

Daily

Sports

DB's Weekly Take: The infamous history of the 3-1 lead

by Danny Barletta

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The Denver Nuggets are on the brink of history. After coming back from being down 3-1 in their first-round series against the Utah Jazz, the Nuggets found themselves down 3-1 again, this time to the heavily-favored Los Angeles Clippers. But Denver responded with huge wins in Games 5 and 6 to extend their season and force a Game 7, becoming the first team in NBA history to force a Game 7 twice in the same postseason after being down 3-1.

With a win on Tuesday night, the Nuggets would become not only the first NBA team to erase two 3-1 series deficits in the same postseason, but just the third team in major North American sports history to do so. The 1985 Kansas City Royals were down 3-1 in the ALCS to the Toronto Blue Jays when they won three straight games to advance to the World Series. Then in the World Series against the St. Louis Cardinals, the Royals went down 3-1 again only to come back and win the series in seven games for their first title in franchise history.

The 2003 Minnesota Wild accomplished the feat as well, recovering from a 3-1 deficit in the first round of the playoffs against the Colorado Avalanche to move on to the conference semifinals against the Vancouver Canucks. In that series, the Wild went down 3-1 again before coming back to win the series for a most unlikely appearance in the conference finals.

That is exactly what the Nuggets are looking to do on Tuesday night at 9 p.m.: Become one of the most unlikely Final Four teams in NBA history by overcoming



Denver Nuggets' Nikola Jokic (15) celebrates after a basket during the second half of an NBA conference semifinal playoff basketball game against the Los Angeles Clippers, Friday, Sept. 11, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. PHOTO BY MARK J. TERRILL/AP

back-to-back 3-1 series deficits.

This begs the question: How rare is overcoming a 3-1 series deficit? We already know it's almost unheard of for a team to do it twice in the same season, but in the grand scheme of NBA history, it has been done 12 times, including the Nuggets' triumph against the Jazz this year. It has also happened 13 times in MLB history and 29 times in NHL history for a grand total of 54 blown 3-1 leads in North American sports history.

That may seem like a lot when you compare it to the number of blown 3-0 series leads, which is

only five; four in the NHL and one (shoutout to the 2004 Boston Red Sox) in the MLB. It has never been done in the NBA.

But, when you look at the fact that there have been 256 instances in NBA history where a team had a 3-1 series lead and only 12 times, the team lost, it's clear how rare of a feat it is. That means when an NBA team is up 3-1 in a series, based on historical data, they have a 95.3% chance of winning the series. But don't tell that to Jamaal Murray, Nikola Jokic and the rest of this year's Nuggets team because they are looking to add to the 4.7% of cases where

the 3-1 deficit was overcome.

Breaking it down even further, when a team has been up 3-1 in a series, in about 60% of the cases, the team ended the series in five games. In another 27% of cases, the series was over in six games, meaning that only 33 out of 256 teams that have been down 3-1 in NBA history, or 12.9%, have even forced a Game 7. For those who have, 12 out of the 33, or 36.4%, have completed the comeback.

This means the Nuggets have already done the hardest part by forcing a Game 7, and even though history still isn't on their side, the 36% chance of winning

the series now compared to the 5% chance just a few days ago puts Denver in a much better position than one might think.

Don't get me wrong, the Clippers should win this game. They will be favored to win the game, and history shows that they are over 63% likely to win it. But the fact that it comes down to a Game 7, where we know anything can happen, should make the Clippers and their fans a little nervous.

All the pressure in this game is on the Clippers. The Nuggets have nothing to lose as the underdog, but the Clippers, who turned themselves into title favorites with the acquisitions of Kawhi Leonard and Paul George, will never hear the end of it if they blow this series. Adding to the pressure, the Clippers have never advanced past the conference semifinals in franchise history. They have lost in this exact series seven different times, three in the 1970s as the Buffalo Braves and four times in the last 15 years.

In fact, in the 2015 Western Conference semifinals, the Clippers blew a 3-1 lead to the Houston Rockets. Blowing another one in the conference semifinals this season to the Nuggets would only add to the legend of the Cursed Clippers.

So Tuesday night's game is a big one with some truly historic implications. If the Nuggets can make history with a second 3-1 comeback in a row, they will give new meaning to the term "Cinderella team." And as for the Clippers, it's pretty hard to live down blowing a 3-1 series lead, especially when you're considered the superior team. Just ask the 2016 Golden State Warriors.

NFL risers and fallers Week 1

by Jorge Eckardt

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With Week 1 of the NFL in the books, I think it's safe to say it is not going how many people expected. I mean, the Bears actually won with Mitch Trubisky at quarterback. He's won more games so far than Deshaun Watson this season, so I think the pick is justified.

All in all though, which two teams or players had the biggest increase to their stock this week, and which ones took the biggest hit?

Welcome to NFL ris-

ers and fallers, Week 1.

Riser: Arizona Cardinals

The Cards pulled off one of the biggest upsets of Week 1, knocking off the defending NFC Champion, San Francisco 49ers, 24-20. Major offseason acquisition DeAndre Hopkins made his impact felt throughout the entire game, racking up 14 receptions, a career-high, for 151 yards. He didn't reach the endzone, but it was by no fault of his own as he accounted for almost 50% of the team's scrimmage yards by people not named Kyler Murray. The touchdowns just went to other hands. Speak-

ing of Kyler, the second-year quarterback had a very solid start to his season, throwing for 230 yards, one touchdown and one pick while also picking up 91 yards and a score on the ground. The defense played well enough, sacking Jimmy Garoppolo three times and limiting the offense to 366 yards on the game, which is right about middle of the pack in Week 1. I picked the Cardinals as a possible dark horse Super Bowl contender this season, and so far they've held up their end of the bargain.

See BUCCANEERS, p. 11



Arizona Cardinals wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins (10) runs against the San Francisco 49ers during the second half of an NFL football game in Santa Clara, Calif., Sunday, Sept. 13, 2020. PHOTO BY JOSIE LEPE, AP

LIGHTNING DEFEAT ISLANDERS IN GAME 4, BRINGING SERIES TO 3-1

by Tim Keaten

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ning defense to slide the puck to Nelson, who was waiting just in front of the net. Nelson was forced to the back of the zone as Tampa fought for the puck back, but was able to dump the puck into the top right corner of the net, right above Andrei Vasilevskiy's glove while wheeling around the Islanders center.

Tampa Bay did not wait long to return the favor though. The Lightning turned about and scored two goals in 12 seconds, just 15 seconds after New York scored their first and only goal of the game. The first goal came from Blake Coleman, who took an across-the-ice pass from Yanni Gourde. After the Islanders won a center ice faceoff, the puck ended up behind Tampa's net and was retrieved by Vasilevskiy who passed it to Gourde.

Gourde then shot the puck straight at the New York goal, and it was picked up by Coleman some 10 feet away from the net. Despite taking a poke check from Semyon Varlamov, Coleman was able to deke the puck to the right and backhand it right into the net. The entire play, from pass to goal, took a little more than six seconds. The second goal of the period for Tampa Bay was another across-the-ice rally toward the goal.

The New York Islanders were actually the first to open up the scoreboard on Sunday with a very clean play from Josh Bailey, Anthony Beauvillier and Brock Nelson. Unsurprisingly, the offensive line that ran Friday night's game came into this one wanting to perform that way again. With 8:38 left in the second period, Beauvillier was able to get hold of the puck behind Tampa's net despite having two Tampa Bay defenders on top of him. He and Bailey were able to fight through the Light-

See LIGHTNING, p. 11

WHAT TO KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEK

Games we're watching this week



Clippers



Nuggets

Teams we're paying attention to



Owners we're paying attention to

Steve Cohen

INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



@uconnhuskies
Can't celebrate #NationalFieldHockeyDay without these champs! #BleedBlue

TWEETS OF THE DAY



Ryan Cordell Stan Squad

@whutyearisit

fuck all billionaires except steve cohen. he gets a pass

(not) Luis Rojas

@MetsFakeSkipper

IT'S OFFICIAL. STEVE COHEN IS OUR NEW SUGAR DADDY! #LGM

Jeff McNeil Stan Acct.

@ShonoopyB

Three Words: Big. Daddy. Cohen.

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MLB: Alec Mills tosses electric no-hitter, second for Windy City in 2020

by Cole Stefan
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Unless you are a Chicago Cubs fan, you might not have heard of Alec Mills, a 28-year-old right-handed pitcher from the University of Tennessee-Martin. On Sunday, Mills pitched a stellar no-hitter, the 16th in Cubs history, that led the Cubs to a 12-0 victory over the Milwaukee Brewers. Mills struck out five batters, the fewest since Henderson Alvarez's no-hitter in 2013, three walks and 114 pitches. In this classic performance, he made his ninth start of the season, picked up his fifth win of the year and dropped his ERA to 3.93.

For this special no-hitter, the first for the Cubs since Jake Arrieta's second in 2016, Mills was able to get enough run support as the Cubs plated five runs in the fourth, four in the fifth, one in the seventh and two more in the ninth to cushion the lead. Five of the runs scored were unearned due to a throwing error by Eric Sogard. The closest the Brewers ever got in terms of mounting offense was a Jedd Gyorko fly ball to deep center and an Avasail Garcia groundout that was fielded just in the nick of time.

While on the mound, Mills changed his schematics in an attempt to confuse the Milwaukee offense, transferring from a 90 mph fastball to a 66 mph curveball, a pitch he used once out of every five times during the game, or around 23 of his 114 pitches. "I thought the slow curveball was a really good pitch for him," Brewers manager Craig Counsell said of Mills' performance. "He threw good strikes with that pitch. He mixed in his fastball enough and had enough movement on it that he kept us off the barrel for the most part."

After the game, Mills commented, "I'm just proud to be the person that can tell you to never give up, ... never stop playing. Never let people tell you what you can and can't do and just keep persevering."

Mills' career as a baseball player has not been a smooth road to the show. Unrecruited out of

high school, Alec Mills walked on at the University of Tennessee-Martin, starting as a reliever before becoming the ace of the team. After a few years of college baseball, Mills was drafted in the 22nd round by the Royals in 2012 and traded to the Cubs in 2017. He then spent the 2018 and 2019 seasons switching between the minors and majors before

spending his first full season in the majors in 2020.

Pitchers that throw no-hitters sometimes have incredible backstories, and Lucas Giolito is no-different. Giolito, who also threw a no-hitter in 2020, had the league's worst ERA in 2018 before rebounding excellently in 2019 to become the team's ace.

Speaking of Giolito, in his no-hitter for the White Sox against the Pirates — just the 19th in franchise history — he struck out 13 batters and walked just one on 101 pitches. His no-hitter is even more significant because it is the first time in baseball history each team in Chicago has thrown a no-hitter in the same season.

What is even crazier about this no-hitter is the fact that it was not only the second one thrown at Miller Park by the Cubs, but the first one involving the Brewers. When Carlos Zambrano pitched his no-hitter on September 14, 2008, almost 12 years to the day of Mills' no-no, he shut down the Houston Astros offense in a

game relocated up north due to the disastrous Hurricane Ike.

Back to the present, the Cubs improved to 28-20 and increased their lead in the NL Central to 3.5 games (they have since increased to 4.0 with the Cardinals' 10-5 loss to the Reds Sunday). The Cubs, who currently hold the No. 3 seed in the NL, will look to improve their seeding with a crucial two-game series at home against the third place Cleveland Indians on Tuesday and Wednesday. Yu Darvish will go against Carlos Carrasco on Tuesday while Jon Lester will contest with Aaron Civale on Wednesday.

When all is said and done, the members of the Chicago Cubs will be able to remember their emotions when Javier Baez threw the ball to Anthony Rizzo and concluded Mills' best game of his remarkable journey. As David Ross puts best, "He was in control the whole day....And when you get to make history, that's a special, special day. And a special day for us and a special day for Alec Mills. That was fun to be a part of and fun to watch." The W flew very high on Sunday as Mills joined the no-hitter club with no-hitter number 305.



Brady struggles in Bucs debut, Minshew Mania returns

BUCCANEERS, cont. from p. 12

Faller: Tampa Bay Buccaneers

There was probably not one team in the NFL that had more hype surrounding them this season than the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. That's to be expected when you bring in a future Hall-of-Fame quarterback and his maybe Hall-of-Fame buddy tight end, but I always thought it was way too overblown. There was too much of an abbreviated offseason, there were

too many new faces and just too much team chemistry to form in such a small amount of time. Teams didn't even get preseason games to work the kinks out. Oh, and did I mention Tom Brady is 43 years old? Well on Sunday, he looked it, falling to the New Orleans Saints 34-23. He only threw for 239 yards and two touchdowns, which is acceptable when you're not turning the ball over, but he threw two really bad interceptions. Not only that, but a lot of his positive offensive statistics

came in garbage time when it didn't really matter. The defense also looked like swiss cheese, as Drew Brees (who is 41 years old by the way) and Taysom Hill were able to carve them up however they pleased. All in all, it was just a very negative day for Tampa. Yes, they did play a very good team in the Saints, but for a team that some people were unironically picking to win the Super Bowl, they didn't even compete.

Riser: Gardner Minshew II

Minshew Mania is back! Seriously though, the Jaguars might not be as horrible as everyone thought. Personally, I think they're still very, very bad and Sunday was more of a product of the Colts just being worse. However, the one player who definitely needs some credit is Minshew. He went 19/20 passing (!!) for 173 yards and three scores. Sure, the yardage isn't anything special, but when you're getting the job done as efficiently as he was, it doesn't really matter how many yards you

throw for. Maybe the Jaguars won't go after Trevor Lawrence after all. Maybe Minshew is the guy. He has an entire season to prove he is, and he got off to the right start.

Faller: Carson Wentz

Speaking of potential teams that might be entering the Trevor Lawrence sweepstakes, the Eagles might want to move on from Carson Wentz if he keeps playing like he did on Sunday. While I used that as more of a transition, seeing as the Eagles are stuck with his absurd contract and likely won't go after a new QB, it doesn't change how terribly he played. The Eagles lost to the Washington Football Team. By two scores. Wentz threw two stupid interceptions and lost a fumble, letting Washington claw back into a game they once trailed 17-0. Yup, Wentz just stopped scoring after the Eagles' second touchdown of the game, about two thirds of the way through the second quarter. Sure the defense also let up 27 points, but Wentz can't let those be unanswered. He's getting paid like a franchise quarterback, it's time he plays like one.



Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady (12) reacts after an NFL football game against the New Orleans Saints in New Orleans, Sunday, Sept. 13, 2020. The Saints won 34-23. PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE/AP

Lightning knock Isles down to last life



Tampa Bay Lightning players celebrate their victory over the New York Islanders following NHL Eastern Conference final playoff game action in Edmonton, Alberta, Sunday, Sept. 13, 2020. PHOTO BY JASON FRANSON, THE CANADIAN PRESS VIA AP

LIGHTNING, cont. from p. 12

Nikita Kucherov took the puck at Tampa Bay's blue line and carried through center ice toward the New York goal. Screened by three Islanders, he passed the puck to linemate Brayden Point who was hugging the wall, and as they approached the goal, the puck was passed back. Once Kucherov reached the crease, and Varlamov's butterfly, he dumped the puck to Ondrej Palat, who was waiting on the other side of the net completely alone. Palat was able to shoot deep into the back of the net before Varlamov even had a chance to move to the left side of the goal.

The success of Tampa Bay's first offensive line and its ability to pass directly in front of the net made another goal that night

just 3:33 into the third period. Palat took a pass from Kucherov and was able to carry the puck directly in front of the crease before being screened by New York defenseman Ryan Pulock. Unable to get past Pulock and Varlamov, Palat found Point waiting inside the crease ready to score. Palat shot right into Point's stick, which got the puck right under Varlamov's skate, and Point was able to easily slide the puck into the net. This offensive line's ability to out-position Varlamov has been a massive point of failure for the New York Islanders.

The final goal of the night came with a little more than two minutes left in the period. Just like the last goal of the game on Friday night, this score came out of an empty net goal. The Islanders, desperate to bring about a tie and force overtime

play, pulled Varlamov off the ice for a sixth skater. Gourde was able to get hold of the puck in Tampa's zone and dumped the puck out. Patrick Maroon, who was covering two Islanders near the pack of the zone, saw what was happening, and as soon as Gourde made a move for the puck, bolted toward the Islanders' side of the ice. He was able to reach the puck in the right face-off circle and casually tapped the puck in with a backhand hit before he was hit by Islanders' defenseman Andy Greene.

Everything that I said the Islanders did right in Game 3, they did wrong on Sunday night. They are going to need to sit down and really, really think about what they are doing if they want to overcome Tampa Bay's two game lead in the Eastern Conference Finals.

gravel pit. The first impact hit Carlos Sainz's McLaren when Lance Stroll of Racing Point took a wide turn while he was extremely close to Sainz. This caused Stroll to clip his rear tire behind Sainz's front tire, and the Racing Point dragged the McLaren behind it. Unable to control the car, Sainz spun in place until the cars around him cleared out. Sebastian Vettel, just behind Sainz, had part of his front wing sheared off by the McLaren. The second crash of Turn 2 was much more dramatic, knocking two drivers out of the race. Coming out of Turn 1, Pierre Gasly of Scuderia AlphaTauri accelerated while Alfa Romeo's Kimi Raikkonen slowed down. This caused Gasly to become trapped between Raikkonen on his left and the Hass driven by Romain Grosjean on his right. Still accelerating, Gasly clipped into the chassis of the Alfa Romeo and bumped over its tire. Unable to control the car, the AlphaTauri slammed into the side of Grosjean and then the rear of Max Verstappen's Red Bull. Raikkonen also hit the back of Verstappen just a second after. Both Max Verstappen and Pierre Gasly were stranded in the gravel pits and had to DNF from the race. This was Verstappen's second straight DNF this season.

Just seconds after the safety car left the track and the light went green, signaling the restart of the race, there was a chaotic four car crash. The safety car was immediately called back so the field could be cleared. The race was im-

*"That was f***** stupid from whoever was at the front. Do they want to kill us or what? This was the worst thing I've seen, ever."*

ROMAIN GROSJEAN

F1 DRIVER

mediately red flagged so the drivers could climb out of the wreckage and walk back to their team paddocks to wait out the rest of the race. Haas driver Romain Grosjean, narrowly escaping the carnage, was heard screaming over team radio, "That was f***** stupid from whoever was at the front. Do they want to kill us or what? This was the worst thing I've seen, ever." All four drivers caught up in the accident walked away uninjured, but this does raise some questions about the safety of restarts going forward for the motorsport. Drivers like Carlos Sainz are urging FIA to take what happened and learn from it to avoid this disaster repeating itself.

Photo of the Day | Keep your foot on the ball



In this file photo, UConn Men's Soccer suffered a hard fought 2-3 defeat to Columbia. This was the first match that the Huskies played at Dillon Stadium, and senior Jordan Hall (No. 9) scored his eighth goal of the season. PHOTO BY KEVIN LINDSTROM, PHOTO EDITOR/THE DAILY CAMPUS

Le Classique brawl allegedly sparked by racist incident

by Sebastian Garay-Ortega
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Le Classique took an ugly turn Sunday night when Paris-Saint Germain superstar Neymar Jr. accused Olympique de Marseille defender Álvaro Gonzalez of directing a racist comment toward him. Moreover, a separate incident in the dying stages of the match saw a total of five players sent off in Marseille's 1-0 triumph at the Parc De Princes.

It is worth noting that Gonzalez's comment and the ensuing dispute allegedly occurred on the pitch. Therefore it is not only necessary, but crucial to give him the benefit of the doubt, in order to have a fair process and objective review of the incident.

The ordeal began in the late stages of the first half, when PSG winger Ángel Di María appeared to spit in Gonzalez's face while running past him, moments after a tackle had been committed on Di María.

Gonzalez then pleaded with the head and fourth official to review the supposed act committed by the Argentine international on Video Assistant Referee (VAR). Neymar went up to Gonzalez and questioned his claim, with this confrontation in the 35th minute being the alleged moment Gonzalez calls him a "monkey mother*****."

Neymar revealed on Twitter after the game that these were the exact words directed toward him.

Approximately 15 seconds later, Neymar ran to the fourth official and pleaded that a racist statement was directed at him by Gonzalez. He also attempted to discuss the incident with the head official, who paid little attention to the Brazilian while speaking to the linesman, attempting to figure



PSG's Neymar, second right, after a clash during the French League One soccer match between Paris Saint-Germain and Marseille at the Parc des Princes in Paris, France, Sunday, Sept. 13, 2020. PHOTO BY MICHEL EULER/AP

out whether or not Di María spit in the Spaniard's face.

Multiple times, Neymar is heard repeating the phrase, "Racism no!" to both officials and a Marseille assistant coach. He had to be separated from said coach after his story's validity was questioned.

The referee gave Di María the benefit of the doubt, letting the play continue despite Neymar continually expressing to the officials he was the victim of racial abuse. When confronted by Neymar, Gonzalez dismissed his claim, saying, "What racism?"

Tensions would ease be-

tween the two until the 94th minute. Gonzalez let the ball roll out of play for a goal kick and did not allow Neymar to get the ball and hurry play, as the Parisians were 1-0 down

with little time to spare. The Brazilian violently pushed the Spaniard to the ground, getting the ball and giving it to Mar-

seille keeper Steve Mandanda.

Gonzalez subsequently got up and grabbed his genitals in an obscene gesture directed at Neymar. As they walked back to their respective positions Neymar repeatedly told Gonzalez, "You are a racist."

Once again, Gonzalez staunchly denied it, asking Neymar what racism he was referring to.

The confrontation ended with Neymar walking up to Gonzalez and cupping his ear to tell him something before demeaningly patting him on the back of the head.

When confronted by Gonzalez, Neymar came up from behind and hit him in the back of the head, falling to the

ground and screaming for a red to be administered to Neymar.

Tension had also been brewing between substitutes Dario Benedetto of Marseille and Leandro Paredes of PSG, which ultimately came to a breaking point in the 95th minute when Benedetto vio-

lently hip-checked Paredes to the floor while attempting to win a header. Paredes got up and violently pushed Benedetto to the ground in return.

Defenders Layin Kurzawa of PSG and Jordan Amavi of Marseille threw punches and kicks in a fight that had to be separated by their respective teammates.

All in all, Neymar, Kurzawa and Paredes all saw reds for PSG, while Benedetto and Amavi saw reds for Marseille. When leaving the pitch, Neymar re-

peated "He is a racist," specifically in the direction of the fourth official and camera crew.

After the match, Neymar went to Twitter to say, "The only regret I have is that I didn't hit this a**hole in the face."

Neymar released a more thorough statement Monday afternoon, which said in part that racism and intolerance are unacceptable, and that "Pacifying this 'anti-racism' movement is our obligation so that the less privileged will naturally receive their defense."

He expressed the pride he has in his father's black side of the family, while also taking responsibility for reacting the way he did, saying,

"Now, yesterday, I lost in the game and I lacked wisdom."

Furthermore, he accepted his punishment, but urged the Ligue de Football Professionnel (LFP) to punish the alleged offender as well. "I accept my punishment because I should have followed the path of clean football. I hope, on the other hand, the offender will also be punished," wrote Neymar.

Gonzalez also took to Twitter after the match, posing with teammates of different ethnicities and races, pointing to his clean footballing record and inferring that the loss may have influenced Neymar's accusation.

"There is no place for racism. Clean record and with many colleagues and friends on a daily basis. Sometimes you have to learn to lose and take it on the field..."

The French football program Téléfoot reviewed the footage Sunday night and all day Monday, but were unable to find racial abuse from Gonzalez towards Neymar. Now, the footage has been handed over to the LFP, who will determine whether any disciplinary action will be taken.

Tim covers obscure sports leagues no one asked him to: Formula 1

by Tim Keaten
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It was quite the exciting race weekend in Tuscany as Formula 1 took to the Mugello Circuit for the Tuscan GP. This race is definitely the most interesting of the season so far, with crash after crash and nearly half the field not even finishing the race. Lewis Hamilton, to the surprise of absolutely no one, took first place. Sometimes you have to wonder if Mercedes' manager Toto Wolff punishes Hamilton if the British driver finishes anywhere but first place. Hamilton made a powerful statement with his podium finish, wearing a t-shirt over his racing suit saying, "ARREST THE COPS WHO KILLED BREONNA TAYLOR." Wearing political messages on the podium is expressly banned by Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile, Formula 1's governing body,

and if he is punished he will be fined. FIA has launched an official investigation against Hamilton for wearing the shirt.

This GP was a big deal for some drivers personally. With Alexander Albon's third-place finish at Tuscany, he earned his first personal podium and became the first Thai driver in Formula 1 history to earn a podium finish. Prince Birabongse Bhanudej Bhanubandh of the Thai royal family drove in Formula 1 during the 1950 through 1955 seasons, but never managed to finish higher than fourth place during an F1 Championship race. After the race and this morning, Albon's social media has been filled with F1 drivers and fans congratulating him on his big finish. Even rival Charles LeClerc of Scuderia Ferrari said over his driver radio "Very good. Happy for Alex though, first podium," along with sending out a tweet the morn-

ing after both congratulating and lightly joking with Albon.

The big talk of the Tuscan GP wasn't either of these finishes

"Very good. Happy for Alex though, first podium."

CHARLES LECLERC

F1 DRIVER

though. The race was plagued with accidents and disasters for almost half the drivers that took to the track that day.

The destruction on the Tuscan race weekend started on the first lap going out of the first corner. Coming out of Turn 1 into Turn 2, there were two separate accidents that took place, throwing several cars into the nearby



Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain waves after winning the Formula One Grand Prix of Tuscany, at the Mugello circuit in Scarperia, Italy, Sunday, Sept. 13, 2020. PHOTO BY JENNIFER LORENZINI, POOL VIA AP

See F1, p. 11

Lewis leads Mariners past Athletics in doubleheader opener

SEATTLE (AP) — Kyle Lewis sparked Seattle's rally with a two-run homer and walked with the bases loaded in the sixth inning, helping the Mariners top the Oakland Athletics 6-5 on Monday in the opener of a doubleheader.

The game was played with a haze of smoke hovering above the field at T-Mobile Park, even with the retractable roof of the stadium closed. Wildfires on the West Coast have suffocated much of the Pacific Northwest with unhealthy air conditions that brought into question whether the games would even be played.

Seattle trailed 5-0 after home runs by Sean Murphy and Marcus Semien off Marco Gonzales (6-2). But Seattle chipped away and scored twice in the sixth against Oakland's bullpen to move in front for good.

Yoshihisa Hirano pitched the seventh inning for his second save.

The win pulled Seattle within one game of idle Houston for second in the AL West.

Semien had four RBIs for division-leading Oakland. Joakim Soria (2-2) got the loss.



Seattle Mariners' Kyle Lewis pumps his fist after he was walked with the bases loaded in the sixth inning of the first seven-inning baseball game of a doubleheader against the Oakland Athletics, Monday, Sept. 14, 2020, in Seattle. PHOTO BY TED S. WARREN/AP

MARLINS 6. PHILLIES 2

MIAMI (AP) — Pablo Lopez pitched seven innings of one-run ball with some help from right fielder Matt Joyce, and Miami won Game 7 of its marathon series against Philadelphia.

The series, the majors' longest in the regular season in 53 years, included three makeup games and two doubleheaders. The Marlins won five of the seven games, including the

final three, to move into second place in the NL East, 1 1/2 games ahead of Philadelphia.

Lopez (4-4) allowed three hits and retired his final 13 batters. He was helped by two over-the-shoulder basket catches on the warning track by a retreating Joyce, who robbed Scott Kingery and Jean Segura.

Kingery and Andrew McCutchen homered for Philadelphia. Vince Velas-

quez (0-1) allowed four runs in 3 2/3 innings.

REDS 3, PIRATES 1, GAME 1

CINCINNATI (AP) — Rookie Tyler Stephenson hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the seventh inning, lifting Cincinnati to the win in the opener of a doubleheader.

With two out and the bases empty, rookie Jose Garcia singled to left against Sam Howard (2-2). Manager David Bell then sent Stephenson

up to hit for Shogo Akiyama, and the catcher hit a drive to left for his second homer.

Trevor Bauer and Cincinnati carried a 1-0 lead into the seventh, but Colin Moran led off with his eighth homer. Raisel Iglesias (3-3) got two outs for the win.

Joey Votto homered in the fourth for the Reds.

BREWERS 2, CARDINALS 1, 8 INNINGS, GAME 1

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Keston Hiura drove in Avisail Garcia with a sacrifice fly in the eighth inning, giving Milwaukee the win in the opening game of a doubleheader.

The Cardinals broke a scoreless tie in the top of the eighth when Tommy Edman's two-out single off Freddy Peralta (2-1) brought home Tyler O'Neill. But the Brewers got to Ryan Helsley (1-1) in the bottom of the inning.

Ryan Braun doubled home the tying run, and Hiura made it 2-1 with his fly ball to left off Austin Gomber.

Milwaukee's rally in the eighth snapped the Brewers' string of 21 consecutive scoreless innings. They were no-hit by Cubs right-hander Alec Mills on Sunday.

Fourth-quarter woes costly for Lions again in loss to Bears

DETROIT (AP) — Matt Patricia's tenure in Detroit has been marked by fourth-quarter collapses.

The Lions lost a 17-point, fourth-quarter lead in a 27-23 season-opening setback against Chicago at Ford Field, where fans likely would have booed the home team if the pandemic didn't keep them away.

Patricia's problems in the final quarter have contributed to his 9-23-1 record as a first-time NFL head coach. And if Patricia can't figure out how to help Detroit get and hold leads, his third season with the franchise will probably be his last.

Lions ownership retained general manager Bob Quinn and Patricia for this season, but their jobs are in jeopardy if the team does not at least contend for a spot in the playoffs.

The Lions lost seven of 12 games last year after blowing leads in the fourth, making it logical for some of them to think this season is starting to look a lot like the last one.

"We actually have to make sure it doesn't creep in," Patricia said Monday. "Sometimes maybe you hear it too much from the outside world, then you start to think, 'Is that the case?' But it's not the case for us inside."

"So right now for us, we have to make sure we understand it was Week 1 and we got to improve Week 2."

It won't be easy for Detroit to bounce back Sunday because it plays the Green Bay



Chicago Bears wide receiver Javon Wims (83) catches a one-yard touchdown pass as Detroit Lions cornerback Tony McRae (34) defends in the second half of an NFL football game in Detroit, Sunday, Sept. 13, 2020. PHOTO BY DUANE BURLESON/AP

Packers on the road after they opened the season with a 43-34 win over Minnesota.

"We've seen that we have a lot of potential and talent, but we just have to finish games," offensive tackle Taylor Decker said.

Even though the Lions struggled in the fourth quarter — again — Patricia spent time talking to players the day after about missed opportunities earlier in the game.

"We focused on a lot of the plays that happened in the first three quarters," he said.

Much was made of run-

ning back D'Andre Swift dropping a pass in the end zone with 6 seconds left, but his coach and teammates are trying to downplay it while rallying around the rookie.

"To think that we didn't win the game because of his play is total inaccurate," Patricia said.

The Lions hurt their chances earlier in the game with mental mistakes such as linebacker Jamie Collins getting ejected for making contact with an official.

There were also physical miscues, including Matthew

Stafford's ill-advised pass in traffic that was deflected and picked off in the fourth.

Questionable coaching decisions are up for debate as well such as Patricia choosing to attempt a 55-yard field goal instead of pinning the Bears deep in their territory with a punt late in the game.

"I'm going to pick apart what we did as a staff and see what are the areas maybe we can do different," Patricia said.

"Certainly, there's plays in the game that you want to have back, whether you're a

play-caller or from my standpoint as game management."

WHAT'S WORKING

The Adrian Peterson-led running game accounted for 138 yards rushing, averaging 4.8 yards a carry. That was the most the team gained on the ground in Week 1 since 1999.

WHAT NEEDS HELP

Detroit ranked last in the league last year against the pass and its secondary is banged up. The Lions allowed Mitchell Trubisky to throw three touchdown passes in the fourth quarter.

Billionaire hedge fund manager Cohen agrees to buy Mets



In this Dec. 10, 2009, file photo, hedge fund manager Steve Cohen attends a benefit in New York. Cohen has agreed to purchase the New York Mets from the Wilpon family. The team announced the agreement on Monday, Sept. 14, 2020. AP FILE PHOTO

NEW YORK (AP) — Billionaire hedge fund manager Steve Cohen has agreed to buy the New York Mets from the Wilpon and Katz families.

The team announced the agreement on Monday. The deal is subject to the approval of Major League Baseball owners.

Sportico reported Cohen will own 95% of the team, with the rest staying with the Wilpons and Katz families. The deal reportedly values the franchise at about \$2.4 billion.

Former major league star Alex Rodriguez and fiancee Jennifer Lopez also attempted to buy the team, but they dropped out of the bidding last month.

"I am excited to have reached an agreement with the Wilpons and Katz families to purchase the New York Mets," Cohen said in a statement.

Cohen also entered negotiations to buy the Mets last year, but the deal fell apart in February. He bought an 8% limited partnership stake in 2012 for \$40 million. The deal that failed to close would have seen him acquire an 80% controlling share in a transaction that valued the team at \$2.6 billion.

The current Mets ownership group is headed by Fred

Wilpon, brother-in-law Saul Katz and Wilpon's son Jeff, the team's chief operating officer.

Cohen first bought into the Mets when the team sought \$20 million minority investment stakes following the collapse of Bernard Madoff's Ponzi scheme, which heavily cost the Wilpons and their companies. The limited partnership shares were sold after a proposed \$200 million sale of a stake of the Mets to hedge fund manager David Einhorn fell through in 2011.

The 64-year-old Cohen is CEO and president of Point72 Asset Management.

Cohen controlled SAC Capital Advisors, which in 2013 pleaded guilty to criminal fraud charges.

SAC agreed to pay a \$900 million fine and forfeit another \$900 million to the federal government, though \$616 million that SAC companies had already agreed to pay to settle parallel actions by the Securities and Exchange Commission was to be deducted from the \$1.8 billion.

The publisher Doubleday & Co. bought the Mets in 1980 from the family of founding owner Joan Payson for \$21.1 million, with the company owning 95% of the team and Fred Wilpon controlling 5%.