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# SPORTS

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## Etheridge and Philip-pines dreaming of English Premier League

By JOHN DUERDEN, Associ-  
ated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Cardiff City goalkeeper Neil Etheridge could become the first south-east Asian to play in the English Premier League later this year, and also help develop soccer in his native Philippines.

Etheridge has missed just one game in Cardiff's push to be promoted to the Premier League from The Championship, Eng-lish's soccer second tier. With 13 games of the 46 remaining in the 2017-18 season, Cardiff sits in second place and is on course to join the richest and most pop-ular soccer league in the world.

"We are not thinking of the Premier League just yet," Etheridge, born in London in 1990 to an English father and Filipino mother, told The Asso-ciated Press.

"Physically, mentally and emotionally, The Champion-ship is a very strong level of football. I would argue that it is right up there with some of the best leagues and is hard to get out of."

The Championship con-tains two former European title winners and is in the top 10 of the most-watched leagues in the world with an average attendance in 2017-18 of over 20,000. The battle for promo-tion is fierce.

"There are big clubs paying large amounts of money to try and get into the Premier League," said Etheridge. "It would be a dream to play there."

It has been a dream for many southeast Asian players. Soccer is the most popular sport in every country in the region except the Philippines, but having a player in the Pre-mier League, closely-followed in southeast Asia, could make a difference.

"I hope it would have a sig-nificant impact on the game here," Chris Greatwich, a former national teammate of Etheridge, said. "When Car-diff played Manchester City in the FA Cup recently there was a real buzz as Neil faced some of the best players in the world. To have a player from the Phil-ippines there every week would be very exciting."

Greatwich is the head coach of Kaya, a leading club in the Philippines Football League, the country's first nationwide professional league first estab-lished in 2017.

With the second season due to kick off in March, there are issues with two of the eight teams withdrawing due to financial issues.

As well as Etheridge in the

(Continued on page B9)

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# Brown’s 14 second-half points pushes Kansas State past Texas



Kansas State guard Cartier Diarra (2) dunks during the first half of the team's NCAA college basketball game against Texas in Manhattan, Kan., Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018.

(AP Photo/Orlin Wagner)

By ANDREW HAMMOND, Associated Press

MANHATTAN, Kan. (AP) — Barry Brown scored 14 of his 16 points in the second half and Kansas State pulled away late to beat Texas 58-48 on Wednesday night.

In what was a cold shooting affair for both teams, the last five minutes saw Kansas State

(20-8, 9-6 Big 12 Conference) close on a 16-4 run. Brown had the hot hand as he knocked down five free throws, two layups and a backbreaking 3-pointer in the final 4:49.

The Wildcats shot 42 percent but just 3 of 13 (23 percent) from long range. Texas (16-12, 6-9) shot 29 percent overall and missed 16 of 18 3-pointers.

Dean Wade added 13 points for Kansas State. Cartier Diarra had 12 points and Xavier Sneed chipped in nine with a game-high 13 rebounds for the Wildcats.

Matt Coleman scored 14 points and was a perfect 6-of-6 shooting from the free-throw line to lead Texas. Dylan Osetkowski finished with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Coleman made six free throws and Mohamed Bamba added a dunk during a 8-2 surge to give the Longhorns a 44-42 lead with 5:12 left before Kansas State pulled away.

## BIG PICTURE

Kansas State gets back-to-back 20-win seasons for the first time since the 2012-13 and 2013-14 seasons.

Texas, which beat then-No. 23 Oklahoma 77-66 on Saturday, has now lost four of their last five games.



United States' Jessica Diggins, left, and Kikkan Randall celebrate after winning the gold medal in the women's team sprint freestyle cross-country skiing final at the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018.

(AP Photo/Matthias Schrader)

# Perfect strategy behind USA's historic cross-country gold

By STEVE REED, AP Sports Writer

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea (AP) — Jessica Diggins' strategy couldn't have worked any better.

The result was a historic gold medal for the United States in women's cross-country skiing and a celebration that lasted well into the night.

The American team of Diggins and Kikkan Randall set out Wednesday night to win the country's first Olympic medal in the sport since 1976 and the first of any kind for the US women's team. But their thoughts turned to something even more special as the race wore on.

"Lap one we were skiing a little more conservative and I thought, 'OK there are too many people, I am going to start to string it out,'" Diggins said.

In the team sprint, each woman skis a lap and then tags her partner, who then does another lap.

They do this three times, each completing three laps.

On her second lap — the fourth of the race overall — Diggins started to push the pace, saying the goal was to tire out some of the sprinters.

By the time the fifth lap arrived, Randall had developed her own strategy. Her goal was simple, but difficult: Stay on the heels of Norway's Marit Bjoergen and Sweden's Charlotte Kalla — arguably the best two women's cross-country skiers in the world — and give Diggins a shot to make a run and solidify at least a medal on the final leg.

Randall did just that, staying with the lead pack of three as they pulled away from the rest of the group.

As she completed lap five of six, a medal now seemed certain for the Americans.

Diggins knew it.

That's when she mentally switched gears, sensing this could be a historic night.

"On Kikkan's last lap I saw there were just three of them and I was like, 'A medal is not enough anymore, I want to win this,'" Diggins said.

She arrived at a plan to make that happen, purposefully holding back a little in third place on the uphill drive until the threesome reached the final downhill, her favorite part of the race.

"I wanted to be in third to be able to get that draft and get a slingshot into a really good posi-

tion," Diggins said.

Diggins said at that moment she felt unstoppable.

She passed Norway's Maiken Caspersen Falla on the downhill, then rounded the final corner and set her sights on Sweden's Stina Nilsson on the final 100-meter stretch. As she did, Diggins said she said felt like a spring that had been uncoiled.

"I could feel her behind me when the last 100 meters came," Nilsson said, "so I just tried to focus on my skiing and do my best. But she was stronger than me."

Diggins dug deep, taking the lane nearest the grandstand, where the rest of the American cross-country team was on its feet screaming and cheering her to the finish line.

"I was thinking, 'Go, go, go,'" Diggins said. "I'm giving it everything I had and I've got someone (Randall) who I really love and care about waiting for me at the finishing line and I just want to make her proud."

She passed Nilsson with about 25 meters remaining and stretched her left foot over the line ahead of the Swede.

From there, the celebration was on .

"That feeling of crossing the line and having Kikkan tackle me was the coolest thing ever," Diggins said.

Diggins' father, Clay Diggins, called her daughter's last 300 meters "pure determination, pure guts."

Diggins is 25, but this will be Randall's last Olympic Games at age 35.

So it will be time to start looking to younger skiers to take the victory and run with it.

The gold medal will undoubtedly help put cross-country skiing on the map in the United States and motivate what is already a talented group of young skiers coming up through the ranks. They are already winning medals in junior cup championships but now have proof they can not only compete with the Norwegians and the Swedes, but can also win.

"They are coming up hot, and they're working so hard and it's so cool to see that we're not going to retire and leave this gaping hole," Diggins said. "There's people coming to take our places and I think that's the coolest thing ever."

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# Harper, Okeke lead No. 12 Auburn to 90-71 win over Alabama

By JOHN ZENOR, AP Sports Writer

AUBURN, Ala. (AP) — The Auburn Tigers found a way to win without two key players.

That’s nothing new. Jared Harper scored 21 points, freshman Chuma Okeke had career-highs of 16 points and 10 rebounds and No. 12 Auburn beat rival Alabama 90-71 Wednesday night even without ailing star Mustapha Heron and injured Anfernee McLemore.

“I just knew I had to step up with two of our teammates down,” Okeke said.

Down to seven scholarship players, the Tigers (24-4, 12-3 Southeastern Conference) turned a five-point halftime lead into a blowout thanks largely to big performances from Okeke and Malik Dunbar off the bench.

Auburn responded with Heron out with a stomach ailment one game after McLemore was lost for the rest of the season to an ankle injury. It’s a familiar challenge for a team that’s played without Austin Wiley and Danjel Purifoy all season.

Collin Sexton scored 25 points to lead the Crimson Tide (17-11, 8-7) after missing the first meeting with an abdominal meeting.

“The second half, I felt like we weren’t hustling,” Sexton said. “They were just driving and when we did help then we wouldn’t rotate one more time. That’s why they got open 3s.”

Bryce Brown scored 18 points for the Tigers despite shooting just 3 for 14 on 3-pointers. Harper also had six assists after a nine-turnover, one-assist game in a loss to South Carolina.

“He controlled the game tonight,” Auburn coach Bruce Pearl said.

Okeke, who figures to be a key figure on replacing McLemore, scored 13 points in a seven-minute span of the second half.

“When Chuma’s playing like that, we’re very hard to beat,” Harper said.

Dunbar also turned in his top scoring performance with 14 points. Desean Murray had nine points and eight boards.

Auburn took command with a 17-2 run after having its lead cut to one early in the second half.

“I told them, ‘Look, if Mustapha Heron doesn’t play tonight, they’re still a really good basketball team,’” Alabama coach Avery Johnson said. “They came out and played with a lot of energy and emotion.

“Teams are always looking for a rallying point and playing

with desperation. They played with more desperation than we did.”

Sexton made 8 of 12 shots for the Tide, but other top scorers struggled.

John Petty, who had eight 3-pointers and 27 points in the Tide’s January win, missed his first eight attempts and finished with three points.

Donta Hall came in hot but had just seven points and five rebounds. Braxton Key had 11 points and Avery Johnson Jr. scored 10 points, both off the bench. The Tigers built a quick 14-2 lead and held onto it until a furious close. The Tide tied it up on Sexton’s drive to cap an 8-0 run. The Tigers answered with eight consecutive points punctuated by Brown’s 3-pointer.

Murray hit a layup off an offensive rebound and pass from Okeke, but Sexton beat the buzzer for a jumper to cut it to 40-35 at the break.

“We did what we had to do,” Pearl said. “We had to get off to a good start. We had to hit them in the mouth early.”

### BIG PICTURE

Alabama: Had won five straight games over ranked teams and could have made a big statement for the NCAA Tournament. Came into the game giving up a league-best 65.6 points in SEC games and allowed its season-worst.

Auburn: Moved a step closer to clinching its third SEC title and first since 1999.



Auburn forward Horace Spencer reacts to a three point basket and strong start with a string of unanswered points against Alabama during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018, in Auburn, Ala. (AP Photo/John Amis)

## TEAM MELEKE ESSAY CHALLENGE

Meleke Faitala Bowles was an amazing woman who was always full of love. In 2014, Meleke was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer. This was shocking news because she did not smoke and lived a healthy lifestyle. We realized how little we knew about lung cancer and recognized the importance of simply being aware of the symptoms. Meleke made her way to heaven on February 26, 2016. We hope the Team Meleke Essay Challenge inspires a young man or woman to spread lung cancer awareness and to support the fight against this devastating disease.

**The Essay Topic:** Essay must be a research paper on lung cancer or a personal story of how lung cancer has affected you.

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- A minimum of 2 references
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**Winner will be announced on March 9, 2018.**

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Tennessee forward Admiral Schofield (5) goes up for a basket in front of Florida guard Egor Koulechov in the first half of an NCAA college basketball game Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018, in Knoxville, Tenn.

(AP Photo/Crystal LoGiudice)

# Williams helps No. 19 Tennessee beat Florida 62-57

By STEVE MEGARGEE, AP Sports Writer

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Grant Williams bounced back from one of his worst performances of the season and helped 19th-ranked Tennessee damage Florida's NCAA Tournament hopes.

Williams scored 23 points and Tennessee beat Florida 62-57 on Wednesday night to hand the Gators their third consecutive loss. Williams' big night came four nights after he had a season-low five points in a 73-62 loss at Georgia.

"At Georgia, I was kind of being passive and also I was kind of playing slow," Williams said. "I wasn't playing with pace like I normally do and I wasn't being aggressive. Tonight I was just saying I was going to get the ball where I wanted to get it and put the ball in the basket."

Williams put up big numbers despite missing about eight minutes in the second half due to foul trouble. He shot 8 of 13 from the floor and 7 of 8 from the foul line.

Admiral Schofield added 16 points and eight rebounds for Tennessee (20-7, 10-5 Southeastern Conference). Williams and Schofield also led a Tennessee defense that caused Florida to shoot just 35 percent overall and 25 percent from 3-point range.

"They're one of the best defensive teams in the country," Florida coach Mike White said. "You've got linebackers like Williams and Schofield that move like guards. They've got great speed and quickness in the backcourt. They've got great depth. They run different guys at you, and they play extremely hard."

Florida (17-11, 8-7) trailed nearly the whole way, but threatened in the final minute.

Chris Chiozza made a basket to cut Tennessee's lead to 60-57 with 24.5 seconds left, and he got fouled by Williams in the process. But Chiozza missed the ensuing free throw and couldn't get Florida any closer.

The Gators were seeking a quality road win that could boost their NCAA Tournament credentials.

Florida entered the night 65th in the RPI and have a demanding schedule the rest of the way. The Gators host No. 12 Auburn, visits Alabama and hosts Kentucky in their final three regular-season games.

White credited his team's defensive intensity, which has been an issue at times this season. The Gators' problem was trying to solve Tennessee's defense.

"I told our guys I was proud of the effort defensively," White said. "We've got to get to where we see that every night. There's not that many games left. That will give us a chance. On top of that, we've got to knock down some 3's and free throws and of course, when we're within 5 feet, we've got to finish at a much higher rate."

Jalen Hudson had 13 points for Florida, and Chiozza and Keith Stone each added 11. Chiozza also had nine assists and six rebounds.

## BIG PICTURE

Florida: The Gators continually misfired from 3-point range for most of the night. They missed 15 of their first 17 3-point attempts before making four of their last seven. By the time they finally started to heat up, they already had dug themselves too deep a hole.

Tennessee: The Vols got big efforts from their two top players — Williams and Schofield — and didn't back down when Florida finally started making its shots down the stretch. Williams and Schofield played well enough to help Tennessee withstand the absence of reserve forward Derrick Walker, who missed the game with an ankle injury. Tennessee preserved its lead by going 13 of 15 from the foul line, including 9 of 11 in the second half.

## POLL IMPLICATIONS

Tennessee had moved down one spot to No. 19 after its loss to Georgia. The Vols could move up a spot or two next week if they win Saturday at Mississippi.

## FAMILIAR FACES

The boisterous Thompson-Boling Arena crowd of 16,016 featured a handful of former Tennessee players. Miami Heat guard Josh Richardson, Chris Lofton, Bobby Maze, Jordan McRae and Ron Slay received a hearty ovation when they were introduced during a first-half timeout. Lofton and Slay are former SEC players of the year.

## UP NEXT

Florida: Hosts No. 12 Auburn on Saturday.  
Tennessee: At Mississippi on Saturday.



# Wise gives it all, and comes out with another Olympic gold



A fan of David Wise, of the United States, watches during the men's halfpipe final at Phoenix Snow Park at the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, Thursday, Feb. 22, 2018. (AP Photo/Lee Jin-man)

By EDDIE PELLIS, AP National Writer

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea (AP) — They give their bodies for this sport. Sometimes little pieces of their hearts and souls, too.

Maybe that's why David Wise decided there was nothing left to lose Thursday when he stood atop a halfpipe that had sent one third of the 12 riders limping off with injuries, facing an all-or-nothing run after his ski bindings had failed him in his two previous trips down.

"We cranked my bindings up as high as they would go," Wise said. "We're like, 'You know what, my leg's coming off before the ski does.'"

The skis stayed on. Wise put down the most difficult, technically precise run ever seen in the sport of halfpipe skiing. He edged out his Olympic roommate and fellow American, Alex Ferreira, to win his second straight Olympic gold medal. He and Ferreira gave the United States its fifth and sixth medals on the halfpipe — producing a glimmer of good news for a U.S. team that has struggled at these games.

In Seoul a few weeks ago, Wise and Ferreira huddled up and decided to get matching tattoos of the logo for the Pyeongchang Games on their arms. They were fitting tributes to all the work they put in and the suffering they endured on the road to South Korea.

"I certainly felt like I needed to do something epic to commemorate this journey, because it's been a really hard struggle the last couple years," Wise said. "I've been through a lot, and making the team for me was a lifetime accomplishment. Freeskiing won."

Four years ago in Sochi, Wise won but freeskiing did not.

A poorly made halfpipe was made worse by wet, sloppy snow that fell on the night of the contest.

As the gold medalist and leader of his sport, Wise set out on a plan to make sure that wouldn't happen again. His goal was to become the first halfpipe freeskier to put down double corks — two head-over-heels flips — in all four directions on the same run: forward spinning right; forward spinning left; backward spinning right; backward spinning left.

He did it last month at the Winter X Games, then again in his final run of the Olympics.

He made it look effortless, but it isn't. Spinning in an unnatural direction in the halfpipe, as U.S. coach Mike Jankowski put it, "is like throwing a baseball with your left hand if you're right-handed."

Or, in the words of Jonny Moseley, the moguls gold medalist who is the godfather of progression in freestyle skiing: "It's like learning two sports."

It's a lot to handle, even when other parts of life aren't getting in the way.

While Wise was training for those tricks, his father-in-law died. His sister, Christy, lost her right leg when a hit-and-run boater sideswiped her. Wise endured concussions that left him wobbly and on the sidelines for months. He hurt his back so badly, he could barely turn around.

"We're defined as warriors," Wise said. "We ski the halfpipe. Halfpipe is definitely the most dangerous version of freeskiing, by a fair bit."

Ferreira went through his own version of heartbreak.

He barely missed the Olympic team last time, and though his list of injuries isn't as extreme — he broke his collarbone to start this season — he has watched his good friends in the sport get ravaged over the past four years, both on the halfpipe and off.

Most notably, his Thursday, February 22, 2018 Torin Yater-Wallace came down with an illness that landed

him in the hospital and almost took his life.

On Thursday, Yater-Wallace was on the last jump of what could've been a medal-winning run when he crashed hard, and he walked gingerly off the halfpipe.

"I would not be where I am today without Torin Yater-Wallace," Ferreira said. "He's one of my best friends. I respect him, bar none, over anybody."

Yater-Wallace wasn't the only one to get hurt on a day in which Ferreira and Wise set the stakes with runs that would've won pretty much every halfpipe contest in history to this point.

France's Thomas Krief and Kevin Rolland, the 2014 silver medalist, each took hard falls and limped off under their own power but didn't complete the contest. New Zealand's Byron Wells hurt his leg in training and never made the starting line.

Wise wrecked, too. He could've blamed his bindings for his first two crashes, but instead acknowledged he didn't land the jumps perfectly, which could have played a factor in the skis snapping out.

But they shouldn't snap out. Wise normally sets his bindings on 14 — cemented in tight enough to shred a knee if they get torqued up in a crash.

On the last run, he cranked the settings to 18 — as high as they would go.

"I dropped in and I knew, first of all, that I had to make it happen," Wise said. "But I also knew that I could."

He did.

Given the risk he took and the price he paid, it's hard to imagine a more fitting champion. "He's had this run in mind for several years," Jankowski said. "It took every bit of what he had — tons of falls and crashes and knocks along the way — but he's been visualizing this moment. And he's been visualizing doing it when it's all on the line, for years."

# Stephens has career-high 30 points, No. 20 Nevada wins

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Kendall Stephens scored a career-high 30 points and No. 20 Nevada hit 14 3-pointers in an 80-67 victory over San Jose State on Wednesday night.

Jordan Caroline and Hallice Cooke had 15 points apiece for the Wolf Pack (24-5, 13-2 Mountain West). Cooke scored all his points on 3-pointers in the first half as the Wolf Pack opened a double-digit lead.

Ryan Wellage had 22 points and nine rebounds for San Jose State (3-23, 0-15).

Nevada and San Jose State got caught up in a good old-fashioned 3-point-shooting contest, and that suited the Wolf Pack's Kendall Stephens just fine.

Stephens scored a career-best 30 points and the 20th-ranked Wolf Pack hit 14 3-pointers in an 80-67 victory over the Spartans on Wednesday night.

Jordan Caroline and Hallice Cooke had 15 points apiece for Nevada (24-5, 13-2 Mountain West). Cooke scored all his points on 3s in the first half as the Wolf Pack opened a double-digit lead and never relinquished it.

Nevada coach Eric Musselman praised his team's 3-point shooting and Stephens' performance in particular.

"We believe Kendall is one of the best shooters in the country," Musselman said. "He has NBA range and every time he shoots it, we think it's going in."

Nevada shot 44 percent from the field, including 14 for 37 (38 percent) on 3s. The Wolf Pack also had 19 assists, including

seven each from Cooke and Cody Martin.

"I was impressed with our ball movement," Musselman said. "I thought it really opened up some good looks for us."

Ryan Wellage had 22 points and nine rebounds for San Jose State (3-23, 0-15). Oumar Barry had 12 points and Jalen James added 11.

The Spartans shot 43 percent from the field, including 10 for 24 (42 percent) on 3s.

Nevada led 42-29 at halftime and quickly stretched it to 47-32 on a 3-pointer by Stephens and a layup by Caroline. The Spartans cut the lead to 10 several times in the second half, but Nevada answered every run to keep its double-digit lead. Stephens 3-pointer with 6:05 left put Nevada ahead 72-57.

The Wolf Pack won despite only 10 combined points from its two leading scorers, twins Cody and Caleb Martin. Cody Martin, who had 30 points in a victory over Utah State last week, finished with two points on 1 of 3 shooting.

"I think that shows you the kind of teammate Cody is," Musselman said. "Here he is coming off a 30-point game and took only 3 shots."

## TURNING POINT

Cooke hit four 3-pointers in a four-minute stretch as Nevada turned a 7-5 deficit in the first half into a 25-14 lead with 11:51 left, and it never trailed again.

## UP NEXT

San Jose State hosts San Diego State on Saturday.

Nevada hosts struggling Colorado State on Sunday in its final home game.



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Anna Gasser, of Austria, jumps for the second time in the women's Big Air snowboard final at the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, Thursday, Feb. 22, 2018.

(AP Photo/Matthias Schrader)

# No. 1 Virginia wraps up ACC regular-season title

By The Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) — Ty Jerome scored 18 points and top-ranked Virginia held off depleted Georgia Tech 65-54 on Wednesday night, clinching the regular season title and top seed next month in the Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament.

Virginia (25-2, 14-1) won its eighth regular-season title and third in five years.

The Cavaliers also got nine points each from De'Andre Hunter and Mamadi Diakite. They led just 31-30 at halftime and didn't open a double-digit lead until just 5:14 remained.

Ben Lammers scored 22 points to lead the Yellow Jackets (11-17, 4-11). They lost their sixth in a row and 10th in the last 11 games.

**NO. 3 VILLANOVA 93, DEPAUL 62**  
PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Mikal Bridges scored 27 points and Phil Booth added 14 in his return to the lineup to lead Villanova past DePaul on

Wednesday night. Booth played 16 minutes, going 4 for 6 from the field and 2 for 4 from the arc in his comeback from a broken right hand that sidelined him seven games.

Eric Paschall had 16 points, and Jalen Brunson added 11 points and seven assists to help the Wildcats (25-3, 12-3 Big East) beat DePaul for the 16th straight time.

Max Strus scored 21 points for the Blue Demons (10-17, 3-12).

**NO. 4 XAVIER 89, GEORGETOWN 77**  
WASHINGTON (AP) — Naji Marshall scored a career-high 21 points and Xavier beat Georgetown, bouncing back from its loss to No. 3 Villanova. J.P. Macura added 20 points, including four 3-pointers, and Quentin Goodin had 19 points to help the Musketeers (25-4, 13-3 Big East) swept the season series with Georgetown for the second straight season.

Jamorko Pickett tied a career high with 21 points for George-

town (15-11, 5-10).  
**NO. 5 DUKE 82, LOUISVILLE 56**  
DURHAM, N.C. (AP) — Grayson Allen scored 28 points and Duke routed Louisville.

Freshman big man Wendell Carter Jr. finished with 18 points and a season-high five assists, and Gary Trent Jr. had 11 points to help the Blue Devils (23-5, 11-4 Atlantic Coast Conference) win their fourth straight game — all coming with star freshman Marvin Bagley III out with a sprained knee.

Ray Spalding scored 17 points, and V.J. King and Deng Adel had 10 apiece for Louisville (18-10, 8-7), playing for the first time since an NCAA panel upheld sanctions against the program in the wake of its sex scandal — which cost the school about \$600,000 in tournament revenue, 123 victories and its most recent national championship.

**OKLAHOMA STATE 79, NO. 6 TEXAS TECH**  
(Continued on page B12)

# Gasser outduels Anderson for gold in women's Big Air

By WILL GRAVES, AP Sports Writer

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea (AP) — Anna Gasser grew up wanting to be a gymnast, making it all the way to the Austrian national team before life took her in another direction. She didn't even start snowboarding until she was 18, drawn not by the lure of the Olympics but of simply challenging herself to push higher, go farther and become more than just some gymnast who gave snowboarding a shot.

Over the last eight years, Gasser has become far more than that.

And she's got the gold medal to prove it.

Gasser stomped a "cab double 10" — basically, two flips and three full rotations — in her final jump to slip past American star Jamie Anderson to claim the Olympic debut of women's Big Air. Gasser's score of 96 was the highest of the day and boosted her two-jump total to 185.00, providing a measure of redemption after a disappointing 15th-place finish during the wind-marred slopestyle final last week.

"After slopestyle I think everyone needed this today," Gasser said. "Everyone needed to show their best tricks and today was one of the highest levels in girls' snowboarding I've ever seen."

One that pushed Gasser to the limit.

Anderson threw down a 1080 and a cab 900 to lead through two jumps but overshot the landing a bit while trying to nail a cab 10 on her third. That left an opening that Gasser, who earned the right to go last after topping qualifying on Tuesday, sprinted through.

Not that it bothered Anderson, whose silver made her the third snowboarder with three Olympic medals, joining Americans Shaun White and Kelly Clark.

"I was hoping she was going to land it for her because she's been charging and charging and just doing so well over the last few years," said Anderson, who will leave South Korea with two medals after claiming gold in slopestyle. "It's so nice to see her put it down when it counts."

Standing atop the course getting ready to drop in, Gasser didn't feel any pressure. Already assured of at least silver, she followed one of her sport's unwritten rules: never settle.

"My mind was 'I can only win here if I land, I can change the color of this medal,'" Gasser said. "I decided to do a trick I wasn't 100 percent sure

it would work but a trick I really wanted to show and that's what mattered to me the most."

In snowboarding, it's the spectacle and not the medals that truly matter. Which is why Gasser was particularly annoyed following the slopestyle competition. She openly wondered why officials allowed the event to go on even though high winds had forced the cancellation of other outdoor competitions scheduled elsewhere in Pyeongchang. Anderson survived the blustery conditions to claim gold on a day when only nine of the 50 runs were completed cleanly.

Officials scrambled to make sure it wouldn't happen again in Big Air. They moved the finals from Friday to Thursday amid concerns over another possible windstorm, and Anderson and Gasser responded by putting on a compelling duel at sun-splashed and mostly calm Alpensia Ski Jump Centre.

Big Air requires riders to sprint down a 50-meter ramp before vaulting high into the sky, flipping and twisting their way to the landing ramp, traveling as much as 100 feet while flying end-over-end. All riders get three attempts, with the two highest scores counting toward their total.

Anderson spent the morning sipping tea and dancing to calm her nerves. She certainly looked relaxed, sending a message with her first jump, a near-flawless frontside 1080. The judges rewarded her with a 90. She backed it up with an 87.25. It ultimately wasn't good enough for gold. It hardly mattered to Anderson.

"All the girls are so gangster," Anderson said. "Literally any girl in that final could have won a medal today, it was just a matter of mind power."

Zoi Sadowski-Synnott's total of 157.50 gave New Zealand its first Winter Olympic medal of any variety since Annelise Coberger earned silver in slalom at the Albertville Games in 1992. It was also the start of a big day for her homeland. Shortly after Sadowski-Synnott joined Gasser and Anderson on the podium, New Zealand freestyle skier Nico Porteous grabbed bronze in the halfpipe. Sadowski-Synnott believes it's a sign of things to come.

Who knows? Maybe in four years it will be the 16-year-old Sadowski-Synnott atop the medal stand in Beijing. It wasn't to be on Thursday, when Gasser left no doubt.

"It was insane," Sadowski-Synnott said. "Like she is on another level ... she's boss."

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# Russian curler to return Olympic medal over failed drug test

By JAMES ELLINGWORTH,  
AP Sports Writer

GANGNEUNG, South Korea (AP) — Russian curler Alexander Krushelnitsky will give back his Olympic bronze medal after failing a drug test at the Pyeongchang Games, a spokeswoman for the Russian Curling Federation told state TV on Thursday.

Krushelnitsky tested positive for the banned substance meldonium, which is believed to help blood circulation, after winning bronze in mixed doubles with his wife, Anastasia Bryzgalova.

“We have signed a statement that indeed he did have (meldonium in the sample) and as a result we will give the medal back,” Russian Curling Federation spokeswoman Valentina Parinova told state TV channel Russia 1.

Word comes as the International Olympic Committee is due to decide Saturday whether to formally reinstate the Russian team for the closing ceremony.

Russia was banned from the Pyeongchang Olympics over widespread doping at the Sochi Games four years ago, but 168 Russians including Krushelnitsky were allowed by the IOC to compete as “Olympic Athletes from Russia” under the Olympic flag.

Spokesman Mark Adams confirmed that IOC President Thomas Bach met Wednesday with Igor Levitin, a former Russian minister of transport and adviser to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Adams said the two talked for only four minutes. He said the main purpose was for Bach to wish Levitin a happy 66th birthday. Adams said they “may have talked about something else,” but he declined to speculate what that might have been.

The IOC executive board is scheduled to meet Saturday to decide if Russian athletes and officials have conducted themselves well enough to merit reinstatement. That would allow Russians to march in the closing ceremony on Sunday wearing their national uniforms and display Russian flags.

Adams hinted there might

be a compromise solution but would not elaborate.

Krushelnitsky and Bryzgalova became the first Russians to compete at the Winter Olympics since the doping scandal at the Sochi Games when they competed in a preliminary-round game Feb. 8, the day before the opening ceremony in Pyeongchang.

A statement in Krushelnitsky’s name published by state news agency Tass said he accepted the substance had been found in his sample but that he had not doped intentionally.

“I accept a formal breach of the current anti-doping rules,” the statement read, adding that he will waive his right to a hearing at the Court of Arbitration for Sport because it would be “useless and senseless” for Krushelnitsky and Bryzgalova to fight the case.

However, the statement added that they consider them-

selves “clean athletes” and could contest any proceedings from the World Curling Federation, which could seek to have Krushelnitsky banned from the sport.

Russian curling officials have said they believe Krushelnitsky’s food or drink could have been spiked with meldonium either by Russia’s political enemies or by jealous Russian rival athletes who had not made the Olympic team.

CAS said “all parties” agreed to cancel a hearing initially scheduled for Thursday that pitted Krushelnitsky against the IOC and World Curling Federation. The IOC will issue a decision later Thursday based on written statements.

The Russian Curling Federation and the Russian delegation at the Pyeongchang Olympics could not immediately be reached for comment.



FILE - In this Feb. 7, 2018, file photo, Russian curler Alexander Krushelnitsky practices ahead of the 2018 Winter Olympics in Gangneung, South Korea. Krushelnitsky was stripped of his Olympic bronze medal after admitting to a doping violation at the Pyeongchang Games. Krushelnitsky tested positive for meldonium, which is believed to help blood circulation, after winning bronze in mixed doubles with his wife, Anastasia Bryzgalova.  
(AP Photo/Aaron Favila, File)

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American Red Cross American Samoa staff and volunteers pictured yesterday at the Red Cross office in Tafuna.

[photo: Leua Aiono Frost]

# Etheridge...

Continued from page B1

Premier League, the Philippines qualifying for the 2019 Asian Cup for the first time could help. The national team only has to avoid defeat at home to Tajikistan on March 27 to do so.

“The Asian Cup is a massive deal,” Greatwich said. “If you had said 10 years ago that we would be one game away from playing Korea, Japan and Australia then people would have laughed. Hopefully, it will be a watershed moment for the impact it could have on the domestic game here.”

Fans in the Philippines are hoping that Etheridge can transfer his form in England, where he has stopped the opposition from scoring in 15 league games so far this season, back to southeast Asia next month.

“You can really feel his presence when he is with the national team,” Greatwich said. “He is a big personality. He has been with the national team for 10 years and given what he is doing, when he speaks people listen.”

Etheridge made his international debut in 2008 at the age of 18. Even in the middle of a promotion campaign, he’s looking forward to returning to international duty.

“We need a draw to make history,” he said of the Tajikistan match. “I have been part of that for 10 years and it has been a fantastic journey through thick and thin. It is a massive game.”

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# When NBA returns, will Warriors' dominance come back, too?

By **BRIAN MAHONEY, AP Basketball Writer**

The Golden State Warriors have never lost more than 15 games in a season under Steve Kerr. They could reach that total in the first night after the All-Star break. The Warriors who return Thursday night aren't the same ones who dominated the NBA for the last three seasons. The defending champions sputtered into their week off with four losses in their final eight games, falling into second place in the Western Conference behind Houston — ending a three-year run of taking the league's best record into the break. At 44-14 and loaded with four All-Stars, the Warriors are still very good, but not as good they've been. "This year we've had a pretty solid season, but feel that we can play a lot better," Stephen Curry said. "So that's what we're trying to do this next 20 games before another championship run." Their performances against their first two opponents out of the break show how different things have been for these Warriors. The Los Angeles Clippers, who visit Golden State on Thursday, won in Oakland last month after losing the previous 12 meetings in the series. And the Oklahoma City Thunder, Golden State's opponent Saturday in a nationally televised game, have defeated the Warriors by 17 and 20 points already this season. They can become the first team to beat Golden State three times in a season since San Antonio went 4-0 against the Warriors in 2013-14 — the season before Kerr's arrival.

Their spotty play thus far

makes Curry appreciate their time at the top even more.

"We've kind of set a standard of excellence in the league," he said. "That's pretty cool to think about sustaining that high level of play for so long."

Some other things to watch when play resumes Thursday with six games:

**RACE TO THE BOTTOM:** While the NBA fined Dallas owner Mark Cuban \$600,000 on Wednesday for his public comments about tanking, the Mavericks have plenty of company near the bottom of the standings. Phoenix has lost seven straight to share the worst record in the league with Atlanta at 18-41, and six other teams, including the Mavs, have 20 or fewer victories. The team who finishes last has the best chance to win the draft lottery, though if it's Brooklyn (19-40), that makes a winner out of Cleveland, which has the Nets' pick that belonged to Boston after acquiring it in the Kyrie Irving trade.

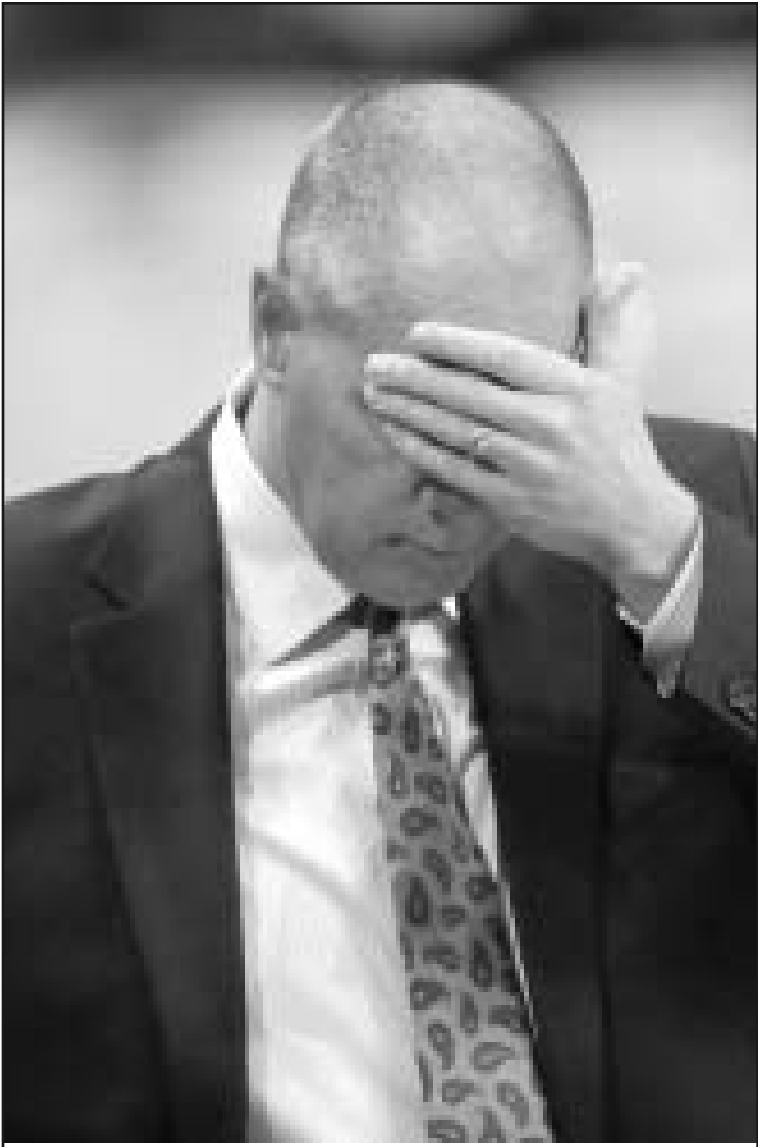
**DOMINANT DAVIS:** Anthony Davis scored 44, 38 and 42 points in his last three games before the All-Star break, leading New Orleans to victories in all of them. He leads the league with 22 games of 30 points or more and the Pelicans might need him to keep it up, as they are just a half-game ahead of the Clippers for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

**MEN OF MYSTERY:** Two of the NBA's strange absences could be cleared up after the break — or could last through the rest of the season. Spurs star Kawhi Leonard continues to rehabilitate a right thigh injury — the team lists his reason for not playing as "return from injury management" — after he was shut down after appearing in just nine games. Philadelphia guard Markelle Fultz, the No. 1 draft pick, remains sidelined with a right shoulder injury after playing in just four games. Neither player has been ruled out for the season, though there's not much time left if they're going to come back.

**RISE OF ROOKIES:** Utah's Donovan Mitchell, who won the Slam Dunk contest at the All-Star Game, and Ben Simmons of Philadelphia could be locked in tight race for Rookie of the Year. Both have their teams on the rise, as the Jazz have won 11 straight games to pull within 1 ½ games of eighth place in the West, while the 76ers have won five in a row and are seventh in the East.

**LONZO AND THE LAKERS:** Lonzo Ball is set to return to the Lakers after missing the last 15 games with a sore left knee. While the No. 2 pick was out, the Lakers have used Brandon Ingram in the point guard role and also acquired Isaiah Thomas from Cleveland.

# Metu scores 21, USC beats Colorado 75-64



Colorado coach Tad Boyle reacts after his team turned over the ball to Southern California during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018, in Boulder, Colo. (AP Photo/David Zalubowski)

By **BRENT W. NEW, Associated Press**

**BOULDER, Colo. (AP)** — Even if all is not forgotten following last month's feud between USC and Colorado, Trojans junior Chimezie Metu still agreed to take a few selfies with fans as he left the Buffaloes' court Wednesday night.

USC made it clear, its focus was on the bigger picture.

Metu scored 21 points, Jordan McLaughlin added 18 and USC beat Colorado 75-64.

It was the teams' first meeting since the two traded barbs in January. It started with Colorado coach Tad Boyle's comments about taking extra pleasure in beating teams like Arizona, which like USC, are included in the FBI's ongoing corruption probe into the sport. Then USC coach Andy Enfield seemingly retaliated when the two teams met on Jan. 10, calling an unnecessary timeout with 21 seconds remaining in a game the Trojans led by 12.

Neither coach expounded the issue after the game on Wednesday.

Enfield said his team has its eyes on other things as the Trojans continue to make their case for the NCAA Tournament.

"We just focused on the task at hand, that was to try to

play our best basketball here," USC's coach said. "We knew it was an important game and now we're going to focus on Utah."

Tied at 58, the Trojans (20-9, 11-5 Pac 12) pulled away on a 12-0 run in the waning minutes. McLaughlin had two 3s as part of the burst, letting out a victorious scream after swishing the second.

Metu was 10 of 16 from the field and McLaughlin was 6 of 10, including 4 of 6 behind the arc. USC shot 55 percent for the game.

"We've been in a situation before where we were on the road, and up, and needed stops and weren't able to get them," Metu said. "We just buckled down and learned from our mistakes and got the 'W'."

Lucas Siewert led Colorado (15-13, 7-9) with 16 points and a career-most eight rebounds. McKinley Wright IV added 12 points on a night he surpassed former star Chauncey Billups for the most assists in a season by a Colorado freshman.

The Buffaloes didn't score a point for 7 minutes, 28 seconds late in the second half as the Trojans pulled away.

Siewert fueled a 14-0 run, hitting two 3s and converting a 3-point play, to put the Buffaloes up 52-50 with 12:27

remaining.

"We got back into the game and we just couldn't close it out," Siewert said. "That was our problem."

## BIG PICTURE

USC got back on track on the road, snapping a three-game losing streak away from the Galen Center. The Trojans need to win to keep their tournament hopes alive. They have two games remaining before the Pac-12 Tournament.

Colorado, more than a long-shot to make the 68-team field, would have loved a chance to deliver a serious blow to USC's tournament hopes while improving their own postseason hopes. Boyle said afterward, however, there was no extra incentive because it was the Trojans.

"This was an important game for us to put ourselves in position for postseason play, which every loss you get further and further away from that," he said. "That's why this loss hurts. It has nothing to do with that other stuff."

## SUSPENDED MELTON LEAVING SCHOOL

USC sophomore guard De'Anthony Melton announced his decision to withdraw from the university Wednesday morning, turning his attention to preparing for the pros. Melton did not suit up for the Trojans this season due to eligibility issues swirling around the FBI's probe into corruption and bribery in college basketball.

"After much thought and consideration, we, as a family, have made the difficult decision for me to withdraw from the school," Melton announced on Twitter. ". I have reached a crossroads wherein I have decided to focus on honing my strengths and improving my weaknesses for competition at the next level."

In January, the school decided to suspend Melton for the rest of the season after it determined that a close family friend received an extra benefit.

"Well, he's been through a lot this academic year," Enfield said. "We've always been very supportive of De'Anthony. He'll always be a Trojan and we anticipate De'Anthony to have a very successful career in the NBA."

## UP NEXT

USC is at Utah on Saturday.

Colorado will play its final home game of the season against UCLA on Sunday.

## In The High Court of American Samoa TRIAL DIVISION

PR NO.008-2018

In the Matter of the Estate of

**DAVID LAI**

Decedent

by

**MASE AKAPO**

Administrator

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PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that MASE AKAPO has filed a Petition for appointment as administrator of the Estate of David Lai (deceased) who passed away on December 23, 2001 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

A hearing on the Petition will be held on April 2, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. before the Trial Division of the High Court of American Samoa at the Courthouse in Fagatogo, American Samoa.

All heirs of David Lai and interested parties may appear before the court on said date to respond to this Notice.

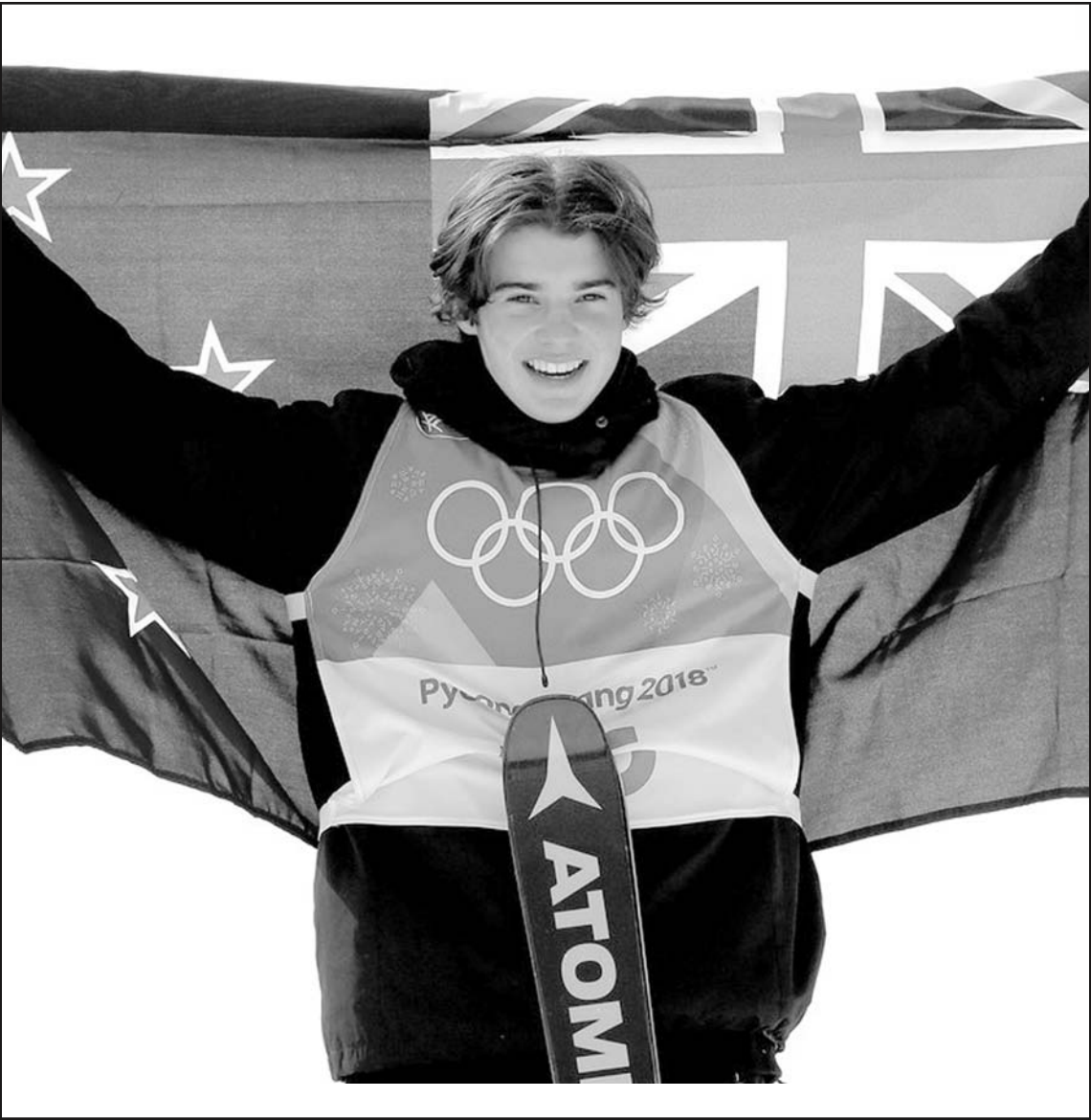
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Clerk of Courts

Published: 02/15, 02/22 & 03/01



# Teenage Kiwis end 26-year medal drought with 2 in same day



Bronze medal winner Nico Porteous, of New Zealand, celebrates after the men's halfpipe final at Phoenix Snow Park at the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, Thursday, Feb. 22, 2018.

By JAKE SEINER, AP Sports Writer

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea (AP) — The Kiwis crushed it at the Olympics on Thursday thanks to a couple of kids who are barely old enough to drive in New Zealand.

First, 16-year-old snowboarder Zoi Sadowski-Synnott ended New Zealand's 26-year medal drought with a bronze in women's Big Air. A couple hours later, fellow 16-year-old Nico Porteous tacked on another bronze in the men's freestyle skiing halfpipe.

"I'm so proud to be a Kiwi right now," Porteous said. "So proud."

The country's only previous Winter Games medal was a silver won by Annelise Coberger in women's slalom at Albertville in 1992. New Zealand had a close call Wednesday, when speedskaters Peter Michael, Shane Dobbin and Reyon Kay lost a tight semifinal race to South Korea in the men's relay, then got blown away by the Dutch in the bronze-medal matchup.

So the pressure fell on the shoulders of New Zealand's next generation of snow stars,

and they answered the call.

The medals are a payoff to changes the Kiwis made to their ski and snowboard program after the 2014 Sochi Games. Among the new faces is development coach Mike Hanley, who focuses on aerial awareness and technical approaches.

Hanley and the rest of the new staff proposed radical adjustments to the way New Zealand manages its extreme snow sport athletes, and kids like Porteous and Sadowski-Synnott bought right in. Another youngster, 20-year-old Carlos Garcia Knight, qualified in the top spot for the men's snowboard big air event Saturday and could add another medal.

"It was the next generation that we saw just really open to change," Hanley said. "They were OK with being scared and they knew they had to break from the old in order to really change the game and get some medals for New Zealand."

In the first-ever Olympic Big Air event, Sadowski-Synnott stomped out a double wildcat and a switchback 900 to end New Zealand's medal drought. An Australian who moved to New Zealand as a young

girl, Sadowski-Synnott wasn't exactly a surprise medalist. She also placed 13th in the slope-style and could compete for some gold medals at Beijing 2022.

Porteous, meanwhile, wasn't projected anywhere near the podium in an event usually dominated by Americans. He stunned even himself with the best run of his career, putting down five double corks in his second run — he'd never done more than three in a halfpipe in his life. "I can't actually remember my run," he said. "I had so much adrenaline that I actually had no clue."

The 5-foot-4 (1.63-meter) skier from Hamilton, New Zealand, didn't attempt any tricks on his third run. He just cruised to the bottom of the halfpipe and waited for his medal.

"I had nothing left," he said. "That was me. That was all I had left in the bag. I hope people didn't see that as me being cocky because I really had nothing left. That was the best run I've ever done in my life."

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## Kansas travels to Texas Tech in title chase showdown

By The Associated Press

A look at the upcoming weekend around the Big 12:

GAME OF THE WEEKEND: Kansas at Texas Tech. This matchup could very well decide who wins the league — and in fact, Kansas can clinch a share of its 14th straight conference crown with a victory. The sixth-ranked Red Raiders won decisively in Lawrence earlier this season, but the eighth-ranked Jayhawks lead the league by one game. The bench was crucial for the Red Raiders in the first matchup at Kansas, scoring 42 of their 85 points.

LOOKING AHEAD TO SATURDAY: Reeling Oklahoma hosts Kansas State. The Sooners were blown out by the Jayhawks 104-74 on Monday. Baylor and TCU square off in Fort Worth, while injury-plagued Iowa State travels to West Virginia. Kansas hosts Texas, which is fighting for an NCAA Tournament berth. A win over the Jayhawks would likely cement the Longhorns as an NCAA Tournament team.

PLAYER TO WATCH: Devonte Graham of Kansas. Graham is playing his best basketball as a senior, averaging

career highs in points (17.6), assists (7.2) and rebounds (4.2) per game. Graham is also shooting 41.6 percent on 3s, and he and Oklahoma's Trae Young are the only players in the league with at least 200 assists.

INSIDE THE NUMBERS: The Jayhawks, led by Graham, lead the league with 286 3s. Kansas is averaging 10.2 3s per game, followed by Oklahoma at 9.7 ... West Virginia is first in conference with 14.2 offensive rebounds a game but just ninth with 24.1 defensive rebounds. ... Texas is the only team in the Big 12 with more turnovers than assists. ... Young's struggles of late have been well documented. But he is still averaging 28.3 points a game, which are 10 more than any other Big 12 player.

ON THE WOMEN'S SIDE: Baylor has clinched its eighth straight conference title. The third-ranked Lady Bears beat No. 6 Texas 93-87 on Monday to move to 16-0 in the league, three games ahead of the Longhorns. ... Baylor will be the top seed for the Big 12 tournament, which West Virginia won last year as the sixth seed. ... Oklahoma State was ranked 25th on Monday.

the overtime period.

Evans finished with 23 points and Yarbrough scored 22 to lead the Redbirds. Yarbrough now has 1,005 career points, with 475 coming during his time at Illinois State. Phil Fayne added 16 points and grabbed 11 rebounds. Yarbrough and Tinsley each had 10 boards.

Illinois State (16-13, 10-7) has played five overtime games this season, winning four.

Reed Timmer scored 26 points to lead Drake (16-14, 10-7), with Graham Woodward adding 16 and Ore Arogundade contributing 13.

Milik Yarbrough tied the game with 19 seconds left in regulation on a layup to make it 69-69 and Illinois State outscored the Bulldogs 20-12 in

## Illinois State pulls even with Drake after 89-81 OT win

NORMAL, Ill. (AP) — Keyshawn Evans and William Tinsley each drilled 3-pointers in overtime and Illinois State held on to beat Drake, 89-81 in the Redbirds home Missouri Valley Conference finale Wednesday night.

The victory pulls Illinois State into a tie with Drake for third place in the MVC standings with one game left to play. The teams split their season series.





Michigan State's Jaren Jackson Jr., center, and Illinois' Leron Black, left, and Greg Eboigbodin, right, chase the ball during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2018, in East Lansing, Mich. Michigan State won 81-61.

(AP Photo/Al Goldis)



Bronze medalist team Netherlands with Jan Blokhuijsen, Sven Kramer, Patrick Roest and Koen Verweij, from left to right, appear dejected on the podium after the men's team pursuit speedskating race at the Gangneung Oval at the 2018 Winter Olympics in Gangneung, South Korea, Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2018.

(AP Photo/John Locher)

# Michigan State looks to clinch outright Big Ten crown

By The Associated Press

A look at the upcoming weekend around the Big Ten:

**GAME OF THE WEEKEND:** Michigan State at Wisconsin. The Spartans clinched at least a share of the Big Ten title after defeating Illinois 81-61 on Tuesday night, and they can grab the outright title with a win over the Badgers. Michigan State is 15-2 in conference play with one game remaining, while every other Big Ten team has at least three conference losses.

**LOOKING AHEAD:** The league wraps up conference play on Sunday, a week earlier than usual, with the Big Ten tournament in New York this year. Michigan plays at Maryland in the only game on Saturday. Illinois plays at Rutgers, Northwestern plays at Iowa and Minnesota is at Purdue. Penn State travels to Nebraska on Sunday in what could prove to be an NCAA Tournament elimination game for the loser.

**PLAYER TO WATCH:** Tony Carr, Penn State. Carr entered Wednesday's game against Michigan with a league-leading 19.6 points per game, with Keita Bates-Diop at 19 points a game. Carr has scored at least 30 points on four different occasions in 2017-18, including last week against the

Buckeyes.

**INSIDE THE NUMBERS:** Iowa entered Wednesday night's game at Minnesota ranked third in the league in scoring offense but last in scoring defense. ...Michigan State's scoring differential in plus-17.9. ...Gophers big man Jordan Murphy is a near-certain lock to win the league rebounding title, with 332 of them through 29 games. ...Carr is second in the league in 3-point percentage behind Cassius Winston, who at 54.2 percent is the only Big Ten player over 50 percent from beyond the arc. Winston is also on pace to lead the league with seven assists a game.

**ON THE WOMEN'S SIDE:** The Big Ten couldn't get a team into the Top 10 this week. Maryland was ranked 13th and Ohio State was 14th. ... Iowa head coach Lisa Bluder moved into sole possession of second place on the Big Ten career coaching wins list on Sunday with her 177th regular-season conference victory, 88-61 win over Wisconsin. Bluder, now in her 18th season with the Hawkeyes, is 177-119 in Big Ten games. ...Minnesota beaten three Top 25 opponents in the same season for the first time since 2004-05.

# Dutch apologies galore after double faux pas at Olympics

By RAF CASERT, AP Sports Writer

**GANGNEUNG, South Korea (AP)** — After the Dutch speedskating team botched its men's team pursuit race and had to settle for Olympic bronze, things might have gotten even worse.

On Thursday, there were several apologies to be made.

First, there was an accident during the ceremonial throwing of a giant mock medal at the team's Holland Heineken House to mark the third-place finish. The same evening, pursuit skater Jan Blokhuijsen ruffled sensitivities by addressing the fate of dogs in South Korea with a short remark at his post-race news conference.

"People who know me know I care intensely about the well-being of animals," Blokhuijsen said Thursday in a statement. "However, I should not have made this remark at the moment or the place." The Korea Times reported that the skater said, "Please treat dogs better in this

country." Blokhuijsen realized he had overstepped a line.

"By now it is clear that many people in Korea were insulted by this remark," he said, adding he did not intend to slight the Korean people and culture.

Koreans have been eating dog for thousands of years, though the practice has waned recently and most in the country don't do it regularly. Many older Koreans believe dog meat aids virility, though younger citizens are largely either against the practice or indifferent to it.

Blokhuijsen's apology was not the only one.

Two female visitors at the Holland Heineken House were injured when a giant mock medal was thrown into a crowd on Wednesday night.

The medal was thrown by Blokhuijsen and speedskating teammates Sven Kramer, Patrick Roest and Koen Verweij as they marked their bronze medal in the team pursuit, an event they were heavily favored to win.

## ► No 1...

Continued from page B6

**STILLWATER, Okla. (AP)** — Kendall Smith scored 21 points to help Oklahoma State stun Texas Tech.

Lindy Waters added a career-high 18 points, and Jeffrey Carroll had 14 points. The Cowboys (16-12, 6-9 Big 12) got a huge boost to their hopes of gaining an NCAA Tournament bid.

Zhaire Smith scored 18 points, and Jarrett Culver added 15 for Tech (22-6, 10-5), which needed a win to tie Kansas for the Big 12 lead. The Red Raiders lost their second straight.

Tech's Keenan Evans, the Big 12's No. 2 scorer, finished with two points on 1-for-7 shooting.

No. 10 NORTH CARO-

LINA 78, SYRACUSE 74

**SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP)** — Theo Pinson scored a career-high 23 points, Joel Berry II added 18, including the tie-breaking layup with 1:36 left, and North Carolina held off Syracuse.

North Carolina (22-7, 11-5 Atlantic Coast Conference) has won six straight, but this was the most difficult against a team fighting for its postseason life. Syracuse (18-10, 7-8) was coming off an important road victory over Miami.



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**ARE YOU UNDER 18 AND NEED A PLACE TO STAY?** Do you feel unsafe at home? Call 699-4357 (HELP) or message us on Facebook @PasefikaYouthProject. All contacts and information are kept strictly CONFIDENTIAL. Please call 699-HELP (4357). Remember to call 911 if you have an emergency.

**MANA COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICE** is now holding support groups for people who suffer from mental illness or any form of disability. Join me every Friday @ 12Noon @ the Alliance office in Nu'uuli. For more info call Liz Mailo @ 272-3257 or 699-0272.

**FEELING ALONE?** Come to SURVIVORS TAKING ACTION THROUGH SHARING, a support group for victims of violence (physical or sexual). Join me every Thursday at 12:00 noon @ the Alliance office in Nu'uuli. You don't have to do it alone. For more info, call Liz Mailo @ 272-3257 or 699-0272.

**PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS NETWORK.** A parent to parent support group for families with children with disabilities. Contact Sandy 731-3959 (English), Ivorie 770-6678 (Samoan).

**SAMOAN SAINTS ORGANIZATION** Roadside Clean Up on the 21st and 29th of this month until the end of the year. All are welcomed.

Meet in front of Lupelele Elementary School, 5:30pm, rain or shine. Do it for our beautiful island. Contact Jay @ 254-0651 for more info.

**URGENT HOMES NEEDED FOR ADULT DOGS** being trapped at Lyons Park!! Majority of adult dogs trapped are healthy & very friendly but will be humanely euthanized if no one claims them after 48 hours of being held. PLEASE HELP! Call Mona at 258-4116 or 699-9445.

**ASOA General Meetings.** Will be held each month on the 3rd Friday at 10am at ASOA Center in Tafuna on Tasi St. All seniors welcome. Questions, call 699-1131

**WHEELCHAIRS** Old, Battered or Banged up. Pls donate, in any condition to ASOA so we may be able to help someone in need. Call Marysita 770-1838 or 699-1131

**SCUBA FISHING BAN** It is unlawful to possess any spear while using SCUBA. Marine & Wildlife Resources. 633-4458 / 252-0445.

**WOMENS HOSPITAL AUXILIARY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS** of all ages to help in the Fale. Support your hospital, donate your free time by calling 633-1222 Ext. 199. All proceeds from Fale sales donated to purchase equipment for LBJ.[till]

**HUNTING BAN ON WILD BIRDS & BATS** is still in effect - it is unlawful to kill or hunt wild birds & bats. Dept. of Marine & Wildlife 633-4458 / 252-0445

**USED MOTOR OIL?** Take it to a LUBE CUBE. Drop off used motor oil at a service station near you. Protect the land, protect our drinking water. ASEPA 633-2304.

**HURTING? ABUSED?** Free peer-to-peer teen counseling at Teen Challenge for peer pressure, suicide prevention, drug & alcohol prevention. TC open Mon-Fri 9am-4pm. 699-2635/258-8298 Teen Hope 699-7729(PRAY).

**FEELING DOWN** and like there is no one to talk to? Contact Catholic Social Services, 8 am - 4 pm, 699-5683 or 699-6611. Where someone is there to listen.

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**samoa news**



Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy Parker February 22, 2018

ACROSS

- 1 To a great distance  
5 "Ain't \_\_\_ Shame"  
10 Do some warehousing  
14 Altar approach  
15 Distiller Walker  
16 Cannes "film"  
17 Feature of "Twin Peaks"?  
20 Bug between molts  
21 Sportscasting position  
22 Rhythmic Cuban dance  
25 U-turn from new  
26 What you run to win  
28 "\_\_\_ only money"  
30 Most played part of a 45  
34 Indian dress  
35 Have great respect for  
37 Photographer Goldin  
38 Be a good marketer  
41 "Who am \_\_\_ say?"  
42 Takeoff surface  
43 So-so grades

- 44 Lease again  
46 Make a decision  
47 Title for Shakespeare  
48 Attachment to 62-Down  
50 A singing voice  
52 Fixes  
56 Puzzler  
60 Yarn makers of old  
63 Be a hawk  
64 Recorded \_\_\_ mater  
66 Violin's pins  
67 Sees  
68 Pig food  
DOWN  
1 Prefix with "biotic"  
2 Be servile  
3 Car rental company  
4 Tether  
5 About 100,000 BTUs  
6 Concealed  
7 "Who \_\_\_ you?"  
8 Spanish appetizer  
9 Acid variety  
10 Repri-mands  
11 Neat  
12 Some bills  
13 Major direction  
18 Stretched tightly  
19 Sandwich meat

- 23 Brasserie  
24 Try  
26 Fry in a pan  
27 Flynn of old Hollywood  
29 Assembly in D.C.  
31 Word with "ear" or "tube"  
32 Saw socially  
33 Adam's grandson  
34 Mix  
35 Info from the pilot  
36 "... and so on"  
39 Come by  
40 Egg-shaped wind instruments  
45 Some antelopes  
47 City in Germany

- 49 Southern breakfast dish  
51 Requisites  
52 Post back to a host  
53 Fencing weapon  
54 Engine's warning sound  
55 Hike a pigskin  
57 Four fluid ounces  
58 Note to the office staff  
59 Stat not in a hospital?  
61 Fed. mailing ctr.  
62 Runway model?

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

A	L	I	B	I	N	A	S	A	S	A	L	E
L	U	R	E	R	A	D	O	S	U	R	A	L
B	L	A	C	K	A	N	D	W	H	I	T	E
S	U	N	K	E	N	H	Y	D	R	A	T	E
A	S	K	S	D	A	C	H	A	O	A	S	E
S	P	A	C	E	B	A	R	A	V	E	N	G
P	O	L	A	R	E	X	P	E	D	I	T	I
S	T	E	R	E	S	O	L	D	M	O	N	E
S	A	P	P	Y	I	N	E	P	T			
A	R	R	A	I	G	N	R	E	A	P	E	D
B	R	O	W	N	U	N	I	V	E	R	S	I
L	A	N	E	S	E	R	E	M	I	L	N	E
E	Y	E	D	T	R	E	E	S	A	L	A	D

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# EUGENIA LAST

Thursday,  
February 22,  
2018

THE LAST WORD IN  
ASTROLOGY

Happy Birthday: Do your best to get ahead. Believe in yourself and your abilities. Don't show anger when staying calm will get you where you want to go. A financial opportunity will develop from a kind gesture you offer or the input you give as a volunteer. Sign up for the causes that move you and you will make a difference. Your numbers are 7, 10, 19, 27, 33, 42, 49.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** An opportunity will arise if you have been patient and willing to listen to the powers that be. Don't let anger or opposition get to you. Stick to what you know and do best and listen to those offering positive change. \*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Opportunities will open up if you share your thoughts and feelings. Embrace the future with enthusiasm and with the purpose of striving for greater stability and security. Partnerships will bring out the best in you.\*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Dig deep and do your due diligence when dealing with peers, people who work in administrative positions, government agencies or institutions. A wrong move will turn into a learning experience that could end up being costly or ruin your reputation. \*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** A partnership will encourage you to try something new. Broadening your circle of friends will spark an interest in developing a skill you haven't used for some time. Let your imagination help you find answers and solutions. \*\*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Try not to overreact, spend when you shouldn't or take on too much. When you have a choice, remain moderate and don't get involved in something that will cause you stress or complicate your personal life. \*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Short trips, networking, educational pursuits and meetings are all favored. Discuss your intentions with others and you'll be offered information that will help you fine-tune your plans. Refuse to let your personal life interfere with your professional goals.\*\*\*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Emotions will interfere with your train of thought. If you can't decipher what others think or want, it may be best to observe the reactions you get as you move toward your goal. Keeping the peace may not be possible. \*\*\*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Be careful if someone asks you to invest too much in something risky. Consider how much you need to spend and what you can do on your own. Don't let emotional situations lead to temptation. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Look for new opportunities or better ways to invest your money. Don't take a risk or let someone else handle your personal affairs. Stay focused on what's important to you and protect your possessions and assets.\*\*\*

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Put more time and energy into getting ahead. Professional and personal goals are favored, and greater opportunities are heading your way. Someone from your past will encourage you to mix old and new ideas together.\*\*\*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** You'll be tempted to sign up for something or book a trip you cannot afford. You'll be happy you took a pass and have money in the bank as the month comes to a close. Try to break bad habits and avoid poor influences. \*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Follow through with your plans. Make changes that will benefit you as well as those you love. Step up and take over. Show your strength and courage and you will gain respect and ownership of whatever you pursue. \*\*\*\*

# Dear Abby

by Abigail Van Buren

MESSAGE LEFT ON VOICEMAIL EMBARRASSES BULIMIA PATIENT

**DEAR ABBY:** My psychiatrist's office called and left a very sensitive voicemail about my bulimia on a message machine shared with other individuals. Our voicemails are sent transcribed to everyone's email accounts. Since my complaint (which was an argument during which the nurse who left the private information hung up on me), human resources and the office manager have contacted me to try to alleviate the tension, but I have received no apology from anyone for violating HIPAA or embarrassing me. Should I throw in the towel and find a new doctor or revoke my contact information from their files? I don't know how to proceed from here. -- PERSONAL TO PUBLIC

**DEAR PERSONAL:** If you provided a shared phone number as your point of contact, you should not have blamed the person who left the message for using it. I see no reason to change doctors, but you should definitely alter your client information so this doesn't happen in the future.

That said, does your psychiatrist know one of his/her employees hung up on you? If not, the doctor should be informed, and you should be offered an apology.

**DEAR ABBY:** As guardians of our 5-year-old grandson, we have been given all rights, no terms. He has a father who is "on again, off again" and makes zero financial contribution. I want to cut him off because consistency and effort are important to me, and he shows none.

My husband, on the other hand, says the boy is young, and I should give his father some time because contact once every other month is better than none at all. Our grandson enjoys him when he is here, but he doesn't miss him or ask for him once he's left. Should I allow this inconsistency and instability to continue? -- PARENTS AGAIN IN CALIFORNIA

**DEAR PARENTS AGAIN:** I think your husband is right. While the father's presence may be sporadic, at least your grandson knows that he is cared about. As he grows older, he may or may not start asking why his dad isn't around more. Deal with it then. The boy's stability is coming from the home you and your husband are providing for him, and that should be your focus.

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm close to my brother and his wife. My friend "Dotty"-- who is estranged from her husband -- thinks my brother is hot, so when she sees him (without his wife) she greets him with a quick kiss on the lips. I have told her I don't think my sister-in-law would like it if she saw her do that.

Since then, Dotty has asked him to do repair work at her house (without pay) and he agreed because he is kindhearted. I told her subtly that I didn't think that was a good idea. Is her behavior toward married men normal? -- TOO FRIENDLY IN HAWAII

**DEAR TOO FRIENDLY:** It is, for a woman who is friendly, outgoing and on the prowl. You may be dropping hints about what Dotty is doing to the wrong person. The next time you talk to your brother, tell HIM what you think about your friend's behavior, and ask him what he thinks his wife would think about it.

2/22

ROUND DANCE By Timothy E. Parker

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20								21						
				22			23	24		25				
	26	27					28		29		30		31	32
34						35				36			37	
38						39					40			
41						42							43	
44					45			46			47			
					48		49		50		51			
52	53	54					55			56			57	58
60							61	62						
63							64						65	
66							67						68	

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane




2-22  
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WAS TAKEN TO THE RESTROOM,  
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OF NEW JERSEY  
WERE MARRIED IN A  
COURTHOUSE BATHROOM!

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**Calvin & Hobbes** ©

by Bill Watterson



COME IN, ROSALYN! I'M  
SORRY! WE DIDN'T REALIZE  
CALVIN HADN'T LET YOU IN.

THAT'S OK. IT WASN'T  
**700** COLD  
AND WET  
OUT.

WE'RE LATE. HELP  
YOURSELF TO ANY-  
THING IN THE  
FRIDGE. WE'LL  
SEE YOU AT TEN.


THE DOOR  
WAS JAMMED.  
REALLY. I  
COULDN'T GET  
IT OPEN.

**BED.**

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**PEANUTS** ©

by Charles M. Schultz




WHAT DOES YOUR  
BEAGLE BOARD  
PREDICT FOR ME  
TODAY?

WELL?

**BLEAH!**

THAT'S A GREAT PREDICTION!

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WE'VE SADDLED YOU  
WITH THE CONSEQUENCES  
OF CLIMATE, DEBT  
AND INEQUALITY.

WHY SHOULD  
IT BE ANY  
DIFFERENT WITH  
GUN VIOLENCE?

**TALKS**


ANDREWS McMEEL SYNDICATION  
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KIDS

YOU'RE NOT THE  
TARGET DEMOGRAPHIC  
IN THE CONVENTIONAL  
SENSE.

**ZIGGY** ©


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I'M GLAD YOU'RE  
TRYING TO BETTER  
YOURSELF... BUT  
EVOLUTION DOESN'T  
WORK THAT FAST!

**Hagar the Horrible** ©

by Chris Brown



I'VE COME HOME TO  
THE MOST BEAUTIFUL,  
LOVING, PATIENT,  
SWEETEST WOMAN  
IN ALL OF  
SCANDINAVIA!

SOMEONE HAS BEEN TO THE TAVERN!

WHO  
TOLD  
YOU?!

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**GARFIELD** ©

by Jim Davis



IN SCHOOL, I HAD A BIG  
CRUSH ON THIS GIRL...

BETTY-JO BOBBIE-SUE MARY-  
JANE ANNA-LEE BECKY-LOU  
WANDA-JUNE ED

SHE WAS NAMED AFTER HER  
SIX AUNTS AND ONE UNCLE

ONE WEIRD  
FAMILY

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JIM DAVIS 2-22

Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication

**Sudoku Pacific**

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

				5	4	3		
	5	3		7			6	
			8	6		4		5
	6			8		1		9
	2			9			5	
5		8		1			2	
6		2		3	8			
	7			4		2	3	
		1	7	2				

2/22 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Wednesday's Puzzle Answer

6	8	9	5	3	1	7	4	2
1	5	2	9	4	7	3	6	8
4	7	3	6	8	2	5	1	9
8	4	6	1	2	5	9	3	7
2	9	1	4	7	3	6	8	5
5	3	7	8	9	6	4	2	1
9	1	8	7	6	4	2	5	3
7	2	4	3	5	8	1	9	6
3	6	5	2	1	9	8	7	4

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Afai e te fia va'ai, fa'atalofa ma fa'alogo i le siufofoga malie o le tama'ita'i Pese o lo'o outou fa'afofoga i ai i leitio ma le youtube, sau e maimoa i le afiafi nei i le Malae o le Suigaula a le Atuvasa i Utulei Beach, e leai se totogi o lou maimoa ma fa'alogo, ae lima lelei itula o le a pepese ai lenei tama'ita'i ma le vaega a le CULTURE CREW, Island Stock ma le tama o Vaea ma Big Pati Soi.

[ata: Leua Aiono Frost]

⊗

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DOUBLE CHEESE

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# Mitchell with 17 leads San Diego State over Air Force 67-56

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) — Matt Mitchell scored 17 points and San Diego State beat Air Force 67-56 on Wednesday night.

Mitchell was 4 of 5 from long range for the Aztecs (16-10, 8-7 Mountain West Conference) who have won three straight. Malik Pope added 13 points with five rebounds and Jalen McDaniels had seven points and seven rebounds. Devin Watson also scored seven points and Trey Kell dished eight assists.

San Diego State led by three at the break and Mitchell drained three 3-pointers and McDaniels dunked as part of a 13-2 surge to start the second half that extended the Aztecs advantage to 39-25 with 17:02 to play. Air Force cut it to 64-55 with 2:32 left but could not get closer.

Ryan Swan scored 11 points with eight rebounds to lead the Falcons (10-16, 4-10) who have lost the last three. CJ Siples added 10 points, four assists and three steals.

C  
M  
Y  
K

C  
M  
Y  
K