



AC Milan's Zlatan Ibrahimovic (right) and Spezia's Martin Eric fight for the ball during a Serie A soccer match between AC Milan and Spezia, at the San Siro stadium in Milan, Italy, on Jan 17. (AP)

### Napoli down Bologna

Ref apologizes for apparent error in Milan loss to Spezia

MILAN, Jan 18, (AP) Little went AC Milan's way in a dispiriting 2-1 home loss to Spezia as the Rossoneri wasted a chance to move back atop Serie A.

Emmanuel Gyasi was left unmarked to finish off a counterattack and score a stoppage-time winner for Spezia, which moved six points clear of the drop zone.

That came moments after a potential winner from Junior Messias was disallowed for Milan because the referee whistled a foul on Rossoneri forward Ante Rebić in the buildup just as Rebić was passing the ball to Messias.

Referee Marco Serra quickly held his hands up in an apparent apology to Milan's protesting players but still refused to allow the goal, assigning Milan a free kick instead.

### SOCCER

Spezia goalkeeper Ivan Provedel then made a leaping save to stop the free kick from Zlatan Ibrahimović. Seconds later, the 'keeper again denied Ibrahimović by deflecting the 40-year-old forward's header away off the crossbar.

Kevin Agudelo equalized for Spezia midway through the second half following an opener from Rafael Leão just before the break.

Leão's goal came moments after Theo Hernández missed a penalty kick for Milan with a poor effort that went wide right.

Milan remained two points behind city rival Inter Milan, which has a game in hand, and was only two points ahead of third-placed Napoli, which beat Bologna 2-0.

Hirving Lozano scored twice for Napoli at Bologna.

First, Lozano used one touch to redirect a pass in the center of the area despite being closely marked. Then the Mexico international finished off a counterattack from close range.

Napoli striker Victor Osimhen went on in the second half to mark his return from a cheekbone injury two months ago and a case of COVID-19 that kept him out of Nigeria's African Cup of Nations squad.

This is one of two rounds in Serie A with a maximum attendance of 5,000 fans at matches in a measure aimed at containing the coronavirus.

# Meier scores franchise-record 5 goals as Sharks thrash Kings

Francouz steps in, Avs beat Wild in SO, 14th home win in row

**SAN JOSE, Calif., Jan 18, (AP):** Timo Meier set a San Jose franchise record with five goals on Monday, and the Sharks used a huge first period to beat the Los Angeles Kings 6-2.

Meier, a sixth-year winger who made his first All-Star team this season, had a hat trick before the first period even ended. He scored his fourth goal less than two minutes into the second period and broke the Sharks' record with his fifth just 27 seconds before the second intermission.

Meier had a chance for his sixth goal midway through the third period when he took the puck down the left side with open ice ahead of him, but Kings defenseman Mikey Anderson knocked the puck away as Meier approached the net.

### ICE HOCKEY

It was the first five-goal game in the NHL since the New York Rangers' Mika Zibanejad on March 5, 2020, against Washington.

#### Avalanche 4, Wild 3, SO

In Denver, Pavel Francouz stopped 24 shots in relief of injured Darcy Kuemper and three more in the shootout, and Colorado beat Minnesota for its 14th straight home win.

Kuemper was injured when Minnesota's Jordan Greenway ran into him in the crease and knocked him down. He remained in the game until he was replaced by Francouz with 10:34 left in the second period.

Mikko Rantanen had a goal and an assist for Colorado and the only tally in the shootout. Nathan MacKinnon also had a goal and an assist for the Avalanche.

#### Blues 5, Predators 3

In St. Louis, Brayden Schenn and Ivan Barbashev each had two goals and two assists as St. Louis came from behind to beat Nashville.

Ryan O'Reilly added a goal and two assists in the first meeting between the teams since they played back-to-back games in February 2020. St. Louis' victory left the clubs tied for second place in the Central Division with 51 points apiece.

#### Penguins 5, Golden Knights 3

In Las Vegas, Jason Zucker scored twice and Pittsburgh rallied from an early three-goal deficit to defeat Vegas.

Pittsburgh scored five unanswered goals to improve to 13-2-0 since Dec. 4, including a 4-2-0 mark on its six-game road trip - the team's longest of the season.

Vegas, which had five days off due to games in Edmonton and Calgary being postponed, dropped to 2-3-2 since Dec. 31, with all seven games coming at home.



San Jose Sharks center Tomas Hertl (48) and Los Angeles Kings defenseman Sean Durzi (50) battle for the puck during the first period of an NHL hockey game in San Jose, Calif., on Jan 17. (AP)

Teddy Blueger, Jake Guentzel and Sidney Crosby also scored for the Penguins, and Tristan Jarry made 22 saves.

#### Red Wings 3, Sabres 2, OT

In Buffalo, N.Y., Dylan Larkin scored the tying goal in regulation and notched the game-winner 2:07 into overtime, giving Detroit the win before a sparse crowd in Buffalo.

Vladislav Namestnikov also scored for the Red Wings, who beat Buffalo for the second time in three days. Alex Nedeljkovic made 26 saves.

A storm that dumped around 2 feet of snow in the region limited attendance to around 1,000 at KeyBank Center.

#### Coyotes 5, Canadiens 2

In Glendale, Ariz., Nick Schmaltz and Johan Larsson each had a goal and an assist, and Arizona stretched Montreal's losing streak to six games.

Travis Boyd and Janis Moser also scored for the Coyotes, who were without coach Andre Tourigny and four players due to COVID-19 protocols. Clayton Keller added a an emp-

ty-net goal and Karel Vejmelka had 24 saves.

#### Kraken 3, Blackhawks 2, SO

In Seattle, Ryan Donato got the tying goal early in the third period, Joonas Donskoi scored in the shootout and Seattle snapped its nine-game losing streak with a win over Chicago.

Donato scored at 2:02 of the third to pull the Kraken even at 2. Donato also converted in the second round of the shootout and Donskoi - stuck without a goal this season in 38 games - put the winner past Marc-Andre Fleury.

Vince Dunn also scored for the Kraken. It was Seattle's first win since Dec. 14 at San Jose and first home win since Dec. 3 against Edmonton. The Kraken are 1-16-1 when trailing after two periods.

#### Islanders 4, Flyers 1

In New York, Brock Nelson and Casey Cizikas scored less than three minutes apart in the second period and New York handed Philadelphia its eighth straight loss.

Anthony Beauvillier and Matt Martin also scored, and Ilya Sorokin stopped 26 shots to help the Islanders get their fifth win in seven games (5-1-1). New York coach Barry Trotz was back on the bench after missing three games, the last two in COVID-19 protocols.

### NHL Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Jan 18, (AP): Results and standings from the NHL games on Monday.

Detroit	3	Buffalo (OT)	2
Colorado	4	Minnesota (SO)	3
Arizona	5	Montreal	2
San Jose	6	Los Angeles	2
Seattle	3	Chicago (SO)	2
NY Islanders	4	Philadelphia	1
St Louis	5	Nashville	3
Pittsburgh	5	Vegas	3

#### Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division						
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Florida	38	26	7	57	158	111
Tampa Bay	40	26	9	57	135	113
Toronto	36	24	9	51	123	93
Boston	35	22	11	46	111	90
Detroit	40	18	17	5	41	108
Buffalo	38	11	20	7	29	98
Ottawa	31	11	18	2	24	89
Montreal	37	7	25	5	19	78

#### Metropolitan Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
NY Rangers	39	25	10	4	54	113
Carolina	35	25	8	2	52	119
Pittsburgh	38	23	10	5	51	125
Washington	39	21	9	9	51	129
Columbus	36	17	18	1	35	116
New Jersey	37	14	18	5	33	107
Philadelphia	38	13	18	7	33	95
NY Islanders	31	12	13	6	30	71

#### Western Conference

Central Division						
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	36	26	7	53	156	115
St Louis	39	23	11	5	51	138
Nashville	40	24	13	3	51	124
Minnesota	35	22	10	3	47	132
Winnipeg	34	17	12	5	39	102
Dallas	35	18	15	2	38	99
Chicago	39	15	18	6	36	95
Arizona	37	9	24	4	22	82

#### Pacific Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	40	23	15	2	48	141
Los Angeles	39	20	14	5	45	111
Anaheim	41	19	15	7	45	120
San Jose	40	21	17	2	44	112
Calgary	34	17	11	6	40	105
Edmonton	35	18	15	2	38	117
Vancouver	38	17	18	3	37	98
Seattle	38	11	23	4	26	102

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.

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