



Boston Celtics forward Daniel Theis, (right), is fouled by Phoenix Suns center Damian Jones, (left), as he grabs a rebound during the first half of an NBA basketball game, on Feb 7, in Phoenix. (AP)
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Sports

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Pakistan's team pose for a photograph with the winning trophy of the Test series at the end of the second cricket Test match between Pakistan and South Africa at the Pindi Stadium in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, on Feb. 8. (AP)

Ali's 10-wicket haul gives hosts first series win over Proteas in 18 years

Pakistan beat South Africa by 95 runs in 2nd Test

Brady wins 7th championship title, Bucs rout Chiefs in Super Bowl 55

GOAT earns fifth MVP award

TAMPA, Florida, Feb 8, (AP): Tom Brady made the Buccaneers, their fans and their city believe from the moment he arrived in Tampa Bay.

With help from old friend Rob Gronkowski and a ferocious defense, Brady and the Buccaneers are Super Bowl champions.

Brady threw two touchdown passes to Gronkowski and one to good pal Antonio Brown, and the Buccaneers routed Patrick Mahomes and Kansas City 31-9 on their home field in Super Bowl 55.

"You get this far and you wanna get the job done and we did it," Brady said. "We just believed. I'm so proud of the guys."

Despite moving south to a new team and conference during a pandemic,

FOOTBALL

Brady didn't slow down at age 43.

The GOAT earned his fifth Super Bowl MVP award and extended his Super Bowl titles' record in his 10th appearance, nine with New England. Brady broke his own mark for oldest player to win a Super Bowl and joined Hall of Famer Peyton Manning as the only quarterbacks to win one with multiple franchises.

"I think they're all special," Brady said. "I'm not making any comparisons. Experiencing it with this group of guys is amazing."

Stunningly, it was easier than any of his previous Super Bowl victories, which came by an average margin of five points. Mahomes lost by double digits for the first time in his four-year career.

The Buccaneers (15-5) took their second NFL title and first in 18 years as the first team to play the big game at home, capping an unusual and challenging season played through the



Tampa Bay Buccaneers' Leonard Fournette (28) is tackled by Kansas City Chiefs' Ben Niemann (56) and Alex Okafor (57) during the first half of the NFL Super Bowl 55 football game on Feb 7, in Tampa, Florida. (Inset): Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady (12) holds the Vince Lombardi trophy following the NFL Super Bowl 55 football game. (AP)

novel coronavirus. They won three road games as a wild card to reach the Super Bowl, and joined the NHL's Lightning as a 2020 season champion. The Rays also went to the World Se-

ries but lost to the Dodgers.

Mahomes and the Chiefs (16-3) failed to become the first repeat champions since Brady's Patriots in 2003-04.

"I didn't see it coming at all," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said. "I thought we were going to come in and play these guys just like we've been playing teams, and it didn't happen that way. I give them credit on that."

The NFL completed its 269-game season on time without any cancellations, a remarkable accomplishment that required nearly 1 million COVID-19 tests for players and team personnel.

Due to the virus, only 25,000 mask-wearing fans attended, including approximately 7,500 vaccinated health care workers given free tickets by the NFL. About 30,000 cardboard cutouts made the stadium look full.

A streaker wearing a hot-pink onesie eluded security and slid into the end zone with 5:03 left in the game. Kansas City's high-powered offense never got that far against Tampa's fierce defense.

"Obviously I didn't play the way

I wanted to play," Mahomes said. "What else can you say? All you can do is leave everything you have on the field. I feel like the guys did that. ... They beat us pretty good, the worst I've been beaten in a long time."

Bruce Arians became the oldest coach at age 68 to win the Super Bowl. His mom, 95-year-old Kay Arians, witnessed it in person. Brady, Gronk and defensive coordinator Todd Bowles helped Arians get that Vince Lombardi Trophy.

"This really belongs to the coaching staff and our players. I didn't do a damn thing," Arians said after he was handed the trophy.

Bowles devised a masterful plan to frustrate Mahomes and shut down the Chiefs, the complete opposite of Kansas City's 27-24 win in Tampa in Week 12, when the Chiefs jumped to a 17-0 lead in the first quarter. Tyreek Hill had 269 yards receiving and three TDs in that one. He was held to 73 yards on seven catches Sunday.

"Coach Bowles is a mastermind," Bucs cornerback Sean Murphy-Bunting said.

RAWALPINDI, Pakistan, Feb 8, (AP): Fast bowler Hasan Ali's 10-wicket haul gave Pakistan its first series win over South Africa in 18 years as they beat the Proteas by 95 runs in the second test on Monday.

Hasan, who bagged five wickets in the first innings, tormented the Proteas again returning figures of 5-60 as South Africa collapsed to 274 all out after lunch on the last day to give him his maiden 10-for in a test.

The last time Pakistan beat South Africa in a test series was in 2003 when it won 1-0 at home.

Aiden Markram hit a resolute 108 — the opener's first test hundred in almost three years — and Temba Bavuma made 61 before Hasan got two wickets off two deliveries with the second new ball to spark the collapse.

"Hasan was outstanding because he has awareness and took advantage of the experience of playing here," said Pakistan captain Babar Azam.

CRICKET

"At one time, we thought the game could've gone either way when Markram and Bavuma were playing well, but we knew one wicket can bring us back into the game again."

Markram and Bavuma put on 106 runs for their fourth-wicket stand and had given South Africa hope of chasing down the 370-run target after the Proteas resumed on 129-1.

But Hasan had Markram and captain Quinton de Kock caught at second slip off successive deliveries and South Africa lost its last seven wickets for just 33 runs after lunch.

De Kock was off his game both as wicketkeeper and middle-order batsman with the lefthander managing to score just 46 runs and getting out for a duck twice in the two-match series.

Shaheen Afridi mopped up the tail with 4-51 before legspinner Yasir Shah brought up the victory by clean bowling Wiaan Mulder for 20.

Markram hit 13 fours and three sixes in his 5-1/2-hour stint at the crease but once Hasan provided the twin breakthrough, South Africa lost wickets in bunches as it did in Karachi where it lost the first test by seven wickets.

Hasan picked up two wickets at Karachi in his comeback to test cricket after two years out due to injuries. He followed that up by bowling with pace both with the old and new ball on a slow wicket at Rawalpindi.

Leagues caution soccer nations on Champions League 'revamp'

GENEVA, Feb 8, (AP): The Champions League is set to grow bigger and richer amid fears Europe's mid-ranked soccer nations could be even worse off as a result.

UEFA will update 55 national member federations on Tuesday on its plan to revamp the Champions League in 2024, adding four teams and 100 more matches each season.

SOCCER

Rewarding the elite brings risks lower down the ranks.

How to allocate those extra entries — to champions of less wealthy countries or storied clubs based on past success — and billions of euros (dollars) in expected

new commercial revenue are key targets for the 30-nation European Leagues group.

"There is a risk that they're going to be isolated," European Leagues President Lars-Christer Olsson said of UEFA members who have an online meeting Tuesday.

UEFA will detail a 36-team Champions League proposal starting in three years' time with a variation of the "Swiss system" format. Final agreement by UEFA's executive committee is likely before the 55 members meet on April 20 in Switzerland.

Teams would face 10 different opponents and rank in a single league table, replacing the traditional group stage of six games against just three opponents.



Fans cheer before the first half of the NFL Super Bowl 55 football game between the Kansas City Chiefs and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Feb 7, in Tampa, Florida. (AP)