Sports

AUTO RACING

Pagenaud's late pass leads to dramatic win at Indy 500

By Dave Skretta
AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — In the waning laps of a rage-filled Indianapolis 500, Alexander Rossi was pacing the field back to the green flag when he made a brazen declaration to his Andretti Autosport crew.

"A bunch of hungry, angry cars behind me," he radioed. "Little do they know I'm angrier."

The finish didn't bring him any joy.

Simon Pagenaud breezed past him high on the restart, triggering a dramatic duel that included five passes in the closing 13 laps. Rossi twice regained the lead, but it was Pagenaud who made the decisive pass, taking the lead heading to the white flag and then holding on through the final lap.

It gave Team Penske another win at the Brickyard. And it left Rossi ruing a chance that got away.

"I'm happy to get a result," he said, "but unfortunately nothing else matters here but winning. This one will be hard to get over, but at the end of the day, it's a great showing."

Rossi said the difference was simple: "Horsepower."

All month long, the Chevrolet-powered cars appeared to have an advantage over Honda, particularly when it came to straight-line speed. Honda appeared to have an advantage in fuel mileage, but a late wreck that red-flagged the race wound up making that a moot point.

Speed was all that mattered. Pagenaud in his Chevrolet had just a bit more.

"There's not much I can do about that inside the car," said Rossi, who won the 2016 race in his first try, and has finished seventh or better in all four starts. "That last yellow hurt us. We were doing a lot better on fuel mileage than he was. It was the first kind of nail in the proverbial coffin. And the second was I just didn't have the speed out front."

Rossi acknowledged it was "a good day for the team," but a number of incidents hurt the chances of a car he said was "by far the best in the field."

The first came on a pit stop midway through the race, when an issue with a component inside the fueling mechanism caused a problem. While a crew member frantically kept trying to get the gas to flow, Rossi began pounding his steering wheel in frustration for a stop that took more than 20 seconds.

It only cost Rossi a handful of spots, thanks to a timely yellow flag.

"It wasn't ideal, for sure," said Rossi's race strategist, Rob Edwards.

The second incident involved Oriol Servia, who was a lap down but found himself jockeying with the leaders with about 50 laps to go. Rossi kept trying to get around him, and at one point got pinched and nearly hit the wall while trying to make a pass, leaving him to ask: "What is he doing!?"

Rossi finally got around Servia while gesturing wildly from his cockpit at about 230 mph.

"There was a lot of lapped cars and no respect for what we were doing," Rossi said. "It was really unfortunate. Ultimately it didn't make a difference with the result."

Not with the way Pagenaud was driving down the stretch.

He took the lead on Rossi during the restart with 13 laps to go, then gave it up on the next lap, only to regain it once more. Pagenaud patiently waited for the penultimate lap, then swept through Turn 3 to retake the lead as the two of them barreled toward the white flag.

Oakland completes sweep of Mariners

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Brett Anderson initially looked a little lost covering first base to take a throw from shortstop Marcus Semien on the back end of a 3-6-1 double play, taking several stabs at the bag with his foot.

Like most everything these days for the Oakland Athletics, it ultimately worked out just fine.

Matt Chapman homered for the second consecutive day, Josh Phegley also went deep and had three RBIs, and the streaking A's won their ninth straight, beating the Seattle Mariners 7-1 to complete a three-game sweep Sunday.

"We're playing good defense, we're getting timely hits, we're getting good pitching, bullpen, the whole bit," Oakland manager Bob Melvin said. "Everybody's picking each other up a little bit better in the different facets than earlier in the year."

Anderson allowed one run in 6 1/3 innings to win after being forced out of his previous start with a cervical strain. Anderson (6-3) struck out four and walked four, but got the Mariners to hit into double plays in three straight innings.

The Mariners finished winless on their six-game road trip, the franchise's worst since going 0-7 from July 26-Aug. 1, 2010.

BRIEFING

Packers legend Bart Starr dies at 85

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Bart Starr, the gentlemanly quarterback and catalyst of Vince Lombardi's powerhouse Green Bay Packers teams of the 1960s whose sneak won the famed "Ice Bowl" in 1967, died Sunday. He was 85.

The Packers selected Starr out of the University of Alabama with the 200th pick in the 1956 draft. He led Green Bay to six division titles, five NFL championships and wins in the first two Super Bowls.

The Packers said Starr died in Birmingham, Alabama, where he lived. He had been in failing health since suffering two strokes and a heart attack in 2014.

Angelique Kerber loses at French Open

PARIS (AP) — Angelique Kerber won't complete a career Grand Slam this year.

Still hampered by a right ankle injury, the three-time Grand Slam winner lost in the first round of the French Open on Sunday as the clay-court major began with an upset.

The fifth-seeded German lost 6-4, 6-2 to an 18-year-old Roland Garros beginner, Russian Anastasia Potapova, on Court Philippe Chatrier.

Stanley Cup finals begin today

Seeing the famous photo of Bobby Orr scoring the 1970 Stanley Cup-winning goal to beat his St. Louis Blues doesn't bring back bad memories for Scotty Bowman.

"Not really," the legendary coach said. "Because we didn't have a big opportunity to win that series."

Orr and the big, bad Boston Bruins swept Bowman's overmatched, expansion-era Blues in that series. Now 49 years later, Boston is in its third final in nine seasons and St. Louis is back for the first time since 1970, but this Bruins-Blues rematch is a showdown between two of the NHL's best teams since Jan. 1.

"Now it's more level," Bowman said. "(The Blues) don't give a lot of room in their end, and of course their goalie's been lights out."

Coming off a sweep of Carolina in the Eastern Conference final, the Bruins are favored in the series that begins today in Boston. Goaltender Tuukka Rask is the front-runner to win the Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP. Brad Marchand is playing some of the best hockey of his career with 18 points in 17 games, and there's a mix of veterans from the 2011 Stanley Cup-winning team and fresh players eager to get their names etched on the trophy.

U.S. women defeat Mexico 3-0

HARRISON, N.J. (AP) — Tobin Heath was gifted a goal by a goalkeeper error early in the first half, Mallory Pugh and Christen Press scored late in the second and the United States beat Mexico 3-0 Sunday in a World Cup send-off match that for much of the afternoon showed the Americans' failings more than their facets.

Seeking its second straight World Cup title and fourth overall, the top-ranked U.S. has seven wins and two draws since a Jan. 19 defeat at France that ended a 28-game unbeaten streak. The Americans leave Monday for London, where they will be based at Tottenham's training camp.

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