

Zegras leads Ducks past Red Wings in SO



Detroit Red Wings forward Tyler Bertuzzi (59) and Anaheim Ducks forward Buddy Robinson (53) chase the puck during the second period of an NHL hockey game on Jan 9, in Anaheim, Calif. (AP)

Jones two shots short of winning at Kapalua

Smith sets PGA Tour record, outlasts Rahm

KAPALUA, Hawaii, Jan 10, (AP): No one ever finished more under par in PGA Tour history than Cameron Smith, and he never could appreciate it until his final birdie putt in the Sentry Tournament of Champions.

Not with Jon Rahm, the No. 1 player in the world, on his heels every step of the way. Not with Matt Jones making a pair of eagles and a 50-foot birdie putt in a span of five holes to stay in the game at Kapalua.

In the best scoring conditions Kapalua has seen in the 24 times it has hosted the winners-only start to the new year, Smith was relentless all the day down to the 3-foot birdie putt the Aussie made on the 18th hole for an 8-under 65 and a one-shot victory over Rahm.



Cameron Smith holds the champions trophy after the final round of the Tournament of Champions golf event on Jan 9, at Kapalua Plantation Course in Kapalua, Hawaii. (AP)

GOLF

"Mate, it was intense," Smith said. "It was pretty crazy. I felt like I needed to make a birdie to kind of keep up with him or stay in front."

Smith finished at 34-under 258, and some context is in order.

Only three players in tour history had finished at 30 under or lower. Ernie Els set the record of 31 under at Kapalua in 2003 and won by eight shots. Jordan Spieth shot 30 under in 2016, also winning by eight. Dustin Johnson shot 30 under at Liberty National in 2020 and won by 11.

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Rahm, playing for the first time since Oct. 15, did all he could and Smith never gave him an opening.

They started the final round tied for the lead. Smith pulled ahead with a

fairways from heavy rain before the elite field arrived on the western edge of Maui, and greens that were never more pure.

Rahm never shot worse than 66, and he was one of three players to tie the Plantation course record with a 61 in the third round. He made 32 birdies for the week, tying the PGA Tour record for a 72-hole event shared by Paul Gow at the B.C. Open and Mark Calcavecchia in the Phoenix Open, both those events in 2001.

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4-foot birdie putt on No. 4 and a 20-foot birdie putt on the par-3 eighth.

Rahm closed within one shot with a 15-foot birdie on the 11th.

They matched birdies and pars on the same holes the rest of the way. Rahm closed with a 66 to finish at 33-under 259.

"This golf course only has one defense and that's the wind," Rahm said. "If people are shooting between 20 and 26 under with 20-mile-an-hour winds, what do you expect us to do when there's absolutely no wind?"

Jones tried to join the race, holing out for eagle on the 13th, making a 4-foot eagle putt on the 15th and holing a 50-foot birdie putt on the 17th.

A final birdie allowed Jones to post the third score of 61 - Justin Thomas

also tied the record on Saturday - to finish third.

Jones was at 32-under 260, one shot better than the previous record, two shots short of winning.

"If you told me I would have shot 32 under I would have been more than happy to sit in the clubhouse and let everyone play and see what happens," Jones said.

Smith picked up his fourth PGA Tour victory - two were team titles in New Orleans - and became the sixth player to have won at both Hawaii stops on the PGA Tour. He won the Sony Open in Honolulu two years ago in a playoff.

He also moved to No. 10 in the world, his highest ranking, and one of his goals for the year that he ticked off in the first week.

Rahm easily kept his No. 1 ranking and did little wrong in his return from the longest break of his professional career. He had a 20-foot birdie putt to tie for the lead on the 17th, his last good chance to catch Smith, that narrowly missed.

On the par-5 closing hole, Smith came up just short of the green. His putt from 90 feet slowed to a stop about 3 feet from the hole. That meant Rahm had no choice but to hole a 50-foot eagle putt from just off the green, and it just missed on the high side.

The previous record for low score to par without winning was Bryson DeChambeau, who finished at 27 under in the BMW Championship at Caves Valley last year and lost to Patrick Cantlay in a playoff.

Cantlay, playing for the first time since the Ryder Cup, closed with a 67 to finish at 26-under par. That was only good for fourth place this week.

Blues edge Stars

ANAHEIM, Calif., Jan 10, (AP): Rookie Trevor Zegras had a goal and an assist before scoring again in the shootout, leading the Ducks to a 4-3 victory over the Detroit Red Wings in a game that was rescheduled due to Anaheim's COVID-19 problems.

Lukáš Dostál made 33 saves and won his NHL debut for Anaheim with two stops in the tiebreaker. Troy Terry got his 22nd goal and Max Comtois also scored for the Ducks, who won for just the second time in six games since the holiday break.

ICE HOCKEY

After Zegras scored in the second round of the shootout, Rickard Rakell finished it off with a goal. Rakell also had two assists in a matchup initially scheduled for Thursday.

Tyler Bertuzzi had a goal and an assist for the Red Wings, who have lost four of five since the holiday break. Filip Hronek and Vladislav Namestnikov also scored for Detroit, and Thomas Greiss stopped 24 shots.

Comtois scored the tiebreaking goal early in the third period for Anaheim, but Namestnikov evened it for the Red Wings with his 10th goal less than six minutes later.

The Ducks have won two of three with a patchwork lineup over the past week. Anaheim got captain Ryan Getzlaf back in uniform after a COVID-19 absence, but the club still is without starting goalie John Gibson and defenseman Hampus Lindholm.

The 21-year-old Dostál, a third-round pick in 2018 from the Czech Republic, got the chance to come up from San Diego (AHL) for his debut with Gibson still unavailable and Anthony Stolarz resting after facing the Rangers on Saturday night.

Blues 2, Stars 1

In St. Louis, Jordan Kyrou and Ryan O'Reilly scored power-play goals in the final minute, rallying the St. Louis Blues over the Dallas Stars. Kyrou won it with 29 seconds left. O'Reilly tied it at 1-all with 47 seconds to go while the Blues had a 6-on-4 advantage.

St. Louis extended its home ice point streak to 12 games, going 11-0-1 during the run. Jordan Binnington made 26 saves for the Blues.

Jason Robertson scored a second-period goal for Dallas, which had a four-game winning streak snapped.



Dallas Stars defenseman Miro Heiskanen (4) falls to the ice battling St. Louis Blues left wing Brandon Saad (20) and Blues left wing David Perron (57) for the puck during the first period of an NHL hockey game, on Jan. 9, in St. Louis. (AP)

NHL Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Jan 10, (AP): Results and standings from the NHL games on Sunday.

St. Louis 2 Dallas 1
Anaheim 4 Detroit (SO) 3

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Florida	35	23	7	5	51	137	106
Tampa Bay	37	23	9	5	51	122	109
Toronto	33	22	8	3	47	112	83
Boston	31	18	11	2	38	92	81
Detroit	36	16	16	4	36	99	122
Buffalo	34	10	18	6	26	91	119
Ottawa	29	9	18	2	20	79	107
Montreal	34	7	23	4	18	73	123

Metropolitan Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Carolina	33	24	7	2	50	115	73
NY Rangers	36	23	9	4	50	106	91
Washington	36	20	7	9	49	122	97
Pittsburgh	34	20	9	5	45	112	89
Columbus	33	16	16	1	33	106	118
Philadelphia	35	13	15	7	33	90	119
New Jersey	36	14	17	5	33	105	126
NY Islanders	28	10	12	6	26	64	80

Western Conference

Central Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Nashville	36	23	11	2	48	112	95
St. Louis	36	21	10	5	47	126	98
Colorado	31	21	8	2	44	135	101
Minnesota	33	21	10	2	44	122	102
Winnipeg	33	16	12	5	37	99	99
Dallas	32	17	13	2	36	92	94
Chicago	35	12	18	5	29	83	119
Arizona	33	7	23	3	17	72	128

Pacific Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Vegas	38	23	14	1	47	135	113
Anaheim	38	19	12	7	45	116	106
Calgary	33	17	10	6	40	104	83
Los Angeles	35	17	13	5	39	97	93
San Jose	36	19	16	1	39	102	112
Edmonton	34	18	14	2	38	113	111
Vancouver	34	16	15	3	35	89	95
Seattle	33	10	19	4	24	92	122

Note: Two points for a win one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.



Nathan Chen competes in the men's free skate program during the US Figure Skating Championships on Jan 9, in Nashville, Tenn. (AP)

Flawless Chen wins 6th straight US title

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Jan 10, (AP): Nathan Chen had landed some of the most difficult jumps in figure skating, soaring through the air with a dizzying array of quads and flawlessly stringing together incredible combinations to leave the crowd wanting more.

Figures that he would faceplant on a simple step sequence.

It didn't matter, though. Nor did a mistake on one of his four quadruple jumps. Chen was that much better than everyone else at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships, winning the free skate with 212.63 points and scoring 328.01 in all - good for his sixth consecutive title by nearly 26 points over 17-year-old wunderkind Ilia Malinin.

"Silly things happen all the time. Am I to expect that? Probably not," Chen said with a smile and shrug. "It was a dumb little moment. I just got wrapped up in that moment and lost my footing. It is what it is. Make sure I don't do that again."

Chen's six titles are the most by a men's skater since Todd Eldredge won his sixth in 2002, and he is the first to win six in a row since two-time Olympic champion Dick Button

FIGURE SKATING

won seven straight in the 1940s and '50s.

Vincent Zhou followed an exceptional short program with a calamitous free skate Sunday, barely edging Jason Brown for third place. But both wound up making the Olympic team ahead of Malinin when the selection committee chose the experience of Zhou and Brown over the youngster's soaring ability and bright future.

It has been a remarkable four-year run for the 22-year-old Chen since a shockingly poor short program at the Pyeongchang Games cost him a shot at an Olympic medal. Chen won 14 consecutive events, from national titles to world championships and everything in between, before losing to Zhou at Skate America in October.

That turned out to be a blip: Chen won Skate Canada the very next week.

He underscored his readiness for Beijing when he broke his own national record in the short program, a throwback to his "La Boheme" program from a couple years ago that featured a pair of soaring quads and scored 115.39 points.

Then, Chen put his readiness in all CAPS with his performance in the free skate.

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