

Soccer

Pulisic scores twice, US beats Trinidad in qualifying

By PAT GRAHAM
Associated Press

COMMERCE CITY, Colo. — Christian Pulisic rescued the United States with a pair of second-half goals, and the Americans beat Trinidad and Tobago 2-0 on Thursday night to move into third place at the halfway point in the final round of World Cup qualifying.

Pulisic, an 18-year-old phenom from Hershey, Pennsylvania, ended a frustrating start for the U.S. offense with a goal in the 52nd minute, then added another in the 62nd. He has seven goals and five assists in 15 international appearances, including four goals and three assists in his last four contests.

"It just took us a little while to get going," Pulisic said.

After crashing to an 0-2 start in the hexagonal of the North and Central American and Caribbean region, the U.S. is back among the top three, which earn berths at next year's tournament in Russia. Mexico leads with 10 points, followed by Costa Rica, which has seven and is ahead of the U.S. on goal difference. Panama (five), Honduras (four) and Trinidad



U.S. midfielder Christian Pulisic, front, jumps over Trinidad & Tobago forward Kenwyne Jones while pursuing the ball during the first half of a World Cup qualifying match Thursday in Commerce City, Colo.

(three) trail.

The fourth-place team advances to a playoff against Asia's No. 5 nation.

In late games, Costa Rica hosted Panama and Mexico was home against Honduras.

The Americans have three wins and three draws since Bruce

Arena replaced Jurgen Klinsmann as coach in November. The team's biggest test in Arena's second stint comes Sunday at Mexico.

"It's going to be a tough one down there," Pulisic said.

Kenwyne Jones nearly put the Soca Warriors in the 33rd minute, beating goalkeeper Tim Howard



to a cross but putting a header off the crossbar. Clint Dempsey, John Brooks and Jozy Altidore all had good chances, but T&T keeper Jan-Michael Williams made several sprawling saves.

After helping Borussia Dortmund win last month's German Cup final, becoming the youngest American to earn a medal for a European club, Pulisic had another breakthrough moment with his second two-goal game for the U.S.

Michael Bradley forced a turnover, DeAndre Yedlin recovered the ball and passed to Darlington Nagbe, who went around a defender and dribbled upfield. He passed to Clint Dempsey, who sent the ball back wide to Yedlin. He crossed to Pulisic, who slid and scored from 4 yards with his left foot, then sprinted for a corner and slid on both knees to celebrate. Trinidad's Nathan Lewis beat

Howard off the ensuing kickoff, but Yedlin had stepped up, causing an offside call that disallowed the goal.

Pulisic started the run that led to the second goal, passing to Yedlin, who sent the ball to Altidore, Pulisic burst past Kavan George and slotted in a right-footed shot from about 10 yards to Williams' short side.

Bobby Wood nearly got a third goal, hitting a post shortly after replacing Altidore in the 83rd.

The U.S. is unbeaten against Trinidad in home qualifiers, winning nine matches and drawing one and outscoring the Soca Warriors 21-2 — including 17 in a row since 1989.

The game at Dick's Sporting Goods Park is at about 5,200 feet, which will prepare the Americans for Sunday night's qualifier at Mexico City's Azteca Stadium, which is around 7,820 feet above sea level.

This time, there was no need for snow shovels in Denver. The weather for the game was partly cloudy and 82 degrees, a contrast for the Snow Classic in 2013, a 1-0 win over Costa Rica.

BMCC: Rodeo teams accept pair of scholarship fund donations

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.300 batting average. He also earned an NWAC Academic Excellence award after earning a 3.62 GPA.

Both athletes received commemorative plaques for the achievement, and will also have their names added to the plaque in McCrae Activity Center with all winners dating back to 1975. The duo will also receive their Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer (AAOT)

degree at BMCC commencement next week, and will continue their education at four-year universities.

Pendergrass was chosen by rodeo coaches Larry Patterson and Shawn Eng for the award, which has been given in honor of former BMCC instructor and coach Riley Freeman since 2009. A native of Adrian, Pendergrass kept up a perfect 4.0 GPA while dominating with her BMCC team in the rodeo

arena.

She is part of the BMCC contingent that will travel to Casper, Wyoming next week to compete in the College National Finals Rodeo than run from June 12-17. Pendergrass is currently ranked No. 5 in the country in the women's all-around with 1,972 points, No. 8 in Barrel Racing, and No. 21 in Breakaway Roping.

Pendergrass plans to continue her education at

Eastern Oregon University in the fall where she will study nursing.

"We're very proud of these student-athletes for their dedication both in the classroom and on the field," Bryan said in the release.

Rodeo teams accept donations

The BMCC rodeo teams received a pair of financial

gestures recently as both the Pendleton Round-Up Association and the Northwest Intercollegiate Rodeo Finals Association (NWIRFA) made contributions to its scholarship fund.

On June 5, the Round-Up Scholarship Committee Chair Rob Collins and Sponsors Director Tiah DeGroff presented the rodeo teams with a \$5,000 donation, while the NWIRFA Board President Jason

Braybeal, treasurer Blaine Hendrickson and board member DeGroff, presented a \$20,000 donation.

According to a school release, BMCC's home rodeo in Hermiston is organized and put on by the NWIRFA board and initially the event's proceeds simply covered the cost until the rodeo's success allowed the NWIRFA to give more back in the form of scholarship funds.

ANDERSON: Has one year left on his contract, hopes to continue hockey career

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all so tired but that goal definitely sparked a ton of energy and excitement into us as we all skated onto the ice and jumped on top of him. It was so cool."

The game length broke the previous playoff record of 136 minutes and 53 seconds of play, which was set back in 2003 between the Kamloops Blazers and Kootenay Ice, as well as the CHL record for longest game ever that went 146 minutes and 31 seconds in 1999 between the Victoriaville Tigers and Hull Olympiques.

"After the fourth overtime, they made an announcement in the arena as we walked back into the room 'This is officially the longest game in league history. Thank you for staying with us fans!'" Anderson recalled. "During that moment we all smiled, realizing we were a part of

history."

The win clinched a playoff series win for Everett four games to two over Victoria, and sent the Silvertips into the second round. Everett's playoff run stopped there, though, as Seattle ousted them and went on to win the Western Hockey League championship.

Anderson played in just 10 games for the Silvertips, where he registered no points and a +2 rating while tallying 21 penalty minutes. The win over Victoria is what will stand out from this season, though, as the Royals were the team that originally drafted Anderson in the sixth round of the WHL Bantam draft back in 2012. He spent parts of three seasons with Victoria spanning 39 games, where he tallied one goal, five assists and an even plus-minus rating before moving on with Everett.

"I would consider myself a power forward," Anderson said. "I'm a big player, good at using my body to create offense. I love to hit, and have fought a few times."

Anderson was born in Kansas City, Missouri which is where his father, Jeremy, got him interested in hockey as a child. Jeremy, now a sports medicine and orthopedic doctor in Hermiston, played some club hockey in college and in various adult leagues. The Andersons then moved to Hermiston in 2008 when Keith was eight-years-old and a lack of youth hockey programs or interest almost led Keith to quit the sport.

"I decided to give it a try in the Tri-Cities," Anderson said. "I watched an Americans game or the first time and knew that I wanted to play in that league right away ... it was sort of my childhood

dream."

But once Anderson got to high school he realized that his chances of developing enough and getting noticed were slim, so he moved away with stops at different high schools in Phoenix, Arizona and Spokane, Washington. While he was in Spokane he got drafted by Victoria and signed his entry-level contract when he was 16.

The contract worked like a full-ride scholarship to a school of his choice on top of a small monthly stipend. When he signed his contract, it eliminated any chance of ever playing Division I college hockey because he was no longer an amateur in the eyes of the NCAA. But playing in the WHL under the Canadian Hockey League umbrella is no slouch, as many of the NHL's top stars played in one of the CHL's three leagues — the WHL,

the Ontario Hockey League, and the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League.

A total of 133 WHL alumni were on NHL opening day rosters for the 2016-17 season, including stars like Anaheim captain Ryan Getzlaf, Boston captain Zdeno Chara, Montreal goaltender Carey Price, and Washington goaltender Braden Holtby.

"In Canada, we're on national TV often," Anderson said.

When his season ended with Victoria in 2015 during his senior year in high school, Anderson knew that he wanted to return to Hermiston to graduate with the friends he began high school with.

"I was a part of the state championship football team's class and I grew up playing sports with all of those boys," he said. "I was great friends

with most of them and when the season ended I had a choice of finishing where I was or transferring back to Hermiston ... I chose to come back mainly to be with my friends one last time and it's a decision I'm happy I made."

Anderson has one more season remaining on his WHL contract, which expires when he turns 20. Like any hockey player, he has an ultimate dream of playing in the NHL, though he's still trying to figure out his next steps.

"I have always had intentions on continuing my career professionally, but it is a very hard business," he said. "I may be attending an NHL training camp this summer, but likely I will play in college and take advantage of my scholarship in Canada and could very possibly play pro in Europe as there are many, many leagues there that pay well."

MARINERS: Tying run left stranded in seventh and eighth innings

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major mistake made by the right-hander.

Gibson lasted just one batter into the seventh, getting pulled after giving up a leadoff single to Taylor Motter. He allowed five hits and struck out four. He also got one big defensive assist thanks to another highlight catch by Byron Buxton. With two on and two out in the fifth, Cano lined a shot to deep center field. Buxton raced back and at the last moment reached above his head falling backward to make the catch and likely save two runs.

Seattle threatened late, getting the tying run to second base in the seventh and eighth innings. With one out in the eighth, Mike Zunino lined a shot back up the middle that reliever Taylor Rogers snared and doubled Cano off second base to end the threat.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Mariners: DH Nelson Cruz was out of the lineup for a second straight day due a strained right calf. Cruz wanted to play on Thursday but was held out for another day. He's expected to be in the lineup on Friday. ... LHP Drew Smyly (flexor strain) will



Minnesota center fielder Byron Buxton makes a leaping catch of a line drive hit by Seattle's Robinson Cano during the fifth inning of Thursday's game in Seattle.

throw his first bullpen session on Saturday. Smyly did light throwing from halfway up the mound on Thursday.

UP NEXT

Twins: Ervin Santana (7-3) looks to rebound from giving up seven runs in four innings in his last start as Minnesota opens a series at San Francisco.

Mariners: Sam Gaviglio (2-1) allowed just one run in five innings in his last start. He gets the start as Seattle opener a weekend series against Toronto.

STANLEY CUP: Penguins have won all four Cups on road

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Rinne that sent the Nashville goaltender to the bench for the rest of the night, all the good mojo he created during a pair of wins in Games 3 and 4 gone.

Conor Sheary, Phil Kessel — just as linemate Malkin predicted — and 35-year-old playoff newbie Ron Hainsey also scored for the Penguins. Crosby's eventful night included becoming the franchise's all-time leading scorer in the Stanley Cup Final, a two-minute roughing penalty for trying to dribble Nashville defenseman P.K. Subban's head on the ice near the end of the first period and a flip of a water bottle onto the ice during play.

"It's just one of those things it slipped out of my hand," Crosby said. "I had a gesture with my hand and before I knew it the thing was flying across the ice. I know you're not allowed to do that, so I'm not going to start doing it in the Stanley Cup Final."

Penguins coach Mike Sullivan, as he has for each of the last two springs when his team finds itself in a tight spot, pushed all the right buttons again. He stuck with Murray, reunited Sheary with Crosby and Jake Guentzel, and stressed his team needed to play with urgency but not desperation



Pittsburgh Penguins' Conor Sheary, center, celebrates his goal against Nashville Predators goalie Juuse Saros (74) during the second period in Game 5 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Final, Thursday, June 8, 2017.

after the Predators rallied to tie the series by outscoring the Penguins 9-2 during two wins in Nashville.

It took all of 91 seconds for Pittsburgh to get its swagger back.

Just 91 seconds after a Nashville fan flipped a catfish onto the PPG Paints Arena ice — a move that came shortly before a three-goal outburst by Nashville in Game 1 — Schultz powered home a slapshot to end an 0-for-15 power-play skid.

"We were on our toes tonight," Schultz said. "We were really jumping and playing our game, playing fast. It all started with that start and got us going for the rest of the game."

Rust made it 2-0 just 6:43 into the game with a

nasty backhand flip over Rinne's glove.

Then things got chippy (and a little weird) for the game's best player. Crosby and Subban became tangled up behind the Nashville net late in the first period, with Crosby ended up on top of Subban. Crosby then started hitting Subban in the head repeatedly, eventually drawing a roughing penalty while Subban — who quipped that Crosby was complaining about Subban's bad breath during a Game 3 exchange — went off for holding.

Malkin ripped a wrist shot over Rinne's glove on the ensuing 4-on-4 to make it 3-0 with just 10 seconds left in the first. Rinne gave way to Juuse Saros at the start of the second period

after stopping just six of nine shots, continuing his wildly uneven play. Rinne stopped 50 of 52 shots he faced back home in Games 3 and 4. He's stopped just 34 of 45 in Pittsburgh during the series.

Saros hardly fared any better. Sheary took a pretty feed from Crosby and sent it by Saros 1:19 into the second to push Pittsburgh's lead to four. Kessel ended a six-game goal drought 8:02 into the second. The score had been predicted by Malkin and it came just seconds after Crosby threw a water bottle onto the ice as the play went by Pittsburgh's bench, a move he told referees was unintentional.

When Hainsey, who waited 907 regular-season games before reaching the playoffs for the first time this season, tapped in a pass from Malkin to make it 6-0, the stage was set for the Penguins to return to familiar territory.

The franchise has won all four of its Cups on the road. A shot at a fifth awaits Sunday, though it'll hardly be easy.

The Predators are 9-1 at home in the playoffs, a place they will need to be a haven once again if they want to extend their improbable Cup run — and a flat-out odd final — back to Pittsburgh.