

National Hockey League

Bruins top Rangers, 3-2 in OT

BOSTON (AP) — Brad Marchand scored with 4:20 left in the first overtime and the Boston Bruins beat the New York Rangers 3-2 in the first playoff game in 40 years between the Original Six teams.

Marchand, Boston's top goal scorer in the regular season, got his first of the postseason on a pass from Patrice Bergeron. Marchand had carried the puck up the right side, passed it to Bergeron and kept going toward the net. Bergeron passed across the slot and Marchand tipped it past goalie Henrik Lundqvist from the

left side of the crease.

The Bruins carried the play throughout overtime. They applied constant pressure, but couldn't score during a power play when Derek Dorsett was penalized for interference at 2:20 of overtime.

Boston nearly won in regulation, but Johnny Boychuk's shot from the right point clanged off the left post with one-tenth of a second remaining. Then he hit the left post at the other end of the ice at 6:34 of overtime.

Zdeno Chara gave Boston a 1-0 lead at 12:23 of the second before Ryan McDonagh tied it with 1.3

seconds left in the period. Derek Stepan put the Rangers ahead 2-1 just 14 seconds into the third period, and Torey Krug tied it on a power play with his first NHL goal in four career games.

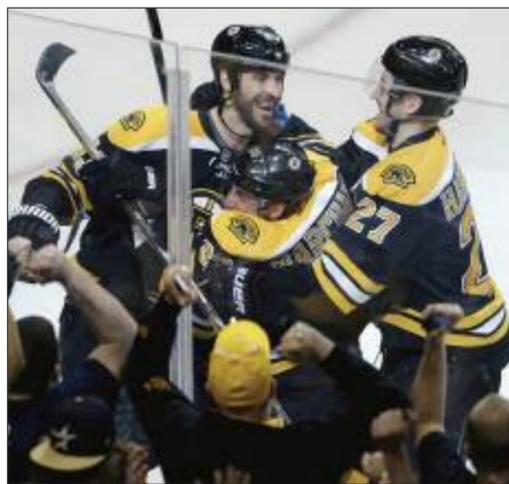
Game 2 of the best-of-seven Eastern Conference semifinals is set for Sunday night in Boston.

Both teams advanced with Game 7 victories Monday night. The Bruins overcame a three-goal deficit with 11 minutes left in regulation and beat the Toronto Maple Leafs 5-4 on Bergeron's goal in overtime. The Rangers beat the Washington Capitals 5-0

behind Lundqvist's second consecutive shutout.

On Thursday, the Bruins played without three injured veteran defensemen: Andrew Ference, Dennis Seidenberg and Wade Redden. Three rookies started on defense: Dougie Hamilton, Matt Bartkowski and Krug, who was called up from Providence of the AHL after Seidenberg was hurt early in the first period Monday night.

The Bruins ended Lundqvist's shutout streak at 152 minutes, 23 seconds when he gave up a Chara's soft goal.



AP PHOTO
Boston Bruins left wing Brad Marchand, center, is congratulated by teammates Dougie Hamilton (27) and Zdeno Chara, left, following his game-winning goal against New York Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist during overtime in Game 1 of an Eastern Conference semifinal in Boston Thursday.

Softball

Roundup

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inning and never let up Thursday against Botkins, while Casey Yingst was as dominant as possible in throwing a perfect game to give Covington a 15-0 victory to open the Division IV sectional tournament.

Yingst struck out 12, walked none and the defense made all three plays it needed to in the five-inning game.

Meanwhile, the Buccs got contributions up and down the lineup, piling up 17 hits. Jessie Shilt was 3 for 3 with a triple, Conner Schaffer was 3 for 3 with two doubles, Brittania Flora, Morgan Arbogast and Haley Adams were all 2 for 3, Alex Gast and Cass Cain both doubled, Heidi Snipes tripled and freshmen Jessie Crowell and Brooke Gostonsky both singled.

"Casey was strong all game," Covington coach Dean Denlinger said. "And we hit the ball real well in every inning."

Covington faces Russia — a 13-5 winner over Lehman — Tuesday at Tippecanoe for the sectional championship.

Newton 11, Catholic Central 0
PLEASANT HILL — A 10-run second inning and a one-hitter by Kirsten Burden proved to be all Newton needed on Thursday as the Indians routed Catholic Central 11-0 in Division IV sectional tournament play.

Burden struck out 11 and Newton committed only one error to post the shutout.

Tiara Jackson led the offense by going 2 for 3 with two RBIs, Kacey Thompson was 1 for 2 with two RBIs and Megan Rutledge was 2 for 3 with an RBI.

Newton faces Southeastern Tuesday at Bethel High School in the sectional title game.

Bradford 4, Fort Loramie 0
FORT LORAMIE — The bats of third-seeded Fort Loramie were silenced by Bradford pitcher Haley Patty Thursday, and it led to an upset in Division IV sectional action at Loramie. Bradford plated

four runs in the top of the seventh and Patty took care of the bottom of the inning to give the Railroaders a 4-0 victory in semifinal action.

Patty struck out 11 hitters and didn't allow a hit until Darian Rose doubled in the seventh inning.

Bradford's first hitter in the seventh reached on an error and was able to get to second. The next batter reached on a fielder's choice, and both runners came home on a single by Kylie Miller. Lindsey Rose added a two-run single later in the inning, scoring Miller and Mikayla Barga.

Bradford faces Ansonia or Mississinawa Valley Tuesday at Fairlawn in the sectional title game.

Division II Northwestern 4, Tippecanoe 3
TIPP CITY — Tippecanoe entered the final two weeks of the season with high hopes and riding a 12-game winning streak.

But a 17-3 loss to Kenton Ridge sent the Red Devils (19-9) on a downward spiral that they could never recover from, losing their final five games of the season — including a 4-3 defeat to Northwestern (19-8) in the second round of the Division II sectional tournament.

"It's just the way it goes. These were two solid teams going at each other," Tippecanoe coach Charles Tackett said.

Tippecanoe fell behind 4-0 before their bats finally woke up in the bottom of the sixth. Kristin Mace finished with two hits, a double and an RBI and Cassie Gingerich and Bri Eichbaum both had a hit and a run — but the Devils only managed five hits in the game to Northwestern's nine.

"They outhit us in the game, but we also gave them a couple of runs with errors," Tackett said. "We haven't been hitting the ball these last five games. We started the season hitting really well, but it's kind of become our Achilles heel."

Eichbaum struck out seven and walked one in the loss.

National Basketball Association

Knicks stay alive

Stubborn New York forces Game 6 with 85-75 win

NEW YORK (AP) — Carmelo Anthony scored 28 points to help the New York Knicks stay alive in the Eastern Conference semifinals with an 85-75 victory over the Indiana Pacers in Game 5 on Thursday night.

Reserves J.R. Smith and Chris Copeland each had 13 points for the Knicks, who trail 3-2 and will need a victory Saturday in Indiana to force a seventh game back here Monday. They are trying to become the ninth NBA team to overcome a 3-1 deficit to win a series.

Anthony, who didn't make a basket in the fourth quarter of either game in Indiana, made a jumper midway through the fourth quarter after Indiana closed within four points. He followed with two free throws, Raymond Felton made a layup, and the Knicks were never in jeopardy again.

Paul George had 23 points, six rebounds and six assists for the Pacers. They played without point guard George Hill because of a concussion and committed 19 turnovers.

But George battled foul trouble and couldn't contain Anthony quite as well as he had while the Pacers easily won the previous two games.

David West had 17 points and 10 rebounds for the Pacers, who were trying to reach the Eastern Conference finals for the first time since 2004.

The winner faces the defending NBA champion Miami Heat in a series that will start Wednesday.

New York didn't really shake its scoring slump, shooting only 41 percent from the field, but put together a few runs during the game to open just enough space against a Pacers team that shot 36 percent and was a dismal 19 of 33 at the free throw line.

They clearly missed Hill after learning about four hours before the game they would be without him.

Pacers coach Frank Vogel said Hill was hurt



AP PHOTO
New York Knicks' Kenyon Martin (3) blocks a shot by Indiana Pacers' Paul George (24) in the second half of Game 5 of an Eastern Conference semifinal at Madison Square Garden in New York Thursday.

after a collision with Knicks center Tyson Chandler during the first half of Indiana's 93-82 victory on Tuesday. Hill finished the game and scored 26 points, but experienced some headaches and showed concussion symptoms since and wasn't able to pass the league's concussion tests so he could play Thursday night.

The Knicks went back to their regular lineup, reinserting Pablo Prigioni, after going with a bigger group in Game 4 in a futile effort to match Indiana on the boards. The smaller group did a better job, getting out-rebounded only 43-40.

The Knicks finally

opened it up midway through the third quarter with a 12-4 run, started by Smith's bank shot and featuring a 3-pointer and follow shot from Copeland, who got more playing time while coach Mike Woodson gave little to veterans Amare Stoudemire and the slumping Jason Kidd, who missed his only shot and remains scoreless in the series.

Anthony made a jumper and a 3-pointer on his first two shots, and Iman Shumpert followed with another jumper for a 7-0 start. Smith got a big ovation when he checked in, which grew much louder when he made his first shot,

dribbling back behind the arc for a 3-pointer that made it 17-12 with 2:56 left in the opening quarter.

Smith has endured a miserable stretch since elbowing Boston's Jason Terry in the fourth quarter of Game 3 in the first round. Suspended for Game 4, he hasn't relocated his shot since, hitting 28 percent in the first four games and has been criticized for not being focused after he was seen out a nightclub with singer Rihanna the night before Game 1 a day game.

He was only 4 of 11, but hit the jumper that started the Knicks' run in the third quarter.

Baseball

Trojans

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stepped up. Penley gave up two hits in the game, striking out four, walking none and hitting two batters in six innings.

Wood was just as good — and more clutch.

"Trenton Wood, what can I say?" Troy coach Ty Welker said. "He stepped up big time. He threw a heck of a game today.

"Our plan today, our hope was that if we could get four innings out of Trenton, we'd be OK. But he threw six really solid innings, and he got out of some jams, too. He did a great job."

Wood gave up three hits, walked four — one intentionally — and struck out six in six scoreless innings of work to get the win.

An outing that was made even more special by how far Wood has come

since his first varsity appearance — when he didn't record an out against Tecumseh.

"Yeah, we had some fun with him about that. He had an infinity ERA after that one," Welker said. "But then he threw a good game against Tipp and a good game against Centerville — and he really stepped up today. Once he got going this year, he was the pitcher we always believed he was."

It wasn't all easy for Wood, though. Sidney got two on in the first inning before Wood induced an inning-ending double play. And with runners on first and second again in the fourth, Wood got a swinging strikeout to end the threat.

The top of the sixth was toughest thanks to a lead-off walk to Preston Heath with the meat of the order

coming up. Sidney ran a hit-and-run with the next hitter, Bobby Benshoff — but Troy second baseman Nick Sanders ranged far to his left to at least get one out, throwing Benshoff out at first.

"I haven't had the best luck with long-distance plays like that all year," Sanders said. "We knew their lefties had been trying to stroke it to my side, and that late in the game, we knew they'd try something like (a hit-and-run). I was supposed to cover second, but Dylan (the shortstop) and I talked about it right before that and worked it out so he'd cover. Even with all that, it was still a hard play to make."

Wood forced a pop to Sanders for the second out then intentionally walked Connor Echols, but a wild pitch moved the runners to second and third. After an

eight-pitch battle with Layne Sharp, Wood induced a grounder to Sanders to get out of the inning untouched.

Penley matched Wood for five innings, though. Troy didn't have a baserunner until Blakely was hit with a pitch with two outs in the third. He stole second but was left stranded, and then in the fifth Kevin McGraw dropped a double into the right-center gap for Troy's for hit — but that came with two outs, also, and he was left on.

But everything came together in the sixth — starting with Blakely being plunked for the second time in as many at-bats to lead off the inning.

"I was looking to get a hit, but you get on base any way you can," Blakely said. "You just have to make the most of your chances."

Cascaden followed by yanking the first pitch he saw deep to left. Sidney's left fielder looked to have the ball tracked down, but at the last moment it went over his head and hit off the fence for a double to put runners on second and third with none out.

"He kind of jammed me, so when I hit it, I didn't know how far it was going to go," Cascaden said. "But hey, it's my (19th) birthday, that got me on second and Devin on third, and the Sandman (Sanders) came up and did the rest."

Enter Sanders. Coming up with no one out, he knew what had to be done in the situation.

"I know Devin's the fastest kid on the team, so I wasn't too worried. I was happy it was him on third. I knew I just had to put it in play," Sanders said. "I was just trying to do my

one job — get the run in any way I could."

And Sanders sent a shallow fly ball into center field, but it was plenty deep enough to score Blakely and give Troy a 1-0 lead. Penley got another flyout and then a grounder to short to get out of the inning without any further damage, but after giving up a single to lead off the seventh, Kendall slammed the door shut with three straight called third strikes.

Troy will face either Centerville or Fairmont — a game that was postponed — Thursday at Athletics In Action Field in Xenia.

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Penley and Niswonger. Wood, Kendall (7) and Nadolny. WP — Wood. LP — Penley. SV — Kendall. 2B — Cascaden (T), McGraw (T). Records: Sidney 11-15, Troy 17-11.