

Busch wins NASCAR playoff race in Texas

Harvick, Hamlin, Keselowski above; Bowman and Elliott both behind cutoff

FORT WORTH, Texas, Oct 29, (AP): Out of contention to defend his NASCAR Cup title, Kyle Busch at least extended his season winning streak to 16 with his first victory of 2020.

He also denied a needed victory for Martin Truex Jr, his penalized Joe Gibbs Racing teammate who still has a chance to be one of the four drivers to be the new champion.

"I feel like crap," Busch said. "But I got a win."

Busch won the NASCAR playoff race at Texas that finished, three days after it started. He was 0.468 seconds ahead of Truex, and had just enough fuel left to do a celebratory burnout on the front-stretch before needing a push from a tow truck to get the No. 18 Toyota to Victory Lane.

"If it was one more lap, the 18 was probably to run out of gas," said Truex, who led 53 laps. "So, I mean, it just was one of those things ... how close can you get without winning?"

It was 12th top-three finish this season for Truex, whose only win came at Martinsville - NASCAR's oldest and shortest track where the next race is Sunday. He also won there last fall.

Truex had to go to the back of the field when the Texas race started Sunday because of an illegal spoiler and lost crew chief James Small for the extended time in Texas. The 2017 champion and runner-up the last two seasons was also docked 20 points, a crucial penalty since he was already below the cutoff line for the top four before that.

A win would have taken care of that. "Coming here we had a lot of confidence and we had a strong run," Truex said. "This time of year, second is



Kyle Busch does a burnout after winning the NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth, Texas on Oct 28. (Inset): Busch poses with the trophy at Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth, Texas. (AP)

CAR RACING

great, it's just not good enough."

There are spots for three other drivers to join Joey Logano for a run at the championship in the season finale Nov 8 at Phoenix.

Kevin Harvick, Denny Hamlin, Brad Keselowski are above the cutline going to Martinsville. Alex Bowman and Chase Elliott are both 42 points behind the cutoff, while Truex is 53 back and Kurt Busch 98.

The 57th career victory for Kyle Busch gives him at least one win in every year since 2005. The two-time Cup champion got his fourth Cup win at Texas, and his first Cup win since his championship-crowning win at Homestead last November.

"We got it and I was so nervous," Busch said. "The last three laps, that's like winning a championship, that's how nervous I was."

Busch led five times and was in front for 90 of the 334 laps at the 1-1/2-mile Texas track that was finally dried out after more than three days of misty conditions and drizzle combined with cool temperatures.

Temperatures were in the mid-40s when the race finally resumed Wednesday after being on hold for 72 hours, 28 minutes, 34 seconds. The race was red-flagged Sunday after 52 laps because of the precipitation that lingered until Wednesday morning.

Bowman finished fifth at Texas, just ahead of Keselowski and Kurt Busch. Hamlin was ninth, Logano 10th and Harvick, who had won the previous three fall races in Texas, was 16th after resuming Wednesday a lap back because of damage to his right side when he brushed the wall while leading on Sunday. Elliott finished 20th.

"I don't know about the craziest (race), but certainly the longest. I'm glad it's over, and I'm glad we had a great run," Keselowski said. "I'm very much looking forward to Martinsville."

Logano secured his spot in the final four with his win 10 days earlier at Kansas to open the three-race round of eight.

Busch had just enough fuel left to do a burnout on the front-stretch and was a little slow in doing his customary winning bow.

Hewitt leads fan vote for Int'l Tennis Hall of Fame

Nole reaches Erste Bank Open quarters

VIENNA, Oct 29, (AP): Novak Djokovic saved four set points in a 7-6 (11), 6-3 win over Borna Coric to reach the Erste Bank Open quarter-finals and move one step closer to sealing the year-end No. 1 ranking.

Djokovic can lock up the top position by winning the title on Sunday.

Otherwise Rafael Nadal could still mathematically overtake him, although the Spaniard would need to enter a tournament in Bulgaria next month in order to do so.

Djokovic will play either Hubert Hurkacz or Lorenzo Sonego in Friday's quarter-final.

Kevin Anderson, who won the event in 2018, also advanced to the quarter-finals with a 7-5, 6-1 win over Pablo Carreno Busta.

TENNIS

Djokovic, who had not lost a set in three previous matches against Coric, saved two break points at 4-4 and one more in his next service game at 5-5.

Coric missed four set points in the 18-minute tiebreaker, including one on his own serve when he hit a forehand wide.

The Croatian saved two set points for Djokovic with aces but hit a backhand long on his opponent's third chance.

"Borna is a great fighter. He has kind of similar style of tennis as I do. In the backhand corner very solid, trying to create points with the forehand," Djokovic said in an on-court interview.

"He was serving very well, especially in the first set. It was very difficult for me to return his serve," said Djokovic, who also held off a set point in his first-round match.

"The tiebreak again, like yesterday



In this Oct 9 file photo, Serbia's Novak Djokovic plays a shot against Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas in the semifinal match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, France. (AP)

against (Filip) Krajinovic, decided the match, I guess," he said.

Djokovic was in control of the second set after Coric double-faulted when facing a break point at 1-1.

Djokovic didn't allow Coric another chance on his serve and closed out the win on his second match point.

"I am just really glad to stay focused and play my best at the right time," Djokovic said.

Meanwhile, two-time Grand Slam title winner Lleyton Hewitt led the fan voting for the International Tennis Hall of Fame's Class of 2021 and will get a bonus of 3% added to his tally from the official voting group.

NFL Roundup

Pats place LB Copeland on IR

Bears star receiver Robinson in NFL's concussion protocol

CHICAGO, Oct 29, (AP): Chicago Bears star receiver Allen Robinson is in the NFL's concussion protocol, throwing his status for this week's game against the New Orleans Saints into question.

He was hurt late in their lopsided loss to the Los Angeles Rams on Monday night and left the game. Robinson's face hit the field when he was tackled on a helmet-to-helmet play by safety Nick Scott on a fourth-down catch with about four minutes left, and an official sent him to the sideline. The Bears (5-2) lost 24-10 and fell out of the NFC North lead.

Not having Robinson available to face the surging Saints and their top 10 defense would be a big blow for an offense that ranks among the NFL's worst. Coach Matt Nagy said the Bears are preparing for whether he plays or not.

The Patriots have placed linebacker **Brandon Copeland** on injured reserve, the latest blow to a team that has lost three straight.

New England announced the move. The Patriots also placed tight end **Jake Burt** on practice squad injured reserve.

Copeland has appeared in six games with four starts this season, totaling 10 tackles. He signed with New England in March following two seasons with the **Jets**.

New England visit **Buffalo** on Sunday.

Jimmy Orr, a sure-handed wide receiver who played for the **Pittsburgh Steelers** and **Baltimore Colts** after starring at the University of Georgia, has died. He was 85.

Orr passed away Tuesday night. His death was confirmed by **Edo Smith** and Sons Funeral Home in Brunswick, Georgia.

Jim Irsay, owner of the **Indianapolis Colts**, said on Twitter: "Rest in peace to another NFL legend, JIMMY ORR. ... 'Orr's Corner' in the south endzone at Baltimore's Memorial Stadium was sacred ground. Our condolences to Jimmy's family."

Hall of Fame quarterback **Johnny Unitas** had plenty of targets to choose from in 1960s, including **Raymond Berry**, **John Mackey** and **Lenny Moore**. But he often connected with Orr in a place that became known to many as "Orrsville".

Detroit Lions coach **Matt Patricia** says newly acquired defensive end **Everson Griffen** will not be available to practice or play until next week due to NFL's COVID-19 protocols.

The Lions acquired Griffen from the **Dallas Cowboys** for a conditional 2021 draft pick on

Tuesday night. NFL protocols require players who join a new team to begin testing for six days before they can enter the franchise's facilities.

Detroit (3-3) will be without Griffen when they host the **Indianapolis Colts** (4-2) on Sunday.

The **New York Jets** activated rookie defensive end **Jabari Zuniga** from injured reserve and he could make his NFL debut Sunday at Kansas City.

Zuniga, a third-round draft pick out of Florida, had been sidelined since training camp with a quadriceps injury. He was designated to return from IR on Oct 7, so the Jets had to make a decision on him this week.

Zuniga could help replace defensive end **Kyle Phillips**, who was placed on IR with an injured left ankle.

New York announced a few other roster moves before practice: Veteran linebacker **Patrick Onwuasor** was designated to return to practice from IR, backup quarterback **David Fales** was released from the practice squad and wide receiver **Lawrence Cager** was restored to the practice squad from the practice squad IR.

Carlos Dunlap has been traded from the **Cincinnati Bengals** to the **Seattle Seahawks**, according to multiple people with knowledge of the deal.

The people spoke to The Associated Press on Wednesday on the condition of anonymity because neither team had announced the trade.

Dunlap had made it clear that he was unhappy with his situation in Cincinnati and Seattle were in desperate need to solve their pass rush issues that have been a key part of a defense that ranks last in the league in yards allowed and passing yards allowed.



In this Oct 4 file photo, Chicago Bears' Allen Robinson (12) makes a touchdown reception against Indianapolis Colts' Isaiah Rodgers (34) during the second half of an NFL football game in Chicago. (AP)

Uchimura positive for COVID-19 just week before key meet



In this Oct 29, 2018 file photo, Japan's Kohei Uchimura performs on the rings during the men's team final of the Gymnastics World Championships at the Aspire Dome in Doha, Qatar. (AP)

TOKYO, Oct 29, (AP): Two-time defending Olympic champion gymnast Kohei Uchimura of Japan has tested positive for COVID-19.

The positive test was reported by the Kyodo news agency on Thursday and comes just over a week before an international gymnastics meet in Tokyo that will test countermeasures against the virus.

The meet on Nov 8 will involve eight gymnasts each from Japan, Russia, China and the United States. Uchimura was slated to participate.

The positive test could be a setback in trying to convince the world it will be safe to hold the postponed Tokyo Olympics next year. More than 15,000

GYMNASTICS

Olympic and Paralympic athletes will have to enter Japan. Add to that thousands of officials, judges, media and broadcasters. It is also unclear how many fans will be allowed to attend - and from where.

Uchimura has said, because of shoulder injuries, he will not attempt to defend his overall title next year and will compete instead on the horizontal bar.

Just over 1,700 deaths in Japan have been attributed to COVID-19. The number is relatively low, but Olympic organizers face a major problem of opening the borders to athletes from more than 200 nations and territories.