



Saudi Arabia's Abdulrahman Alkhamis (left), battles for the ball against Japan's Takumi Minamino during their World Cup 2022 group B qualifying soccer match at Saitama Stadium in Saitama, north of Tokyo. (AP)

Sports

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South Korea qualify for WCup

Japan hand Saudi Arabia first defeat in WC qualifying group

SEOUL, South Korea, Feb 1, (AP): South Korea qualified for a 10th successive World Cup after beating Syria 2-0 in Dubai on Tuesday.

Second-half goals from Kim Jin-su and Kwon Chang-hoon gave the Koreans a comfortable victory over the bottom team in Asia Group A qualifying.

South Korea moved 11 points clear of the third-placed United Arab Emirates, which have just three games remaining.

The top two teams from each of the two groups automatically qualify. The third-place teams advance to playoffs.

SOCCER

In Group B, a first-half goal from Takumi Minamino set Japan on the way to beating Saudi Arabia 2-0 at Saitama Stadium and keeping the hosts on course for a seventh successive World Cup appearance.

Minamino's goal from close range after 31 minutes was created by Junya Ito. The Belgian-based winger then added the second soon after the restart with a fierce shot from the edge of the area to seal a first defeat for the Saudis in the group.

Saudi Arabia, which would have qualified for a sixth World Cup with a victory, still led the group with 19 points, one more than Japan.

Last-placed Vietnam, which had previously lost all of their seven games in Group B, defeated China 3-1 in Hanoi. The defeat ended China's chances of qualifying for the World Cup for only the second time.



Saudi Arabia's Khalid Alghannam, (center), battles for the ball against Japan's Ao Tanaka, (left), and Yuta Nakayama during their World Cup 2022 Group B qualifying soccer match at Saitama Stadium in Saitama, north of Tokyo. (AP)

Curry heats up late to lead Warriors over Rockets

76ers outlast Grizzlies in OT thriller

PHILADELPHIA, Feb 1, (AP): Tyrese Maxey scored 33 points, including a driving layup with 26.4 seconds left in overtime that put Philadelphia ahead for good, and the 76ers beat the Memphis Grizzlies 122-119 without Joel Embiid on Monday night.

Tobias Harris added 31 points and Andre Drummond had 16 points and 23 rebounds for Philadelphia, which won its fifth game in a row and 15th in the last 18. The 76ers improved to 4-8 without Embiid, who was rested.

Ja Morant scored 37 points and Desmond Bane had a career-high 34 for Memphis. Morant reached 30 points for the seventh straight game.

Warriors 122, Rockets 108

In Houston, Stephen Curry scored 21 of his 40 points in the fourth quarter to lead Golden State over Houston.

It was the sixth consecutive win for the Warriors, while Houston extended its skid at home to 11 straight games.

Curry made seven 3-pointers, four in the fourth quarter, and had nine assists and five rebounds. His 21 fourth-quarter points were the most of his career.

Andrew Wiggins added 23 points for the Warriors and Klay Thompson had 14.

Celtics 122, Heat 92

In Boston, Jaylen Brown scored 29 points, Jayson Tatum had 20 points and 12 rebounds, and Boston rolled past Miami.

Marcus Smart added 16 points and seven assists as the Celtics won for the fourth time in five games. It was Brown's fourth consecutive game with at least 25 points, and Tatum has scored 20 or more in his last six.

Cavaliers 93, Pelicans 90

In Cleveland, reserve guard Brandon Goodwin matched his career high with 21 points, Jarrett Allen added 16 and Cleveland shook off an ugly road loss by rallying to beat New Orleans.

The Cavaliers, who played poorly in a 10-point defeat at Detroit the day before, were without starting point guard Darius Garland due to a sore lower back. Kevin Love added 15 points and 11 rebounds, and Cedi Osman had a career-best 12 assists for Cleveland, which trailed by nine in the fourth quarter.

Pacers 122, Clippers 116

In Indianapolis, Rookie forward Isaiah Jackson had 26 points and 10 rebounds for his first career double-double, leading Indiana past Los Angeles.

Both totals were season highs for Jackson, a first-round draft pick out of Kentucky. Duane Washington Jr. added 16 points and made all four of his



Cleveland Cavaliers' Brandon Goodwin (00) scores against New Orleans Pelicans during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Cleveland. (AP)

3-pointers in the fourth quarter.

The short-handed Pacers won for the second time in six games and Rick Carlisle became the second coach in the franchise's NBA history to win 200 games. Frank Vogel won 250 during a five-season tenure with the team.

The Clippers were led by Amir Coffey with 27 points and Reggie Jackson with 21. Los Angeles went 4-4 on its road trip but had a five-game winning streak against Indiana snapped.

Raptors 106, Hawks 100

In Atlanta, Gary Trent Jr. scored 31 points, Pascal Siakam added 23 and Toronto ended Atlanta's seven-game winning streak.

BASKETBALL

Trent, who has scored at least 30 points in four straight games, hit three 3-pointers in the closing minutes of the third quarter, including a buzzer-beater, and connected again early in the fourth to put the Raptors up 85-77.

Thunder 98, Trail Blazers 81

In Oklahoma City, Lu Dort scored 18 points and Oklahoma City defeated Portland to snap a seven-game losing streak.

Josh Giddey added 14 points and 12 rebounds for the short-handed Thunder. Oklahoma City's scoring leader, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, is out until after the All-Star break with a sprained right ankle sustained last Friday against Indiana.

CJ McCollum scored 21 points and

NBA Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Feb 1, (AP): NBA results and standings on Monday.

| | | | |
|---------------|-----|-------------|-----|
| Indiana | 122 | LA Clippers | 116 |
| Cleveland | 93 | New Orleans | 90 |
| Philadelphia | 122 | Memphis OT | 119 |
| Boston | 122 | Miami | 92 |
| Toronto | 106 | Atlanta | 100 |
| New York | 116 | Sacramento | 96 |
| Oklahoma City | 98 | Portland | 81 |
| Golden State | 122 | Houston | 108 |

Eastern Conference

| Atlantic Division | | | | |
|-------------------|----|-----|------|-------|
| W | L | Pct | GB | |
| Philadelphia | 31 | 19 | .620 | — |
| Brooklyn | 29 | 20 | .592 | 1-1/2 |
| Toronto | 25 | 23 | .521 | 5 |
| Boston | 27 | 25 | .519 | 5 |
| New York | 24 | 27 | .471 | 7-1/2 |

Southeast Division

| W | L | Pct | GB | |
|------------|----|-----|------|-------|
| Miami | 32 | 19 | .627 | — |
| Charlotte | 28 | 23 | .549 | 4 |
| Atlanta | 24 | 26 | .480 | 7-1/2 |
| Washington | 23 | 26 | .469 | 8 |
| Orlando | 11 | 40 | .216 | 21 |

Central Division

| W | L | Pct | GB | |
|-----------|----|-----|------|--------|
| Chicago | 31 | 18 | .633 | — |
| Cleveland | 31 | 20 | .608 | 1 |
| Milwaukee | 31 | 21 | .596 | 1-1/2 |
| Indiana | 19 | 33 | .365 | 13-1/2 |
| Detroit | 12 | 37 | .245 | 19 |

Western Conference

| Southwest Division | | | | |
|--------------------|----|-----|------|--------|
| W | L | Pct | GB | |
| Memphis | 35 | 18 | .660 | — |
| Dallas | 29 | 22 | .569 | 5 |
| San Antonio | 19 | 32 | .373 | 15 |
| New Orleans | 18 | 32 | .360 | 15-1/2 |
| Houston | 14 | 36 | .280 | 19-1/2 |

Northwest Division

| W | L | Pct | GB | |
|---------------|----|-----|------|-------|
| Utah | 30 | 21 | .588 | — |
| Denver | 28 | 21 | .571 | 1 |
| Minnesota | 25 | 25 | .500 | 4-1/2 |
| Portland | 21 | 30 | .412 | 9 |
| Oklahoma City | 15 | 34 | .306 | 14 |

Pacific Division

| W | L | Pct | GB | |
|--------------|----|-----|------|--------|
| Phoenix | 40 | 9 | .816 | — |
| Golden State | 38 | 13 | .745 | 3 |
| LA Clippers | 26 | 27 | .491 | 16 |
| LA Lakers | 24 | 27 | .471 | 17 |
| Sacramento | 18 | 34 | .346 | 23-1/2 |

Norman Powell added 18 for the Trail Blazers, who have lost four of five.

Knicks 116, Kings 96

In New York, Alec Burks had 21 points off the bench, Evan Fournier also scored 21 and New York routed skidding Sacramento to stop a three-game slide.

Julius Randle added 17 points and nine rebounds for the Knicks, who won for the second time in eight games.

'An incredible competitor and leader'

Brady retires after 22 seasons

TAMPA, Fla., Feb 1, (AP): Tom Brady, the most successful quarterback in NFL history, has retired after winning seven Super Bowls and setting numerous passing records in an unprecedented 22-year career.

"This is difficult for me to write, but here it goes: I am not going to make that competitive commitment anymore," Brady wrote in a lengthy post on Instagram. "I have loved my NFL career, and now it is time to focus my time and energy on other things that require my attention."

Brady has long stated his desire to spend more time with his wife, supermodel Gisele Bundchen, and three children despite still playing at the top of his game.

The 44-year-old Brady goes out after leading the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to a Super Bowl title last season and NFC South championship this season.

News of Brady's pending retirement leaked Saturday. His family and the Buccaneers denied that he had made a final decision, and he said Monday night on his SiriusXM podcast he wasn't ready to finalize his plans. That came Tuesday morning.

"I've done a lot of reflecting the past week and have asked myself difficult questions," Brady said in his post. "And I am so proud of what we have achieved. My teammates, coaches, fellow competitors, and fans deserve 100% of me, but right now, it's best I leave the field of play to the next generation of dedicated and committed athletes."

Brady thanked the Buccaneers organization, his teammates, ownership, general manager Jason Licht, coach Bruce

Arians, his trainer Alex Guerrero, agents Don Yee and Steve Dubin and his family in his nine-page post. He didn't mention the New England Patriots, where he spent his first 20 seasons and won six Super Bowls. Of course, Brady thanked the Patriots and coach Bill Belichick after he left the team to sign with the Buccaneers in March 2020.

"To the Glazer family, thank you for taking a chance on me and supporting me," Brady said of the Bucs' owners. "I know I was demanding at times, but you provided everything we needed to win, and your ownership was everything a player could ask for."

Brady said he's still figuring out how he'll spend his time, but he plans to be involved in his TB12 health and wellness company, Brady clothing line and NFT company.

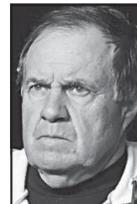
FOOTBALL

"I know for sure I want to spend a lot of time giving to others and trying to enrich other people's lives, just as so many have done for me," he said.

Brady led the NFL in yards passing (5,316), touchdowns (43), completions (485) and attempts (719) in 2021, but the Buccaneers lost at home to the Los Angeles Rams in the divisional round.

Brady leaves the games as the career leader in yards passing (84,520) and TDs (624). He's the only player to win more than five Super Bowls and was MVP of the game five times.

Widely considered the greatest quarterback to play the game, Brady has won three NFL MVP awards, was a first-team All-Pro three times and was selected to the Pro Bowl 15 times.



Belichick



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady celebrates with the Vince Lombardi Trophy after the NFL Super Bowl XLIX football game against the Seattle Seahawks Sunday, Feb 1, 2015, in Glendale, Ariz. The Patriots won 28-24. (AP)