



Matilda's Stephanie Catley (right), and United States' Ashley Sanchez battle for the ball during the international women's soccer match between the United States and Australia in Newcastle, Australia. A late goal by Kyah Simon earned Australia a fortunate 1-1 draw against the world champion United States.

# Sports

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Putellas named women's player of the year

## Messi wins Ballon d'Or for 7th time

PARIS, Nov 30, (AP): Lionel Messi won the men's Ballon d'Or for a record-extending seventh time on Monday, ending the year in style after a brilliant final season with Barcelona and earning his first major international trophy with Argentina.

Alexia Putellas became the third winner of the women's award for an outstanding season with Barcelona and Spain.

The 34-year-old Messi led Argentina to the Copa America title in July after losing in four major international finals.

"I'm very happy to be here, happy to keep fighting for new trophies," he said through a translator.

"I don't know how many years I have left, but I hope many more. I'd like to thank all my (former) teammates at Barcelona and Argentina."

Messi finished with 613 points to top prolific Bayern Munich and Poland striker Robert Lewandowski on 580.

"I would like to say to Robert that it's an honor to be your rival, and everyone would say you deserved to win it last year," Messi said.

Awarded by France Football magazine, the Ballon d'Or has been given out to men every year since 1956 when Stanley Matthews won.

Both 2020 awards were canceled because the coronavirus pandemic disrupted the season.

The 33-year-old Lewandowski set a new single-season scoring record for the Bundesliga with 41 goals - one more than late Germany great Gerd Müller - when he scored in the last minute of the last game.

Lewandowski netted in 19 consecutive games in all competitions for Bayern from February to September and he just missed out on equaling the record of scoring in 16 Bundes-

liga games in a row. Overall, he already has 25 goals in 20 games for Bayern this season.

His 11 goals in 12 games for Poland this year took his international tally to 74 in 128 games, just six less than Messi.

Chelsea and Italy midfielder Jorginho was third with 460 points after helping the London club win the Champions League and his nation win the European Championship. Real Madrid and France forward Karim Benzema was fourth on 239.

Putellas helped Barca win the treble and scored 26 goals in 42 games overall. The midfielder netted in the Champions League final against Chelsea, and in August she was named UEFA women's player of the year.

### SOCCER

"I'm very emotional, it's a very special moment," she said at the Paris ceremony through a translator. "I would like to start by thanking all my teammates, especially my current (Barcelona) teammates. For me it's a collective success."

The only previous women's award winners are Norway striker Ada Hegerberg in 2018, and US forward Megan Rapinoe in 2019.

Putellas tallied 186 points to finish far ahead of club and country teammate Jenni Hermoso on 84.

Hermoso netted 31 goals to top the Spanish first division scoring charts for a third straight season. Hermoso was joint-top scorer in the Champions League with Chelsea's Fran Kirby on six goals.

Chelsea and Australia striker Sam Kerr placed third in the voting after 21 goals in the English Women's Super League and six for Australia at the Tokyo Games. Kerr has maintained her excellent form with 13 goals in 12 games this season.



Putellas



PSG player Lionel Messi reacts after winning the 2021 Ballon d'Or trophy during the 65th Ballon d'Or ceremony at Theatre du Chatelet, in Paris. Messi won the Ballon d'Or for the seventh time. (AP)

# Washington edge Seahawks for third consecutive victory

Green makes history with blocked extra-point score

LANDOVER, Md., Nov 30, (AP): Kendall Fuller intercepted Russell Wilson's pass on a last-minute 2-point conversion attempt, and Washington held on to beat the Seattle Seahawks 17-15 Monday night for the team's third consecutive victory.

Wilson led the Seahawks on a 10-play, 96-yard touchdown drive in the final three minutes. He connected with Freddy Swain on a 32-yard TD pass with 15 seconds left but came up just short of leading a memorable comeback on his 33rd birthday.

Seattle (3-8) was called for an illegal formation penalty on the first inside kick attempt and failed to recover the second. Wilson was 20 of 31 for 247 yards and two TD passes, but he lost three consecutive games for the first time as the Seahawks' starting quarterback, with his team's playoff hopes fading in the process.

### FOOTBALL

Washington (5-6) moved into the final NFC wild-card spot with the win. J.D. McKissic caught a touchdown pass from Taylor Heinicke, ran for another and accounted for 56 yards from scrimmage against the team he broke into the NFL with.

Heinicke and Co. had to do it all in the second half without the possibility of a field goal after kicker Joey Slye injured a hamstring late in the second quarter on an extra point attempt that was blocked and returned for two points. Heinicke evaded a couple of potential sacks and outdueled Wilson in a matchup of mobile QBs, going 27 of 35 for 223 yards with the TD throw to McKissic and an interception.

A departure from each team's typical results in prime time, Washington won at home on Monday night for the third time in 20 tries since FedEx Field opened in 1997. Seattle, which entered with the NFL's best winning percentage on Monday night, fell to 11-4 in these situations in Pete Carroll's 11 seasons as coach.

Carroll's Seahawks have fallen out of playoff contention over the past three weeks.

Rasheem Green broke through Washington's front to block an extra-point attempt, recovered the ball and rumbled all the way to the end zone.

It was good for two Seattle Seahawks points and a little bit of NFL history.

Green became the first player to block, recover and score for a defensive conversion since the league allowed for the possibility on extra points beginning in 2015. It was the first blocked kick returned for a score since 2019, and the 11th over the past



Washington Football Team running back J.D. McKissic (41) breaks away from Seattle Seahawks middle linebacker Bobby Wagner (54) to score a touchdown during the second half of an NFL football game in Landover, Md. (AP)

seven season, with seven of those coming on a PAT.

Washington outrushed Seattle 152-34 and held a 41:40-18:20 edge in time of possession.

Since the NFL allowed the defense to return a PAT for points in 2015, Green became the first player to block, recover and score on the same play, according to SportRadar. It was the first defensive conversion in the league since 2019 and the 11th over the past seven seasons, with seven coming on extra points.



Washington Football Team quarterback Taylor Heinicke (4) celebrating a touchdown against the Seattle Seahawks during the second half of an NFL football game in Landover, Md. (AP)

Abid, Shafique put on 151-run partnership

## Pakistan dominate Bangladesh in 1st Test

CHATTOGRAM, Bangladesh, Nov 30, (AP): Opener Abid Ali missed out on back-to-back centuries by nine runs but Pakistan comfortably chased down a 202-run target to beat Bangladesh by eight wickets on Tuesday in the first

cricket Test. Abid and Abdullah Shafique put on a 151-run partnership for the first wicket, their second consecutive 100-plus stand in the match to give Pakistan's chase a powerful start. Abid, who hit 133 in the first innings, struck 12 boundaries and scored 91 off 148 deliveries in the second innings.

"I'm really pleased with the way Abdullah Shafique built his innings and Abid Ali was outstanding, scoring tough runs to pull the team out from difficult position," Pakistan captain Babar Azam said, also crediting his bowlers for turning the match after their team conceded a first-innings lead.

"The way Bangladesh played in the first innings was really good but Shaheen (Afriqi) and Hasan (Ali) were outstanding. "That's the beauty of test cricket that it allows you to make a comeback. We didn't have much time to prepare for the Test but we gave our best." Resuming Day 5 at 109 without

loss, and just 93 runs away from the victory, Pakistan's openers appeared to be in full control until offspinner Mehidy Hasan struck.

Shafique followed his first-innings half-century to reach 73 before Mehidy (1-59) trapped him lbw.

Seven overs later, left-arm spinner Taijul Islam (1-89) had Abid out lbw, baffling him with a sharp turn to make Pakistan 171-2.

### CRICKET

Azhar Ali then combined with Azam to complete the inevitable, hitting consecutive boundaries off Mehidy to finish off the game. Azhar was unbeaten on 24 and Azam was not out on 13.

Liton Das' maiden test century helped Bangladesh post 330 in their first innings, then Taijul Islam claimed 7-116 to bowl out Pakistan for 286 - giving the hosts a 44-run first innings lead.

### NFL Standings

WASHINGTON, Nov 30, (AP): NFL standings after Monday's game.

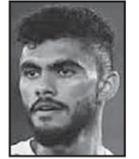
American Conference						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	8	4	0	.667	336	190
Buffalo	7	4	0	.636	326	182
Miami	5	7	0	.417	234	279
NY Jets	3	8	0	.273	199	334
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tennessee	8	4	0	.667	304	290
Indianapolis	6	6	0	.500	340	283
Houston	2	9	0	.182	164	292
Jacksonville	2	9	0	.182	173	283
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	8	3	0	.727	263	240
Cincinnati	7	4	0	.636	309	226
Pittsburgh	5	5	1	.500	224	267
Cleveland	6	6	0	.500	254	267
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	7	4	0	.636	281	250
Denver	6	5	0	.545	228	196
LA Chargers	6	5	0	.545	273	293
Las Vegas	6	5	0	.545	259	295
National Conference						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	7	4	0	.636	326	250
Washington	5	6	0	.455	229	282
Philadelphia	5	7	0	.417	304	273
NY Giants	4	7	0	.364	202	253
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tampa Bay	8	3	0	.727	347	253
Atlanta	5	6	0	.455	199	302
New Orleans	5	6	0	.455	257	249
Carolina	5	7	0	.417	236	253
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	9	3	0	.750	283	242
Minnesota	5	6	0	.455	281	276
Chicago	4	7	0	.364	179	254
Detroit	0	10	1	.045	174	289
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Arizona	9	2	0	.818	310	202
LA Rams	7	4	0	.636	299	263
San Francisco	6	5	0	.545	280	248
Seattle	3	8	0	.273	209	226

### Oman, Iraq 'draw' in Arab Cup opener

DOHA, Nov 30, (Agencies): Oman and Iraq played to a 1-1 draw in the opening match of the Arab Football Cup on Tuesday, precursor for the upcoming 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Salaah Al-Yahyaie opened the scoring for Oman in the 78 minute through spot kick while Hasan Abdulkareem equalized for Iraq also through penalty late in injury time.

Al-Yahyaie



### Also

Zurich: FIFA confirmed dates for the delayed 2021 Club World Cup on Monday, with the Feb. 3-12 tournament in the United Arab Emirates requiring Chelsea to postpone two Premier League games.

The schedule was announced hours before the tournament draw was being made in Zurich. The seven-team lineup was completed Saturday when Palmeiras won the Copa Libertadores. Chelsea, the Champions League winner, and Palmeiras enter at the semifinals stage and then go on to play the final or a third-place game.

Premier League leader Chelsea had been due to play Feb. 8 at Brighton and host Arsenal on Feb. 12. Those games should now be rescheduled.

The tournament also includes African champion Al Ahly, Asian champion Al Hilal, CONCACAF Champions League winner Monterrey, Oceania champion Auckland City plus the host nation's domestic title winner, Al Jazira.

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