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SPORTS

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TCU, Baylor QBs: Texas 6A champs to Big 12 in less than year

Shawn Robinson and Charlie Brewer played in the same NFL stadium on the same day just more than 11 months ago. They were in different championship games.

The two Texas Class 6A high school state champion quarterbacks are now Big 12

freshmen and could play in the same regular-season finale.

Brewer is set to start his fourth straight game for Baylor (1-10, 1-7 Big 12) in the season finale Friday at No. 10 TCU. The Horned Frogs (9-2, 6-2) are in position to claim a Big 12 title game spot after winning at Texas Tech in Robinson's first college start last Saturday.

"I think he handled himself well. He was calm, he was communicating well, ran the offense well, made some big plays," TCU senior center Austin Schlottmann said. "It was cool to see him go out there and make some of the plays he did."

Just weeks after playing in those championship games last December at the Dallas Cowboys' home stadium, Robinson and Brewer graduated high school and were able to get a head start in college by going through spring drills. Texas has two divisions for each of its six prep classifications, with Robinson and Brewer the champions in the state's highest.

Robinson, starting with senior Kenny Hill out because of an undisclosed injury, became the first true freshman quarterback to start for the Frogs in Patterson's 17 seasons as head coach. TCU won 27-3.

While nowhere near the kind of big numbers he had leading DeSoto High to a state title last December, Robinson ran for 84 yards and had a key second-half touchdown pass while going 6-of-17 passing for 85 yards.

"He won a ballgame. ... He managed it," Patterson said. "You really saw how athletic and big and physical that he is. There's a lot of positive things going forward for the next three years for TCU football."

Patterson on Tuesday described Robinson as questionable for the game against Baylor. Patterson didn't elaborate on why Robinson was questionable, and also said Hill was the same, though on the Big 12 coaches teleconference a day earlier had described the senior "as probably closer to probable now." Brewer led four scoring drives in the fourth quarter of a near-comeback Oct. 21 against then-No. 23 West Virginia after coming in that game for banged-up sophomore Zach Smith.

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FILE - In this Jan. 31, 2015, file photo Australia's coach Ange Postecoglou waves at the crowd after his team won the AFC Asian Cup final soccer match between South Korea and Australia in Sydney, Australia. Postecoglou has quit as Australia coach a week after the Socceroos secured a spot at next year's World Cup with an intercontinental win over Honduras. (AP Photo/Rick Rycroft, File)

Australia coach quits despite guiding Socceroos to World Cup

Ange Postecoglou framed his departure as Socceroos head coach with a stereotypically Aussie scenario. He'd decided to quit last week immediately after Australia qualified for a fourth consecutive World Cup, only to be talked out of it an hour later. Five beers later, he was wavering amid the celebrations. A week after that, he made the announcement Wednesday that he wouldn't be taking the Australian team to next year's World Cup in Russia despite guiding them through a grueling, 22-game qualifying campaign that concluded with back-to-back, winner-takes-all playoff series. "It's been the toughest decision. It's not the ending I envisaged," said Postecoglou, who replaced German coach Holger Osieck in 2013 and guided Australia at the 2014 World Cup. "I'll always have a sense of unfinished business, but that would probably have been the case whenever I left. "It's just an instinct — I think it's the right time for me, for the team and for the organization."

Australia narrowly missed out on direct entry for Russia, finishing out of the automatic spots only on goal difference in Asian qualifying. Speculation about Postecoglou's future increased after a newspaper report in the wake of Australia's Asian playoff win over Syria suggested he would not take the team to Russia regardless of what happened in the intercontinental playoff against Honduras. Postecoglou refused to comment on the reports at the time, and appeared to be increasingly aggravated by the continued focus on his position while the team was preparing for crucial matches in Honduras and in Sydney. On Wednesday, he called a morning news conference with Football Federation Australia chief executive David Gallop to announce his decision to stand down. "It has been a privilege for me to coach my country's national team, to lead them at the 2014 World Cup, to win the Asian Cup in 2015 and now to have qualified for the World Cup next year," he said. "I said we would do it and we

have done it. "All this, however, has taken a toll on me both personally and professionally. It is with a heavy heart that I must now end the journey." Postecoglou was criticized at times for persevering with a three-man defensive system, and for Australia's lack of finish in front of goal in Asian qualifying when missed opportunities forced them through the difficult playoff route to Russia. National team coaches are due to attend a meeting in Moscow next week before next Friday's World Cup draw, but it's unlikely Australia will appoint a permanent replacement before then. Australia joins Serbia and Saudi Arabia as countries going to the World Cup without the coach who got them there. "We will not rush this process. The Socceroos will not play again until March next year at the earliest so we have time to conduct a thorough process," Gallop said. "With a guaranteed place in the World Cup, I am sure we will attract a strong field of candidates."

AP source: MLB, Japanese, union reach posting deal

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Baseball, its players' union and the Japanese commissioner's office agreed Tuesday to a new posting system that could allow star pitcher-outfielder Shohei Ohtani to be put up for bid next week, a person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press. The agreement is still not in writing and must be ratified by Major League Baseball, Nippon Professional Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association, the person said on condition of anonymity because no comments were authorized. MLB owners are scheduled to vote for ratification on Dec. 1, and Ohtani is expected to be posted then or the following day, the person said. The deal calls for the negotiating period this offseason to be cut to 21 days from 30. The posting fee limit this offseason remains \$20 million, and Ohtani's club, the Pacific League's Nippon Ham Fighters, is expected to seek the maximum for the 23-year-old star. As part of the deal, a tiered system for posting fees will start next Nov. 1. The fee will be 20 percent of the first \$25 million of a major league contract, including earned bonuses and options. The percentage drops to 17.5 percent of the next \$25 million and 15 percent of any amount over \$50 million. For minor league contracts, the fee will be 25 percent of the signing bonus. Starting next offseason, the posting period will be shortened to Nov. 1 through Dec. 5. Under

the previous agreement, the time period was Nov. 1 through March 1. As part of negotiations this week, NPB dropped its stance that a Japanese team be able to withdraw a posting before the process is complete. The players' association wanted that provision eliminated and also desired the shorter posting period. The union believes Japanese free agents entering the market late potentially could impact negotiations with major league free agents. Ohtani is the reigning Pacific League MVP and was 3-2 with a 3.20 ERA this year for the Fighters, limited because of thigh and ankle injuries. He hit .332 in 65 games with 16 doubles, eight homers and 31 RBIs. A right-hander, Ohtani has a 42-15 record with a 2.52 ERA and 624 strikeouts in 543 innings over five seasons, and a .286 batting average with 48 homers and 166 RBIs. Under baseball's labor contract that started last Nov. 30, Ohtani is restricted to a minor league contract subject to signing bonus restrictions because he is under 25. Texas has the most money remaining to sign international players under age 25 in its pool for the period running through June 15 at \$3,535,000, followed by the New York Yankees at \$3.5 million, Minnesota (\$3,245,000), Pittsburgh (\$2,266,750), Seattle (\$1,557,500) and Miami (\$1.49 million).



FILE- THIS Nov. 11, 2016, file photo shows Team Japan, from left, manager Hiroki Kokubo, infielder Tetsuto Yamada, infielder Ryosuke Kikuchi and designated hitter Shohei Ohtani and infielder Sho Nakata standinglayers' union agreed Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017, to a new posting system that could allow Japanese star pitcher-outfielder Shohei Ohtani to be put up for bid next week. (AP Photo/Koji Sasahara, File)

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Nelson’s production down with Rodgers out

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — No one on the Green Bay Packers’ roster misses Aaron Rodgers more than Jordy Nelson — at least according to the stat sheet.

Nelson, the Packers 10th-year wide receiver and Rodgers’ go-to guy for much of his career, has seen his numbers drop off significantly since the two-time NFL MVP quarterback suffered a fractured right collarbone at Minnesota on Oct. 15. Backup quarterback Brett Hundley took over and has started the past four games — three of which the Packers have lost — and is set to start Sunday night’s game at Pittsburgh as well.

Before Rodgers’ injury, Nelson had caught 20 passes for 240 yards and a league-high six touchdowns from his longtime teammate and close friend — and those numbers include the team’s Week 2 loss at Atlanta, where Nelson played only seven offensive snaps and did not have a reception before exiting the game with a quadriceps injury.

Nelson caught five passes from Hundley for 50 yards against the Vikings after Rodgers left the game, but in Hundley’s four starts, Nelson has just 10 receptions for 92 yards. He also hasn’t caught a touchdown pass since Rodgers went down.

“You want to be a part of it more, but you have no control over it,” Nelson said Tuesday. “I don’t want to sit here and say (Hundley) needs to throw me the ball because that’s definitely

not the case. I’m going to do my job, they’re doing to do theirs. If we continue to do that and be more consistent in everyone doing that, we’ll be successful.”

With six games left, Nelson has caught 35 passes for 382 yards - putting him on pace for 56 receptions for 611 yards, both of which would be his lowest numbers since 2012, when he caught 49 passes for 745 yards and seven touchdowns while missing four games and parts of two others with hamstring injuries.

Nelson said the one thing he does not want to do is make Hundley feel obligated to throw him the ball more. Hundley has more readily connected with Davante Adams, who had eight catches for 126 yards in last week’s loss to Baltimore and leads the Packers in receptions (50) and receiving yards (620) this season.

“Brett feeling comfortable with Davante and being able to hit a couple big plays for him (is obvious),” Nelson said. “You see that, and I think you see that with any quarterback in connection with the receiver. If you’re able to make some big plays for him, you feel more and more comfortable with it.

“It’s just sometimes the way it goes as a receiver. The quarterback feels comfortable with certain guys or whatever it is. I’m not saying he doesn’t feel comfortable with me, but that’s the way the games play out sometimes. I’m not worried about it. I don’t want him to feel

like he needs to try to get me the ball or anything. He just needs to continue doing what he’s doing.”

JONES APOLOGIES

Rookie running back Aaron Jones apologized Tuesday after news broke that he is facing three charges and possible NFL discipline after an arrest Oct. 1 during a traffic stop. According to Wisconsin Circuit Court records, Jones has been charged with operating a vehicle with a controlled substance in his system, speeding (24 mph over the posted speed limit of 55) and operating a vehicle without a valid license. Jones’ arrest occurred a week before his breakout game at Dallas on Oct. 8, and he entered a plea of not guilty on Nov. 15.

In his first public comments since the arrest came to light, Jones made a brief statement before asking that questions be limited only to football. Jones suffered a left knee injury Nov. 12 at Chicago and has been sidelined since.

“I owe an apology to my family, teammates, coaches, the fans and the Packers organization,” Jones said. “I made a mistake, and I take full responsibility for it. And it won’t happen again.”

Jones, who leads the Packers in rushing (70 carries, 370 yards, three touchdowns) is expected to miss several more weeks with his knee injury, but he vowed to return this season.

“Definitely,” Jones said.



FILE - In this July 27, 2017 file photo, Green Bay Packers’ Jordy Nelson catches a pass during NFL football training camp in Green Bay, Wis. A bye week allowed the Green Bay Packers to get some much-needed rest and just as importantly push the reset button on the season after two straight losses since quarterback Aaron Rodgers got hurt. What the Packers are concentrating on is getting more out of healthy players on both sides of the ball to try to stay in playoff contention regardless of whether or not Rodgers returns. A best-case scenario would be Week 15 against Carolina. For now, backup Brett Hundley will be under center indefinitely. ,ÄI don,Ät like when people come out and say everyone else has to do a little bit more, because if you can do a little bit now, why weren,Ät you doing that little bit more earlier?,Ä receiver Nelson said. ,ÄSo, everyone still has to just prepare the same, go out and play to the best of our ability and just believe in Brett.,Ä

(AP Photo/Morry Gash, File)

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Monitor pool activities and ensure safety through enforcement. Must hold lifeguard and CPR certification and first aid responsibilities. Perform additional duties like incident reports and pool maintenance.

*If this opportunity interests you, and you have the skills and qualifications, please email your resume to:
nkupa@hotmail.com by November 24, 2017.*

Detailed position descriptions available for more information.

Braves stripped of 13 prospects, Coppolella banned for life

ATLANTA (AP) — The Braves lost 13 prospects and former general manager John Coppolella was banned for life by Major League Baseball on Tuesday for circumventing international signing rules from 2015-17.

Former Atlanta special assistant Gordon Blakeley, who was the team’s international scouting chief, was suspended from baseball for one year by Commissioner Rob Manfred.

Sanctions imposed by Manfred leave the Braves unable to bargain at full strength for a top Latin American prospect until 2021.Manfred said MLB’s investigation determined the Braves funneled extra signing bonus money to five players in 2015-16 by giving the funds first to another player considered a foreign professional under baseball’s rules and having the money redistributed to the other five. If the money had been counted for the other five, the Braves would have exceeded their pool by more than 5 percent and been restricted to signing bonuses of \$300,000 or under for international amateurs through June 15, 2019.

Because of that, MLB voided the contracts of nine players the Braves would have been ineligible to sign: Venezuelan infielder Kevin Maitan (\$4.25 million signing bonus), Venezuelan catcher Abrahan Gutierrez (\$3.53 million), Dominican shortstop Yunior Severino (\$1.9 million), Dominican right-hander Juan Contreras (\$1.2 million), Dominican shortstop Yenci Pena (\$1.05 million), Dominican right-hander Yefri del Rosario (\$1 million), Cuban outfielder Juan Carlos Negret (\$1 million), Venezuelan shortstop Livan Soto (\$1 million)

and Colombian right-hander Guillermo Zuniga (\$350,000).

Three players the Braves signed for \$300,000 bonuses were set free because the Braves gave additional money to their agents by signing others to deals with what MLB called “inflated” bonuses: Venezuelan outfielder Antonio Sucre, Dominican outfielder Brandol Mezquita and Dominican shortstop Angel Rojas.

Atlanta’s deal with South Korean shortstop Ji-Hwan Bae, which also called for a \$300,000 signing bonus, was rejected by MLB because the sides agreed to compensation outside the contract.

In addition, the Braves were banned from signing Robert Puason, a 14-year-old Dominican shortstop with whom they had reached a verbal agreement, when he becomes eligible for a contract on July 2, 2019. MLB said the Person agreed to sign with the Braves because the team agreed with his agent to deals with six other players for “inflated” signing bonuses.

Atlanta also forfeited its third-round selection in next June’s amateur draft as punishment for offering “impermissible benefits” to an unidentified draft pick in an effort to convince him to sign for a lower bonus.The 13 players keep their bonuses from the Braves, must obtain new representatives and will be free to negotiate as free agents with other teams from Dec. 5 through Jan. 15.

As part of an agreement between MLB and the players’ association, a club can use money from either its 2017-18 or 2018-19 signing bonus pool to sign a player but can’t combine money from both pools in one contract.





California forward Justice Sueing, right, can't stop Virginia Commonwealth guard De'Riante Jenkins, center, from making a layup during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game, Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017, in Lahaina, Hawaii.

(AP Photo/Marco Garcia)

VCU runs away from Cal 83-69 at Maui Invitational

LAHAINA, Hawaii (AP) — Virginia Commonwealth's players felt the sting of hanging close to Marquette, only to lose it down the stretch in their Maui Invitational opener.

Coach Mike Rhoades preached resiliency when the Rams faced another team that let a victory slip away and they came through with a stellar performance.

De'Riante Jenkins had 27 points and 11 rebounds, and Virginia Commonwealth rode its attacking defense to a big early lead to beat California 83-69 in the Maui Invitational on Tuesday.

"Really proud of our guys' response from yesterday," Rhoades said. "Told these guys last night, today the team that gets over yesterday's game will give themselves a better chance, and I'm really proud of our guys. They did a good job of focusing on what we had to do."

VCU (3-2) lost its Maui opener 94-83 to Marquette after giving up 22 second-chance points and failing to get out on its perimeter shooters.

The Rams had no problems on defense or offense in running away from the Bears (2-3).

Using its constant pressure to rattle the young Bears, VCU built a 26-point halftime lead and never looked back behind a rash of layups and 3-pointers.

The Rams forced 18 turnovers and outscored the Bears 29-10 in fast-break points to earn a spot in the Maui Invitational fifth-place game. VCU shot 50 percent and made 12 of 29 from 3-point range.

Don Coleman had 21 points to lead the Bears, who played better in the second half but never recovered from VCU's early onslaught.

"It starts with how we come out of the gate. Today we came out of the gate very slow," Cal coach Wyking Jones said. "We had good looks in the post. We traveled it, turned it over. You know, we don't have the kind of experience or depth where we can start off slow and make a run late."

Cal appeared to be headed to the semifinals, building an 18-point lead over No. 6 Wichita State early in the second half of the opening game. The Bears are young, though, and became flustered when the Shockers turned to a full-court press, leading to a 92-82 loss.

That didn't bode well for their second game.

VCU has a new coach in Rhoades, but the same philosophy: Speed teams up and into mistakes with its "Havoc" defense.

The Rams did just that early against Cal, forcing four turnovers while opening the game on a 12-2 run.

VCU maintained the pressure and the Bears kept succumbing to it as the lead continued to grow.

"As a team, we came out slow, lackadaisical" Cal forward Marcus Lee said. "We had to get our team ready to play and focus all the way through."

The Rams forced 12 turnovers in the first half and scored 20 fast-break points to lead 55-29. Jenkins had 16 points and VCU was 10 of 19 from 3-point range at halftime.

VCU kept the lead around 20 for most of the second half.

THE TAKEAWAY

VCU was much better on the boards than its opener and was far better defensively, quickly turning its second Maui game into a rout.

Cal needs to find a way to handle defensive pressure or it could be a long first season under coach Jones.

JENKINS' CAREER DAY

Jenkins set career highs in both points and rebounds against the Bears. He hit 11 of 15 shots, including 5 of 8 from 3-point range, adding a steal and a blocked shot.

"He played great defense today and it carried over to offense," Rhoades said.

MUST-WIN FOR CAL

The Bears are young and wanted to be tested in Maui. So far they have and it hasn't gone well, which could lead to a downward spiral once the Pac-12 season rolls around.

"Tomorrow's a must-win for us," Jones said. "You don't come to a tournament like this and go home 0-3. I'm expecting our guys to come out with a fight. Expecting them to come out ready to play tomorrow, no matter who we have to play. Hopefully that happens. Can't go home 0-3."

UP NEXT

VCU plays the winner between Michigan and Chaminade in Wednesday's fifth-place game.

Cal faces the Michigan-Chaminade loser in the seventh-place game.

Olympic champion Gabby Douglas says team doctor abused her

Olympic champion gymnast Gabby Douglas says she is among the group of athletes sexually abused by a former team doctor.

Douglas, the 2012 Olympic all-around champion and a three-time gold medalist, wrote in an Instagram post Tuesday that she waited so long to reveal the abuse by Larry Nassar because she was part of a group "conditioned to stay silent."

Douglas included the revelation in an apology for comments made on social media last week that suggested women dress modestly to help prevent abuse. Douglas said her comments, which she later deleted, were taken out of context.

"I didn't view my comments as victim shaming because I know no matter what you wear, it NEVER gives anyone the right to harass or abuse you," Douglas wrote.

The 21-year-old Douglas is the latest high-profile gymnast to come forward against Nassar, who spent nearly two decades as the national team doctor

for USA Gymnastics before being fired in 2015. Two-time Olympic teammate Aly Raisman wrote about alleged abuse by Nassar in her autobiography "Fierce," released earlier this month. Two-time Olympic medalist McKayla Maroney disclosed abuse by Nassar in October.

Jamie Dantzscher, a bronze medalist on the 2000 U.S. Olympic team, was part of the initial wave of lawsuits filed against Nassar in 2016 following reporting by the Indianapolis Star that highlighted chronic mishandling of abuse allegations against coaches and staff at some of USA Gymnastics' more than 3,500 clubs across the country.

Nassar, 54, is accused of molesting several girls while working for USA Gymnastics and Michigan State University. He's facing similar charges in a neighboring Michigan county and lawsuits filed by more than 125 women and girls.

Nassar will plead guilty to multiple charges of sexual

assault and face at least 25 years in prison, a person with knowledge of the agreement said Tuesday.

The person was not authorized to publicly discuss the agreement ahead of a Wednesday court hearing for Nassar in Michigan's Ingham County and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. USA Gymnastics launched an independent review of its policies in the wake of the allegations against Nassar. In June, the gymnastics board adopted the new USA Gymnastics SafeSport Policy that replaced the previous policy. Key updates include mandatory reporting, defining six types of misconduct, setting standards to prohibit grooming behavior, preventing inappropriate interaction and establishing accountability.

The organization also hired Kerry Perry as the organization's new president and CEO. Perry replaces Steve Penny, who resigned under pressure in March.



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AP Source: QB Paxton Lynch to start for Denver

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP) — It's time to see conclusively if quarterback Paxton Lynch is a bust or just a late bloomer.

The Denver Broncos' former first-round draft pick will make his first start this weekend at Oakland, a person with knowledge of the decision told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because Denver coach Vance Joseph won't announce his starter until Wednesday.

General manager John Elway moved up in the first round of the 2016 NFL draft to select Lynch with the 26th overall pick, but the former Memphis QB proved to be a project.

Trevor Siemian, a 2015 seventh-rounder from Northwestern, handily beat out Lynch in 2016 and again this season. Shortly after coming up short in Denver's quarterback competition for the second time, Lynch bruised his throwing shoulder against Green Bay in a pre-season game.

That led to the re-signing of Peyton Manning's longtime backup, Brock Osweiler, who had been released by Cleveland following a trade from Houston.

Osweiler supplanted a turnover prone Siemian (10 interceptions, two lost fumbles) three weeks ago but went winless in his three starts, including a 20-17 defeat to Cincinnati on Sunday in which Lynch was active for the first time.

On Monday, Joseph fired offensive coordinator Mike McCoy and replaced him with quarterbacks coach Bill Musgrave.

McCoy raised eyebrows with his overly complex game plans and stubbornness in sticking to three-receiver formations despite a flurry of sacks, flags and turnovers that resulted from a porous line and lack of depth at tight end and wide receiver.

Joseph said he wanted Musgrave, who guided the Raiders' offense from 2015-16, to simplify the game plans.

Although no team has ever

recovered from a 3-7 start to reach the playoffs, it will be interesting to see how Lynch's promotion is met in the locker room.

Teammates have been effusive in their praise of the work ethic and leadership displayed by Osweiler and Siemian and they usually speak in terms of promise and potential when talking about Lynch, who's never been known to get to work first and leave last like so many quarterbacks do.

Last week, when Lynch worked as the backup at practice for the first time and even handled some passing plays with the starters, wide receiver Emmanuel Sanders praised Osweiler's energy and experience that he brought to the equation and said what Lynch brings is a promising upside if he ever buckles down.

"Brock, he's been there before, he's been groomed by Peyton, so he understands the ins and outs of how to play quarterback," Sanders said. "Paxton has a big-time arm, big-time talent. He has all the intangibles. It's all about going out and getting more and more comfortable with the playbook, learning and growing as a player, becoming a pro."

Lynch went 1-1 last year in place of an injured Siemian, losing to Atlanta and beating Jacksonville. He completed 49 of 83 passes for 497 yards and two TDs to go with an interception. He was sacked nine times.

He had to learn a new system when Gary Kubiak stepped down and was replaced by Joseph, who brought in McCoy to replace Rick Dennison.

With Musgrave's promotion, Lynch will be working under his third system in less than two years in the NFL, albeit one that will be pared down for him.

He'll face a Raiders defense going through its own shakeup. The Raiders fired defensive coordinator Ken North Jr. on Tuesday and coach Jack Del Rio handed those duties over to assistant head coach John Pagano.



FILE - In this Nov. 5, 2017, file photo, Denver Broncos' Mike McCoy walks the field before an NFL football game against the Philadelphia Eagles in Philadelphia. The Broncos have fired offensive coordinator Mike McCoy and are replacing him with quarterbacks coach Bill Musgrave. "I have a responsibility to do what's best for our football team," coach Vance Joseph said in a statement ahead of his Monday, Nov. 20, 2017, news conference. "Although this wasn't an easy decision, we needed to make this change. We have to play a more efficient brand of football offensively as we begin the final stretch of our season."

(AP Photo/Matt Rourke, File)

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Miami gets bump to No. 2 behind Alabama in playoff rankings

Miami moved up to No. 2 behind Alabama in the College Football Playoff rankings on Tuesday night, with Clemson slipping one spot to three and Oklahoma holding at four.

Wisconsin and Auburn remained next up behind the top four in a week when the top half of the selection committee's rankings were mostly unchanged.

Georgia, Notre Dame, Ohio State, Penn State and Southern California followed in the same order as they did last week. Over the next two weeks, every team in the top nine will play another team ranked in the committee's top 25, including four games matching top playoff contenders.

The Crimson Tide will play at Auburn on Saturday to decide a spot in the Southeastern Conference championship on Dec. 2. The winner plays Georgia.

The Atlantic Coast Conference championship will match Clemson and Miami on Dec. 2, and Wisconsin and Ohio State play in the Big Ten championship.

Miami's move is small but potentially significant. The unbeaten Hurricanes play at Pitt on Friday and now seem to be better positioned to get into the playoff even with a loss to Clemson, depending on how things play out in other conferences. Central Florida came in at No. 15 and Memphis is 20th, the highest ranked teams from outside the Power Five. The American Athletic Conference rivals could meet in the league title game in two weeks if UCF beats USF on Black Friday, setting up a game that would likely send the winner into a New Year's Six bowl as the highest ranked Group of Five conference champion.

No. 19 Louisville doubles up Southern Illinois, 84-42

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Jordan Nwora came off the bench to score a career-high 18 points, Deng Adel had 16 points and No. 19 Louisville coasted past Southern Illinois 84-42 on Tuesday night.

After scraping past George Mason and Nebraska-Omaha, the Cardinals (3-0) had a surprisingly easy time against the Salukis (2-1) after the early moments. They turned a 9-6 deficit into a 29-18 halftime lead before putting it out of reach, leading 65-30 with 6:47 remaining.

Though the teams combined to shoot just 11 of 47 from behind the arc, Louisville's freshmen found their mark late to finish 8 of 26. Nwora had 12 points combined coming in but made 7 of 10 shots and had eight rebounds.

Louisville held SIU to 27 percent shooting, including just 3 of 21 from long range.

Dwayne Sutton had eight points with two 3s, guard Darius Perry had 10 points and forward Lance Thomas added one from deep.

Armon Fletcher had 14 points and seven rebounds for SIU while Kavion Phippen, nephew of NBA great Scottie Phippen, had 10 points.

BIG PICTURE

Southern Illinois: Despite missing their first 11 shots, the Salukis regrouped to grab a 9-6 lead. That didn't last long as Louisville outscored them 16-2 over 5:17 and 23-9 the rest of the first half. Inside scoring was tough against the taller Cardinals, who won that category 40-24. SIU managed to stay close on the glass but was

beaten there 49-40. Sixteen turnovers leading to 19 Louisville points also hurt.

Louisville: The Cardinals still have a lot of rough edges, but showed much more intensity from the first two games. They dominated bench scoring 49-10, which they have needed in hopes of finding depth. Adel had another good game against SIU, scoring in double digits with seven rebounds after registering 12 points and 12 rebounds last December for his first career double-double.

UP NEXT

Southern Illinois faces another Kentucky school on Saturday when it visits Murray State.

Louisville hosts Saint Francis on Friday night to conclude its season-opening, four-game home stand.



Southern Illinois guard Eric McGill (4) attempts a shot over Louisville forward Anas Mahmoud (14) during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game, Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017, in Louisville, Ky. (AP Photo/Timothy D. Easley)

Jones, Fraser score 24, No. 15 Maryland women rout Howard

COLLEGE PARK, Md. (AP) — Stephanie Jones and Brianna Fraser scored 24 points apiece and Blair Watson had 18, all career highs, and No. 15 Maryland coasted to a 111-49 win over Howard on Tuesday night.

Kristen Confroy had her second career double-double with 19 points and 10 rebounds and Fraser had a career-high 11 boards for her second double-

double for the Terrapins (3-2).

Maryland made 11 of 20 3-pointers and shot 55 percent overall (41 for 75) on the way to the most points since beating Cal State Bakersfield 114-83 on Nov. 26, 2011. The Terps had a 53-32 rebounding advantage and forced 25 turnovers while holding the Bison (0-4) to 29 percent shooting (16 of 55).

Maryland scored the first seven points of the game and

scored 11 straight that turned into a 25-2 run to close the first quarter with a 33-6 lead. Jones had 13. The Terps pushed the lead to 40 in the second quarter and were up 56-19 at the half. They made it 91-36 after three quarters and the lead reached 69 after a 12-0 run in the fourth quarter.

Asia McCants had 10 for Howard.





Texas A&M center Tonny Trocha-Morelos raises the trophy after he and his teammates celebrate defeating Penn State in an NCAA college basketball game to win the Legends Classic tournament, Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017, in New York. Texas A&M defeated Penn State 98-87 to win the two-day, two-round tournament.

(AP Photo/Kathy Willens)

No. 16 Aggies win Progressive Classic behind Williams

NEW YORK (AP) — Robert Williams had 21 points and 10 rebounds to lead No. 16 Texas A&M to a 98-87 victory over Penn State in the championship game of the Progressive Legends Classic on Tuesday night at Barclays Center.

Duane Wilson led the Aggies (4-0) with 22 points while Tyler Davis chipped in 15, Admon Gilder had 14 and Tonny Torcha-Morelos finished with 11.

Despite getting a career-high 31 points from Tony Carr, Penn State (5-1) lost its first game of the season. Lamar Stevens added 25 points for Penn State.

The Aggies took a 42-40 lead into halftime due to Williams' two-hand follow jam with 4 seconds left in the half. Seven of the eight players who got into the game in the first half for Texas A&M scored, led by Williams' 12.

And the Aggies needed every point, as Carr was a one-man offensive onslaught for the Nittany Lions. Carr had 21 points in the opening half on

7-of-8 shooting including 2 for 2 from 3-point range. He made 5 of 6 free throws.

Texas A&M took a 63-51 lead on Wilson's scoop layup 6:41 into the second half. Wilson's layup was the culmination of a stretch in which the Aggies outscored the Nittany Lions 21-11.

Following Wilson's layup, Penn State coach Pat Chambers called time out. DJ Hogg hit a 3 for the Aggies, Gilder made two free throws and Williams finished a 2-on-1 break with a two-handed jam off an alley-oop pass which pushed the lead to 70-53.

Penn State used an 8-0 run to cut the deficit to 70-61.

After a layup by Gilder pushed the lead to 72-61, the Nittany Lions scored the next five points on a layup by Carr and three free throws from Stevens. That was as close as they would get.

Williams was named tournament MVP, and was joined on the all-tournament team by Wilson, Carr, Stevens and Okla-

homa State's Jeffrey Carroll.

BIG PICTURE:

PENN STATE: The positive for Penn State is that Carr and Stevens combined for 56 points. The negative? The rest of the Nittany Lions totaled 31.

TEXAS A&M: The defensively stout Aggies were able to flex their offensive muscle against Penn State. Texas A&M made 33 of 54 shots (61 percent) from the field and knocked down 26 of 29 (89.7 percent) free throws.

NOTABLE:

PENN STATE: In the Chambers Era, the Nittany Lions are 4-3 all-time in games played in New York City, and 2-2 at games held at Barclays Center.

TEXAS A&M: The Aggies improved to 4-0 all-time against the Nittany Lions. Texas A&M is 2-0 at neutral site venues against Penn State.

UP NEXT:

PENN STATE: Hosts Oral Roberts on Friday.

TEXAS A&M: Hosts Pepperdine on Friday.

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Boykins, Jean help Louisiana Tech power past George Mason

CANCUN, Mexico (AP) — Jacobi Boykins and Derric Jean combined for 35 points and Louisiana Tech led most of the way to defeat George Mason 77-64 on Tuesday night in the opening round of the Cancun Challenge.vJalen Harris canned a 3-point shot to break an early 5-5 tie and Jean added another trey and Louisiana Tech (4-0) never looked back, building a 42-24 lead by halftime.

Boykins led the Bulldogs with 18 points with five 3-pointers, Jean added 17 points and a pair of 3-pointers as the

team made 11 of 24 from long range. DaQuan Bracey scored 10 points and was credited with five assists and Harris also scored 10 points with a pair of treys and a steal.

George Mason battled back to within nine, 71-60, when Otis Livingston II hit a jumper, but that came with 1:22 left in the game. George Mason called timeout, but Jean pushed the lead back to 10 with a dunk, Harris added a pair from the line, and Jean hit a jump shot.

Goanar Mar led the Patriots (3-2) 17 points, eight rebounds.

Ross scores 21 to help Pepperdine slip past Oral Roberts

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Colbey Ross scored 19 of his 21 points in the second half to help Pepperdine overcome a 15-point deficit and beat Oral Roberts 80-76 on Tuesday night.Ross, a freshman who scored a career-high 25 points in a win over UC Santa Barbara on Monday, finished 7-of-10 shooting, including 2 of 4 from 3-point range, hit 5-of-6 free throw and had six assists. Kameron Edwards scored 14 points

before fouling out with nearly four minutes to go and Trae Berhow had 12 points and eight rebounds for Pepperdine (2-3).

Ross scored 16 points — including the final 11 — during a 20-7 run that gave the Waves their first lead, 64-62, since midway through the first half with nearly seven minutes to play. Albert Owens made two layups as Oral Roberts took a one-point lead about two minutes later.



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McClure helps No. 22 Baylor rally past Creighton, 65-59

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Baylor coach Scott Drew’s teams had played for two championships inside Sprint Center, where the Big 12 Tournament is contested most years, and both times they came away empty.

The Bears fared better in their tournament title game Tuesday night.

King McClure scored 19 points, Terry Maston made a series of big baskets down the stretch and No. 22 Baylor rallied to beat Creighton 65-59 and win the Hall of Fame Classic.

“These tournament games, especially early in the year, turn into defensive battles and perseverance and really, credit Creighton and Baylor for a late-night show,” Drew said. “It was a great game.”

Maston finished with 15 points, and Jo Lual-Acuil Jr. had 15 points and 15 rebounds, as the Bears (5-0) won their 11th consecutive in-season tournament game. They won the Battle 4 Atlantis last season.

Lual-Acuil was voted the

tournament’s most valuable player.

“Our leadership is amazing,” McClure said. “We were down by nine, they came out and punched us in the mouth, and our leaders called us together and said, ‘We’re going to do this together. We’re going to fight and we’re going to win this.’”

They did it by slapping on Drew’s trusty 2-3 zone defense, forcing the Bluejays (4-1) to resort to shooting 3-pointers over top of it. They were 5 of 30 from the game and 2 for 18 in the final 20 minutes, when Baylor came storming back to steal the win.

Khyri Thomas had 15 points and Marcus Foster scored 12 for Creighton, but they were a combined 10 of 31 and 3 of 19 from the arc. Martin Krampelj contributed 11 points and Ty-Shon Alexander had 10.

“They made it a rock fight, and for 36 or 37 minutes we won the rock fight. We just couldn’t finish it,” Creighton

coach Greg McDermott said. “Over the course of the season you’re going to play great a third of the time, OK a third of the time and you’re going to have nights where things aren’t clicking.”

The contrast in styles was about as stark as the contrast in jerseys.

The white-clad Bluejays, who had twice hit the 100-point mark in four games, tried to push the tempo whenever possible. The idea was to turn defensive rebounds into fast-break points, and that would take prevent the Bears from setting up their zone.

The Bears, in their highlighter yellow, tried to keep the pace under control.

It was Creighton that asserted itself in the first half, getting easy layups off misses and taking a 33-24 lead into the break. But it was the Bears who successfully muddled it up in the second, during one stretch forcing the Bluejays into nine consecutive missed shots.



This photo taken May 12, 2017, shows Dr. Larry Nassar listening during a preliminary hearing in Mason, Mich. A person with knowledge of the agreement says the former Michigan State University and USA Gymnastics doctor will plead guilty to multiple charges of sexual assault and face at least 25 years in prison. The person was not authorized to publicly discuss the agreement ahead of a Wednesday court hearing and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. Nassar is charged with molesting seven girls under the guise of treatment at his home and a campus clinic. All but one were gymnasts. The plea deal calls for a minimum prison sentence of 25 years. But the judge could go higher and set the minimum at 40 years.

(Matthew Dae Smith/Lansing State Journal via AP)

Source: Gymnastics doctor set to plead guilty to sex charges

DETROIT (AP) — A sports doctor accused of molesting several girls while working for USA Gymnastics and Michigan State University will plead guilty to multiple charges of sexual assault and face at least 25 years in prison, a person with knowledge of the agreement said.

The person was not authorized to publicly discuss the agreement ahead of a Wednesday court hearing for Dr. Larry Nassar in Michigan’s Ingham County and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Nassar, 54, is charged with molesting seven girls, all but one of whom were gymnasts, mostly under the guise of treatment at his Lansing-area home and a campus clinic. He’s facing similar charges in a neighboring county and lawsuits filed by more than 125 women and girls.

Olympic gymnasts Aly Raisman, McKayla Maroney and Gabby Douglas are among the women who have publicly

said they were among Nassar’s victims.

The plea deal in Ingham County calls for a minimum prison sentence of 25 years, but a judge could set the minimum sentence as high as 40 years. In Michigan, inmates are eligible for parole after serving a minimum sentence.

The girls have testified that Nassar molested them with his hands, sometimes when a parent was present in the room, while they sought help for gymnastics injuries.

“He convinced these girls that this was some type of legitimate treatment,” Assistant Attorney General Angela Poviliatis told a judge last summer. “Why would they question him? Why would they question this gymnastics god?”

Separately, Nassar is charged with similar crimes in Eaton County, the location of an elite gymnastics club. He also is awaiting sentencing in federal court on child pornography charges.



FILE-This Sept. 4, 2015, file photo shows Atlanta Braves assistant general manager and director of pro scouting John Coppolella talking on the phone in the dugout during batting practice before a baseball game against the Washington Nationals at Nationals Park, in Washington. Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred has hit the Atlanta Braves with heavy sanctions, including the loss of nine players, for rules violations committed by the team in the international player market. Manfred on Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017, also placed former Braves general manager Coppolella on the permanently ineligible list. Former Braves Special Assistant Gordon Blakeley, the team’s international scouting chief, is suspended from performing services for any team for one year.

(AP Photo/Alex Brandon, File)

Caruthers leads balanced Buffalo past UAB 96-91 in overtime

GEORGE TOWN, Cayman Islands (AP) — Davonta Jordan kicked off the overtime period with a layup, all Buffalo’s remaining points came at the foul line and the Bulls rebounded from their first loss this season with a 96-91 win over UAB in OT at the Caymans Challenge on Tuesday night.

Buffalo (3-1) recovered from a 73-67 loss to 12th-ranked Cincinnati to open the tournament on Monday.

After falling behind so quickly in the OT — Buffalo went up four in the first minute — UAB tried to catch up from long range but missed four

3-point attempts before Jalen Perry connected. But by then Buffalo was up by six with 28 seconds left.

Perry had been fouled in the waning seconds of regulation and made two free throws to tie, 82-82 and force overtime.

Dontay Caruthers scored 23 points with four 3-pointers to lead Buffalo, Jeremy Harris added 17, CJ Massinburg 16, Nick Perkins 14 and Jordan 13. The Bulls converted 18 of 26 at the free throw line.

Chris Cokley scored 24, Perry and Zack Bryant 16 each for UAB (3-2).

No. 25 Alabama squeaks by Texas-Arlington

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP) — Alabama did what it needed to to remain unbeaten.

Freshman Collin Sexton scored 29 points and No. 25 Alabama beat UT-Arlington 77-76 in a come-from-behind victory Tuesday night.

“By any stretch of the imagination it wasn’t pretty, but we did whatever it took to win the game,” Alabama coach Avery Johnson said.

Sexton scored the last five points for Alabama, including three free throws.

“Every time I step on the court I have to give it my all,” Sexton said. The Crimson Tide trailed the entire first half and took their first lead, 54-53, with 12:12 remaining on a 3-pointer by Avery Johnson Jr.

UT-Arlington (2-1) relied on Kevin Hervey offensively. He did not miss a shot in the first half and scored 15 of his 24 points. Erick Neal added 16 points and Link Kabadyundi had 11 points.

“I thought our guys played extremely hard,” UT-Arlington coach Scott Cross said. “They are well-coached, they play hard they have a little bit of everything — they have drivers, they have shooters and they’ve got big guys.” Alabama shot 50.9 percent from the field and 62.5 percent from the free throw line. Donta Hall, John Petty and Johnson each finished

with eight points.

UT-Arlington outrebounded Alabama 33-28. Both teams scored 28 points in the paint.

The Crimson Tide had entered the AP rankings for the first time this week, marking their first appearance since the week of Dec. 17, 2011.

BIG PICTURE

Alabama: Led in offensive production by a strong freshman class, this is the first time since the 2012-13 season the Crimson Tide have started 4-0.

UT-Arlington: Shot 62.5 percent from the field in the first half to take a 46-41 halftime lead and dropped to 36.4 percent in the second half.

HIGHLIGHT REEL

Hall had an impressive dunk with 4:12 remaining to give the Crimson Tide a 72-65 lead, its largest of the game.

ROLE PLAYER

Alabama freshman Herb Jones came off of the bench to finish with nine rebounds, including the final board of the game as time expired. He had seven points, four steals and three assists. He also took four charges.

UP NEXT

Alabama looks to increase its win streak Friday against BYU in the Barclays Center Classic.

UT-Arlington plays its first home game since its Nov. 11 season opener, facing Western Carolina on Friday.



Los Angeles Lakers guard Lonzo Ball, back, loses handle of the ball as Chicago Bulls guard Kris Dunn defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017, in Los Angeles.

(AP Photo/Kyusung Gong)

Lakers rally from 19-point deficit to beat Bulls 103-94

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kyle Kuzma had 22 points, Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 11 of his 21 in the fourth quarter and the Los Angeles Lakers rallied from a 19-point deficit in the second half for a 103-94 victory over the Chicago Bulls on Tuesday night.

Brandon Ingram had 17 points, five rebounds and five assists as the Lakers won consecutive games for the second time this season.

Los Angeles had a miserable first half and trailed 61-42 early in the second, but put together a 38-19 run. Caldwell-Pope’s layup with 3:08 to play gave the Lakers their first lead since the first quarter.

Caldwell-Pope added back-to-back 3-pointers to get the LA crowd on its feet. After Ingram made a difficult layup with 1:16 left, Caldwell-Pope alertly kept a loose ball alive after Lonzo Ball missed a 3-pointer, allowing the Lakers to seal their first win over the Bulls at Staples Center in three tries.

Denzel Valentine scored 17 points and Antonio Blakeney added 15 — all in the first half — for the Bulls, who dropped to 3-12 with their seventh loss in eight games.

Kris Dunn had 12 points and six assists in his second start of the season for Chicago.

Ball had eight points, 13 rebounds and four assists. After posting his second career triple-double Sunday against Denver, the touted rookie missed seven of his first eight shots against Chicago, but provided strong playmaking down the stretch.

The NBA’s worst shooting team hit seven 3s in the first half while taking an 18-point lead over

the step-slow Lakers. Blakeney was a rookie surprise, hitting a career-high six shots in the opening minutes while the Bulls surged well ahead.

Los Angeles committed 13 first-half turnovers, played poor defense and would have been buried without Kuzma’s gritty scoring.

TIP-INS

Bulls: Fred Hoiberg promoted Dunn to the starting lineup in place of Jerian Grant, and the coach expects it to be a long-term move. Dunn has been a steady force off Chicago’s bench, and Hoiberg expects Grant to take a similar role with the reserves going forward. ... David Nwaba missed the game with a sprained ankle. The LA native became a steady bench contributor for the Lakers last season, but Chicago snatched him off waivers in July while the Lakers shuffled their roster.

Lakers: Los Angeles visits Chicago on Jan. 26. ... F Larry Nance Jr. could be back with the team as early as next week. He had surgery on his broken left hand only three weeks ago, but has healed quicker than expected.

TWINS

Brook Lopez had four points on 2-for-10 shooting and nine rebounds for the Lakers against his twin brother, Robin, who had 14 points and three rebounds for the Bulls. The twins grew up in North Hollywood rooting for the Lakers, who acquired Brook Lopez in a trade with Brooklyn last summer.

UP NEXT

Bulls: At the Utah Jazz on Wednesday night.

Lakers: At the Sacramento Kings on Wednesday night.



Alabama forward Donta Hall (0) puts up a shot as Texas-Arlington center Johnny Hamilton (13) tries to defend during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game, Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017, in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

(AP Photo/Butch Dill)



Marquette guard Markus Howard (0) goes to the net while being guarded by Wichita State center Shaquille Morris (24) during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game, Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017, in Lahaina, Hawaii.

(AP Photo/Marco Garcia)

No. 6 Wichita State beats Marquette 80-66 in Maui semis

LAHAINA, Hawaii (AP) — Wichita State has multiple players who can score in many ways, its lineup filled with almost interchangeable parts. What sets the No. 6 Shockers apart is their ability to defend tenaciously.

They did just that in the second half against Marquette on Tuesday, winning 80-66 to reach the title game of the Maui Invitational.

“We’ve got to create a mindset, play angry. That’s been our motto around Wichita State,” said Shockers forward Rashard Kelly, who had two blocks on the same play in the first half. “Somebody’s just got to fall in love with doing the dirty work.”

Landry Shamet scored 19 points and Connor Frankamp added 13. The Shockers (4-0) needed a big rally just to get to the semifinals after a slow start against California in its opener. They had no such trouble against Marquette (2-2).

Wichita State took control in the second half, holding sharpshooters Markus Howard and Andrew Rowsey in check long enough to build a 10-point lead.

The Shockers shot 54 percent and had a 44-33 advantage in the paint to earn a spot in Wednesday’s championship game against No. 13 Notre Dame.

Rowsey had 26 points and Howard 25 for the Golden Eagles, who were held to 10-of-33 shooting in the second half after a stellar first 20 minutes.

“Of those 10 open 3s we missed, we would normally make four of them because we have a good shooting team,” Marquette coach Steve Wojciechowski said. “Tonight we didn’t. So that’s why you see the box score looking like it did.”

Marquette shot its way into the semifinals behind Rowsey and Howard, who combined for 42 points a 94-83 win over VCU.

The Shockers appeared headed to the loser’s bracket after falling behind by 18 points early in the second half against Cal. The Shockers turned to a full-court press and forced a string of turnovers to pull out a 92-82 win.

The reward for both teams: An early wake-up call (8:30 a.m. local) to play in the semifinals.

Neither team seemed, trading 3-pointers,

floaters and drives to the basket while hitting a combined 11 of 16 shots.

Howard picked up where he left off in the first round, scoring 17 points in the first half. Rowsey had an outstanding four-point play, getting Samajae Haynes-Jones to bite on an up-fake, contorting his body after drawing contact, then making the shot — with his left hand.

Wichita State spread it around while hitting 16 of 30 shots, taking a 41-36 lead into the second half.

The offensive show continued in the second half, with Rowsey scoring seven quick points. Then the Shockers clamped down on the Golden Eagles, contesting those long 3-pointers by Rowsey and Howard, challenging everything at the rim. Wichita State held Marquette scoreless for nearly six minutes, building a 58-48 lead with a 7-0 run.

Marquette made a short run, but Frankamp hit a pair of 3-pointers and the Shockers held off the Golden Eagles the rest of the way.

“They’re a team that’s going to have an outstanding season and is capable of winning a national championship with their talent and their experience and their coaching,” Wojciechowski said.

THE TAKEAWAY

Wichita State flexed its defensive muscles in the second half and was good offensively all game to reach its first Maui title game. The Shockers did it without forward Markis McDuffie (foot), their top scorer and rebounder from a year ago. Marquette showed in the first half it can play with one of the top teams in the country.

KELLY’S BLOCKS

Kelly’s two blocks were a spectacular display. He came when he tracked down Marquette’s Sacar Anim to block his layup from behind, then sprang to his feet and blocked Anim’s putback.

“That’s my favorite play of the year thus far,” Shockers coach Gregg Marshall said. “That was a tremendous play.”

UP NEXT

Wichita State faces No. 13 Notre Dame in Wednesday’s title game.

Marquette plays LSU in the third-place game Wednesday.

Ashes clashes: Root forgets ‘13-14 tour, focus on the Gabba

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — Joe Root isn’t concerned about what happened the last time England toured Australia for the Ashes, or the bombardment of banter in the buildup to this series.

Root, about to start his first Ashes series as England captain, reckons it’s all just “external noise.”

England holds the Ashes after winning the 2015 series 3-2 at home, and has had the better of cricket’s oldest high-profile bilateral contests in the last decade with four wins in the last five series.

It’s little wonder the Australians have focused their pre-Ashes chatter on the 5-0 sweep they inflicted on England in 2013-14, when Mitchell Johnson took 37 wickets and unsettled the tourists with some terrifying pace bowling.

“You hear a lot about these scars but it’s a series which happened four years ago,” Root said. “We’ve won four of the last five Ashes.

“I don’t know whether (the Australians) are just trying to brush that under the carpet or what, but for me it’s completely irrelevant what happened four years ago.”

Root played the first four tests of that series, missing Australia’s victory lap at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Australian offspinner Nathan Lyon made a point of mentioning Root’s batting issues the last time England was in Australia. Root described Lyon’s comments as “a bit bizarre.”

“You can sort of see through it a little as well,” he said. “Whether it’s maybe a team strategy or he’s just taken it upon himself to do that - who knows? The more guys talk going into a series, the more they put pressure on themselves.”

In 2013-14, Lyon supported a pace trio of Johnson, Ryan Harris and Peter Siddle, and it was the fast bowlers who laid the foundation for the series win.

The Australians are relying on a pace attack of Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Pat

Cummins to do a similar job this time.

“These guys are just as nasty, if not more nasty to be perfectly honest,” Australia captain Steve Smith said. “A couple of the net sessions I have had against Cummins and Starc have been quite scary.”

Root suggested there may be too much emphasis being placed on the Australian bowling group, which is lacking an allrounder as backup like the 2013-14 version had.

“Those guys (Starc, Hazlewood and Cummins) I don’t think have played an Ashes series in Australia themselves, so they are going to be under pressure.”

The Australians aren’t exactly settled, either, with Tim Paine recalled as wicketkeeper for his first test in seven years at the expense of Matthew Wade and Cameron Bancroft set to make his test debut in place of opener Matthew Renshaw.

There has also been concern over David Warner’s fitness after the Australian vice-captain hurt his neck during fielding drills at the Gabba, and No. 6 batsman Shaun Marsh reported a sore back after the last practice session. The Australians drafted in Glenn Maxwell as injury cover just in case. Warner, at least according to Smith, is confident of playing.

Root announced England’s XI after the last practice, with Jake Ball confirmed as the fourth seamer after overcoming an ankle injury. Ball, who has played three tests, will join Jimmy Anderson, Stuart Broad and Chris Woakes in the pace attack. Moeen Ali, the spin-bowling allrounder, is expected to bat at No. 6 or No. 7.

Root’s batting average is 53.76 in 60 tests, but his average in Australia is 27.42. He’s confident the experience he got three years ago will set him on a better path.

“It will be quite hostile and potentially slightly intimidating,” he said, “but it shouldn’t scare you.”

He said he wasn’t really daunted by starting the series at a ground that has become a cauldron for the Australians, who haven’t lost a test at the Gabba since 1988. England’s last Ashes victory at the Brisbane venue was two years earlier in 1986.

“I think we’re about due aren’t we, to win here,” Root said. “It’s the reason why Australia plays the first test of a series here all the time, because they’ve got such a good record here.

“But what a way to start the series if we can go one-up here, it really upsets the apple cart. It could give us a lot of momentum going into the rest of it.”



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COOK; Immediate opening at Tradewinds Hotel. Application forms available at the Front Desk and to be filled out with resume and reference. No phone calls please. [11/24]

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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. Contat 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 humanly 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

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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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Universal Crossword

Edited by Timothy Parker November 22, 2017

ACROSS

- 1 ___ course (set sail)
5 Destiny, to some
10 Quiet "Hey!"
14 Guinness of films
15 Has a recurring pain
16 A place ___ itself
17 Deceiver
18 Not a soul
19 "High ___" (Western)
20 What the lucky gambler bet?
23 Rollerblade
24 Bridal path
25 Cafe offerings
28 Price
30 "Spumante" lead-in
31 Eyeball-bending works
33 Degree for CEOs
36 Twins who think alike are ...
40 Cool, decades ago
41 Emulate a volcano
42 Smell
43 Islamic leader
44 Wake up
46 Former veep Agnew

- 49 Director Sergio
51 Like the hour hand at 3:45
57 Scenic mountains
58 "Straight" prefix
59 Hurry
60 Race unit
61 Overly vicious dog
62 Exxon, once
63 Some high-protein beans
DOWN
1 "Fa" or "tra" followers
2 Came to rest
3 Yep kin
4 Type of word puzzle
5 "Dust in the Wind" rockers
6 "... ___ of many colors"
7 French wine region
8 Fix
9 Between continents
10 Talking head
11 Winter events
12 Bar seat

- 13 1,000 kilogrammes
21 HI instrument
22 Mean
25 Plaster's backing
26 "Even ___ speak"
27 Sporty sunroof
28 Grocery container
29 Poetic sphere
31 Egg cell
32 Type of talk
33 Constructed
34 Splotch
35 Spherical hairstyle
37 Faulty car
38 Historic period
39 In the clear
43 Van Gogh subjects

- 44 Partner in crime
45 Opening number?
46 Con games
47 Salk's focus
48 Express indirectly
49 Get-rich-quick game
50 Outdated anesthetic
52 A whole bunch
53 Word with "power"
54 Name of three English rivers
55 Superpower of old
56 Some Greek letters

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

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

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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

Wednesday,
November 22,
2017

Happy Birthday: Think long and hard and be prepared to deliver on time. Whether in your personal or your professional life, organization will be what makes a difference between advancing a little bit and reaching your destination of choice. Make your life's journey one to remember, not one that you simply endured. Change begins within and will spread from that point on. Your numbers are 5, 12, 22, 25, 34, 38, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Emotions mixed with anger and frustration will take you down a dark path. Use discipline and intelligence to maneuver your way through any situation you face at work or at home. Positive changes will be the result of smart moves.★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Stay focused on what you are trying to accomplish. If you let anger take over, you will not meet your deadline. It's important to keep a clear head and your destination in view. Make peace and love a priority.★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Learn from the mistakes you see others make. Don't get angry or frustrated by what's going on around you, just be grateful that you are smart enough to deal with anything that might be to your detriment. Do your own thing.★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Unusual opportunities will open up if you attend a function geared toward mingling and sharing ideas. Partnerships are favored, but impulsive decisions are not. Take care of pertinent facts and details by yourself. Personal gains will be apparent. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Remain calm even if a friend, peer or someone you have to deal with frustrates you. Getting angry or putting pressure on someone will not help you get what you want. Focus on helping others or simply doing the work on your own.★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Dance to your own beat. Don't feel the need to follow others or get involved in joint ventures that are iffy. Use common sense and make plans that will benefit you. Personal improvements and romance are highlighted. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Problems at home will mount if you let someone manipulate you emotionally. Be direct when it comes to what you want and you will avoid being taken for granted. Intelligence coupled with a friendly push will help you maintain equality. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Work at making changes at work or at home. Putting in a little bit of extra effort can make a big difference in how successful you are. Be willing to go the extra mile to keep the peace. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can make a difference if you follow through with your plans. Taking action will show others that you mean business and are reliable. Don't waste time arguing -- be the person who does what's required. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Emotional turmoil will throw you off your game. Try to remain calm and follow your plans one step at a time. Someone from your past will offer something that tempts you. Romance will enhance your personal life.★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll be attracted to odd people and subjects. It's always good to seek new experiences, but do so for the right reasons. Having ulterior motives will put you in an awkward position. Be up-front regarding your intentions. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Working alongside others to reach a goal is commendable, but don't feel you have to give in to demands you don't agree with. Do your own thing if you feel you will get

Dear Abby

by Abigail Van Buren

FIANCE REFUSES TO VACATE HOUSE FOR GIRLS' WEEKEND

DEAR ABBY: I live with my fiance, and we are being married in eight months. When I asked him if he would go and stay with his parents or some friends on a weekend when my girlfriend comes into town so we can have girl time, he got highly offended and said he isn't leaving "his" house. I pay more than he does in rent, and I don't feel I should have to rent a separate place.

He doesn't understand girl time: drinking wine, watching chick-flicks and talking about our lives. I want to dedicate all my time that weekend to being a good friend, but he doesn't get it. I have told him that if he ever wanted me to go stay with friends or visit my parents so he could have a guys' weekend, I would have no problem with it. Am I asking for too much? -- NEEDS GIRL TIME IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR NEEDS: Yes. I think expecting your fiance to leave when your girlfriend comes to visit is a bit much. Do you plan to make the same request after you are married? Regardless of who pays more rent, the house is home to both of you.

I would think that the idea of being subjected to one of your "girls' weekends" -- the wine, the chick-flicks, the gossip -- would motivate him to make other plans. However, because he is unwilling, you and your girlfriend should consider splitting the cost of a hotel room for the weekend, which might be more enjoyable for all three of you.

DEAR ABBY: Over the last 13 years in his job, my husband developed a "very friendly" relationship with a clerical person. Now that he has retired, she wants to continue it by meeting with him (and me) for dinner. We have had dinner together once, and when they began to talk shop, I became the odd one out.

Although I interjected myself into the conversation, it was clear there is real feeling between them. He says she's "just so nice." She continues to send emails addressed to both of us and asks me (since he is not computer savvy) to relay that she misses him greatly and he was her "ray of sunshine" every day when he would walk in the office.

Should I be worried, jealous or envious? It is only now I have become aware that she was so important to my husband at work. I had no knowledge about their relationship before. -- UNCERTAIN IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR UNCERTAIN: I don't think you have anything to worry about. That the conversation at dinner revolved around the office is not surprising. The office and the job were the basis of their relationship. Because she's sending emails addressed to both of you, I doubt she's trying to slip anything past you or make a play for your husband. Be patient, and with time, I suspect she will adjust to the loss of her "ray of sunshine."

11/22

WHO EIGHT MY PIE? 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					33	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						59			
60					61						62			
63					64						65			

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



11-22
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by Bill Watterson

ARE YOU GOING TO LIVE THE LAST FEW MONTHS OF YOUR LIFE ANY DIFFERENTLY, NOW THAT THE SUN IS GOING OUT AND WE'RE ALL DOOMED?

NO, I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED IN LIVING EACH DAY AS IF IT WAS MY LAST, SO I NEVER HAVE ANY REGRETS.

KIND OF INSPIRING, HUH?

IF YOU WERE SOMEONE ELSE, IT MIGHT BE.

PASS ME THAT ISSUE OF CAPTAIN NAPALM, WILL YOU?

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PEANUTS ©

by Charles M. Schultz

I LIKED YOU THE VERY FIRST TIME I SAW YOU..

I DISLIKED YOU THE VERY FIRST TIME I SAW YOU..

"IT WAS THE BEST OF TIMES.. IT WAS THE WORST OF TIMES"

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...HADVEY WEINSTEIN, LOUIS C.K., AL FRANKEN, KEVIN SPACEY, AND ROY MOORE. AM I FORGETTING ANYONE?

CONSEQUENCES FOR SEXUAL MISCONDUCT MEETING

Donald Trump

The Elephant in the Room

THE PIG IN THE ROOM.

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FORTUNE-TELLER

...CAN YOU PAY ME IN CASH? I SEE THAT YOUR CHECK IS GOING TO BOUNCE!

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Hagar the Horrible ©

by Chris Brown

I'M IN LOVE! GIVE ME SOME ADVICE!

PLAY IT COOL! KEEP HER GUESSING!

GUESS WHICH HAND THE RING IS IN!

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GARFIELD ©

by Jim Davis

"...AND THE CAT LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER"

BURP!

EVEN THOUGH HE DIDN'T DESERVE TO!

I HEARD THAT

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Sudoku Pacific

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

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

11/22 DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Tuesday's Puzzle Answer 11/21

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

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ONE DAY
ANNIVERSARY
SALE

Friday,
Nov. 24

EVENT PRICE 499.99 Ea. SAVE \$50
Amana® 3.5 Cu. Ft. Top Load Washer
White. XNTW4516FW

EVENT PRICE 399.99 Ea. SAVE \$100
Amana® 6.5 Cu. Ft. Electric Dryer
White. XNED4655EW

EVENT PRICE 10 Ea. SAVE \$10
Ace 32 Gal. Trash Can
Made by Rubbermaid®. Red, green, or black. 71102, 71162, 7131451

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HP® 15.6" Laptop
AMD E-Series E2-7110 (1.80 GHz) processor, 4GB memory, 500GB HDD, Windows 10 Home 64-Bit. X255G5

EVENT PRICE 99.99 Ea. SAVE \$80
Maxwest 7" Astro Phablet
Black, gold, or silver. XASTRO7BLK, XASTRO7GLD, XASTRO7SVR

EVENT PRICE 15 Ea. SAVE \$15
5 Gal. Igloo® Cooler
8265670

EVENT PRICE 19.99 Ea. SAVE \$10
Steel Grip® 4.5" Angle Grinder
4.2 amps 11,000 rpm. 2401214

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3/8" Corded Drill
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LG Electronics® DVD Player with USB Port
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