

# U.S. aims for historic clean sweep in ice hockey

MILAN (AP) — The United States is looking to do something no nation has ever done: Clean sweep the ice hockey tournaments at the Olympics and Paralympics.

Standing in the way? Canada again.

Just like in the men's and women's tournaments at the Olympics, Sunday's gold medal match in Para ice hockey will be between the U.S. and Canada.

"We got to do our part, right? So they got the two done, so now it's our job and we just got to bring it home for them," U.S. forward Kevin McKee told The Associated Press.

Naturally, Canada wants bragging rights in the rivalry and to break American Para hearts.

"It is a source of pride for us just to win, like we believe Canada is THE hockey country and we want to

prove that," Canada forward Adam Dixon said.

Both teams dominated the group stage at the Paralympics, each winning all three of their matches. The U.S. then beat the Czech Republic 6-1 in Friday's semifinals, when Canada struggled at times before overcoming China 4-2.

Canada Para ice hockey captain Tyler McGregor said the two Olympic losses were not playing on his teammates' minds.

"No. You know what, we're going to write our own story," he said. "We watched both our men's and women's team compete here a few weeks ago and they played phenomenal.

"Those were two of the best hockey games I've ever seen, but this is our story at the Paralympics and we have a chance to bring home

a gold medal for Canada. And what an honor that would be."

Rather than avenge the Olympic defeats, Canada is driven more to avenge losses to the U.S. in the past two gold-medal matches at the Paralympics. It has also lost to the U.S. in four of the past five world championship finals.

"That kind of fuels us," forward Liam Hickey said. "We've learned from those. They're a great team and we've had a great rivalry for as long as this sport's been around. So for us it's another kind of chance for redemption and we're excited for it."

## US domination

If the U.S. achieves the treble, it would be the second straight year it has swept the major tournaments, having won the men's and women's world championships and world

Para ice hockey championship in 2025.

There is no women's division at the Paralympics as its classified as an open-gender sport.

U.S. defender Jack Wallace said the group has been talking about the sweep since watching the women's Olympic final together during a training camp. They were also messaging each other during the men's final.

Coach David Hoff would prefer his players bury all thoughts of a sweep before Sunday's final.

"There's a lot of talk about it," Hoff admitted. "I think for us it's really just putting the blinders on and really focusing on what we have to do. Don't let that outside stuff cloud your preparation or bother you. Sometimes that's hard to do but I think our guys have really done a

good job."

While the Olympics saw the U.S. men's team win gold for the first time since the "Miracle on Ice" in 1980, it's a different story at the Paralympics.

The U.S. has triumphed at five of the past six Paralympics and several players are targeting a fourth straight gold medal. Captain Josh Pauls is incredibly aiming for a fifth.

"You've got to enjoy the guys you're playing with," Pauls said when asked about the team's secret to success. "We have such a brotherhood, we just enjoy playing the game, we enjoy competing, we enjoy getting better, but also helping the other guy across from us get better.

"And I mean, I am just so glad to play another team other than our guys, because man, our guys are really tough to play."

## Aberg

Continued from Page B1

Sawgrass allowed for that on a gorgeous day of sunshine, a light wind and greens that were receptive, ideal for scoring on a course that provides low rounds for those who avoided big trouble.

Cameron Young, who contended at the Arnold Palmer Invitational last week, had a 67 and was three shots behind. Young is a big talent who fi-

nally broke through for his first PGA Tour title last summer, and then was America's best in a losing Ryder Cup cause in his home state of New York.

The Players has been a mystery to him, though. He has yet to finish in the top 50 the three times in four years that he made the cut. But he was dialed in on a course he described as "tricky."

"I feel if you're not decisive, if you're unsure of what you want to do, it can really kind of rear its head at you," Young said. "The holes where we're strictly just trying to get

it in the fairway ... I didn't hit all of them, but I made a bunch of really good golf swings. And I feel like that kind of wins out over here."

Justin Thomas followed his 79-79 return from back surgery at Bay Hill with a 68-68 start at The Players. He was at 8-under 136, along with Corey Connors (67).

The highlight for Thomas was following a bad miss left of the green on the par-5 11th — the pin was to the left — and hitting a perfect pitch-and-run into the cup for eagle.

"Pretty sick chip," Thomas said.

"Not one I necessarily expect to get up-and-down all the time. But I have pretty good belief in my short game, and when you're in the fairway, you have a lot more control of the ball. Just trying to visualize it and see it and hit my spot, and luckily the hole got in the way. It was nice to steal one there."

He played alongside Scheffler and saw him endure the final two holes with the cut at stake. Thomas has been on the cut line, and he knows Sawgrass plenty well.

"If you're on the cut line and you're standing on 17, if you hit it in the wa-

ter, you're all but done," Thomas said. "Then the same kind of goes for 18 on the tee shot. It's every bit as hard as trying to win a golf tournament."

What he saw from Scheffler was some timing issues, but nothing he found alarming.

"He's still hitting shots that not many people on planet earth can hit in the same rounds," Thomas said. "It's just golf. He's been hitting it pretty much where he wants within like a blanket size for what seems like two or three years. He's still had a pretty damned good year."

## THE DAILY SCOREBOARD

### NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Atlantic	66	40	20	6	86	232	198
Buffalo	64	40	20	4	84	229	178
Tampa Bay	64	36	18	10	82	228	212
Montreal	66	36	23	7	79	193	198
Detroit	65	36	23	6	78	216	205
Boston	64	32	23	9	73	216	201
Ottawa	65	33	29	3	69	197	214
Toronto	66	28	27	11	67	209	233
Metropolitan							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Carolina	65	41	18	6	88	230	190
Pittsburgh	65	32	18	15	79	219	199
N.Y. Islanders	65	37	23	5	79	192	186
Columbus	65	33	21	11	77	210	207
Philadelphia	65	31	23	11	73	190	203
Washington	67	33	27	7	73	210	200
New Jersey	65	32	31	2	66	170	197
N.Y. Rangers	65	27	30	8	62	185	203

WESTERN CONFERENCE							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Central	64	44	11	9	97	246	160
Colorado	65	41	14	10	92	229	176
Dallas	66	38	16	12	88	222	188
Utah	66	34	26	6	74	205	184
Nashville	65	29	27	9	67	194	222
Winnipeg	64	26	28	10	62	182	199
St. Louis	65	26	29	10	62	172	217
Chicago	65	25	29	11	61	175	209
Pacific							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Anaheim	65	36	26	3	75	219	228
Vegas	66	30	22	14	74	216	209
Edmonton	66	32	26	8	72	233	228
San Jose	63	31	26	6	68	196	220
Seattle	64	29	26	9	67	180	195
Los Angeles	64	26	23	15	67	169	192
Calgary	65	26	32	7	59	163	204
Vancouver	65	20	37	8	48	169	241

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Thursday's Games	
Florida 2, Columbus 1, OT	
Washington 2, Buffalo 1	
Tampa Bay 4, Detroit 1	
Calgary 5, New Jersey 4	
St. Louis 3, Carolina 1	
San Jose 4, Boston 2	
Toronto 6, Anaheim 4	
N.Y. Rangers 6, Winnipeg 3	
Dallas 7, Edmonton 2	
Philadelphia 3, Minnesota 2, SO	
Chicago 3, Utah 2, OT	
Colorado 5, Seattle 1	
Vancouver 4, Nashville 3, SO	
Vegas 6, Pittsburgh 2	

Friday's Games	
Los Angeles 3, N.Y. Islanders 2	
Edmonton at St. Louis, late	
Saturday's Games	
Anaheim at Washington, 3 p.m.	
Boston at Ottawa, 3 p.m.	
Colorado at Winnipeg, 4 p.m.	
N.Y. Rangers at Minnesota, 6 p.m.	
Calgary at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.	
Carolina at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.	
Los Angeles at New Jersey, 7 p.m.	
San Jose at Montreal, 7 p.m.	
Toronto at Buffalo, 7 p.m.	
Columbus at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.	
Detroit at Dallas, 8 p.m.	
Pittsburgh at Utah, 9 p.m.	
Chicago at Vegas, 10 p.m.	
Seattle at Vancouver, 10 p.m.	

Sunday's Games	
St. Louis at Winnipeg, 3 p.m.	
San Jose at Ottawa, 5 p.m.	
Anaheim at Montreal, 7 p.m.	
Toronto at Minnesota, 7:30 p.m.	
Florida at Seattle, 8 p.m.	
Nashville at Edmonton, 8 p.m.	
Monday's Games	
Boston at New Jersey, 7 p.m.	
Calgary at Detroit, 7 p.m.	
Los Angeles at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.	
Utah at Dallas, 8 p.m.	
Pittsburgh at Colorado, 9:30 p.m.	

### THIS DATE IN SPORTS

**March 14**  
 1933 — The Chicago Black Hawks forfeit a game when players refuse to return to the ice after their coach, Tom Gorman, is ejected from the game. Boston, which leads 3-2 at the time of the incident, receives a 1-0 victory.  
 1944 — In a tennis match to benefit wartime charities, amateur Jack Kramer beat pro champion Don Budge 6-3, 6-2.  
 1953 — Seton Hall wins the NIT title with a 58-46 win over St. John's. Walter Dukes, who led Seton Hall with 21 points and 20 rebounds, finishes as the tournament's high scorer with 70 points and wins the MVP honors.  
 1954 — Baltimore loses 65-54 at Milwaukee, giving the Bullets their 20th consecutive road loss for the season, and making them the first team in NBA history to lose an entire season without winning a game on the road.  
 1960 — Rookie Wilt Chamberlain scores a playoff record 53 points in the Philadelphia's 132-112 triumph over the Syracuse Nationals to send the Warriors to the Eastern Division finals against the Boston Celtics.  
 1962 — Detroit's Gordie Howe becomes the second player in NHL history to score 500 career goals during the Red Wings' 3-2 loss to the New York Rangers.  
 1963 — Guy Rodgers of the San Francisco Warriors hands out 28 assists in a 114-109 loss to the St. Louis Hawks, tying an NBA record set by Bob Cousy of Boston in 1959.  
 1976 — Bill Shoemaker posts his 7,000th career victory, aboard Roy Derby II, in the fifth race at Santa Anita Park.  
 1981 — A date which defines March Madness. The second round of the men's NCAA basketball tournament features three upsets decided in the late seconds. Saint Joseph's stuns No. 1 ranked DePaul 49-48 on John Smith's layup with two seconds left. Arkansas knocks off Louisville 74-73 on U.S. Reed's half-court shot that beat the buzzer. Moments later, Rolando Blackman of Kansas State hits a fadeaway shot from the corner with two seconds left for 50-48 win over No. 2-ranked Oregon State.  
 1987 — Jockey Laffit Pincay Jr. becomes the first rider in the history of Santa Anita Park to win seven races in a single afternoon. In his only loss of the day, Pincay finishes third aboard Bob Back in the eighth race.  
 1996 — Princeton upsets defending national champion UCLA, 43-41, in the first round of the men's NCAA basketball tournament. Gene Lewulis scores a backdoor layup off a bounce pass from Steve Goodrich with four seconds left and the Tigers hold on for the win.  
 1997 — Pittsburgh Penguins forward Joey Mullen becomes the first American-born player to score 500 career goals, with a goal in the second period of a 6-3 loss against the Colorado Avalanche. The New York native is the 25th player in NHL history to reach the milestone.

### MLB SPRING TRAINING GLANCE

AMERICAN LEAGUE			
	W	L	Pct
New York	14	7	.667
Texas	13	8	.619
Chicago	12	9	.571
Cleveland	10	10	.500
Athletics	11	12	.478
Los Angeles	11	12	.478
Boston	10	11	.476
Toronto	9	10	.474
Houston	8	9	.471
Minnesota	9	12	.429
Baltimore	8	11	.421
Kansas City	8	12	.400
Tampa Bay	6	14	.300
Seattle	5	14	.263

NATIONAL LEAGUE			
	W	L	Pct
San Francisco	15	4	.789
Washington	14	4	.750
Atlanta	14	5	.737
Pittsburgh	15	6	.714
Los Angeles	14	6	.700
New York	11	7	.611
Cincinnati	10	9	.526
St. Louis	10	9	.526
Colorado	10	10	.500
San Diego	10	10	.500
Chicago	9	12	.429
Milwaukee	8	12	.400
Miami	7	11	.389
Arizona	8	13	.381
Phila.	7	12	.368

Friday's Games	
Atlanta 7, N.Y. Yankees 6	
Boston 7, Tampa Bay 6	
Phila. 11, Baltimore 8	
Toronto 6, Minnesota 1	
Chicago White Sox 4, Chicago Cubs 2	
San Diego 13, Athletics (ss) 9	
L.A. Angels 5, Cleveland 2	
Texas 9, Colorado 4	
Athletics (ss) 13, Milwaukee 4	
Pittsburgh 7, Detroit 5	
St. Louis vs Houston at Jupiter, Fla., late	
Washington vs N.Y. Mets (ss), late	
Miami 1, N.Y. Mets (ss) 0	
San Francisco (ss) vs Cincinnati (ss), 1st game, late	
Kansas City vs Arizona, late	
Cincinnati (ss) vs San Francisco (ss), 2nd game, late	
Seattle vs L.A. Dodgers at Peoria, Ariz., 9:10 p.m.	

Saturday's Games	
Washington vs Miami (ss) at West Palm Beach, Fla., 12:05 p.m.	
Minnesota vs Tampa Bay at Fort Myers, Fla., 1:05 p.m.	
N.Y. Yankees vs Phila. at Tampa, Fla., 1:05 p.m.	
Pittsburgh vs Baltimore at Bradenton, Fla., 1:05 p.m.	
Toronto vs Detroit at Dune-din, Fla., 1:07 p.m.	
Miami (ss) vs St. Louis at Jupiter, Fla., 1:10 p.m.	
Athletics vs Kansas City at Mesa, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.	
Chicago White Sox vs L.A. Dodgers at Phoenix, 4:05 p.m.	
Cincinnati vs Texas (ss) at Goodyear, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.	
Texas (ss) vs San Diego (ss) at Surprise, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.	
San Francisco vs Arizona at Scottsdale, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.	
L.A. Angels vs Seattle at Tempe, Ariz., 4:10 p.m.	
San Diego (ss) vs Cleveland at Peoria, Ariz., 4:10 p.m.	
Colorado (ss) vs Chicago Cubs at Scottsdale, Ariz., 4:10 p.m.	
Milwaukee vs Colorado (ss) at Phoenix, 4:10 p.m.	
Atlanta vs Boston at North Port, Fla., 6:05 p.m.	
Houston vs N.Y. Mets at West Palm Beach, Fla., 6:05 p.m.	

Sunday's Games	
Boston vs Minnesota at Fort Myers, Fla., 1:05 p.m.	
Houston vs Miami at West Palm Beach, Fla., 1:05 p.m.	
N.Y. Yankees (ss) vs Detroit at Tampa, Fla., 1:05 p.m.	
Tampa Bay vs Pittsburgh at Port Charlotte, Fla., 1:05 p.m.	
Phila. vs Atlanta at Clearwater, Fla., 1:05 p.m.	
St. Louis vs Washington at Jupiter, Fla., 1:05 p.m.	
N.Y. Mets vs Toronto at Port St. Lucie, Fla., 1:10 p.m.	
Cleveland vs Athletics at Goodyear, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.	
Kansas City vs Chicago White Sox at Surprise, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.	
San Francisco vs Milwaukee at Scottsdale, Ariz., 4:05 p.m.	
L.A. Angels vs Colorado at Tempe, Ariz., 4:10 p.m.	
Seattle vs Cincinnati at Peoria, Ariz., 4:10 p.m.	
Arizona vs San Diego at Scottsdale, Ariz., 4:10 p.m.	
Baltimore vs N.Y. Yankees (ss) at Sarasota, Fla., 6:05 p.m.	

### PIRATES BOXSCORE

Pittsburgh 7, Detroit 5								
	ab	r	h	bi	ab	r	h	bi
Mangum cf	2	1	1	1	Meadows cf	3	0	1
Ross c	1	0	0	0	Stephenson pr-cf	1	0	0
Callahan 3b	3	1	1	1	McGonigle ss	2	0	0
De Los Santos ss	1	0	0	0	Penney pr-ss	0	0	0
Griffin ss	4	0	1	0	Torkelson lf	3	0	0
Rivas 3b	1	1	0	0	Meyers lf	1	0	0
Bart c	4	0	1	1	Carpenter rf	1	0	0
Plaz lf	1	0	1	0	Slater rf	2	0	0
Rodriguez dh	4	1	2	1	Greene lf	3	0	0
Gray ph-dh	1	0	0	0	Bigbie lf	1	0	0
Flores lf	2	1	0	0	Pérez dh	2	1	1
Taylor cf	0	0	0	0	Oliveto p-gh	1	0	0
Garcia rf	4	2	2	2	Keith 3b	2	1	0
White rf	1	0	0	0	Rucker 3b	1	0	0
Fletcher lf	3	0	1	0	Jung 2b	1	0	0
Tate pr-lf	1	0	0	0	Hadeen pr-2b	2	1	1
Williams 2b	3	0	0	0	Rogers c	2	0	0
Jarvis 2b	0	0	0	0	Nido c	2	0	0
Totals	36	7	11	7	Totals	30	5	3
Pittsburgh	022	200	001	—	7			
Wood	000	020	300	—	5			

E—Wood (1), DP—Pittsburgh 1, Detroit 1, LOB—Pittsburgh 10, Detroit 5, 2B—Rivas (1), HR—Garcia (1).							
IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO		
Pittsburgh	W-1-0	4 1/2	1	2	2	4	5
Loeschorn	7/5	1	0	0	1	1	
Ramirez	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Devenski	1/5	1	1	1	0	1	
Woods	7/5	0	2	0	2	1	
Fulmer S-1-1	2	0	0	0	0	1	
Detroit	Mize L-0-1	3	6	6	6	4	2
Fields	7/5	0	0	0	1	1	
Hanifee	7/5	2	0	0	0	1	
Brieske	1	0	0	0	1	0	
Holton	1	0	0	0	0	1	
Vanasco	1	0	0	0	1	1	
Pilkington	1	1</					