Dent's late 3-pointer completes LSU comeback

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPOKANE, Wash. — Donovan Dent made a 3-pointer with just more than a second left to give LSU an 81-80 comeback win over No. 14 Gonzaga on Saturday.

Dent had 23 points and 10 assists to lead the Tigers (4-0) in the first meeting between the programs. The game was played off campus at Spokane Arena.

Davis Fogle missed a desperation shot at the buzzer for the Bulldogs (2-1).

Fogle sank one of two free throws with 13 seconds left to make it 80-78.

Abdi Bashir Jr. had 15 points off the bench and Skyy Clark scored 14 for LSU.

Freshman center Michael Ruzic added 12 points and 12 rebounds, also off the bench.

Braden Huff led Gonzaga with 18 points and 13 boards. Fogle finished with 15 points, eight rebounds and six assists.

NO. 16 TEXAS TECH 88, STONEHILL 37

LUBBOCK, Texas — Dakari Spear had 22 points, Jamichael Stillwell and Amari Barrett both had double-doubles and Texas Tech stretched its nonconference home winning streak to 50 games with a victory over Stonehill College.

Six players scored in double figures for the Red Raiders (4-0) on a day they were without three key players.

Stillwell had 13 points and 12 rebounds, and Barrett had 13 points and 10 boards.

Damarion Dennis also had 13 points, while Cruz Davis added 12 and Dra Gibbs-Lawhorn 11.

The Red Raiders, coming off an 84-78 home win over No. 3 Illinois on Wednesday, have won 104 of their last 105 nonconference home games since December 2013.

The only loss in that span was 76-74 in overtime to No. 15 Kentucky on Jan. 25, 2020, which ended a school-record, 54-game win streak.

They are 27-0 in nonconference home games under fourth-year coach Grant McCasland.

Chiefs rule out Walker for Sunday's game with groin injury

BY DAVE SKRETTA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Chiefs have ruled Kenneth Walker out of Sunday's game in Atlanta because of a groin injury, leaving them with rookie running back Emmett Johnson, ailing youngster Jaydn Ott and journeyman Nate Carter against Bijan Robinson and the Falcons.

The Chiefs made the announcement Saturday, one day after listing Walker as questionable on their injury report. He had tweaked his groin in practice on Thursday, and coach Andy Reid said the team would be monitoring his progress over the next couple of days.

The Chiefs were flying to Atlanta on Saturday, and they did not expect any changes to their flight plan following the Federal Aviation Administration's ground stoppage a day earlier. Defensive tackle Chris Jones was not traveling with the team for personal reasons, but the Chiefs said he would join the team in Atlanta and he carried no game designation.

Walker is the league's second-leading rusher with 872 yards, trailing Robinson by just eight, though he's also played one fewer game than his Falcons counterpart. Walker also has caught 22 passes for 172 yards and four touchdowns.

Johnson has played well when given a chance this season, though. The overlooked fifth-round pick out of Nebraska has run 26 times for 111 yards and a touchdown, and he's caught 14 passes for 237 yards and another score.

"He's going to play anyway, whether Ken's there or not," Reid said Friday. "Everybody has confidence in him."

The bigger problem for the Chiefs is the lack of options behind Johnson on the depth chart. Brashard Smith went on injured reserve with a hamstring injury on Oct. 24, and Ott — who carried three times for 19 yards in mop-up duty in last week's blowout of the Jets — has been dealing with a sore hamstring of his own, leaving him questionable for Sunday's game in Atlanta.

The Chiefs elevated Carter and wide receiver Jacob De Jesus from the practice squad Saturday.

Carter spent last season with Atlanta, appearing in seven games and carrying nine times for 60 yards.



Darrell Bird/The Cats' Pause

DJ Miller fights for extra yardage after a pass reception during Kentucky's SEC battle with Florida on Saturday.

KENTUCKY

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"Didn't establish the run at all tonight, got out-physicaled at the point of attack, so that to me was the early indication," Stein said. "Not being able to run the ball. When you run it for 61 yards on 27 carries and they rush it for 211 on 48, that's a problem. Got to address it and get it fixed."

Despite that, it would be Kentucky that struck first in the loss, scoring on the Cats' first offensive drive of the game after Kenny Minchey found CJ Baxter for a passing touchdown after meticulously driving down the field. It would be UK's only first-half touchdown.

The Gators' only points of the first half came from a controversial safety, which was awarded after Lance Heard was called for holding, according to officials, in the end zone.

"It was a close one, but, you know, they called it," Stein said postgame. "I didn't know if it was clearly in the end zone, but yeah. It stunk. Definitely was not good."

Then, to start the second half, Minchey was strip sacked, which paved the way for the first UF touchdown and, even with a UK response via a tush push, it never again felt like UK was in control of the game.

After the Philo touchdown, Kentucky would turn the ball over on downs, effectively deciding the game. Kentucky was forced to burn all of its timeouts preventing UF from running out the clock and didn't have enough firepower on offense to score in the final 1:43, turning it over on downs in four plays.

Kentucky football will next wrap up its road schedule for the regular season, traveling to Faurot Field in Columbia, Missouri, to face the No. 22 Mizzou Tigers. Kick off against Missouri is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. CT and will air live on the SEC Network.

DUBAI

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McIlroy in the Race to Dubai standings by nearly 534 points. On offer this week is 2,000 points for the winner, 1,335 for second place, 752 for third place, then fewer and fewer for the minor places.

"I want to show the world I'm capable to play under pressure, and I think so far I've been doing that," Chacarra said. "I think all of my goals have been done this season. So I'm just playing free. This is an extra bonus to have a chance to win it, and just to enjoy every moment."

McIlroy is chasing a record-tying eighth Race to Dubai title for his career alongside Colin Montgomerie, who won the award when it was called the "Order of Merit."

Patrick Reed, third in the Race to Dubai standings, shot a 5-under 67. That left the American tied for 33rd at 3 over after struggling over the first two days.



Doug Benc | Associated Press

New England Patriots mascot Pat Patriot competes in drills with participants at the NFL Flag All Abilities Clinic with Patriots in Munich, Germany, on Friday.

NFL teams with German mascots wooing fans in Munich

BY KEN MAGUIRE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MUNICH — "Leo" stood on a table and encouraged fans to cheer on Barry Sanders as the Detroit Lions great used a mallet to tap a wooden keg of beer at the team pub in Munich.

Leo, whose shaggy mane sports the colors of the German flag, is the Lions' German mascot who has been appearing around Munich this week ahead of Detroit's game against the New England Patriots on Sunday.

NFL teams are using mascot diplomacy to win over international fans, and several teams have created German versions of their fun and furry characters with names like Wolfgang, Fritz and Leo.

The funsters are welcome additions in Germany, where fans are accustomed to the mascots of Bundesliga soccer clubs.

"We like it when the mascots are running around or making a show in the stadium. It's very funny, and the atmosphere, we love it," local fan Theresa Goebel said Saturday during a visit to the Lions fan fest in Munich.

Germany is the most sought-after country among NFL teams, 11 of which have league-granted marketing rights in the country. That's the most in the NFL's global markets program.

Several of the mascots are in Munich this weekend as all 11 teams with German rights are holding fan-related events.

The Lions created Leo last year to join longtime mascot Roary. The team also has Reizinho for Brazil, where the Lions also have marketing rights. Reizinho wears No. 10 in a nod to Brazilian soccer culture.



Sean Ryan | Associated Press

Kansas City Chiefs mascot K.C. Wolfgang poses for a photo with a fan at the Chiefs House: Christmas Edition event in Munich, Germany, on Friday.

The Kansas City Chiefs already had KC Wolf when they decided a year ago to share his burden with four other mascots catering to some of the team's designated markets: KC Wolfgang with "disciplined energy" for Germany, KC O'Wolf with "a touch of leprechaun energy" for Ireland, KC Wolfington "with cheeky charm" for Britain, and KC Lobazo "with presence and flair" for Spain.

But the first NFL team to add a German mascot was the Atlanta Falcons. Fritz Falcon was introduced in August 2024, joining longtime mascot Freddie Falcon. Fritz was front and center in Berlin last year when the Falcons played the Indianapolis Colts. Fritz is also in Munich this week and ran a 40-yard dash — naturally tripping and falling in the process.

"People love the Americana but we see that to reach that additional layer of fandom we do have to, collectively the league's clubs have to go that extra mile and have to find ways how we can also talk to the fans," said Alexander Steinforth, general manager of NFL Germany.

"And that's why those local angles are super important for us. Teams kind of reinventing a second mascot — it's great, it's fun," he added. "But it's just one layer of things that are happening when it comes to trying to be local."

Some teams stick with their regular mascot for international duty. The Colts' mascot Blue was a fan favorite in Berlin and the team recently partnered with German lifestyle brand Lobster & Lemonade to bring "limited edition 'Blue' collection to Germany." The jerseys and hoodies feature Blue throwing a pie.

New England stalwart "Pat Patriot" — fictional birth date July 4, 1776 — also goes on the road with team. He's been visiting fans in beer halls as well as playing flag football with local kids.

The Seattle Seahawks added "Bam C. Hawk" as the team's international mascot two years ago. Goebel, the local fan, was more familiar with the regular mascot. She owns a "Blitz" figurine.

"We have it in our living room," she said. "We love it, really."

KWC

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points with five minutes to go, but the poise of Wesleyan allowed them to overcome the Bearcats 37-14 run that lasted the first 15 minutes of the half.

The Panthers started to execute again with Logan McIntire hitting threes and Ke'Andre Jones getting the basket. Jones tied the game at 75 with a dunk at 1:48 and McIntire gave the Panthers a 78-76 lead with a three 44 seconds later. After defensive stops, the Panthers again shortened the game by making free throws until the final buzzer.

McIntire hit six three-point shots and finished with 24 points. Burri added 21 points and seven rebounds while Jones collected 16 points. Fallou Gueye gave the Panthers 11 points on the night as well.

The Panthers will return home on Tuesday to host Simmons College of Kentucky. Tip-off at the historic Sportscenter is scheduled for 6 p.m.

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