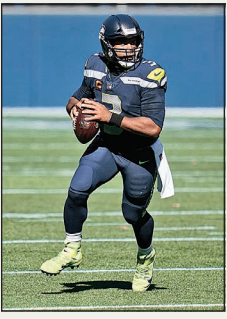


SPORTS

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INSIDE



Elaine Thompson/AP file
Seattle Seahawks QB Russell Wilson looks to pass against the Dallas Cowboys in Seattle on Sept. 27.

Russ not wrong

— Seahawks QB Wilson has voiced his displeasure with his offensive line, but some of the blame for the hits he has taken falls on his shoulders. Commentary, **A7**.

NFL

Girl hit by ex-Chiefs coach out of coma

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — A 5-year-old critically injured in the car crash involving now-former Chiefs coach Britt Reid has woken up from her coma, according to an update posted late Monday on a GoFundMe page for the family.

Reid, whose employment with the Chiefs ended last week, struck two cars with his pickup truck on the night of Feb. 4, according to a search warrant application obtained by The Kansas City Star. The impact into the second vehicle injured two young children, including 5-year-old Ariel, who has remained in critical condition.

The GoFundMe page, organized by a family member on behalf of Ariel's mother, has posted regular updates that Ariel is in a coma, but a three-word post Monday offered the first glimpse of positive news.

"Ariel is awake," it read, offering no further details.

The page, which has reached nearly \$500,000 in donations, previously stated that Ariel had swelling and bleeding in and around her brain. Her 4-year-old cousin sustained a concussion in the crash, according to the page.

Kansas City police is still investigating the crash, a process it says could take weeks to complete. Police seized Reid's cell phone as part of that investigation, according to court records.

Reid, 35, is no longer a Chiefs employee after eight seasons with the team. They placed him on administrative leave last week before allowing his contract to expire without renewal, effectively ending his employment with the organization.

The NFL has said it will review the crash, per its personal conduct policy. Andy Reid said last week that his son had surgery after the crash. Britt Reid did not travel with the team to Tampa for the Super Bowl, which was played three days later.

Reid hit two cars on the side of an entrance ramp along Interstate 435, near the team's practice facility, a police report said. Two kids were in the second vehicle.

A police officer said in the application for the search warrant that he could smell "a moderate odor of alcoholic beverages emanating from his person." The officer also wrote that he observed Reid's eyes were "bloodshot and red." Reid allegedly admitted to the officer he had "2-3 drinks."

— Kansas City Star

TENNIS | AUSTRALIAN OPEN

On the move

Serena Williams' court coverage brings her near Grand Slam title No. 24

BY HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Tennis Writer

Serena Williams agrees with everyone else that her footwork and movement are better these days than they've been for a bit — and that's a big reason she's closing in on what would be a record-tying 24th Grand Slam singles title.

Here's what she wants to make clear, though, as a blockbuster Australian Open semifinal against Naomi Osaka approaches on Thursday: This is nothing new.

As much as Williams thrives with her best-in-the-game serves, superb returns and booming groundstrokes, her ability to cover the court has long been a staple of her success.

Yes, it's been below par — "the last



AP Photo/Andy Brownbill

Serena Williams hits a forehand return to Romania's Simona Halep during their quarterfinal match at the Australian Open in Melbourne, Australia, on Tuesday.

"I'm good at rallying and I have to embrace the things I'm good at. I'm good at playing power. I'm good at hitting 100 ball. And that's one thing that's unique about me, that I just need to kind of accept and embrace and just be good at both."

— Serena Williams

two, three years," in her coach's estimation — but is once again an asset, thanks in part to finally getting past a

problematic left Achilles.

Two key points during a 6-3, 6-3 quarterfinal victory over No. 2 seed

Simona Halep on Tuesday illustrated this element of Williams' game. Coming at deuce while Halep served at 3-all in the second set, the first lasted 21 strokes, the second 13.

Both were extended by Williams' defense. Both ended with forehand misses by Halep. Both helped Williams break serve as part of a five-game, match-closing run.

See **Tennis** / A7

ALPINE SKIING

Lots of confusion with 2 races, 3 winners at worlds

BY ERIC WILLEMSSEN

Associated Press

CORTINA D'AMPEZZO — Katharina Liensberger was talking to reporters in the mixed zone when she learned that her silver medal in the parallel giant slalom event had been upgraded to a tie for gold at the world championships.

The Austrian fell to the snow in celebration.

"I just cannot believe it, but it's true," Liensberger said. "I was a little bit confused in the finish."

She wasn't the only one. Ski racing's quick-fire parallel event has seen so many rule changes over the years that many fans hardly understand it anymore.

On Tuesday, even athletes

and organizers at the world championships were so confused by the regulations that it took a while to sort out the medals.

The women's two-run final between Marta Bassino and Liensberger ended in a tie, and organizers initially declared the Italian the winner as she came from behind in the second leg.

However, that was an old rule which isn't valid anymore. So the results were quickly changed to having two co-champions.

"Just 0.00 (on the clock), and then nobody knew what was going on," Liensberger said.

There was no confusion over the result in the men's final, where Mathieu Faivre won both runs against Croa-

tian skier Filip Zubcic to earn France its first gold of the worlds.

Bronze in the women's event went to France's Tessa Worley, who defeated Paula Moltzan of the United States.

"My best at world champs before this was (18th), so fourth is incredible," said Moltzan, who finished runner-up in the only World Cup parallel event this season in November.

On her way the semifinals, Moltzan beat Wendy Holdener, who had posted the fastest time in qualifying. The Swiss skier earlier defeated Moltzan's teammate Nina O'Brien.

Why is Moltzan doing so well at parallel races? "I like the start gates," she



AP Photo/Marco Tacca

Italy's Marta Bassino celebrates with Austria's Katharina Liensberger, face to camera, after winning the parallel giant slalom, at the World Championships in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, on Tuesday. The women's two-run final between Bassino and Liensberger ended in a tie, and organizers initially declared the Italian the winner, then Liensberger's silver was upgraded to a second gold.

said. "As athletes we're all super-competitive so I think this is an interesting way to bring

it out of everybody and I had a lot of fun. I just like it."

See **Skiing** / A6

GOLF

Unable to 'fail in the dark,' Jordan Spieth is seeing light

BY DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

LOS ANGELES — The text messages were meant to encourage. They felt like backhanded compliments to Jordan Spieth.

He had just posted his second straight 67 in the Phoenix Open, three shots off the lead, and it was cause for celebration. After all, Spieth had missed the cut six times in his previous 15 tournaments. The nine other times he made it to the weekend, his average finish was nearly 15 shots behind.

"I was receiving texts that were like it was my first PGA Tour event ever," Spieth said. "And as much as I enjoyed that support, I mean, I'm not leading by three. I didn't win the golf tournament. Yeah, I know it's been a little while since I've been near the top, but like, come on guys. I expect to be here, you know?"

Spieth knows better. His slump has been so pro-

nounced that he now has gone 80 individual tournaments worldwide since his last victory at Royal Birkdale in the 2017 British Open. And it won't officially end until he wins again.

He's getting closer. Whether it's baby steps or giant leaps, at least he's moving forward.

He shared the 54-hole lead in Phoenix until he limped home with a 72 to tie for fourth. One week later, he opened with rounds of 65-67 and took a two-shot lead into the final round at Pebble Beach only to endure another poor start and spend the rest of the day trying to catch up. Two birdies at the end gave him a tie for third.

He was No. 2 in the world when he won at Birkdale. He dropped as low as No. 92 after missing the cut at Torrey Pines last month. The close calls at Phoenix and Pebble allowed him to move up 30 spots to No. 62.

"If I put myself in the position of leading after 54 holes enough times, especially with how I know I'm going to fight even if it's not going my way, I'll end up on top one of these days."

— Jordan Spieth

Even so, he needs another top finish this week at Riviera or Spieth won't be eligible for a World Golf Championship for the first time since becoming a full PGA Tour member in the summer of 2013.

But he has momentum now, which has been lacking the better part of two years.

In his first start to the new year, he shot 75 on the South Course at Torrey Pines to miss the cut by one shot and wasn't even sure he wanted to go to Phoenix. "I was not in a great head space," he said.

And then it turned.

There was a time when going consecutive weeks with at least a share of the lead and not

converting would have been considered a failure. Now it's called progress.

"If I put myself in the position of leading after 54 holes enough times, especially with how I know I'm going to fight even if it's not going my way, I'll end up on top one of these days," Spieth said.

His game is not all the way back. Spieth sensed that Saturday night at Pebble Beach when he led by two shots. Yes, he felt more and more confident. He also said he didn't have control of his game the way he did when he was winning at least three times a year.

Remember, he was still 23 when he already had 14 wins

worldwide and three legs of the career Grand Slam. Nothing about the game had ever felt like a burden.

And that's what has made the climb feel that much steeper. Spieth was as honest as ever last fall when he spoke of anxiety from all the scrutiny of his slump, which he described as "not being able to fail in the dark."

That was neither an excuse nor a complaint. That was reality.

"No hard feelings, no blame," he said. "That's what I get for the start of my career, which was awesome. Anything asked in a negative manner, it's not like I don't feel that way in my own game. I know what I've done. I know what I'm capable of doing. And when I don't, it's more frustrating for me than it is anyone else."

Frustration has given way to disappointment, and that's a good thing.

See **Golf** / A6