

SPORTS

Heat breeze past Pacers

Booker, Ayton push Suns to 108-90 win over Lakers

MIAMI, Dec 22, (AP): Tyler Herro had 26 points in his return from a three-game absence with a bruised thigh, Duncan Robinson also scored 26 to match a season high and the Miami Heat rolled past the Indiana Pacers 125-96.

Miami tied a franchise record with 22 made 3-pointers, the fourth time the Heat have hit that many.

Max Strus scored 18 points, and Kyle Lowry finished with eight points, 11 rebounds and 12 assists for Miami. Omer Yurtseven added 13 rebounds for the Heat.

Chris Duarte and Caris LeVert each scored 17 for the Pacers, who lost Malcolm Brogdon in the first half with more soreness in his right Achilles.

BASKETBALL

It was the first game back for Indiana coach Rick Carlisle, who entered the league's health and safety protocols on Dec. 9 after testing positive for COVID-19.

Suns 108, Lakers 90

In Los Angeles, Devin Booker continued to distance himself from a hamstring injury that cost him seven games, scoring 24 points with nine rebounds and seven assists as Phoenix pulled away from Los Angeles.

Booker played 32 minutes and went 8 of 16 from the field one game after he was on the court for 26 minutes in his return Sunday during a blowout victory over Charlotte.

Deandre Ayton had 19 points and 11 rebounds, and Mikal Bridges scored 14 as the Suns won their fourth consecutive game.

LeBron James scored 34 points for the Lakers, who lost their third game in a row as coach Frank Vogel remained in health and safety protocols for the



Los Angeles Lakers' Russell Westbrook shouts to fans before the team's NBA basketball game against the Phoenix Suns on Dec 21, in Los Angeles. (AP)



Miami Heat guard Tyler Herro (14) drives to the basket against Indiana Pacers guard Jeremy Lamb (26) during the second half of an NBA basketball game, on Dec 21, in Miami. (AP)

second straight. Four Lakers players also are in protocols, including starting guard Avery Bradley.

Russell Westbrook had 22 points and 10 rebounds for the Lakers, who were without star Anthony Davis for the second consecutive game. Davis is expected to miss at least four weeks with an MCL sprain in his left knee.

Knicks 105, Pistons 91

In New York, Evan Fournier scored 22 points, Julius Randle and Kemba Walker each had 21 and New York won at home for the first time in almost a month, beating Detroit.

Mitchell Robinson had 17 points and 14 rebounds for the Knicks, who had dropped five straight at Madison Square Garden since beating the Los Angeles Lakers on Nov. 23. They are just 6-10 at home.

Walker was out of the rotation entirely but started a second straight game with six players in health and safety protocols and Derrick Rose out again with ankle soreness. Walker had eight rebounds and five assists.

Saben Lee scored 16 points for the Pistons, who had lost 14 in a row before beating Miami on Sunday.

Pelicans 111, Trail Blazers 97

In New Orleans, Brandon Ingram had 28 points, Nickeil Alexander-Walker scored 22 of his 27 in the second half and New Orleans beat Portland for its first three-game winning streak of the season.

Josh Hart added 20 points for the Pelicans, who shot 52.5% while winning for the eighth time in 13 games following a 3-16 start - all while await-

NBA Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Dec 22, (AP): Results and standings from the NBA games on Tuesday.

New York	105	Detroit	91	Dallas	114	Minnesota	102
Miami	125	Indiana	96	Phoenix	108	LA Lakers	90
New Orleans	111	Portland	97				

Eastern Conference				Western Conference				
Atlantic Division				Southwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	
Brooklyn	21	9	.700	-	Memphis	19	13	.594
Philadelphia	16	15	.516	5	Dallas	15	15	.500
Boston	15	16	.484	6	San Antonio	12	18	.400
Toronto	14	15	.483	6	New Orleans	11	21	.344
New York	14	17	.452	7	Houston	10	21	.323
Southeast Division				Northwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	
Miami	19	13	.594	-	Utah	21	9	.700
Washington	16	15	.516	2	Denver	15	14	.517
Charlotte	16	17	.485	3	Minnesota	15	16	.484
Atlanta	14	15	.483	3	Portland	13	19	.406
Orlando	6	25	.194	12	Oklahoma City	10	19	.345
Central Division				Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	
Chicago	19	10	.655	-	Phoenix	25	5	.833
Cleveland	19	12	.613	1	Golden State	25	6	.806
Milwaukee	19	13	.594	1	LA Clippers	16	15	.516
Indiana	13	19	.406	7	LA Lakers	16	16	.500
Detroit	5	25	.167	14	Sacramento	13	19	.406

ing the return of All-Star forward Zion Williamson from an off season foot injury.

Damian Lillard scored 39 for the Trail Blazers, who won their previous two games. Jusuf Nurkic added 17 points and Norman Powell had 16.

Mavericks 114, Timberwolves 102

In Dallas, Jalen Brunson had 26 points, Dorian Finney-Smith scored 15 of his 19 in the second half and Dallas defeated Minnesota.

A total of nine players, including

three starters, missed the game because they are in the NBA's health and safety protocol.

Wyoming mauls Kent St 52-38

Johnson, San Diego St beat No. 24 UTSA in Frisco Bowl

FRISCO, Texas, Dec 22, (AP): Lucas Johnson passed for a career-best 333 yards and three touchdowns, and ran for another score as San Diego State beat No. 24 UTSA 38-24 in the Frisco Bowl for the Aztecs' program-record 12th win of the season.

Jesse Matthews caught touchdown passes of 11 and 20 yards and set career marks with 11 catches and 175 yards receiving. Tyrell Shavers caught the other touchdown pass, a 24-yarder.

Greg Bell also scored on a 1-yard run for San Diego State (12-2). Johnson completed 24 of 36 passes.

San Diego State kicker-punter Matt Araza made a 33-yard field goal and finished the season with an NCAA-record 51.19 yards per punt. Araza broke the mark set by Texas A&M's Braden Mann in 2018 (50.98).

FOOTBALL

Frank Harris threw touchdown passes of 12 yards to De'Corian Clark and 4 yards to Zakhari Franklin, and Brenden Brady scored on a 2-yard run for UTSA (12-2). Hunter Duplessis kicked a 41-yard field goal for the Roadrunners.

Wyoming 52, Kent St. 38

In Boise, Idaho, Levi Williams ran for 200 yards and four touchdowns and passed for 127 yards and another touchdown to lead Wyoming to win over Kent State in the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl.

Williams, who set a career-best single-game rushing performance, tied the Potato Bowl record for most rushing touchdowns and was named the game's MVP.

Latifi received death threats

GROVE, England, Dec 22, (AP): Williams driver Nicholas Latifi revealed Tuesday that he received death threats after his late crash at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix sparked a



Latifi

controversial ending to the Formula One title race.

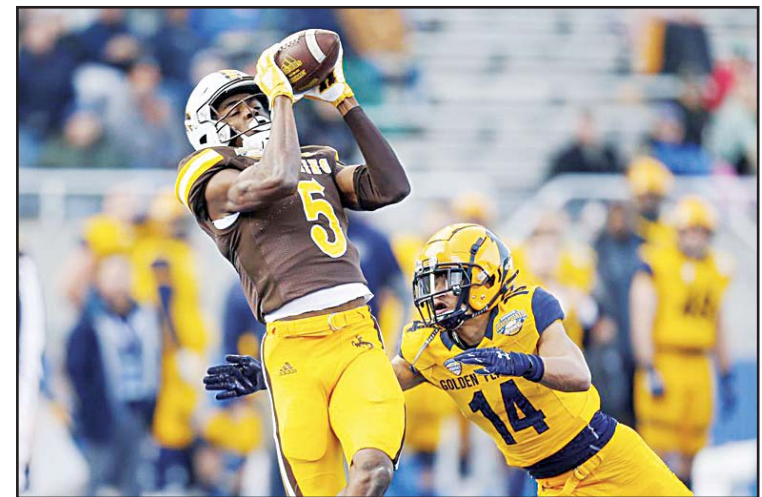
The Canadian's crash with five laps remaining brought out the safety car and helped Max Verstappen beat Lewis Hamilton for the title.

The 26-year-old Latifi condemned the torrent of abuse he received on social media.

MOTOR RACING

"What shocked me was the extreme tone of the hate, abuse, and even the death threats I received," he said in a lengthy statement.

Hamilton, of Mercedes, had a nearly 12-second lead with Red Bull's Verstappen in second when the crash brought out the yellow flag.



Wyoming wide receiver Isaiah Neyor (5) catches the ball in front of Kent State cornerback Elvis Hines (14) on a 42 yard touchdown reception during the first half of the Idaho Potato Bowl NCAA college football game, on Dec 21, in Boise, Idaho. (AP)

McLimore lifts IUPUI women over No. 15 Iowa 74-73

No. 1 South Carolina tops 2nd-ranked Stanford

COLUMBIA, S.C., Dec 22, (AP): Aliyah Boston didn't miss this time, her layup with 1:05 to go giving No. 1 South Carolina a 65-61 victory over No. 2 Stanford.

She finished with 18 points and 11 rebounds, her fifth straight double double and 36th of her career.

It was Boston who couldn't convert last April at the Final Four in the closing seconds to send the Cardinal to a 66-65 victory en route to the national championship.

This time, the 6-foot-5 All-American set herself up down low, got the ball from Destanni Henderson and put it in for the game-winning basket as the Gamecocks (12-0) rallied from 18 points down in the first half to keep alive their best start in six years. It was the biggest comeback in school history.

BASKETBALL

Stanford (8-3) had a chance to go in front, but Cameron Brink's jumper came off the rim and into the capable hands of Boston.

IUPUI 74, Iowa 73

In Iowa City, Iowa, Rachel McLimore scored 12 of her 19 points in the fourth quarter, including the winning free throws with three seconds left, as IUPUI dominated the fourth quarter to defeat Iowa.

The Hawkeyes led by 18 points in the middle of the third quarter and 62-47 entering the fourth quarter.

IUPUI (5-4), playing its first game since Dec. 8 because its last four opponents had to cancel because of COVID-19 issues, had an early 9-0 run to cut the deficit to single figures. Macee Williams, who also had 19 points, started it with a three-point play and McLimore followed with consecutive 3-pointers.

Iowa led 69-60 on a Kate Martin layup with under six minutes to play but a 10-2 burst made it 71-70 with under two minutes to go.

Monika Czinano made a layup for the Hawkeyes (6-3) but Williams answered that. Following an Iowa turnover, McLimore was driving to the basket and was fouled by Caitlin Clark. After the successful free throws, Czinano, who led Iowa with 23 points, missed a potential winner.

Mississippi 61, S. Florida 53

In West Palm Beach, Fla., Madison Scott scored 12 points, Angel Baker had 11 and Mississippi's defense took

No. 11 Michigan State topples Oakland 90-78

DETROIT, Dec 22, (AP): Marcus Bingham had 17 points, 12 rebounds and four blocks and was one of five double-digit scorers for No. 11 Michigan State in a 90-78 win over Oakland University.

The Spartans (10-2) have won five straight for a second time this season, bouncing back from losses to then-No. 3 Kansas to open the season and then-No. 6 Baylor last month.

The Golden Grizzlies (7-4) lost consecutive games for the first time this year in a season that includes a win over Oklahoma State.

Villanova 71, Xavier 58

In Villanova, Pa., Justin Moore scored 12 of his 17 points after half-time and Caleb Daniels added 16 points to lead No. 23 Villanova to a victory over No. 18 Xavier.

Collin Gillespie and Eric Dixon each had 15 points for the Wildcats (8-4, 1-1 Big East), who bounced back from consecutive blowout losses.

Dwon Odom scored 13 points and Nate Johnson had 12 for Xavier (11-2, 1-1), which had won seven in a row.



South Carolina guard Destanni Henderson (3) shoots during the second half of the team's NCAA college basketball game against Stanford on Dec. 21, in Columbia, S.C. (AP)

over in the third quarter to propel the Rebels to a win over South Florida at the West Palm Beach Invitational.

It was the first game against a ranked team this season for the Rebels (12-1), who take a 12-game winning streak into their Southeastern Conference opener on Dec. 30. It was their

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