

PRO HOCKEY: BOSTON 4,
N.Y. RANGERS 3Bruins
score 2
late to
win 5th
straight

BOSTON (AP)—With less than 4 minutes left and their modest winning streak in jeopardy, the Boston Bruins pulled off a comeback that would have seemed improbable a few weeks ago.

Ryan Spooner and David Krejci scored 2:03 apart late in the third period and the Bruins rallied to beat the New York Rangers 4-3 on Friday.

"We didn't stop playing. We kept pushing," Krejci said.

After limping through an inconsistent start to the season, the Bruins extended their winning streak to five games by beating one of the top teams in the Eastern Conference.

Tuukka Rask had 24 saves for the Bruins.

Spooner's power-play goal with 3:46 left to play tied it at 3-3, then Krejci struck again on a deflected slap shot that beat Henrik Lundqvist with 1:43 remaining.

"We showed a lot of character tonight. I think we have to be really happy about it," Boston forward Brad Marchand said. "It shows that we're learning and we're coming together."

Patrice Bergeron and Brett Connolly also scored for the Bruins.

Oscar Lindberg, Rick Nash and J.T. Miller scored for the Rangers, and Lundqvist finished with 30 saves.

The Rangers have lost back-to-back games in regulation for just the second time this season. New York held leads of 2-1 and 3-2 but couldn't finish off the Bruins.

"Those ones sting a lot," said Ryan McDonagh, who assisted on Nash's goal that gave New York its first lead. "It's under 5 minutes and they always seem to get something late against us. Right now we haven't been able to finish very well in this barn and it's something that we need to continue to look at and get better."

The game went back-and-forth through the third period, with both teams capitalizing on penalties.

Miller's power-play goal 9:28 into the third period gave the Rangers a 3-2 lead with Brad Marchand sitting in the penalty box for Boston after being called for goalie interference. He made contact with Lundqvist while skating across the crease.

Boston coach Claude Julien felt Lundqvist embellished the contact and was livid with the call, which Marchand still had some questions about after the game.

"He must have gotten hit with a cement block the way he went down. I didn't know I was that strong," Marchand said.

The penalty ended up leading to the go-ahead goal on Keith Yandle's slap shot from the point.

Miller was in front of Rask and was credited with the goal.

Frustrated by the call, the Bruins didn't let it get beyond that.

The Rangers had their own costly penalty in the second, when Dylan McIlrath was called for instigating a fight with Matt Beleskey after the Bruins' forward leveled Derek Stepan with a hit deep in New York's zone.

New York coach Alain Vigneault said the hit came well

BRUINS B3

PRO FOOTBALL: NEW ENGLAND vs. DENVER

Defense likely to take center stage

The focus usually is on Tom Brady and Peyton Manning when their teams meet, but defense could steal the show in this Patriots-Broncos matchup.

DENVER (AP) — For once, the matchup between the New England Patriots and Denver Broncos isn't all about the quarterbacks.

With Peyton Manning in a walking cast and Tom Brady's supporting cast in disarray, this showdown in the snow Sunday night likely comes down to which dominant defense handles the atmosphere, the pressure and the passer the best.

"Obviously when you say the New England Patriots, you think Tom Brady, but this defense is going to be the best defense we played all year," Broncos receiver Emmanuel Sanders said.

Same goes for the Patriots.

Brady was equally impressed by

Denver's pass rushers, led by Von Miller, and coverage men paced by Aqib Talib and Chris Harris Jr.

"These guys, it's a lot of tough, tight coverage," Brady said. "They put a lot of pressure on you. I think the mark of a good defense is putting pressure on the offense. ... They've limited teams to yards, points, turnovers, sacks, first-down defense. They're impressive in every statistical category."

Brock Osweiler won at Chicago last weekend in his first start after serving as Manning's backup for the first 62 games of his NFL career. He thought he was getting punked when told he'd been chosen AFC offensive player of the week.

"I didn't believe it at first. I really didn't. I thought everybody was joking with me," Osweiler said, laughing.

Manning was in good spirits himself after seeing a foot specialist and getting a plan for his recovery and rehab, one that could see him return

DEFENSE B6



Associated Press

New England Patriots defensive lineman Jabaal Sheard tackles Buffalo Bills wide receiver Chris Hogan during Monday night's game in Foxboro, Mass. Defense likely will play a significant role on Sunday night, when the Patriots and Broncos meet in Denver.

Studying abroad



Contributed photo

Former North Kingstown High School soccer star Brett Uttley, a Jamestown native, poses at a recent soccer game in Barcelona. Uttley took the season off from his job as an assistant coach at Quinnipiac University to study at a coaching school in Spain.

Jamestown native learning finer points of coaching soccer in Barcelona

By William Geoghegan
Staff writer

He assumed the elderly woman sitting next to him was a casual fan. Then the game started, and she began sounding like a well-versed coach, and Brett Uttley realized he was in the right place.

They know their soccer in Barcelona, and Uttley is learning everything he can.

The Jamestown native and former North Kingstown High School soccer star has been in Spain since August, studying at the Sport Networking MBP School of Coaches. The four-month program in which he's immersed teaches a methodology that is touted as the cutting edge of soccer analytics, and Uttley hopes it becomes the foundation for a coaching career. The 25-year-old is the first American coach to attend the school.

"One of my fellow coaches here summed it up. He said, 'If you want to be a lawyer, you go to Harvard. If you want to be an engineer, you go to MIT. And if you want to learn about football, you come to Barcelona,'" Uttley said.

He made the move this year, after learning of the program in January from former New England Revolution general manager Craig Tornberg. Uttley had just completed his first season as an assistant coach at Quinnipiac

University, where he played three seasons, and was intrigued by the idea of studying new intricacies of the game in a place that could be called the soccer capital of the world.

"I did research on it and I said, 'I have to do this,'" Uttley said.

Quinnipiac coach Eric Da Costa agreed. Uttley took a leave of absence from his spot on the staff to take a leap

ABROAD B3

PRO BASKETBALL: BOSTON 111, WASHINGTON 78

Sullinger, Thomas lead Celtics in blowout win over Washington

'From the beginning of the game it was contagious. One person was making the extra pass and then the next guy was and we were getting easy shots.'

AVERY BRADLEY
Celtics guard

BOSTON (AP)—Two nights after narrowly avoiding an embarrassing loss, the Boston Celtics rolled to an easy win.

Jared Sullinger had 18 points and 15 rebounds in three quarters and Isaiah Thomas scored 21 points, leading the Celtics to a 111-78 rout of the Washington Wizards on Friday.

"From the beginning of the game it was contagious," said Avery Bradley, who scored 16 for Boston. "One

person was making the extra pass and then the next guy was and we were getting easy shots."

Jae Crowder had 17 points for the Celtics, who posted a runaway win against the Wizards for the second time in three weeks. Kelly Olynyk scored nine of his 12 points in the fourth quarter as both coaches left the finish to their reserves.

Boston looked nothing like the team that needed to rally from a

five-point deficit in the final few minutes for an 84-80 victory over lowly Philadelphia on Wednesday.

"I think pulling out that Sixers game was huge," Celtics coach Brad Stevens said. "I felt we had a pretty good shootaround and then felt like we played on both ends probably as consistently for 48 minutes as we've played all year."

Jared Dudley scored 19 for Washington, which has lost three in a row.

Bradley Beal had 16 points, and John Wall finished with 10 points and six assists.

The Wizards shot 32 percent (27 for 84) from the field and committed 22 turnovers.

"You can't play this game solely based on if you're making or missing shots," Washington coach Randy Wittman said. "We have energy to start

CELTICS B3

SPORTS

Abroad

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of faith in Spain.

"My boss gave me the green light," Uttley said. "He said, 'You have to do this. You're only 25 once. Go live in Barcelona and learn everything you can about soccer.'"

Uttley already knew a lot. He's played for about as long as he could walk, in youth leagues in Jamestown and South County. He was a two-time Rhode Island Gatorade Player of the Year and an All-American at North Kingstown High School. He then played three years at Quinnipiac — 2008, 2010 and '11 — before finishing his collegiate career with a post-graduate season at the University of Rhode Island. He had a brief stint with a professional team in Sweden before his third hamstring tear in one season led him to hang up his cleats and begin his foray into coaching.

"I always knew I wanted to get into coaching," he said.

His goal is to be a coach at the professional level. With that objective in mind, he started "The Other Guy Soccer," a brand that includes a website full of coaching advice and training tips and a slate of summer soccer camps in Jamestown. At Quinnipiac, he got his foot in the door as a volunteer assistant coach. This fall, in addition to his work in Spain, he is enrolled in online classes at Ohio University for a master's degree in recreation and sport sciences.

"It's kind of been a whirlwind the last few months," Uttley said.

But he wanted to make sure Barcelona would be part of it. Three months into the course, it's been everything Uttley hoped for, and more. For as many soccer games as he's played, he's never seen the game the way he's starting to see it now.

MBP, which stands for Making Better Players, is a methodology developed in Spain by Dr. Albert Rude. Its creation was sparked by Rude's work with a soccer research group made up of representatives from some of the top soccer clubs and universities in Europe. The group's objective was to identify specific sequences in soccer that could allow for the game to be understood and analyzed on a higher level. Training would then reflect those sequences. If a defender faces the same scenario 10 times per game, he or she can train specifically with that scenario in mind.

The MBP methodology builds on that idea with a full system for analyzing and training players from age 4 up to the professional level. Using the methodology, a coach can watch a game and assign a label to a player. If a 6-year-old boy consistently dribbles through traffic, he's an egocentric 1 player. If a teammate finds a passing lane in



University of Rhode Island photo
Brett Uttley of Jamestown plays for the University of Rhode Island men's soccer team in 2012. Since the end of his collegiate soccer career, Uttley has transitioned into coaching and has spent the past few months studying at an elite coaching school in Spain.

'I feel like I've always analyzed soccer my whole life. Here, it's just different. You're able to train your eye with the theoretical aspect that you're learning in class.'

BRETT UTTLEY

talking about studying at the Sport Networking MBP School of Coaches in Barcelona

the same situation, he's an egocentric 2 player and may be ready for the next step in the 19-stage curriculum. In such a system, players would be grouped by cognitive soccer age as opposed to their actual age.

"It's a way to better standardize and better implement a way of working," Uttley said. "You're trying to make it as objective as possible."

Uttley's course, called "High Performance," is geared toward players age 14 or older. Uttley and his fellow students — one from Mexico and three from Holland — spend about four hours per day in a classroom setting. They also attend at least two games per week, where the focus is on applying what they're learning.

"Whatever I thought it was, it's thousands of times better," Uttley said. "I feel like I've always analyzed soccer my whole life. Here, it's just different. You're able to train your eye with the theoretical aspect that you're learning in class."

The city's soccer culture helps. The sport is everywhere, from the front page of newspapers to dusty fields where children play for hours. The city's

professional team, FC Barcelona, is one of the world's best. Camp Nou, the stadium where it plays, is down the street from Uttley's apartment.

"The culture surrounding FC Barcelona and the game of soccer, it's unbelievable," Uttley said. "Everybody knows the game."

Uttley said the total immersion in the game he loves will make it hard to leave the school and the city, but he'll take the experience — and the methodology — with him when he returns home in December. He'll resume his duties at Quinnipiac and is planning soccer camps for the summer. He's not sure what the next step is, but he knows the soccer lessons he's learned will help.

If Uttley has his way, his teams will play a brand of soccer that would make a diehard Barcelona fan proud — even the hard-to-please lady who's seen it all.

"Whatever I can do to play my part in improving the game in the States," Uttley said, "that's what I really want to do."

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PRO BASKETBALL

Boston police investigating fight involving 76ers rookie

HOUSTON (AP) — Philadelphia 76ers center Jahlil Okafor said he's embarrassed about a Boston nightclub scuffle that was captured on video and is dealing with the team and league on possible discipline.

"It was definitely dumb on my part," Okafor said following a shoot-around Friday, several hours before the Houston Rockets were scheduled to host the Sixers. "Something I'm embarrassed about. Still dealing with the league and the team but I'm not happy about it all. We're still going through the process of what we're going to do."

Okafor said he reacted to heckling about the 0-16 Sixers, the only team in the NBA without a win. He said he told 76ers coach Brett Brown about what happened during the team's plane ride to Houston.

TMZ posted cellphone video of the altercation on Thursday, showing Okafor yelling and later shoving a man outside the club.

According to a statement issued Friday evening by Boston police, a man filed a police report Friday morning stating he was the victim of assault and battery outside the Storyville nightclub on Exeter Street in Boston at around 2 a.m. Thursday. The man said Okafor and another man approached his group and asked some of the women for their phone numbers. When the women declined, a verbal altercation ensued, followed by a physical scuffle. The man said Okafor pushed him and punched him, knocking him to the ground and causing a cut over his eye that later required stitches.

Police said they are "actively reviewing" the case and no charges have been filed. Police had said earlier Friday that they would not investigate the case unless someone involved came forward to say they were the victim of a crime.

Okafor started for Philadelphia on Friday night.

Brown said the team will handle the situation internally



Associated Press
Celtics forward Evan Turner, top, grabs a rebound over Philadelphia 76ers center Jahlil Okafor during Wednesday's game in Boston. Okafor was involved in an altercation at a Boston nightclub after the game.

and he expects input from the league.

"This is not something that we dismiss," Brown said. "We pay attention. We walk that line of doing what we need to help educate and discipline anybody and help them understand if the situation were to present itself again how are you going to handle it."

The 76ers recently discussed how to handle these kinds of situations, with Brown and team staff showing videos and saying that when out after 3 a.m., nothing good happens.

The Sixers don't have a curfew but the team asks players to make responsible decisions, Brown said. He said the team won't change how it handles players following games.

"It's an unfortunate thing," Brown said. "As coach of the

team its part of one of the many layers you have to do to coach young people."

Brown said it's a learning experience for Okafor, being one of the younger guys in the NBA.

Okafor said the embarrassment is the toughest part about the situation.

"I'm ashamed with what I did and that's not who I am," he said. "Everybody that reached out to me that's in my circle, they know that's not who I am. So I have a great support system and they will continue to support me."

The incident wasn't Okafor's first with hecklers, The Philadelphia Inquirer reported. A verbal exchange at a Philadelphia club in October resulted in one of the men involved pointing a gun at Okafor.



Associated Press
Boston Celtics guard Isaiah Thomas, left, and forward Jared Sullinger laugh on the bench during the second half of a 111-78 win over the Washington Wizards on Friday night in Boston. Thomas and Sullinger combined to score 39 points and Sullinger added 15 rebounds.

Celtics

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the game, but when we miss shots we lose that."

The Celtics put together a 12-2 run midway through the opening period, and the Wizards never recovered. Boston led by as much as 17 in the first quarter.

Beal had 11 points in the first period, and then zero in the second. Washington made just six field goals in each of the first two quarters, going 12 for 45 in the half.

"It doesn't matter how good your offense is if you can't stop anybody," Wall said. "I'm giving them all the credit for what

they did. We just didn't make shots offensively and we didn't defend and they got whatever they wanted."

Evan Turner added to Washington's woes with a 19-foot jumper right before the buzzer, lifting Boston to a 54-36 half-time lead.

BIG CHEERLEADER: The game was so one-sided Boston fans entertained themselves by doing the wave midway through the fourth quarter, with Sullinger cheering them on from the bench. The big center pulled down 15 rebounds for the third time this season.

"When you are in the right defensive position, it seems the

rebounds come easier," Sullinger said.

BELOW AVERAGE: Beal was averaging 20 points and Wall 16.5 entering Friday's game. Both guards finished well below their averages against Boston's consistent defense.

"We just try to eliminate their fast-break points as a team and I feel like we did a great job tonight," Sullinger said. "That's what really got us going tonight."

TIP-INS: Sullinger had his fifth double-double of the season. ... Boston also beat Washington 118-98 on Nov. 6 in Boston.



Associated Press
Boston Bruins forward Matt Beleskey checks Derek Stepan of the New York Rangers into the boards in the second period of Friday's game in Boston. Stepan suffered broken ribs on the play and was unable to finish the game.

Bruins

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after Stepan had passed off the puck. It also broke a few ribs, leaving the Rangers without Stepan indefinitely, Vigneault said.

"In our opinion, it was a late hit," Vigneault said. "More than a second, and he was a couple of feet away from the boards. So we'll have to wait and see."

McIlrath was shaking off his gloves while headed to Beleskey and landed a few shots, but McIlrath left his team short-handed and Connolly capitalized for the Bruins at 9:34 in the second period.

The Rangers entered the second down 1-0 but

took the lead after Lindberg and Nash scored goals 3:05 apart.

Oscar Lindberg skated from behind the net and beat Rask with a wrist shot 2:10 into the second. Nash scored again for the Rangers at 5:15 after McDonagh gloved down a high clearing attempt. The Bruins were all headed the other way, leaving Nash alone in front for an easy feed from McDonagh.

Notes: Stepan was slow to get up after the hit by Beleskey. He played another shift in the second period but did not return for the third. ... Saturday was the first of three meetings between the Rangers and Bruins and the only one in Boston this season. ... Jimmy Hayes' assist on Connolly's goal in the second period was his first point in 10 games.

GIRLS BASKETBALL
Get the inside scoop on the local teams . 86

SPORTS

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