New Orleans Pelicans guard Devonte' Graham (4) and Timberwolves forward Anthony Edwards (1) reach for the ball in the first half of an NBA basketball game in Minneapolis. Pelicans won 107-98. (AP) – See Page 15

Sports

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Rauf stars, Pakistan hold off NZ

Pakistan's Fakhar Zaman bats during the Cricket Twenty20 World Cup match between New Zealand and Pakistan in Sharjah, UAE. (AP)

South Africa cruise past West Indies

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, Oct 26, (AP): Fast bowler Haris Rauf compiled a career-best 4-22 to help Pakistan rally for a five-wicket victory over injury-hit New Zealand on Tuesday at the T20 World Cup.

Rauf's variations kept New Zealand to 134-8 in their opening Group 1 game after Pakistan skipper Babar Azam won the toss and opted to field.

The experience of Shoaib Malik (27 not out) and power-hitting of Asif Ali (27 not out) then quashed New Zealand's hopes of a late comeback and carried Pakistan to 136-5 in 18.4 overs to earn the team their second victory in three days.

Asif smashed two late sixes in Tim Southee's one over and then hoisted Trent Boult over wide mid-on for a six before scampering for two runs at the Sharjah cricket Stadium.

CRICKET

Pakistan beat India by 10 wickets on Sunday. The team have three more games to go against Afghanistan, Namibia and Scotland.

New Zealand missed fast bowler Lockie Fergusion, who was ruled outfor the entire T20 World Cup after the paceman tore a muscle in his right calf in practice, the team said .

Ferguson felt tightness in his calf in a training session on Monday and an MRI scan revealed a tear that would likely keep him out for three to four weeks.

New Zealand coach Gary Stead decided to withdraw Ferguson from the squad because his team is playing five matches in a 13-day span in the Super 12s.

"It's a real shame for Lockie to have this happen on the eve of the tournament and the entire team is really feeling for him right now," Stead said. "He's a massive part of our T20 side and has been in such good form so to lose him at this time is a blow."

Ferguson is set to be replaced by Adam Milne, who has been training with the squad for the past two weeks after traveling as injury cover. The switch is subject to approval by the ICC technical committee.Playing without opener Quinton de Kock, South Africa beat the West Indies by eight wickets in the T20 World Cup to hand the defending champions their second straight loss in Group 1.

West Indies, routed for 55 by England in its first game, struggled to 143-8 after being put in to bat.

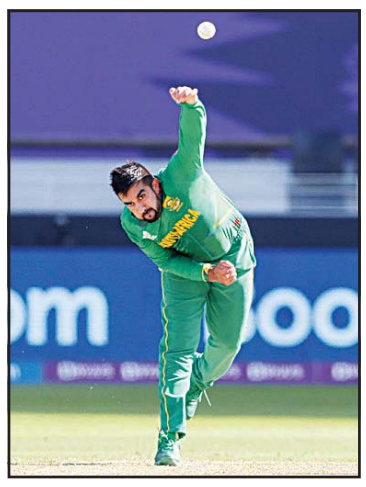
Fast bowler Dwaine Pretorius, who bowled two of the last three overs, bagged 3-17 including the wicket of Chris Gayle with his first ball. The 42-year-old batsman was on 12 when he was undone by an off-cutter and edged a catch to the wicketkeeper.

Evin Lewis top-scored with 56 off 35 balls before he fell to the left-arm spin of Keshav Maharaj (2-24).

Reeza Hendricks (39) then proved a solid replacement for de Kock before Aiden Markram (51 not out) and Rassie van der Dussen (43 not out) led South Africa to 144-2 with 10 balls to spare for its first win in the tournament, after previously losing to Australia.

"Much better than our first game," said South Africa captain Temba Bavuma, who was run out in the first over. "We knew there were areas we needed to improve on, particularly our batting. Our bowling again was outstanding." Lendl Simmons had a game to forget after chewing up 35 deliveries in scoring only 16.

The accuracy of Anrich Nortje stifled the West Indies' big hitters as the fast bowler conceded just 14 runs off four overs.



South Africa's Tabraiz Shamsin bowls during the Cricket Twenty20 World Cup match between South Africa and the West Indies in Dubai, UAE. (AP)

T20 WC Standings

	P	W	L	N/R	T	NRR	Pts
Group I							
England	1	1	0	0	0	+3.970	2
Sri Lanka	1	1	0	0	0	+0.583	2
Australia	1	1	0	0	0	+0.253	2
S. Africa	2	1	1	0	0	+0.179	2
B'desh	1	0	1	0	0	-0.583	0
W. Indies	2	0	2	0	0	-2.550	0
Group 2							
Pakistan	2	2	0	0	0	+0.738	4
Afghan	1	1	0	0	0	+6.500	2
Namibia	0	0	0	0	0	+0.000	0
N. Zealand	1	0	1	0	0	-0.532	0
India	1	0	1	0	0	-0.973	0
Scotland	1	0	1	0	0	-6.500	0

Note: Standings read as played, won, lost, net run, tied, net run rate and points

Kamara, Winston happy beneficiaries

Saints capitalize on Seahawks mistakes for win

SEATTLE, Oct 26, (AP): Alvin Kamara and Jameis Winston were the happy beneficiaries of the Seattle Seahawks' many mistakes.

Then it was rookie Brian Johnson's turn to make sure the New Orleans Saints got the win they needed to keep pace in the NFC South.

"In a game like this where things are close, things get a little a little ugly towards the end, it builds confidence to be able to come into a game like this and close it out the way we did," Saints defensive end Cameron Jordan said.

Johnson kicked a 33-yard field goal with 1:56 remaining in his NFL debut, and New Orleans outlasted Seattle 13-10 on Monday night.

FOOTBALL

Kamara carried the load for New Orleans and Winston made a handful of plays when needed, but the Saints (4-2) escaped Seattle thanks largely to a series of blunders by the home team, which is sorely missing injured quarterback Russell Wilson.

Two of the Seahawks' biggest mistakes came on New Orleans' deciding drive when Seattle was flagged for roughing the passer and jumping offside on a long field-goal attempt. Both penalties gave New Orleans first downs, and Johnson's field goal coming out of the 2-minute warning put the Saints ahead.

Johnson, a rookie from Virginia Tech, made an extra point and both field-goal tries, connecting from 21 yards in the first half.

"It was tough trying to see what the wind was doing because it was changing constantly throughout pregame and the game itself," Johnson said. "So just stick with my plan that I had coming into it and really focusing on just hitting my ball and hitting good contact that will cut through the wind."

Geno Smith made his second start at QB for Seattle (2-5) since Wilson suffered a serious finger injury in a loss to the Rams. The backup hit DK Metcalf for an 84-yard touchdown in the first quarter but went nowhere when the Seahawks had a final chance to tie or win.

Winston

Smith was sacked on consecutive plays by Malcolm Jenkins and Demario Davis. On fourth-and-28, Smith was pressured again and his throw to Metcalf fell incomplete.

Smith went 12 of 22 for 167 yards - half coming on the TD toss to Metcalf - and was sacked five times as Davis, Cameron Jordan and others made his night uncomfortable.

Seattle has lost three straight for the first time since 2011 and fell to 0-3 at home for the first time since 1992. Although both defeats with Smith under center have been by three points, the Seahawks aren't the same without Wilson, who's out until at least mid-November.

"I've been here a long time and if we didn't have Russell, I probably wouldn't have been here a long time because of all the magic he has created over the years," coach Pete Carroll said.

Kamara finished with 10 catches for 128 yards and a 13-yard TD reception late in the first half. It was his fifth career regular-season game with double-digit receptions. He rushed for 51 yards.

Winston was 19 of 35 for 222 yards and added 43 yards rushing. He also made enough plays - thanks to Seattle penalties - to get the Saints in range for the winning field goal.

Seattle appeared to get a stop, but Marquise Blair was called for roughing the passer on a third-down sack after hitting Winston with the crown of his helmet. Kamara then sprinted past a blitz for 12 yards on third-and-10 and the Saints were in field-goal range.

Al Woods jumped offside as Johnson lined up for a 43-yard attempt, allowing New Orleans to burn another 90 seconds off the clock before Johnson made the shorter try.

"We got to get right," Seattle linebacker Bobby Wagner said. "We've got to really fix our mistakes, play smarter, make less penalties."

Seattle's Jason Myers missed a pair of field goal attempts from 44 and 53 yards - the second into the open end of the stadium after Smith took another costly sack. Myers made a 50-yarder.

Kamara had 21 touches on New Orleans' 39 offensive plays in the first half. He was mostly ineffective on the ground, but Seattle couldn't slow him down in the pass game. He already had 108 yards receiving by halftime.

Four of his receptions came on the final drive of the half when his 31-yard catch-and-run out of the backfield set up his 13-yard TD catch and a 10-7 halftime lead.

"Every game has a life of its own, so that was just the flavor of this week, ended up getting a lot of touches," Kamara said.

NFL Standings

WASHINGTON, Oct 26, (AP): NFL standings after Monday's game.

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
American Conference						
East						
Buffalo	4	2	0	.667	203	98
New England	3	4	0	.429	179	140
NY Jets	1	5	0	.167	80	175
Miami	1	6	0	.143	127	207
South						
Tennessee	5	2	0	.714	193	164
Indianapolis	3	4	0	.429	169	149
Jacksonville	1	5	0	.167	116	172
Houston	1	6	0	.143	97	203
North						
Baltimore	5	2	0	.714	187	164
Cincinnati	5	2	0	.714	189	128
Cleveland	4	3	0	.571	173	165
Pittsburgh	3	3	0	.500	117	132
West						
Las Vegas	5	2	0	.714	180	166
LA Chargers	4	2	0	.667	148	150
Denver	3	4	0	.429	140	127
Kansas City	3	4	0	.429	188	203
National Conference						
East						
Dallas	5	1	0	.833	205	146
NY Giants	2	5	0	.286	139	180
Philadelphia	2	5	0	.286	159	185
Washington	2	5	0	.286	146	210
South						
Tampa Bay	6	1	0	.857	233	147
New Orleans	4	2	0	.667	140	101
Atlanta	3	3	0	.500	135	176
Carolina	3	4	0	.429	146	146
North						
Green Bay	6	1	0	.857	168	146
Minnesota	3	3	0	.500	147	137
Chicago	3	4	0	.429	101	162
Detroit	0	7	0	.000	128	200
West						
Arizona	7	0	0	1.000	225	114
LA Rams	6	1	0	.857	207	146
San Francisco	2	4	0	.333	135	149
Seattle	2	5	0	.286	150	162

Seattle Seahawks' Jordyn Brooks (56) is tackled by New Orleans Saints' Lil'Jordan Humphrey after recovering a Saints fumble during the second half of an NFL football game in Seattle. (AP)

De Kock 'withdraws' from SA team after order to take knee

CAPE TOWN, South Africa, Oct 26, (AP): Former captain Quinton de Kock refused to play in a T20 World Cup game against West Indies on Tuesday in protest after Cricket South Africa ordered its players to take the knee before matches in support of the Black Lives Matter movement.

CSA issued a statement just over an hour before the start of the match in Dubai saying it had ordered players to make the anti-racism gesture ahead of their remaining games at the tournament.

In a second statement responding to wicketkeeper-batsman de Kock's withdrawal from Tuesday's game, CSA said it noted his "personal decision" not to take the knee and would decide on its next course of action after a report from team management.

De Kock

CSA said it decided to force players to take the knee after "concerns were raised" over the "different postures" taken ahead of warmup matches and the team's first World Cup game against Australia on Saturday.

Some members of South Africa's team take the knee with their fists raised. Others stand with fists raised. De Kock, fast bowler Anrich Nortje and batsman Heinrich Klaasen, who are all white, have stood with their hands by their side before recent matches.

Ahead of the West Indies game, Klaasen and Nortje knelt, as did every other South African player.

The different stances from players had previously provoked criticism from some quarters in South Africa, where issues of racism are constantly in the headlines because of the country's history of forced segregation under the former apartheid regime.

The cricketers, many of them sporting idols back home, "created an unintended perception of disparity or lack of support" for the anti-racism movement, CSA said.

However, compelling players to kneel before games was also bound to stir fierce debate and, as de Kock's situation showed, create friction within the team.

The World Cup team is led by Temba Bavuma, the country's first Black cricket captain. It is a multiracial squad, with Black players, white players, players of Asian descent and of mixed-race heritage.

CRICKET

However, South Africa's history of racism under apartheid seeped into all areas of society – only whites were allowed to play for sports teams - and cricket has struggled to emerge fully from that shadow.

Recently, South African cricket has held a series of open hearings after Black players who were previously on the team claimed they were marginalized, and sometimes victims of direct racism, even years after apartheid ended in 1994.

The most damaging revelation at the hearings came when former spin bowler Paul Adams said he was regularly racially abused during the late 1990s in a song sung by white teammates, including Mark Boucher, who is now the national team coach and in charge at the World Cup.

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