



Boston Celtics' Jayson Tatum (0) goes up to shoot against Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James, (left), during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Boston. (AP)

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Warriors hold off Pistons

Celtics spoil LeBron James' Lakers return

BOSTON, Nov 20, (AP) — Jayson Tatum scored 37 points and the Boston Celtics beat Los Angeles 130-108 on Friday night to spoil LeBron James' return to the Lakers' lineup.

Marcus Smart had 22 points, and Dennis Schroder 21 to help Boston climb back to .500 at 8-9. Al Horford added 18 points, and Tatum had 11 rebounds.

Anthony Davis led Los Angeles with 31 points, and James had 23 in 32 minutes. They each had six rebounds and two assists.

James missed eight games with an abdominal strain, and the Lakers went 3-5 while he was sidelined. They've lost their last four road games.

Suns 112, Mavericks 104

In Phoenix, Mikal Bridges and Devin Booker each scored 19 points, Chris Paul added 18 points and 14 assists and Phoenix beat Dallas for its 11th straight victory.

The winning streak is the Suns' longest since the 2006-07 season — and the latest victory followed a familiar pattern. Phoenix was just so-so for the first three quarters before playing its best basketball in the final 12 minutes.

Phoenix struggled at times with turnovers but made up for it with 14-for-29 shooting from 3-point range. Bridges was 7 of 7 from the field, going 3 of 3 on 3s.

Warriors 105, Pistons 102

In Detroit, Jordan Poole stepped up in Stephen Curry's absence to score 22 of his season-high 32 points in the first half, Andrew Wiggins had 27 and Golden State beat Detroit.

Golden State started the fourth quarter with a 16-point lead and held on to win after Detroit's Jerami Grant and Frank Jackson missed 3-pointers in the closing seconds.

The NBA-leading Warriors sat out Curry with a bruised hip, a night after he had 20 of his 40 points in a fourth-quarter comeback victory at Cleveland. They

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also were without Draymond Green because of a bruised thigh.

Detroit's Cade Cunningham, the No. 1 overall pick, had 19 points, six rebounds and six assists. Jackson scored a season-high 27 points.

Bucks 96, Thunder 89

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 21 points, 19 rebounds and seven assists and Milwaukee withstood Oklahoma City's comeback attempt.

Milwaukee never trailed but nearly allowed Oklahoma City to come all the way back from a 20-point deficit.

Nets 115, Magic 113

In New York, James Harden had 36 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists and Brooklyn overcame a 19-point deficit and the absence of Kevin Durant to beat Orlando.

Durant did not play due to a right shoulder sprain.

Harden was 19 for 20 from the free throw line. Patty Mills added 22 points and LaMarcus Aldridge had 11 of his 15 in the fourth quarter. Jalen Suggs scored 21 points for the Magic.

Hornets 121, Pacers 118

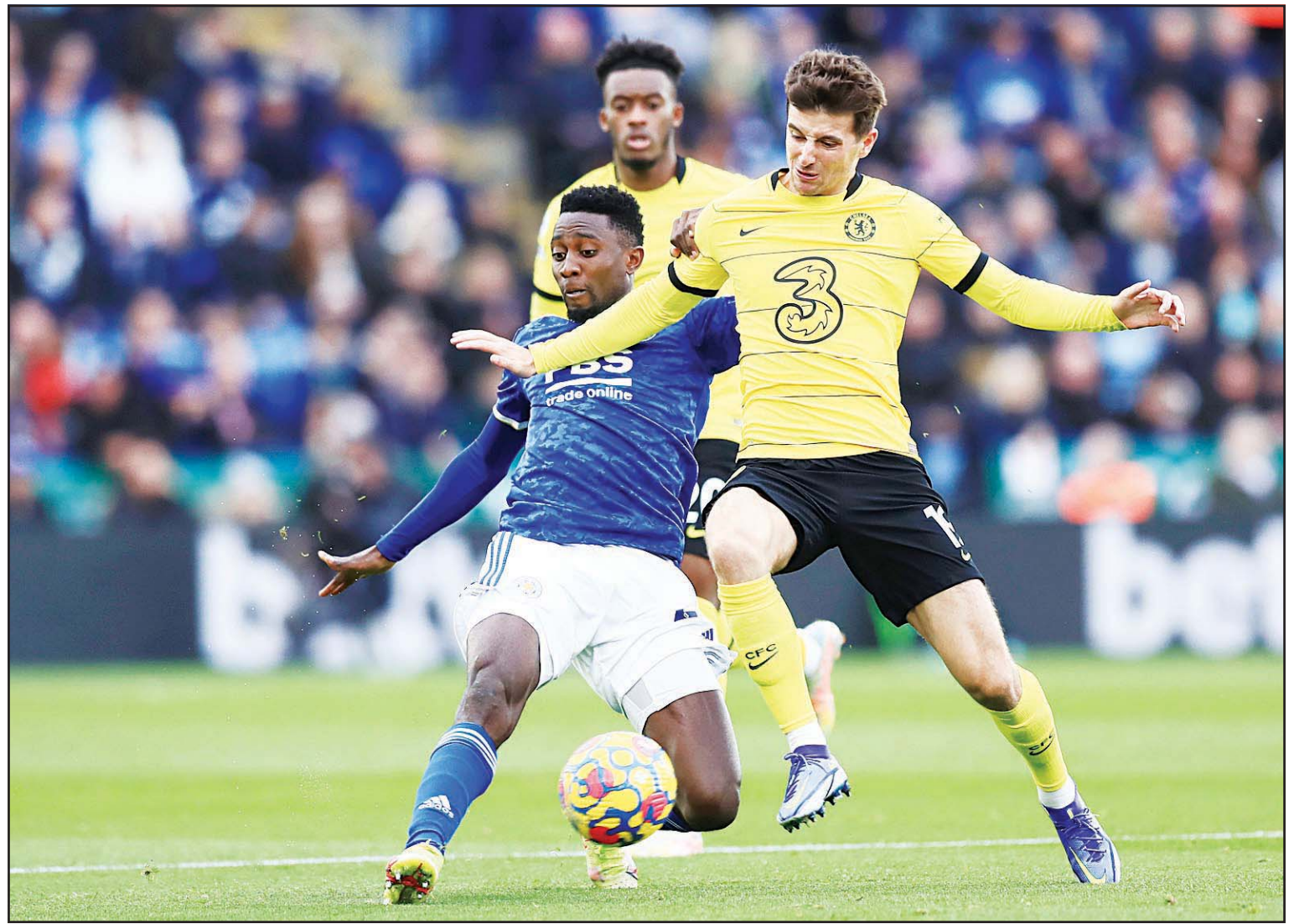
In Charlotte, LaMelo Ball had a season-high 32 points along with 11 rebounds and eight assists and Charlotte held off Indiana for its fifth straight victory.

Gordon Hayward added 25 points, and Kelly Oubre Jr. had 16 to finish off a 4-0 homestand that included wins over Golden State and Washington.

Pelicans 94, Clippers 81

In New Orleans, Jonas Valanciunas had 26 points and 13 rebounds and New Orleans overcame a 20-point

Chelsea consolidate lead



Leicester's Wilfred Ndidi, (left), duels for the ball with Chelsea's Mason Mount during the English Premier League soccer match between Leicester City and Chelsea at the King Power Stadium, in Leicester, England. (AP)

Solskjaer's United lose again

LONDON, Nov 20, (AP) — The wheel seems to be coming off for Ole Gunnar Solskjaer at Manchester United.

The pressure on the Norwegian manager reached new levels Saturday after the team's latest Premier League setback, a dispiriting 4-1 loss to struggling Watford.

The result was bad enough but the performance was so lackluster — even before two late goals padded the scoreline for Watford — that it left Solskjaer's future in serious doubt, with United dropping to seventh place in the standings.



Solskjaer

Unlike United, Chelsea showed again that it's a genuine title contender this season by consolidating its lead atop the standings with a 3-0 win at Leicester.

Chelsea midfielder N'Golo Kante marked his latest return to former club Leicester with a brilliant individual goal.

There was also a second league goal of the season for Christian Pulisic after his entrance as a second-half substitute as Chelsea swept aside a team they battled against last season just to secure a top-four finish.

Chelsea were already leading thanks to Antonio Rudiger's back-header off a 14th-minute corner by Ben Chilwell when Kante collected a short pass from Reece James just inside Leicester's half.

He drove toward the penalty area unchallenged as Wilfried Ndidi tried to get back to him, before shifting the ball to his left foot and sending in a shot

that flew into the corner, giving goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel no chance in the 28th.

Pulisic made the points safe nine minutes after coming on as a substitute in the 62nd. The U.S. forward was picked out in the middle of the penalty area by a pass from fellow substitute Hakim Ziyech and took a touch before producing a finish on the slide through Schmeichel's legs.

It was Pulisic's second league goal of the season, having also scored on the opening day against Crystal Palace. Former Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard started his reign as Aston Villa manager with a 2-0 win over Brighton, while his predecessor Dean Smith saw his new team Norwich climb out of last place with a 2-1 home win against Southampton.

Solskjaer has been able to ride out previous stretches of underperformance, in part because of his popularity with fans — whose chants of "Ole's at the wheel" used to be a display of confidence in the former striker's ability to turn United back into a title challenger. However, that line is now chanted with glee by op-

SOCCER

posing fans whenever United struggle — which is increasingly often.

This was United's fifth loss in their last seven Premier League games — the previous two coming to biggest rivals Liverpool and Manchester City.

This one could have been even worse, but Ismaila Sarr missed two chances to convert an early penalty — both of them saved by David De Gea — after the first was retaken because of encroachment.

Joshua King still put Watford ahead in the 28th and Sarr made amends by netting the second just before the half-time break for Claudio Ranieri's team.

Solskjaer responded by making two halftime substitutions — including bringing on the little-used Donny Van De Beek, who has struggled to get chances under the Norwegian since signing for United last year. The Dutch midfielder responded by pulling a goal back in the 50th after being set up by Cristiano Ronaldo.

United captain Harry Maguire was then sent off for a second yellow card after a clumsy challenge in the 69th, with Ronaldo having an equalizer ruled out for offside shortly afterward. Watford then added two goals in injury time to complete the rout.

New Newcastle manager Eddie Howe, who tested positive for the coronavirus on Friday, had to watch from home as his team twice came from behind to draw 3-3 with newcomers Brentford.

Augsburg stun leaders

Dortmund close in on Bavarians

BERLIN, Nov 20, (AP) — Borussia Dortmund captain Marco Reus scored late to cut the gap on Bundesliga leader Bayern Munich to a point with a 2-1 win at home against Stuttgart on Saturday.

Dortmund looked set for disappointment as they struggled to take advantage of Bayern's shock 2-1 loss at Augsburg the night before, but Reus grabbed the home team's winner in the 85th minute when he tapped in the rebound after Florian Müller had saved Thorgan Hazard's initial effort.

The chance came on a counterattack from Stuttgart's corner as the visitors themselves pushed for a winner.

Dortmund were again without injured star forward Erling Haaland, who watched from the stands.

Dutch striker Donyell Malen scored his first Bundesliga goal since joining Dortmund in the offseason from PSV Eindhoven, but Stuttgart fought back through Roberto Massimo.

Stuttgart made life difficult from the start and had the best chance of the first half when Gregor Kobel was forced to make a brilliant save to deny Tanguy Coulibaly a few minutes before half-time.

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Malen, who'd been coming in for criticism for failing to settle after his move, finally got his first league goal in the 56th, though it came with some luck as his long-range effort took a decisive deflection from Stuttgart captain Wataru Endo.

Massimo equalized on a counterattack seven minutes later, but Reus had the final say.

Borussia Mönchengladbach and Bayer Leverkusen also won, by beating promoted sides Greuther Fürth 4-0 and Bochum 1-0, respectively.

Hoffenheim defeated American coach Jesse Marsch's Leipzig team 2-0 and Arminia Bielefeld drew with Wolfsburg 2-2.

This time, another goal from Robert Lewandowski wasn't enough for Bayern Munich.

Augsburg held on to stun the Bundesliga leaders with a 2-1 win in their Bavarian to climb out of the relegation zone.

It was only Augsburg's third win in 21 league games against its powerful southeastern neighbor, which fell to its second defeat of the season. Bayern had won 16 of their previous 20 meetings.



Stuttgart's Hiroki Ito, (left), and Dortmund's Donyell Malen challenge for the ball during the German Bundesliga soccer match between Borussia Dortmund and VfB Stuttgart in Dortmund, Germany. (AP)

Pasalic scores twice, Atalanta 'rout' Spezia

BERGAMO, Italy, Nov 20, (AP) — Midfielder Mario Pasalic scored twice and provided an assist as Atalanta rallied to rout Spezia 5-2 on Saturday, improving their poor home record in Serie A this season.

Atalanta — which had failed to win their last three Italian league matches — moved level with third-place Inter in the Italian league, with 25 points from 13 games. Inter have one match in hand and a better goal difference.

M'Bala Nzola put the visitors ahead in the 11th minute with Spezia's first shot of the match, slotting home from the rebound after Atalanta goalkeeper Juan Musso parried an effort from Daniele Verde off the crossbar.

Atalanta replied with three first-half goals on its way to a second win in seven home matches this season.

The first one came in the 18th when Pasalic leveled from close range following a breakthrough from Davide Zappacosta down the right.

NBA Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Nov 20, (AP) — NBA results and standings on Friday.

Golden State 105	Detroit 102	Milwaukee 96	Oklahoma City 89
Charlotte 121	Indiana 118	Chicago 114	Denver 108
Boston 130	LA Lakers 108	Toronto 108	Sacramento 89
Brooklyn 115	Orlando 113	Phoenix 112	Dallas 104
New Orleans 94	LA Clippers 81		

Eastern Conference					Western Conference				
Atlantic Division					Southwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
Brooklyn	12	5	.706	—	Dallas	9	6	.600	—
Philadelphia	9	7	.563	2-1/2	Memphis	8	7	.533	1
New York	8	7	.533	3	San Antonio	4	11	.267	5
Boston	8	8	.500	3-1/2	New Orleans	3	14	.176	7
Toronto	8	9	.471	4	Houston	1	14	.067	8
Southeast Division					Northwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
Miami	11	5	.688	—	Utah	10	5	.667	—
Washington	10	5	.667	-1/2	Denver	9	7	.563	1-1/2
Charlotte	10	7	.588	1-1/2	Portland	8	8	.500	2-1/2
Atlanta	7	9	.438	4	Oklahoma City	6	9	.400	4
Orlando	4	12	.250	7	Minnesota	6	9	.400	4
Central Division					Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB		
Chicago	11	5	.688	—	Golden State	14	2	.875	—
Cleveland	9	8	.529	2-1/2	Phoenix	12	3	.800	1-1/2
Milwaukee	8	8	.500	3	LA Clippers	9	7	.563	5
Indiana	6	11	.353	5-1/2	LA Lakers	8	9	.471	6-1/2
Detroit	4	11	.267	6-1/2	Sacramento	6	10	.375	8

first-half deficit to beat Los Angeles.

After challenging the Pelicans to "grow up" after they'd blown double-digit leads at Washington and Miami earlier this week, Josh Hart had 19 points, 10 rebounds and two steals. Brandon Ingram had 17 points and 12 rebounds, and Kira Lewis Jr. added 16 points to help New Orleans win for the third time in 17 games this season.

Bulls 114, Nuggets 108

In Denver, Zach LaVine scored 12 of his 36 points in a pivotal stretch of the fourth quarter, DeMar DeRozan hit eight straight late free throws and Chi-

cago won in Denver for the first time since 2006, beating a Nuggets team without reigning MVP Nikola Jokic.

DeRozan finished 26 points, including a 12-for-12 performance at the line.

Raptors 108, Kings 89

In Sacramento, Pascal Siakam scored 18 of his season-high 32 points in the first half and Toronto beat Sacramento.

Gary Trent Jr. had 23 points to help the Raptors end a three-game skid and win for the second time in eight games. De'Aaron Fox scored 17 points for Sacramento.

Medvedev reaches champ'ship match at ATP Finals

TURIN, Italy, Nov 20 (AP) — US Open champion Daniil Medvedev is one win away from another big trophy.

The second-ranked Russian beat first-time qualifier Casper Ruud 6-4, 6-2 on Saturday to advance to the championship match at the ATP Finals.

Medvedev won the season-ending event for the top eight players last year.

In September at the US Open, Medvedev ended Novak Djokovic's bid for a calendar-year Grand Slam by beating the Serb in the final to lift his first trophy at a major.

Dictating play from the start, Medvedev improved to 9-0 at the ATP Finals since going 0-3 in his 2019 debut.

An inside-out forehand winner from

Medvedev that concluded a 32-shot rally led to an early break in the opening set. Then the Russian began varying his game more with forays to the net and drop shots as he again broke midway through the second set.

Ruud was broken again when he interrupted a point to challenge a call, which held up under review, handing Medvedev a chance to serve

TENNIS

the match out.

Medvedev finished it off with a perfectly executed serve and volley on his first match point.

Medvedev didn't face a single break point and won 11 of 15 points at the net.



Daniil Medvedev of Russia returns the ball to Casper Ruud of Norway during their ATP World Tour Finals, singles semifinal, tennis match, at the Pala Alpitour in Turin, Italy. (AP)