



Serbia's Novak Djokovic holds the Norman Brookes Challenge Cup after defeating Russia's Daniil Medvedev in the men's singles final at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Feb. 21, 2021. (AP)

# Sports

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'Immigration minister will consider whether to exercise a personal power of cancellation'

## Australian judge says Djokovic can stay but saga not over

MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan 10, (AP) — Novak Djokovic returned to the tennis court Monday for training, having won a legal battle to stay in Australia and play in the Australian Open after his exemption from strict coronavirus vaccine rules was questioned. But the government is still threatening to cancel his visa and deport him.

Federal Circuit Court Judge Anthony Kelly reinstated Djokovic's visa, which was pulled after his arrival last week because officials said he didn't qualify for an exemption to a rule that all non-citizens be fully vaccinated. Djokovic's lawyers say that since he recently recovered from COVID-19, he didn't need to be inoculated, and court documents say he is not.

The judge ruled the No. 1 player had not been given

enough time to speak to his lawyers before the decision was made and ordered the government to release him from a Melbourne quarantine hotel where he has spent the last four nights.

But government lawyer Christopher Tran told the judge that the immigration minister "will consider whether to exercise a personal power of cancellation."

That would mean that the nine-time Australian Open winner and defending champion could again face deportation and could miss the tournament, which starts on Jan. 17. It could also bar him from the country for three years.

Late Monday night, Djokovic tweeted out a photo that showed him and his team standing on one of the main show courts of the tournament. He was already back to training, his

brother told reporters in Serbia.

"I'm pleased and grateful that the Judge overturned my visa cancellation. Despite all that has happened, I want to stay and try to compete @AustralianOpen," Djokovic said in the post.

The back and forth has gripped the world and caused a furor in Australia, where many initially decried the news that Djokovic, who has been a vocal skeptic of vaccines, had received an exemption to strict rules to compete in Melbourne. Many felt the star was being given special treatment since Australians who aren't vaccinated face tough travel and quarantine restrictions. Melbourne, in particular, has faced severe restrictions and is one of the world's most locked down cities.

But when border police then blocked the 34-year-old on arrival, others cried foul, saying he was being scapegoated by an Australian government facing criticism for its recent handling of the pandemic.

### TENNIS

The tennis star's brother, Djordje Djokovic, told television network Prva in Belgrade, Serbia: "This is definitely politics, all this was politics." Spanish tennis star Rafael Nadal called the controversy "a circus" and said he supported the decision allowing his rival to play in Melbourne.

### NFL Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Jan 10, (AP) — Results and standings from NFL games on Sunday.

Cleveland	21	Cincinnati	16
Detroit	37	Green Bay	30
Jacksonville	26	Indianapolis	11
Minnesota	31	Chicago	17
Pittsburgh	16	Baltimore OT	13
Tennessee	28	Houston	25
Washington	22	N.Y. Giants	7
Buffalo	27	N.Y. Jets	10
Miami	33	New England	24
New Orleans	30	Atlanta	20
San Francisco	27	LA Rams OT	24
Seattle	38	Arizona	30
Tampa Bay	41	Carolina	17
Las Vegas	35	LA Chargers OT	32

  

American Conference						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Buffalo	11	6	0	.647	483	289
x-New England	10	7	0	.588	462	303
e-Miami	9	8	0	.529	341	373
e-NY Jets	4	13	0	.235	310	504
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
*-Tennessee	12	5	0	.706	419	354
e-Indianapolis	9	8	0	.529	451	365
e-Houston	4	13	0	.235	280	452
e-Jacksonville	3	14	0	.176	253	457
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Cincinnati	10	7	0	.588	460	376
x-Pittsburgh	9	7	1	.559	343	398
e-Baltimore	8	9	0	.471	387	392
e-Cleveland	8	9	0	.471	349	371
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Kansas City	12	5	0	.706	480	364
x-Las Vegas	10	7	0	.588	374	439
e-LA Chargers	9	8	0	.529	474	459
e-Denver	7	10	0	.412	335	322
National Conference						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Dallas	12	5	0	.706	530	358
x-Philadelphia	9	8	0	.529	444	385
e-Washington	7	10	0	.412	335	434
e-NY Giants	4	13	0	.235	258	416
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Tampa Bay	13	4	0	.765	511	353
e-New Orleans	9	8	0	.529	364	335
e-Atlanta	7	10	0	.412	313	459
e-Carolina	5	12	0	.294	304	404
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
*-Green Bay	13	4	0	.765	450	371
e-Minnesota	8	9	0	.471	425	426
e-Chicago	6	11	0	.353	311	407
e-Detroit	3	13	0	.206	325	467
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-LA Rams	12	5	0	.706	460	372
x-Arizona	11	6	0	.647	449	366
x-San Francisco	10	7	0	.588	427	365
e-Seattle	7	10	0	.412	395	366

e denotes eliminated from playoffs  
x denotes clinched playoff spot  
y denotes clinched division  
\* denotes clinched home-field advantage

## Raiders, 49ers make playoffs

Titans clinch top seed in AFC for first time in 14 years

LAS VEGAS, Jan 10, (AP) — Daniel Carlson's 47-yard field goal as time expired in overtime lifted the Las Vegas Raiders past the Los Angeles Chargers 35-32 on Sunday night for their first playoff berth since 2016.

And they eliminated their AFC West rivals in the process.

Las Vegas survived Los Angeles' late-game comeback built on a series of fourth-down conversions to force overtime. The Raiders won a fourth straight game and completed an incredible late-season run after losing five of their previous six.

Carlson, three times the AFC special teams player of the week this season, kicked five field goals in the game, including two in overtime.

### FOOTBALL

Derek Carr completed 20 of 36 pass attempts for 186 yards, including two touchdowns. Hunter Renfrow hauled in two touchdown passes, while Josh Jacobs ran for 132 yards on 26 carries, including one score.

#### 49ers 27, Rams 24, OT

In Inglewood, the 49ers clinched a playoff spot thanks to Robbie Gould's 24-yard field goal with 2:45 left in overtime and a game-ending interception by Amby Thomas.

Jauan Jennings caught a 14-yard touchdown pass from Jimmy Garoppolo with 26 seconds left in regulation for the 49ers (10-7), who are postseason-bound for only the second time in eight years.

San Francisco rallied from an early 17-point deficit for their sixth consecutive win over the playoff-bound Rams (12-5), who won the division title anyway thanks to Seattle's victory over Arizona.

#### Titans 28, Texans 25

In Houston, Tennessee clinched the top seed in the AFC for the first time in 14 years, beating Houston behind Ryan Tannehill's four touchdown passes.

The 12-5 Titans, who secured their second straight AFC South title last week, have the No. 1 seed in the AFC for the third time since leaving Houston in 1997 and first since 2008. They also have a first-round bye.

Tannehill threw three touchdown passes in the second quarter to put the Titans up 21-0 at halftime. He tied a career-high with his four TD passes.

But the Texans (4-13) came alive in the second half, scoring 18 unanswered points to get within 3 before Julio Jones caught his first touchdown pass of the season on a 3-yard grab that made it 28-18 with about seven minutes remaining.

#### Buccaneers 41, Panthers 17

In Tampa Bay, Tom Brady topped 5,000 yards passing for the second time in his career and Tampa Bay set a franchise record for regular-season victories with a win over Carolina.



Tennessee Titans running back D'Onta Foreman (7) is stopped by Houston Texans defensive tackle Michael Dwumfour (98) during the second half of an NFL football game in Houston. (AP)

Brady completed 29 of 37 passes for 326 yards and three touchdowns before taking the last half of the fourth quarter off, finishing with a career-best 5,316 yards passing and a Bucs single-season record 43 TD passes for the defending Super Bowl champions.

Mike Evans caught two of Brady's TD passes, giving him a club-record 14 scoring receptions this year. He also became the first player in NFL history to begin a career with eight consecutive seasons with at least 1,000 yards receiving.

#### Seahawks 38, Cardinals 30

In Glendale, Russell Wilson threw three touchdown passes, Rashad Penny ran for 190 yards and a touchdown, and Seattle spoiled Arizona's shot at the NFC West title with a win.

It was a back-and-forth game supplemented by a healthy dose of scoreboard watching. The Cardinals (11-6) were still in the running for the NFC West title with a win, especially when the 49ers beat the Rams.

In the end, the scoreboard's results were moot. The Cardinals couldn't take care of business against the Seahawks and will settle for the No. 5 seed after starting the season with a 7-0 record. Arizona is 4-6 since that hot start, including losing four of its last five. The Cardinals will play at the Rams in the wild-card round.

#### Saints 30, Falcons 20

In Atlanta, New Orleans just missed making the playoffs, despite beating Atlanta.

The Saints (9-8) needed the Los Angeles Rams to beat the San Francisco 49ers in order to get a wild-card spot and a fifth consecutive playoff berth, but the 49ers won 27-24 in overtime.

Trevor Siemian led back-to-back scoring drives following two Atlanta turnovers late in the first half, and the Saints overcame the loss of quarterback Taysom Hill to an injury.

#### Bills 27, Jets 10

In Orchard Park, Buffalo clinched its second consecutive AFC East title after Devin Singletary scored twice in the final 8:21 for a win over New York.

The Bills (11-6) enter the playoffs as the conference's third seed, but had to await the outcome of the late game between the Los Angeles Chargers and Las Vegas Raiders to determine who they'll host in the wild-card playoff round next weekend.

The Bills actually moved up a spot in the conference standings, jumping ahead of Cincinnati after the Bengals (10-7) lost to Cleveland earlier in the day.

#### Steelers 16, Ravens 13

In Baltimore, Ben Roethlisberger delayed his retirement for a few hours and probably longer, guiding Pittsburgh over Baltimore in overtime and putting the Steelers on the verge of an improbable playoff berth.

Chris Boswell made a 36-yard field goal with 1:56 remaining to win the game for the Steelers, who will now make the postseason as long as Sunday night's Chargers-Raiders game doesn't end in a tie. Roethlisberger set up the winning kick when he completed a 10-yard pass over the middle to Ray-Ray McCloud on fourth-and-8 from the Baltimore 41.

#### Jaguars 26, Colts 11

In Jacksonville, the Indianapolis Colts badly botched a chance to secure an AFC wild-card spot by losing at Jacksonville - their seventh consecutive road loss to the Jaguars. And they were eliminated from postseason contention when Pittsburgh beat Baltimore.

NFL rushing champion Jonathan Taylor was held to 77 yards, Carson Wentz turned the ball over twice - leading to 10 points - and Indy (9-8) did little to stop the woeful Jaguars (3-14).

With a playoff berth on the line, Indianapolis was a no-show on an 80-degree day in Jacksonville. The 15-point outcome could have been a bigger blowout

had the Jags scored touchdowns instead of settling for two chip-shot field goals from inside the 5-yard line.

#### Dolphins 33, Patriots 24

In Miami Gardens, Jaylen Waddle had a touchdown grab and set the NFL record for receptions in a rookie year, Duke Johnson rushed for 117 yards and Miami finished its season by defeating playoff-bound New England.

Xavien Howard returned an interception for a touchdown and Johnson had a touchdown run for Miami (9-8), which finished with a winning record for the second consecutive season and once again didn't have a playoff berth to show for it.

Brandon Bolden two touchdowns - one rushing, one receiving - for the Patriots (10-7), who are headed to the playoffs as a wild card.

#### Lions 37, Packers 30

In Detroit, Aaron Rodgers threw two touchdown passes in the first half and sat out the second half with nothing at stake as Detroit beat top-seeded Green Bay.

Backup Jordan Love threw two interceptions late in the game, sealing a defeat that didn't affect Green Bay's playoff positioning.

The NFC North champion Packers (13-4) rolled into the Motor City after

already clinching the conference's No. 1 seed and its only first-round bye.

#### Browns 21, Bengals 16

In Cleveland, Case Keenum got his second win, filling in for Baker Mayfield on Sunday as Cleveland ended their dismal season with a 21-16 win over playoff-bound Cincinnati, who left quarterback Joe Burrow at home and played their backups.

Keenum threw touchdown passes to Jarvis Landry and Demetric Felton as the Browns (8-9) completed a sweep of the surprising AFC North champions. D'Ernest Johnson rushed for 123 yards, and star running back Nick Chubb only had nine carries and finished the season with 1,259 yards.

#### Vikings 31, Bears 17

In Minneapolis, Kirk Cousins passed for 172 yards and three touchdowns in the second half to lead a Minnesota comeback to beat Chicago in a matchup of two eliminated teams with a head coach in danger of being fired.

Justin Jefferson had the tying score and K.J. Osborn caught the go-ahead touchdown for the Vikings (8-9), who gave coach Mike Zimmer plenty to cheer in this pad-the-stats game while outscoring the Bears 28-3 after halftime.

Bears coach Matt Nagy elected to go for it on fourth down six times, failing on all but one of them. Andy Dalton took three sacks and threw an interception, and Patrick Peterson picked him off late in the fourth quarter and turned it into a 66-yard touchdown return.

#### Washington 22, Giants 7

In East Rutherford, Antonio Gibson ran for a career-high 146 yards, scored a touchdown and capped his first 1,000-yard rushing season by leading Washington over New York in what might have been Dave Gettleman's final game as the Giants' general manager.

Bobby McCain returned the first of his two interceptions 30 yards for a touchdown, and Joey Slye kicked three field goals as Washington (7-10) finished a season in which it went from division winners a year ago to an also-ran.

Third-stringer Jake Fromm threw a 22-yard fourth-quarter touchdown to Darius Slayton as the Giants (4-13) finished a miserable second season under Joe Judge with a six-game losing streak.

Washington never trailed as Slye kicked field goals of 23 and 43 yards in the first half for a 6-0 lead.



Morocco's Achraf Hakimi (left), is challenged by Ghana's Baba Idriessu during the African Cup of Nations 2022 group A soccer match between Morocco and Ghana at the Ahmadou Ahidjo stadium in Yaounde, Cameroon. (AP)

## Senegal pip Zimbabwe to open Afcon campaign

BAFOUSSAM, Cameroon, Jan 10, (AP) — Sadio Mané converted a penalty more than six minutes into injury time and Senegal beat Zimbabwe 1-0 Monday to open their African Cup of Nations campaign.

Mané sent the goalkeeper the wrong way and drilled the penalty into the left corner after Senegal produced a misfir-

ing first performance in Cameroon for much of the game.

Senegal never looked like Africa's top-ranked team, or a team playing an opposition ranked 101 places below them.

But the chance for a winner finally came after Zimbabwe midfielder Kelvin Madzongwe was penalized for handball

in the fourth minute of injury time. Zimbabwe protested vehemently but referee Mario Escobar of Guatemala stuck by his decision after referring to a video review, which is being used at every game at the African Cup of Nations for the first time. Madzongwe had thrown himself to the ground trying to block a shot and the ball struck his arm.

After Mané's penalty, Escobar whistled for full time as soon as Zimbabwe kicked off again.

Senegal played without goalkeeper Edouard Mendy and captain Kalidou Koulibaly, who were among a group of players ruled out for the game after testing positive for the coronavirus.

Senegal also said six of their management team had tested positive before flying to Cameroon, and striker Ismaila Sarr was ruled out the tournament with injury before the first game.

Senegal lost to Algeria in the final at

the last African Cup in 2019 and are still searching for their first African title.

Senegal had chances against Zimbabwe before the dramatic finish. Mané had one of the best when he got past two defenders and into the penalty area in the first half, but hit his shot straight at Zimbabwe goalkeeper Petros Mhari.

Pape Abou Cissé headed over from a corner with an open goal in front of him in the second half in another bad miss for Senegal.

Ghana begun their quest for a fifth African Cup of Nations title with 1-0 loss to Morocco in Group C. Sofiane Boufal scored the lone goal in the dying minute of the game after the ball ricocheted off the foot of Black Stars defender to find Boufal who made no mistake to slot in the opener. Though Ghana had the lion share of possession they didn't threaten the Morocco defense.