



Denied,
disparaged,
censored —
now Hunter's
laptop is key
evidence
in criminal
gun trial



CRACKING THE CASE

The judge in Hunter Biden's gun trial yesterday allowed the prosecution to introduce evidence from his laptop, including pictures of his drug use. Twitter censored The Post for reporting on the laptop in 2020.

PAGES 4-5



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Avant-Gaga is driven

Whom is Ms. Germanotta wearing at the LA premiere of her concert flick “Gaga Chromatica Ball”? Prada? Armani? Tom Ford? Well, maybe Ford *Motors*, because Our Lady of the Avant-Garde is decked in car parts!

Call in *sad* to work

Some companies offer their employees mental health days along with paid time off, but one supermarket chain in China called Pang Dong Lai recently took this one step further — by offering their workers 10 days of “unhappy leave,” the Straits Times reported.

“Everyone has times when they’re not happy, so if you’re not happy, do not come to work,” Chinese retail tycoon Yu Dong Lai, the chain’s founder and chairperson, said last month. “This leave cannot be denied by management. Denial is a violation.”

Dr. Art Markman, a professor of Psychology, Human Dimensions of Organizations and Marketing at the University of Texas at Austin, told The Post that either way, “often, employees don’t take advantage of all the time off they have.”

Alexandra Klausner

Communion commotion

A Florida priest bit a woman during Mass on Sunday, in what he claimed was a bid to protect a bread wafer, authorities said.

The unidentified woman told cops she attempted to receive Communion at the St. Thomas Aquinas Church in St. Cloud but was rejected, possibly due to her sexuality.

But Father Fidel Rodriguez said it was because she grabbed the wafers, crushing them. “I bit her, I am not denying that. I am defending myself and the sacrament,” he told officers.

David Propper



IT'S SO HARD TO 'PLEASE'

Only 7% saying it

By BROOKE KATO

What's the magic word? According to a new study of American etiquette, it's no longer “please.”

After combing through recordings of 1,000 different people interacting with loved ones, colleagues and others, researchers at UCLA found just 7% of us are still prefacing requests with the polite phrase.

According to the findings, published this month in *Social Psychology Quarterly*, men and women used the p-word about the same amount — 6% and 7%, respectively — but adults across the board used it more often when requesting something from a man.

Children, the study found, said it only 10% of the time when asking for something.

And while adults used the word 8% of the time when talking to children, they said it only 6% of the time when conversing with other adults.

'Strategically' polite

“There is not much older data to give us a sense of how the rate [of use] might have changed over time, but we suspect that this isn't really a recent development,” study co-author Andrew Chalfoun, a UCLA PhD candidate in sociology, told Yahoo News.

Approximately half of the time, researchers observed that “please” was employed in an attempt “to overcome resistance or willingness” to adhere to someone's request.

“A lot of ‘please’ is definitely used to basically put pressure to comply on the other party,” he said.

He described a real-life scenario the team observed, of a daughter asking her mom for a new dress and

using the word “please” after her mother declined.

Chalfoun explained that people think of it as a word “we use when we're making a request that we shouldn't be making, but we're going to do it anyway.”

“It's acknowledging... the fact that it's kind of a problematic thing to be asking,” he said, adding that the word is not subconsciously considered a standard “politeness token.”

Instead, study authors found, it is used as a strategic way to get what you desire, almost like a precursor to the other person's concession, as it would be “impolite” to refuse someone's request if they ask nicely.

“We know that people find it hard to say no to requests because it is impolite to do so,” Vanessa Bohns, a Cornell University professor of social psychology who was not involved in the study, told Yahoo News. “By adding ‘please’ to a request, the asker is essentially reminding the target of those politeness norms. It is essentially saying to the target of the request: ‘Remember your manners.’”

Mind your manners?

Is it futile, then, to teach kids to use the seemingly old-fashioned niceties?

Study authors said it's complicated, since these don't necessarily yield polite intentions or behavior.

“It's not necessarily the most helpful thing to try to get people to follow really strict rules about what's good behavior and what's bad behavior,” Chalfoun said. “Rather than trying to get kids to follow a code of rules, we should push for thinking about what it means and look at broader principles.”

FROM 'DISINFO' TO

Bidens' lies evolved, but still they lie

MIRANDA DEVINE



THE evolution of Hunter Biden laptop denial over the last three and a half years has been mind-boggling. You need a chart to keep up.

First the laptop was a non-story (thanks NPR).

Then it was “hacked material” (thanks Twitter).

Then it was “Russian disinformation” (thanks CIA).

Then it was a “Russian plant” (thanks Joe Biden).

Then it was “stolen” by Russians. (Hunter weighed in with the crystal clear: “I have no idea . . . There could be a laptop out there that was stolen from me. It could be that I was hacked. It could be that it was Russian intelligence. It could be that it was stolen from me.”)

Then it was “hacked by Rudy Giuliani” (thanks Kevin “Sugar Brother” Morris).

And now it is the backbone of the prosecution case against the first son in the felony gun trial he faces in Delaware in a little over a week.

“The defendant’s theory about the laptop is a conspiracy theory with no supporting evidence,” says a prosecution filing signed by special counsel David Weiss.

Hunter’s “laptop is real (it

will be introduced as a trial exhibit) and it contains significant evidence of the defendant’s guilt.”

Weiss plans to use the laptop to help prove that Hunter lied on a federal form when he bought a gun in October 2018 and claimed he was not using drugs.

Hunter “has not provided any evidence or information that shows that his laptop contains false information, and the government’s evidence shows the opposite.”

Prosecutors also have told the court the laptop is “self-authenticating,” that Hunter left it at a computer store in April 2019, and that the contents match what they obtained from a search warrant of his iCloud.

‘A tangled web’

It would have been a whole lot easier for everyone to just admit the laptop was real in the first place, instead of censoring the New York Post and creating an elaborate cover up with the help of the FBI, CIA and Big Tech, which only heightened suspicions that what it contained must be super dangerous for Joe Biden.

“Oh, what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive,” goes the old saying about the perils of lying.

It’s a lesson the president and his party seem incapable of learning.

By PRISCILLA DeGREGORY

What a long, strange trip it’s been.

Five years and one month after First Son Hunter Biden dropped off three damaged laptops at a repair shop in Wilmington, Del., and never returned to pick them up, a Delaware federal judge ruled that jurors at the 54-year-old’s upcoming trial on weapons charges can be shown damaging evidence about his illegal drug use taken from his hard drive, his iPhone and iPad, and his own memoir.

As Hunter looked on in court — one day after attending a White House state dinner — Wilmington US District Judge Maryellen Noreika ruled the “laptop from hell” could not be barred out of hand based on his legal team’s claim it had been hacked and seeded with false information.

However, Noreika did rule that the first son’s attorneys can object to the introduction of specific information from the laptop as prosecutors — who say there is no evidence the computer was ever compromised — seek to raise them during trial, which begins with jury selection June 3.

Court fireworks due

The case-by-case nature of Noreika’s ruling is likely to lead to explosive disagreements between prosecutors and the defense, and could stretch the case beyond its expected one-week time frame.

The Post first reported on the laptop’s contents — which included evidence of influence-peddling, illegal foreign lobbying, drug use and prostitution — in October 2020, only for Big Tech companies like Facebook and Twitter to suppress sharing of the story while dozens of former intelligence officials attacked the report as having “all the hallmarks of Russian disinformation.”

In fact, as one IRS whistleblower told Congress last year, the FBI had authenticated the laptop and its info as early as November 2019.

Hunter — who didn’t answer questions from the media on his way in and out of court — is accused of three counts related to illegal ownership of a gun while addicted to crack cocaine. He faces up to 25 years behind bars if convicted on all charges.

Prosecutors from the office of special counsel David Weiss —

Initially mocked, Hunter’s laptop will now be used in bid for justice



who was present for Friday’s hearing — need to prove to the jury that Hunter was using the addictive street drug around the time he bought the Colt Cobra .38-caliber revolver on Oct. 12, 2018.

However, in a key win for Hunter’s dad’s Justice Department, Noreika ruled they don’t

have to prove the defendant used drugs on the day of the purchase.

Hunter’s lawyers had asked Noreika to keep more salacious evidence against their client — including that he blew money on “adult entertainment, online chat rooms or escort services” — out of the case, arguing it posed “sig-

KEY EVIDENCE



FLASHBACK: The Post's reporting on Hunter Biden's foreign dealings uncovered via his abandoned laptop (insets right) has been censored and belittled, but now photos and messages found on the device will be admissible at his federal trial.



A crack smoking gun in records

Federal prosecutors plan to deploy thousands of pages of electronic records from First Son Hunter Biden's "laptop from hell" and other technology — including a message demanding more "chore boy" to smoke crack cocaine, court papers show.

President Biden's 54-year-old son goes on trial June 3 in the Delaware federal case accusing him of illegally owning a gun while addicted to drugs, and prosecutors in special counsel David Weiss' office have said they plan to show damning evidence taken from the laptop, a hard drive and an iCloud account linked to his iPad and iPhone XR.

In all, the feds say, they have more than 18,000 pages of Biden's electronic records, which they want to summarize in a chart for jurors.

One message says, "I need more chore boy," according to court papers filed by prosecutors on Wednesday. The feds say the Hunter's message used the phrase as he used it in his book "Beautiful Things," in which he explains that a Chore Boy "is a spun-copper scouring pad" that addicts use "as a screen to hold the crack in their rose pipes."

"We just planted ourselves on the couch and smoked a ton of crack," reads another passage of the book. "For endless hours, day after day, it was the same numbing ritual, over and over and over: pipe, Chore Boy, crack, light; pipe, Chore Boy, crack, light; pipe, Chore Boy, crack, light."

Prosecutors said the chart would also include photos and videos of Hunter with a crack pipe and messages about drugs.

Hunter's lawyers warned Thursday that they may object at trial to the introduction of some of the contents, such as "inflammatory text messages," on the grounds that they are prejudicial to their client.

Priscilla DeGregory

nificant risk of unfair prejudice."

Prosecutors didn't have it all their way Friday, with Noreika ruling that Hunter's pending Southern California trial on tax evasion charges, his Arkansas child support case, and his 2014 discharge from the US Navy Reserve after failing a cocaine test could not be

mentioned in front of the jury.

However, the judge warned, "there's a number of issues that may become more contentious should Mr. Biden testify."

The judge also agreed to allow Biden's attorneys to introduce wider selections of "Beautiful Things" after the defense accused prosecu-

tors of cherry-picking the book.

Noreika did not immediately rule on a defense request to introduce an altered version of the gun purchase form filled out by Hunter, which lead defense attorney Abbe Lowell claimed was significantly changed by employees after the sale. Prosecutors say there were only minor

additions unrelated to the questions answered by the younger Biden.

Noreika also ruled that the jury can't hear about the plea deal that Hunter was slated to take last summer — before it blew up in court after prosecutors said the agreement wouldn't shield him from the tax charges. *With Wires*

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■ Evening Take-5 Fri.:
2, 3, 17, 22, 25
■ Pick-10 Fri.: 3, 9, 10, 14,
16, 22, 23, 31, 35, 36, 39, 41,
49, 51, 52, 53, 58, 70, 73, 74
■ Cash-4-Life Fri.: 1, 4, 8,
28, 44; Cash Ball: 1
■ Mega Millions Fri.: 46,
54, 56, 67, 70; Mega Ball:
16; Megaplier: x3

NEW JERSEY

Pick-3 Fri.: 666; Fireball: 3
Pick-4 Fri.: 4139; Fireball: 3
Cash-5 Xtra Fri.: 6, 17, 19,
31, 42; Xtra: 3

CONNECTICUT

Play-3 Fri.: 515; Wild: 0
Play-4 Fri.: 8280; Wild: 0
Cash-5 Fri.: 2, 24, 26, 28, 32
Lucky-4-Life Fri.: 13, 17, 24,
29, 33; Lucky Ball: 7

Many 'left behind' in free 3-K chaos

By ANEETA BHOLE

Thousands of Big Apple families have been waitlisted for the city's free 3-K program and many are fuming at what they say is a lack of clarity about the future of their toddlers' education.

The city Department of Education confirmed that while 94% of the 43,000 applicants for 3-K were given offers, about 2,400 families were left without a placement last week.

"We did not get in anywhere... so it's most likely we will not get a spot for this year," one such city parent, Ken Anderson, told The Post Thursday.

He said that most of the information he's received about the application process came from other parents, not the DOE. "They advertise that there are thousands of empty places and every kid will get a spot but then, OK if that's true, where are they? And if there are, then how far are we supposed to travel?" he asked.

Mayor Adams vowed that every child who wants a seat in a 3-K program will get one, and City Hall has scrambled to reassure parents that there are still 9,000 spots available, although their location remains shrouded in mystery.

It means some kids who didn't get their first choice landed on the waitlist, and could be forced into lengthy commutes if they accept a secondary option.

And as the June 14 deadline to accept 3-K offers looms, many families have been left wondering what to do about impractical offers they've received.

A Roosevelt Island resident said he listed 12 schools during the ap-



They advertise that there are thousands of empty places and every kid will get a spot but then, OK if that's true, where are they? And if there are, then how far are we supposed to travel?

— NYC parent Ken Anderson

plication process, and his child was given a spot in a program that is a 50-minute commute from their home, and which refused to allow him and his wife to tour the location.

"We feel that, to a point, we've been lied to where we felt that there was a reasonable opportunity to get a good 3-K program and the reality is we're not and we're not the only ones," said the parent who asked not to be identified.

Program 'is not zoned'

Councilwoman Julie Won (D-Brooklyn) said she's heard from hundreds of parents in her district who have expressed frustration and anger over the lack of clarity.

"[They're] asking 'why is this school in my district full of kids from another neighborhood?' and I

constantly have to explain to them that 3-K is not zoned," she said.

Won said parents from any of the five boroughs can apply for schools across New York City and don't necessarily have to be given a spot in their district.

Must have a car

She also noted that borough maps are deceiving and could potentially place some families in seats that could result in expensive or unachievable commutes.

"If you don't live in my district, you might look at Sunnyside and then Maspeth and be like, 'Oh, close enough,' but there's no public transportation between the two neighborhoods that really go there," she said. "So you're gonna have to trek on a bus and then transfer to another bus to get your

3-K and if you don't have a car, then I guess, too bad."

DOE spokesperson Nathaniel Styer said more than 200 parents who didn't initially receive an offer have one now, but could not provide information on where those options were located, noting they "do not have information available on seat distribution at this time."

It comes as city officials failed to provide a timeline for a costly report from consulting firm Accenture that would help "map out needs and seats" for the 3-K program.

During a recent education hearing, officials backpedaled from the initial \$760,000 they claimed to have paid for the report, citing a significantly lower figure of "\$350,000 or \$250,000," as they fumbled to provide a timeline on its release.

Additional reporting by Haley Brown

'Shallow' bar for kiddie-pool lifeguards

New York City is slightly lowering its qualifications for lifeguards at kiddie pools as it still struggles with summer staffing of water rescuers in the Big Apple.

Lifeguards who have failed to finish the 300-yard timed swim — one of the final and most

grueling requirements — will now be able to man the stands at the city's shallow-water pools.

The guards will still need all the other certifications in the 16-week training program, such as CPR, first aid and rescue skills.

"Today's big win for

public safety at our pools and beaches means we'll be able to potentially hire more lifeguards for this summer and get even more in the pipeline for summers to come," Mayor Adams said outside City Hall Friday.

"We want every New Yorker to have a great

summer of surf and sand."

City Hall couldn't say how many guards the change would add to the city's pool and seaside workforce.

Parks officials said earlier this week that the city only had just over a third of the lifeguards neces-

sary to staff the Big Apple's 14 miles of beaches, which open on Saturday.

The city has seen some progress in hiring — in part due to the boost in pay and bonuses — with more than 550 lifeguards in the pipeline, up from 375 in training last year.

Craig McCarthy

Outlathome - stock.adobe.com

Diddy blasts vid leak

Sean “Diddy” Combs believes the video of him beating then-girlfriend Cassie “doesn’t tell the full story about what happened,” a member of his inner circle tells The Post.

“He’s incensed. Especially about the video. He insists it doesn’t tell the full story about what happened. Not that he’s excusing it, but he says that it’s a selected video,” the source says.

“It’s his position that there was an agenda in releasing the video when it was released,” the insider continues. “But ultimately, he knows that his big concern is the raids on his house; the Cassie video is just a distraction.”

In the video, released by CNN on May 19, the Bad Boy Records founder, 54, was seen attacking Cassie — born Casandra Ventura — in March 2016.

In the clip, Combs chased the “Me & U” singer, 37, through the hallway of the now-closed InterContinental Hotel in Los Angeles while wearing a towel around his waist.

As Cassie tried to get on an elevator, her then-boyfriend grabbed her by the back of the neck and threw her to the floor, then kicked and dragged her through the hallway by her sweatshirt.

Tamantha Ryan

Conn. mom ‘vanish’ twist

The mother of Jennifer Dulos, who vanished from her Connecticut home five years ago, says she believes Jennifer’s estranged husband’s girlfriend, Michelle Troconis, lied to investigators and “absolutely” knows where the body was dumped.

“I think she knows where Jennifer is, or her remains,” Gloria Farber, 89, told WTNH TV. But she does not think Troconis will ever share what happened to her 50-year-old daughter’s body, which has not been found.

Troconis was found guilty in March of helping Fotis Dulos cover up the 2019 murder. Fotis committed suicide in 2020. *Isabel Keane*

LI 5-yr.-old gets bionic arm

YOU’RE A SUPER HERO, KID!



TOTALLY COOL: Jordan Marotta of Dix Hills, LI, has fun with his new arm — specially ordered in Iron Man colors — after qualifying to receive the artificial limb from Open Bionics.

Ashley Marotta

By ALEX MITCHELL

A Long Island boy born without a left hand achieved superhero status his week.

Jordan Marotta, 5, became the youngest-ever recipient of a top-of-the-line bionic arm, decked out — at the youngster’s request — in Iron Man red and gold.

“He was just walking down the streets of Manhattan, throwing his new hand up in the air screaming ‘Taxi!’” Jordan’s mom, Ashley Marotta, 38, told The Post.

The excited mother of three made the trip with Jordan from their Dix Hills home Wednesday to Open Bionics’ Park Avenue offices, where the boy was fitted with his “hero” arm.

The arms are typically reserved for older children.

However, Jordan’s physical development and emotional maturity made him the perfect candidate, said Daniel Green, certified prosthetist and orthotist at Open Bionics.

Jordan’s non-invasive prosthetic was seamlessly molded to attach and detach from where his left arm ends — or what he and his family call his “nubby.”

Electrodes and sensors detect muscle contractions and respond with appropriate hand and finger movements.

It runs on a 14-hour, rechargeable battery and takes about a month to be produced.

Then, the real effort begins — time for Jordan to make the arm his own.

“It takes a little bit of work,” said Green. “It’s maybe something the average 5-year-old probably wouldn’t be able to do — at least not as quickly as Jordan, anyway.”

Always a brave boy, Jordan been able to enjoy a typically normal childhood so far — he even pitches on a local Little League team and is a karate standout.

Emotional realization

However, lately he had begun to interpret his condition more clearly.

“Recently, things have been a little bit more emotional. Jordan started to really understand and know he’s different,” Ashley said.

“There were plenty of times where he would sit there and ask me, ‘Mommy, how come my hand is not growing?’”

Now, the conversation has taken a positive turn.

The excited tyke’s first stop home from the medical office this week was at his school, where he proudly showed his arm off to classmates.

Then came a trip to his grandparents’ house and a scooter joyride, followed by a trip to Chuck E. Cheese.

“This really makes him feel good. He’s so confident. He was glowing,” Marotta said.

Trump PAC hits RFK Jr.

A super PAC supporting former President Donald Trump unleashed a mobile billboard Friday attacking 2024 rival Robert F. Kennedy Jr., with the independent slated to make a speech at the Libertarian National Convention in DC.

The billboard from Make America Great Again Inc. was set up on a box truck outside the Washington Hilton convention site for four hours and panned Kennedy as a “radical” — not a libertarian.

The ads on the billboard featured the 70-year-old’s support for reparations, call to ban “assault rifles,” promotion of a 70% income tax rate, his endorsement of banning fracking and his support for the Green New Deal.

In addition to being displayed on the truck, the ads were also digitally targeted to the convention center site.

“RFK Jr. must be confused. He’s at the Libertarian Convention this weekend, not the Socialist Convention,” MAGA Inc. spokesman Alex Pfeiffer told The Post.

The Kennedy campaign did not immediately respond to an inquiry from The Post. *Diana Glebova*

Anti-Joe Oct. surprise?

The Biden administration is concerned that Russia and North Korea are planning an “October surprise” ahead of the US presidential election, per a report.

The growing alliance between Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un could expand Pyongyang’s nuclear arsenal and heighten tensions in the Asia-Pacific region, six senior US officials told NBC News.

The Biden administration reached out to North Korea again this year, but reportedly received no response.

Olivia Land

DON'S NY FANS: GOV'S THE FOOL



BOROUGH'S PRESIDENT: Ex-President Donald Trump's Bronx rally Thursday drew a diverse, enthusiastic bunch to Crotona Park (overhead view at bottom right). Gov. Hochul dismissed the crowd as Trump's "clowns."

Stephen Yang

Outrage over Hochul's

By VAUGHN GOLDEN

Politicians from across the state reacted with outrage Friday to Gov. Hochul calling supporters of Donald Trump “clowns” after his Bronx rally Thursday, which drew a diverse array of supporters.

Hochul made the remarks while bragging to CNN’s Jake Tapper about her confidence in President Biden’s electoral prospects in the Empire State.

“I’ll tell you what won’t make a difference at all, Jake, and that’s for Donald Trump to be the ringleader and invite all his clowns to a place like The Bronx,” Hochul said.

It didn’t take long for the governor’s opponents on the right to rip what they saw as yet another example of Democrat elitism, on par with Hillary Clinton’s notorious “basket of deplorables” comment made during the 2016 election.

‘Want something better’

“Oh [Hochul] first you say conservatives shouldn’t live in NY, then you say blacks don’t know what a computer is, now you call half the country ‘clowns’ . . . your disdain for voters is matched only by your ability to put your foot in your mouth,” Rep. Michael Lawler

(R-Rockland) posted to X.

“She needs to actually take some time to talk with her citizens,” Trump ally Rep. Byron Donalds (R-Fla.) told Fox News’ Kayleigh McEnany. “They are people that work hard every day. They are people who have toiled in the misery and some of the misery that frankly does occur in New York and they want something better.”

New York Conservative Party Chairman Gerard Kassar told The Post that he believed that Trump was more familiar with the area than Hochul.





VP pick unveil off until summer

Donald Trump said Thursday he would wait to announce his running mate choice until the start of the Republican National Convention July 15, pushing back his initial timeline.

Trump had indicated earlier this month he would be picking his No. 2 “probably not too much before the convention” — but told News12 in an interview after his South Bronx rally that he would announce his running mate “some time during the convention.”

Traditionally, the Republican or Democratic nominee for vice president is confirmed on the penultimate night of the national convention, which in the GOP’s case would be July 17.

Trump, 77, has avoided providing concrete details on whom his VP may be.

North Dakota Gov. Doug Burtrum told The Post after Trump’s Wildwood, N.J., rally May 11 that the 45th president had told supporters at Mar-a-Lago there could be up to 50 people on the list of contenders.

During the News12 interview, Trump mentioned four names — former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Ben Carson, Sens. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) and JD Vance (R-Ohio) and House GOP Conference chair Elise Stefanik (R-NY).

But Trump, as usual, refused to provide any further clues.

“We have so many, I don’t want to do that, we have so many,” he said when asked to identify his top three choices.

“We have many people who would do a fantastic job.”

Trump also dished on his former rival Nikki Haley, who revealed Wednesday that she will be voting for him in November.

“I think she’s going to be on our team, because we have a lot of the same ideas, the same thoughts,” Trump told News 12 of Haley. “I appreciate her, what she said.”

“She’s a very capable person and I’m sure she’s going to be on our team in some form, absolutely,” he added.

However, Trump has said Haley is definitely not in the running to be his running mate.

Diana Glebova

Final count: 8-10K faithful at Bx. rally

Donald Trump’s Bronx rally drew about 8,000 to 10,000 attendees, law-enforcement sources told The Post Friday.

The Thursday evening rally was held in Crotona Park, which had a permit allowance of 3,500 people. Thousands of Trump supporters were lined up by the security gates for hours hoping to catch a glimpse of the 45th president making his first New York City rally appearance since 2016.

Attendees were being let in to the event until the very last moments of Trump’s speech.

Trump national secretary Karoline Leavitt claimed there were 25,000 people in attendance, while a campaign staffer said they would estimate around

10,000 people showed up.

It was difficult to gauge the crowd size, as what appeared to be thousands of people were being let in through security gates gradually. The park itself and the area around Trump’s stage had room to accommodate more people throughout the entirety of his speech.

Trump adviser Chris LaCivita told The Post 20,000 people had signed up to attend the rally.

The Post heard attendees grumbling about the park’s limitations when it came to accommodating them.

Trump has said he wants to win New York in 2024, despite losing his home state in 2016 and 2020 by double digits.

Joe Marino and Diana Glebova

‘clown’ crack

“He has probably spent more time in The Bronx in his life than she has spent in her life,” he said. “You want to talk about New York City and make comments like that? Spend she needs to spend more time outside of her ivory tower in Midtown Manhattan.”

A statewide Siena College poll earlier this year showed Trump with roughly the same amount of

support amongst Hispanic voters as Biden.

“Kathy Hochul is just upset that President Trump is pulling crowds in her state that she could only dream of; and Democrats are in disarray because Americans, including Hispanics and blacks, are waking up to the fact that Joe Biden and the Democrat Party have been using them for votes and ripping them off for decades,” a spokesperson for Trump’s campaign told Fox News Digital.

Biden easily carried the Empire State in 2020 with just over 60% of the vote.



ISRAEL UNDER ATTACK

HS writing 'detest'

By DANA KENNEDY
and CHRIS NESI

A tony private school that prides itself on being a bastion of cultural diversity and tolerance was vandalized with ugly anti-Israel graffiti this week — at least the fifth disturbing incident involving race or religion to impact the Bronx campus in the past decade.

Two seniors wearing keffiyehs scrawled "Free Palestine" in large, yellow chalk letters on the brick wall above the \$63,000-a-year Ethical Culture Fieldston School's front entrance Monday afternoon, a source told The Post.

The vandalism was livestreamed by the teens, the source said. No recording was available.

It prompted school administrators to host a "listening session" with parents Wednesday night, including many "Jewish affinity group parents."

"Many parents were upset but it's not clear if the administration has decided to do anything yet," the source said. "The biggest issue is that when things pop up around antisemitism, they are not taken as seriously as issues like racism or homophobia."

Double standard

"It's a big double standard, like antisemitism doesn't matter as much."

The writing has since been removed and an investigation has been launched, administrators said in a letter Monday.

However, one parent said it is part of a deeper systemic problem.

"This pro-Palestine, pro-Hamas stuff is not just coming from the students, it's coming from the teachers as well," the parent, whose children are former students whom the family decided to pull from the school, told The Post.

"All these tenured teachers who hold really radical views ... they've been indoctrinating the



VANDALIZED: Students leave a message at the entrance of Ethical Culture Fieldston School in Riverdale.

Hate at elite woke Bx. school

kids, and ultimately the result is the school is f--ked up."

Founded in 1878 by Felix Adler, the son of a rabbi, the school is part of the Ivy Preparatory School League. Fieldston, Riverdale Country and Horace Mann, all in Riverdale, are known as the "Hill schools."

The school, which on its website touts its commitment to "diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and

belonging," has notched numerous disturbing instances involving race or religion in recent years.

In 2015, students in third to fifth grade were divided up into race-based "affinity groups" in mandatory weekly sessions to discuss "what it was like to be a member of that race," The Cut reported.

In February 2019, a video of students using "racist, homophobic and

misogynistic language" began circulating, leading to student protests.

"We do not discuss disciplinary matters involving students. We do not tolerate antisemitism and stand against all forms of hate," a school spokesperson told The Post via email Friday night.

"We are committed to ensuring all students feel safety, dignity and belonging at our school."



SHRUTHI KUMAR
Speaker goes off-script.

Harvard gets put on blast

A Harvard commencement speaker went dramatically off-script to blast the Ivy League school for barring a handful of those involved in a disruptive anti-Israeli encampment before more than 1,000 students also staged a walkout.

Shruthi Kumar, the senior selected to deliver the English address Thursday, removed a piece of paper containing controversial remarks hidden up the sleeve of her gown and took aim at university leaders over the decision to deny more than a dozen students their diplomas.

"I must take a moment to recognize my peers — the 13 undergraduates in the Class of 2024 that will not graduate today," she told the crowd, per a video posted by Harvard.

"I am deeply disappointed by the intolerance for freedom of speech and their right to civil disobedience on campus," she said of the protests, which famously replaced the American flag with a Palestinian one.

Kumar received cheers and a standing ovation from the crowd, including some of the faculty. *Megan Palin*

Body of Shani's beau among 3 more found in Gaza

The bodies of three more murdered Israeli hostages were recovered overnight from Gaza, Israel said Friday — including the boyfriend of Shani Louk, the tattoo artist who became a symbol of the horror of Oct. 7 when her body was paraded through Gaza by Hamas terrorists.

Louk's boyfriend, Orion Hernandez Radoux, 30, was found along with Hanan Yablonka, 42, and Michel Nisenbaum, 59, a week after Louk's own body was located, the Israel Defense Forces said.

All three are believed to have been killed on Oct. 7 slaughter, with their bodies then brought

to Gaza.

Louk, Hernandez Radoux and Yablonka — a father of two — had all been at the Nova music festival when gunmen stormed in and started killing.

Nisenbaum, a Brazilian-Israeli from the southern city of Sderot, was captured and killed while try-

ing to rescue his 4-year-old granddaughter, Israel said.

IDF spokesperson Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari announced the news in a televised statement, in which he vowed to bring back the remaining hostages still held by Hamas.

Nearly 1,200 people, mainly ci-

vilians, were killed by Hamas in the attack while around 250 others were kidnapped.

Israel says about 100 hostages are still captive in Gaza, along with about 30 assumed killed.

"We will not stop fighting for their freedom," said Hagari.

Isabel Keane, Wires

Sunny grilling until wet Monday

It'll be a mixed bag for New Yorkers this Memorial Day weekend.

The Big Apple and surrounding areas will enjoy sunshine and warm temperatures until Sunday evening, when rain is expected to move into the region — and put a damper on Memorial Day.

“Unfortunately it does look like there is going to be rain in the area on Monday for the actual holiday,” Fox Forecast Center meteorologist Stephanie van Oppen told The Post on Friday.

SATURDAY	
78°	65° Partly sunny
SUNDAY	
80°	64° Partly sunny
MONDAY	
71°	67° T-storm

While storms are expected to hit the tri-state region Monday, the forecast for Saturday and Sunday remains clear, presenting perfect conditions to head outside.

“The good news is that on Saturday and Sunday, we’re looking at temps in the 80s and it should be mostly sunny or partly cloudy,” van Oppen added.

Scattered showers are expected — with rain and thunderstorms also expected in Connecticut and New Jersey.

“It might not be rain all the time for everyone . . . but it does look pretty likely that we’ll have a chance of showers and thunderstorms in the morning as well as the afternoon,” van Oppen said. *Isabel Keane*

BURNED!

Planning on having a Memorial Day weekend cookout? Be prepared — it's going to cost considerably more than last year:

Eight burgers	\$8.07 up 15%		32-ounce ketchup	\$5.53 up 2%
Burger buns	\$3.06 up 1%		20-ounce mustard	\$2.61 up 3%
Eight beef hot dogs	\$3.15 no chg.		26-ounce relish	\$4.67 up 49%
Eight hot dog buns	\$3.09 up 1%		Total: \$30.18 Last year: \$27.39	

Bidenflation razes another holiday

By ARIEL ZILBER

Americans preparing to fire up the barbecue grill this Memorial Day weekend will pay 10% more than they did last year for their cookout items as inflation continues to batter the economy, according to a report.

The average cost to welcome the unofficial start of summer jumped to \$30 — compared to \$27 in 2023, WalletHub reported.

A Consumer Affairs report came to a similar conclusion, noting that seven essential items for a routine cookout — burgers, hot dogs, buns and condiments — came to a total of \$30.18, compared to \$27.39 in 2023.

The soaring price of burgers was the biggest factor in the jump.

An order of eight burgers costs \$8.07 — 15% higher than last year, according to Consumer Affairs.

Burger and hot dog buns went up 1% to \$3.06 and \$3.09, respectively.

The price of eight all-beef hot dogs stayed the same, at \$3.15, but condiments are pricier this year.

A 32-ounce bottle of ketchup costs \$5.53, a 2% increase from a year ago, while a 20-ounce bottle of mustard is \$2.61 — up 3%.

Meanwhile, a 26-ounce jar of relish increased by a whopping 49% to \$4.67, due to a pickle shortage caused by extreme weather in Mexico.

Wallet woe brewing

Having a cold beer to wash it all down — while not part of the Memorial Day basket of goods factored into the Consumer Affairs report — jumped 3% compared to last year, according to the Labor Department’s Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Since President Biden took office in January 2021, grocery prices have increased by more than 21%.

The latest consumer price index from April showed that steaks were 6.5% more expensive

compared to a year ago while the price of ground beef rose 6% from last year.

Other popular barbecue items also cost more.

Pork is 1.2% more expensive than it was last year, while pork chops cost 1.7% more. The price for a whole chicken rose 3%.

Canned fruits and vegetables increased by 3.5% year over year while frozen non-carbonated juices and drinks were up a whopping 29.2%.

Overall, food inflation was 3.4% higher year-over-year in April, while groceries were 2.2% more expensive than they were in 2023.

US households in March spent \$227 more for goods and services than they did in the same period last year.

Compared to two years ago, Americans are paying on average \$784 more each month compared to two years ago and \$1,069 more compared to three years ago.

While the rate of inflation has

slowed somewhat, food could become even costlier.

Extreme weather in Australia, Russia and Brazil has negatively impacted the harvest of key crops such as wheat, coffee, rice, cocoa and oranges.

Chicago wheat futures were nearing their highest totals since last July while Arabica coffee prices recorded their largest weekly gain since April, according to Bloomberg News.

The upturn in the crop index is stoking fears that key staple items such as bread, coffee and fruit will be even more expensive in the near term.

The Federal Reserve imposed a tight monetary policy, hiking interest rates to record levels in hopes of getting inflation closer to its goal of 2%.

The slow rate at which inflation has been cooling has prompted Fed officials to have second thoughts about slashing interest rates this year.

MARK KRIKORIAN



ONE hundred years ago this Sunday, the Ellis Island wave of immigration was brought to an end — and all Americans are better for it.

For decades, we've been taught to be ashamed of the period of immigration restriction the law inaugurated. And it's true that many supporters of the 1924 immigration law were motivated by racial and ethnic concerns that are rightly rejected today.

The descendants of the Southern and Eastern Europeans (including my own forebears) whose mass arrival prompted the law's passage are now integral parts of the American people.

But it was precisely the two-generation-long pause in immigration brought about by the bill that made the earlier Great Wave a success. Only by taking an extended breather was America able to successfully assimilate the 25 million-plus newcomers who'd arrived after 1880.

Benefits of a break

The pause in immigration led to a half-century-long decline in the foreign-born share of the population, from a level that fluctuated between 13% and 15% of the nation's inhabitants during the Great Wave, to a low of less than 5% in 1970.

Immigrant communities were thus not continually refreshed with newcomers; that, combined with vigorous Americanization efforts in schools and elsewhere, forged the strong common national identity that helped America prevail over Nazism and Communism.

The economic benefits for American workers were immediate and immense. With the temporary halt in immigration during World War I, and then after the statutory reductions of the 1920s, less-skilled American workers saw their bargaining power increase overnight.

Without the endless stream of immigrants from Europe, employers had little choice but to raise wages and improve working conditions. The immigration pause changed the employer-employee dynamic from one where workers had to hustle to find jobs to one where companies had to hustle to find labor.

All Americans — as well as immigrants already here — benefited, but the gains for black Americans were the greatest and most obvious. Not only were jobs that had been closed to



DEN-ISLE: Immigrants wait at Ellis Island in the early 20th century as part of a Great Wave that is not unlike today's situation.

Bethmann Archive

Lesson of 1924 immig law: A pause is good

them now opened up, but recruiters for industrialists actually roamed the South essentially begging people, black or white, to come work for them.

Without the 1924 law, the Great Migration of black people to the North and West — described most memorably in "The Warmth of Other Suns" — could not have happened.

Bigots on both sides

From virtually all black Americans living in the South, by 1970 almost half lived outside the South, drawn by the employment opportunities opened up by the 1924 law.

This tighter labor market contributed to reducing economic inequality more generally and allowing the growth of a large middle class. Simply put, a tight labor market (i.e., low immigration) is the best social policy.

There's no doubt that various flavors of bigotry drove much of the support for the 1924 law, with hokum about "Nordic superiority" and whatnot, leading to a system of national-origins quotas that favored certain nations and disfavored others.

But, this being the 1920s, there was racist nonsense on both sides of the debate. Some opponents of immigration restriction, especially in the South, wanted

more Southern and Eastern European immigration for explicitly racist reasons.

One writer, a professor no less, wrote in opposition to immigration restriction, "By its lack of initiative and inventive genius the black race has acted as a hindrance to progress." (That's one of the more polite sentiments.)

But the sponsor of the 1924 law, Rep. Albert Johnson (R-Wash.), denied any ideas of racial superiority or inferiority; as he said on the House floor, "It makes no difference from whence they come — too many come."

Our situation today is not unlike that of 1924.

We have experienced more

than a half-century of another Great Wave of immigration, unintentionally sparked by the 1965 immigration law, that undid the discriminatory quotas of 1924 but failed to cap the overall number of newcomers.

The result has been the largest wave of immigration ever, with the arrival of more than 40 million legal immigrants, plus millions more illegal immigrants.

It's been supercharged under President Biden, with at least 6.4 million — that we know about — entering the country since he was inaugurated.

History repeats itself

As a result, the foreign-born share of our population is now the highest in history, exceeding anything from the prior Great Wave; in March of this year, immigrants made up 15.6% of America's residents, and without changes in policy, nearly one in four people living here will be from abroad by 2040.

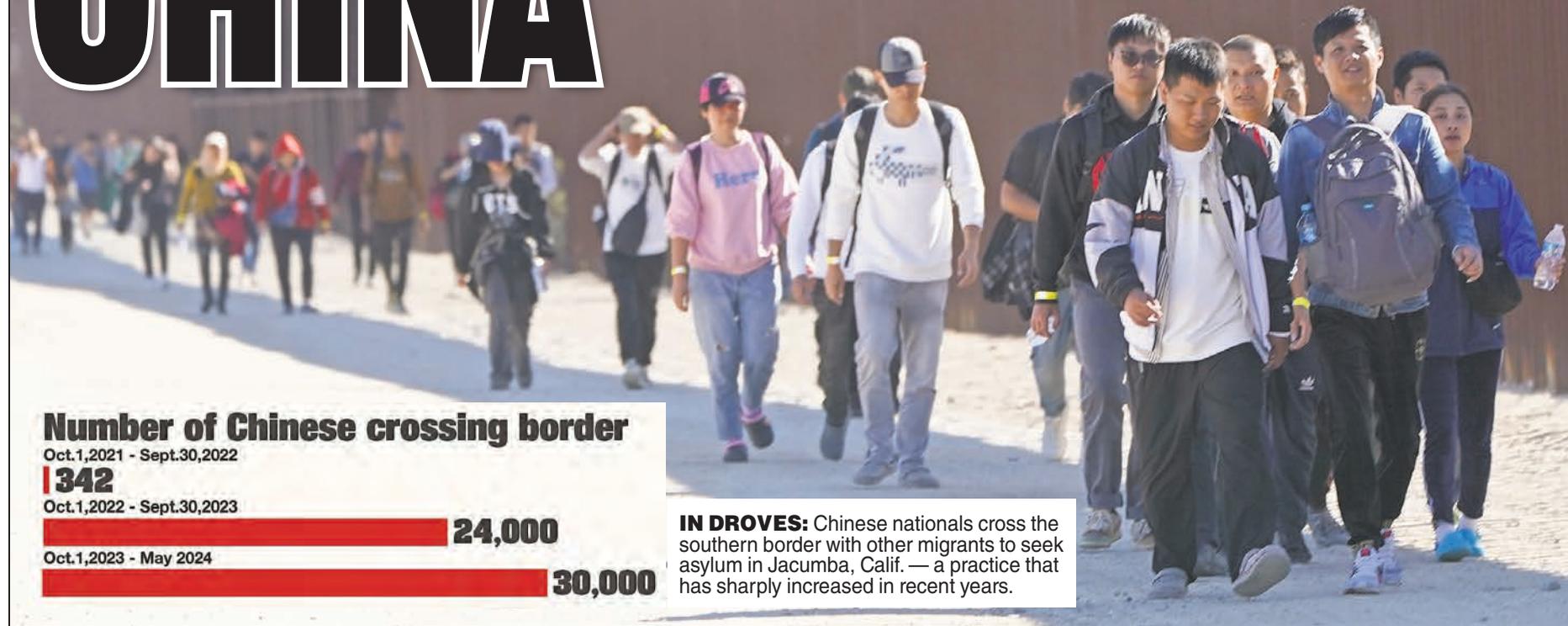
The 1924 law bore the marks of the obsolete racial fixations of its time, but had astonishingly positive consequences for all Americans. The 1965 law was well-intentioned, but has caused immigration to spin out of control.

We should be able to combine the best of the two approaches to bring an end to this latest Great Wave, and give America another much-needed breather.

Mark Krikorian is executive director of the Center for Immigration Studies.

Surge in Chinese migrants via Mexico

GREAT 'WAVE' OF CHINA



Number of Chinese crossing border

Oct. 1, 2021 - Sept. 30, 2022

342

Oct. 1, 2022 - Sept. 30, 2023

24,000

Oct. 1, 2023 - May 2024

30,000

IN DROVES: Chinese nationals cross the southern border with other migrants to seek asylum in Jacumba, Calif. — a practice that has sharply increased in recent years.

By JENNIE TAER

Chinese migration to the US continues at a record pace, with 30,000 arrested for illegally crossing the border nationwide since October.

That number surpasses the 24,000 Chinese migrants encountered during the whole of fiscal year 2023, according to Border Patrol data leaked to The Post.

There has been an explosion in immigration from China under the Biden administration. The 24,000 Chinese nationals arrested in fiscal 2023 was more than in the previous 10 years combined.

In fiscal year 2021 — the 12-month period that ends on Sept. 30, 2021 — there were just 342 Chinese migrants encountered at the border.

The majority of Chinese migrants are entering through the San Diego border region, where

agents have been completely overwhelmed by the massive influxes.

National security concerns have been raised with the ongoing trend, as Customs and Border Protection cut the number of questions its processors were required to ask Chinese nationals from roughly 40 to just five.

Difficult to deport

Many also destroy or discard their passports or ID cards on the Mexican side of the border, making it much harder for CBP to verify their identity and their country of origin, and complicating deportation.

Many of the Chinese migrants also appear to be motivated by economic reasons, rather than feeling life-threatening oppression.

A family who had crossed the

border into San Diego in April told The Post they had no immediate problems forcing them to leave their homeland, which would give them grounds to claim asylum in the US.

“We went from Thailand and Turkey, and we followed a route shared on social media,” they said, adding that their journey cost \$75,000.

Those who are released from Border Patrol custody are taken by bus to San Diego and left at a trolley station. Many of the Chinese migrants departing the buses are swiftly escorted by a group of Chinese men who operate informal “taxis” for those from their homeland.

The men previously told The Post that they’re present to help migrants from their own community who don’t speak English or know where to go.

“When they first arrive here,

they don’t understand the language and are very scared. When they meet us, they will feel at ease,” one of the Chinese men waiting for migrants told The Post.

“The Chinese man who just got off the bus had his phone, wallet and ID stolen in Mexico. I will arrange accommodations for him tonight and treat him to a meal. I will also help him contact his family,” he said speaking through a translation app.

Security concerns

The influx of Chinese nationals also raises security fears, as the country’s government is known to aggressively infiltrate the US.

Numerous federal investigations into Chinese spying are still underway and a report released in September revealed Chinese nationals have snuck onto mili-

tary bases and other sensitive US sites more than 100 times in recent years.

On May 16, Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s acting chief, Patrick J. Lechleitner, shared his concerns over the sudden influx of Chinese migrants, saying the federal government is in ongoing talks with Beijing to reach an agreement to conduct regular deportation flights to China.

“It does raise concerns . . . who these individuals are and what they’re doing,” Lechleitner said.

On March 30, a removal flight with the capacity to carry just 14 passengers landed in Shenyang, China, according to Thomas Cartwright of Witness at the Border.

“It’s not always easy, but we’re trying,” Lechleitner said of ongoing talks with China about deportations.

AP

Doc-maker Spurlock took on McD's 'SUPER SIZER' DIES, 53

By LAUREN SARNER

Morgan Spurlock, the documentary filmmaker best known for “Super Size Me,” has died. He was 53. He died Thursday night from complications of cancer.

“It was a sad day, as we said goodbye to my brother Morgan,” his brother Craig Spurlock told Variety. “Morgan gave so much through his art, ideas and generosity. Today the world has lost a true creative genius and a special man. I am so proud to have worked together with him.”

Born in 1970 in Parkersburg, W.Va., Spurlock graduated from NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts in 1993.

He got his start in the entertainment industry as a playwright, winning awards for his 1999 play “The Phoenix” at the New York Fringe Festival.

Before rising to fame, he also created and hosted the gonzo web series “Bet You Will,” which paid contestants to do outrageous tasks for money, such as eating a full jar of mayonnaise. The show aired on both MTV and the now-defunct Spike.

His breakout project was his 2004 documentary “Super Size Me,” which chronicled the changes to his health when he spent 30 days consuming only McDonald’s food.



“It’s a great way to take the edge off a very preachy subject,” he told The Guardian in 2004.

Accolades for flick

Spurlock was nominated for an Oscar that year, for Best Documentary Feature, and he won the award for best director at the Sundance Film Festival.

Following that experience, Spurlock told Civil Eats in 2010, “There are great films that are out there that deal with food, [and] I think if there’s a way I can help champion some of those other filmmakers, I’d rather do that than go into making another food movie.”



TRUTH SEEKER: Morgan Spurlock, with wife Sara and son Kallen (left), made daring documentaries including 2004’s “Super Size Me.”

His follow-up film was 2008’s “Where in the World Is Osama Bin Laden?” in which Spurlock searched for the terrorist and visited countries impacted by his actions.

Spurlock’s other notable works include 2010’s “Freakonomics” film, based on the book of the same name.

On TV, he had the CNN series “Morgan Spurlock: Inside Man,” which aired from 2013 to 2016, and the FX series “30 Days,” which aired from 2005 to 2008 and followed people immersing themselves in unfamiliar lifestyles for a month. During that show, Spurlock himself tried to survive on

minimum wage for 30 days.

He followed up with a 2017 sequel, “Super Size Me 2: Holy Chicken!” — which covered the way that fast food has attempted to rebrand itself as healthier.

In 2017, amid the #MeToo movement, Spurlock posted an essay on social media that read, in part, “I wonder, ‘When will they come for me?’” He then detailed cheating on his past partners and instances of sexual misconduct. He also said he went to rehab for alcoholism.

Spurlock was married to Alexandra Jamieson from 2006 to 2011, with whom he has son Laken, and he married Sara Bernstein in 2016, with whom he had son Kallen.



MOUHAMED DIALLO
Suspect a repeat offender.

Vagrant busted in attack on senior

A violent homeless man on parole for felony assault has been nabbed for randomly punching an elderly woman in the head in Brooklyn, cops and law enforcement sources said Friday.

Mouhamed Diallo, 29, slugged his 72-year-old victim in the back of her skull as she walked at the corner of Fourth Avenue and 96th Street in Bay Ridge around 4:50 p.m. on May 5, authorities said.

He then ran off, leaving the senior’s head bleeding and swelling, police said.

She was taken to Maimonides Medical Center, where she was listed in stable condition.

A surveillance photo of the suspect was released, and Diallo was busted around 6 p.m. Thursday and charged with second-degree assault, a felony, cops said.

Diallo has 10 previous arrests — eight for assault and two for robbery, according to cops and sources.

Five of the assaults took place in Brooklyn, and three were inside a Bronx correctional facility, sources said.

Between April 25 and May 24, Diallo was charged in six different incidents, including the one with the elderly woman, sources said.

He was arrested for assault on April 28 and May 5, 19 and 23, and for robbery on May 9.

He was also busted for felony assault, but was freed in February and put on parole until November 2023, law enforcement sources said.

He was nabbed the same day another attacker randomly punched and slashed a senior on a Queens street, cops said.
Joe Marino and Amanda Woods

Pol’s kin slain in Haiti Bx. rep. eye on state office?

Missouri state Rep. Ben Baker’s daughter and son-in-law were among three people fatally shot in a gang attack while serving as missionaries in Haiti, the politician said Friday.

“My heart is broken in a thousand pieces. I’ve never felt this kind of pain,” the Republican lawmaker wrote on Facebook.

His 21-year-old daughter, Natalie, and her husband, Davy Lloyd, 23, died alongside their mission group’s director when they were “attacked by gangs” on Thursday evening, Baker said.

They served in Port au Prince with Missions in Haiti Inc., which was founded by Davy’s parents in 2000.
Olivia Land

South Bronx Rep. Ritchie Torres may be inching toward a bid for statewide office after unveiling a vague new campaign social media account, top Empire State Democrats tell The Post.

Torres was elected to Congress in 2020 after seven years on the New York’s City Council — and

on Thursday launched an X page with the user name @RitchieTorresNY.

While Torres is immediately concerned with securing a third House term on Nov. 5, insiders say the lack of explicit labeling could foreshadow a 2026 run for governor, lieutenant governor or attorney general.

“An unsaid fact in New York politics is that Ritchie Torres is very electable statewide, so a new campaign X account isn’t just fun — it’s fundamental to any bigger plans,” one well-connected New York Democrat who is unaffiliated with Torres told The Post.
Steven Nelson

Luxury New Construction in Prime Hamptons Setting



88 South Country Road, Remsenburg | \$4,995,000

This meticulously built approx. 7,800sf house sits proudly among prestigious homes on 1.43 acres of privacy with Southampton Town marina and bay beach only 0.33 miles away. The 7-bedroom, 8.5-bathroom, steel girder construction home features luxurious appointments and high-end finishes. The large rear yard will showcase a 17-ft by 52-ft gunite pool with spa, an outdoor kitchen, a covered patio, multiple outdoor fireplaces and room for tennis. [elliman.com/H373089](https://www.elliman.com/H373089)



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 Douglas Elliman

Gory story told at protégé trial

By KYLE SCHNITZER

A tech CEO's personal assistant claims he beheaded his boss in a crime of passion, his attorney argued Friday.

Tyrese Haspil, 25, was desperate to cover his tracks after stealing hundreds of thousands of dollars from his employer and didn't want his French girlfriend, Marine Chavez, to find out and leave him, according to his defense.

That motivated Haspil to force his way into the \$2.4 million Lower East Side apartment of Fahim Saleh, 33, Taser him and then stab him to death, defense attorney Sam Roberts told jurors at Manhattan Supreme Court, in a bid for less prison time.

Roberts is trying to convince a 12-person jury that Haspil suffered from "extreme emotional disturbance," which led him to kill.

Haspil was worried that he would be "abandoned" if Chavez found out about the \$400,000 he had stolen, so he decided his only two options were "suicide or homicide," and chose the latter, according to prosecutors.

Follow the money

Saleh, a venture capitalist and the CEO of Nigeria-based motorbike startup Gokada, confronted Haspil about missing money in January 2020 after learning \$90,000 disappeared from a corporate spending account.

The money was traced back to Haspil, but Saleh declined to press charges against the man he saw as his protégé and allowed him to pay him back through a payment plan.

However, Haspil continued to steal from Saleh's company through a PayPal account but was again found out.

With the threat of prosecution looming, Haspil decided to carefully research and plan how to get away with murder, prosecutors say.

"Over this period of time, he was planning not only to commit the



homicide but to get away with it... to cover it up and how to erase his debt and prevent Fahim Saleh from testifying in criminal proceedings," Manhattan Assistant District Attorney Linda Ford told the court.

Prosecutors said Haspil, wearing a mask, zapped Saleh with a Taser, stabbed him then dismembered the body a day later, cutting off the victim's head.

Saleh's body was discovered by his cousin, who found his torso exposed in the living room alongside construction bags when she went in to check on him after she had not heard from him for a few days.

Despite his alleged dedication to Chavez, Haspil was spotted two days after the killing with a mystery woman strolling through Noho and buying a bouquet of birthday balloons, sources said.

Prosecutors said Haspil was planning a birthday party for his new girlfriend at a loft-like Airbnb on Crosby Street, where he showered her with luxury items — including a pricey leather APC tote bag, a beige Christian Louboutin shopping bag and a box of shoes that were recovered by police, all allegedly bought on his dead boss' dime.

Haspil has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder charges, which carry a mandatory minimum sentence of 20 years to life behind bars if he is convicted.



James Messerschmidt

TWISTED: Tyrese Haspil has pleaded guilty to killing tech mentor Fahim Saleh (inset) in 2020, but his attorneys are trying a "crime of passion" psych defense in an attempt to reduce his prison sentence.

Subway crawler fright

Video captured a shirtless woman being pulled up from subway tracks onto a station platform after she was caught crawling underneath a train in Manhattan early Friday.

The video shows the woman, wearing a nude-colored bra, being helped up onto the platform by MTA employees at the Fulton Street station in downtown Manhattan.

Several emergency responders can be seen in the clip lifting her and then having her stand up as the train is held at the station.

The unidentified woman had been seen crawling under a stopped southbound C train around 7:50 a.m. when emergency responders were called, police told The Post.

According to police, the woman did not make contact with the train or the third rail, which provides electricity to the trains and would electrocute a person.

She did not appear to be injured in the incident.

The train was held at the station until she was safely removed from the tracks.

Photos show her later covered in a white cloth strapped into a stretcher, being removed by police officers from the station. She was taken to Bellevue Hospital.

Amanda Woods and Isabel Keane

Teen fends off sex fiend

A 15-year-old girl fought off a sicko who tried to rape her in a attack inside a Bronx park, cops say.

The teen was walking along a path in Pelham Bay Park around 5 p.m. last Saturday when the male stranger approached and chatted her up, police said.

He then put her in a headlock and dragged her to a wooded area, where he attempted to sexually assault her, authorities said.

The teen was able to fend off the assailant, who bolted, police said.

The attacker was last seen wearing a green hooded sweatshirt and black sweatpants. Amanda Woods

'Killer' dad: mom's a 'dirtbag'

The New Jersey dad accused of killing his 6-year-old son by forcing him through grueling treadmill workouts and beating him described his child's mother as a "special kind of dirtbag" just two days after the boy's death.

Christopher Gregor, 31, was pulled over by police in Alcoa, Tenn., in 2021 for allegedly speeding in a construction zone — two days after his son, Corey Micciolo, died from blunt force injuries.

The officers questioned Gregor

about the bizarre route he had taken from New Jersey through Arkansas and then turning back in the wake of his loss, bodycam footage of the stop showed.

"If he didn't have a drug addict mother, then he'd still be alive. That's been going through my head this whole drive. She's a special kind of dirtbag," Gregor told one of the cops, referring to Corey's mom, Breanna Micciolo.

Gregor turned down a 30-year plea deal and is on trial. Olivia Land

Stew sued in cookie death

The family of the professional dancer who died after eating a mislabeled Stew Leonard's cookie is suing the popular grocery chain, the cookie manufacturer and employees for wrongful death.

Órla Baxendale, 25, was rehearsing at a dance studio in Connecticut on Jan. 11 when she went into anaphylactic shock from a severe allergic reaction to a Vanilla Florentine cookie sold by the chain that contained peanuts.

The supermarket failed to note the allergen risk on the package's label, her family says.

By failing to ensure that the Vanilla Florentine cookies were accurately labeled, Stew Leonard's and Cookies United LLC violated state and federal regulations, the lawsuit said.

A rep for Stew Leonard's declined to speak to The Post about the suit. Cookies United did not immediately reply to The Post's request for comment. Olivia Land



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Rappers get beats in Cannes

Page Six

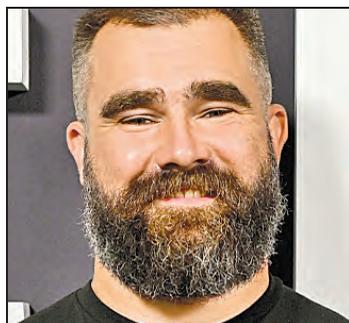
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They've got each other & that's a lot

MILLIE Bobby Brown and **Jake Bongiovi** (right) got married last weekend, the Sun reports. The 20-year-old "Stranger Things" star wed **Jon Bon Jovi's** 22-year-old son in a secret ceremony in her native Britain, where they "quietly said their vows." "They are planning a bigger ceremony in the US later this year but now they have legally married and done all the paperwork," an insider told the paper yesterday. "It was a very low-key, romantic affair with their closest family with them as they said their vows." Bongiovi's famous father was reportedly in attendance, along with the actress' parents.



Pride of podcasts

MEANWHILE, **Travis Kelce** (above) will head to France to record their "New Heights" podcast at the Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity next month. The NFL bros will tape the podcast at Stagwell's Sport Beach, where they'll also participate in **Carmelo Anthony** and **Asani Swann's** first Wine & Spirits Festival. Other athlete-podcasters expected to record at Sport Beach include **Megan Rapinoe**, **Sue Bird**, **Chad "Ochocinco" Johnson** and **Shannon Sharpe**.

TRAVIS Scott and **Alexander "AE" Edwards** were throwing punches at each other at **Richie Akiva's** annual amfAR gala after-party, called the After, in Cannes, France, early Friday morning.

The "Astroworld" rapper and the producer, who's besties with rapper **Tyga**, nearly injured a bevy of beauties. "Models were flying everywhere in the melee," a source told Page Six exclusively. "Someone got hit with an ice bucket."

We're told the brawl broke out at around 5 a.m. when Scott and Tyga happened to be at the DJ booth around the same time.

Another source tells Page Six that Akiva took the mike to give a shout-out to Tyga and

Edwards — which, for some reason, upset Scott, who snatched the mike out of the party host's hand. We're told Edwards told Scott to "let [Akiva] show love."

"Travis was the aggressor," a source claims. "He and his team were being neurotic, erratic and crazy. He was there looking for a fight with anyone, to be honest." (It probably doesn't help that both rappers have dated **Kylie Jenner**.)

A source claims that as Edwards tried to calm the situation, Scott's producer pal **Southside** allegedly pushed Edwards, prompting him to drag Scott across the stage and hurl him off it. "AE and Tyga's assistant began to beat up Travis," a spy claimed. Sour-

ces told Page Six that Tyga didn't throw any punches himself. But "the fight went on for a pretty long time before security got in," we hear. "Someone cut the music and finally calmed everything down."

We're told Scott and Southside ran to their cars, while Tyga, Edwards and their pals stayed at the French fête.

"The party went until about 9 a.m., but it was beginning to wind down [during the incident]," a source said.

A separate insider highlighted that "no one was seriously hurt in the argument."

Reps for Scott, Edwards and Tyga didn't return our requests for comment.



Just married! Millie Bobby Brown celebrates her new marital status with hubby Jake Bongiovi (in driver's seat) while out in the Hamptons yesterday.

Matt Agudo / SplashNews.com



Love gets KO'd

MADGE is back on the market. **Madonna** (above) and her boxer boyfriend **Josh Popper** reportedly broke up after a year of dating. According to the US Sun, the "Vogue" singer, 65, and the pugilist coach, 30, struggled to find time for each other during her "Celebration" tour, which ended earlier this month. "Madonna has barely seen Josh for months because her schedule was so hectic. Things just fizzled out," a source told the outlet. "They're still fond of each other," but "at the moment, their relationship doesn't feel feasible and they've cooled things off." Page Six exclusively broke the news last March that they were an item.

Welcome WAGon

OLIVIA Culpo, the fiancée of San Francisco 49ers player **Christian McCaffrey**, is happy that **Taylor Swift** has joined the "wives and girlfriends" community. The model told Page Six that she thinks the pop star — who has been dating (in case you've been living under a rock *under* another, bigger, sound-proofed rock) Kansas City Chiefs tight end **Travis Kelce** since last summer — has been welcomed "very well." "Everybody knows Taylor for the music, so just being able to have insight into her personal life in a way we never had before is really cool," Culpo gushed at her Thorne Supper Club event. (We think that means it's been nice to get to know her?)

Trump rally lit with Fyre scammer, rap duo

INFAMOUS Fyre Festival organizer **Billy McFarland** was at **Donald Trump's** boisterous rally in The Bronx on Thursday — and we hear he brought along a controversial rap duo as speakers. McFarland was seen at the Bronx rally walking through the crowd with Brooklyn rappers **Sheff G** and **Sleepy Hollow**. While the pair are not exactly household names, they have a combined 2 million Instagram followers. The rappers took the stage and spoke at the Crotona Park rally in front of thousands of the former president's fans. McFarland was released from prison in 2022 after serving four years for defrauding investors in 2017 of

\$27.4 million for his luxury destination music festival that never was. Thousands of hopeful concertgoers showed up to the Bahamas. A year ago, the rappers were named in a 140-count indictment, The Post reported, along with more than two dozen alleged gang members. Sheff G pleaded not guilty, and Sleepy Hollow wrote on Instagram, in all caps, "Don't believe the Internet we innocent," according to music site Pitchfork.

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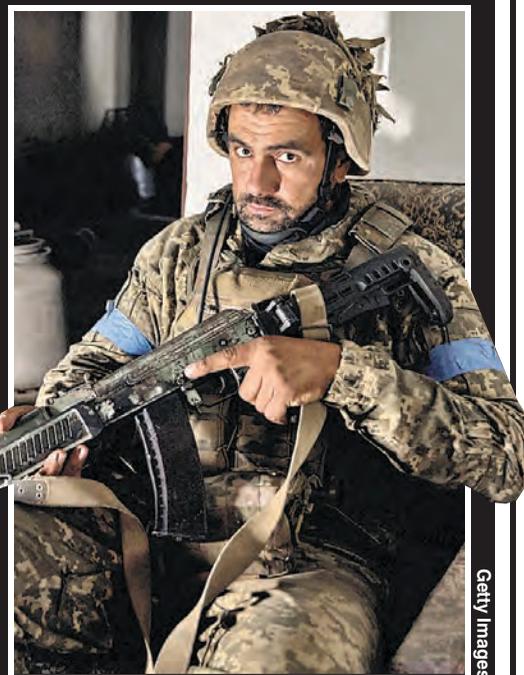
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BORDER CRISIS

Vlad's 'Seize' & desist



WHERE IT LAYS: A Ukrainian soldier fights in the border city of Vovchansk this week, where Kyiv and Moscow both claim to have taken control — while Vladimir Putin (bottom) is reportedly eyeing a cease-fire deal if Russia can keep its occupied territories.



Getty Images

CHARLES BARKLEY
The "King" show is dead.

Axed Charles 'Barks' at CNN

The Round Mound of Rebound isn't taking this one lying down.

Charles Barkley dunked on CNN bosses after The Post reported the network was pulling the plug on "King Charles," his short-lived prime-time talk show with Gayle King, claiming the gig was only meant to be temporary.

"You know the type of boneheads I work with?" Barkley said on an episode of "The Mike Missanelli Podcast" Thursday.

"First of all, it wasn't canceled. I talk to Gayle all the time. They haven't told us we were canceled. That's how stupid these people are."

"King Charles" aired for just 14 episodes on CNN before getting the ax.

The NBA Hall of Fame power forward, who has co-hosted "Inside the NBA" on TNT since 2000, said he was never told the show was being canceled.

"I was gonna do a short little window and go back to the NBA," he said, before roasting the cable channel for its humiliating ratings slide.

"But that just shows you how full of s-t the whole thing is with CNN. Like, we had new people take over and we in disarray. Like, yesterday they put an article out that CNN had its worst ratings ever since like 1992."

The cable channel drew just 83,000 viewers ages 25 to 54 during the week of May 13-19 from 8 to 11 p.m. — its lowest-rated week since 1991, according to Nielsen. *Chris Nesi*

'Peace deal,' if Russia keeps land

By KATE SHEEHY

Russian President Vladimir Putin will agree to a cease-fire in Ukraine if Russia is allowed to keep the four regions it has taken control of, multiple key Kremlin sources say.

The dictator believes that any new substantial gains by Russia will require another major — and highly unpopular — mandatory draft, and that the Russian people can be sold on the idea that the Motherland has already taken back enough territory, Reuters said.

"Putin can fight for as long as it takes, but Putin is also ready for a cease-fire — to freeze the war," said a source, who has worked with the Russian leader and been privy to high-level Kremlin discussions.

One of the outlet's sources added, "Putin will say that we won, that NATO attacked us and we kept our sovereignty, that we have a land corridor to Crimea, which is true."

Russia has overtaken large swaths of Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson during the conflict, which started in February 2022. That land would stay with Russia under Putin's reported

cease-fire plan.

Putin invaded Ukraine reportedly to reunite at least part of the former Soviet Union, which was dissolved in 1991, when Ukraine and other ex-USSR republics became independent nations.

Kyiv 'keeps' vow

A cease-fire deal ceding land to Russia would likely garner serious opposition from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Zelensky has vowed to not relinquish any territory and even to retake Crimea, which Russia annexed in 2014.

On Friday, Zelensky said that Ukrainian forces had even secured "combat control" in northern parts of Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city.

"Our soldiers have now managed to take combat control of the border area where the Russian occupiers entered," he said in his nightly video address.

Russian officials, however, insisted to state news outlet TASS that their forces con-

trolled more than half of the town of Vovchansk, which is located about 3 miles inside the border.

Russian invaders pushed into the border regions of Kharkiv earlier this month.

Ukrainian forces have struggled to hold on to some territories in recent months, with the president blaming a seeming lack of support from allies such as the US.

The Biden administration on Friday announced an additional \$275 million in military aid for Ukraine.

Zelensky thanked the US for the new aid package in a post on X, saying it "is critical right now, as the enemy intensifies attacks along the

frontline." The US has provided almost \$51 billion in military aid to Ukraine since the war started.

Meanwhile, Russia this week launched major drills involving tactical nuclear weapons around the border of Ukraine, saying they were a "response to provocative statements and threats by certain Western officials."

They specifically pointed to comments by French President Emmanuel Macron about NATO countries not ruling out sending troops to Ukraine and UK Foreign Secretary David Cameron saying Kyiv had the right to fire Western missiles at Russian territory. *With Wires*

\$275M in arms to Ukraine

A \$275 million military aid package unveiled by the Biden administration on Friday will provide Ukraine with rockets, artillery rounds and other "urgently needed" weaponry and equipment to hold off Russian advances in the northeast.

The package is the fifth tranche of aid for Kyiv since Congress approved \$60 billion in additional funding last month.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken described the firepower as "significant" and "urgently needed" to defend against a Russian offensive near Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv. *Victor Nava*



Shining a heavenly light on freedom

With Memorial Day honoring our nation's military heroes upon us, Lady Liberty carries a torch in New York Harbor for the bright, spectacular "Flower Moon," the last full moon of spring, Thursday evening.



Anadolu via Getty Images

TOKERS EXCEED DRUNKS

Daily pot use high

By REDA WIGLE

Puff, puff, surpass.

A study has found that, for the first time in history, regular cannabis use among Americans is more commonplace than regular alcohol consumption.

Researchers at Carnegie Mellon reviewed decades of data and found that more people are using marijuana than ever before. One-third of people who used cannabis in the past month reported using it daily or nearly every day. The portion of people who reported drinking daily or near-daily remained steady, at around 10%.

Study author Jonathan Caulkins told ScienceAlert, "It is striking that high-frequency cannabis use is now more commonly reported than is high-frequency drinking. The data come from survey self-reports, but the enormous changes in rates of self-reported cannabis use, particularly of daily or near-daily use, suggest that changes in actual use have been considerable."

These self-report surveys began in 1979, evolving from pencil-and-paper interviews to online queries, and expanding over time to include Alaska and Hawaii and popu-

lations living in college dorms, on military bases and in homeless shelters. The amassed data reflects the drug use of some 1.6 million Americans.

Researchers note that while far more people still drink alcohol than use cannabis, high-frequency drinking has declined while rates of regular cannabis use have increased.

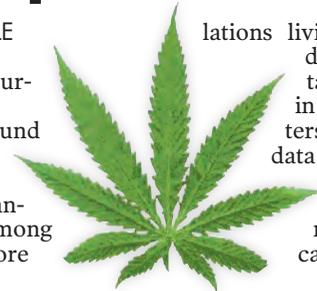
In 1992, the survey recorded 10 times more daily drinkers than cannabis users. In the most recent survey, daily tokers outnumbered boozers, at 17.7 million to 14.7 million.

Drug policy shifts

The revelation that reefer consumption is on the rise comes on the heels of the Justice Department's historic decision to reclassify marijuana as a less dangerous drug earlier this year.

The study notes that while the frequency of cannabis use mirrors these changes in drug policies, from the war on drugs in the 1980s to the more recent legalization of medical and recreational marijuana, these changes were not the primary factor influencing drug use.

rwigle@nypost.com



Tlaib's TV umbrella umbrage Def. sec. 'medical procedure'

A staffer for far-left Rep. Rashida Tlaib popped open an umbrella — despite clear and sunny skies — Thursday to shield the "Squad" member from questions about Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's possible

speech before Congress.

The Democratic Michigan congresswoman and her aides were approached outside the Capitol by Fox News senior congressional correspondent Chad Pergram, who inquired about

plans by House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) to invite the Israeli leader to address lawmakers.

The staffer then repositioned the umbrella to block Fox's camera.

Steven Nelson

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin underwent a successful "non-surgical" medical procedure Friday evening, requiring him to temporarily transfer power to his deputy, the Pentagon announced.

The procedure was related to a bladder issue he suffered after surgery to treat prostate cancer last year, conditions that he kept secret at the time.

Austin's bladder issue is unrelated to his cancer di-

agnosis, for which his prognosis remains "excellent," according to a Pentagon spokesman.

This time, the White House and Congress were both notified of the procedure.

Victor Nava

LUXE 'HAMPS' ROLL

By STEVEN VAGO
and NATALIE O'NEILL

The road to Hamptons luxury is paved with D-listers and day-drinkers.

A swanky new bus service from the company that brought Big Apple elites \$1,000 helicopter trips to the East End kicked off its first weekend of rides Friday — with passengers including a cocktail-sipping reality TV star, a CEO and a nightlife promoter.

Well-to-do New Yorkers plunked down \$195 to \$275 for the one-way ticket on Blade's new Streamliner bus to avoid cramped mass transit and safety risks associated with chopper travel.

"I don't like public transportation," said Zhanna Zervos, a self-described divorced housewife who appeared on "Hot Yachts Miami." "This one I was like, OK, I can do."

"I prefer a luxury way of traveling — private jet or helicopter," added Zervos, drinking a complementary canned gin and tonic. "But I'm a little afraid."

The posh coach ride made its maiden voyage from Manhattan Thursday to kick off beach season ahead of Memorial Day weekend.

The trip includes free drinks, hot towel service, extra legroom — and even seats that help prevent motion sickness, one of the biggest selling points.

"Every time it detects a small bump, [the seat] is going to move with you," said Kelsey Elliott, a 30-year-old "passenger-experience attendant" onboard. "So if you have motion sickness, you don't have it here."

On Friday, when The Post made the 3½-hour journey for \$195, all 19 high-tech seats were sold.

By contrast, a perfectly fine ticket aboard the Hamptons-bound Jitney bus runs \$41 a pop.

But the high price of the Streamliner came with amenities such as a swag bag stuffed with must-haves for any proper Hamptons weekend, such as facial serum and lip gloss.

"There's a hair clip for all the girlies because we know beach hair is not the easiest," Elliot said,



'BLADE' RUNNER: Post reporter Steven Vago heads to the Hamptons on Blade's new luxury bus Friday.

NYPost: Robert Miller



pointing out other goodies in a so-called Dopp kit. "It really makes you feel special."

Toasting their ride

Passengers raised their cocktails in salute. "That's the nicest bathroom I've ever seen on a bus," Hudson Yards resident Rich Longo, 46, gushed to his girlfriend. "It has a regular toilet in there with stones in the sink. It's more of what you'd see in a hotel."

Passengers were also treated to cashmere blankets, bagels and hydrogel eye masks.

"It's like a magic school bus and I'm just excited," said Amanda Levkoff, 26, who makes virtual-reality video games and was headed to the Hamptons with a friend.

Some beach-bound New Yorkers said they didn't mind shelling out for the ride, since the normal Jitney bus was not as luxe.

"The Jitney is too small so I'm excited about this," said Jeff Ragovin,

CEO of tech company Semasio, who lives in East Hampton.

Common-folk waiting for a lower-end motorcoach Friday, however, were quick to call the \$400 round-trip Streamliner absurd.

"That's ridiculous," said Lovely, 47, an Astoria, Queens, nanny who revealed only her first name.

"That's so expensive. I can spend that amount of money back home and it can feed two weeks' amount of groceries," she added.

"They might as well [go by] plane."

Free drinks, posh seats for \$195+

East Enders: NO to hip 'Noho' outpost

The party's not over — but it's gonna end early.

The village of East Hampton passed a law that critics say is designed to keep the club Zero Bond — a star-studded favorite of Mayor Adams — from opening in the sleepy up-

scale community.

The legislation forces all "eating and drinking establishments" to close at 11 p.m. in the village's historic district, where the Manhattan-based members-only social club had been planning to open another hot spot.

"Let's face it, Zero Bond is really a nightclub," village administrator Marcos Baladron said at a meeting where the law passed May 17.

"If it looks like a duck and walks like a duck, it's a duck, and there's no ducks

allowed here," he said, according to The East Hampton Star.

The hip Noho club — which has hosted the likes of Taylor Swift and Tom Brady — had been in talks for months over opening in the village's centuries-

old Hedges Inn.

But neighbors who caught wind of the potential deal in April were infuriated, saying the quaint bed and breakfast is no place for bottle-popping A-listers, paparazzi and idling cars. Natalie O'Neill

'Everyone hates' Cuo, Gav

He's not mincing words.

Republican New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu dished Thursday on current and ex-governors who "nobody liked" — claiming Gavin Newsom of California and New Yorker Andrew Cuomo are despised by other state leaders.

"I gotta be honest, no one cares for Gavin," Sununu said of the California Democrat during an event at the Reagan Institute Summit on Education in Washington, DC. "Gavin is just a pr-k. He just is," he added. "It's really disappointing."

Sununu, 49, indicated he used to get along well with Newsom, but now even Dem govts can't stand him.

"They won't tell you out loud, but behind closed doors they're like, 'Oh, God, look who's coming,'" he said. "They all roll their eyes."

The job at Newsom came after Sununu explained that "almost all the governors get along" and that in his eight years leading New Hampshire, "there's really . . . two governors that really nobody liked, nobody cared for at all."

The other is the former Dem New York governor.

"Andrew Cuomo. No one liked him," Sununu said of the Empire State gov, who resigned in 2021 amid a wave of "sexual" scandals.

Victor Nava

'Vanished' judge OK

A high-flying Texas judge who quietly vanished from the courtroom this month amid mental-illness rumors is not missing — but is out on medical leave.

Judge Kelli Johnson, one of Harris County's longest-serving current jurists, hasn't been seen at the 178th District Courthouse in Houston since May 1, with allegations swirling that she was suffering from "manic behavior."

But her brother set the record straight Friday, telling the Daily Beast his sister was "fine" and that they are in "daily contact with her."

Victor Nava

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JOE PISCOPO'S

Sinatra

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RAMSEY MAZDA SUNDAYS WITH SINATRA



Stand Up to Xi's Threats

Beijing's endless saber-rattling over Taiwan proves just how high the stakes are for the United States. Our leadership, political and military, must not lose sight of the massive strategic threat China represents.

Consider Thursday's provocative Chinese military exercises off Taiwan, an explicit "punishment" — Beijing itself used that word! — for "separatist acts." Those acts consisted of a speech by newly inaugurated Taiwanese leader Lai Ching-te (and Lai's election itself). Lai is a staunch backer of Taiwan's autonomy. Beijing hit back hard.

Why does it feel such latitude to do so — and to say, as the government did, that the exercises are "a stern warning against the interference and provocation?"

For the same reason its consulate general in New York felt free to say that if America "truly cares about cross-strait peace and stability and wants the world to be safe and prosperous, it should uphold the one-China principle and support China's reunification."

China sees such vast room to maneuver because of President Biden's fumbling and pusillanimity in the face of China's aggressive power projection. Look at Biden's April phone call with China's Xi Jinping. The president made the usual noises about "peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait." But Xi implicitly threatened military action if the US doesn't tread carefully enough.

He had reason to feel comfortable doing so: The Biden administration has not taken any actions that have gotten China to stand down regarding any of its aggressive practices since Joe came into office.

Remember the US spy-balloon fiasco of

2023? The White House let a Chinese military surveillance device float across the country and peep at sensitive sites and then planned to lie to the public about it.

China clearly took note of Biden's tuck-tail skedaddle out of Afghanistan, his flagging commitment to Ukraine and his politically motivated abandonment of America's close ally, Israel. Xi has also seen the lame US response to provocations from Iran.

It's pathetic. And our weakness has borne ugly fruit for Taiwan. Xi plainly sees there's no cost to buddying up with Russian strongman Vladimir Putin, threatening Taiwan and moving ahead to dominate the region.

March saw it violate Taiwan's territory with the deliberate entry of Chinese coast guard boats into Taiwanese waters mere weeks before Biden's phoner with Xi.

Beijing reportedly sent four spy balloons over Taiwan in January, ahead of the elections that put Lai in power.

And Xi made his vision absolutely clear in his year-end address in December, promising "complete reunification" of China and Taiwan, after having made a similar promise only a few days earlier at a speech on the 130th anniversary of Mao's birth.

The trajectory here is apparent and should be setting off alarm bells in the White House, Pentagon and all the other corridors of American power.

Is anyone listening? Indeed, China's claim that "reunification" — the conquest of Taiwan — will make the world safer is a precise echo of Putin's ugly designs on Ukraine.

Biden's failed miserably so far. Don't hold your breath for him to find some mettle now.

Joe's Gaza Pier Plan Meets Reality

President Biden's plan to deliver aid to Palestinians via a pier on the Gaza shore is being sabotaged by an inconvenient truth: Getting aid in isn't the hard part, it's preventing it from being stolen.

Ignore the wailing of leftists who accuse Israel of preventing food from getting to Gazans by, say, shutting down land routes for security; truth is, plenty of aid — more than 569 metric tons — has been processed into Gaza through the floating pier the US finished building this month. Yet delivering it in a warzone is a logistical nightmare, involving a web of nongovernmental organizations and hard facts on the ground.

The pier was supposed to facilitate the delivery of about 90 trucks of aid a day, but only about 70 had made it to warehouses in the entire week after the pier was built.

The most odious (and predictable) wrench in the cogs: looters. Eleven of the 16 aid trucks heading from the pier to a warehouse for the UN World Food Program on May 18 were ransacked by crowds of people, who stripped the vehicles of goods.

Pentagon Press Secretary Air Force Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder admitted that "some of that initial aid that was brought in... was intercepted by some people who took that aid off those vehicles."

Deliveries were temporarily halted while the Pentagon and UNWFP tried to find alternate routes and sort out better security.

There are few details on who was responsible for the looting in this case, but as Eli Lake notes in the Free Press, the amount and quality of food that Israel has facilitated into Gaza is not only sufficient, it's been *improving* since January 2024, though there's plenty of evidence Hamas keeps stealing it.

There is one and *only* one group in this war that's bent on causing misery for the people of Gaza: Hamas. That's a fact that neither the Biden administration nor the European Union can seem to come to terms with.

They won't even listen when this comes straight from the mouths of Gazans: One brave Palestinian woman openly (and bravely) condemned Hamas for hoarding aid meant for civilians some months back.

If the Western world wants to help Palestinians who are being affected by this war, then leaders need to be clear-eyed about who the villain is: Hamas.

And urge Israel to defeat these murderous villains ASAP — not just to eliminate the threat to Israel, but for the sake of Gazans themselves

Behind Haley's Decision To Back Donald Trump

THE ISSUE: Former GOP prez wannabe Nikki Haley's announcement that she will vote for Donald Trump.



Nikki Haley

• Good for Nikki Haley for taking a significant first step in burying the hatchet and trying to unify the GOP by publicly saying, "I will be voting for Trump" ("United GOP vs. divided Dems," May 24).

She went on to caution former President Donald Trump that "he would be smart to reach out to the millions of people who voted for me and not assume that they're just going to be with him." She concluded her statement by calling the Biden presidency a "catastrophe."

If Trump maximizes this upside while emphasizing Biden's catastrophic effect on the country — a united GOP coupled with millions of independent and remorseful Democrats on board — he should win the election. He's set up to make the greatest comeback in American political history.

Eugene R. Dunn
Medford

• Nikki is holding her nose and voting for Trump. She was a very good UN ambassador, and is maybe looking for

a job. But you would have to be a fool to not see this once-great country circling the drain.

If you love your fellow Americans and your country, vote like Haley.

Mike Santavicca
Yonkers

• Many fair-minded individuals praised Haley for her honesty and courage in taking on and criticizing Trump.

Now we find that it was all an act. That brief period of decency and patriotism has evaporated, as Haley pledges to vote

for the man who believes that he has absolute immunity to commit any crime, and who would use a second term to pursue revenge against his many foes, attempt to cripple or shut down media outlets that do not promote positive stories about him, pardon the rioters he instigated to go to the Capitol and whose campaign recently alluded to a Hitler-like "Reich."

Haley has sold out, choosing politics over principle. She has inflicted a further wound on a GOP that would not be recognized by its statesmen of the past. She will not be seen in the annals of history as a national leader who can stand tall. **Oren Spiegler**
Peters Township, Pa.

• Haley saying that she will support Trump in the election is not surprising. If Trump wins, she probably wants a job like secretary of state.

Anant Nagpur
Ottawa, Canada

Steve Buscemi Isn't Alone

THE ISSUE: The unprovoked assault on actor Steve Buscemi in Midtown Manhattan in early May.

• Alleged attacker Clifton Williams is lucky that actor Steve Buscemi didn't transform into Nucky Thompson during the "Boardwalk Empire" star's beating ("Slammer for 'Buscemi slugger,'" May 19).

Again, mental-health awareness needs to be addressed in order to make New York City streets safer. No wonder tourism is down.

Matt Engel
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

• So I guess if you attack a famous actor there is

outrage. But if you attack cops or ordinary citizens, people don't seem to care. I wonder why it works like that?

Our justice system is as dysfunctional as the Biden administration.

Chris Plate
Waterloo

• Multiple prior arrests for a myriad of crimes and this alleged attacker was still walking the streets of New York City.

His public defender wanted him released again onto the streets once more.

We continue to see a blatant disregard for the safety and well-being of law abiding residents. I noticed the free pepper-spray handouts, but rest assured folks, the criminal element will grab a few cans. This would never happen in Florida.

Kevin Judge
Naples, Fla..

E-MAIL: letters@nypost.com or **WRITE** to The Editor, The New York Post, 1211 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036. Include name, address and daytime phone number. No unverifiable letters will be published. The Post reserves the right to edit all letters.

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Sad Floyd Aftermath

Minneapolis' woes, 4 years later

SATURDAY marks the fourth anniversary of the death of George Floyd on a Minneapolis street. The years in between haven't been kind to the city, thanks in large part to the anti-police policies his death sparked.

But there's hope.

Floyd's death on May 25, 2020, triggered four days of rioting centered on Lake Street, a commercial thoroughfare two miles south of downtown.

The western end of the street is, or was, the heart of Uptown, an entertainment and dining district. It

ordered the Minneapolis Police Department to abandon its Third Precinct station house to the protesters, who looted it and burned it down. Today the burned-out husk of the station still stands, surrounded by a fence on which a sign vaguely proclaims that cleanup of the site will begin in 2024. It hasn't started yet.

Lake Street is now lined by a succession of tents — a series of homeless encampments. Just last week, the encampments saw two shootings, one fatal. Four years ago, there were no such homeless zones on Lake Street or elsewhere in Minneapolis.

Since 2020, one business after another has quietly abandoned the western end of Lake Street. Uptown, as an entertainment destination, has more or less ceased to exist.

Crime spiked throughout Minneapolis beginning with the riots. While violent crime has declined somewhat since 2021, it remains elevated far above pre-George Floyd levels. This is due largely to the fact that the Minneapolis Police Department remains badly understaffed. Lack of public support, a "defund the police" movement and attacks from Minneapolis' City Council have made it hard to recruit officers.



Struggling to recover: The city's post-Floyd healing has gone slowly.

The city's schools are also in decline. Enrollment has dropped as families have fled the city, and the Minneapolis school district is on the edge of bankruptcy.

Economically, too, Minneapolis has been slow to rebound from the riots of 2020.

Looting and arson were not confined to Lake Street. Downtown businesses were also attacked; the downtown Target store was looted, and most of that company's employees have not returned. Today, downtown Minneapolis remains a shadow of its former self.

The University of Toronto has

gauged the post-2020 recoveries of 66 North American downtowns by measuring cell phone traffic and comparing it with the same time period in pre-COVID 2019. This is a simple means of quantifying activity, and thus a return to social and economic health.

As of October 2023, Minneapolis's downtown had recovered only 56% of its 2019 traffic, ranking 64th of the 66 cities in the study.

Currently, the office vacancy rate in downtown Minneapolis stands at 27%. But that measures only the office space on which no rent is being paid. The true vacancy rate — of-

office space that's not actually being used — may be double that number.

So Minneapolis's recovery from the fiery debacle of 2020 has been slow and halting. Is there hope for the future? Perhaps.

In 2020, Hennepin County, which includes Minneapolis, elected a pro-crime county attorney who promised to be tough on law enforcement. She has been true to that platform.

In July 2023, State Trooper Ryan Londregan fatally shot a wanted criminal in circumstances that plainly constituted self-defense. Nevertheless, the county attorney indicted Londregan for second degree murder, the same charge on which Derek Chauvin was convicted in the Floyd case.

But this time, public reaction has been very different. Londregan and law enforcement generally has seen a massive outpouring of public support, and he is receiving an aggressive and effective defense.

Perhaps, as the Floyd case began the downward spiral, a successful Londregan defense might signal a shift back to attitudes and policies that will once again make Minneapolis a desirable place to live.

I hope so. When I moved to Minneapolis out of law school in 1974, the city was a magnet, attracting young people from across the country on account of easy commutes, low crime, pleasant neighborhoods, cultural amenities and relatively good schools.

Now, the city is shrinking in a painful decline.

John Hinderaker is president of the Center of the American Experiment.

JOHN HINDERAKER

becomes more urban as it stretches to the east.

Violent riots devastated a several-mile-long stretch of Lake Street in the immediate aftermath of Floyd's death — and today, four years later, not much has changed.

George Floyd Square, a memorial to the deceased, still stands. While some buildings have been replaced or restored, others have been razed, leaving a series of vacant lots.

During the riots, civic authorities

MEMORIAL DAY TEST FOR PROTESTERS

HILLARY Clinton's recent criticism of young pro-Palestinian protesters — that they "don't know very much about the history of the Middle East, or frankly about history in many areas of the world, including our own country" — drew angry rebukes from the left. For student activists who wish to prove her wrong, I'd like to offer a modest proposal.

This Monday, the United States will mark Memorial Day, which, as some students surely know, grew out of the Civil War and was originally called Decoration Day, after the practice of decorating the graves of fallen soldiers.

Even as the holiday took on different meanings in the North and South (where it became an occasion to propagate the "Lost Cause"), the regions shared a common practice: northerners tended to Confederate graves and southerners tended to Union graves. Those simple acts of decency, respect and solidarity — though hardly ending the nation's bitter divisions — were small symbolic victories for the "better angels of our nature" that Abraham Lincoln had appealed to prior to the war. And they are just what we need more of today.

Even as civil war is once again on people's lips, many Americans will take part this long weekend in commemorations and

parades that transcend partisanship.

Together, they will honor all those who died in uniform defending the freedoms we enjoy, including the freedom to march and protest — and even to be rude and crude while doing so.

On Christmas Eve last year, my wife and I were among the several hundred people singing carols around the Washington Square Park Christmas tree in New York's Greenwich Village, when pro-Palestinian protesters tried to drown us out with honking horns and chants. One shouted obscenities and insults at a caroler who was trying to shield an elderly woman from the bullhorn that had been thrust next to her ear, frightening her. Even Ebenezer Scrooge would have blushed.

Instead of joining in solidarity with all of us celebrating the birth of someone born in Palestine who always sided with the poor, oppressed and peacemakers, these protesters only aimed to be provocatively disruptive, to maximize media coverage and clicks. And so instead of winning sympathy and friends, they lost both.

I tell this story because it often seems that pro-Palestine protesters are less interested in broadening public support for their cause than in venting righteousness.

Elite college campuses, where righteousness reigns, have been natural staging grounds. But just as righteousness without restraining leadership tends to veer into harassment, intimidation and violence, it can also blind people to the complexities of history. Whether students are, as Clinton suggested, ignorant of these complications or not, the black and white framework many use for speaking about the issue — oppressor vs. oppressed, colonial power vs. indigenous victim — suggests, if nothing else, narrow-mindedness.

That's further underscored when some protesters are reluctant to unequivocally denounce the slaughter of Israeli civilians on Oct. 7 and the anti-Semitism the protests have fueled. That reluctance has done the people of Gaza no favors. There would be broader and deeper sympathy in the US for their tragic plight — and for putting more pressure on the Israeli government to outline a post-war plan for Gaza, as one of its ministers is now demanding — if their most vocal champions abroad were equally vociferous in denouncing terrorism and antisemitism, which, as history teaches, can lead to unimaginable horrors.

So, here's my proposal to help protesters prove Clinton wrong — to demonstrate that they do understand history, or at least

FRANK BARRY

The Post Puzzle Page

SCRABBLE

G₂ R₁ A₁ M₃ S₁

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RACK 1
E₁ I₁ U₁ C₃ J₈ T₁ S₁

RACK 1

RACK 2
A₁ E₁ I₁ I₁ O₁ D₂ K₅

Double Word Score

RACK 2

RACK 3
A₁ E₁ E₁ N₁ L₁ C₃ V₄

3rd Letter Triple

RACK 3

RACK 4
A₁ A₁ E₁ I₁ B₃ K₅ N₁

RACK 4

PAR SCORE 160-170
BEST SCORE 219

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

TODAY'S ANSWER

SCRABBLE	G	I	R	A	M	S
SOLUTION	RACK 1 = 66	RACK 2 = 22	RACK 3 = 68	RACK 4 = 63	TOTAL 219	
	E ₁	C ₃	I ₁	T ₁	S ₁	
	I ₁	D ₂	L ₁	L ₁	B ₃	
	S ₁	K ₅	C ₃	E ₁	I ₁	
	U ₁	I ₁	N ₁	K ₅	E ₁	
	J ₈	A ₁	E ₁	I ₁	L ₁	

PAR SCORE 160-170

Directions: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7 Letter words get 50 point bonus. "Blank" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE players Dictionary, 4th Edition.

Bridge

South dealer
Both sides vulnerable

NORTH
♠ A K 10 8
♥ J 9 8 6 2
♦ 8
♣ A J 10

WEST
♠ 7 6 4 3
♥ 7 4
♦ 7 2
♣ 7 6 4 3 2

EAST
♠ Q 2
♥ 5 3
♦ A Q J 10 9 4
♣ K 8 5

SOUTH
♠ J 9 5
♥ A K Q 10
♦ K 6 5 3
♣ Q 9

South 1 NT
West Pass
North 2♣
East 2♦
All Pass

Opening lead — ♦ 7

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"Simple Saturday" columns focus on basic technique and logical thinking.

If you held today's miserable West hand (a "Yarborough," with no honors), could you maintain a "bridge face" and not betray disgust or boredom?

North-South got to six hearts after East had overcalled in diamonds. West led a diamond, and East took the ace and returned the queen. Declarer played low, ruffed in dummy, drew trumps and saw that he could win 12 tricks by winning a finesse in either black suit.

South figured that East had the king of clubs for his two-level overcall, but West might have the queen of spades. And since West didn't seem to have lost interest in the proceedings, South let the jack of spades ride. Down one.

South relied on his "table presence" -- nothing wrong with that -- but he missed the best technical play: He cashes the A-K of spades. If the queen didn't fall, South would return a trump to his hand and finesse in clubs. He gets two chances instead of one.

Word Force

UNDERCOOK

From the word or phrase above, form **AT LEAST 24** five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank (not both).

ANSWERS IN MONDAY'S POST
Yesterday's word:

CRUMBLD

bluer	cured	ruble
clued	demur	ruled
crude	lemur	ulcer
cruel	lubed	umber
crumb	lucure	
cubed	lured	

Wonderword

How to play: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **Circle their letters only**. Do not circle the word. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BUTTERMILK BISCUITS

Solution: 6 letters

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

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5/25

Airy, Bacon, Bakery, Beef, Bowl, Bread, Breakfast, Butter, Casserole, Cheddar, Cherry, Chives, Coat, Crisp, Crumbs, Crust, Delicate, Flaky, Flour, Fluffy, Golden, Gravy, Homemade, Honey, Layers, Light, Lobster, Measure, Pastry, Raspberry, Roast, Rosemary, Salads, Salt, Sausage, Soup, Stew, Strawberry, Sugar, Sweet, Tall, Teas, Tender, Toast, Turkey, Warm

Yesterday's Answer: Design

The NEW Volume 77 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

POST SUDOKU

To solve a Su Doku, you must put a number from 1 to 9, in each empty box.

Each number must appear once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-3 grids.

Impossible? Not once you get the hang of it. Tips and in depth strategies at

www.SudokuWiki.org



NYPOST.COM/GAMES

Solutions on Page 30

© Syndicated Puzzles

Very Easy #6,559

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

Difficult #6,349

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

Quick Crossword

Across

- 1 Signs of recognition
 - 5 Goddess symbolized by the peacock
 - 9 Folks who are totes inseparable
 - 13 Ropeless climbs
 - 15 Horn blast
 - 16 Drift apart
 - 17 Apt name for an optimist
 - 18 "The Secret Life of Bees" novelist
 - 19 Nonsense
 - 21 Times Square abundance
 - 24 Hides
 - 26 Cards
 - 27 Bug
 - 29 Inner ear?
 - 31 Starchy roots
 - 32 Element in some textured paint
 - 33 Ortiz of "Love, Victor"
 - 34 Perfect spot?
 - 35 Hole number?
 - 36 Ferret kin
 - 38 "The Marvels" actor Park ___-joon
 - 39 "Allow Me to Retort" writer Mystal
 - 40 Alabama's state nut
 - 41 Words of admission
 - 43 Post in a studio
 - 44 Club alternative
 - 45 Inspiring device
 - 47 "Uh-uh"
 - 48 Jumps aboard
 - 50 Somewhat
 - 52 Pained cry
 - 53 Sought-after change
 - 58 "To Kill a Mockingbird" narrator
 - 59 PEBKAC issue
 - 60 Gas company known for its toy trucks
 - 61 Sisters with similar habits
 - 62 Staff note
- Down
- 1 Commanders' org.
 - 2 Word in Montana's motto
 - 3 From overseas?
 - 4 Go after
 - 5 Cozy top
 - 6 Get by

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		

- 7 Skin care brand started in Paris in 1957
- 8 Salon selection
- 9 Dab dry
- 10 Style guide?
- 11 Treat similar to tostones
- 12 Forward thinkers?
- 14 Film studio stock
- 15 Beefiness
- 20 Ones with very good manors
- 21 Front money
- 22 Unsettling stillness
- 23 Food truck fare
- 25 More alarming
- 28 So far
- 30 Brown hue
- 32 Food source for grizzly bears
- 35 Like some questions
- 37 Taylor Swift's "I ___ You Were Trouble"
- 40 Residence that's fit for a queen
- 42 Desirable trait
- 43 Olympic units
- 44 Red state

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

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER
(C) 2023 Tribune Media Services
46 Carpenter with pipes
49 Positive sign
51 Quarters near a quad
54 Sparky the Sun Devil's sch.
55 Red state
56 Adèle ou Céline
57 Cheap tix option

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Big rebound

Stocks rebounded on Friday from sharp losses the day before on news of an improving consumer outlook on inflation, sending the Nasdaq to a fifth straight week of gains and record closing high. The Dow dropped 2.3% for the week.

Quick move

The White House could decide on a nominee to replace embattled Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. Chairman Martin Gruenberg as early as next week, as further evidence of agency lapses emerged.

UAW: Unfair!

The United Auto Workers filed objections to a failed unionization vote at an Alabama Mercedes-Benz plant, pushing for a fresh vote and alleging the automaker interfered with the election.

Waymo woes

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said it has learned of nine additional incidents that raise concerns about the performance of Alphabet's Waymo self-driving vehicles.

Meme rallies

Struggling video-game retailer GameStop said it made nearly \$933.4 million by selling 45 million shares, sending the meme stock up 15% after the bell.

Sources: Reuters, Dow Jones, AP

'CHIPPING' AWAY

Silicon moguls leaving Dems over Biden policies

By ARIEL ZILBER

Some Silicon Valley venture capitalists have begun to turn against President Biden while openly touting their support for former President Donald Trump — a sea change for an industry that has overwhelmingly supported Democrats in years past.

Prominent moguls such as David Sacks, Chamath Palihapitiya, Marc Andreessen and Shaun Maguire have grown disillusioned with signature Biden policy proposals such as his call for a 25% "billionaire tax" as well as antitrust crackdowns waged by the Federal Trade Commission.

"It's impossible to support Biden," Keith Rabois, an early executive at PayPal who also played a role in the growth of LinkedIn, Square and Slide, told The New York Times.

While Rabois said he was not a fan of Trump, he would be "focused on electing a GOP Congress and Senate."

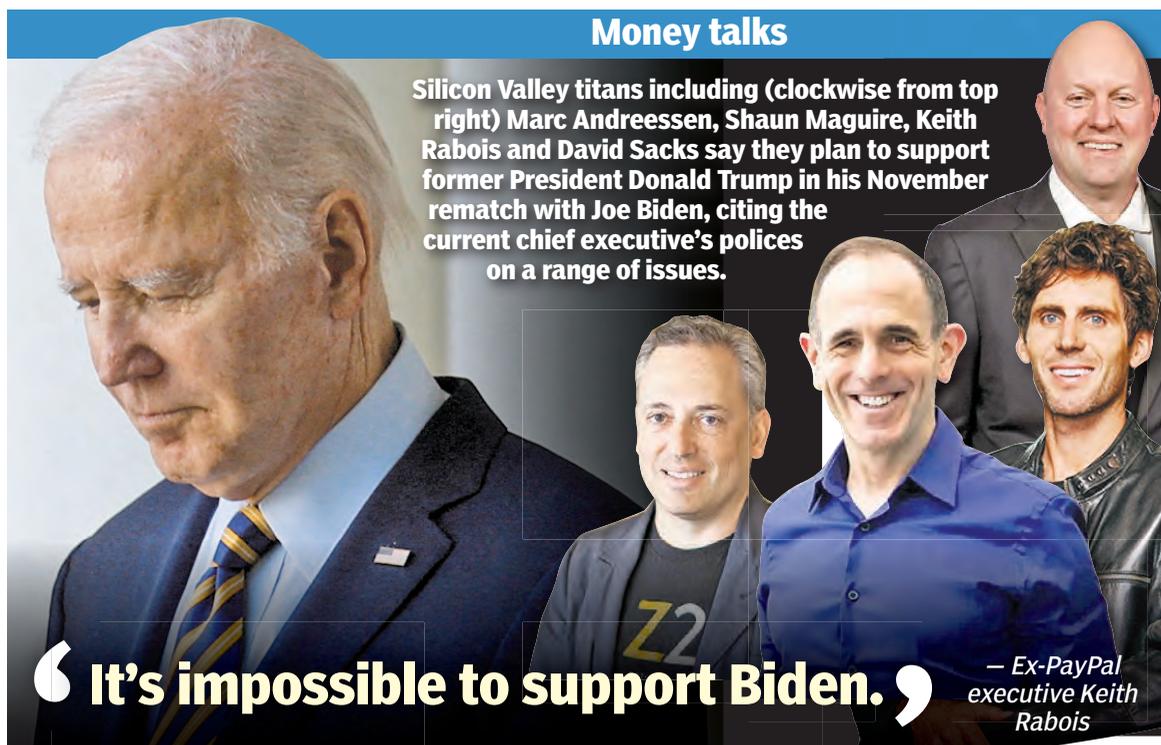
Tech executives are also unhappy with the stringent regulations imposed on the cryptocurrency sector by Gary Gensler, Biden's pick to head the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Power moves

Lina Khan, Biden's chair of the FTC, has sought to move aggressively against large tech companies that critics say have amassed too much power in the marketplace.

Khan unsuccessfully challenged Microsoft's \$70 billion acquisition of video game maker Activision Blizzard as well as Meta's attempt to buy virtual reality startup Within.

Last year, the FTC sued Amazon, accusing the e-commerce giant of



Money talks

Silicon Valley titans including (clockwise from top right) Marc Andreessen, Shaun Maguire, Keith Rabois and David Sacks say they plan to support former President Donald Trump in his November rematch with Joe Biden, citing the current chief executive's policies on a range of issues.

“It’s impossible to support Biden.” — Ex-PayPal executive Keith Rabois

being a monopoly.

Andreessen, founder of powerhouse VC firm Andreessen Horowitz, recently said there are “real issues” with the Biden administration.

A second Trump administration would be staffed by “very different kinds of people,” particularly at the SEC and FTC, Andreessen said in a recent podcast interview.

Ben Horowitz, co-founder of Andreessen Horowitz, wrote in a blog post last year that his company would support any politician who backed “an optimistic technology-enabled future.”

Sacks, the entrepreneur and investor who made his fortune as

chief operating officer at PayPal during its early days, plans to host a fundraiser for Trump as well as interview the former president on his “All In” podcast.

After the Jan. 6, 2021, riots at the Capitol, Sacks said that the incident disqualified Trump from elected office.

But four years of a Biden presidency have changed Sacks’ mind, according to The New York Times.

“I have bigger disagreements with Biden than with Trump,” Sacks was quoted as telling a tech conference last week.

Sacks cited Biden’s tax proposal, which would penalize startup founders who are wont to offer

stock options to employees.

“It’s a good reason for Silicon Valley to think really hard about who it wants to vote for,” Sacks told tech investors at the conference.

Last month, Sacks was one of a handful of prominent tech moguls who attended an “anti-Biden” dinner alongside Elon Musk and Peter Thiel.

Palihapitiya, the venture capitalist who was Mark Zuckerberg’s vice president of user growth shortly after the founding of Facebook, has also flipped from backing Democrats to endorsing Trump.

The White House didn’t respond to a request for comment.

azilber@nypost.com

Blackstone chief: I’m backing Trump

Blackstone CEO Stephen Schwarzman confirmed Friday he will support Donald Trump in his White House rematch with President Biden.

As The Post first reported on Sunday, Schwarzman, one of the biggest political donors

on Wall Street, was seriously considering backing Trump as antisemitism spreads around the country, especially college campuses.

The Blackstone boss said Friday that concerns about economic, immigration and foreign policies under Presi-

dent Biden, along with “the dramatic rise of antisemitism” in the country, drove his decision to endorse Trump, according to a statement issued to Axios.

“I share the concern of most Americans that our economic, immigration and for-

ign policies are taking the country in the wrong direction,” he wrote. “For these reasons, I am planning to vote for change and support Donald Trump for President.”

Long viewed as a Trump ally, Schwarzman had said in 2022 he would not back the

former president, saying it was time for the Republican party to turn to a new generation of leaders.

He did not back any candidate in the primaries.

Blackstone did not respond to a request for comment.

Post staff report

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Furwell, old crypto pal



The adorable Shiba Inu who became the face of the viral meme used by Dogecoin died Friday, her owner announced in a moving poetic tribute. Kabosu was thought to have been 18.

"I think Kabo-chan was the happiest dog in the world. And I was the happiest owner," Japanese teacher Atsuko Sato, 62, wrote in a tender poem on her blog, according to a translation.

Tesla CEO Elon Musk, a proponent of cryptocurrencies, began promoting Dogecoin in 2020.

With a market cap of around \$23.6 billion, Dogecoin is now the ninth biggest cryptocurrency, according to Coingecko.com.

Megan Palin

Instagram/kabosumama, Getty Images



HOKA SNEAKERS
Net sales jump 34% in Q4.

Deckers on the right foot

Shares of Deckers Outdoor jumped 14% to breach the \$1,000 mark for the first time Friday, as the footwear company posted upbeat fourth-quarter results, riding on the popularity of Ugg boots and Hoka sneakers among Americans.

The company's stock has been on a tear since the beginning of last year, and is up about 55% this year, after rising 67% in 2023. In contrast, Nike dropped 15% this year. Deckers' shares closed Friday at \$1,032.90.

"We anticipate sentiment stays bullish around the stock as the company shows it can maintain a high EPS growth rate," UBS analyst Jay Sole said.

Hoka and Ugg have become two of the most in-demand footwear brands, CEO David Powers said on a post-earnings call Thursday.

Hoka's net sales jumped 34% in the fourth quarter, contributing nearly 56% to Deckers' revenue, while UGG sales were up 14.9%.

Reuters

Reached Citi limits

Regs push bank to have US staff back in office

Citigroup has asked its 600 US employees, who are eligible to work remotely, to return to office full time, it said Friday as regulatory requirements make it difficult for Wall Street banks to allow off-site work for roles such as trading.

Regulators had eased some of the stringent requirements to allow traders the flexibility of remote work during the pandemic.

But in the coming weeks, the primary watchdog for US brokerage firms and exchange markets, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, is set to bring back pre-pandemic rules to monitor workplaces. "The majority of Citi employees

will continue to work on a hybrid schedule, with at least three days per week in the office and up to two days remotely," the third-largest US lender, helmed by CEO Jane Fraser (right), said in an email statement.

The private securities industry regulator had earlier this week pushed back against banks, saying its new rules provide member firms with greater

flexibility — not less — to allow eligible registered persons to work from home, following the expiration of temporary COVID-19 relief.

Bloomberg News first reported Citigroup's move along with shifts in work policies at HSBC Holdings and Barclays. London-based Barclays has mandated that its global investment banking staff must work in the office or travel to

meet clients five days a week from June 1, the Bloomberg report said.

Meanwhile, HSBC is talking to almost half of its workforce in New York, around 530 employees, about shifting regulations, the report said, citing an interview with the bank's head of human resources for the US and Americas.

The lender is trying to let as many people as possible retain the option of logging in from home if they would like to, the report said.

All three firms have had some of the most flexible post-pandemic working policies compared to their Wall Street counterparts.

Reuters



Ozempic med benefit boon

Novo Nordisk's Ozempic drug slows the progression of chronic kidney disease and cuts the risk of kidney failure, heart attack, stroke and death in patients with Type 2 diabetes, detailed results of a long-term trial showed Friday.

The blockbuster diabetes drug has helped propel Novo Nordisk to Europe's most valuable company.

Novo and rival Eli Lilly are hoping to gain wider insurance coverage for their weight-loss drugs by demonstrating their other medical benefits.

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MLS

EAST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Inter Miami CF	9	2	4	31	36	20
Cincinnati	9	2	3	30	19	11
NYCFC	7	5	2	23	18	16
Red Bulls	6	3	5	23	25	21
Toronto FC	7	6	1	22	21	20
Charlotte FC	6	5	3	21	14	13
Columbus	5	2	6	21	19	13
Philadelphia	4	4	5	17	25	21
D.C. United	4	5	5	17	20	24
Orlando City	4	5	4	16	15	20
Nashville	3	4	6	15	17	20
Atlanta	3	6	4	13	17	16
CF Montréal	3	7	3	12	17	31
Chicago	2	8	4	10	13	26
New England	2	9	1	7	9	25
WEST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Real Salt Lake	8	2	4	28	27	14
Minn. United	7	2	3	24	21	14
Austin FC	6	4	4	22	19	17
LA Galaxy	5	2	7	22	25	21
Los Angeles FC	6	4	3	21	24	19
Colorado	6	5	3	21	24	23
Vancouver	5	4	4	19	19	15
Houston	5	5	3	18	12	13
St Louis City	3	3	7	16	19	20
Seattle FC	3	6	5	14	16	17
Portland	3	7	4	13	26	29
FC Dallas	3	6	3	12	13	17
Sporting K.C.	2	6	5	11	21	24
San Jose	3	10	1	10	22	33

Note: 3 pts. for win, 1 for tie

Saturday

NYCFC at New England, 7:30pm
Los Angeles FC at Atlanta, 7:30pm
Philadelphia at Charlotte FC, 7:30pm
Chicago at D.C. United, 7:30pm
Nashville at CF Montréal, 7:30pm
Columbus at Orlando City, 7:30pm
Cincinnati at Toronto FC, 7:30pm
Salt Lake at FC Dallas, 8:30pm
Seattle FC at St Louis City, 8:30pm
Minnesota at Colorado, 9:30pm
Miami at Vancouver, 10:30pm
Houston at LA Galaxy, 10:30pm
Sporting K.C. at Portland, 10:30pm
Austin FC at San Jose, 10:30pm

Wednesday, May 29

Charlotte FC at Red Bulls, 7:30pm
Nashville at Cincinnati, 7:30pm
New England at Columbus p.p.d.
Atlanta at Miami, 7:30pm
D.C. United at CF Montréal, 7:30pm
Toronto FC at Philadelphia, 7:30pm
Portland at Austin FC, 8:30pm
Orlando City at Chicago, 8:30pm
Colorado at Houston, 8:30pm
Vancouver at Sporting K.C., 8:30pm
FC Dallas at LA Galaxy, 10:30pm
Salt Lake at Seattle FC, 10:30pm
Minnesota at Los Angeles FC, 10:45pm

Golf

PGA Tour - Charles Schwab Challenge
At Colonial Country Club; Fort Worth, Texas; Purse: \$9.1 million;
Yardage: 7,289; Par: 70

Second Round		
Davis Riley	66-64	130 -10
Hayden Buckley	67-65	132 -8
Pierceson Coody	67-65	132 -8
Keegan Bradley	68-66	134 -6
Sungjae Im	70-64	134 -6
Sepp Straka	68-66	134 -6
Tony Finau	66-69	135 -5
Ryan Fox	68-67	135 -5
Brian Harman	66-69	135 -5
Robby Shelton	67-68	135 -5
Kevin Tway	69-66	135 -5
Denny McCarthy	70-66	136 -4
Webb Simpson	69-67	136 -4
Gary Woodland	72-64	136 -4
Seongyeon Kim	66-71	137 -3
Tom Kim	69-68	137 -3
Matt Kuchar	68-69	137 -3
Min Woo Lee	69-68	137 -3
Ryan Moore	69-68	137 -3
Collin Morikawa	68-69	137 -3
Matthew NeSmith	69-68	137 -3
J.T. Poston	68-69	137 -3
Scottie Scheffler	72-65	137 -3
Adam Scott	69-68	137 -3

DP World Tour - Soudal Open

At Rinkven International GC; Antwerp, Belgium; Purse: \$2 million;

Second Round		
Nacho Elvira	64-64	128 -14
Ross Fisher	66-63	129 -13
Romain Langasque	64-67	131 -11
Aaron Cookerill	66-66	132 -10
Samuel Jones	62-70	132 -10
Niklas Norgaard Moller	64-68	132 -10
Andrew Wilson	64-68	132 -10

NBA Playoffs

Conference Finals

Best-of-7; x-if necessary

Eastern Conference

Boston vs. Indiana

Boston leads series, 2-0
Game 1: Boston 133, Indiana 128, OT
Game 2: Boston 126, Indiana 110
Sat.: at Indiana, 8:30 p.m.
Mon.: at Indiana, 8 p.m.
x-Wed.: at Boston, TBD
x-Fri., May 31: at Indiana, TBD
x-Sun., June 2: at Boston, TBD

Western Conference

Minnesota vs. Dallas

Dallas leads series, 2-0
Game 1: Dallas 108, Minnesota 105
Game 2: Dallas 109, Minnesota 108
Sun.: at Dallas, 8 p.m.
Tue.: at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
x-Thu.: at Minnesota, TBD
x-Sat., June 1: at Dallas, TBD
x-Mon., June 3: at Minnesota, TBD

NBA Playoffs: Game 2 Mavericks 109, T'wolves 108

	Min	FG	FT	O-Rb	A	PF	Pts
Jones Jr.	32:42	1-5	2-2	0-4	1	4	4
Washington	37:49	4-11	2-2	1-5	0	2	10
Gafford	21:05	8-10	0-2	1-5	0	2	16
Doncic	41:27	10-23	7-7	1-10	13	0	32
Irving	39:10	7-16	2-5	2-4	6	4	20
Lively II	26:46	6-6	2-2	3-9	2	3	14
Green	21:08	2-4	0-0	3-6	1	1	5
Hardy	11:41	3-7	0-0	0-1	1	1	8
Hardaway Jr.	5:06	0-1	0-2	0-0	0	0	0
Exum	3:06	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals	240:00	41-84	15-22	11-44	24	17	109

Percentages: FG .488, FT .682, 3-point goals: 12-31, .387 (Doncic 5-11, Irving 4-7, Hardy 2-3, Green 1-1, Exum 0-1, Hardaway Jr. 0-1, Jones Jr. 0-3, Washington 0-4). **Team rebounds:** 9. **Team turnovers:** None. **Blocked shots:** 7 (Gafford 5, Washington 2). **Turnovers:** 10 (Doncic 4, Irving 2, Green, Hardy, Jones Jr., Washington). **Steals:** 7 (Green 2, Jones Jr. 2, Hardy, Irving, Washington). **Technical:** None.

Minnesota

	Min	FG	FT	O-Rb	A	PF	Pts
McDaniels	36:16	1-6	0-0	0-5	2	2	2
Towns	25:52	4-16	6-7	3-7	3	2	15
Gobert	37:42	6-10	4-6	5-10	2	5	16
Conley	33:04	7-14	2-3	2-5	5	3	18
Edwards	40:08	5-17	9-10	2-5	7	2	21
Reid	31:44	8-13	0-0	0-2	0	2	23
Anderson	20:27	2-5	3-4	0-5	5	3	7
Alexander-Walker	14:23	2-4	2-2	0-1	2	0	6
Mo.Morris	0:24	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals	240:00	35-85	26-32	12-40	26	19	108

Percentages: FG .412, FT .813, 3-point goals: 12-31, .387 (Reid 7-9, Conley 2-5, Edwards 2-7, Towns 1-5, Alexander-Walker 0-2, McDaniels 0-3). **Team rebounds:** 13. **Team turnovers:** None. **Blocked shots:** 7 (McDaniels 2, Alexander-Walker, Conley, Edwards, Gobert, Reid). **Turnovers:** 9 (Alexander-Walker 2, Conley 2, Edwards 2, McDaniels 2, Reid). **Steals:** 7 (Gobert 2, Reid 2, Towns 2, Conley). **Technical:** None.

Dallas 26 22 31 30 - 109
Minnesota 32 28 26 22 - 108
A: 19,636 (19,356). T: 2:29.

WNBA

East	W	L	Pct.	GB
Connecticut	4	0	1.000	-
Liberty	4	1	.800	1/2
Atlanta	2	1	.667	1 1/2
Chicago	2	1	.667	1 1/2
Indiana	1	5	.167	4
Washington	0	5	.000	4 1/2
West	W	L	Pct.	GB
Phoenix	3	1	.750	-
Las Vegas	2	1	.667	1/2
Minnesota	2	1	.667	1/2
Seattle	2	3	.400	1 1/2
Dallas	1	2	.333	1 1/2
Los Angeles	1	3	.250	2

Friday
Indiana 78, Los Angeles 73

Saturday
Liberty at Minnesota, 1pm
Connecticut at Chicago, 8pm
Indiana at Las Vegas, 9pm
Washington at Seattle, 9pm
Dallas at Phoenix, 10pm

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AL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away	
Yankees	36	17	.679	—	—	8-2	W-3	18-8	18-9	
Baltimore	31	18	.633	3	+4½	5-5	W-2	17-10	14-8	
Boston	26	25	.510	9	1½	5-5	L-1	10-14	16-11	
Tampa Bay	25	27	.481	10½	3	4-6	L-5	14-16	11-11	
Toronto	23	27	.460	11½	4	4	5-5	L-1	12-12	11-15

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Cleveland	34	17	.667	—	—	9-1	W-7	18-6	16-11
Kansas City	33	19	.635	1½	+5	8-2	W-7	21-8	12-11
Minnesota	27	23	.540	6½	—	3-7	W-3	12-11	15-12
Detroit	24	27	.471	10	3½	3-7	W-1	11-14	13-13
Chicago	15	37	.288	19½	13	3-7	L-3	10-16	5-21

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Friday

Yankees 8, San Diego 0
 Washington 6, Seattle 1
 Kansas City 8, Tampa Bay 1
 Detroit 6, Toronto 2
 Minnesota 3, Texas 2
 Milwaukee 7, Boston 2
 Baltimore 6, White Sox 4
 Houston 6, Oakland 3
 Cleveland 10, L.A. Angels 4
Saturday
Yankees at San Diego, 9:40
 Toronto at Detroit, 1:10
 Baltimore at White Sox, 2:10
 Texas at Minnesota, 2:10
 Texas at Minnesota, 2:10

Seattle at Washington, 4:05
 Houston at Oakland, 4:07
 Kansas City at Tampa Bay, 4:10
 Milwaukee at Boston, 4:10
 Cleveland at L.A. Angels, 9:38
Sunday
Yankees at San Diego, 4:10
 Toronto at Detroit, 11:35 a.m.
 Milwaukee at Boston, 1:35
 Seattle at Washington, 1:35
 Kansas City at Tampa Bay, 1:40
 Baltimore at White Sox, 2:10
 Texas at Minnesota, 2:10
 Cleveland at L.A. Angels, 4:07
 Houston at Oakland, 4:07

NL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Philadelphia	37	15	.712	—	—	8-2	L-1	22-8	15-7
Atlanta	29	19	.604	6	+5	4-6	L-1	16-8	13-11
Washington	22	27	.449	13½	2½	3-7	W-1	9-12	13-15
Mets	21	29	.420	15	4	2-8	L-4	10-15	11-14
Miami	18	34	.346	19	8	7-3	W-2	10-19	8-15

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Milwaukee	29	21	.580	—	—	5-5	W-1	12-9	17-12
Chicago	27	24	.529	2½	+1½	3-7	L-2	15-11	12-13
St. Louis	23	26	.469	5½	1½	8-2	W-3	11-12	12-14
Pittsburgh	24	28	.462	6	2	5-5	W-1	11-14	13-14
Cincinnati	21	30	.412	8½	4½	4-6	W-1	11-15	10-15

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Los Angeles	33	20	.623	—	—	5-5	L-3	19-11	14-9
San Diego	27	27	.500	6½	—	5-5	L-1	10-17	17-10
San Francisco	26	26	.500	6½	—	7-3	W-3	15-10	11-16
Arizona	24	27	.471	8	1½	5-5	L-1	12-14	12-13
Colorado	17	33	.340	14½	8	5-5	W-1	10-12	7-21

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Friday

San Francisco 8, **Mets** 7
 Washington 6, Seattle 1
 Pittsburgh 11, Atlanta 5
 Milwaukee 7, Boston 2
 Cincinnati 9, L.A. Dodgers 6
 Colorado 3, Philadelphia 2, 11 inn.
 Miami 3, Arizona 0
 Cubs at St. Louis, ppd.
Saturday
 San Francisco at **Mets**, 1:40
Yankees at San Diego, 9:40
 Atlanta at Pittsburgh, 4:05
 Seattle at Washington, 4:05

Milwaukee at Boston, 4:10
 Cubs at St. Louis, 7:15
 L.A. Dodgers at Cincinnati, 7:15
 Philadelphia at Colorado, 9:10
 Miami at Arizona, 10:10
Sunday
 San Francisco at **Mets**, 1:40
Yankees at San Diego, 4:10
 Atlanta at Pittsburgh, 1:35
 Milwaukee at Boston, 1:35
 Seattle at Washington, 1:35
 L.A. Dodgers at Cincinnati, 1:40
 Philadelphia at Colorado, 3:10
 Miami at Arizona, 4:10
 Cubs at St. Louis, 7:10

Yankees 8, Padres 0

Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Volpe ss	3	2	1	0	1	0	.279
Soto rf	4	1	2	2	1	1	.315
Judge cf	4	1	1	2	0	1	.275
Grisham cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.056
Verdugo lf	4	1	1	0	0	1	.256
Stanton dh	4	1	1	2	0	0	.246
Rizzo 1b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.249
Torres 2b	4	1	1	1	0	1	.221
Wells c	4	1	2	0	0	1	.209
Berti 3b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.273
Cabrera 3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.252
Totals	35	8	10	7	2	7	

San Diego	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Arraez 1b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.397
Tatis rf	2	0	0	0	1	1	.244
Azocar ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.259
Profar lf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.331
Wade ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.257
Machado dh	2	0	1	0	1	0	.233
D.Peralta ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.429
Cronenworth 2b	2	0	1	0	1	0	.266
Solano 3b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.308
Campusano c	3	0	0	0	0	0	.252
Merrill cf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.283
Kim ss	3	0	0	0	0	1	.212
Totals	28	0	3	0	3	6	

Yankees	105	100	001	—	8	10	0
San Diego	000	000	000	—	0	3	0

LOB: New York 4, San Diego 4. **2B:** Soto (10). **3B:** Volpe (3). **HR:** Soto (14), off Darvish; Judge (16), off Darvish; Stanton (13), off Darvish; Torres (4), off Darvish. **RBIs:** Judge 2 (37), Soto 2 (43), Stanton 2 (29), Torres (15). **SB:** Berti (4). **SF:** Judge. **S:** Volpe. **Runners left in scoring position:** New York 2 (Judge 2); San Diego 1 (Solano). **RISP:** New York 1 for 5; San Diego 0 for 3.

Yankees	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Rodón, W, 6-2	6.0	3	0	0	3	2	93	2.95
Santana	2.0	0	0	0	0	1	24	4.57
Gómez	1.0	0	0	0	0	3	13	0.00

San Diego	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Darvish, L, 4-2	5.2	9	7	7	1	5	81	3.04
Kolek	1.1	0	0	0	0	1	29	4.18
Brito	2.0	1	1	1	1	1	31	4.00

T: 2:31. A: 43,505 (40,222).

Astros 6, Athletics 3

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Altuve 2b	5	1	3	0	0	1	.298
Tucker rf	5	1	1	0	0	0	.286
Alvarez dh	4	1	2	1	1	1	.269
Bregman 3b	5	0	1	2	0	1	.209
Peña ss	4	1	0	0	0	0	.320
Singleton 1b	3	1	2	0	1	0	.233
Meyers cf	4	1	1	3	0	0	.300
Diaz c	4	0	1	0	0	1	.264
McCormick lf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.228
Totals	38	6	12	6	2	4	

Oakland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Toro 3b	5	0	0	0	0	2	.274
Bleday cf	5	3	2	1	0	2	.247
Rooker dh	4	0	1	0	0	3	.285
Andujar lf	4	0	3	2	0	0	.750
Langeliers c	4	0	1	0	0	0	.213
Gelof 2b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.194
S.Brown rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.200
Davis 1b	4	0	3	0	0	0	.229
Schuemann ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.250
Totals	38	3	10	3	0	13	

Houston	000	600	000	—	6	12	1
Oakland	100	010	100	—	3	10	0

E: Peña (7). **LOB:** Houston 7, Oakland 9. **2B:** Alvarez (10), Bleday (15). **HR:** Meyers (6), off Stripling; Bleday (8), off Verlander. **RBIs:** Alvarez (22), Bregman 2 (21), Meyers 3 (21), Andujar 2 (2), Bleday (22). **CS:** Altuve (2). **Runners left in scoring position:** Houston 3 (McCormick, Meyers, Tucker); Oakland 3 (Gelof 3). **RISP:** Houston 3 for 6; Oakland 2 for 8.

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Verlander, W, 3-2	6.0	8	2	1	0	9	99	3.60
Abreu	1.0	2	1	1	0	2	23	3.51
Pressly, H, 7	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	10	4.66
Hader, S, 7-8	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	10	3.91

T: 2:31. A: 9,676 (46,847).

Giants 8, Mets 7

San Francisco	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Matos cf	5	0	0	1	0	0	.280
Wade lb	4	1	0	0	0	1	.328
Estrada 2b	4	1	1	1	0	0	.244
Chapman 3b	3	1	0	0	1	1	.245
Bailey c	4	1	2	4	0	0	.301
Soler dh	4	1	1	1	0	0	.215
Ramos lf	3	0	0	0	1	2	.281
Yastrzemski rf	4	2	2	1	0	1	.225
Luciano ss	4	1	3	0	0	1	.409
Totals	35	8	9	8	2	6	

Mets	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Lindor ss	5	1	2	1	0	2	.208
Alonso 1b	5	1	2	2	0	1	.240
Taylor pr	0	0	0	0	0	0	.248
Nimmo lf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.216
Martinez dh	5	1	1	1	0	3	.289
Vientos 3b	4	2	1	1	1	1	.344
Marte rf	4	1	1	0	0	0	.260
McNeil 2b	4	0	1	1	0	1	.240
Bader cf	1	0	0	0	2	1	.279
Stewart ph	1	1	1	0	0	0	.220
Nido c	2	0	0	1	0	2	.238
Baty ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.226
Totals	35	7	9	7	4	12	

San Francisco	011	000	051	—	8	9	3
Mets	100	220	101	—	7	9	0

E: Luciano 2 (4), Yastrzemski (1). **LOB:** San Francisco 2, New York 7. **2B:** Estrada (10), Lindor (11), Stewart (4). **3B:** Luciano (1). **HR:** Soler (6), off Scott; Bailey (4), off Garret; Yastrzemski (5), off López; Martinez (3), off Harrison; Vientos (3), off Harrison; Alonso

Brewers 7, Red Sox 2

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Turang 2b	4	0	0	1	0	0	.302
Contreras c	4	2	2	1	0	0	.337
Yelich dh	4	2	3	1	1	1	.326
Adames ss	4	0	2	2	1	1	.244
Bauers 1b	4	0	0	0	1	2	.223
Ortiz 3b	4	0	1	1	0	1	.277
Frellick rf	5	0	0	0	0	0	.242
Chourio lf	4	1	1	0	0	1	.211
Perkins cf	3	2	2	0	1	0	.237
Totals	36	7	11	7	5	6	

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Duran lf	5	0	3	0	0	0	.278
Abreu rf	3	0	0	0	0	3	.270
Refsnyder ph-rf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.338
Wong c	3	0	1	0	1	0	.344
Devers 3b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.270
O'Neill dh	4	0	0	0	0	4	.241
Smith 1b	3	2	2	1	0	1	.213
Cooper ph-1b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.209
Grissom 2b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.129
Hamilton ss	4	0	3	1	0	0	.261
Rafaela cf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.193
Totals	35	2	9	2	2	10	

Milwaukee	003 030 001	—	7 11 0
Boston	000 101 000	—	2 9 1

E: Smith (1). **LOB:** Milwaukee 9, Boston 8. **ZB:** Chourio (3), Yelich (3), Adames 2 (15), Hamilton (4), Duran (15). **HR:** Contreras (8), off Crawford; Smith (1), off Wilson. **RBIs:** Turang (18), Contreras 2 (42), Yelich (19), Adames 2 (32), Ortiz (16), Hamilton (6), Smith (11). **SB:** Perkins 2 (5). **SF:** Turang, Ortiz. **Runners left in scoring position:** Milwaukee 7 (Turang, Chourio, Ortiz 3, Frellick 2); Boston 4 (Rafaela 2, O'Neill, Devers). **RISP:** Milwaukee 3 for 11; Boston 1 for 7.

Milwaukee	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Koenig	0.2	1	0	0	1	1	12	2.61
Wilson, W, 3-1	5.1	6	2	2	7	80	2.86	
Hudson	2.0	1	0	0	2	23	0.64	
Payamps	1.0	1	0	0	0	10	4.15	

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Crawford, L, 2-3	4.1	7	6	6	2	4	89	2.89
Bernardino	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	8	0.86
Anderson	4.0	4	1	1	3	2	70	4.56

T: 2:37. **A:** 30,992 (37,755).

Twins 3, Rangers 2

Texas	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Semien 2b	4	1	1	0	1	0	.262
Seager ss	3	1	2	1	1	1	.254
Smith 3b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.279
García dh	4	0	0	0	0	1	.247
Taveras cf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.240
Lowe 1b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.257
Heim c	4	0	0	0	0	0	.259
Carter lf	2	0	0	0	0	2	.194
Grossman ph-1f	2	0	0	0	0	1	.100
Jankowski rf	2	0	0	0	1	0	.246
Totals	31	2	4	2	4	6	

Minnesota	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Julien 2b	3	0	1	0	1	0	.207
Farmer ph-2b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.165
Correa ss	4	0	2	0	0	1	.276
Larnach dh	3	0	1	0	0	1	.274
Jeffers ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	0	.253
Kepler rf	2	0	0	2	1	3	.305
Buxton cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.248
Kirilloff 1b	3	1	1	1	0	2	.206
Santana ph-1b	0	0	0	0	1	0	.207
Miranda 3b	3	1	2	0	0	0	.279
Margot pr-1f	1	0	0	0	0	1	.196
Castro lf-3b	2	1	1	0	2	0	.265
Vázquez c	4	0	2	1	0	0	.173
Totals	32	3	10	3	5	8	

Texas	200 000 000	—	2 4 0
Minnesota	020 100 00x	—	3 10 0

LOB: Texas 8, Minnesota 10. **ZB:** Correa (8), Vázquez (1), Miranda (8). **HR:** Seager (9), off Ober; Kirilloff (4), off Ureña. **RBIs:** Seager 2 (21), Vázquez (7), Julien (16), Kirilloff (13). **SB:** Jankowski (3). **Runners left in scoring position:** Texas 4 (García 2, Semien, Heim); Minnesota 5 (Correa 2, Margot, Buxton 2). **RISP:** Texas 0 for 3; Minnesota 2 for 10.

Texas	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Ureña, L, 1-4	5.0	9	3	3	1	6	95	3.53
S.Anderson	0.1	0	0	0	1	0	8	5.40
Latz	1.1	0	0	0	1	23	3.32	
Leclerc	1.1	0	0	0	2	1	17	6.00

Minnesota	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Ober, W, 5-2	5.0	4	2	2	3	5	99	4.33
Okert, H, 3	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3.24
Thielbar, H, 5	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	12	5.11
Jax, H, 8	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	10	2.53
J.Duran, S, 5-5	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	15	4.22

T: 2:35. **A:** 21,857 (38,544).

Rockies 3, Phillies 2, 11 inn.

Philadelphia	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Schwabber dh	5	0	1	0	0	1	.222
Realmuto c	5	0	2	0	0	0	.288
Harper 1b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.279
Rojas cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.213
Bohm 3b-1b	5	0	0	0	0	1	.314
Castellanos rf	5	1	1	0	1	0	.206
Stott 2b-ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.258
Sosa ss	3	1	2	1	0	0	.338
Marsh ph-1f	1	0	0	0	0	1	.257
Merrifield lf-3b	2	0	0	0	2	0	.187
Pache cf-1f	3	0	0	0	0	1	.209
Clemens ph-2b	1	0	1	0	0	0	.313
Totals	39	2	7	2	2	7	

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Tovar ss	6	0	4	2	0	0	.285
Rodgers 2b	5	0	1	0	0	0	.260
Díaz c	4	0	0	0	1	0	.311
Bryant dh	5	0	2	0	0	2	.180
Montero 1b	5	0	0	0	0	1	.221
Doyle cf	4	1	0	0	1	0	.267
Beck lf	4	0	1	0	1	1	.190
Goodman rf	4	1	1	0	0	1	.175
Cave rf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.271
Trejo 3b	3	0	1	0	0	0	.088
Stallings ph	1	1	1	0	0	0	.311
McMahon 3b	1	0	0	0	1	0	.298
Totals	42	3	11	3	4	6	

Philadelphia	000 020 000	00	—	2 7 0
Colorado	000 010 001	01	—	3 11 0

E: Bohm (6). **LOB:** Philadelphia 8, Colorado 14. **ZB:** Sosa (5), Beck (4), Goodman (3), Tovar (16). **HR:** Castellanos (6), off Blach; Sosa (3), off Blach; Stallings (3), off Alvarado. **RBIs:** Castellanos (21), Sosa (12), Tovar 2 (23), Stallings (13). **Runners left in scoring position:** Philadelphia 4 (Castellanos, Pache, Realmuto 2); Colorado 7 (Doyle 2, Díaz 2, Goodman 2, Bryant). **RISP:** Philadelphia 1 for 8; Colorado 3 for 15.

Philadelphia	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Sánchez	5.1	7	1	1	2	83	3.15	
Kerkering, H, 3	1.2	1	0	0	0	0	14	1.65
Hoffman, H, 7	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	12	1.19
Alvarado, BS, 9-10	1.0	2	1	1	0	2	18	3.63
Ruiz	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	9	2.00
Soto, L, 1-2	0.1	1	1	0	2	1	11	5.87

Colorado	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Blach	6.2	5	2	2	1	2	78	4.55
Carasiti	1.1	1	0	0	0	1	18	0.00
Mears	2.0	1	0	0	1	2	30	6.14
Kinley, W, 3-1	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	12	7.97

T: 2:47. **A:** 35,007 (50,144).

Marlins 3, Diamondbacks 0

Miami	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Chisholm cf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.254
De La Cruz dh	4	0	1	0	0	0	.259
Bell 1b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.228
Rivera 3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.224
J.Sánchez rf	3	1	1	0	1	0	.222
Burger 3b-1b	4	2	2	1	0	1	.175
Gordon lf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.234
Anderson ss	4	0	1	0	0	0	.211
Lopez 2b	3	0	2	2	0	0	.302
Fortes c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.151
Totals	32	3	9	3	1	5	

Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Marte 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.286
Carroll cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.188
Gurriel lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.237
Walker 1b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.257
Grichuk rf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.289
Suárez 3b	3	0	0	0	0	3	.211
Moreno c	3	0	0	0	0	0	.228
Alexander dh	3	0	2	0	0	0	.260
Newman ss	3	0	0	0	0	0	.269
Totals	31	0	4	0	0	6	

E: Burger (5). **LOB:** Miami 4, Arizona 4. **ZB:** Gordon (5). **HR:** Burger (4), off Gallen. **RBIs:** Lopez 2 (14), Burger (17). **CS:** Gordon (2), De La Cruz (1). **Runners left in scoring position:** Miami 1 (Chisholm); Arizona 1 (Grichuk). **RISP:** Miami 2 for 7; Arizona 0 for 1. **R**

Miami	IP	H	R	ER</
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BETMGM

NEW YORK POST ACTION

The *POST* Line



MLB		
Favorite	Saturday Money Line	Underdog
PADRES	\$100-120	Yankees
METS	-102-118	Giants
TWINS	\$110-130	Rangers
Blue Jays	-102-116	TIGERS
Braves	\$130-155	PIRATES
Orioles	\$154-184	WHITE SOX
Mariners	\$148-176	NATIONALS
Astros	\$124-148	ATHLETICS
RAYS	\$105-125	Royals
RED SOX	\$14-148	Brewers
Dodgers	\$130-155	REDS
Phillies	\$185-225	ROCKIES
Guardians	\$110-130	ANGELS
D'BACKS	\$150-180	Marlins
CARDINALS	-102-116	Cubs

WNBA		
Favorite	Saturday PTS (O/U)	Underdog
Liberty	6.5 (166.5)	LYNX
Sun	6.5 (157.5)	SKY
STORM	8.5 (161.5)	Mystics
ACES	14.5 (172.5)	Fever
MERCURY	1 (166.5)	Wings

Home Teams in CAPS

NHL		
Conference Final- Saturday		
Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
STARS	\$115-135	Oilers

NBA		
Conference Finals- Saturday		
Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
Celtics	6.5 (222.5)	PACERS

UFL		
Week 9- Saturday		
Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
St. Louis	3 (46)	ARLINGTON
Birmingham	8.5 (44)	SAN ANTONIO

SPORTS SHORTS

NBA: Cavs eyeing Knicks' Bryant

The Cavaliers search for a new head coach could include Knicks associate coach **Johnnie Bryant**, according to an SNY report. Bryant has been with the Knicks for four seasons and was previously a coach with the Jazz. Cleveland fired **J.B. Bickerstaff** on Thursday after the team was eliminated in the second round of the playoffs.

● The Pacers remain hopeful that All-NBA guard **Tyrese Haliburton** will play in Saturday's Game 3 of the Eastern Conference finals after listing him as questionable on Friday's injury report.

Haliburton, who led the NBA in assists this season, left in the third quarter of a Game 2 loss at Boston with a sore left hamstring. He did not return. The Celtics lead the series 2-0.

MLB: Lugo, Royals defeat Rays

Former Mets pitcher **Seth Lugo** became the American League's first eight-game winner, **Michael Massey** and **Bobby Witt Jr.** homered and the Royals beat the Rays, 8-1, on Friday night in St. Petersburg, Fla. for their seventh consecutive victory.

● In Anaheim, **José Ramírez** went deep twice and started a run of three straight homers in the fourth inning as the Guardians extended their winning streak to seven with a 10-4 victory over the Angels.

● In Denver, **Ezequiel Tovar** had a winning single in the 11th for his career-best fourth hit and the Rockies beat the Phillies, 3-2, stopping stopped Philadelphia's six-game win streak.

● In Minneapolis, **Alex Kirilloff** hit a go-ahead home run in the fourth inning and Minnesota retired 15 of the last 16 hitters as the Twins edged the slumping Rangers, 3-2.

● In Boston, **William Contreras** hit a two-run home run, **Christian Yelich** had three hits as the Brewers beat the Red Sox, 7-2.

● In Pittsburgh, **Nick Gonzales** drove in a career-high four runs and **Bailey Falter** carried a shutout into the eighth inning as the Pirates beat the Braves, 11-5.

GOLF: Riley takes Colonial lead

Davis Riley had to wait before his last shot in the second round at Colonial in Fort Worth, Texas. Riley made a 3-foot par putt right after play resumed due to a 70-minute weather delay and wrapped up a bogey-free 6-under 64 to get to 10 under at the Charles Schwab Challenge.

He was two strokes ahead of **Hayden Buckley** and **Pierceson Coody** after they both shot 65s.

Scottie Scheffler had four consecutive birdies midway through his round of 65 earlier Friday, a day after the world's top-ranked player failed to break par in an opening round for the first time this season.

NHL: Gotham FC victorious

Ella Stevens scored a pair of goals in the space of two minutes and Gotham FC (5-2-3) extended its unbeaten streak to six games with a 2-0 win over Bay FC at San Jose's PayPal Park.

● The Jets promoted associate coach **Scott Arniel** to head coach, replacing the retired **Rick Bowness**. The move comes almost three weeks after Bowness retired. A former Jets left wing, Arniel joined Bowness' staff in 2022.

● **Don Waddell** stepped down as president and general manager of the Hurricanes, ending a run that had him build a roster that reached the NHL playoffs for six straight years.

ACTION TOP PLAY

Pacers can keep score high

By MARK HARRIS
actionnetwork.com

The Celtics aim to go up 3-0 in the Eastern Conference Finals on Saturday against the Pacers, who could be without their best player as the series moves to Indiana. Tyrese Haliburton's status is up in the air after aggravating his left hamstring — an injury that caused him to miss 10 games in January.

Most sportsbooks list the Celtics as seven-point favorites and have set the Over/Under at 222.5 total points.

It's tempting to lean toward Boston covering with Haliburton questionable to play, but Indiana has been so good at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in the playoffs

that it's difficult to expect a comfortable Boston win. The Pacers are undefeated at home this postseason, winning four of six games by double figures.

That's why the total might be a better play in Game 3. Both games in this series have hit the Over and Boston has scored at least 126 points in each matchup.

Indiana should be able to keep up offensively even if Haliburton doesn't play. Pascal Siakam (26 ppg) has been great in this series, and several members of the Pacers' supporting cast are capable of double-digit scoring.

THE PLAY: Celtics-Over 222.5.
Mark Harris handicaps the NBA for Action Network.

Pitching Form

		(Game time)	2024			'24 vs OPP			CAREER			LAST 3 STARTS		
			W-L	ERA	*REC	W-L	ERA	vs OPP	vs OPP	W-L	IP	ERA	ERA	
Giants	Hicks (R)		4-1	2.38	5-5	—	—	0-1	—	2-0	15.0	3.60		
Mets	Severino (R)	(1:40pm)	2-2	3.48	3-6	—	—	0-1	—	0-0	16.2	5.94		
Yankees	Stroman (R)		3-2	3.05	6-4	—	—	4-0	—	1-1	19.0	2.37		
Padres	Cease (R)	(9:40pm)	5-3	3.05	6-4	—	—	1-1	—	1-1	16.2	4.32		
Mariners	Gilbert (R)		3-2	3.20	6-4	—	—	0-1	—	0-2	16.2	7.56		
Nationals	Williams (R)	(4:05pm)	4-0	2.35	7-2	—	—	0-0	—	1-0	14.1	2.51		
Brewers	Rea (R)		3-2	4.07	6-3	—	—	0-0	—	0-2	15.0	7.20		
Red Sox	Pivetta (R)	(4:10pm)	2-2	3.04	3-2	—	—	1-2	—	1-1	15.2	4.60		
Blue Jays	Berrios (R)		5-3	2.98	7-3	0-0	0.00	7-2	—	1-1	16.2	7.02		
Tigers	Olson (R)	(1:10pm)	0-5	2.16	1-8	0-0	4.50	0-0	—	0-1	16.2	1.08		
Orioles	Kremer (R)		3-4	4.32	4-5	0-0	1.50	1-0	—	1-2	15.2	4.60		
White Sox	Fedde (R)	(2:10pm)	4-1	3.10	5-5	0-0	0.00	2-0	—	2-1	19.0	2.37		
Rangers	Lorenzen (R)		2-3	3.61	2-5	0-0	3.60	1-0	—	0-2	19.1	3.72		
Twins	Paddack (R)	(2:10pm)	4-2	4.47	6-3	0-0	0.00	0-0	—	1-1	18.1	3.93		
Astros	Arrighetti (R)		2-4	7.16	3-4	1-0	3.60	1-0	—	2-1	16.1	6.06		
Athletics	Soriano (R)	(4:07pm)	3-3	4.31	4-6	0-0	1.80	1-1	—	1-1	15.0	5.40		
Royals	Singer (R)		4-2	2.70	7-3	1-0	4.50	1-1	—	2-1	16.1	3.31		
Rays	Civale (R)	(4:10pm)	2-4	5.92	4-6	2-0	0.60	4-1	—	0-2	15.0	5.40		
Guardians	Bibee (R)		2-1	3.93	9-1	0-1	10.80	0-2	—	0-0	16.1	2.76		
Angels	Soriano (R)	(9:38pm)	2-4	3.30	3-5	1-0	0.00	2-0	—	1-0	17.2	2.55		
Braves	López (R)		2-1	1.54	5-3	0-0	0.00	1-1	—	0-0	16.2	1.62		
Pirates	Keller (R)	(4:05pm)	5-3	3.84	6-4	0-1	9.90	0-3	—	3-0	21.0	1.29		
Cubs	Taillon (R)		3-2	2.20	4-2	2-0	3.77	5-1	—	1-2	14.2	3.07		
Cardinals	Liberatore (L)	(7:15pm)	1-2	5.40	1-2	0-0	0.00	0-1	—	0-1	10.0	8.10		
Dodgers	Buehler (R)		1-1	4.05	2-1	1-0	0.00	2-3	—	1-1	13.1	4.05		
Reds	Greene (R)	(7:15pm)	2-2	3.22	2-8	0-0	2.84	0-2	—	1-0	18.1	3.44		
Phillies	Nola (R)		6-2	3.05	8-2	0-0	1.23	4-2	—	2-1	21.2	2.49		
Rockies	Hudson (R)	(9:10pm)	1-7	5.89	2-7	0-0	0.00	1-2	—	1-2	14.0	5.79		
Marlins	Sánchez (R)		0-2	6.41	2-3	0-0	0.00	0-0	—	0-1	12.2	4.26		
D'Backs	Montgomery (L)	(10:10pm)	2-2	4.98	4-2	1-0	2.25	1-0	—	1-0	18.1	4.42		

*REC: Won-lost record of pitcher's team in games he has started.

STITCHES

Arrighetti for starvin' Stitches

Singapore Airlines will no longer serve food or drink during "turbulent times."

Thankfully restaurants in New York City didn't adopt the same policy. We would have stopped eating somewhere around mid-April.

The underachieving Astros visit the overachieving Athletics this weekend. Oakland's JP Sears lost at Kansas City, allowing four runs over 4 1/3 innings but limited the Houston Spacemen to one run over five frames two starts back. The As-

tro's Spencer Arrighetti has turned his rookie campaign around. The soft Arrighetti has gone all "al dente" while winning two in a row, beating the A's in the process. The turbulent Stitches is starving for a win. Play \$50 on Arrighetti and the Astros. -\$

Pitching change didn't change our luck. Kenta Maeda replaced Matt Manning, Alek Manoah was replaced too late and the Tigers trounced Toronto, 6-2. Down -1,047 righthittis.

stitches@nypost.com

Home Team Lineups		HOME	AWAY					
	TODAY May 25	SUN May 26	MON May 27	TUE May 28	WED May 29	THU May 30	FRI May 31	
	San Diego 9:40 YES WFAN 660 AM/ 101.9 FM	S.D. 4:10 YES WFAN	NO GAME	Ana. 9:38 YES WFAN	Ana. 9:38 Prime Video WFAN	Ana. 9:38 YES WFAN	S.F. 10:15 YES WFAN	
	San Francisco 1:40 PIX11 WCBS 880 AM	S.F. 1:40 PIX11 WCBS	L.A. 4:10 SNY WCBS	L.A. 7:10 SNY WCBS	L.A. 4:10 SNY WCBS	Ariz. 7:10 SNY WCBS	Ariz. 7:10 PIX11 WCBS	
	NO GAME	Fla. 3:00 ABC ESPN	NO GAME	Fla. 8:00 ESPN ESPN	NO GAME	Fla. 8:00 ESPN ESPN	NO GAME	
	Minnesota 1:00 CBS	NO GAME	NO GAME	NO GAME	Phx. 7:00 CBS	NO GAME	Wash. 7:30 ION	
Wednesday		Today			Sat., June 8			
	Charlotte FC 7:30 Apple TV+		New England Revolution 7:30 Apple TV+		Angel City FC 12:30 CBS			

AUTO RACING

Favorites to win 2024 Indianapolis 500 Sunday, Indianapolis

DRIVER	ODDS	DRIVER	ODDS
Josef Newgarden	+500	Graham Rahal	60/1
Scott McLaughlin	+550	Callum Ilott	60/1
Kyle Larson	+675	Marco Andretti	80/1
Will Power	+700	Christian Rasmussen	80/1
Pato O'Ward	+750	Marcus Ericsson	100/1
Scott Dixon	+800	Linus Lundqvist	125/1
Alexander Rossi	+800	Christian Lundgaard	125/1
Colton Herta	+900	Marcus Armstrong	125/1
Alex Palou	14/1	Ed Carpenter	125/1
Santino Ferrucci	20/1	Kyffin Simpson	125/1
Kyle Kirkwood	22/1	Conor Daly	125/1
Rinus Veekey	22/1	Romain Grosjean	150/1
Felix Rosenqvist	25/1	Tom Blomqvist	150/1
Helio Castroneves	30/1	Agustin Canapino	200/1
Takuma Sato	35/1	Sting Ray Robb	250/1
Ryan Hunter-Reay	50/1	Pietro Fittipaldi	350/1

Favorites to win 2024 Coca-Cola 600 Sunday, Concord, N.C.

DRIVER	ODDS	DRIVER	ODDS
Kyle Larson	+475	Josh Berry	100/1
Denny Hamlin	+575	Erik Jones	100/1
Tyler Reddick	+850	Michael McDowell	150/1
Ryan Blaney	+900	Ricky Stenhouse Jr.	150/1
William Byron	+950	Austin Dillon	200/1
Martin Truex Jr.	10/1	Todd Gilliland	200/1
Chase Elliott	11/1	Austin Cindric	200/1
Brad Keselowski	11/1	Carson Hocevar	300/1
Chris Beuscher	11/1	Ryan Preece	300/1
Christopher Bell	13/1	John H. Nemechek	500/1
Ty Gibbs	16/1	Corey Lajoie	500/1
Ross Chastain	20/1	Zane Smith	500/1
Kyle Busch	20/1	Harrison Burton	500/1
Joey Logano	25/1	Daniel Hemric	500/1
Bubba Wallace	30/1	Justin Haley	500/1
Alex Bowman	30/1	Jimmie Johnson	500/1
Noah Gragson	60/1	Shane van Gisbergen	1,000/1
Chase Briscoe	80/1	Ty Dillon	1,000/1
Daniel Suarez	100/1	Kaz Grala	2,000/1

ODDS & ENDS

NBA PLAYOFFS Celtics-Pacers series odds

TO WIN SERIES	ODDS
Celtics	-10000
Pacers	30/1
SERIES LENGTH	ODDS
4 games	-145
5 games	+175
6 games	+800
7 games	14/1
EXACT SERIES RESULT	ODDS
Celtics in 4	-145
Celtics in 5	+175
Celtics in 6	+800
Celtics in 7	17/1
Pacers in 6	100/1
Pacers in 7	50/1

Saturday Celtics at Pacers Game 3

FULL-GAME MONEYLINE	ODDS
Celtics	-275
Pacers	+220
1ST-HALF SPREAD	ODDS
Celtics -3.5	+100
Pacers +3.5	-120
1ST-HALF TOTAL	ODDS
Over 115.5	-105
Under 115.5	-115
1ST-HALF MONEYLINE	ODDS
Celtics	-185
Pacers	+150
POINTS	O/U
Jayson Tatum	29.5
Jaylen Brown	26.5
Pascal Siakam	22.5
Tyrese Haliburton	16.5
Myles Turner	16.5
Derrick White	15.5
Jrue Holiday	14.5
Andrew Nembhard	12.5
Aaron Nesmith	11.5
TRIPLE-DOUBLE	ODDS
Jayson Tatum	+1150
Tyrese Haliburton	19/1

STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS Oilers-Stars series odds

TO WIN SERIES	ODDS
Oilers	-190
Stars	+155
Saturday Oilers at Stars Game 2	
PUCKLINE	ODDS
Oilers +1.5 goals	-225
Stars -1.5 goals	+180
TOTAL GOALS	ODDS
Over 6	+100
Under 6	-120
1ST GOAL, 1ST PERIOD	ODDS
Oilers	+140
No goal in first period	+350
Stars	+115

ACTION BET SMART



OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS: With questions about legends Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic and recent struggles by top contenders Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner, Casper Ruud (above) offers great value at 12/1 to win the French Open.

By MICHAEL LEBOFF
actionnetwork.com

opportunity to back a player who has had good success at Roland Garros.

Great buy

Daniil Medvedev (32/1, FanDuel):

The betting market seems to be leaving Medvedev for dead at Roland Garros because of his history in this tournament. That would be a logical thing to do if Medvedev was priced as one of the favorites, but this number is ridiculous considering he is the No. 4 player in the world and isn't just a walkover on clay.

He has been upset at Roland Garros five times and that is not good, but he went to the fourth round in 2022 and was a quarterfinalist in 2021, so it's not like he just wilts on the clay. Where most people will point to Medvedev being vulnerable at this tournament, bettors should use that as a good opportunity to buy low on a player who has won a Grand Slam and been to the final five other occasions.

Live long shot

Hubert Hurkacz (100/1, FanDuel):

Though he's ranked as the No. 9 player in the world, Hurkacz will be friendless in the betting market at Roland Garros, even at triple-digit prices. And though his 6-6 record and three first-round exits at the French Open are not pretty, he made a trip to Round 4 in 2022 and Round 3 in 2023. Those still aren't eye-popping results, but when you combine them with his 11-3 record on the dirt this season they suggest an improving player on the surface.

More importantly, however, is the fact that Hurkacz got handed a terrific draw. His path to the quarterfinals, where he likely would need to upset Sinner, is there for the taking and with Sinner's injury concerns, there is no guarantee he'll be there waiting for Hurkacz next week.

Michael Leboff analyzes tennis for Action Network.

For the first time in decades, it feels is if the men's French Open is genuinely wide open.

Rafael Nadal has ruled this tournament for 20 years. He owns a 112-3 record at Roland Garros and won 14 titles between 2005 and 2022, but Nadal is about to turn 38 and has been battling injury issues for the better part of two years. Barring anything unforeseen, this will be the Spaniard's last French Open, and he is not expected to make a deep run, especially since he drew Alexander Zverev, the fourth favorite, in Round 1.

And it isn't just Nadal's status that is opening up this draw. Novak Djokovic has not been himself in 2024, Carlos Alcaraz's form has been wobbly and Jannik Sinner, who was unplayable in the first few months of the season, is also battling injuries.

All of this should add up to the most chaotic French Open we've seen in quite some time. That makes for terrific betting.

Favorite with the most value (20/1 or under)

Casper Ruud (12/1, DraftKings): A back-to-back finalist at Roland Garros and the No. 7 player in the world, Ruud seems to be undervalued a touch in the futures market in Paris. Ruud is in decent form this clay season — he won Barcelona, was a finalist in Monte Carlo and is in the final in Geneva — and has the upside to beat anybody on the dirt.

With this résumé, you would expect Ruud to be priced in the single digits, but he's drifted a bit because of a tough draw. Ruud has a tricky opponent in Round 1 (and another likely one, Alejandro Davidovich Fokina, in Round 2) and probably will face Djokovic in the quarterfinals, so that path is giving us a good

Post Time: 12:35 p.m.
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Belmont at the Big A

Analysis by Vic Cangialosi

Lock of the Day

Firsttimeforever (5th)
Lock Record: 5 for 12 (42%)
Meet Record: 30/118 \$175.90

1 7 fur; \$28,000; cfm(\$10,000); 4up(f)

Eleven deep to kickstart the holiday weekend. The feature is the Pennine Ridge...**SISTER LINDA** ran 2nd, a photo back of Trade Secret racing this distance in March. Schettino takes blinkers off. **MY FIRST LOVE** drops for Potts after finishing last of 7. Placed 2nd at this longer distance previously. Rider change to Davis. **STOP GIGGLING** About 5 lengths short last 3 starts. Stretches but not sure she wanted more ground. **TRADE SECRET** nipped Sister Linda. It was her 1st win from 16 starts over the last 2 years.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Div Banker(L),118	J Gomez	5-4-4	Rodriguez	6-1
2	My First Love(L),118	D Davis	7-5-2	Potts	5-2
3	Sister Linda(L),118	L Luzzi	4-2-2	Schettino	7-2
4	Gringotts(L),120	R Maragh	5-5-7	Samsundar	12-1
5	Cupids Girl(L),120	R Vazquez	3-6-5	Jacobson	10-1
6	Stop Giggling(L),118	E Ruiz	5-4-3	Levine	3-1
7	Trade Secret(L),120	E Cancel	3-1-4	Pringle	9-2

2 6 1/2 fur; \$38,000; mdn cfm(\$30,000); 3up

Rough opener for **STANLEY ROUGH**. Trained in a field of 6 before passing tired horses to be 3rd. Irad rides for Dutrow. **FIRST SONS** Outrun both starts. Races longer for Rudy Rodriguez off the 4 month breather. **IRIE MAN** is 0 for 6 after missing by a length here weeks ago. **ALPHA SONNY** ran 2nd in front of the debuting Stanley Rough. Now 0 for 10.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Alpha Sonny(L),124	D Grises Rave	2-5-2	Ferraro	6-1
2	Irish Tides(L),124	O Hrdmz Mreno	x-x-x	Persaud	15-1
3	Montauk Surf(L),118	E Ruiz	4-10-x	Miceli	10-1
4	Irie Man(L),118	F Prat	3-7-4	Baker	9-2
5	First Sons(L),124	J Gomez	5-12-x	Rodriguez	4-1
6	Stanley Rough(L),118	I Ortiz, Jr	3-x-x	R Dutrow	7-5
7	Eternal Glory(L),124	L Luzzi	9-7-7	Contessa	5-1

3 1 1/8 miles; \$80,000; alw; 3up

Good start for **BAD LARRY**. Took charge shortly after the break and ran away to win by 5+. Sprint to route for Potts. **BOB JOHN RAY** stretched to a mile and won at 2nd asking. Well spotted. Like Larry we will see if he gets the distance. **AULA** led, faded to 5th moving a mile. 2 for 3 at this longer distance. **MERLINS MOMENT** Like Bob Jon Ray he scored at 2nd asking racing a mile. Like top 2 he has no history at this distance.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Manny Penny(L),118	R Maragh	6-1-4	Coffey	20-1
2	Bad Larry(L),124	L Luzzi	1-3-5	Potts	4-1
3	Aula(L),124	A Wolfson	5-4-5	Maker	6-1
4	Merlin's Moment(L),120	L Rivera, Jr	1-2-x	James Bond	5-1
5	Boys Code(L),124	J Davis	4-2-3	Dixon	9-2
6	Bob John Ray(L),120	M Franco	1-3-x	C Brown	5-2
7	Jackson Heights(L),124	D Davis	2-2-5	Noda	3-1

4 6 fur(T); \$75,000; mdn; 3up(f)

Troubled trip for **CAPITAL SPENDING**. Debuted a close 4th after bumping then steady. Rider change to Prat. **TURRIGA** was a photo back in 5th and is now 0 for 4. Nothing clean about her trip either. **EKWANOK** makes turf debut for Hennig. Made board once from 5 dirt starts. Carmouche on the wildcard.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Play Free Bird(M),118	J Alvarado	6-6-4	Contessa	30-1
2	Capital Spending(L),118	F Prat	4-x-x	Abreu	3-1
3	Ekwano(L),118	K Carmouche	6-4-5	Hennig	10-1
4	Secessionist(L),124	L Rivera, Jr	9-x-x	Ferraro	30-1
5	Generous Luva(L),118	I Ortiz, Jr	4-x-x	R Dutrow	6-1
6	Naughty Destiny(M),118	D Davis	7-3-x	Clement	9-2
7	Troubled Luck(L),118	R Maragh	4-6-5	DeLauro	20-1
8	Heavenly Girl(L),118	M Franco	6-2-x	De Paz	8-1
9	La Indecente(M),118	D Grises Rave	4-7-x	Jimenez	30-1
10	Princess Summer(M),118	J Rosario	x-x-x	Sharp	15-1
11	Turriga(L),124	J Castellano	5-6-4	James Bond	4-1
12	Welcome Back Babe(L),118	J Gomez	6-6-x	Nevin	12-1
13	Kaaterskill(L),118	L Luzzi	7-9-x	Dunham	20-1
14	Harmonyville(M),118	L Luzzi	x-x-x	Giddings	12-1
15	Heart of the Night(L),124	M Franco	9-6-2	De Paz	15-1
16	Lonchura(L),118	R Maragh	12-2-4	Barrera	30-1

5 1 1/16 miles(T); \$80,000; alw; 3up(f)

More than a dozen lengths behind under the backstretch, **FIRSTTIMEFOREVER** passed every horse but one. Prat stays on. Won back-to-back races at Santa Anita earlier this year. **BOXED WINE** graduated (4th start) by 4+, racing off the layoff. Competitively spotted,

same distance. **MIM** was 5th and **ROAGNA** was 3rd behind Firsttimeforever. Mim opened up an 8 length lead at 96-1 before collapsing.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Mim(L),124	J Gomez	5-8-6	Ferraro	20-1
2	Firsttimeforever(L),124	F Prat	2-3-1	Powell	5-2
3	Lady of Thoroton(L),124	K Davis	5-9-4	Englehart	15-1
4	Can't Fool Me(L),124	M Franco	7-6-1	De Paz	5-1
5	Succulent(L),124	J Velazquez	6-1-4	Donk	10-1
6	Fast and Frisky(L),120	T McCarthy	4-2-1	Abreu	30-1
7	Boxed Wine(L),120	K Carmouche	1-2-2	Antonacci	4-1
8	Lakeside Getaway(L),124	J Lezcano	2-1-1	Trombetta	6-1
9	From Hello(L),124	D Davis	7-4-3	B Brown	15-1
10	Roagna(L),124	J Castellano	3-1-x	James Bond	9-2

6 6 1/2 fur; \$35,000; mdn cfm(\$20,000); 3up

We have Prat winning his 3rd in a row with **SHAKIN THE BELLE**. Raced evenly for 2nd at 17-1 last out. Rudy Rodriguez gives him another 1/16 to get there. **HOURS IN A DAY** debuted a flat 5th at Gulfstream. Drops for Pletcher. Irad picks up the mount. **APURO** was 3rd behind top pick at odds of 1-2. Claimed by Rice who makes a rider change to Lezcano.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Viejo Verde(M),118	O Hndz Mreno	6-x-x	Barrera	30-1
2	Crown That Saint(L),118	M Olver	4-4-7	Noda	15-1
3	Hours in a Day(L),118	I Ortiz, Jr	5-x-x	Pletcher	3-1
4	Whitby(L),118	K Carmouche	4-6-2	Hennig	12-1
5	Poor and Polite(L),124	E Ruiz	7-x-x	Miceli	20-1
6	Shakin the Belle(L),124	F Prat	2-7-4	Rodriguez	6-1
7	Conniving(L),118	L Luzzi	4-2-2	Figueroa	9-2
8	Venge(L),124	D Davis	4-2-5	Handal	4-1
9	Mr. Georgie(L),118	E Cancel	5-2-5	Miceli	15-1
10	Apuro(L),118	J Lezcano	3-5-3	Rice	7-2

7 1 1/8 miles(T); \$200,000; Pennine Ridge; 3YO

Mott has **ROYAL MAJESTY** take a stab at a Grade 2 after rallying to win 2 of last 3, latest at Keeneland. The loss was in a 200k at a mile. Will have to catch **LEGEND OF TIME**. Euro-bred made US debut in the Grade 2 American Turf at Churchill and tired to be 5th. Expecting more, 2nd time in the states for Appleby. Won 4 for 5 before shipping. **TRIPLE ESPRESSO** Dirt to turf for Pletcher. Beat 3 lengths in a 200k at Gulfstream last grass start. **RISK TOLERANCE** (Aqueduct, 1 1/16) and **WHITE PALOMINO** (Keeneland, 1 3/16) load off maiden breakers for Chad Brown.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	White Palomino,118	F Prat	1-3-x	C Brown	6-1
2	Legend of Time(GB),122	J Rosario	5-x-x	Appleby	2-1
3	Risk Tolerance(IRE),118	M Franco	1-x-x	C Brown	3-1
4	Cable Ready,118	E Ruiz	1-5-1	Dixon	8-1
5	Royal Majesty(GB),118	J Alvarado	1-5-1	Mott	5-1
6	St James the Great,118	J Castellano	5-1-2	Brion	15-1
7	Triple Espresso,118	I Ortiz, Jr	4-4-1	Pletcher	4-1

8 1 1/16 miles(T); \$80,000; alw; 3up(f)

A smokin' exacta. **SMOKIN HOT KITTY** and **SMOKIE EYES** go dirt to turf. Smokin Hot Kitty enters off back-to-back dirt wins. 2 for 14 on grass, latest this distance at the Spa last summer. Smokie Eyes is 1 for 9 on turf. The win earned this distance at the Big A in October 2022. **STELLA MARS** was 4th of 10 this level/distance off the layoff. Bettors position 2nd off the shelf. Has 4 turf wins but 0 for 10 at Aqueduct. Wolfson subs for Davis. Rides **SARATOGA GAZE** who moves higher after winning at Tampa.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Highway Harmony(L),124	R Vazquez	8-4-4	Abreu	12-1
2	Smokie Eyes(L),124	J Lezcano	4-2-4	Mott	3-1
3	Stella Mars(L),124	A Wolfson	4-8-6	Maker	9-2
4	Bella Principessa(L),124	J Castellano	6-9-3	R Klesaris	15-1
5	Determined Lilly(L),124	T McCarthy	1-2-4	Trombetta	5-1
6	Let's Connect(L),118	L Luzzi	1-3-2	Mann	30-1
7	Smokin' Hot Kitty(L),124	K Carmouche	1-1-3	De Paz	4-1
8	Scarlet's Dream(L),118	E Ruiz	2-6-4	Reynolds	20-1
9	Bertrille(M),118	L Rivera, Jr	6-1-9	B Brown	30-1
10	Artemis Girl(L),118	J Velazquez	7-6-4	Donk	15-1
11	Saratoga Gaze(L),124	D Davis	1-2-6	O'Connell	6-1

9 1 mile; \$36,000; cfm(\$12,500); 4up

Couple of solid starts for **FUNKENSTEIN** here this spring. Rallied to be 1st then 2nd, both at this distance. Vazquez rides for Jacobson who puts blinkers on. **CANDY TYCOON** ran 5th twice here in April. Wide in both. Now 0 for 11 over the last 2 years and 0 for 4 at Aqueduct. Franco up. **SKYLANDER** walked home last of 11 at 102-1. Moves lower. Winner racing

for 50k here last September. **CHEEKY TICO** was 3rd behind Funkenstein.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Prince of Joy(L),118	J Davis	4-7-8	Legall	20-1
2	Disappearance(L),120	C Navarro	9-1-6	Barrera	12-1
3	Anything Pazible(L),118	D Grises Rave	7-4-8	Jones	30-1
4	Valenzan Day(L),118	J Gomez	8-5-1	Nevin	10-1
5	Candy Tycoon(L),118	M Franco	5-5-3	Rodriguez	3-1
6	Funkenstein(L),118	R Vazquez	2-1-5	Jacobson	7-2
7	Tommy Gun(L),118	R Maragh	8-5-2	Schettino	12-1
8	Cheeky Tico(L),123	M Olver	3-7-1	Noda	9-2
9	Skylander(L),118	O Hrdmz Mreno	11-5-6	Trites	15-1
10	Durkin's Call(L),118	D Davis	3-2-4	Potts	4-1

10 6 fur(T); \$80,000; alw; 3up

The late double is on the turf. Maker's **ALLIED ATTACK** was 3rd, Clement's **BIG PRANKSTER** was a troubled 5th and Bond's **RUSSI** was 2nd when they met here last month. Allied Attack was making his grass debut and may be better 2nd time around with Irad at the wheel. Big Prankster is 0 for 2 on turf; rider change to Rosario. Russi won on the Saratoga lawn last year. **POWER ATTACK** is the only 2-time turf winner in the group.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
2	Allied Attack(L),120	I Ortiz, Jr	3-5-1	Maker	4-1
3	War Terminator(L),123	K Davis	3-5-4	Contessa	15-1
4	Power Attack(L),123	K Carmouche	1-1-7	Sweezey	5-1
5	Big Prankster(L),118	J Rosario	5-1-2	Clement	7-2
1	a-Jimmythetooth(L),118	M Franco	4-4-1	Maker	10-1
6	Kreesa(L),123	J Gomez	6-6-8	Dixon	20-1
7	Li'l Lang(L),118	F Prat	4-3-1	Abreu	8-1
8	Somama Beach(L),123	D Grises Rave	1-6-6	Persaud	50-1
9	Buckortwo(L),123	J Lezcano	7-5-7	Nevin	12-1
10	P Money(L),123	T McCarthy	9-4-4	R Klesaris	20-1
11	Russi(L),123	J Castellano	2-3-1	James Bond	9-2
12	Majestic Arc(L),123	R Maragh	4-1-7	Shivmangal	30-1
1A	a-Boss Three O Two(L),120	J Rosario	4-1-x	R Dutrow	10-1

11 1 1/16 miles(T); \$45,000; mdn cfm(\$40,000); 3up

Wide open in the finale. **FROZEN FOUR** moves lower to make 3YO debut for Clement. 4th of 11 prior to the break. 1st time gelding; 1st time lasix; Rosario rides. **JHIRSCH** ran 3rd before shipping from Tampa. Franco picks him up for Motion. **IMPULSIVE SPENDING** is 0 for 10 after finishing 5th at 105-1.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Solo Empire(L),118	L Luzzi	7-5-11	Ferraro	20-1
2	Specialagentjonson(M),118	J Gomez	9-6-5	Nevin	15-1
3	Your Mission(L),125	J Castellano	4-4-6	Bernardini	6-1
4	Fluorescent Bay(L),125	J Davis	8-6-6	Davis	30-1
5	Jhirsch(L),118	M Franco	3-6-4	Motion	4-1
6	Air Force Cross(L),118	R Vazquez	4-3-8	Maker	10-1
7	Sweet Tone(L),118	H Harkie	4-6-7	Sells	30-1
8	Ballyheigue(L),118	R Maragh	x-x-x	Levine	10-1
9	Impulsive Spending(L),125	E Ruiz	5-10-9	Arenas	9-2
10	In My Shadow(L),125	L Rivera, Jr	9-6-4	C Martin	20-1
11	Frozen Four(M),118	J Rosario	4-7-8	Clement	7-2
12	Judge Rules(L),118	F Prat	9-3-2	Rodriguez	8-1
13	Jeffersons Ocean(L),118	H Harkie	7-7-8	Friedman	30-1
14	Awesome Force(L),125	L Luzzi	6-6-9	DiPrima	12-1
15	Saint Bones(L),125	T McCarthy	6-x-x	Ryerson	8-1
16	Tony O(L),125	J Gomez	6-6-7	Donk	12-1

Aqueduct Results

FIRST-5/2 fur; \$90,000; mdn spl wt; 2YO
3 Soontobkng (Cnc) 7.10 3.50 2.10
1A Classic Time (Castillo) 3.20 2.10
2B Honorary Amercn (IRE) (Rosro) 2.10
Scr: Cheval de Guerre, Jace Is No Joke, After Taxes (IRE)

● \$1 Exacta (3-1) \$9.70 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (3-1-2-4) \$5.07 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (3-1-2) \$11.55
Exacta picked by Vic C

SECOND-6/2 fur; \$28,000; cfm(\$14,0); 3up(f)
2 Gv's Drm Grl (Frc) 12.40 6.60 3.60
1 Ghostly Grl (Camacho Jr.) 13.80 7.40
3 Try It Again (Gomez) 3.40

● \$1 Daily Double (3-2) \$22.70 ● \$1 Exacta (2-1) \$60.00 ● \$1 Quinella (1-2) \$31.75 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (2-1-3-6) \$65.10 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (2-1-3) \$87.25

THIRD-7 fur; \$65,000; alw; 3up (f&m)
3 St. Bndts Prp (Lzcn) 3.10 2.40 2.10
1 Irish Jackson (Ortiz, Jr.) 3.60 2.40
5 Roman Goddess (Martinez) 3.00

Clark, Indiana finally get first 'W'

By BETH HARRIS

FEVER SPARKS **78 73**

LOS ANGELES — Caitlin Clark had 11 points and 10 rebounds for her first WNBA double-double and the Indiana Fever beat the Los Angeles Sparks, 78-73, on Friday night to snap a season-opening five-game skid in front of a Sparks record crowd of 19,103.

Kelsey Mitchell led Indiana (1-5) with 18 points and Aliyah Boston and Temi Fagbenle had 17 each.

Clark's rebounds were a career high. She missed her first seven 3-point attempts, but finally made one with 2:27 remaining in the game, triggering an explosion of cheers and applause.

The game featured the youth and future of the WNBA, with No. 1 draft pick Clark playing against No. 2 pick Cameron Brink and fourth selection Ricketia Jackson of the Sparks.

"They're making a huge impact in our league," Fe-

ver coach Christie Sides said before the game.

Brink had 15 points and nine rebounds, and Jackson added 16 points off the bench for the Sparks (1-3). Dearica Hamby had 18 points and 12 rebounds.

Clark gave a thumbs up and smiled as she walked across the court after the buzzer and the crowd cheered her every move.

Boston, Fagbenle and Mitchell dominated the fourth quarter, with Mitchell hitting back-to-back 3-pointers.

Brink made a 3-pointer and Lexi Brown scored to draw the Sparks to 73-71. But Clark answered with her second 3-pointer with 40 seconds left and the crowd roared again as Indiana stayed in front, 76-71.

The Fever were just 7 of 25 from long range; the Sparks also struggled, going 5 of 24. — AP

By DAVE CAMPBELL

MINNEAPOLIS — Luka Doncic searched for find space as the clock ticked down, using a screen to draw Defensive Player of the Year Rudy Gobert out to the top of the key and a crossover dribble to set up his step-back 3-pointer.

With a swish and a shout, Doncic and the Mavericks are headed home with a 2-0 lead in the Western Conference Final on the Timberwolves.

Doncic hit the winner with 3 seconds left and posted his fifth triple-double of the playoffs to lead the Mavericks to a 109-108 victory over the Timberwolves on Friday night.

"I was just trying to get to my spot and step back. I'm confident in that shot," Doncic said.

Doncic had 32 points, 13 assists and 10 rebounds for his eighth triple-double in 42 career postseason games for the Mavericks, who erased an 18-point deficit that stood late in the second quarter and were still down 16 midway through the third.

"As you've seen with Luka, he loves that stage. He doesn't run from it," Mavericks coach Jason Kidd said. "I thought he was great the

Doncic, Dallas nix OT with late 3 for 2-0 lead

MAVS 109 **WOLVES 108** **Boxscore Page 29**

whole game, keeping guys together, his energy."

Naz Reid went 7 for 9 from 3-point range for 23 points, but his last try at the buzzer rimmed in and out to send the Wolves to Dallas for Game 3 on Sunday in a big hole after another off night by stars Anthony Edwards and Karl-Anthony Towns.

"First to four. Nothing's won," Doncic said. "You've just got to think about next game — not in the future, just this game."

Kyrie Irving had 13 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter, including a corner 3-pointer with 1:05 left that pulled the Mavericks within two. Then the Wolves sandwiched turnovers around a short miss by Doncic. Edwards threw the ball out of bounds off a drive with 13 seconds left, setting up Doncic's winner. — AP



FOR THE WIN! Mavericks guard Luka Doncic drills the decisive 3-pointer over Rudy Gobert — this season's Defensive Player of the Year — in the waning moments of Game 2 on Friday night. Getty Images

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SCHOOL'S OUT

By ZACH BRAZILLER

The avalanche began three years ago, with the advent of Name, Image & Likeness (NIL).

It has snowballed on the NCAA from there, with unprecedented freedom of movement for student-athletes in the form of the transfer portal and now Thursday's monumental settlement for nearly \$2.8 billion that calls for paying damages to thousands of former and current college athletes who were previously prevented from earning endorsement money and, moving forward, revenue sharing for athletes in the form of roughly \$20 million a year per school, if they so choose to spend that much.

How that will look exactly years from now is uncertain. College athletes could possibly become employees of schools and there is the potential of unionization and collective bargaining on top of that. But what is crystal clear is that the NCAA's archaic model of amateur athletics, going back over a century, is no more.

"It's the professionalization of the college sports enterprise," St. John's athletic director Mike Cragg told The Post in a phone interview. "What does that eventually mean? It's too early to tell,

NCAA's \$2.8 billion settlement marks 'professionalization' of college sports

or how that shapes up. I would not say this marks the day that professionalization started. But that's what I believe has been evolving over the last several years."

The NCAA had no choice but to settle, facing mounting losses in three antitrust lawsuits. So the governing body and its five power-conference leagues — the ACC, Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12 and SEC — settled with a multibillion-dollar agreement. It will play former athletes going back to 2016, and enable current and future ones to be paid directly by

schools for the first time. The settlement still has to be approved by Judge Claudia Wilken, who is presiding over the antitrust cases. The new revenue-sharing model is expected to begin in the fall of 2025.

In the meantime, what this new model will look like is unclear. Schools will have freedom to use the money how they see fit. Title IX, it should be noted, was not addressed in the settlement. It is a federal law that requires institutions to offer equal opportunities for male and female athletes. NCAA president Charlie Baker

has said Title IX only refers to opportunities not financial compensation. In other words, he doesn't believe it has to be distributed equally to men and women.

As part of the settlement there will be a reporting mechanism in place that will require athletes to report third-party NIL deals that are not part of revenue-sharing profits he or she receives from the school. The deal has to be "fair market value," which will be defined at a later date. But, this could be a way for schools and/or

boosters to go above the \$20 million they can pay players.

It's unclear who would be enforcing it. But NIL isn't going anywhere.

"The NIL space is somewhat ironclad because there would be lawsuit after lawsuit," an NIL industry source said. "It has everything to do with who you are as an athlete and your value and your marketability. ... Your value is really subjective."

NCAA leaders are looking to Congress to pass legislation that shields it from future antitrust lawsuits, enabling it to reshape college athletics with player compensation rules and a declaration that college athletes are not employees. Mike Aresco, former Big East and current American Athletic Conference commissioner, suggested that could also include reining in pay-for-play NIL deals and limiting player movement.

"The NCAA and the conferences are hopeful that by agreeing to this, it increases their chances of getting a federal law with an antitrust ex-

The wild west had more laws and regulations than we do. This isn't the wild west — it's worse than the wild west.

— Former Big East and current American Athletic Conference commissioner Mike Aresco (right)



CHANGES AFOOT: The future of the NCAA is as uncertain as ever following Thursday's landmark \$2.8 billion settlement agreement that is set to pay former college athletes and introduce revenue sharing that could see some schools pay \$20 million or more annually to their players.

N.Y. Post photo illustration

FOREVER

emption. I'm still skeptical that's going to happen," said Mit Winter, an attorney for Kansas City law firm Kennyhertz Perry who specializes in college sports law. "It's a big deal going forward, for sure."

Said Aresco: "The wild west had more laws and regulations than we do. This isn't the wild west — it's worse than the wild west."

Lesser revenue sports are likely to take a hit. A high-ranking power conference executive predicted "carnage" for Olympic sports, with schools dropping those that don't bring in money and upping the budget for profitable sports such as basketball and football.

"There's going to be a lot of cuts on these campuses," the executive said. "Sports are going to get relegated or moved down to Division III or club. To protect the money-making sports, other things are going to suffer."

That, of course, is speculation for now. There remains so many unanswered questions about this new college athletics model. It's brand new, with so many potential directions it can go in. There is one certainty, however: Amateur sports at the collegiate level is a thing of the past.

zbraziller@nypost.com

Notre Dame: Congress must intervene with law

Notre Dame had its statement ready in the wake of a bombshell NCAA settlement, and it wasn't vague on its stance about potential athlete compensation.

On Thursday, the NCAA and the nation's five biggest conferences came to an agreement to pay almost \$2.8 billion to settle several antitrust claims.

It's an agreement — which still needs a federal judge's approval — that, in Notre Dame's opinion, put the "great American institution of college sports" in jeopardy, as the ruling could potentially see millions being distributed to athletes' pockets in a revenue-sharing plan directly from colleges.

"The settlement, though undesirable in many respects and promising only temporary stability, is necessary to avoid what would be the bankruptcy of college athlet-

ics," said the university's president Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C. in a statement. "To save the great American institution of college sports, Congress must pass legislation that will preempt the current patchwork of state laws; establish that our athletes are not employees, but students seeking college degrees; and provide protection from further anti-trust lawsuits that will allow colleges to make and enforce rules that will protect our student-athletes and help ensure competitive equity among our teams."

The \$2.8 billion settlement will be paid over 10 years to more than 14,000 former and current college athletes, who have said that now-defunct rules have prohibited them from earning an income from endorsement and sponsorship deals going back as far as 2016.

— Bridget Reilly

On Thursday, a landmark settlement worth nearly \$2.8 billion was reached by the NCAA and its five power conferences leagues that will set in motion a groundbreaking revenue-sharing model in which college athletes will be directly paid by schools for the first time, likely starting in the fall of 2025. The Post's Zach Braziller breaks down the end of the governing body's amateur model and what to expect moving forward in this Q&A:

Q: Wait, so college athletes get paid now? Why did the NCAA agree to this?

A: It had no choice. It was facing major losses in three antitrust lawsuits that would've exceeded the nearly \$2.8 billion settlement. And, yes, it is expected — starting in the fall of 2025 — athletes can be paid directly by their schools through revenue-sharing in the form of roughly \$20 million a year. That figure could increase over time, dependent on more lucrative television deals being signed. As for the close to \$2.8 billion, that will go to approximately 14,000 claims of former and current players dating back to 2016. ESPN reported it will be divided up among athletes based on a formula created by a sports economist.

Q: What still has to happen before this becomes official?

A: California-based judge Claudia Wilken has to approve the settlement. There could be challenges, but it is expected to happen in the coming months.

Q: What is the next domino to fall?

A: Keep an eye on Congress. The NCAA is hoping for a federal law that affords it a limited antitrust exemption to create player compensation and transfer rules and a declaration that college athletes are not employees. Otherwise, the governing body will remain powerless in this new professionalized model. There is some optimism that the settlement created some goodwill with elected officials.

Q: How will schools distribute the revenue?

A: That is up to schools, based on the settlement terms. It is each institution's choice how they choose to use the \$20 million or so, how much of that allotment it chooses to pay players, which players it pays and how much is given to the individuals. It does not have to be spread out evenly, though Title IX was not included in the agreement. Title IX is a federal law that requires institutions to offer equal opportunities for male and female athletes. That's another issue that could be settled by the courts.



CHARLIE BAKER
NCAA president

Q: What does this mean for the lower-revenue sports?

A: It depends on the school, but common sense would suggest that football and basketball will be prioritized since they net the most money. A high-ranking, power-conference executive predicted "carnage" for Olympic sports.

Q: What does this mean for the future of athletic programs at smaller schools?

A: It will further distance the haves from the have-nots, the conferences that have lucrative television deals from the conferences that do not. The smaller leagues already have been used as somewhat of a feeder system for the bigger ones due to NIL, and this only will increase that chasm.

Q: How does this impact NIL payouts?

A: NIL isn't going anywhere. Collectives could be less of a factor moving forward, though. The settlement includes a reporting mechanism that will require athletes to report third-party NIL deals that are not part of the revenue-sharing profits he or she receives. The deal has to be "fair market value," which will be defined on a later date. But this could also be a way for schools and/or boosters to go above the \$20 million they can pay players. There is talk of a new enforcement arm being set up to monitor the NIL market once the settlement goes into effect. Keeping collectives could be a way for schools to circumvent the revenue-sharing cap that would give them an edge in recruiting.

Q: Where is the money for the settlement coming from?

A: NCAA reserve funds and insurance will pay for some of the settlement, and though the five power conferences were the ones named specifically in the lawsuit, the other NCAA member schools also will be part of the payout. The NCAA reportedly will pick up \$1.1 billion of the tab, with the power five conferences paying approximately \$1.65 billion and the other 27 Division I conferences paying \$990 million over the course of the next decade through profits distributed from the NCAA Tournament in men's basketball.





A FLOTT

Cor'Dale ready for opportunity

By RYAN DUNLEAVY

The Giants shopped for cornerbacks at the dime store this offseason because of a belief that Cor'Dale Flott is more than a nickel.

With a big need for a starting outside cornerback, the Giants did not re-sign three-year starter Adoree' Jackson or pivot to another high-priced veteran free agent. They did not draft a new starter in the second round. They did not turn to versatile defensive back Nick McCloud — whose \$2.9 million salary is double Flott's — as their first in-house solution.

A decision was made that the 6-foot-2, 177-pound Flott had been miscast last season as a nickelback who played 83 percent of his defensive snaps in the slot. When the Giants practiced Thursday, the

2022 third-round pick lined up as the No. 2 cornerback opposite Deonte Banks.

"The young man is a worker, a conscientious kid, he wants to do right, he wants to play well, he's naturally tough," defensive backs coach Jerome Henderson said. "If he was 200 pounds, he would be hell on wheels."

Flott, who is looking to gain a few more pounds, is one of the players most affected by the defensive coordinator change from Wink Martindale to Shane Bowen.

Despite his ideal lanky frame, Flott lacked the lower-body strength to stay healthy while playing Martindale's style of every-down perimeter press coverage. He was moved into the slot — a decision not everyone in the organization agreed with — and struggled in training camp.

Bowen's scheme requires a physical tackler in the slot — enter rookie third-round pick Dru Phillips — but the off-ball zone coverage principles could be a better fit for Flott to read and react on the perimeter.

"Excited for this opportunity," Flott said. "It gives me confidence that the coaches have confidence in me, that the team has confidence in me. I just need to continue to be the best version of myself. ... Being able to have a back to the sideline, being able to look at the quarterback, get more plays and opportunities on the ball."

Flott, 22, is entering his third season but still is younger than four of the Giants' six 2024 draft picks. Paired with Banks, 23, the Giants have the youngest duo of starting cornerbacks in the NFL.

"We don't really even think

WORKING HARD: Cor'Dale Flott, who is expected to be the Giants' No. 2 cornerback, runs a drill with Nick McCloud during practice at the Quest Diagnostics Center on Thursday. Corey Sipkin (2)

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OF PROMISE

as Big Blue's No. 2 cornerback

about that, if I'm being honest," Flott said. "We just think about being the best duo that there will be."

The Giants' only insurance if Flott falters is newcomer David Long Jr. (12 career starts) — signed for the veteran minimum — and Tre Hawkins (three), followed by slot-first corners McCloud (11) and Darnay Holmes (11). To lessen his injury susceptibility after nine career missed games, Flott added "more massages, more acupuncture and compression boots" to his routine.

"He's been tremendous this off-season — studying, working," Henderson said. "I expect Flott to have a really productive, good year for us. You hope he takes a really big jump, and he's doing everything to take that jump."

Even before head coach Brian

Daboll spoke a vote of confidence for Flott earlier this month, the Giants showed it.

General manager Joe Schoen traded the higher of two second-round picks (No. 39) to the Panthers in the package to acquire edge rusher Brian Burns, and then watched as four consecutive cornerbacks were selected Nos. 40-43. The Giants, who conducted pre-draft meetings with Bo Melton (Cardinals) and Kool-Aid McKinstry (Saints) at their facility, didn't trade up and drafted safety Tyler Nubin at No. 47.

"I took advantage of every opportunity I had from Year One all the way to Year Three now. The same urgency still applies," Flott said. "Most importantly, everybody is on their own timeline and you can't compare yourself to what other guys are doing.

"The best thing you can do is take notes from the veterans and figure out what works for you. Just picking guys' minds, that's what I started working on and getting better at."

Flott drew the difficult assignment Thursday of matching up with his former LSU teammate Malik Nabers. The much-hyped first-round pick beat Flott with a double-move down the seam for a touchdown and tested him with explosiveness in and out of breaks.

"He's definitely quick, and a lot of DBs will have to deal with it," Flott said. "I have to deal with it myself. It's good I get to go against him."

The Giants' quiet offseason at cornerback was a bet that Flott will hold his own in many other tough matchups ahead.

rdunleavy@nypost.com



Isles add extra pick in swap with Chicago

By ETHAN SEARS

The Islanders acquired more draft capital Friday, sending their first and second-round picks to the Blackhawks for a first-round pick and a pair of seconds.

Instead of picking 18th and 50th, the Islanders now hold the 20th, 54th and 61st overall picks at the draft a month from now in Las Vegas.

The deal essentially makes up for their lack of a third-round pick, which was traded at the 2023 deadline for Pierre Engvall.

General manager Lou Lamoriello had said at the trade deadline that moving the first-round pick was on the table, but trading it for more draft capital keeps the door open for future trades.

The Islanders have not prioritized draft picks under Lamoriello, who last made a first-round pick all the way back in 2019. Whether they do so this year is still an open question, with the picks representing some of their most valuable assets with holes to fill on the roster.

Giving their system — which is bereft of high-end prospects — a boost with this draft, though, would be a major help over the long term.

And the more picks the Islanders can make, the better their chances of doing that.

Sally Brompton

Daily Horoscope

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT YOURSELF AND WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS AT SALLYBROMPTON.COM

♊ GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

Good ideas will come thick and fast over the next 48 hours, but don't try to keep track of each one that pops into your head because you won't succeed. Carry a pen and notebook with you and jot down each idea the moment that it occurs.

♋ CANCER (June 22-July 23)

Use your talent for cutting through confusion and getting to the heart of a situation to find out why a friend is making such a mess of things. Once you have isolated what they are doing wrong you can suggest ways to change. They will thank you for it.

♌ LEO (July 24-Aug. 23)

Now is the ideal time to start a project that you have been thinking about for at least the past six months. It doesn't matter that you have not yet completed your planning, it matters only that you move to the next stage, the doing

stage, immediately.

♍ VIRGO (Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

Something will inspire you this weekend to look at your ambitions in a new light. Most likely you will realize that you have been aiming too low and need to raise your sights to a level where you can claim to be a leader rather than a follower.

♎ LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

You won't need to crack the whip to get things done this weekend - friends and loved ones want to please you to such an extent that they will deliver far more than is expected of them. Make the most of it, because you know it won't last!

♏ SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

This may not be make or break

time exactly but it is certainly a time when you need to push yourself a little bit harder and deliver a little bit more. Make sure colleagues do their bit as well - don't attempt to do it all on your own.

♐ SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

The task you face this weekend may look daunting but if you get together with people who share your desire to get ahead in the world you should be able to handle it. Many hands, and many brains, will make light work of the situation.

♑ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

If someone you had a bust-up with recently offers you an apology this weekend be smart and accept it - maybe even offer an apology of your own. You actually make a pretty good team

and it would be a shame to end it over something trivial.

♒ AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

Some of the insights you have over the next 48 hours will amaze those whose outlook on life is more limited than your own. They may be nothing much to you but to friends and colleagues they will look like genius. Make that work in your favor.

♓ PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

Keep your thoughts and feelings to yourself this weekend, because the less other people know about what is going on in your head and your heart the more room you will have to move in a new direction. Don't give too much away about yourself.

♈ ARIES (March 21-April 20)

Try not to be too intense in your activities this weekend. There is so much positive cosmic movement now that you should be aiming to be as laidback as possible. Everything you need and desire will come to you anyway, so why strive too hard?

♉ TAURUS (April 21-May 21)

If you have your suspicions that a colleague is up to no good you must act on them quickly. You may not want to cause a scene but better that than allowing them to carry on making an unholy mess of what should be a straightforward job.

BIRTHDAY SATURDAY

Don't hang back in the shadows - get out into the world and make use of your many talents. A combination of charm and determination will make it easy for you to get others over to your side - and your side will be the winning side.



Garrett blows lead in 8th inning as Mets dealt ugly defeat; Cohen at a loss

PEN EXPLODED

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

GIANTS 8
METS 7 **Boxscore**
Page 30

Everyone around the Mets agrees that they are fighting for their season.

The problem is that they are losing the fight.

Every game seems to bring a new gut-punch — or maybe to the face, like the beanball that Brandon Nimmo absorbed — for a free-falling Mets club that cannot stop this nosedive.

The Mets were four outs away from cruising to a streak-snapping victory before the typically reliable

Reed Garrett let up a stunning eighth-inning grand slam. They then were a split-second away from tying the game in the ninth, but Mark Vientos could not leg out an infield single in what became another devastating blow, this one an 8-7 series and homestand-opening defeat against the Giants at Citi Field on Friday.

“We’re angry. Obviously, we’re angry,” manager Carlos

Mendoza said after the Mets’ fourth straight loss. “Guys are going to be pissed. But at the same time, you have to stay positive.”

The Mets (21-29) have dropped six of their past seven and nine of their past 11. Each defeat — in each of the past three, they have homered three times, scoring enough but creating ways to lose elsewhere — seems more cruel than the last.

The mounting frustration led to a second clubhouse speech from Mendoza in the past week.

“He told us to keep fighting,” Adam Ottavino said. “It was good to hear. It’s hard sometimes when you get punched in the gut, and we’ve gotten punched in the gut a lot lately.”

Friday’s gut-punch included both a jab and a hook.

The jab arrived with Garrett — perhaps the best emergence among the Mets this season — on the mound with a 6-2 edge in the eighth inning.

“I let it kind of snowball out of control,” said Garrett, who was not exactly crushed.

A swinging bunt and a

bloop got him into trouble. A two-out, RBI double from former Yankee Thairo Estrada sent warning signs. Garrett lost Matt Chapman on a seven-pitch walk before throwing two balls to Giants catcher Patrick Bailey. He tried to sneak in a fastball that got too much of the plate.

“He got me,” Garrett said after letting up the go-ahead grand slam and later getting booed all the way to the dug-out by the 26,658 on hand.

Dealt a significant blow — and another in the top of the ninth when Mike Yastrzem-

ski homered off Jorge Lopez — the Mets remained on their feet and mounted a rally in the ninth.

Against fireballing closer Camilo Doval, the Mets kept avoiding the knockout blow. DJ Stewart doubled and scored on a Francisco Lindor single. Pete Alonso’s possible game-ending double play ball was booted by shortstop Marco Luciano. Brandon Nimmo walked, loading the bases with just one out.

But in flirting with a game-changing rally, the Mets were merely ratcheting up the

SLAMMED SHUT: Mets reliever Reed Garrett processes the go-ahead grand slam he surrendered to Giants catcher Patrick Bailey (right) during the eighth inning Friday night. All wasn't lost as the Mets nearly rallied in the bottom of the ninth, but Mark Vientos (inset) couldn't quite beat the throw on his slow roller as San Francisco held on at Citi Field.

Robert Sabo (2)

ON DECK

vs. Giants
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RHP Luis Severino



2024 stats:
2-2, 3.48 ERA

Career vs. SF:
0-1, 4.50 ERA

Last start:
May 18, at MIA;
6.2 IP, 6 H, 5 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

41% 4-Seamer
16% Sinker
13% Sweeper

RHP Jordan Hicks



2024 stats:
4-1, 2.38 ERA

Career vs. NYM:
3-1, 2.61 ERA

Last start:
Sun., vs. COL;
5 IP, 1 ER, 1 SO

PITCH BREAKDOWN

51% Sinker
23% Splitter
20% Sweeper

UP NEXT

SUNDAY: vs. Giants,
1:40 p.m., PIX11, WCBS
LHP Sean Manaea
vs. RHP Logan Webb

MONDAY: vs. Dodgers,
4:10 p.m., SNY, WCBS
TBD vs. TBD

INJURY REPORT

■ **Kodai Senga**, out with a right shoulder capsule strain, has been shut down for three to five days after an MRI exam showed inflammation in his triceps and received a cortisone shot.

■ **Francisco Alvarez** (left thumb surgery) is expected to take batting practice Saturday for the first time since the operation.

By DAN MARTIN

Kodai Senga's injury-riddled season had another setback as the right-hander reported discomfort in his triceps again Thursday.

So instead of throwing a bullpen session, Senga got an MRI exam which showed inflammation in the area, according to manager Carlos Mendoza. He also received a cortisone shot.

Senga will be shut down for three to five days and then have to go back to playing catch before he progresses to getting back on the mound.

But first, they have to make sure the shot takes care of the discomfort.

"The good thing is, we were able to look at his shoulder and elbow to make sure we were not missing anything and it was just inflammation," Mendoza said before the Mets' 8-7 loss to the Giants on Friday night at Citi Field. "We knew from the beginning it was going to take time."

Senga already skipped a scheduled bullpen session last weekend for the same reason.

The 31-year-old had previously been close to beginning a minor league rehab assignment before he backed off due to some mechanical issues.

After a promising rookie year with the Mets, Senga has yet to play since suffering a shoulder strain early in spring training.

Whenever Senga is healthy, he will need at least



KOD'ING ERROR: Mets ace Kodai Senga, who has not pitched since injuring his shoulder during spring training, will be shut down for three to five days. Robert Sabo

Setback, cortisone shot for rehabbing Senga

a month to build up before he would be able to get back into the Mets rotation.

While the Mets wait for Senga, there could be other changes to the rotation.

David Peterson made what might have been his final rehab start for Triple-A Syracuse on Friday, allowing seven hits and a pair of earned runs while striking out six over four in-

nings in an 89-pitch outing.

If the left-hander doesn't have any setbacks, Mendoza said a decision would need to be made regarding his next step.

Peterson has been out since undergoing offseason surgery to repair a torn labrum in his hip.

A potential move would be to bump Adrian Houser back to the bullpen after

Houser struggled again in his most recent start.

Asked if he would consider using Houser in the bullpen again, Mendoza said, "Sure."

Houser has an 8.55 ERA in seven mostly terrible starts this season and has allowed just one earned run in four innings in two appearances as a reliever.

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Diaz sharp in 7th-inning return to hill

By DAN MARTIN

While the Mets bullpen imploded Friday, this time it wasn't Edwin Diaz's fault.

Diaz, temporarily removed from his closer role, finally returned to the mound Friday for the first time since a third straight bad outing last Saturday in Miami.

Manager Carlos Mendoza said he wanted to get Diaz a lower-leverage situation and on Friday, that meant pitching the top of the seventh against the Giants with a three-run lead in an eventual 8-7 loss.

After jogging to the mound with a toned-down version of his typical "Narco" entrance music, Diaz responded by tossing a scoreless inning.

"Today was really good," Diaz said. "I've got to keep working. I think it was my

METS NOTES

best outing this season."

With better command of his fastball and slider, he allowed a single, struck out two and walked off the field to chants of "Edwin Diaz" from the Citi Field crowd.

Afterwards, he said he was ready to resume closing if asked.

"I would feel OK," Diaz said. "If they give me the ball [Saturday] in the ninth, I will be ready."

Mendoza praised Diaz's performance, especially the "conviction" with which he threw his pitches and didn't rule out using Diaz in the ninth inning, but made no guarantees.

Prior to the game, though, he made it clear that Diaz would be back there at some point.

"For us to get where we

want to get to, we need Edwin Diaz to be at his best and I'm pretty confident he will get there," Mendoza said. "This is too good a pitcher for this to continue." Diaz acknowledged that his confidence had been an issue during his recent poor stretch and Mendoza said that's what's impacted his performance.

► **Brandon Nimmo** was drilled in the head by a 91-mph fastball from San Francisco's **Kyle Harrison** in the bottom of the third of Friday night's game at Citi Field and somehow remained in the game despite clearly being staggered by the pitch.

The ball hit Nimmo in the ear flap he has attached to his helmet, which certainly prevented more damage.

"I added that last year and it saved me," Nimmo

said. "I just know I was surprised. I was just trying to regain everything when I got hit."

He was kept on his feet by **J.D. Martinez**, who walked over from the on deck circle as Nimmo stumbled in his direction, shaking off the effects of the plunking.

After being checked out by the Mets' training staff, Nimmo remained in the game and stole second base.

► **Drew Smith**, still rehabbing from right shoulder inflammation that's kept him on the IL since April, is set to make a rehab appearance Sunday for high-A Brooklyn, according to Mendoza.

Smith had been shut down with a recurrence of soreness in the area, but he is scheduled to throw an inning Sunday.

pain that was to come with the game-ending hook. J.D. Martinez struck out on three pitches. Vientos hit a slow tapper to the wrong person: four-time Gold Glover Matt Chapman, who barehanded and threw strong across the diamond just in time to break the Mets' hearts.

How about their spirits?

"We're trying to stay upbeat. We're trying to stay positive," said Nimmo, who remained in the game after initially appearing dazed on a third-inning beaming, adding that he has passed concussion

tests. "We're going through a rough time right now as a team, but there are still things to celebrate inside of here. I really felt like the guys fought really, really well tonight."

The Mets absorbed another blow Friday, one that their owner — who already green-lit one sell-off — noticed.

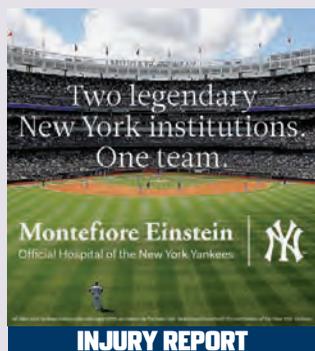
"What a stretch, mind boggling," Steve Cohen tweeted. "I know how disheartening this is for our fans. [Thank you] for caring so much."

— *Additional reporting by Dan Martin*

msanchez@nypost.com

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Reliever **Nick Burdi** landed back on the injured list Friday with right hip inflammation, the same issue that cost him nearly a month earlier this season.

Gerrit Cole (elbow nerve inflammation) is expected to face hitters Saturday for a second time in live batting practice. If he comes through it healthy, he could do one more live session or begin a rehab assignment.



at Padres

Saturday, 9:40 p.m., YES, WFAN (660 AM, 101.9 FM)

RHP Marcus Stroman



2024 stats:
3-2, 3.05 ERA

Career vs. SD:
4-0, 1.76 ERA

Last start:
Monday, vs. SEA;
7.1 IP, 3 H, 1 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

40% Sinker
18% Slider
16% Cutter

RHP Dylan Cease



2024 stats:
5-3, 3.05 ERA

Career vs. NYY:
1-1, 6.75 ERA

Last start:
Monday, @ ATL;
4.0 IP, 9 H, 5 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

44% 4-Seamer
41% Slider
8% Curveball

UP NEXT

SUNDAY: at Padres, 4:10 p.m., YES, WFAN
RHP Clarke Schmidt vs. RHP Joe Musgrove

TUESDAY: at Angels, 9:38 p.m., YES, WFAN
TBD vs. TBD

HAVING A BLAST!

By GREG JOYCE

SAN DIEGO — Considering Juan Soto's flair for the dramatic — not to mention his “generational” talent — was there ever any doubt?

In his first game back at Petco Park since the Padres traded him to the Yankees, Soto crushed a monster home run that set off a three-homer inning on the way to an 8-0 win on Friday night.

Aaron Judge went back-to-back with Soto for the first time before Giancarlo Stanton clobbered a two-run shot two batters later as the Yankees (36-17) went bombs away on Yu Darvish in a five-run third inning.

“To see him come out in a packed house and do his thing, that’s just a normal Friday night for Juan,” Judge said.

Soto, who added a double while going 2-for-4, described the decisive third inning as “electric.”

The trio combined for 1,249 feet of home runs in a matter of minutes, marking the second time all three have homered in the same game.

“Things escalated quick,” Stanton said with a wide grin. “That’s what we’re capable of.”

It was more than enough run support for Carlos Rodon, who quieted the Padres (27-27) with six shutout innings to kick off a 10-day, nine-game West Coast trip in style.

Darvish had entered the game with a 25-inning scoreless streak but the Yankees ambushed him for seven runs across 5²/₃ innings, including a fourth home run as Gleyber Torres later went deep in the fourth inning.

But it was Soto, who was met with louder boos than cheers

Soto goes deep in San Diego return as Yanks pound Padres

YANKEES 8
PADRES 0 [Summary Page 30](#)

when introduced to the sellout crowd of 43,505, that got the party started.

“It was a thing when he was coming to the plate,” manager Aaron Boone said. “You could feel it in the stadium. It was a great environment. He answered like he usually does.”

Soto was also robbed of extra bases by right fielder Fernando Tatis Jr. in the seventh inning. But his 14th home run of the season, a two-run shot, was the longest of the Yankees’ bunch on Friday, traveling an estimated 423 feet and prompting Tatis Jr. to barely move.

“I think Juan Soto always shows up when the lights are bright,” Rodon said. “Almost to be expected at this point.”

Two pitches later, Judge made it back-to-back, drilling a 409-foot home run to left field. It marked Judge’s third home run in as many games, his 10th in the last 18 games and his 16th of the season to continue a torrid month of May.

Then, after Alex Verdugo sliced a single off the left-field wall, Stanton visited the second deck of the Western Metal Supply Co. building in left field for his 13th home run of the season. The 417-foot

blast made it a 6-0 Yankees lead.

Through the Yankees’ first 53 games of the season, Soto, Judge and Stanton have combined for 43 home runs — more than four full teams have hit.

It was exactly the kind of night the Yankees envisioned when they acquired Soto in the December blockbuster, pairing him Judge and Stanton to form a three-headed monster.

It was also the kind of night that Soto felt he didn’t show enough of during his time with the Padres. After batting .265 with a .893 OPS and 41 home runs across 214 games with the organization, Soto was not sure what kind of crowd reaction to expect Friday.

“It’s kind of tough for me because they were right there every day for me,” Soto said before the game. “I tried my best, I played hard every day, but I didn’t play my best. That’s one of the things I was sad about because I couldn’t show them how great I can be. But it is what it is.”

But Soto sent a reminder on Friday, with his fellow sluggers following his lead as the Yankees won for the 16th time in their last 20 games.

“Definitely fun,” Soto said. “It was pretty cool to see the guys coming through against a guy like that [Darvish]. It’s huge.”

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BOMBS AWAY: Not only did slugger Juan Soto go deep Friday night, but so did three of his Yankees teammates. Aaron Judge (inset, celebrating after Giancarlo Stanton went deep) homered immediately after Soto, and Gleyber Torres also hit a round-tripper in the Yankees’ 8-0 win.

Getty Images; AP



UGLY SCENE: Jon Berti is in agony after suffering an apparent injury to his left leg Friday night in San Diego. Getty Images

Berti exits after left calf injury.

By GREG JOYCE

YANKEES NOTES

SAN DIEGO — A feel-good Yankees win on Friday night turned worrisome in the ninth inning, when Jon Berti suffered a serious-looking injury.

The third baseman roped a ground ball to the right side, took two steps out of the box and then hit the deck in pain with what manager Aaron Boone said was a left calf injury.

Boone and Yankees trainers quickly tended to Berti, who was eventually helped off and walked very gingerly as he went straight into the clubhouse. Oswaldo Cabrera replaced him at third base for the bottom of the ninth in the Yankees' 8-0 win over the Padres at Petco Park.

"Just grabbed on him out of the box," Boone said. "We'll see what we have. I'm sure we'll get imaging and all that, but obviously the way he walked off, looked like it got him pretty good."

Assuming Berti lands on the injured list, Boone said the Yankees would call someone up from Triple-A (Oswald Peraza could be a candidate) instead of bringing DJ LeMahieu back from his rehab assignment early. LeMahieu is expected to play two more rehab games this weekend with Scranton/Wilkes-Barre before likely joining the Yankees in Anaheim on Tuesday.

Berti missed time earlier this season with a groin strain but was hitting .273 with a .649 OPS through 17 games. He hit a single and stole a base Friday before getting injured.

➤ Even without his swing-and-miss stuff, **Carlos Rodon's** bounce-back season continued Friday night.

In yet another sign of his matu-

ration as a pitcher, Rodon found a way to stifle the Padres with six shutout innings on a night when he wasn't racking up whiffs.

Rodon generated just four swings-and-misses, a season low, but allowed only six base runners on three singles and three walks. It came after he induced a season-high 22 whiffs his last time out against the White Sox.

"The offense was on fire again and it made it easy to go attack the zone," Rodon said.

Most importantly, Rodon turned in a fourth straight quality start. Over his past four games, all wins, the left-hander has allowed just five runs across 24 $\frac{1}{3}$ innings, lowering his ERA to 2.95 through 11 starts.

➤ **Nick Burdi** landed back on the 15-day IL Friday with right hip inflammation, the same injury that forced him to miss nearly a month earlier this season. The Yankees recalled right-hander **Yoendrys Gomez** from SWB to take his spot in the bullpen.

Gomez, who has been starting at SWB, struck out the side in the ninth inning Friday. He was expected to be a placeholder in the bullpen until **Ian Hamilton** is activated off the COVID IL, likely on Sunday.

➤ **Anthony Volpe** extended his career-high hitting streak to 17 games when he led off the night with a triple down the third-base line. He eventually came in to score on **Aaron Judge's** sacrifice fly for the 1-0 lead.

➤ **Gerrit Cole** is scheduled to throw another live batting practice session on Saturday in Tampa.



HITTING STRIDE

THE start made the end possible. In the moment, the goal felt like more than merely one goal.

It wasn't the game-winner. That would come later — off the stick of Rangers uncannily clutch and versatile center Barclay Goodrow at 14:01 of overtime that would send the Garden into a state of utter delirium.

The Goodrow goal evened this air-tight conference final series 1-1 with a 2-1 Rangers win in Game 2 in front of an anxious and electric capacity Garden crowd.

But it was the Rangers' first goal that felt like it carried so much weight. It felt so much more significant in a big-picture way than simply one tally on the scoreboard.

The Rangers, as expected down 1-0 in the series, assaulted the Panthers in the opening minutes, getting off to a dream start when they took a 1-0 lead on a Vincent Trocheck goal just 4:12 into the game.

There was a gravity to the goal because it came as a result of the kind of physicality the Rangers completely lacked in Game 1. A tone that was missing in Game 1 was being set in the early minutes of Game 2. The Rangers were fighting back.

The Trocheck goal was made possible by a crunching hit by Alexis Lafreniere on Panthers star Carter Verhaeghe in front of the net. The hit freed up the puck and opened space in front of Florida goalie Sergei Bobrovsky for Trocheck to take an Adam Fox feed and bury it from the back door.

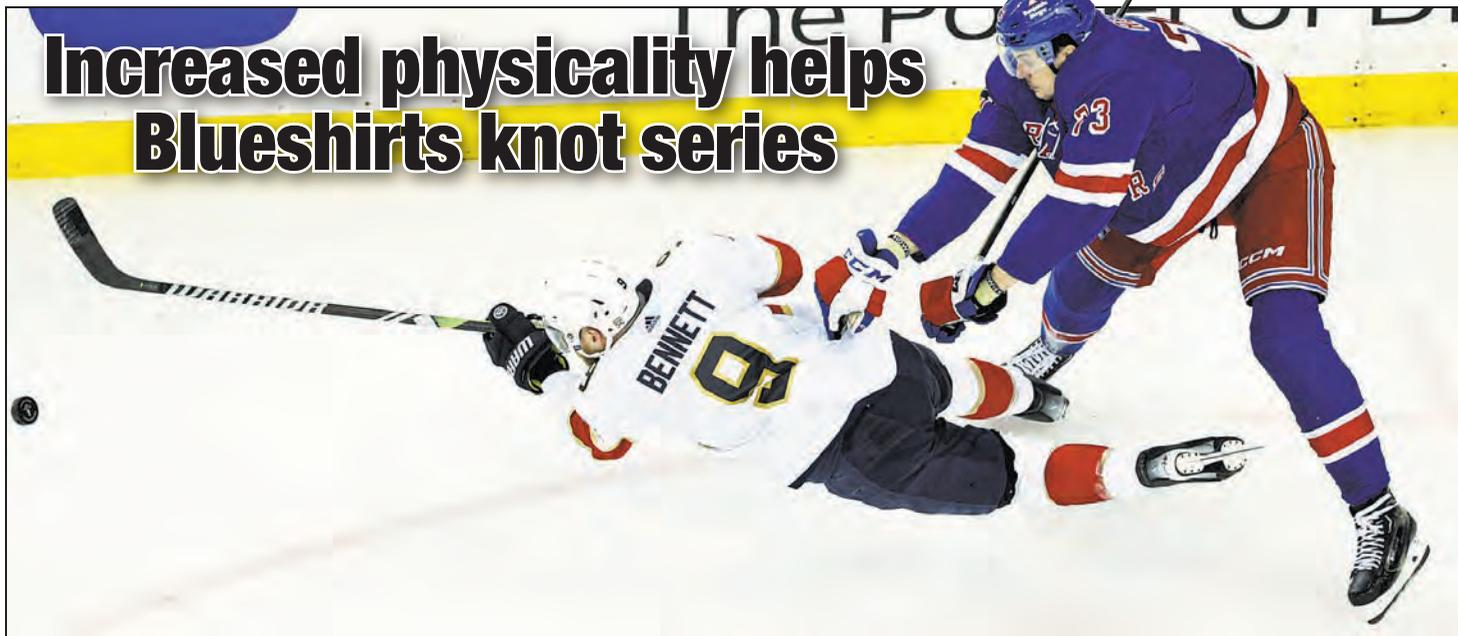
So much happened in that singular play.

The Rangers, who were shut out in Game 1, scored a goal and finally gave the Garden faithful something to cheer about.

And Lafreniere, who was a goat in Game 1 when he scored an own goal and missed several scoring opportunities, was the catalyst to the play with tone-setting physicality.

"That goal was all Laffy," Fox said. "He might not get an assist on it, but if he doesn't throw that [check], they might be going the other way. Instead, [the puck] got to Troch at the back door. When you get shut out, you want you want to get that first one. You

Increased physicality helps Blueshirts knot series



BOOM! Rangers enforcer Matt Rempe checks the Panthers' Sam Bennett to the ice during the second period of Game 2 of the Eastern Conference Final on Friday night at Madison Square Garden. The rookie's physical play helped the Blueshirts tie the series at 1-1. Getty Images



Mark Cannizzaro

don't want to let that go too long and get too frustrated. That was really just a massive play there."

Rangers captain Jacob Trouba talked about the Rangers being "not happy with our play in Game 1," adding, "That wasn't our best effort."

That was a theme among the Rangers afterward, the disgusting

taste they had in their mouths from Game 1 and the determination to right what they did wrong in that game, which was to allow Florida to dictate play.

"There was just more emphasis on bringing out our 'A' game," Trocheck said. "We didn't love the way we played in Game 1, and I thought tonight we came out right out of the jump with more energy."

The Rangers would persevere and hold off a confident and unafraid Florida team that entered the night having won five of its six road playoff games (including four in a row) this postseason.

Before the game, the Panthers had a pretty good idea of two things they'd be facing Friday:

■ A desperate, physical onslaught from the Rangers, who were facing their first desperation moment of these playoffs, during which they'd mostly played from the front foot.

■ And Matt Rempe, the Rangers 6-foot-8½-inch, rough-and-tumble rookie who was a healthy scratch in Game 1.

After the Panthers Game 1 victory, coach Paul Maurice said he had "a pretty good idea" of what moves Rangers coach Peter Laviolette might make for Game 2.

He wouldn't say what those were. But surely, Rempe's playing was at least one of them.

Rempe didn't score the game-winner. In fact, he didn't score at all. But his presence immediately energized the Garden crowd.

"I thought he had a really good impact," Laviolette said.

Whether Rempe was the difference in the Rangers victory is in the eye of the beholder. The important thing for the Rangers, though, is that they regained the home-ice advantage as the teams head to Florida for Game 3 on Sunday.

Before the game, the Panthers reacted to Rempe's potentially playing with what amounted to shrugged shoulders — despite the fact that the Rangers are now 21-3-1 with him in the lineup.

"The crowd certainly loves him," Verhaeghe said. "He's a big, physical player. You've got to be aware of him when he's on the ice. But whatever players they have in their lineup, it's not going to change our game."

At the very least, even if in a small way, it helped change the Rangers' game.

It helped change the result of the most important game of their season.

It helped change the series.

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Rempe makes big impact in short time

Matt Rempe's day started with him spinning a yarn about his off-day trip to a White Plains escape room with Adam Edstrom.

It ended some 13 hours later with him standing amidst a crowd in the Rangers' locker room, talking about his reaction when Peter Laviolette called his name late in the 2-1 overtime victory over the Panthers.

"I heard Lavi call my name with two minutes left. I was like, 'Oh man, let's go. Jiminy Crickets,

let's go,'" Rempe said. "Just tried to go out there, buzz around, do my job. Just felt really good in the game. I felt good with the puck, felt good with the D-zone. Overtime, got an O-zone shift, I was pretty excited about that one. It was just a blast. So much fun."

The 21-year-old got his first action of the conference final Friday night after being at the center of a 48-hour news cycle in which everyone from Wayne Gretzky to Mark Messier called for him to

be inserted into the Rangers' lineup.

And then he only went out and lived up to the billing, playing 10:03, throwing nine hits and contributing all over the ice in a game the Rangers had a concerted physical edge compared to the Game 1 loss.

And, in part because Jimmy Vesey went down, Rempe got some ice time in the third period and even in overtime.

— Ethan Sears

Saturday
Today: Nice with sun, some clouds. High 78 to 84.
Tonight: A late-night t-storm in spots. Low 59 to 65.
Monday
 A heavy t-storm. High 69 to 75.
Evening
 Rain, a t-storm. Low 62 to 68.

Sunday
Tomorrow: More humid; a t-storm around in the p.m.. High 78 to 84.
Tomorrow night: Low clouds. Low 61 to 67.
Tuesday
 Breezy and warmer. High 77 to 83.
Evening
 Mainly clear. Low 60 to 66.

Peekskill 83/59
 White Plains 79/58
 Stamford 78/59
 Bridgeport 76/58
 Riverhead 73/55
 Montauk 71/58
 Southampton 67/53
 Paterson 83/62
 Newark 81/65
 La G 80/65
 Garden City 76/60
 Deer Park 76/58
 JFK 74/59
 Long Beach 68/60
 Sandy Hook 70/64
 Asbury Park 71/60
 Manasquan 72/60
 Toms River 78/59
 Long Beach 69/59
 Atlantic City 81/60
 Ocean City 72/60

Forecast data is current as of 6 p.m. yesterday. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.
 Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, r-rain, t-thunderstorms, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice

New York Tides

	TODAY		TOMORROW	
	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
High Tide for	9:41a	9:49p	10:27a	10:36p
Coney Island	9:40a	10:10p	10:26a	11:00p
Fire Island	12:43a	1:18p	1:26a	2:02p
Hempstead	12:53a	1:28p	1:36a	2:12p
Huntington	9:25a	9:33p	10:11a	10:20p
Jones Inlet	11:09a	11:17p	11:55a	---
Montauk Point	12:41a	1:17p	1:25a	2:00p
Port Washington	9:45a	9:53p	10:31a	10:40p
Sandy Hook				

Regional cities

	TODAY	TOMORROW
Albany	82/60/t	86/64/s
Danbury	82/59/pc	84/60/t
Glens Falls	79/58/c	81/59/s
Gr Barrington	82/57/pc	82/61/s
Kingston	84/59/t	84/62/s
Liberty	80/56/t	82/60/s
Monticello	82/56/t	82/61/s
Newburgh	85/59/pc	87/60/pc
Poughkeepsie	85/58/pc	87/60/pc
Saratoga Springs	80/60/c	84/61/s
Stroudsburg	85/60/t	85/62/t
Torrington	83/58/pc	86/59/pc
Syracuse	86/60/t	83/64/pc

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today 5:30 a.m.
 Sunset tonight 8:16 p.m.
 Moonrise today 11:00 p.m.
 Moonset today 6:38 a.m.

Last New First Full
 May 30 June 6 June 14 June 21

Almanac

YESTERDAY'S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 6PM

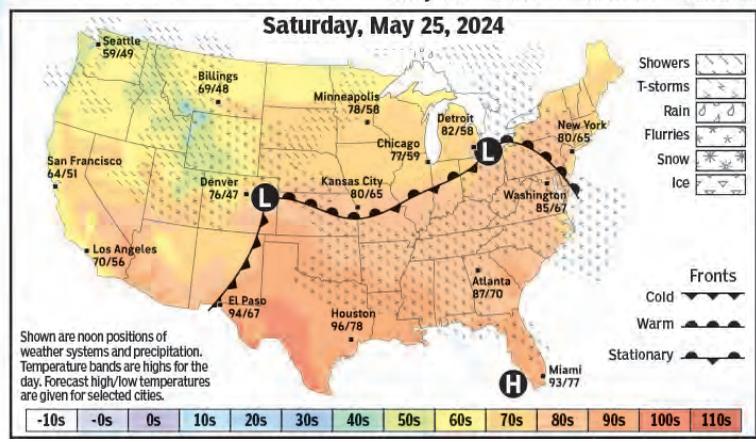
Temperature
 High: 84, Low: 68, Mean: 76

Departure from Normal
 Yesterday: +11 degrees

Precipitation
 Yesterday: 0.00", Month: 2.32",
 Year: 22.18", Normal year to date: 18.32"

Cooling Degree days yesterday 11
Total for the month (normal) 55 (41)
Total since Jan. 1 (normal) 74 (55)
Last year to date 76
Heat Index (at noon yest.) 78
UV Index (for Sat.) 10 (Very High)
Humidity (at noon) 24%

AIR QUALITY
Pollen: Moderate Predominant pollen: Oak, Mulberry, Sycamore
AQI rating: (for Sat.) Moderate



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Kakko gets scratched for Game 2

By MOLLIE WALKER

For the second time in three years, Kaapo Kakko was a healthy scratch in the Eastern Conference Final.

The Finnish wing had to watch from the press box for Game 2 against the Panthers on Friday night at Madison Square Garden, marking the first time Kakko has been benched since ex-head coach Gerard Gallant did it in Game 6 of the 2022 conference final in Tampa Bay.

RANGERS NOTES

"I think you always look at your lineup and you evaluate it," head coach Peter Laviolette said of potential lineup changes Friday morning. "I don't necessarily know if it's [overreacting versus looking for a spark regarding lineup changes]. I was pretty honest, I think we're capable of playing better. I think we did good things. I think the scoring chances we generated, although there weren't an enormous amount of them because that's just not what happens when you play Florida. I do think that we got six or seven really good looks.

"Inside of that, we need to make some of those looks pay off. ... So there's things I think you can just look at the lineup itself and not necessarily about if there's a move or not a move, but look at the lineup itself and get better with that game, with that plan, with that group.

"And if you make a move, you make a move. But I think we got to look at the bigger picture and look at getting better on the ice."

As a result, Matt Rempe drew back into the lineup for the first time since Game 5 of the second-round series against the Hurricanes. The 6-foot-8 1/2 forward returned to his usual post on the fourth line next to Barclay Goodrow and Jimmy Vesey.

➤ The Rangers played nearly half the game with 11 forwards after **Jimmy Vesey** got knocked out of the contest by Panthers forward **Ryan Lomberg**.

The fourth-line wing was hunched over on the bench for some time before he made his way to the locker room, where he remained for the remainder of the game with what the team described as an upper-body injury.

"He's being evaluated," Laviolette said. "So we'll see."

SAVING GRACE: Igor Shesterkin makes a save on a diving shot by Brandon Montour during the second period of the Rangers' 2-1 overtime win over the Panthers. Vincent Trocheck (inset) scores the Blueshirts' first goal past Sergei Bobrovsky.

N.Y. Post: Charles Wenzelberg (2)

Rangers bounce back from Game 1 dud with an extra-hard-fought win

REBOUND FOR GLORY

THE team that majors in hugs had two of them at the Garden on Friday and they might have been two of the most meaningful hugs — I mean huddles, no I mean hugs — of the season.

For there was the hug at center ice with the Blueshirts enveloping Barclay Goodrow, who became a particular hero of the night by beating Sergei Bobrovsky from 30 feet at 14:01 of overtime to give his team a 2-1 Game 2 victory over the Panthers that squared the conference final at one-apiece before the next two in Florida.

Then, there was the belated hug behind Igor Shesterkin's net, about 100 feet from the first celebration. The goaltender, you see, did not allow himself to

party until he saw an official signal a good goal after checking with the Toronto situation room.

"I was so happy, but I wait until the ref show that [it counts]," Shesterkin said, making the "good goal" motion with his right hand. "Sometimes you can lose a lot of emotion after [a goal is allowed] so I wanted to wait."

The Rangers were so much better in this one after Wednesday's nothingburger of a 3-0 Game 1 defeat and not all the credit should go to Matt Rempe, who recorded nine hits in 10:06 of ice time that included five

shifts in the third period and one in overtime, should it?

Well, no. The Blueshirts were on their toes from the start. They attacked. They got in on the forecheck. Sometimes No. 73 can be contagious. Or maybe it wasn't that. Maybe it was the Rangers

just being the Rangers and responding the way they have since Day One.

Wednesday, the Rangers were credited with 27 hits in a rather polite contest. Friday, they had 46 hits after regulation before finishing with 51 to the Panthers' 42 in a much more contentious

match. It's only going to ratchet up as the series continues.

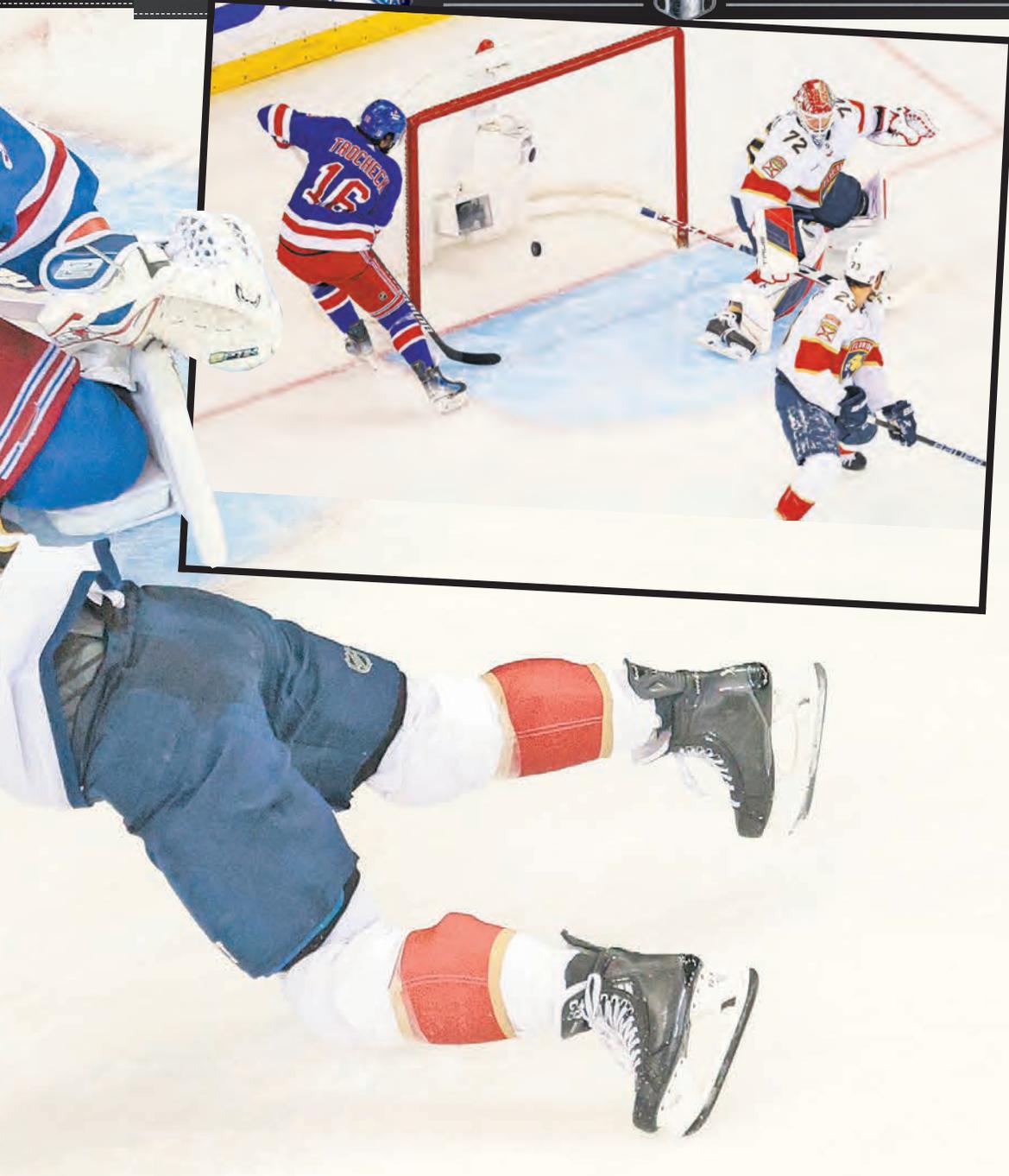
"Physicality is going to be a big part of the series, especially going down to Florida," said Jacob Trouba, whose outstanding breakout pass to Goodrow under heavy forecheck pressure from Ryan Lomberg set the game-winning rush in motion. "That's what makes our game good.

"I think we're a better team when we're skating and getting pucks to the net."

Rempe was a breath of fresh air. He pretty much always is. He got extra time because Jimmy Vesey went down with an upper-body injury in the second period and Peter Laviolette was not cutting down to 10 forwards. There was no reason to sit Rempe, whose shifts created an elevated



Larry Brooks



Lafreniere, 2nd line make big first impression

By ETHAN SEARS

As a collective, the Rangers had insisted for two straight days that Alexis Lafreniere was both in the right spot on his unfortunate own goal that ended the competitive portion of Game 1 and that he would get over the moment quickly.

At least on the second of those points, it took a hair over four minutes into Game 2 for Lafreniere to prove his teammates and coach Peter Laviolette right.

That was when Lafreniere created the opening goal of the night by leveling a hit on Carter Verhaeghe that, perhaps, could have been called interference. But it was not. So the puck instead leaked to Adam Fox, who hit Vincent Trocheck on the backdoor for a 1-0 lead.

“Just try to be physical and fore-check hard,” Lafreniere said. “Try to generate chances for the line.”

That weight, at least, was off the Rangers’ shoulders early, and so is some of the weight of the series after Barclay Goodrow’s overtime goal gave them a 2-1 victory and sent the conference finals to Florida tied at one.

For a second straight game on home ice, the second line of Lafreniere, Trocheck and Artemi Panarin was the Rangers’ best in Game

2, with the top six as a whole getting its chances while the bottom six struggled for much of the evening.

The matchup game has not been particularly vital so far, but it is noteworthy that — in general terms — Trocheck’s line has seen a lot more of Anton Lundell’s than Aleksander Barkov’s. Unless Paul Maurice changes that equation when Florida gets the matchup advantage in Games 3 and 4, that puts the impetus on the second line to produce.

Job done, at least so far. In Game 2, they only held a 95.04 expected goals percentage while on the ice.

And, just as important, there was zero hint of Lafreniere’s confidence being hurt after Game 1.

“I don’t think really that big [a deal], honestly. Those things happen,” captain Jacob Trouba said. “Happens to everyone. Happens to defensemen probably more than forwards. It’s one of those things, obviously an accident, tough break. Rolls off your back.

“He’s been a huge player for us all year, all playoffs. His line’s been great. They were good tonight. I don’t think he’s too worried about it. He usually has a smile on his face. I hope he’s not worried about it ‘cause he’s a great player for us.”

level of noise in the arena, each and every one of them.

“The fans, they’re great,” said Rempe. “I didn’t want to let anybody down.”

The Rangers took a 1-0 lead at 4:12 when Vincent Trocheck converted Adam Fox’s goal-mouth feed. But they could not build the lead. They failed on four power plays. The Panthers caught them at 18:09 of the second when Carter Verhaeghe beat Shesterkin from the slot off a stutter-step move.

The Panthers wouldn’t beat Shesterkin again even through large swaths of the third period and overtime when the Puddy Tats were able to pin the Blueshirts in their own end for shifts at a time. Shesterkin was never under siege, the shots

were 30-27 for New York, but there always seemed to be activity at his crease with the Panthers sending pucks and bodies to the net.

“I think every game is a little bit stressful. You need to be ready for everything,” the goaltender said. “Sometimes it’s a lot of shots, sometimes not so much and you just need to play focused.”

This is Shesterkin’s third playoff run with the Blueshirts, not including the 2020 bubble series against Carolina in which he started the third and final game of the Canes sweep after Henrik Lundqvist had started the first two. Shesterkin has started 40 consecutive postseason contests.

“He chills, doesn’t say much,

doesn’t say anything, really,” Trouba said when asked about Shesterkin’s demeanor in the room. “Quickie’s kind of chattering in the corner and Igor’s just getting in his zone, doing his thing.”

Doing his thing by stopping the puck. Doing his thing by imbuing his team with confidence.

“We are confident in each other,” Shesterkin. “We all have trust. We are on the same page.”

This is a heavyweight fight, a best-on-best battle to play for the Stanley Cup. It’s not pretty. It’s a punch in the mouth. It’s Barclay Goodrow. It’s Matt Rempe. It’s Igor Shesterkin.

The Rangers are seven wins away from hugging it out at the Canyon of Heroes.

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WHAT A FEELING! Barclay Goodrow (left) and Alexis Lafreniere celebrate Goodrow’s game-winning goal during the Rangers’ 2-1 overtime victory over the Panthers.

Getty Images

GARDEN OF

By MOLLIE WALKER

The Rangers we've come to know hit the ice in overtime of Game 2 of the Eastern Conference Final on Friday night at Madison Square Garden.

The team that rises in high-pressure situations.

The team that can gut it out when it has to.

The team that coined "No Quit in New York" as its mantra for a reason.

RANGERS	2	Game 2, OT Sum., P. 31
PANTHERS	1	

Once Barclay Goodrow scored 14:01 into the extra period to snag a 2-1 win over the Panthers and even up the series at one win a piece, the complexion of the series shifted in an instant as it heads down to Florida.

"Tonight was a huge game for us," said Goodrow, who now has the same amount of goals (4) in 12 playoff games as he had in 80 regular-season games. "I think we weren't completely satisfied with the way we played in [the 3-0 loss in] Game 1. Think we wanted to rebound with a better game, and I think we feel a lot better with how we played tonight."

The Rangers were a lot crisper inside of their system and harder on the forecheck in this one.

And with Matt Rempe coming in for Kaapo Kakko, who was a healthy scratch in an Eastern Conference Final game for the second time in three years, the 6-foot-8 ½ forward had the impact on the building that he always does.

The Garden crowd even cheered when Goodrow was kicked out of the faceoff circle and Rempe stepped in to win the draw.

It all allowed the Rangers to strike first with their first goal of the series.

The second line bulldozed back into the offensive zone and went straight for the net as

Goodrow's OT goal lifts Rangers past Panthers to split East Final



RIGHT BACK IN IT:

Barclay Goodrow's blast in overtime beats Panthers goalie Sergei Bobrovsky before setting off a wild celebration at the Garden as the Rangers took Game 2, 2-1, and rebounded from their loss to open the Eastern Conference Final. The series shifts to Florida for Game 3 on Sunday.

Jason Szenes (2); AP

Adam Fox fed Vincent Trocheck for the easy tap-in and the 1-0 lead at the 4:12 mark of the first period.

Alexis Lafreniere knocked over Carter Verhaeghe in the process and drew the ire of the Panthers forward, causing a

scrum to break out as the Garden crowd sang the goal song.

"I liked the start," head coach Peter Laviolette said. "I liked the

first eight minutes or so, 10 minutes maybe. We were good defensively, putting pucks behind them, trying to be physical."

The Rangers earned a power play out of all the extracurricular activities, but the Panthers penalty kill has shackled the top unit so far in this series. After going 0-for-2 in Game 1, the Blueshirts went 0-for-4 in the Game 2 victory, including a four-on-three opportunity for 1:25 in the second period.

But the Panthers power play evened the game at one-all at the end of the opening frame on a goal from Verhaeghe.

That score carried through the second and third periods, during which it felt like the Panthers — once again — had the upper hand at times. The Rangers were also down to 11 forwards by the second half of the middle frame after Jimmy Vesey absorbed a massive hit from Panthers forward Ryan Lomberg and missed the remainder of the game.

Struggling to connect on their rush opportunities, the Rangers seemed to be consistently getting knocked off the puck in transition. The Panthers broke up most odd-man rush chances and were first to most pucks.

However, the Rangers worked through the bruising hits, the difficulties they had in transition and the stretches of suffocating moments in their own end to pull out a much-needed victory.

It appears that every victory against this Panthers team will be no small feat.

For right now, this feat belongs to the Rangers.

"I think it was just more emphasis on bringing our A-game tonight," Trocheck said. "We didn't love the way we played in Game 1, we didn't love our execution. I thought we came out right from the jump with more energy. Our forecheck was a lot better, we didn't give them very much. I think overall we just liked our game a lot better."

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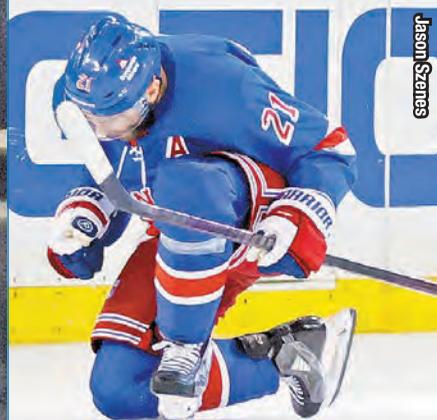


EVEN!



POWER PLAYS

By Ethan Sears



Jason Szarnes

THREE STARS



BARCLAY GOODROW (top)

After scoring the game-winner and crucially keeping the Rangers from going down 2-0 in the series, what more is to be said?



VINCENT TROCHECK

Trocheck's line was again the most effective for the Rangers and No. 16 netted the opening goal when he got on the end of Adam Fox's feed less than five minutes into the game.



CARTER VERHAEGHE

The Florida winger helped change the tide of the game with a power-play goal late in the first period to take the air out of the Rangers, who were buzzing at the start of the night.

KEY STAT

9 Hits by Rangers rookie Matt Rempe in his conference finals debut.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"He's one of those guys that gets teams to win, as he's shown in his career. For him to get rewarded like that, it's awesome."

— Jacob Trouba on Barclay Goodrow

THE SERIES

EASTERN CONFERENCE FINAL

Game 1: Panthers 3, Rangers 0

Game 2: Rangers 2, Panthers 1 (OT)
Series tied, 1-1

Sunday: at Panthers, 3 p.m., ABC

Tuesday: at Panthers, 8 p.m., ESPN

Thursday: at Rangers, 8 p.m., ESPN

June 1*: at Panthers, 8 p.m., ABC

June 3*: at Rangers, 8 p.m., ESPN

* if necessary

Blueshirts add another playoff legend to lore

By ETHAN SEARS

Instead of Matteau, Matteau, Matteau, it was Goodrow, Goodrow, Goodrow.

Nearly 30 years to the day, on another Memorial Day weekend, it was Barclay Goodrow ending a conference final game in overtime, skating in off the rush and unleashing a snap shot for a 2-1 victory over the Panthers that stopped it from getting late early for the Rangers in this series.

It wasn't Game 7. But only one team in conference final history has ever come back after losing the first two games at home, and that was the 1945 Red Wings, back when it was the semifinals and not the conference final. So make no mistake, this was the Rangers fighting for their lives.

And it is every bit fitting that Goodrow — who did, once upon a time, end a Game 7 in overtime on his stick, for the Sharks in the 2019 first round against Vegas — was the hero.

"He's been so important to the locker room, the leadership group, a lot of stuff that nobody ever sees or talks about," captain Jacob Trouba said. "He's a massive part of this team and the way he's been playing in the playoffs, it's a big reason. He's one of those guys that gets teams to win, as he's shown in his career."

"For him to get rewarded like that, it's awesome. He's a big-time player. He shows up in big-time games."

Want to understand how Goodrow has elevated his game in the playoffs? He has as many postseason goals (4) and as many postseason points (12) as he did in 80 regular-season games.

Want to understand it further? Goodrow was 10-of-13 at the faceoff dot Friday night — likely a big reason Peter Laviolette was comfortable with two-thirds of his fourth line on the ice for a defensive zone draw 13:35 into overtime with the season on a knife's edge.

"Don't really remember how it went in," Goodrow said. "I just remember [Vincent Trocheck] made a great pass to me and [Will Cuyllé] was driving the net, opening the lane. It was a great play by those two."

It was a play from Goodrow that will go down in Rangers lore if this team reaches the promised land. The 31-year-old was brought in three years ago at the low cost of a seventh-round pick to bring a winning edge to the bottom six, having been a part of back-to-back titles with the Lightning.

That is exactly what he has done, in ways big and small.

"When you get a player who can do everything, where a coach can rely on that person, that's a pretty useful tool in the toolbox," Laviolette said. "He takes faceoffs, plays all three forward positions. You want him out there at the end of the game."

As Friday night turned to Saturday morning, that's exactly where he was.

Goodrow, Goodrow, Goodrow.

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Global TV/YouTube

ON ISLAND TIME In a very Mike White twist, Jon Lovett (left), the “Pod Save America” co-host who used to write speeches for Barack Obama, is leaving the studio and entering the wilderness after being cast in the latest season of “Survivor.”



Gypsy's Next Act

“The Kardashians” fans were shocked to see none other than **Gypsy Rose Blanchard** (far left) in Season 5 preview footage. We have a feeling **Kim's** (left) legal career is tied to this one, but when it comes to this famous family, who knows?

WireImage; Getty Images for The Met Museum/Vogue

TV Saturday

LOVE ON THE BRAIN

Victor Alli on ‘Bridgerton’ Season 3 and his character’s fate

By MEGHAN O’KEEFE

ONE of the best surprises in “Bridgerton” Season 3 Part 1 was the reveal that the mystery man silently smitten with Francesca Bridgerton (Hannah Dodd) was John Stirling, Earl of Kilmartin (Victor Alli)! Fans of Julia Quinn’s “Bridgerton” romance novels would have immediately

realized the character’s significance, but the impact of this reveal might have slipped by casual fans of the Netflix show.

Big John Stirling spoiler, but in the books, the Earl of Kilmartin is Francesca’s first husband. He dies tragically of what appears to be a headache, but modern neurological experts would recognize as a stroke or brain aneurysm. The loss is horrific for Francesca and Michael Stirling. Further fueling the drama is Michael’s secret love for Francesca!

So when Victor Alli’s version of John Stirling, Earl of Kilmartin first catches Francesca’s eye at a ball, “Bridgerton” book fans realized they were potentially getting to see how Francesca’s story began. Of course, “Bridgerton” showrunner Jess Brownell and her writers have been playing fast and loose with the source material.

“I don’t know what’s gonna happen,” “Bridgerton” star Victor Alli confessed to Decider during a Zoom conversation this week. “I actually have no idea what they’re planning on doing with my cousin.” We’ll have to tune into “Bridgerton” Season 3 Part 2 on June 13 to find out!

DECIDER: When did you find out you were playing John Stirling? And when did they clue you in on his role in the “Bridgerton” saga?

VICTOR ALLI: When I first auditioned, I didn’t [know]. When I did the chemistry read, it was revealed to me that I’m playing this character called John



Liam Daniel/Netflix (2)

Stirling. And I’m going to be meeting Francesca, played by Hannah Dodd.

It was pretty interesting being part of a project where the characters are real in these books. What’s amazing about reading a book is that you start to learn more about the characters, you know, you get attached to them. You sort of make your own connections with them.

How were you and Dodd able to capture that initial spark without a lot of dialogue or even looking at each other?

I loved those scenes so much because as actors, we think that we have to speak to communicate. Obviously, it is a way of communicating, but also I found so much joy in just not saying anything, but still saying so much through body language.

Some fans have been wondering if Francesca is on the spectrum. Did you talk about that? How did you see the characters and their connection?

I’ve never come across that, but what I love about their relationship is that it’s so real. There are people out there who are just really shy. And there are people who are so front-footed and extroverted. You know, some people meet for the first time and there are fireworks and there’s clothes being ripped off. But John and Fran, they’re just really tender and precious.

John seems to make no bones about pursuing Francesca. Do you think that he came to London with marriage in mind, or it

swept him off his feet?

I think it did sweep him off his feet. I think that when he finally met Francesca for the first time outside the ball, I think the thought of marriage flashed in his mind. He goes against the grain, which is what I love. He goes against the tradition of the town and how things are meant to happen. He just goes against the expectations and the norms of society.

This is getting into spoiler territory, but I’m sure everyone is asking you about Michael Stirling. Can you tease anything?

I’m excited for my cousin to come. I don’t know what’s gonna happen. That’d be a nice sort of dynamic, the three of us. You know, there might be fists or there might be arms of joy and hugs and love.

I’ve already seen some amazing fan edits of John and Francesca on social media. Have your friends and family shared any of these with you?

I think they’re just going with the flow. They’re just watching the episodes. I don’t think they know the fate of my character. I think I might tell them at some point that my character does pass away. But, hey, they might laugh at me and say, “What did he die of?” [sighs] “A headache.”

Meghan O’Keefe is a senior critic at Decider.com



Christian Weber/Showtime

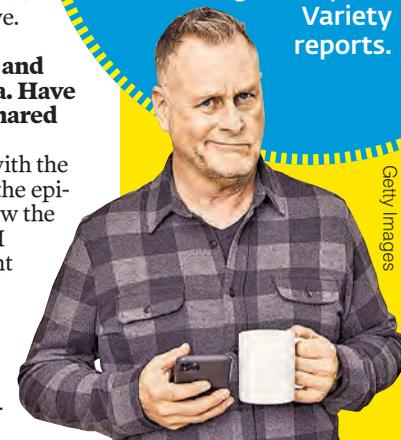
Bloody Good News

Paramount+ with Showtime is forging ahead with its “Dexter” prequel series. “Dexter: Original Sin” has tapped Patrick Gibson to play the younger version of killer Dexter

Morgan, and has also found its Harry in Christian Slater and its Debra with Molly Brown.

DOCTOR’S ORDERS

“Full House” star Dave Coulier (below) is making the move from San Francisco to Detroit. The actor is set to star in and co-create “Doctor Dave,” a series in which he’ll play a pediatrician at a Michigan hospital, Variety reports.



Getty Images

Victor Alli stars in the latest season of Netflix’s “Bridgerton.”

What's on Tonight



DRAMA

Forrest Gump: 5:30 p.m. on PARSHO. **Tom Hanks, Sally Field.** A slow-witted man changes the lives of those around him during the turbulent times in America.



ACTION

Men in Black: 5:30 p.m. on VH1. **Will Smith, Tommy Lee Jones.** A veteran agent and a new recruit must recover an item that has been stolen by a villain.



FANTASY

Beetlejuice: 6 p.m. on AMC. **Michael Keaton, Alec Baldwin.** The spirits of a couple are harassed by an unbearable family that has moved into their home.

Evening	SP	C	F	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm	
2	WCBS	2	2	2	CBS Weekend News	Entertainment Tonight	The Equalizer: All Bets Are Off (R)	48 Hours: The Circleville Letters (R)	48 Hours: The Fenn Treasure (R)	Dateline NBC	CBS 2 News at 11PM	(11:35) 1JD Films			
4	WNBC	4	4	4	NBC Nightly News	Paid Program	LX.TV: 1st Look (R)	The Wall: Monet and Kevyn (R)	Weakest Link: Days of Our Lives Special (R)				News 4 New York at 11	Saturday Night Live	
5	WNYW	5	5	5	(6:00) 6 O'Clock News	MLB Baseball: Los Angeles Dodgers at Cincinnati Reds from Great American Ball Park. Live.					The 10 O'Clock News		We Are Family: Family Man (R)		
7	WABC	7	7	7	ABC World News	A Long Island Summer	Localish Life	NBA Countdown Live.	2024 NBA Playoffs: Eastern Conference Finals Game 3: Boston Celtics at Indiana Pacers from Gainbridge Fieldhouse. Live.					Eyewitness News at 11	
9	WWOR	9	9	9	(6:00) TMZ	Extra		Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	The Listener: The Bro Code	In Depth	Raw Travel (R)	
11	WPIX	11	11	11	Paid Program	Paid Program	The Big Bang Theory	I Am Steve McQueen (2014, Documentary) Kristin Kreuk.			PIX11 News at Ten with Kaity Tong	Seinfeld: The Letter	Seinfeld		
13	WNET	13	13	13	GZero World	RFDS: Royal Flying Doctor Service		The Paris Murders: Radio Silence	Funny Face (1957, Musical) Audrey Hepburn. NR ★★★		(10:50) My Man Godfrey (1936, Comedy) William Powell, Carole Lombard. ★★★½				
21	WLIW	21	21	21	PBS News	Mack (R)	Firing (R)	Midsomer	(8:45) Midsomer Murders	The Paris Murders	Masterpiece (R)		Epic Train		
25	WNYE	25	22	25	Day's Work	Her B Idea	Build Ser	Jared Diamond's Third	To Be Announced		Day's Work	Profiles	GZero		
31	WPXN	31	3	531	(6:00) SVU	NWSL Live.	NWSL Soccer Live.		NWSL On	NWSL Soccer Live.					
41	WXTV	41	6	41	Noticiero	Tú Crees?	Tú Crees?	Parker (2013, Crimen) Jason Statham. R ★★★½			El príncipe	Noticiero	Noticiero		
47	WNJU	47	16	12	Noticias	Precious Cargo (2016) R ★★		Lone Survivor (2014, Thriller) Mark Wahlberg. R ★★★				Noticiero	Noticias		
55	WLNY	55	10	10	Equalizer	Man	Man	Queens	Queens	Neighbor.	Neighbor.	In Touch	Judge Judy	Women Of Wrestling	
A&E	46	46	181	Homicide	Homicide Squad (R)	Homicide Squad (R)	Homicide Squad (R)	(10:01) Homicide Squad	(11:04) Homicide Squad						
AMC	54	43	231	(6:00) Beetlejuice (1988, Comedy) ★★★½	Uncle Buck (1989, Comedy) John Candy. PG ★★★	The Great Outdoors (1988, Comedy) Dan Aykroyd.									
BET	37	54	270	Madea's Protection (2012) Tyler Perry.	Tyler Perry's Acromony (2018, Thriller) Taraji P. Henson. R ★★	Madea's Family Reunion									
BBCAM	71	101	189	The Lost Boys (1987, Horror) Corey Feldman. R ★★★	The Goonies (1985, Adventure) Sean Astin. PG ★★★	The Lost Boys (1987) ★★★									
BRAVO	18	44	185	Below Deck	Below Deck: Unfinished	Below Deck (R)	Below Deck: Love Never	Below Deck: Deadliest (R)	Below Deck (R)						
CNBC	15	24	102	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank						
CNN	78	25	100	Newsroom	CNN Newsroom	CNN Special	CNN Special	CNN Special	CNN Special						
COM	45	50	190	50 First Dates (2004) ★★★	Just Go With It (2011, Comedy) Adam Sandler. PG-13 ★★★½	We're the Millers (2013, Comedy) Jennifer Aniston. R									
DIS	49	31	250	Kiff (R)	Big City (R)	Big City (R)	Ice Age (2002, Comedy) Ray Romano.	Miraculous	Miraculous	The Ghost	Big City (R)	Phineas			
DSC	66	27	120	Caught! (R)	Caught! (R)	Caught! (R)	Caught! (R)	Caught! (R)	Caught! (R)	Caught! (R)	Caught! (R)	Caught! (R)	Caught! (R)	Caught! (R)	
E!	24	51	196	Superbad (2007, Comedy) Jonah Hill. R	The Other Guys (2010, Comedy) Will Ferrell. PG-13 ★★★	Superbad (2007, Comedy) Jonah Hill. R									
ESPN	28	36	70	Softball	College Softball: NCAA Super Regionals Live.	College Softball: NCAA Super Regionals Live.	College Softball: NCAA Super Regionals Live.	College Softball: NCAA Super Regionals Live.	College Softball: NCAA Super Regionals Live.	College Softball: NCAA Super Regionals Live.	SportsCenter Live.				
ESPN2	29	35	74	(5:00) NLL Lacrosse Live.	College Softball: Teams TBA	College Softball: Teams TBA	College Softball: Teams TBA	College Softball: Teams TBA	College Softball: Teams TBA	College Softball: Teams TBA	College Softball: Teams TBA	College Softball: Teams TBA	College Softball: Teams TBA	College Softball: Teams TBA	
FBN	43	106	117	(6:00) TBA	To Be Announced (R)	To Be Announced (R)	To Be Announced (R)	To Be Announced (R)	To Be Announced (R)	To Be Announced (R)	To Be Announced (R)	To Be Announced (R)	To Be Announced (R)	To Be Announced (R)	
FNC	44	26	118	Fox Report	The Big Weekend Show	Life, Liberty & Levin	One Nation	Fox News Saturday Night	Gutfeld! (R)						
FOOD	50	97	164	Grocery (R)	Guy's Grocery Games (R)	Diners (R)	Diners (R)	Diners (R)	Diners (R)	Diners (R)	Diners (R)	Diners (R)	Diners (R)	Diners (R)	
FREFRM	38	49	199	Dalmatians	Wreck-It Ralph (2012, Adventure) John C. Reilly. ★★★½	(9:20) Ralph Breaks the Internet (2018, Comedy) John C. Reilly. PG ★★★									
FS1	400	99	83	NASCAR Cup	Pickleball: NYC Open Saturday Live.	The Pokerstars	MLB Baseball Live.								
FX	10	40	53	(5:30) Raya and the Last Dragon (2021)	Moana (2016, Comedy) Dwayne Johnson. PG ★★★½	Mulan (2020, Action) Yifei Liu. PG-13 ★★									
HALL		191	240	(6:00) A Whitewater Romance (2024)	Big Sky River: The Bridal Path (2023)	A Lifelong Love (2023, Romance) Andrea Brooks.									
HGTV	64	98	165	Hunt (R)	Hunt (R)	Hunt (R)	Hunters (R)	Hunters (R)	Hunters (R)	Hunters (R)	Hunters (R)	Hunters (R)	Hunters (R)	Hunters (R)	
HIST	40	47	128	Aliens (R)	Ancient Aliens (R)	Ancient Aliens (R)	(9:02) Ancient Aliens (R)	(10:05) Ancient Aliens (R)	(11:05) Ancient Aliens (R)						
ID	23	171	123	Murder (R)	In Heartland (R)	Deadly Women (R)	Deadly Women (R)	Twisted Cover Up	Deadly Women (R)						
LIFE	62	45	140	(6:00) The Girl Who Escaped (2023) NR	Cruise Ship Murder (2024, Thriller) Skye Coyne. NR	(10:03) The Beach House Murders (2024, Thriller) NR									
MeTV	33	33	3	Stooges	Stooges	Stooges	Movie				Batman	Star Trek			
MSG	27	87	78	NY Rangers	NY Giants	NY Giants	The Juice	The Bettor	The Juice	The Juice	JB Smoove	JB Smoove	JB Smoove	JB Smoove	
MSG Plus	48	88	80	(12:00) FanDuel	Racing Live.	High Stakes Duel	High Stakes Duel	High Stakes Duel	High Stakes Duel	High Stakes Duel	High Stakes Duel	High Stakes Duel	High Stakes Duel	High Stakes Duel	
MSNBC	14	23	103	Capehart	Beat Ari Melber (R)	Beat Ari Melber (R)	Beat Ari Melber (R)	Beat Ari Melber (R)	Beat Ari Melber (R)	Beat Ari Melber (R)	Beat Ari Melber (R)	Beat Ari Melber (R)	Beat Ari Melber (R)	Beat Ari Melber (R)	
MTV	20	53	210	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	
NATGEO	65	162	121	Smuggler	To Catch a Smuggler (R)	To Catch a Smuggler (R)	Border	To Catch a Smuggler (R)	To Catch a Smuggler (R)	To Catch a Smuggler (R)	To Catch a Smuggler (R)	To Catch a Smuggler (R)	To Catch a Smuggler (R)	To Catch a Smuggler (R)	
NICK	6	121	252	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	
OWN	173	180	145	Marriage	Marriage: Huntsville (R)	Marriage: Huntsville	The Never Ever Mets (R)	Marriage: Huntsville (R)	Marriage: Huntsville (R)	Marriage: Huntsville (R)	Marriage: Huntsville (R)	Marriage: Huntsville (R)	Marriage: Huntsville (R)	Marriage: Huntsville (R)	
PARMT	36	56	54	(6:22) Yellowstone (R)	(7:29) Yellowstone (R)	(8:31) Yellowstone (R)	(9:37) Yellowstone (R)	(10:37) Yellowstone (R)	(11:37) Yellowstone (R)				Ryan ★★★★★		
SNY	26	60	77	(6:00) Broadway Boxing Replay.	Yeah ...	Yeah ...	Broadway Boxing: Broadway Boxing 2401 Replay.	Sports Live.	Sports Live.						
SYFY	17	48	180	(5:15) The Mummy (1999, Adventure)	The Mummy Returns (2001, Adventure) Brendan Fraser. PG-13 ★★★½	The Da Vinci Code (2006)									
TBS	8	39	52	(5:15) Thor: Ragnarok (2017) ★★★★★	All Elite Wrestling: Collision	Thor: Ragnarok (2017, Adventure) Chris Hemsworth.									
TCM	82	41	230	A Farewell to Arms (1932) Helen Hayes.	Attack (1956, Action) Jack Palance. ★★★	Captains of the Clouds (1942) James Cagney. NR ★★									
TLC	52	28	139	Doubling	Doubling Down with (R)	OutDaughtered	OutDaughtered	OutDaughtered	OutDaughtered	OutDaughtered	OutDaughtered	OutDaughtered	OutDaughtered	OutDaughtered	
TNT	3	37	51	Suicide R	NHL Pregame Live.	2024 Stanley Cup Playoffs: Edmonton Oilers at Dallas Stars. Live.									
TVLAND	85	34	241	Mike	Mike	(7:35) Mike	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	(9:20) Loves Raymond	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Seinfeld	Seinfeld		
USA	16	38	50	Ultron ★★★½	Captain America: The First Avenger (2011, Action) Chris Evans. ★★★	Captain America: The Winter Soldier (2014, Action) Chris Evans.									
VH1	19	52	217	(5:30) Men in Black (1997) Will Smith.	Men in Black II (2002, Action) Tommy Lee Jones. ★★	Men in Black III (2012, Science Fiction) Will Smith.									
WE	59	42	149	(6:00) NCIS	NCIS: Good Wives Club	NCIS: Vanished	NCIS: Lt. Jane Doe	NCIS: The Bone Yard	NCIS: Terminal Leave						
YES	53	89	76	Yankees Classics: 1998 World Series-Game #4	Yankees	Pregame	MLB Baseball: New York Yankees at San Diego Padres. Live.								
HBO	511	301	400	(5:40) A Star Is Born (2018, Drama) R	Gaga Chromatica Ball	(9:57) We're Here (R)	Gaga Chromatica Ball (R)								
MAX	531	371	420	(6:14) Fifty Shades Freed (2018) R ★½	The Manchurian Candidate (2004) R ★★★½	(10:10) Don't Let Go (2019, Mystery) Storm Reid. R ★★★½									
MGM Plus	595	395		Pennyworth	(7:15) Pennyworth (R)	Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part One (2023) PG-13 ★★★½	(10:45) The Beekeeper (2024, Action) R								
PARSHO	551	321	365	(5:30) Forrest Gump (1994, Drama)	The Last Voyage of the Demeter (2023) R ★★★	Talk to Me (2023, Horror) Sophie Wilde.	Machinist R								



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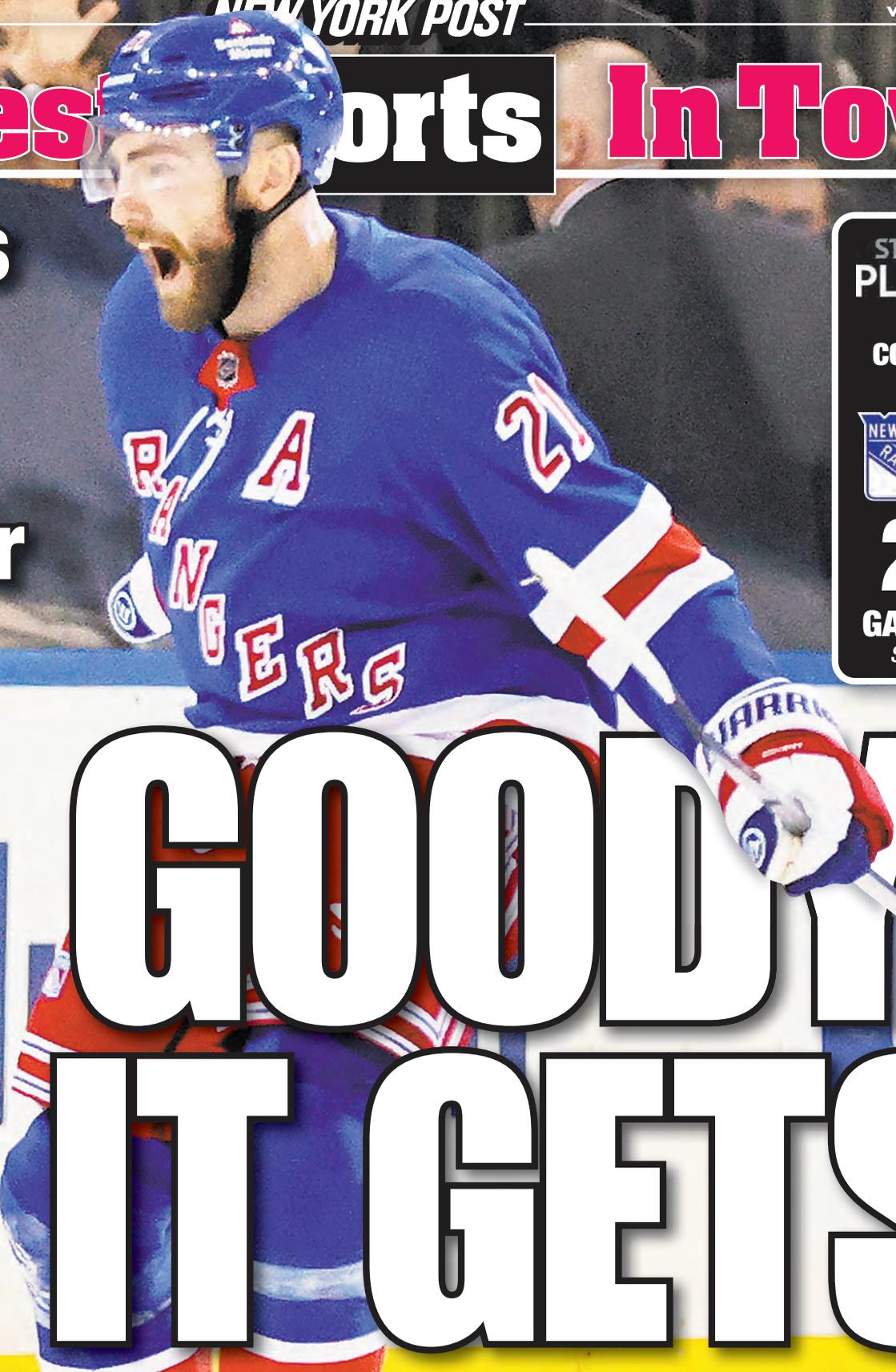
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Barclay's OT goal evens series for Rangers



STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS
 EASTERN CONFERENCE FINAL
 
2-1
 GAME 2 (OT)
Series tied, 1-1

AS GOOD AS IT GETS!

Jason Scarsis

Barclay Goodrow lets out a celebratory yell after scoring the game-winning goal in the Rangers' 2-1 overtime win over the Panthers on Friday night at Madison Square Garden. The best-of-seven series is even at a game apiece with Game 3 Sunday in Florida. **PAGES 49-44**



LATEST DEBACLE HAS COHEN AT A LOSS

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