

NHL

# Panthers shut out Maple Leafs 2-0 to even series

**By The Associated Press**

SUNRISE, Fla. — Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 23 shots for his fifth career playoff shutout, Carter Verhaeghe and Sam Bennett scored and the Florida Panthers beat the Toronto Maple Leafs 2-0 on Sunday night in Game 4 to even the Eastern Conference semifinal series.

Verhaeghe scored on a power play in the first period, Bennett added the insurance score with 7:50 left and Bobrovsky did the rest. He's the first goalie with two shutouts this year in the playoffs.

Joseph Woll stopped 35 shots for the Maple Leafs, who took a 2-0 series lead with a pair of home wins and now return there for Game 5 on Wednesday night with the series tied.

Verhaeghe's goal came on Florida's fourth power play of the first period. Matthew Tkachuk, along the left-wing boards, threaded a pass through the slot and past



Florida goaltender Sergei Bobrovsky (left) catches the puck in front of Toronto center Auston Matthews during Sunday's game in Sunrise, Florida.

two defenders onto the waiting stick of Verhaeghe — who slammed a one-timer past Woll.

It was part of a spree of shots early for Florida. The Panthers took 21 of the game's first 26 shots on net, simply controlling play for long stretches and keeping all the action in front of Woll. He held firm, time and again, keeping

Toronto in it.

**Stars 5, Jets 2**

DALLAS — Mikko Rantanen had a goal and two assists, including on the tiebreaking goal by Alexander Petrovic that was finally confirmed after a lengthy review as Dallas beat Winnipeg to take lead in the second-round Western Conference series.

Officials reviewed Petrovic's goal for well over five minutes and while determining there was a kicking motion, the goal was good after the puck went off goalie Connor Hellebuyck's stick and into the net with 16:09 left. That all came off the rebound of the initial a shot by Rantanen, who 49 seconds after play resumed scored his ninth goal of the playoffs — all coming in the last six games.

Game 4 is Tuesday night in Dallas.

Roope Hintz had a goal and an assist for the Stars, and Wyatt

Johnston added a late goal. Sam Steel and Mikael Granlund each had two assists.

Rantanen, who has 18 points this postseason, had the primary assist on a power-play goal by Hintz only 2:27 in for a 1-0 lead. When Dallas scored again late in the first period for a 2-1 lead, Rantanen was on the ice for defenseman Thomas Harley's goal, but the assists went to Granlund and Steel.

That ended Rantanen's NHL playoffs-record streak of consecutive goals involved in at 13 in a row for the Stars since Game 5 of their first-round series against Colorado.

Stars goalie Jake Oettinger stopped 23 shots. Hellebuyck, the odds-on favorite to win his third Vezina Trophy as the league's best goalie, and also among three finalists for the Hart Trophy that goes to the MVP of the NHL regular season, dropped to 0-4 in road games this postseason after giving up the five goals on 26 shots.

GOLF

# Straka outduels Lowry to win Truist Championship

**By BOB LENTZ**  
*The Associated Press*

FLOURTOWN, Pa. — Sepp Straka knew early on that precision at Philadelphia Cricket Club was the key to the Truist Championship.

Now, the Austrian and the oldest country club in the United States are linked forever.

Straka seized the lead with a par on the 16th hole and shot a 2-under 68, outdueling Shane Lowry on Sunday for his second victory of the season.

"It's huge, the biggest win of my career," Straka said of his fourth PGA Tour title.

After Lowry missed the green with his tee shot at the 212-yard, par-3 16th, Straka hit to approximately 30 feet. Lowry chipped out of the heavy rough but failed to convert a 6-foot par putt, falling a shot behind.

Lowry missed a potential tying 22-footer for birdie at the par-4 17th and after driving into trouble at the stout 514-yard, par-4 closing hole, he finished with a three-putt bogey.

A back-nine duel had an anticlimactic ending. Straka made a no-pressure, two-putt par at 18 and joined Rory McIlroy (three victories) as a multiple winner this season. The Austrian who played



Sepp Straka poses with the trophy after winning Sunday's Truist Championship at the Philadelphia Cricket Club in Flourtown, Pennsylvania.

college golf at Georgia also won The American Express in January.

"It's not the best ball-striking week I've had," Straka said. "Off the tee the first two days, I hit it terrible."

The difference, he said, was putting. He made more than 110 feet of putts in the final round.

"The putter was just excellent this week. ... Made a lot of mid-range putts, and that's something you have to do when you want to win a golf tournament."

Straka moved to No. 2 in the FedEx standings, gets \$3.6 million of the \$20 million purse in the PGA Tour's sixth signature event of the season and takes home the winner's cricket bat trophy, a nod to the group of students and cricketers from Penn who founded Philly Cricket in 1854.

He's poised to move into the top 10 in the world ranking and all but certain to make his second European Ryder Cup team.

Straka credited his consistency and work ethic for rise in the rankings.

The Truist was another miss for Lowry, whose last PGA Tour victory was the 2019 British Open. He won the European tour's BMW PGA Championship in 2022.

Lowry's even-par 70 left

Wissahickon Course for the first time since the opening round. After a rainy and chilly second round and a blustery third, Thomas, who was trying to win consecutive starts after taking the RBC Heritage last month, was the only real pursuer in the sixth signature event of the PGA Tour season.

Ultimately, it came down to the third-round leaders.

Straka built a two-stroke lead after the first nine holes. Lowry broke their tie with a 12-foot birdie putt at the first to get to 15 under.

Both took advantage at the par-5 fifth. Lowry made birdie to get to 16 under and Straka trumped his playing partner with a 20-foot eagle putt to forge another tie.

After Lowry settled for a par at the eighth, Straka drained a 15-foot birdie putt to go one stroke up and followed with a 28-footer at No. 9 to reach 17 under.

Straka's lead was gone after two holes on the back nine after consecutive bogeys.

After neither capitalized on the 95-yard 14th, the shortest par 3 on tour — excluding majors — in the Shotlink era dating to 1983, Lowry nearly chipped in for eagle at the par-5 15th and settled for birdie. Straka matched that with a birdie from 6 feet and

moved in front to stay at the next hole.

Thomas nearly caught the leaders twice. He missed potential tying birdie putts from 14 feet on the 12th and from 3 feet on the 15th.

"It was a good day," said Thomas, who returns next week to the site of his first of two PGA Championship wins. "Obviously, I gave myself a chance. Starting three back to have a putt on 15 to tie for the lead, I definitely would have taken that at the start of the day."

"I fought hard, played well, and gave myself a chance, which is what I wanted."

Sahith Theegala withdrew before the start of the final round, citing a neck injury.

The pros spoke fondly Wissahickon course in the tour's return to golf-starved Philadelphia. The century-old course boasted large crowds throughout the week, resulting in the event's fan shop selling out of merchandise on Saturday and being shuttered for the final round.

"You always hear about Philly sports fans, and it really is true," Straka said. "I rooted for the Eagles a little bit last year because my Bulldogs had a lot of guys on defense there. Every time I heard a 'Go Birds,' it was kind of fun to hear that."

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