

Nine-time line honors champion Wild Oats XI finishes third

Comanche win 75th Sydney to Hobart race, InfoTrack in 2nd



In a photo provided by Rolex, Comanche arrives at Hobart, Australia, to claim line honors victory in the Sydney to Hobart yacht race on Dec 28. (AP)

HOBART, Australia, Dec 28. (AP): Comanche won the 75th edition of the Sydney to Hobart yacht race on Saturday by claiming line honors for the third time.

The Jim Cooney and Samantha Grant-skippered super maxi made the most of strong overnight winds to cross the River Derwent finish line just after 7:30 am local time. Comanche earlier broke away from a five-strong pack of super maxis down Tasmania's east coast having taken a wider route across Bass Strait on Friday.

She stalled at one stage on a windless River Derwent before crossing the line in a time of 1 day, 18 hours, 30 minutes and 24 seconds.

"That was dramatic. That was 30 minutes of my life that I'll never get back. It was really very stressful," Cooney said.

InfoTrack, which was the first yacht out of Sydney Harbour on Thursday, finished second, about 45 minutes behind Comanche.

The three other super maxis filled out the top five placings – nine-time line honors champion Wild Oats XI

SAILING

was third, Scallywag fourth, just 38 seconds behind, and Black Jack fifth.

Comanche's celebrations were subdued at Hobart's Constitution Dock after several nights of intense racing.

The yacht fell behind on Friday morning but regained the lead in the afternoon after taking the wider Bass Strait route to pick up winds.

"It was a long night. Everybody is pretty tired," Cooney said. "We treated the race as a sprint, we didn't take too many breaks. We wanted crew on deck all the time. It was relief more than elation."

Comanche ran into more problems near Tasman Island, where an unknown object wrapped around the yacht's rudder rendered it immobile.

"We were in a little bit of drama for a short period of time," Cooney said.

Comanche's previous wins were in 2015 and 2017, the latter coming in race-record time of 1 day, 9 hours, 15 minutes after Wild Oats XI was stripped of the title in a post-race protest.

Minerva became the fleet's third retirement overnight, reducing the number of yachts in the race to 154.

FC Goa top Boxing Day goal fest

Santana's double strike seals Odisha win over Jamshedpur

KUWAIT CITY, Dec 28: Adrienne Santana scored in the 27 and 45 minutes to give Odisha 2-1 win over the much-fancied Jamshedpur FC in the Indian Super League.

Although Aitor Monroy had put Jamshedpur level in the 38th minute from the spot-kick nothing could stop Odisha from inflicting the defeat of Jamshedpur, their fifth in a row.

Adrienne Santana's twin strike gave Odisha FC their first home win of the Indian Super League on Friday.

With three points Odisha climbed into the sixth position on the table with 12 points, while Jamshedpur with 13 points from 10 matches lie fourth.

Odisha were able to bypass the pressure after the visitors' early onslaught and used their width to good effect.

The hosts broke the deadlock before the half an hour mark. Santana and Nandhakumar conjured a move with the Spaniard slotting home past veteran keeper Subrata Paul.

SOCCER

Jamshedpur attacked in numbers and leveled the scoreline before the break. Narayan Das' clumsy challenge on Sumet Passi inside the box was punished by the referee and Monroy stepped up to place the ball into the bottom left corner from 12 yards.

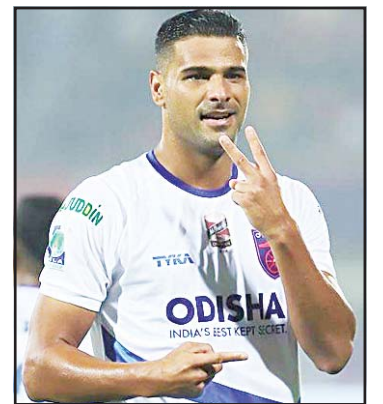
Seconds before the half-time whistle, the hosts went ahead again in spectacular fashion. Nandhakumar crossed into the box from the left for Aridane, who struck a brilliant volley into the top corner to make it 2-1.

Meanwhile, keeping up with the spirit of the holiday season, errors from the Chennaiyin FC defenders helped FC Goa edge a 4-3 win in the Indian Super League at the Nehru Stadium on Thursday. However, towards the end things went out of control and the referee had to pull out the 13 cards – 11 yellow and two red – including one for Goa coach Sergio Lobera.

Goa wasn't at its usual best as Chennaiyin did not allow the visitors to settle in.

Things could have been different if the referee saw things from a different angle and awarded penalty for a push from Jahouh on Andre Schembri in the third minute of the game.

Then, in the 26th minute came the first mistake of the night. Tondonba Singh played a blind back pass towards his goal which was intercepted by Ferran Corominas (Coro). Chennaiyin defence was caught unaware as the Spaniard played the ball to Boumous,



Aridane Santana scored a brace for Odisha at the Kalinga Stadium.



Rafael Crivellaro scored Chennaiyin FC's second goal against FC Goa.

who dribbled past two centre-backs to find Jahouh and the latter side-footed it past Vishal Kaithi for the first ISL goal of his career and put FC Goa in front.

With little under four minutes before half-time, Germanpreet Singh asked too much of centre-back Lucian Goian with a hard hit pass across the face of the goal and the latter's poor first touch allowed Brandon Fernandes to make it 2-0 from close range.

Earlier Chennaiyin coach Owen Coyle had stressed on the need to find the balance between attack and defence in the pre-match press conference, noting his team had conceded sloppy goals this season. The nature of the goals conceded against Goa would have definitely infuriated the Scotsman.

Chennaiyin was undone by its mistakes in the first half which resulted in Goa punishing it with three goals – scored by Ahmed Jahouh, Brandon Fernandes and Hugo Boumous.

Devils score into own net, gifting Leafs a 5-4 OT win

Lehner makes 38 saves as Blackhawks top Islanders

NEWARK, New Jersey, Dec 28, (AP): Devils defenseman Damon Severson backhanded the puck into his own net in overtime, gifting the Toronto Maple Leafs a 5-4 win over New Jersey for their season-best sixth straight victory.

Severson got the puck after Toronto's William Nylander lost control while driving toward New Jersey's net. The 25-year-old Severson inadvertently beat goaltender Mackenzie Blackwood while trying to clear the puck out of danger. Nylander was credited with the goal.

Zach Hyman, Ilya Mikheyev, Kasperii Kapanen and John Tavares scored for Toronto. Michael Hutchinson had 24 saves in winning his second straight start.

Mikheyev left the ice in the third period after being cut on his wrist by Jack Hughes' skate. He was taken to a hospital for evaluation, the Maple Leafs said.

ICE HOCKEY

Nico Hischier, Nitita Gusev, Kyle Palmieri and Jesper Bratt tallied for New Jersey, and Blackwood made 32 saves.

Rangers 5, Hurricanes 3

In New York, Mika Zibanejad had two goals and an assist, Henrik Lundqvist stopped 39 shots, and New York beat Carolina.

Artemi Panarin had a goal and two assists, Chris Kreider had a goal and an assist, and Ryan Strome also scored to help New York get its second win in six games (2-3-1). Tony DeAngelo and Jacob Trouba each had two assists.

Lundqvist improved to 3-0-0 against the Hurricanes this season while stopping 125 of 132 shots in the wins.

Lucas Wallmark had a goal and an assist, Brett Pesce and Sebastian Aho also scored, and Teuvo Terrainen had two assists for the Hurricanes. James Reimer finished with 19 saves for Carolina, which has lost three straight after a 6-0-1 stretch.

Capitals 2, Blue Jackets 1, OT

in Washington, Carl Hagelin scored his first goal of the season, T.J. Oshie scored in overtime and Washington snapped Columbus' winning streak at five.

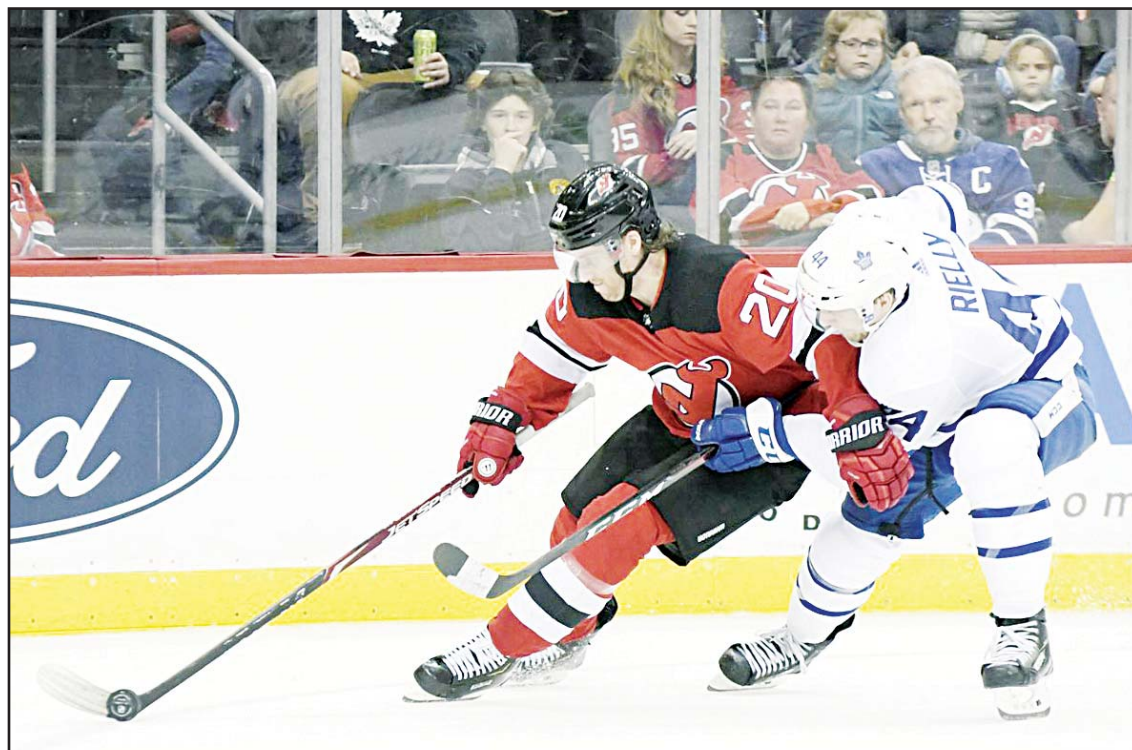
Hagelin's tying goal in the third helped Washington remain the only team in the NHL without back-to-back regulation losses this season. Oshie scored the winner on the power play 3:13 into overtime to give the Capitals their first victory against Columbus in three tries this month.

Rookie goaltender Ilya Samsonov made 27 saves to win his first career start against Columbus. He was solid all night and couldn't do much on the lone Blue Jackets goal by rookie Jakob Lilja.

Columbus extended its point streak to nine games. It's 6-0-3 in that span. Joonas Korpisalo was excellent in net for the Blue Jackets, stopping 34 of the 36 shots he faced.

Bruins 3, Sabres 0

In Buffalo, New York, Patrice Bergeron scored two goals for the third consecutive game, and Boston



New Jersey Devils center Blake Coleman (20) controls the puck as he is checked by Toronto Maple Leafs defenseman Morgan Rielly (44) during the second period of an NHL hockey game on Dec 27, in Newark, New Jersey. (AP)

beat Buffalo. Bergeron became the fifth player in Bruins history to score two goals in at least three games and the first Bruin since Cam Neely in 1988-89 to accomplish the feat.

Brandon Carlo also scored and Jaroslav Halak made 26 saves for Boston. It was Halak's third shutout of the season.

Linus Ullmark made 22 saves for Buffalo, which has lost five of its last six games.

Blues 5, Jets 4, OT

In Winnipeg, Manitoba, David Perron scored 3:14 into overtime and St. Louis extended its winning streak to seven games.

Perron scored his 16th goal of the season and added an assist. Tyler Bozak scored twice, Alex Pietrangolo had a goal and assist and Justin Faulk also scored for the Blues (25-8-6). Jaden Schwartz contributed three assists and Brayden Schenn added a pair. Jordan Binnington stopped 25 shots for St. Louis.

Kyle Connor scored twice and Gabriel Bourque and Blake Wheeler added goals for the Jets (21-14-3). Patrik Laine collected a pair of assists. Connor Hellebuyck made 30 saves for Winnipeg, which has lost four of five (1-3-1).

Wild 6, Avalanche 4

In Denver, Mats Zuccarello and Victor Rask scored in a 1:17 span in the third period and Minnesota rallied Colorado.

Devan Dubnyk made 14 of his 40 saves in the third period for the Wild, who have taken two of the three games against Colorado.

Eric Staal, Carson Soucy, Ryan Suter and Brad Hunt also scored for Minnesota.

Matt Calvert had two goals, and Nathan MacKinnon and Gabriel Landeskog also scored for Colorado. Pavel Francouz had 27 saves for the Avalanche, who have lost their last three home games despite holding a third-period lead in each.

Penguins 5, Predators 2

In Nashville, Tennessee, Alex Gal-

chenyuk scored his third goal of the season. Tristan Jarry made 30 saves and Pittsburgh beat banged up Nashville.

Dominik Simon, Teddy Blueger, Bryan Rust and Juuso Riihola also scored for the Penguins, who have won five of six.

Nashville goalie Pekka Rinne was pulled after allowing three goals on six shots. Juuse Saros stopped 17 of 19 shots in relief.

Craig Smith and Viktor Arvidsson scored for the Predators, who ended a five-game points streak.

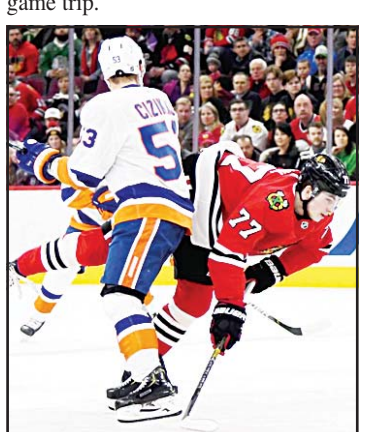
Blackhawks 5, Islanders 2

In Chicago, Robin Lehner made 38 saves against his former team, Dennis Gilbert scored his first career goal and Chicago beat the Islanders.

Jonathan Toews, Alex DeBrincat and Dominik Kubalik also scored for banged-up Chicago.

Matthew Highmore was credited with his first goal of the season when his third-period centering pass went off Islanders defenseman Ryan Pulock and into the net.

New York lost for the fourth time in five games in the opener of a three-game trip.



New York Islanders center Casey Cizikas (53) and Chicago Blackhawks center Kirby Dach (77) collide during the first period of an NHL hockey game on Dec 27, in Chicago. (AP)

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NHL Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, Dec 28, (AP): Results and standings from the NHL games on Friday.

Eastern Conference		Western Conference													
Atlantic Division		Central Division													
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Boston	39	23	7	9	55	133	100	St Louis	39	25	8	6	56	123	103
Toronto	39	21	14	4	46	138	126	Colorado	38	23	12	3	49	138	109
Montreal	37	18	13	6	42	121	117	Winnipeg	38	21	14	3	45	117	112
Florida	36	18	13	5	41	127	121	Dallas	38	20	14	4	44	100	97
Buffalo	39	17	15	7	41	115	122	Minnesota	39	19	15	5	43	124	130
Tampa Bay	35	18	13	4	40	124	111	Nashville	37	18	13	6	42	128	121
Ottawa	38	16	18	4	36	106	123	Chicago	39	16	17	6	38	110	127
Detroit	38	9	26	3	21	82	150	Pacific Division							
Metropolitan Division		GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Washington	39	27	7	5	59	139	112	Arizona	39	21	14	4	46	112	99
NY Islanders	36	23	10	3	49	107	96	Vegas	41	20	15	6	46	125	122
Pittsburgh	37	22	11	4	48	125	98	Calgary	40	20	15	5	45	109	117
Philadelphia	37	21	11	5	47	121	106	Edmonton	41	20	17	4	44	118	129
Carolina	38	22	14	2	46	127	107	Vancouver	38	19	15	4	42	124	115
Columbus	38	17	14	7	41	99	108	Anaheim	38	16	18	4	36	100	117
NY Rangers	37	18	14	5	40	119	121	Los Angeles	40	16	20	4	36	102	126
New Jersey	37	12	19	6	30	95	133	San Jose	39	16	20	3	35	103	136

Note: Overtime losses (OTL) are worth one point in the standings and are not included in the loss column (L)