

NHL Playoffs

Panarin scores in OT, Blue Jackets beat Capitals in Game 1

By STEVEN WHYNO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Columbus Blue Jackets went down two goals and three forwards and left with a Game 1 victory.

Artemi Panarin scored a beautiful goal 6:02 into overtime to give the Blue Jackets a 4-3 victory over the Washington Capitals on Thursday night in the first-round playoff series.

Panarin won it after Columbus lost Josh Anderson to a game misconduct, Alexander Wennberg with an apparent head injury and captain Nick Foligno after taking a puck to the face.

None of that seemed to faze a team accustomed to overcoming injuries and digging out of deficits.

“In the playoffs, you find a little bit of extra energy,” said Blue Jackets forward Thomas Vanek, who scored from Wennberg’s spot on the power play and had an assist. “That tonight was one of those games where we talked to each other, we pumped each other up, we felt good and it never felt like we were going to lose this one.”

Maybe the Blue Jackets didn’t, but they didn’t make it easy on themselves, falling behind 2-0 on power-play goals by Evgeny Kuznetsov scored on Anderson’s five-minute major penalty for boarding and injuring Washington’s Michal Kempny. Not letting the game snowball out of control allowed Columbus to claw back in it with Wenn-

berg’s goal in the second and then Vanek’s on the power play early in the third.

Vanek scored with Tom Wilson in the penalty box for charging Wennberg, a play the Capitals forward took responsibility for shifting the game in the Blue Jackets’ direction.

Foligno took a slap shot from Jakob Jerabek to the face just under his left eye 10 seconds after Vanek’s goal, making a gaping hole on the Columbus bench until he returned. Even though Devante Smith-Pelly scored to give the Capitals a lead 5:12 into the third, the Blue Jackets kept grinding away and didn’t let the game get away despite being under-manned.

“There was no panic on the bench there,” coach John Tortorella said. “I think players enjoy that. It’s not a big deal to them when they lose players. They’re happy because they get on the ice quicker and more often. We just stayed with it.”

Norris Trophy-contending defenseman Seth Jones made things happen to send the game to overtime. Jones drew a tripping penalty on Andre Burakovsky that Washington coach Barry Trotz called unnecessary, almost put the puck in his own net on the delayed penalty and then scored off a pass from Panarin on the ensuing power play with just 4:26 left in regulation.

That set the stage for Panarin to drive around fellow Russian Dmitry Orlov before going backhand to forehand and beating Philipp Grubauer top shelf to give the Blue Jackets their first series lead in



AP Photo/Nick Wass

Columbus Blue Jackets left wing Artemi Panarin (9) celebrates his game-winning goal in overtime with Nick Foligno (71), Brandon Dubinsky (17), Ian Cole (23) and David Savard (58) in Game 1 of an NHL first-round hockey playoff series against the Washington Capitals Thursday in Washington.

franchise history in their fourth opportunity.

“Big goal for our team,” said Panarin, whom Columbus acquired in a trade from Chicago last summer after lacking finish in its series defeat to Pittsburgh. “I’m happy because it was a hard game and a big win.”

NASHVILLE 5, COLORADO 2

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Filip Forsberg scored twice in the third period and the Nashville Predators rallied to beat the Colorado Avalanche 5-2 on Thursday night in Game 1 of the first-round Western Conference series.

Pekka Rinne made 25 saves, including a handful on Colorado’s Hart Trophy candidate Nathan MacKinnon. Austin Watson had a goal and an assist for Nashville, which

has won 11 straight over Colorado. Craig Smith and Colton Sissons scored a goal apiece, and Ryan Johansen had two assists.

Nikita Zadorov and Blake Comeau each scored a goal for Colorado.

Forsberg, who led Nashville with 64 points in the regular season, gave Nashville its first lead of the game at 3-2 when he redirected a shot from captain Roman Josi past Jonathan Bernier at 6:08 of the third.

Game 2 is Saturday afternoon in Nashville.

TAMPA BAY 5, NEW JERSEY 2

TAMPA, Fla. — The top seeded Tampa Bay Lightning got early goals from four players—none of them named Nikita Kucherov or Steven Stamkos — before holding

off the New Jersey Devils for a 5-2 victory Thursday night in Game 1 of the first-round series.

Ondrej Palat, Tyler Johnson and Yanni Gourde scored, helping the Lightning build a 3-0 lead that New Jersey trimmed to one goal before Alex Killom and Kucherov, who added an empty-netter with 1:12 remaining, finished off the win.

Taylor Hall scored an unassisted goal in the second period, then assisted on Travis Zajac’s power-play goal that trimmed the Devils’ deficit to 3-2 midway through third against Andrei Vasilevskiy, who had 29 saves for Tampa Bay.

Killom’s shot over the glove of goalie Kevin Kincaid’s glove restored a two-goal lead before Kucherov, who led the Lightning with 100 points this season, ensured there would be no comeback.

Game 2 is Saturday at Amalie Arena.

BOSTON 5, TORONTO 1

BOSTON — Brad Marchand, David Backes and David Krejci each scored a power-play goal, and Tuukka Rask stopped 26 shots to lead the Boston Bruins to a 5-1 victory over the Toronto Maple Leafs on Thursday night in Game 1 of their first-round Eastern Conference playoff series.

David Pastrnak also scored for Boston, and Sean Kuraly bunted one out of the air and into the net over goalie Frederik Andersen to make it

4-1 with seven minutes gone in the third period. Krejci bounced it in off Andersen from behind to make it 5-1 after Toronto’s Nazem Kadri was thrown out of the game and given a five-minute major for an elbow to Tommy Wingels’ head.

Zach Hyman scored Toronto’s only goal, and Andersen made 35 saves.

Game 2 of the best-of-seven series is back at the TD Garden on Saturday night.

SAN JOSE 3, ANAHEIM 0

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Evander Kane scored two goals in his first career playoff game and Martin Jones made 25 saves as the San Jose Sharks beat the Anaheim Ducks 3-0 on Thursday night in their first-round series opener.

Brent Burns also scored and captain Joe Pavelski had two assists during a three-goal second period to help the Sharks easily take early control in the series between California rivals. San Jose and Anaheim have been regular playoff teams for the past 15 years, yet are meeting in the postseason for only the second time.

John Gibson stopped 30 shots for the Ducks, who lost a series opener at home in their third consecutive playoff series. Anaheim had won seven straight home games down the regular-season stretch, losing in regulation at home just once in 17 games since late January.

Game 2 is Saturday night at Honda Center.

A’ja Wilson top pick of WNBA draft by Las Vegas Aces

By DOUG FEINBERG
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A’ja Wilson is thrilled for the chance to head to Las Vegas.

The South Carolina star was the No. 1 pick in the WNBA draft by the Aces on Thursday night.

“It’s such a great feeling, just an amazing way to cap off my collegiate career,” Wilson said. “My heart was pounding before she announced the pick.”

The 6-foot-5 star admitted she has only been there once, but already knows the Nevada city slogan.

“What happens in Sin City stays in Sin City,” Wilson said laughing.

The Aces, who moved to Las Vegas from San Antonio this past winter, had the first pick for the second straight season.

Ohio State’s Kelsey Mitchell went second to the Indiana Fever. Indiana also took Victoria Vivians with

the eighth pick, giving coach Pokey Chatman a strong young core to build around.

The Chicago Sky took Diamond DeShields, who spent the season playing professionally in Turkey, and Gabby Williams of Connecticut with the next two picks.

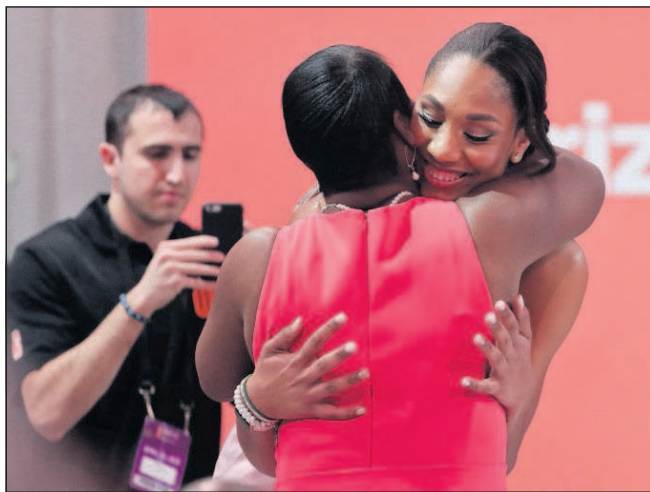
“I’m excited to see what we can do,” DeShields said.

UCLA guard Jordin Canada was selected fifth by the Seattle Storm. She’ll get a chance to learn from Sue Bird.

“I love Sue Bird, she’s one of my role models,” Canada said.

Azura Stevens, who decided to forego her final year of eligibility at UConn, was taken sixth by Dallas. Washington drafted Ariel Atkins of Texas seventh. Lexie Brown was picked ninth by Connecticut.

New York took Kia Nurse 10th, marking the third UConn player to be taken in the opening round. It’s the second time in three seasons that



AP Photo/Julie Jacobson

South Carolina’s A’ja Wilson is congratulated by family after being selected as the No. 1 overall pick by the Las Vegas Aces in the WNBA basketball draft Thursday in New York.

three Huskies were drafted in the first round. UConn players went 1-2-3 in 2016.

“It’s really cool that we were all here for each other,” Williams said.

Los Angeles drafted 19-year-old Russian star Maria Vadeeva with the 11th pick. She’s the first foreign player who didn’t play at an

American college to be taken in the first round since 2012.

Marie Gulich of Oregon State was drafted by Phoenix to close out the first round.

UCLA’s Monique Billings was the final player invited to the draft to be taken. She went with the 15th pick to Atlanta. The Dream had traded for that pick earlier in the day

sending Bria Holmes to the Connecticut Sun.

“I wasn’t nervous, I knew that I would be drafted,” Billings said.

The draft was held at Nike’s New York headquarters. The athletic apparel company is a global partner and outfitter for the WNBA this season. They unveiled the new WNBA uniforms earlier Thursday.

Training camps open up on April 29 and the 22nd season of the WNBA begins play on May 18.

Other tidbits from the draft: **PRESIDENTIAL CONNECTIONS:** Former President Barack Obama’s niece, Leslie Robinson, was taken in the third round by the New York Liberty. Her dad is vice president of player development and G League operations for the Knicks.

GREEK SISTERS: When Wilson took a picture with WNBA President Lisa Borders on stage, the pair flashed the Alpha Kappa Alpha sign. The two were

sorority sisters with Borders graduating from Duke and Wilson from South Carolina. Alpha Kappa Alpha was the first African American sorority starting at Howard in 1908.

ALL IN THE FAMILY: DeShields joined her father (Delino) and brother (Delino Jr.) as first-round draft picks. Father and son were taken in the baseball draft. They are believed to be the first father-son-daughter combo to all be taken in the opening round of a draft. The elder DeShields was in attendance at the draft. Pam McGee, Imani McGee-Stafford and JaVale McGee were the first mother-daughter-son to be taken in the opening round when McGee-Stafford was drafted with the 10th pick in 2016.

FOREIGN PLAYERS: Other foreign players joining Vadeeva in the draft were Ji-Su Park (South Korea); Raisa Mussina (Russia) Julia Reisingerova (Czech Republic).

Local slate

PREP BASEBALL	
Friday	Ontario at Mac-Hi (DH), Noon Irrigon at Joseph (DH), 1 p.m. Riverside at Vale (DH), 2 p.m. Umatilla at Burns (DH), 2 p.m.
Saturday	Pilot Rock at Union (DH), 11 a.m. Weston-McEwen at Heppner (DH), 11 a.m. Pendleton at The Dalles (DH), Noon Hood River at Hermiston (DH), Noon Stanfield at Nyssa (DH), 1 p.m.
PREP SOFTBALL	
Friday	Weston-McEwen at Grant Union (DH), Noon Irrigon at Echo (DH), 1 p.m. Riverside at Umatilla (DH), 1 p.m. Pendleton at The Dalles (DH), 3 p.m. Mac-Hi at Ontario (DH), 3 p.m.
Saturday	Pilot Rock at Heppner (DH), 11 a.m. Hood River at Hermiston (DH), Noon Echo at Vale (DH), 1 p.m.
PREP TRACK & FIELD	
Friday	Pendleton, Hermiston, Weston-McEwen, Pilot Rock, Helix, Ione at Rivers Edge (Umatilla), Noon Hermiston, Arlington at Oregon Relays (Eugene), TBD
Saturday	Pendleton at Willamette Falls Invitational, 10 a.m. Mac-Hi at La Grande Invitational, 10 a.m. Stanfield, Heppner, Umatilla, Riverside, Helix at Stanfield Invitational, 10 a.m.
PREP GOLF	
Friday	Pendleton, Mac-Hi, Heppner (boys) at La Grande Country Club
PREP TENNIS	
Friday	Weston-McEwen at Riverside, 3 p.m.
Saturday	Eisenhower (WA) at Hermiston, Noon Condon, Helix, Ione at Stanfield, 10 a.m.
COLLEGE BASEBALL	
Friday	Columbia Basin at BMCC (DH), 1 p.m.
COLLEGE SOFTBALL	
Friday	

BMCC at Yakima Valley (DH), 2 p.m. British Columbia at EOU (DH), 2 p.m.	
Saturday	British Columbia at EOU (DH), 11 a.m. BMCC at Wenatchee Valley (DH), Noon
Basketball	
NBA PLAYOFFS	
FIRST ROUND (Best-of-7; x if necessary)	
EASTERN CONFERENCE	
Toronto vs. Washington	Saturday, April 14: Washington at Toronto, 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 17: Washington at Toronto, 4 p.m. Friday, April 20: Toronto at Washington, 5 p.m. Sunday, April 22: Toronto at Washington, 5 p.m.
Boston vs. Milwaukee	Sunday, April 15: Milwaukee at Boston, 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 17: Milwaukee at Boston, 5 p.m. Friday, April 20: Boston at Milwaukee, 6:30 p.m.
WESTERN CONFERENCE	
Golden State vs. San Antonio	Saturday, April 14: San Antonio at Golden State, 12 p.m. Friday, April 16: San Antonio at Golden State, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 19: Golden State at San Antonio, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 22: Golden State at San Antonio, 12:30 p.m.	
Portland vs. New Orleans	Saturday, April 14: New Orleans at Portland, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 17: New Orleans at Portland, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 19: Portland at New Orleans, 6 p.m. Saturday, April 21: Portland at New Orleans, 2 p.m.
Oklahoma City vs. Utah	Sunday, April 15: Utah at Oklahoma City, 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 18: Utah at Oklahoma City, 5 p.m. Saturday, April 21: Oklahoma City at Utah, 7 p.m. Monday, April 23: Oklahoma City at Utah, 7:30 p.m.
Hockey	
NHL PLAYOFF GLANCE	
FIRST ROUND (Best-of-7; x if necessary)	
EASTERN CONFERENCE	
Tampa Bay 1, New Jersey 0	Thursday: Tampa Bay 5, New Jersey 2 Saturday: New Jersey at Tampa Bay, 12 p.m. April 16: Tampa Bay at New Jersey, 4:30 p.m. April 18: Tampa Bay at New Jersey, 4:30 p.m.
Boston 1, Toronto 0	Thursday: Boston 5, Toronto 1 Saturday: Toronto at Boston, 5 p.m. April 16: Boston at Toronto, 4 p.m. April 19: Boston at Toronto, 4 p.m.
Columbus 1, Washington 0	Thursday: Columbus 4, Washington 3, OT Sunday: Columbus at Washington, 4:30 p.m. April 17: Washington at Columbus, 4:30 p.m. April 19: Washington at Columbus, 4:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh 1, Philadelphia 0	Wednesday Pittsburgh 7, Philadelphia 0 Friday: Philadelphia at Pittsburgh, 4 p.m. April 15: Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, 12 p.m. April 18: Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.
WESTERN CONFERENCE	
Nashville 1, Colorado 0	Thursday: Nashville 5, Colorado 2 Saturday: Colorado at Nashville, 12 p.m. April 16: Nashville at Colorado, 7 p.m. April 18: Nashville at Colorado, 7 p.m.
Winnipeg 1, Minnesota 0	Wednesday: Winnipeg 3, Minnesota 2 Friday: Minnesota at Winnipeg, 4:30 p.m. April 15: Winnipeg at Minnesota, 4 p.m. April 17: Winnipeg at Minnesota, 5 p.m.

Vegas 1, Los Angeles 0	Wednesday: Vegas 1, Los Angeles 0 Friday: Los Angeles at Vegas, 7 p.m. April 15: Vegas at Los Angeles, 7:30 p.m. April 17: Vegas at Los Angeles, 7:30 p.m.			
San Jose 1, Anaheim 0	Thursday: San Jose 3, Anaheim 0 Saturday: San Jose at Anaheim, 7:30 p.m. April 16: Anaheim at San Jose, 7:30 p.m. April 18: Anaheim at San Jose, 7:30 p.m.			
Baseball				
MLB				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
Boston	10	2	833	—
Toronto	8	5	615	2½
New York	6	7	462	4½
Baltimore	5	8	385	5½
Tampa Bay	3	9	250	7
Central Division				
Minnesota	7	4	636	—
Cleveland	8	5	615	—
Chicago	4	8	333	3½
Detroit	4	8	333	3½
Kansas City	3	8	273	4
West Division				
Los Angeles	11	3	786	—
Houston	9	4	692	1½
Seattle	6	4	600	3
Oakland	5	8	385	5½
Texas	4	10	286	7
Thursday’s Games				
Cleveland 8, Detroit 3				
Boston 6, N.Y. Yankees 3				
Minnesota 4, Chicago White Sox 0				
L.A. Angels 7, Kansas City 1				
Friday’s Games				
Baltimore (Tillman 0-2) at Boston (Rodriguez 0-0), 4:10 p.m.				
N.Y. Yankees (Montgomery 0-0) at Detroit (Fiers 1-0), 4:10 p.m.				
Philadelphia (Velasquez 1-1) at Tampa Bay (Faria 0-1), 4:10 p.m.				
Toronto (Stroman 0-1) at Cleveland (Clevinger 1-0), 4:10 p.m.				
Chicago White Sox (Lopez 0-1) at Minnesota (TBD), 5:10 p.m.				
Texas (Harnels 1-2) at Houston (Cole 1-0), 5:10 p.m.				
L.A. Angels (Heaney 0-0) at Kansas City (Hammell 0-1), 5:15 p.m.				
Oakland (Triggs 1-0) at Seattle (Leake 2-0), 7:10 p.m.				
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
New York	10	1	909	—
Atlanta	7	5	583	3½

Philadelphia	6	5	545	4		
Washington	6	7	462	5		
Miami	3	9	250	7½		
Central Division						
Pittsburgh	9	3	750	—		
Milwaukee	7	6	538	2½		
Chicago	6	6	500	3		
St. Louis	6	7	462	3½		
Cincinnati	2	10	167	7		
West Division						
Arizona	9	3	750	—		
Colorado	7	7	500	3		
San Francisco	6	6	500	3		
Los Angeles	4	7	364	4½		
San Diego	4	10	286	6		
Thursday’s Games						
Pittsburgh 6, Chicago Cubs 1						
St. Louis 13, Cincinnati 4						
Colorado 5, Washington 1						
San Francisco 7, San Diego 0						
Friday’s Games						
Atlanta (Sanchez 0-0) at Chicago Cubs (Darvish 0-0), 11:20 a.m.						
St. Louis (Weaver 1-0) at Cincinnati (Mahle 1-1), 3:40 p.m.						
Colorado (Freeland 0-2) at Washington (Roark 1-0), 4:05 p.m.						
Milwaukee (Davies 0-1) at N.Y. Mets (Matz 0-1), 4:10 p.m.						
Philadelphia (Velasquez 1-1) at Tampa Bay (Faria 0-1), 4:10 p.m.						
Pittsburgh (Kuhl 1-0) at Miami (Peters 1-1), 4:10 p.m.						
Arizona (Greinke 0-1) at L.A. Dodgers (Maeda 1-0), 7:10 p.m.						
San Francisco (Blach 1-1) at San Diego (Ross 1-1), 7:10 p.m.						
Soccer						
MLS						
EASTERN CONFERENCE						
New York City FC	5	0	16	14	4	
Atlanta United FC	4	1	0	12	13	6
New England	3	1	1	10	10	5
Colorado	3	2	1	10	9	6
Orlando City	2	2	1	7	9	10
New York	2	2	0	6	10	5
Montreal	2	3	0	6	5	9
Philadelphia	1	2	5	3	4	4
Chicago	1	2	1	4	7	8
Toronto FC	1	2	0	3	4	4
D.C. United	0	3	2	2	5	10
WESTERN CONFERENCE						
Sporting K.C.	4	1	13	12	9	
Vancouver	3	2	1	10	8	9
L.A. Galaxy	2	2	1	7	8	
Real Salt Lake	2	3	1	7	14	
Los Angeles FC	2	2	0	6	9	
Minnesota United	2	3	0	6	6	

FC Dallas	1	0	3	6	6	3
Colorado	1	1	2	5	7	5
Houston	1	2	1	4	7	6
San Jose	1	2	1	4	7	8
Portland	0	3	2	2	6	12
Seattle	0	3	0	0	0	5
NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie						
Friday’s Games						
Orlando City at Philadelphia, 8 p.m.						
Los Angeles FC at Vancouver, 10 p.m.						
Saturday’s Games						
Montreal at New York, 1 p.m.						
Toronto FC at Colorado, 3 p.m.						
LA Galaxy at Chicago, 3:30 p.m.						
Columbus at D.C. United, 7 p.m.						
FC Dallas at New England, 7:30 p.m.						
Houston at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.						
Minnesota United at Portland, 10:30 p.m.						
Golf						
PGA Tour						
RBC HERITAGE	Thursday					
At Harbour Town Golf Links	Hilton Head, S.C.					