

Women's World Cup

Rapinoe scores twice, U.S. breezes to opening win

Associated Press

WINNIPEG, Manitoba — For her second goal of the night against Australia, U.S. midfielder Megan Rapinoe channeled Lionel Messi.

Rapinoe dribbled the ball before her long, low shot breezed past diving Matildas goalkeeper Melissa Barbieri.

"I was doing my best Messi impression," Rapinoe laughed, before adding: "A much slower version."

Rapinoe's two goals gave the United States a 3-1 victory over Australia on Monday night in the Americans' opener at a Women's World Cup that began with both FIFA and the U.S. team facing controversy.

Christen Press also scored for the second-ranked U.S., which is seeking its third World Cup title and first since 1999. And embattled goalkeeper Hope Solo saved four shots on goal, including a pair in the first 15 minutes by the hard-charging Matildas.

Lisa De Vanna had tied the score midway through the first half for No. 10 Australia, which kept the United States for the opening hour.

"A little bit choppy. I think you could tell we were a little bit nervous," Rapinoe said. "But we settled in a bit and we were able to get some goals. Three points, that's most important, especially in this group that's shaping up a little weird."

The field has expanded from 16 teams to 24 this year, and the Americans' next match in difficult Group D will be Friday against fifth-ranked Sweden and former U.S. coach Pia Sundhage. They finish group play on June 16 against Nigeria, which played to a physical and somewhat surprising 3-3 tie with Sweden in the opener of Monday's doubleheader.

U.S. star forward Alex Morgan, sidelined by a bone bruise in her left knee, entered in the 79th minute in her first game action with April 11 with her Portland club.

"I felt really good. I had no pain whatsoever," Morgan said. "Obviously, I was running down balls a lot and trying to keep possession, making sure we kept the 3-1 lead.



United States' Christen Press (23) celebrates her goal against Australia with Lauren Holiday (12) during a FIFA Women's World Cup soccer match in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Monday, June 8, 2015.

John Woods/The Canadian Press via AP

I felt good, and I'm looking forward to getting more time, hopefully next time."

Rapinoe scored in the 12th minute for the Americans, Press put the U.S. ahead for good in the 61st, and Rapinoe added her 31st international goal in the 78th, the first two-goal game at the World Cup for the U.S. since Abby Wambach against Norway in 2007.

The Americans, who won the title in 1991 and '99, improved to 5-0-2 in World Cup openers and 23-0-2 in all matches against Australia. The game was televised in prime

time back home, where large numbers of fans tuned in last year for the men's World Cup in Brazil.

"Couldn't be prouder to have the women of Team #USA representing us in stars, stripes, and shin guards. Good luck," Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton tweeted.

In the absence of the 25-year-old Morgan, 35-year-old Abby Wambach and Canada-born Sydney Leroux started up top against the No. 10 Matildas, whose best World Cup finish was sixth in 2007

While the American women have won three straight Olympic gold medals, the third World Cup title has eluded them. They lost the 2011 final to Japan on penalty kicks.

The World Cup is being played as FIFA deals with a scandal which U.S. prosecutors allege involves more than \$150 million in bribes. FIFA President Sepp Blatter, who is not at the tournament, announced last week that he plans to resign.

Solo started a day after an ESPN report revealed new details about her arrest last June in Washington state on domestic violence charges.

"That was a long time ago. I'll be honest, we've moved on," U.S. coach Jill Ellis said. "She's been a fantastic player and teammate. None of that has even resonated with us, and I'm sure many of the players aren't aware of it."

Asked whether it was difficult to maintain concentration, Solo responded: "I'm perfectly focused."

She was tested in the fifth minute, when she tipped Emily Van Egmond's shot off the crossbar and over. She made another save on Michelle Heyman in the 13th.

"Hope came up absolutely huge for us," Rapinoe said. "At least three saves that no one else in the world could make."

Rapinoe's kick from the top of the penalty area deflected off an Australia's Laura Alleway past goalkeeper Melissa Barbieri.

But De Vanna tied it when she slotted the ball inside the near post for her 36th goal in 100th international appearance appears

Press scored off a cross from Leroux. When Press was subbed off seven minutes later, she was given an ovation from the crowd of 31,148, which overwhelmingly sided with the Americans. It was her first career World Cup goal.

Ellis said Rapinoe's player of the match honor was well deserved.

"Megan thrives in big games, big moments," Ellis said. "Yeah, she's got ice running through her veins."

Horse Racing

American Pharoah wins Belmont Stakes, first triple crown winner in 37 years

By FRANK ELTMAN
Associated Press

NEW YORK — From Belmont Park to Fenway Park and far beyond, it was a party that horse racing had been waiting to throw for 37 years.

All over, there were cheers as American Pharoah galloped away Saturday with the Triple Crown fans had craved for almost four decades.

"I feel like I was honestly a part of history today," said New York City resident Zach Witkoff, 22, who last year left the Belmont Stakes dejected after California Chrome's failed bid at one of sports' most elusive feats. "I think all the fans felt that way."

In Boston, the Red Sox played a highlight of the race on the center-field scoreboard during a pitching change in the eighth inning, accompanied by the Lone Ranger's theme song — "The William Tell Overture." The crowd at Fenway roared when the finish was shown.

In Los Angeles, the race was shown on the video board at Dodger Stadium while the St. Louis Cardinals warmed up.

At Yankee Stadium in the Bronx, a short ride from Belmont over the Throgs Neck Bridge, Kool and the Gang's "Celebration" blared over the sound system when American Pharoah's romp was shown.

At the track, many of the 90,000 in attendance hugged one another and slapped hands after the bay colt won. Some held up phones in the air, trying to capture the moment — the first Triple Crown winner since Affirmed in 1978.

Josie Cliffe, of Ellsworth, Iowa, bought a \$2 winning ticket — but said she wasn't going to cash it.

"I'm planning on putting it by Belmont glass up on my wall," the



AP Photo/Julio Cortez

Victor Espinoza reacts after crossing the finish line with American Pharoah (5) to win the 147th running of the Belmont Stakes horse race at Belmont Park, Saturday, June 6, 2015, in Elmont, N.Y. American Pharoah is the first horse to win the Triple Crown since Affirmed won it in 1978.

longtime racing fan said after her first visit to Belmont Park. "We are not cashing it in because it's a great souvenir for \$2."

James Maceiko, of Deer Park, New York, has been attending the Belmont Stakes hoping to witness a Triple Crown since Funny Cide made the attempt in 2003 — but now has proof in the form of an admissions ticket that he saw history live, at the race track.

"I'll probably put it in a frame and hang it someplace," he said.

Patrons at the sports book inside the New York-New York casino in Las Vegas hugged as American Pharoah crossed the finish line.

At Los Alamitos Race Course in Southern California, horseplayers danced and punched the air in celebration. Fans also gathered to watch the race outside Amalie Arena in Tampa,

Florida, as they were arriving to watch Chicago and Tampa Bay play Game 2 of the Stanley Cup Final.

Jeanie Buss, the president of the Los Angeles Lakers, tweeted "That horse is an ANIMAL!!"

At Belmont, as American Pharoah rounded the curve into the final stretch, the crowd's roar grew and drinks spilled and splashed as he approached the finish line and finally won by 5 1/2 lengths.

"I'm overwhelmed right now," said Kirk Krininger of New Albany, Indiana, after the race. "I've been to the Belmont several times, been waiting for this and just can't even believe it. Just an exhilarating experience."

A beaming Penny Chenery, the owner of the 1973 Triple Crown champion horse Secretariat, said simply: "I'm thrilled."

French Open

Wawrinka takes down Djokovic to win French Open

PARIS (AP) — Stan Wawrinka won the French Open by beating No. 1-seeded Novak Djokovic 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 in the final Sunday, thwarting Djokovic's bid to complete a career Grand Slam.

The eighth-seeded Wawrinka, so long in the shadow of his Swiss Davis Cup teammate and pal, Roger Federer, collected his second major title after last year's Australian Open. In doing so, Wawrinka put a stop to Djokovic's 28-match winning streak and left the 28-year-old Serb ruing another close call at Roland Garros. This was the third time in the last four years that Djokovic lost in the final at the clay-court tournament, the only major title he has never won.

This one ended, fittingly, with a down-the-line

backhand winner from the 30-year-old Wawrinka. That's his best stroke and considered among the best in the game. He tossed his racket overhead, then met Djokovic at the net for a hug. "One day, you will win Roland Garros," Wawrinka told Djokovic during the post-match ceremony. "You deserve it."

Wawrinka, who earned 1.8 million euros (about \$2 million), was making his 11th French Open appearance, equaling Federer and Andre Agassi for most attempts before winning it.

This was also Djokovic's 11th French Open, and he has so far been unable to clutch the trophy he so dearly desires. He has won eight Grand Slam titles, with five at the Australian Open, two at Wimbledon and one at the U.S. Open.

NBA Finals

Cavs recover after evening series at 1-1

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Once LeBron James tied up the NBA Finals with another one of his virtuoso postseason performances, his legs were in knots.

He needed ice, treatment and rest. He wasn't the only one.

After a pair of entertaining, exhausting, drama-filled overtime games at Golden State, everyone — players, fans, even the refs — needed a day to take a breather and recover before the Cavaliers and Warriors resume a series getting stellar TV ratings and shifting to Quicken Loans Arena for Game 3 on Tuesday night.

As midnight approached in California following Cleveland's stunning 95-93 OT win on Sunday night, James, who scored 39 points with 16 rebounds and 11 assists, grimaced as he lifted himself from a chair on the postgame interview dais. He was hurting after playing 50 methodical minutes, one game after going 46.

James, incredibly, believes he can give more. "It's a maximum of

five games left in the NBA season," he said. "So I'm ready for whatever."

He has been all season. With James leading the way, the Cavaliers, who were already a heavy underdog before losing All-Star guard Kyrie Irving to a broken left kneecap in the opener, dragged down the Warriors and Stephen Curry, the league's MVP.

Hounded by Cavs guard Matthew Dellavedova, who seemed to be inside his jersey, Curry missed 18 of 23 shots and ended his night with an uncharacteristic 3-point air-ball with four seconds left in overtime.

But while Dellavedova's contributions starting in place of Irving were huge, James was again the difference and the reason why the Cavs can't be dismissed.

The best all-around player of his generation, James has pushed a team missing two All-Stars — Irving and Kevin Love — and a franchise that has its first finals win, within three victories of an improbable title that would end Cleveland's 51-year major sports championship drought.

SCOREBOARD

| Basketball | | | | Baseball | | | | | |
|---|----|----|-----|--|---|----|----|-----|-------|
| NBA | | | | MLB | | | | | |
| FINALS (Best-of-7; x if necessary) Golden State 1, Cleveland 1 Thursday, June 4: Golden State 108, Cleveland 100, OT Sunday, June 7: Cleveland 95, Golden State 93, OT Tuesday, June 9: Golden State at Cleveland, 6 p.m. Thursday, June 11: Golden State at Cleveland, 6 p.m. Sunday, June 14: Cleveland at Golden State, 5 p.m. x-Tuesday, June 16: Golden State at Cleveland, 6 p.m. x-Friday, June 19: Cleveland at Golden State, 6 p.m. | | | | Monday's Games Toronto 11, Miami 3 Chicago White Sox 3, Houston 1 Kansas City 3, Minnesota 1 Tuesday's Games Boston (E. Rodriguez 2-0) at Baltimore (M. Gonzalez 5-4), 4:05 p.m. Washington (Scherzer 6-4) at N.Y. Yankees (Tanaka 3-1), 4:05 p.m. Miami (Haren 6-2) at Toronto (Buehrle 7-4), 4:07 p.m. Chicago Cubs (Lester 4-4) at Detroit (An. Sanchez 3-7), 4:08 p.m. L.A. Angels (Shoemaker 3-4) at Tampa Bay (Karns 3-2), 4:10 p.m. Seattle (Elias 2-3) at Cleveland (Kluber 3-6), 4:10 p.m. Houston (Keuchel 1-1) at Chicago White Sox (Rodon 1-0), 5:10 p.m. Kansas City (C. Young 4-2) at Minnesota (May 4-3), 5:10 p.m. Texas (N. Martinez 4-2) at Oakland (Gray 7-2), 7:05 p.m. | | | | | |
| West Division | | | | West Division | | | | | |
| Texas | 30 | 27 | 526 | 3 | Cincinnati | 25 | 31 | 446 | 12 |
| Los Angeles | 28 | 29 | 491 | 5 | Milwaukee | 21 | 37 | 362 | 17 |
| Seattle | 25 | 32 | 439 | 8 | Los Angeles | 33 | 25 | 569 | — |
| Oakland | 23 | 36 | 390 | 11 | San Francisco | 32 | 26 | 552 | 1 |
| | | | | | San Diego | 30 | 29 | 508 | 3 1/2 |
| | | | | | Arizona | 27 | 30 | 474 | 5 1/2 |
| | | | | | Colorado | 26 | 30 | 464 | 6 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | Monday's Games Milwaukee 2, Pittsburgh 0 Toronto 11, Miami 3 Cincinnati 6, Philadelphia 4 San Diego 5, Atlanta 3, 11 innings Colorado 11, St. Louis 3 L.A. Dodgers 9, Arizona 3 Tuesday's Games Milwaukee (Lungmann 0-0) at Pittsburgh (Liriano 3-4), 4:05 p.m. Washington (Scherzer 6-4) at N.Y. Yankees (Tanaka 3-1), 4:05 p.m. Miami (Haren 6-2) at Toronto (Buehrle 7-4), 4:07 p.m. Chicago Cubs (Lester 4-4) at Detroit (An. Sanchez 3-7), 4:08 p.m. Philadelphia (Harang 4-6) at Cincinnati (DeSclafani 4-4), 4:10 p.m. San Diego (Shields 7-0) at Atlanta (Foltynewicz 3-2), 4:10 p.m. San Francisco (Heston 5-4) at N.Y. Mets (Syndergaard 2-3), 4:10 p.m. St. Louis (Wacha 8-1) at Colorado (J.De La Rosa 2-2), 5:40 p.m. Arizona (Ray 1-0) at L.A. Dodgers (Frias 4-3), 7:10 p.m. | | | | |
| | | | | | Hockey | | | | |
| | | | | | NHL | | | | |
| | | | | | STANLEY CUP (Best-of-7; x if necessary) Tampa Bay 2, Chicago 1 Wednesday, June 3: Chicago 2, Tampa Bay 1 Saturday, June 6: Tampa Bay 4, Chicago 3 Monday, June 8: Tampa Bay 3, Chicago 2 Wednesday, June 10: Tampa Bay at Chicago, 5 p.m. Saturday, June 13: Chicago at Tampa Bay, 5 p.m. x-Monday, June 15: Tampa Bay at Chicago, 5 p.m. x-Wednesday, June 17: Chicago at Tampa Bay, 5 p.m. | | | | |
| | | | | | Soccer | | | | |
| | | | | | Women's World Cup | | | | |
| | | | | | FIRST ROUND | | | | |
| | | | | | GROUP A | | | | |
| | | | | | Saturday | | | | |
| | | | | | Canada 1, China 0 | | | | |
| | | | | | Netherlands 1, New Zealand 0 | | | | |
| | | | | | GROUP B | | | | |
| | | | | | Sunday, June 7 | | | | |
| | | | | | Norway 4, Thailand 0 | | | | |
| | | | | | Germany 10, Ivory Coast 0 | | | | |
| | | | | | GROUP C | | | | |
| | | | | | Monday, June 8 | | | | |
| | | | | | Cameroon 6, Equador 0 | | | | |
| | | | | | GROUP D | | | | |
| | | | | | Sweden 3, Nigeria 3, tie | | | | |
| | | | | | United States 3, Australia 1 | | | | |
| | | | | | GROUP E | | | | |
| | | | | | Tuesday, June 9 | | | | |
| | | | | | Spain vs. Costa Rica, 1 p.m. | | | | |
| | | | | | Brazil vs. South Korea, 4 p.m. | | | | |
| | | | | | GROUP F | | | | |
| | | | | | Tuesday, June 9 | | | | |
| | | | | | France vs. England, 10 a.m. | | | | |
| | | | | | Colombia vs. Mexico, 1 p.m. | | | | |