

Columbus Blue Jackets center Brendan Gaunce (23) and defenseman Vladislav Gavrikov (44) defend against Anaheim Ducks center Trevor Zegras (46) during the second period of an NHL hockey game in Anaheim, Calif. Ducks beat Blue Jackets 6-4. (AP) — See Page 15

Sports

Latest sports scores at — <http://sports.arabtimesonline.com>

Benzema comes up big yet again

Real move closer to winning league title

MADRID, April 18, (AP) — Karim Benzema came up big yet again. He scored in second-half stoppage time as Real Madrid rallied to a 3-2 win at Sevilla and moved closer to winning the Spanish league title for the second time in three seasons.

Madrid conceded two goals four minutes apart in the first half but came back after halftime to win and open a 15-point lead at the top of the standings with six rounds to go.

"Everyone is waiting for Madrid to stumble but Madrid doesn't stumble," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said. "Madrid has heart, character and quality. It was a deserved win. The league is

not over yet, there are several matches left, but it was a big push for us today."

Madrid's closest challengers are Barcelona.

Third-place Sevilla could have cut Madrid's gap to nine points with a win at their Ramon Sanchez-Pizjuan Stadium but instead saw their 15-game unbeaten streak at home this season come to an end.

Benzema scored his 15th goal in the last 10 matches with a shot from close range after a pass by Rodrygo two minutes into stoppage time.

The France striker is the Spanish league's leading scorer with 25 goals and is having one of his best seasons

yet with Madrid. He had already been decisive in recent Champions League matches against Paris Saint-Germain and Chelsea, being crucial in Madrid's run to the semifinals.

SOCCER

Sevilla looked on their way to a comfortable victory after opening the scoring with Ivan Rakitic's low free kick in the 21st and adding to the lead with Erik Lamela's goal from inside the area in a breakaway in the 25th. But Madrid dominated after that and

pulled closer with Rodrygo's goal from close range after a pass by Dani Carvajal in the 50th. Carvajal then set up Nacho Fernandez's equalizer from inside the area in the 82nd, a few moments after Nacho had entered the match.

Madrid forward Vinicius Junior had a goal disallowed in the 74th for hand ball after a video review that lasted several minutes.

Sevilla have been hit hard by injuries and have won only one of their last six league games.

Athletic Bilbao lost 2-0 at home to Celta Vigo to lose ground in the fight for a place in a European competition next season.



Real Madrid's Nacho celebrates after scoring his side's second goal during a Spanish La Liga soccer match between Sevilla and Real Madrid at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan stadium, in Seville, Spain. (AP)

Peres, Chebet win Boston Marathon



Boston Marathon women's division winner Peres Jepchirchir, of Kenya (left), and men's winner Evans Chebet, of Kenya, pose at the finish line in Boston. (AP)

Race returns to spring

BOSTON, April 18, (AP) — Peres Jepchirchir celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Boston Marathon women's division by winning a see-saw sprint down Boylston Street on Monday as the race returned to its traditional Patriots' Day spot in the schedule for the first time since the start of the coronavirus pandemic.

Running shoulder to shoulder for most of the course, the reigning Olympic champion and Ethiopia's Ababel Yeshaneh traded places eight times in the final mile, with Jepchirchir pulling ahead for good in the final 385 yards. The Kenyan finished in 2 hours, 21 minutes, 1 seconds, four seconds ahead.

Kenya's Evans Chebet pulled away with about four miles to go to win the men's race in 2:06:51, 30 seconds ahead of Gabriel Geay of Tanzania. Defending champion Benson Kipruto

was third. American Daniel Romanchuk won his second career men's wheelchair title in 1:26:58. Switzerland's Manuela Schar won her second straight Boston crown and fourth overall, finishing in 1:41:08.

Sharing a weekend with the Red Sox home opener - the city's other sporting rite of spring - more than 28,000 runners returned to the streets from Hopkinton to Copley Square six months after a smaller and socially distanced event that was the only fall race in its 126-year history.

Fans waved Ukrainian flags in support of the few dozen runners whose 26.2-mile run from Hopkinton to Copley Square was the easiest part of their



Romanchuk

MARATHON

journey. Athletes from Russia and Belarus were disinclined in response to the invasion of Ukraine.

Ukrainians who were unable to make it to Boston were offered a deferral or refund.

"Whatever they want to do, they can do," Boston Athletic Association President Tom Grilk said. "Run this year, run next year. You want a puppy? Whatever. There is no group we want to be more helpful to."

The 125th race was first postponed, then called off because of the pandemic - the first cancellation since the event began in 1897. In 2021, it was postponed until October.

Paul takes over in 4th as Suns hold off Pelicans

Tatum beats buzzer, Celtics edge Nets in Game 1

BOSTON, April 18, (AP) — Jayson Tatum made a layup at the buzzer off a pass from Marcus Smart to give the Boston Celtics a dramatic 115-114 victory over the Brooklyn Nets on Sunday in the Game 1 of the Eastern Conference first-round series.

Tatum scored 16 of his 31 points in the second half, the final two after a poised Boston possession in the frantic final seconds. Jaylen Brown dribbled toward the middle and swung the ball out to Smart, who fired it into a cutting Tatum, who spun around and dropped in his layup just before time expired.

Brown added 23 points. Al Horford had 20 points and 15 rebounds, and Smart finished with 20 points, including four 3-pointers.

Kyrie Irving had with 39 points, including 18 in the fourth quarter,

ting shots in the fourth, but that's when Paul took over, hitting three 3-pointers and a layup in 2 1/2 minutes in a flurry that kept the Pelicans chasing.

Paul shot 12 for 16 from the field, including 4 of 6 on 3-pointers. Devin Booker added 25 points, and Deandre Ayton 21 points, nine rebounds and four blocks. CJ McCollum led

the Pelicans with 25 points, Valanciunas added 18 points and 25 rebounds. Brandon Ingram also scored 18 points.

Game 2 is Tuesday night in Phoenix.

Bucks 93, Bulls 86

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 27 points and 16 rebounds and defending champion Milwaukee recovered to beat Chicago after blowing a 16-point lead in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference series.

Jrue Holiday made a go-ahead 3-pointer with 5:03 left as part of an 8-0 run that gave the Bucks an 85-78 edge. The Bulls got the margin down to one but could never regain the lead, as Zach LaVine missed a potential tying 3-pointer from nearly 30 feet away with 29 seconds left.

The Bucks have won 17 of their last 18 meetings with the Bulls, including all five matchups this season. Nikola Vucevic had 24 points and 17 rebounds for Chicago.

Game 2 is Wednesday night in Chicago.

Heat 115, Hawks 91

In Miami, Duncan Robinson set a franchise playoff record with eight 3-pointers and Miami forced Trae Young into matching the worst-shooting game of his career in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference series.

Robinson scored 27 points on 9-of-10 shooting for the top-seeded Heat, going 8 of 9 from 3-point range. Jimmy Butler scored 21 points, and P.J. Tucker had 16.

Young went 1 for 12, matching his effort against Chicago on Jan. 23, 2019. Danilo Gallinari led Atlanta with 17 points, and De'Andre Hunter had 14.

Game 2 is Tuesday night in Miami.



Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo tries to get past Chicago Bulls' Nikola Vucevic during the first half of Game 1 of their first round NBA playoff basketball game in Milwaukee. (AP)



Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum (0) drives toward the basket past Brooklyn Nets forward Kevin Durant (7) and guard Goran Dragic, of Slovenia (9), in the first half of Game 1 of an NBA basketball first-round Eastern Conference playoff series in Boston. The Celtics won 115-114. (AP)

Revolution defeat Charlotte

Tajouri scores as LAFC overcome Sporting KC

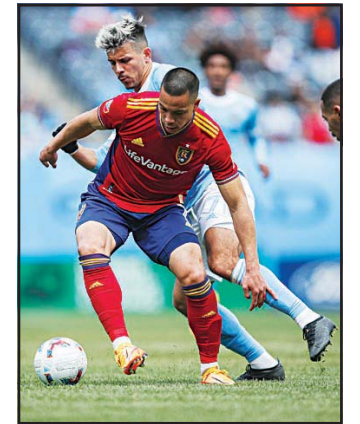
LOS ANGELES, April 18, (AP) — Ismael Tajouri's goal proved to be pivotal as Los Angeles FC picked up a 3-1 win over Sporting Kansas City on Sunday.

Ismael Tajouri's goal put LAFC (5-1-1) on top for good at 2-1 in the 70th minute. Diego Palacios got an assist on the goal.

Christian Arango and Jose Cifuentes both scored once for LAFC. LAFC outshot Sporting KC 15-9, with four shots on goal to two for Sporting KC.

Maxime Crepeau saved two of the three shots he faced for LAFC. Tim Melia saved one of the four shots he faced for Sporting KC.

LAFC plays on the road on



Real Salt Lake forward Bobby Wood (7) fights for the ball against New York City FC midfielder Alfredo Morales (7) in the first half of an MLS soccer match at the Yankee Stadium in New York. New York City FC thrashed Real Salt Lake 6-0 (AP)

SOCCER

Sunday against Cincinnati, while Sporting KC will host the Columbus Crew on Saturday.

Matt Polster's goal helped lead the New England Revolution to a 2-1 victory over Charlotte on Saturday.

Polster's game-winning goal came in the 72nd minute to put the Revolution (2-4-1) on top 2-0.

The Revolution also got one goal from Adam Buksa.

Cristian Ortiz scored for Charlotte (3-5-0).

The Revolution outshot Charlotte 11-8, with five shots on goal to six for Charlotte.

Brad Knighton saved five of the six shots he faced for the Revolution. Kristijan Kahlina saved three of the five shots he faced for Charlotte.

These teams take to the pitch again Saturday, with the Revolution visiting D.C. United while

Charlotte visits the Colorado Rapids.

Manchester United midfielder Bruno Fernandes was involved in a car crash on the way to the club's training ground but was unhurt and should be available to play against Liverpool in the Premier League, manager Ralf Rangnick said Monday.

Nobody involved in the incident sustained serious injuries, Britain's PA news agency reported.

The 27-year-old Fernandes took part in training and "was OK," said Rangnick, who was speaking ahead of the game against Liverpool at Anfield on Tuesday.

"That's why I think he will also be OK for tomorrow," Rangnick added.