

BLACKSTONE VALLEY'S SPORTS

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Bruins flat in Tampa

Boston can't solve Vasilevskiy in 3-1 loss

By MARK DIDTLER
Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Brayden Point scored his 42nd goal of the season to break a second-period tie, Andrei Vasilevskiy made 23 saves, and the surging Tampa Bay Lightning beat the Atlantic Division-leading Boston Bruins 3-1 on Wednesday night.

Tampa Bay also got goals from Mitchell Chaffee and Nikita Kucherov as the Lightning improved to 7-0-1 over their last eight games. The Lightning moved within two points of third-place Toronto in the Atlantic Division.

Lightning defenseman Victor Hedman and Point both returned after missing one game with lower-body injuries. Hedman had an assist to become the fourth active defenseman to have three 70-point seasons.

Linus Ullmark stopped 28 shots, and Danton Heinen scored for the Bruins. Boston was coming off a 4-3 win Tuesday night at Florida in a matchup for the division lead.

"I didn't think either team was really on top of their game, to be honest," Bruins coach Jim Montgomery said. "I think they were traveling back from the West Coast, so I don't think they were as sharp as they've been. The intensity and the emotion in the game was not the same as it was for us last night."

Point put the Lightning up 2-1 on a wraparound 6:50 into the second period. The center has 10 goals over his last seven games.

"Getting the lead for us was big tonight," Lightning coach Jon Cooper said. "I thought it was big for us to take advantage of a team that, you know, emptied the tank the night before and I thought we did."

Kucherov took over the NHL points lead with 124 on an empty-net goal with 27 seconds left. The right wing has a career-high 42 goals.

"They forechecked better than we did, which I think led to more o-zone time for them," Montgomery said. "I mean, their second goal was a real nice breakout from them but it was a poor forecheck by us."

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MLB Sox trade for Uwasawa

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Reliever Naoyuki Uwasawa was traded to the Boston Red Sox from the Tampa Bay Rays for cash.

Boston selected the contract of Uwasawa to the 40-man roster before Thursday's opener at Tampa Bay, then optioned him to Triple-A Worcester.

Uwasawa had a 13.03 ERA in 9 2/3 innings over four spring training appearances, allowing 14 runs and 15 hits that included three home runs. He walked eight and struck out nine.

The 30-year-old right-hander agreed in January to a \$25,000 signing bonus as part of a minor league contract. He gets a \$2.5 million salary while in the major leagues and a \$225,000 salary while assigned to the minor leagues. He could earn an additional \$900,000 in performance bonuses for innings in the major leagues: \$100,000 for 80 innings and each additional 10 through 160.

Tampa Bay owed a release fee of \$6,250 to the Pacific League's Hokkaido Nippon Ham Fighters.

Uwasawa was 9-9 with a 2.96 ERA in 24 relief appearances last year and has pitched exclusively out of the bullpen since 2018. Uwasawa is 70-62 with a 3.58 in 50 starts and 123 relief appearances over nine seasons with the Fighters.



File photo
Tyler Kolek's older brother, Franklin Pierce graduate Brandon, will be in Dallas Friday night to watch Tyler play in the Sweet 16.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL Kolek 'cherishing every moment'

Older brother Brandon enjoying watching Tyler play at Marquette

By BRENDAN MCGAIR
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Brandon Kolek believed the request was reasonable. Otherwise, he probably wouldn't have approached his coaches at Franklin Pierce (N.H.) University in the first place.

Could the practice time be adjusted to allow Brandon to see his younger

brother Tyler take the court in a Big East game at the Amica Mutual Pavilion? The answer was a big fat no, thus leaving Brandon little choice but to continue monitoring Tyler's on-court exploits through the same information superhighway prism of following along but not in real-time.

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Warriors too much for Pats



Photos by Ernest A. Brown
The Central Falls boys volleyball team opened up the season Wednesday afternoon with a good performance in a scrimmage against Davies Tech. The Warriors travel to Toll Gate to open the season, while Davies travels to St. Raphael on April 1.



Hamilton running with success



File photo
David Hamilton stole 70 passes in 78 attempts during the minor-league season. He was also the organization's Minor League Defensive Player of the Year.

Worcester speedster has chance to help Red Sox down road

By PETER GOBIS
Attleboro Sun-Chronicle

WORCESTER — Have quick feet, will travel from first base onward.

During his first season in the Boston Red Sox organization in 2022, David Hamilton was tabbed 'Base-runner of the Year,' with 70 stolen bases in 78 attempts. Last season, Hamilton stole 57 bases in 71 attempts with the Worcester Red Sox in addition to being tabbed the organization's 'Minor League Defensive Player of the Year'.

With the skill sets to play both second and third base as well as center field, it would be easy to associate Hamilton's talent and po-

tential with a former Red Sox speedster, Mookie Betts now of the Dodgers, who is regarded as one of the premier players in the majors.

"That dude is pretty good, I'm not sure that I'm in his category just yet," Hamilton said Tuesday in the WooSox clubhouse at Polar Park. "He's a different caliber, where I hope to get."

Hamilton led all of Triple-A last season with his Red Sox Triple-A franchise record 57 stolen bases. He stole multiple bases in 14 games without getting caught once in that span for Worcester, including two games with three steals.

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