

NBA

Knicks rally to beat Pacers 106-100

By MICHAEL MAROT
AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — With the New York Knicks teetering on the brink of a third consecutive playoff loss and Jalen Brunson stuck on the bench with five fouls after three quarters, Karl-Anthony Towns took matters into his own hands.

The Knicks needed everything he could muster — even on a sore knee.

Towns scored 20 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter as New York erased yet another 20-point deficit, and Brunson helped close out the 106-100 victory Sunday night to take Game 3 of the Eastern Conference finals — making it three straight wins for the road team.

“It’s a true test when you’re down 20-plus,” Towns said. “Tonight was the kind of night where he had to have that never-say-die attitude.”

New York still trails in the series 2-1 with Game 4 set for Tuesday night in Indianapolis.

But with the Knicks trailing by 16 midway through



JEFF ROBERSON / AP

New York Knicks center Karl-Anthony Towns reacts after scoring against the Indiana Pacers during Game 3 of the Eastern Conference finals of the NBA playoffs Sunday in Indianapolis.

the third quarter and still down 10 entering the fourth, the dreaded 3-0 deficit looked like a real possibility — until Towns asserted himself by driving to the basket and muscling his way into position for more scores. He opened the fourth with a 3-pointer before making two layups to get New York within 82-79.

Brunson’s layup with 7:10 to play finally gave New York an 89-88 lead and New York trailed only two more

times the rest of the night. The Knicks never led by more than four until the final free throws with 2.6 seconds left. Brunson finished with 23 points despite spending most of the night in foul trouble.

“They put me in great spots to succeed, and I just wanted to capitalize on the opportunity,” Towns said after also grabbing 15 rebounds. “All of us are just trying to do whatever it takes to win, get ourselves back in the game.

We wanted to put ourselves in a position to where at the end of the game we found ourselves with a chance of winning.”

Tyrese Haliburton led the Pacers with 20 points and six assists. Myles Turner added 19 points as Indiana dropped to 0-4 all-time when playing on the same day the Indianapolis 500 was run. Two of those losses came to the Knicks.

Team officials handed out gold-and-blue T-shirts with the words “Vroom Baby” to celebrate the rare Pacers and racers doubleheader, and the winner Spain’s Alex Palou. made the short trek across town where he received during the second quarter — as Indiana started pulling away to a 55-35 lead late in the first half. Six players from Indiana’s 2000 Eastern Conference champs, including Hall of Famer Reggie Miller, also were inside Gainbridge Fieldhouse.

But after rallying twice from fourth-quarter deficits to take the first two games in New York, Indiana failed to seal this one.

GOLF

Griffin hangs on to claim 1-shot win at Colonial

By SCHUYLER DIXON
AP Sports Writer

FORT WORTH, Texas — Ben Griffin figured it wouldn’t be easy even after immediately breaking his tie with co-leader Matti Schmid and leading by five shots just five holes into the final round at Colonial.

Schmid kept it interesting all the way to the end.

Griffin earned his first individual PGA Tour victory a month after winning a team event, shooting 1-over 71 to finish at 12-under 268 in the Charles Schwab Challenge, one shot ahead of Schmid as both struggled on a warm day with wind gusts around 30 mph at Hogan’s Alley.

Schmid forced Griffin to make a 4-foot par putt on the 72nd hole after his chip from the deep rough behind the green went in for birdie. Griffin saved par from the rough, standing in a bunker while choking way down on the club with the ball well above his feet on his chip. Schmid shot 72.

“First of all, it was like whack-a-mole hitting that third shot,” Griffin said. “In my head, I was thinking Matti might probably make that. Fortunately, I had that 4-footer. I felt pretty good over it. Just left edge and trust it.”

Griffin and Schmid, the 27-year-old German seeking his first tour win in his 79th start, had matching scores each of the first three days.

Schmid was the one who surged in front early in the third round, taking a three-shot lead. Griffin had a five-shot edge after just five holes in the final round, and finally let Schmid get within a stroke with a two-shot swing at 16 before getting the lead back to two with a hole to play.

Scottie Scheffler, the world No. 1 and hometown favorite who won the PGA Championship last week, couldn’t match his Saturday surge from 10 shots back. The three-time major winner began the day six shots back, but had just two birdies and a bogey in a 69 to finish 8 under.

Scheffler fell short of becoming the first to win three consecutive starts since Dustin Johnson eight years ago, and just missed a fourth consecutive year of finishing in the top three at Colonial. He tied for fourth, one shot behind Bud Cauley, who shot 67.

“Overall it was a really challenging day,” Scheffler said. “I think Friday probably hurt me in terms of winning this tournament, but overall three of the four days I played what I felt was pretty solid.”

Rickie Fowler never threatened the co-leaders, either, starting slowly and ending his fading hopes with a 7 on the par-5 11th. Fowler, who entered ranked 127th after being in the top 25 as recently as early 2024, shot 74.

The 29-year-old Griffin teamed with Andrew Novak, who finished 6 under at Colonial, for the victory at the Zurich Classic in New Orleans last month. They left openings for others then, just as Griffin did Sunday.

Griffin and Schmid took a four-shot lead into the final round, and stayed 1-2 despite both finishing over par for the day.

NHL

Oilers rout Stars 6-1 to grab series lead

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP) — Zach Hyman had two goals and an assist, Connor McDavid added two goals and the Edmonton Oilers defeated the Dallas Stars 6-1 on Sunday, taking a 2-1 lead in their Western Conference final series.

Evan Bouchard, with a goal and an assist, and John Klingberg also scored for the Oilers, with Ryan Nugent-Hopkins added three assists. Nugent-Hopkins has multipoint efforts in every game of the series, becoming the only Oiler in franchise history other than Wayne Gretzky with more than one point in the first three games of a conference final.

“You have to have dominant nights, you have to have nights where maybe

your goalie is better than theirs,” McDavid said. “You have to find ways to win different games different ways and we did again tonight.”

Stuart Skinner was impressive once again in the Edmonton net, making 33 saves to improve to 4-4 in postseason play, his first victory in the playoffs that wasn’t a shutout.

“For him, to be able to battle back the way he has is just really impressive,” said Hyman. “I think a lot of people were counting him out and he came in and has been phenomenal and a big reason we’re up 2-1.”

Skinner struggled to start the post-season and was replaced by backup Calvin Pickard, only to be brought back in when Pickard was injured. He

is pleased with how he has tackled the many challenges.

“I’m proud of myself for going through everything I’ve had to go through personally,” said Skinner, who has only allowed one goal in his last two outings. “It takes a lot of courage to keep on getting up. Especially as a goaltender. If you talk to any goalie, that’s just the game. You get hit down so many times and you’ve got to keep on getting up.”

The Oilers have won two straight since their third-period collapse in Game 1 in Dallas.

Jason Robertson scored for the Stars, who are hoping to avoid being knocked out in the third round by the Oilers for a second consecutive season.

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Snelsire pitches Hot Rods past Drive for 5-0 home win

By the Daily News

Hayden Snelsire pitched six scoreless innings in the Bowling Green Hot Rods’ weather shortened 5-0 win over the Greenville Drive on Sunday at Bowling Green Ballpark.

Bowling Green (24-21) jumped out to an early lead in the bottom of the first inning against Drive starter

Juan Valera. Adrian Santana roped a ground-rule double and came around to score on an Emilien Pitre single, giving the Hot Rods the lead, 1-0.

The Hot Rods extended their lead against Greenville (20-25) in the bottom of the fourth while still facing Valera. Raudelis Martinez reached on a fielding error and Santana singled, and a balk by

Valera moved runners to second and third. Aidan Smith grounded out, scoring Martinez from third and Pitre singled, scoring Santana, pushing the lead, 3-0.

In the bottom of the fifth, Bowling Green plated two more runs against Greenville reliever Matt McShane. Santana singled and stole second, putting a runner in scoring position. Smith cranked

a double to left, scoring Santana from second. Smith stole second and crossed home on a sacrifice fly by Pitre, making it a 5-0 Hot Rods lead.

Rain forced the tarp on the field, shortening the game in the bottom of the eighth and finalizing the game, 5-0.

Snelsire (2-0) earned the victory after spinning six scoreless

innings, allowing two hits, one walk and striking out two batters. Valera (1-2) received the loss after tossing 3 1/3 innings, surrendering four hits, two runs, walking one and fanning five.

Bowling Green has the day off Monday before traveling to Greensboro to face the Grasshoppers in a six-game series starting on Tuesday at 5 p.m. CT.

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