We've been through a lot."

They made the clincher look easy. James won his fourth title, doing it with a third different franchise — and against the Heat franchise that showed him how to become a champion.

Bam Adebayo had 25 points and 10 rebounds for Miami, who got 12 points from Jimmy Butler — the player who,

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in his first Heat season, got the team back to title contention. Rajon Rondo scored 19 points for the Lakers, who put together the elite talents of James and Davis with this moment in mind.

And Davis, as white and gold confetti coated the floor around him, spent his first moments as an NBA champion thinking of Bryant.

With that, the league's bubble chapter, put together after a 4-1/2-month suspension of play that started March 11 because of the coronavirus pandemic and came with a promise that it would raise awareness to the problems of racial injustice and police brutality, is over. So, too, is a season that saw the league and China get into political sparring, the death on Jan 1 of com-

## Swiatek rises to 17th; Djokovic, Nadal 1-2

PARIS, Oct 12, (AP) — French Open champion Iga Swiatek joined the Top 20 for the first time Monday by rising 37 spots in the WTA rankings to a career-best No. 17.

Rafael Nadal's 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 victory over Novak Djokovic on Sunday for a 13th championship at Roland Garros and 20th Grand Slam trophy in all — tying Roger Federer's record for men — did not change the top of the ATP rankings.

Djokovic, who won the Australian Open in February for his 17th major title, is still No. 1, with Nadal at No. 2, followed by US Open champion Dominic Thiem and Federer.

The 19-year-old Swiatek entered the French Open at No. 54 and became the lowest-ranked female champion at the clay-court Grand Slam tournament since the WTA computer rankings began in 1975.

Her 6-4, 6-1 victory over Sofia Kenin on Saturday gave Swiatek the first tour-level title of any sort in her professional career and made her Poland's first Grand Slam singles champion.

Kenin's run to the final — the first time she made it to the quarter-finals on clay anywhere — allowed her to move up two places to No. 4, matching her career high. The 21-year-old American went 16-2 in Grand Slam matches in 2020, winning her first such trophy at the Australian Open in February.

missioner emeritus David Stern — the man who did so much to make the league what it is — and then the shock on Jan 26 that came with the news that Bryant, his daughter Gianna and seven

other died in a helicopter crash.

The Lakers said they were playing the rest of the season in his memory.

They delivered what Bryant did five times for LA — a ring, and the clincher

was emphatic.

Game 6 was over by halftime, the Lakers taking a 64-36 lead into the break. The Heat never led and couldn't shoot from anywhere: 35% from

The top three in the women's rankings remained as they were before the French Open, with Ash Barty at No. 1, Simona Halep at No. 2, and Naomi Osaka at No. 3. Serena Williams is No. 10.

When competition resumed in August after a hiatus of about five months because of the coronavirus pandemic, the tours decided to allow players to use either their 2019 or 2020 results at any given tournament for rankings purposes, so Barty wasn't hurt by sitting out the French Open a year after winning it.

Osaka also sat out the trip to Paris this time, opting

## TENNIS

to rest and recover after her championship at the US Open last month.

Halep did compete at the French Open, but her 6-1, 6-2 loss to Swiatek in the fourth round didn't affect the three-time major champion's ranking.

In the ATP, Argentina's Diego Schwartzman, who reached his first Grand Slam semifinal before losing to Nadal, cracked the Top 10 for the first time, jumping to No. 8 from No. 14.

Russia's Andrey Rublev also made his Top 10 debut Monday, using a second consecutive major quarter-final appearance to go to No. 10 from No. 12.



Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James (23) takes a shot over Miami Heat's Kelly Olynyk (9) during the second half in Game 6 of basketball's NBA Finals on Oct 11, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. (AP)

2-point range in the half, 33% from 3-point range and even an uncharacteristic 42% from the line, not like any of it really mattered. The Lakers were getting everything they wanted and then some, outscoring Miami 36-16 in the second quarter and doing all that with James making just one shot in the period.

Rondo, now a two-time champion and the first to win NBA rings as a player in the cities of Boston and Los Angeles — the franchises now tied with 17 titles apiece — was 6 for 6 in the half, the first time he'd done that since November 2007. The Lakers' lead was 46-32 with 5:00 left in the half, and they outscored Miami 18-4 from there until intermission.

The 28-point halftime lead was the second-biggest in NBA Finals history, topped only by the Celtics leading the Lakers 79-49 on May 27, 1985.

True to form, the Heat — a No. 5 seed in the Eastern Conference that finished with a losing record last season, a team that embraced the challenge of the bubble like none other — didn't stop playing, not even when the deficit got to 36 in the third quarter.

A 23-8 run by Miami got the Heat to 90-69 with 8:37 left. But the outcome was never in doubt, and before long confetti was blasted into the air as the Lakers' celebration formally and officially began.

Lakers' Davis did not wear the gold-painted sneakers that he had for Game 5; instead, he went with red-and-black ones Sunday. Among the ring-winners: Dion Waiters, who began this season with the Heat; 19-year-old Talen Horton-Tucker (he turns 20, Nov 25) and Kostas Antetokounmpo — the brother of two-time NBA MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo of the Milwaukee Bucks.

Heat's Goran Dragic (torn left plantar fascia) checked in late in the first quarter, his first appearance since Game 1 of the series. "I just wanted to be out there to help my team as much as possible. It is what it is. The Lakers were better," an emotional Dragic said. Jae Crowder had 12 points and Duncan Robinson had 10 for the Heat.

John Salley and Robert Horry were, until Sunday, the only players to win championships with three different franchises. James (Miami, Cleveland) and Danny Green (San Antonio, Toronto) added their names to that list with this title.

Miami led the NBA with 94 games played this season — 30 more than Minnesota, who played the fewest in the NBA. The Heat finished with 1,247 3-pointers this season, including play-offs, 290 more than any other year in team history.