



Enzo Perez of Argentina's River Plate kicks the ball as Ze Rafael of Brazil's Palmeiras looks on during a Copa Libertadores semifinal second leg soccer match at the Allianz Parque stadium in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Tuesday. River Plate beat Palmeiras 2-0 but Palmeiras won 3-2 on aggregate. (AP)

# Sports

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## Embiid stars as 76ers hold off Heat

Nets rally from 18 down to beat Nuggets

PHILADELPHIA, Jan 13, (AP) — Joel Embiid had 45 points and 16 rebounds, Dakota Mathias' only basket of the game was a go-ahead 3-pointer with 26.1 seconds left and the Philadelphia 76ers hung on to beat the undermanned Miami Heat 137-134 in overtime on Tuesday night.

Embiid had one of the great games of his career and carried the Sixers with a perfect third quarter and clutch buckets in OT to put them on the brink of victory.

Mathias, who went undrafted in 2018 and signed this season with the Sixers as a two-day G League player, got the ball from the top of the arc and buried it for the 134-132 lead.

Tyler Herro helped the Heat overcome Embiid's dominant effort when his 3-pointer tied the game 115-all with 2:25 left. Precious Achiuwa scored two straight baskets -- the first off Philly's shot clock violation, then off a turnover -- for a 119-115 lead.

Embiid buried the pull-up jumper just inside the 3-point arc with 3.3 seconds left that tied it 120-120 and sent the game into overtime.

**Nets 122, Nuggets 116**

In New York, Kevin Durant had 34 points, 13 assists and nine rebounds, Bruce Brown made a huge contribution while starting for the absent Kyrie Irving, and Brooklyn rallied from 18 down to beat Denver.

### BASKETBALL

Brown scored 16 points, including the tying and go-ahead baskets down the stretch. Durant followed with Brooklyn's next six points, including a 3-pointer that essentially put it away at 120-113 with 27 seconds to play.

Nikola Jokic had 23 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds for the Nuggets, who were trying to sweep a three-game road trip.

Caris LeVert added 20 points for the Nets.

**Lakers 117, Rockets 100**

In Houston, LeBron James scored 26 points in just more than three quarters and Los Angeles never trailed in a rout.

Anthony Davis added 19 points and 10 rebounds in three quarters to help the Lakers to their second straight blowout over the Rockets after a 120-102 victory Sunday night.

Los Angeles led by 20 or more for most of the game on a night James Harden made just 5 of 16 shots and the Rockets were out rebounded 55-42.

Christian Wood had 18 points and eight rebounds and Harden had 16 points, seven rebounds and six assists in a game where none of Houston's starters played in the fourth quarter.

**Spurs 112, Thunder 102**

In Oklahoma City, Lonnie Walker IV scored 24 points and San Antonio finished a five-game trip with four wins.

Keldon Johnson added 18 points for the Spurs, who won their 2,200th game since joining the NBA in 1976. The Spurs committed a season-low four turnovers.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander led Oklahoma City with 20 points while Hamidou Diallo scored 16. The Thunder are 0-4 this season at Chesapeake Energy Arena but 5-1 on the road. Oklahoma City's next three games are at home.

**Pacers 104, Warriors 95**

In San Francisco, Myles Turner made a go-ahead 3-pointer with 2:59 to play and scored 22 points as Indiana stymied Golden State.

The Pacers kept Stephen Curry in check by regularly playing him with a tough box-and-1 defense, though the two-time MVP still had 20 points.

Justin Holiday also hit a key 3 late to help Indiana bounce back from a loss at Sacramento a night earlier.

Andrew Higgins scored 22 points as the Warriors concluded a 4-3 home-stand, their longest of the season. Higgins also blocked a career-best five shots.

Turner had 11 rebounds and four blocks for the Pacers.

**Jazz 117, Cavaliers 87**

In Cleveland, Donovan Mitchell scored 27 points and Utah rolled over injury-depleted Cleveland, wrapping up its six-game road trip.

The Jazz are headed home with a victory, albeit a little earlier than expected. Utah was scheduled to play Wednesday at Washington, but the NBA postponed the game because the Wizards do not have the minimum eight available players.

Jordan Clarkson had 21 points and eight rebounds off the bench and Bojan Bogdanovic added 20 points for the Jazz, whose largest lead was 114-80 late in the fourth quarter on a 3-pointer by Miye Oni.



Philadelphia 76ers' Joel Embiid (center), battles with Miami Heat's Precious Achiuwa (left), for a loose ball as 76ers' Isaiah Joe (right), tries to help during overtime of an NBA basketball game, Jan 12, in Philadelphia. (AP)



Houston Rockets center Christian Wood (35) tries to shoot around Los Angeles Lakers forward Anthony Davis (3) during an NBA basketball game, Jan 12, in Houston. (AP)

### NBA Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Jan 13, (AP) — NBA results and standings on Tuesday.

Utah	117	Cleveland	87	LA Lakers	117	Houston	100
Brooklyn	122	Denver	116	San Antonio	112	Oklahoma City	102
Philadelphia	137	Miami OT	134	Indiana	104	Golden State	95

Eastern Conference				Western Conference				
Atlantic Division				Southwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	
Boston	7	3	.700	-	Dallas	5	4	.562
Philadelphia	8	4	.667	-	San Antonio	6	5	.545
Brooklyn	6	6	.500	2	New Orleans	4	5	.444
New York	5	6	.455	2-1/2	Oklahoma City	4	6	.400
Toronto	2	8	.200	5	Memphis	3	7	.300
Southeast Division				Northwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	
Orlando	6	5	.545	-	Utah	7	4	.636
Charlotte	6	5	.545	-	Portland	6	4	.600
Atlanta	5	5	.500	-1/2	Oklahoma City	5	5	.500
Miami	4	5	.444	1	Denver	5	6	.455
Washington	3	8	.273	3	Minnesota	3	7	.300
Central Division				Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	
Milwaukee	7	4	.636	-	LA Lakers	9	3	.750
Indiana	7	4	.636	-	LA Clippers	7	4	.636
Cleveland	5	7	.417	2-1/2	Phoenix	7	4	.636
Chicago	4	7	.364	3	Golden State	6	5	.545
Detroit	2	8	.200	4-1/2	Sacramento	5	6	.455

## Peterhansel on track to win Dakar Rally

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia, Jan 13, (AP) — Stephane Peterhansel looks set to win a record-extending eighth Dakar Rally car title after holding off main rival Nasser Al-Attiyah again on the 10th stage in the Saudi Arabia desert on Wednesday.

The 55-year-old Frenchman conceded only 49 seconds to Al-Attiyah and remained 17 minutes ahead overall after the rally left Neom on the Red Sea and headed inland southeast

### RALLYING

to AlUla towards the finish on Friday in Jeddah.

Peterhansel is the most successful racer in Dakar history with 13 wins, six on a motorbike. To win his first car title since 2017, he recruited co-driver Edouard Boulanger, a navigation expert and former rider, and the two compatriots have hardly made a mistake. They have led for 10 straight days despite only one stage win.

"The navigation is designed to throw the drivers off track so it wasn't easy," Peterhansel said. "We didn't get lost but we hesitated a lot. We lost very little time to Nasser and that's what really matters. The tension goes up as soon as you start to hesitate so that's when you need to stay as calm as possible.

"The pressure never goes away, from the moment you wake up until you go to bed. When you do well in a stage, you know it would be a real pity to see all that effort go down the drain."

Local driver Yazeed Al Rajhi finished the 342-kilometer (213-mile) special stage on a shredded tire, and his second stage win of the rally lifted him to 15th overall. Al-Attiyah was second, Peterhansel third and defending champion Carlos Sainz fourth, losing another four minutes to finish more than an hour off the pace.

Motorbike leader Jose Ignacio Comejo is out. The Chilean rider resumed after crashing less than 100 kilometers but lost time.

'Another postponement is impossible'

## IOC, Japan press ahead with Tokyo Games

TOKYO, Jan 13, (AP) — Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga declared a state of emergency last week for Tokyo and surrounding areas. Amid the surging virus, he again promised the postponed Tokyo Olympics would be "safe and secure" and tried to disconnect the state of emergency from the fate of the games.

But opposition to the Olympics is growing with calls mounting for a cancellation. The International Olympic Committee and local organizers have already said another postponement is impossible, leaving cancellation - or opening on July 23 - as the only options.

Two polls published in the last few days by the Japanese news agency Kyodo and Japanese broadcaster TBS show that just over 80% want the Olympics canceled or postponed, or believe they will not take place. The negative responses are up 15 to 20 percentage points from polls published just last month.

"The Japanese public are already more and more inclined to oppose the hosting of the Olympics this summer, and the state of emergency reinforces the perception that it is a lost cause," Koichi Nakano, who teaches politics at Tokyo's Sophia University, said in an email to The Associated Press.

As a fearful public asks to call off the Tokyo Games, it faces the reality of Olympic finances, geopolitics, and face-saving.

Japanese taxpayers have sunk billions into the Olympics, the IOC lives off the television money and has seen its income stalled by the postponement, and China is waiting in the wings to hold the Beijing Winter Games in 13 months if Japan stumbles.

"Japan's standing in Asia and in the world matters a great deal, particularly in view of its rivalry with China," Nakano said. "It would be a nightmare for them (Japan's political leadership) if Japan fails to be the host of the first 'post-COVID' Olympics and the title goes to China."

Nakano said the government wanted to avoid the emergency order, which could be extended beyond Feb. 7 and to other parts of the country. This could further embolden skeptics and imperil the games.

Organizers have promised strict "anti-virus" measures to pull off the Olympics. Here's what they face - vaccine or no vaccine.

They must bring 15,400 Olympic and Paralympic athletes, from more than 200 nations and territories, safely into Tokyo and still protect Japanese citizens. Add to this, tens of thousands of judges, coaches, officials, VIPs, sponsors, volunteers, media and broadcasters. And hundreds of thousands of fans - perhaps some from abroad - if any are allowed to attend.

Organizers have speculated about myriad measures to counter the virus, but firm answers probably must come by March 25 when the torch relay with 10,000 runners begins crisscrossing Japan, headed to Tokyo and the opening ceremony.

It was also in late March last year

when the Olympics were postponed after organizers insisted they would happen.

For Japan, hosting the Olympics has to do with justifying at least \$25 billion in "sunk costs," satisfying domestic sponsors who have pumped a record of \$3.5 billion into the games driven by giant ad agency Dentsu, and gaining in the geopolitical contest with neighboring China.

For the Switzerland-based IOC, it's a question of stabilizing its shaky income, 73% of which comes from selling broadcast rights - getting the

### OLYMPICS

Olympics on television. Another 18% is from sponsorships.

American broadcaster NBC will pay more than \$1 billion for the Tokyo rights, and its payments over a four-year Olympic cycle - including the Winter Games - account for about 40% of the total IOC's income.

Unlike the NBA, English soccer or other sports businesses, the IOC has only two major events - the Summer and Winter Olympics. Dozens of international sports federations and many of the 200 national Olympic committees live off the IOC income.

IOC President Thomas Bach has described pulling off the Olympics as a "mammoth task" and acknowledged finances are under stress.

Dr. Atsuo Hamada, an infectious disease specialist at Tokyo Medical University Hospital, said the Olympics could bring "pride and legacy" and possibly short-term economic benefits - but also the virus.



Bach



In this Dec 1, 2020, file photo, the Olympic Symbol is reinstalled after it was taken down for maintenance ahead of the postponed Tokyo 2020 Olympics in the Odaiba section in Tokyo. (AP)