



AP

Bloodied but unbowed, ex-president survives assassination bid

Former President Donald Trump was wounded by a sniper's bullet at a campaign rally in Butler, Pa., Saturday evening. A bloodied Trump raised his fist defiantly as he was ushered from the stage by Secret Service agents. He is reportedly recovering, and his would-be assassin was killed.

PAGES 2-11

TRUMP SHOT



TRUMP SURVIVES

● **Wounded in ear at Butler, Pa., rally**

● **Secret Serv. kills rooftop gunman**

By JOE MARINO
and PATRICK REILLY

Former President Donald Trump was wounded on a Pennsylvania campaign stage by a sniper's bullet Saturday night in an assassination attempt that nearly claimed his life, law-enforcement sources told The Post.

Trump, who was speaking at an outdoor rally in Butler, Pa., when bullets started flying, later posted on his Truth Social site saying he "felt the bullet ripping through the skin" and said it "pierced the upper part of my right ear."

"I knew immediately that something was wrong in that I heard a whizzing sound, shots, and immediately felt the bullet ripping through the skin," said the 78-year-old presumptive Republican presidential nominee. "Much bleeding took place, so I realized then what was happening."

The gunman was later identified as Thomas Matthew Crooks, 20, of Bethel Park, sources told The Post.

Shots broke out just after 6:10 p.m. as Trump showed off a chart of border crossing numbers. Footage shows him grabbing his ear as shots are fired — with the crowd screaming behind him — and then someone yelling "Get down, get down, get down, get down!" as Secret Service agents piled on top of him to shield him.

As blood gushed from his ear, Trump was rushed off stage — but not before boldly pumping his fist into the air and twice telling the crowd to "fight!" He was then whisked away in a car to a Pittsburgh-area hospital.

"He came within inches of having his face shot open," a senior law-enforcement source told The Post.

Crooks, a white man, was not immediately identified because he wasn't carrying identification on him. He was killed by a Secret Service assault team.

Officials at a press conference early Sunday said that the FBI did not yet know the motive for the

shooting. Local prosecutors said one unidentified rallygoer was killed and another wounded.

Crooks was believed to have crawled on the roof of a manufacturing plant about 400 feet from Trump at the Butler Farm Show grounds, outside the security perimeter, according to law-enforcement sources.

The counter-sniper team returned fire from the roof of another building close to where Trump was located, behind the audience stands.

An AR-style semiautomatic rifle was recovered from the scene, law-enforcement sources said.

House Oversight Committee Chairman James Comer announced that his panel will open an investigation into the shooting.

"Political violence in all forms is un-American and unacceptable," he said.

"There are many questions and Americans demand answers."

'There was lots of blood'

Video reportedly from the scene shows the gunman dead on the roof of a warehouse, with Trump supporters gathered around.

Other video circulating on X, showed two Secret Service snipers stationed on a roof near Trump responding to the shots from the gunman, quickly taking aim and opening fire.

One witness, who said he was an ER doctor, told CBS News that he rushed toward the podium following the shooting and found one Trump supporter with a bullet wound to the head.

"There was lots of blood, and he had brain matter there," the man said.

Video shows one man being carried off the risers behind Trump, and a helicopter apparently evacuated the victim.

About 2½ hours after the shooting, President Biden called the attack on his Republican opponent "sick," but said "I don't know



enough" to say it was an assassination attempt.

"Look, there's no place in America for this kind of violence. It's sick. It's sick. It's one of the reasons why we have to unite this country," Biden said.

"We cannot allow for this to be happening. We cannot be like this. We cannot condone this."

'I continue to pray'

However, five days earlier, Biden was heard in audio of a campaign meeting saying, "It's time to put Trump in a bullseye" with regards to the campaign.

Biden returned to the White House on Saturday night, cutting short a weekend stay at his beach

home in Delaware. The White House later confirmed that Biden and Trump spoke.

Trump's children shared heartfelt messages following the attack.

"Thank you for your love and prayers for my father and for the other victims of today's senseless violence in Butler, Pennsylvania," Ivanka, a former White House top adviser, wrote on social media.

"I am grateful to the Secret Service and all the other law enforcement officers for their quick and decisive actions today . . . I love you Dad, today and always," she wrote.

Eric Trump called his father the "toughest man I have ever met," while Donald Trump Jr. said his father will "never stop fighting to

Save America."

Sources said Trump was in good spirits Saturday night. A helicopter at the hospital in Butler was seen taking off after the shooting.

Trump's campaign confirmed he would attend the Republican National Convention, which starts Monday, as planned.

"President Trump looks forward to joining you all in Milwaukee as we proceed with our convention to nominate him to serve as the 47th President of the United States," it said. The statement reiterated that Trump is "doing well and grateful to . . . first responders for their fast action."

Additional reporting by Victoria Churchill and Matthew Sedacca

SNIPER'S BULLET

TARGETED: Secret Service agents rush Donald Trump off the stage Saturday as blood runs down his face after the former president was shot in the ear (opposite page) in an assassination attempt during a rally in Butler, Pa.



'Ignored' rallygoers saw would-be

In the crosshairs



Donald Trump grabbed his ear after gunshots erupted about five minutes into his speech while he was talking about illegal immigration.



Trump dropped to the ground, still clutching his ear, as Secret Service agents rushed the stage to cover him.



Secret Service and other law-enforcement officers held the former president down until the gunshots — nine of them — stopped.



nypost.com
New York Post, Sunday, July 14, 2024

PBS

Getty, AP

R

assassin on roof before shooting DON FANS TRIED TO WARN COPS

By JOE MARINO
and CHRIS NESI

Witnesses desperately tried to warn police that a rifle-toting sniper was crawling on a roof moments before gunfire erupted at the Trump rally Saturday.

The gunman believed to have been behind Saturday's assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump was later shot and killed by Secret Service, sources told The Post.

The shooter, later identified as a white male named Thomas Matthew Crooks, 20, was in a sniper position located hundreds of yards away from Trump's podium in Butler, Pa., as he spoke to a campaign crowd, sources said.

Bullets rang out in the middle of his remarks, and Trump put his hand to his right ear before being tackled to the ground by Secret Service agents. Seconds later, Trump rose to his feet and told his security detail to "wait" before pumping his fist and shouting "fight" to the shaken crowd.

"He came within inches of having his face shot open," a senior law enforcement source said.

Secret Service 'dazed'

No further information about the shooter or his motive was available.

Bystander footage captured in the aftermath of the gunfire shows what appears to be a deceased man in light-colored military fatigues splayed out on a rooftop a few hundred feet from the rally stage.

Several Trump supporters interviewed outside the event by BBC News described seeing a suspicious person "bear crawling" up the roof of a nearby building ahead of the shooting.



"He had a rifle — you could clearly see him with a rifle, absolutely," said one man, describing the suspect getting into position.

He claimed his group, who was about 50 feet away from the structure, frantically tried to point out the man to nearby cops but said it "didn't seem like they knew what was going on."

"We're like, 'Hey, man, this guy on the roof with a rifle.' And the police were like, 'Huh?' They didn't know what was going on," he recalled.

The witness claimed he and his friends tried warning police for several minutes as Secret Service members watched, choosing not to take action until between five

and eight shots were fired, the origins of which he said "100%" came from the rifle-carrying man.

"Next thing you know, five shots rang out," he said.

The witness also said he saw the moment the Secret Service fired the fatal shots that took the gunman's life.

"They blew his head off. The Secret Service blew his head off," the supporter told the outlet.

'GOT HIM': Officers stand over the alleged shooter, who was on the roof of a nearby building and reportedly killed by Secret Service agents.



Witnesses to chaos & panic as shots rang

MAGA HERO: This ER doctor in the audience rushed to the aid of a wounded victim after a sniper targeting the former president rained bullets on the crowd. "I thought it was firecrackers to begin with," he said.



By KATHERINE DONLEVY

Trump supporters hoping for the chance to hear the presidential candidate described pandemonium when an attempted assassin opened fire at the Pennsylvania rally — including an emergency room doctor who was in the audience and rushed to the aid of fellow attendees.

"First thing I saw, those guys started sniping," one man told The Post, pointing to a rooftop where the suspected gunman fired up to eight shots at Trump.

Bullets rang out in the middle of his remarks at the open-air rally in Butler. Trump raised his hand to his right ear before being brought to the ground by Secret Service agents.

Rally attendee Nicole Varro described the chaos.

"He was talking about Border Patrol and we heard the first crack of the gunfire. And I just screamed, 'It's the sniper! It's the sniper!' He was firing down toward the water tower," she said.

"At that same exact moment, there was a spray from the right side of the stage that I thought was some type of gas," she continued, adding that a pal heard it was "gunfire hitting the hydraulic on the one track. So the gunfire was coming toward the stage."

Other members of the service's

counterterrorism unit "neutralized" the would-be assassin, killing them, insiders told The Post.

The action came too late, however — one audience member was killed in the gunfire and a second was seriously injured.

The arena erupted into chaos, with half a dozen Secret Service members piling onto Trump to protect him from ensuing gunfire after he was seemingly grazed by a bullet on his ear.

Blood on the bleachers

Sources said Trump came within "inches of his life" and was seen with blood dripping down his face.

"They hogtied him out," a man wearing a blue shirt and a Pittsburgh Pirates hat, who asked to remain anonymous, told The Post.

"There was blood on the stands, though. Somebody shot the guy. I don't know who it was."

Another witness said the sound of gunfire was blaring and sent attendees scrambling for cover.

"We hear six, seven gunshots. And we see Trump get down. And then we get down because we didn't want to get hit," said the man, who chose not to share his name.

Trump popped up and offered a single, prolonged fist pump, which triggered cheers.

"USA! USA! USA!" the crowd shouted as Trump was piled into

CHEERS AT RALLY TURN TO SCREAMS

BLOODY INTERRUPTION: Security scrambles to clear the stage (top right) at Donald Trump's open-air rally Saturday in Butler, Pa., after someone opened fire, leaving attendees ducking (far right) and scattering. A person is removed from the stands, near right. Witnesses described "sniping" by a man on a rooftop who fired up to eight shots, grazing the former president. One recalled, "He was talking about Border Patrol and we heard the first crack of the gunfire. And I just screamed, 'It's the sniper! It's the sniper!'" Another described trying to warn police officers about a man with a rifle before the shooting began. "They didn't know what was going on," he said.

an SUV.

As Trump was ushered away, an emergency room physician in the audience rushed to the aid of a badly injured rallygoer after the sniper targeting the former president rained bullets on the unsuspecting crowd.

"I heard the shots, I thought it was firecrackers to begin with. Somebody over there was screaming, 'He's been shot, he's been shot,'" the doctor, wearing a Make America Great Again baseball cap and a white "USA" shirt soaked with blood told a CBS News reporter outside the rally grounds.

He said that with the help of other rallygoers he was able to get the man onto a flat surface and administer CPR.

The emotions were split, however. The Post witnessed dozens of other audience members crying

and consoling one another as they sat near blood-covered bleachers.

Several men were angry at the media, shouting at them about "civil war."

The gunman was identified as a 20-year-old white man, Thomas Matthew Crooks, 20, of Bethel Park. His motive is under investigation.

'We were pointing at him'

Witnesses desperately tried to warn police that a rifle-toting sniper was crawling on a roof moments before gunfire erupted at the Trump rally Saturday.

"You could clearly see him with a rifle," a man wearing a MAGA 2020 hat told BBC News.

"We're pointing at him. The police are down there running around on the ground.

"We're like, 'Hey, man, this guy

on the roof with a rifle.' And the police were like, 'Huh?' They didn't know what was going on."

The witness claimed that he and his friends tried warning police for several minutes as Secret Service members watched on, choosing not to take action until between five and eight shots were fired, the origins of which he said "100%" came from the rifle-carrying man.

"He was up there for a couple of minutes, absolutely at least three, four minutes. We were pointing at him for the Secret Service, who were looking at us from the top of the barn. They were looking at us the whole time."

Added rallygoer Scott Sosso: "We just witnessed someone try to assassinate our former president — and hopefully our future president."

Additional reporting by Carson Swick



Reuters

In his own words: whiz & tear

Former President Donald Trump says he “felt the bullet ripping through skin” during an assassination attempt at a campaign rally in Butler, Pa.

“I was shot with a bullet that pierced the upper part of my right ear,” the 78-year-old presumptive Republican presidential nominee said in his first statement since being rushed to a Pittsburgh-area hospital.

“I knew immediately that something was wrong in that I heard a whizzing sound,

shots, and immediately felt the bullet ripping through the skin. Much bleeding took place, so I realized then what was happening.”

Trump issued the statement on his Truth Social page amid conflicting initial reports, including reporting that he may have been struck by glass rather than a bullet.

“I want to thank The United States Secret Service, and all of Law Enforcement, for their rapid response on the shooting that just took

place in Butler, Pennsylvania,” Trump wrote.

“Most importantly, I want to extend my condolences to the family of the person at the Rally who was killed, and also to the family of another person that was badly injured. It is incredible that such an act can take place in our country.”

Trump wrote that “[n]othing is know[n] at this time about the shooter, who is now dead.”

The ex-president ducked on stage after the sound of

gunshots as the Secret Service rushed to him — before giving a defiant fist pump as blood ran down his face and reportedly shouting to his thousands of supporters, “Fight! Fight! Fight!”

President Biden called the attack “sick” in remarks Saturday night and said that he had tried to call his general-election challenger at the hospital — after the White House took heat for merely calling the shooting an “incident” in initial press statements. *Steven Nelson*

GOP big opens probe

Vile trolls call shot 'staged' Hoax rumors spread

By PATRICK REILLY

Almost immediately after former President Donald Trump narrowly survived an assassination attempt, trolls took to social media with wild claims that the shooting was "staged."

On X, conspiracy theorists dismissed the attempt on Trump's life as a stunt to boost his campaign.

After "Trump," the word "staged" was the No. 2 trending topic on the app in the wake of the shooting.

"Trump getting shot was completely staged," wrote one user. "He wouldn't stop looking in that direction. Obviously someone who could make that shot wouldn't miss if they were intending to kill him. Then he got up and raised his hand. He would have s--t his pants if this was real."

Trump suffered a graze wound to the ear after a sniper opened fire while he was speaking at a campaign rally in Butler, Pa., on Saturday night, law-enforcement sources said.

The ex-president escaped safely, but one rallygoer was killed and another was severely injured.

After Trump was injured, he threw his fist in the air toward the crowd as Secret Service agents and local law enforcement tried to rush him off the stage. The image, being touted as "iconic" by his supporters, seemed too good to be true for some trolls and doubters.

"This is such a perfect photo it's hard to believe it is not staged. Photo of the decade. Absolutely incredible," one person posted on X.

Another user posted a photo of red blood streaking down Trump's face and suggested it may have been a "paintball attack."

Another claimed that Trump "bladed" — a professional wrestling term referring to purposefully cutting oneself for effect — when Secret Service agents tackled him for cover. They called the shooting part of a "WWE ass script."

"It's so over," one woman said. "Whether this is staged or not, Trump is going to receive a massive political boost after this in a time when Democrats are in complete & utter calamity."

'They riot & destroy'

Far-right-wing commentator Tim Pool blasted those who called the shooting a hoax.

"'Staged' is trending," he said. "They scream Trump is Hitler, they riot and destroy, then they claim their attacks are staged."

The word "delete" was also trending in the aftermath of the shooting, with users calling on the conspiracy theorists and Democrat politicians to take down their posts about the shooting.

Trump, who was rushed to a hospital for treatment, confirmed that he is safe and well.

"I knew immediately that something was wrong in that I heard a whizzing sound, shots, and immediately felt the bullet ripping through the skin," he said in a statement.

"Much bleeding took place, so I realized then what was happening."

The Secret Service's assault team killed the gunman.



By JOE MARINO
and PATRICK REILLY

House Oversight Committee Chairman James Comer announced an investigation into the shooting against former President Donald Trump, as sources told The Post he typically travels with a small Secret Service detail that is just a fraction of the size of a sitting president.

Comer (R-Ky.) revealed that he has already contacted the Secret Service and requested its director appear for a hearing on what authorities are investigating as an assassination attempt against the former president.

"I have already contacted the Secret Service for a briefing and am also calling on Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle to appear for a hearing. The Oversight Committee will send a formal invitation soon," Comer said in a statement.

House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-Louisiana) reiterated the need for a probe, saying on X: "THE HOUSE WILL CONDUCT A FULL INVESTIGATION OF THE TRAGIC EVENTS TODAY. The American people deserve to know the truth. We will have Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle and other appropriate officials from DHS and the FBI appear for a hearing before our committees ASAP."

Trump, 78, was delivering a speech at a rally in Butler, Pa. when multiple shots were fired just after 6 p.m. by a shooter who was somehow able to get a perch on a roof 130 yards away with a



clear view of the rally stage.

Trump's Secret Service protection, since he is a candidate and not a sitting president, is not nearly that of a sitting president like President Biden, sources told The Post.

Trump, being a former president, should have received additional security from the agency, sources said.

Gaps in coverage

His campaign has asked for additional protection, but their request has fallen on deaf ears.

Trump does not receive counter-assault and counter-sniper defenses nor does he have aviation coverage, the sources said.

At the event in Pennsylvania, local law enforcement were on scene to assist, but their capabilities are limited compared to the Secret

Service — which falls under the Department of Homeland Security.

After the massive security breach, the gunman was quickly shot dead by Secret Service snipers.

If a sitting president was speaking at the event, the Secret Service would have more agents on the scene monitoring low points and high points, like the one where the gunman had positioned himself.

When Trump hosted a campaign rally in The Bronx in May, Secret Service did not provide the former president with a counter-assault team or a counter-sniper team, the sources said.

Instead, the NYPD provided him with an aviation counter-sniper and counter-assault complement.

Lawmakers have demanded a probe into how Secret Service could allow such a breach of security.

into how roof sniper went undetected

WHO LET THIS HAPPEN?

SPRING INTO ACTION: Law-enforcement snipers on a rooftop return fire on a gunman Saturday after he shot at Donald Trump, while a Secret Service agent (top left) rushes to cover Trump after he was hit in the ear. An NYPD cop (below left) stands guard at Trump Tower after the incident in Pennsylvania.



WH 1st downplays shot as 'incident'



THEY called him an illegitimate president. They said he was a threat to democracy and had to be stopped.

They unleashed a legion of agents to investigate him, searched his home and broke historic barriers by indicting him.

Then they rigged a trial in a bid to put him in prison.

They called him un-American and worse. Their lawyers and activists fought to keep him off the fall ballots in a dozen blue states as a way — get this — to defend democracy.

They are still trying to bankrupt him and confiscate his businesses.

And now they have shot him.

In that moment, Trump proved himself a pure warrior. Rising in front of the American flag with blood on his face and with a fist pump and declaration to "Fight," he justified the enormous faith in his leadership millions of supporters have.

The moment probably also won him the election.

They did it on the eve of the opening of the Republican convention, where his comeback from the political wilderness would be made official as he accepted the party's nomination for president for the third time.

The polls show him building a commanding lead in the swing states, including Pennsylvania. The chatter in both campaigns has been turning more and more to the size of his expected victory, not whether he will win.

Biden later 'condemns'

By VICTOR NAVA

The White House on Saturday did not initially refer to the shooting at a Trump rally that left the former president bloodied as an assassination attempt, downplaying it as an "incident."

"The President has received an initial briefing on the incident at Former President Trump's rally," said a White House statement.

When asked by reporters shortly after the Butler, Pa., shooting if he had been briefed, President Biden, who was leaving church in Rehoboth Beach, Del., responded, "No."

More than an hour later, the 81-year-old president released a statement about the shooting, in which he said he was "praying" for Trump and his family.

"I have been briefed on the shooting at Donald Trump's rally in Pennsylvania. I'm grateful to hear that he's safe and doing well. I'm praying for him and his family and for all those who were at the rally, as we await further information," Biden said.

"Jill and I are grateful to the Secret Service for getting him to safety. There's no place for this kind of violence in America. We must unite as one nation to condemn it."

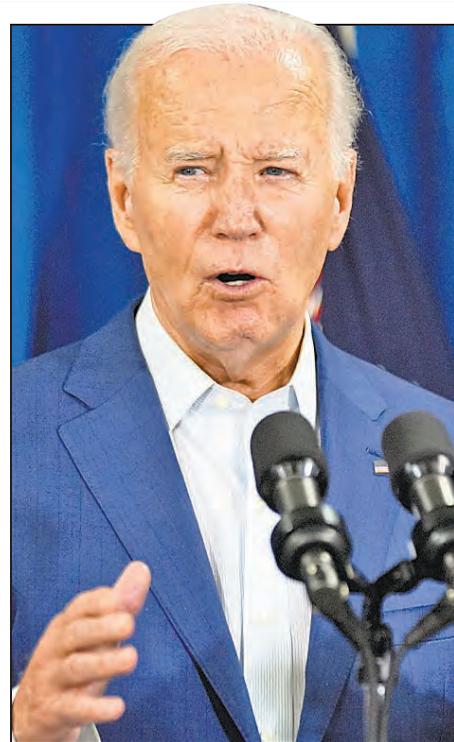
Biden was briefed on the assassination attempt by Secret Service Director Kimberly Cheatle, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and homeland security adviser Liz Sherwood-Randall.

A Trump operative said Biden's election rhetoric, including posting to X before the rally that Trump would be "a dictator," created a "dangerous" political environment.

"Joe Biden and his Democrat goons need to stop it with the dangerous and false rhetoric that democracy will end if President Trump wins the election. Their lies have consequences," the operative told The Post.

The Biden campaign said it will be "pausing" all outbound communications and working to pull down our television ads as quickly as possible.

A former Trump White House official said they expected Trump's response to help define the election.



Celebs, pols slam sick slay bid

Politicians and high-profile celebrities rushed to offer support for ex-President Donald Trump after he was injured in an apparent assassination attempt during a campaign stop in Pennsylvania.

"Praying for President Trump," House Speaker Mike Johnson wrote on X, the first Republican to comment on the shooting.

"The last time America had a candidate this tough was Theodore Roosevelt," Elon Musk fumed on X, adding, "The head of the Secret Service and the leader of this security detail should resign."

Former GOP presidential contender Vivek Ramaswamy put the shooting in the context of

Trump's legal troubles.

"First they sued him. Then they prosecuted him. Then they tried to take him off the ballot," he said in a statement. "The only thing more tragic than what just happened is that, if we're being honest, it wasn't totally a shock."

Actor Russell Brand, who hosts a conspiracy podcast, speculated that the attack was brought on by Trump's fall from grace in the media.

"Assassination attempt. Either the endless vilification provoked this or something yet more sinister is happening," the "Trolls" star wrote on X.

Former US Rep. Gabby Giffords, who was herself shot in the head and seriously wounded

in 2011 in Tucson, Ariz., condemned the shooting.

"Political violence is terrifying, I know. I'm holding former President Trump, and all those affected by today's indefensible act of violence, in my heart," she said in a statement. "Political violence is un-American and is never acceptable — never."

Former President Barack Obama was also swift to decry the violence.

"There is absolutely no place for political violence in our democracy. Although we don't yet know exactly what happened, we should all be relieved that former President Trump wasn't seriously hurt, and use this moment to recommit ourselves to

civility and respect in our politics," he wrote.

Mayor Adams also weighed in, calling the events of the day "horrific."

"No matter our disagreements, we must all agree that violence of any kind is unacceptable," the mayor said in a statement. "I am praying for the safety of former President Trump and anyone else who may have been injured in the attack in the incident today."

Hizzoner then pledged to increase security in the Big Apple.

"While we continue to gather more information, we will be surging officers to certain sites across the five boroughs," he said. *Jon Levine and Joe Durbin*

'Blood on their hands'

The incumbent, meanwhile, a shell of his former self, is reduced to shouting slurs at MAGA Republicans as if they are freaks from another planet. He no longer seems to recognize them as part of the American fabric, you know, the one he promised to unite when he took the oath.

That seems like decades ago. Now the shouter is such a worn-out flop that his own party wants him gone.

But as dusk settles in his mind and his body betrays him, he repeats endlessly that Trump is a bad man who must never again be allowed to occupy the White House.

The person who pulled the trigger is ultimately responsible for this heinous act, but make no mistake: Democrats identified the target.

Their nonstop, over-the-top rhetoric put the bulls-eye on Donald Trump.

They have his blood on their hands.

This, by the way, is their rule. For

After years of leftists' wild rhetoric



Culmination of hate campaign

years, when there was an attempted or successful shooting of a Democrat, The New York Times and other leftist outlets instantly concluded that Republican rhetoric loaded the gun and pulled the trigger, no matter the facts.

So by the same standard, Democrats did this.

The blame is not limited to a few crazies on the far left. Hating Donald Trump is a mainstream dis-

ease and has been since he first entered the 2016 primary contest.

It's everywhere, from early morning to late night, and comes from people who probably never before thought they would think and say such things.

But their conscience didn't stop them, or at least most of them, from enjoying the right to hate him. Trump, you must know, is singularly evil and the rules of civil dis-

course and even fair play don't apply to him.

So hate away, it's your right. Nay, your duty.

In fact, the only sin in many quarters of supposed elite society is not hating Trump enough.

Leaders of the Democratic Party are especially guilty of routinely using the most inflammatory language when talking about him.

Nancy Pelosi called him Putin's

man in Washington. The facts proved otherwise, but not all facts are equal anymore. Feelings matter more.

"All of us want to defeat Trump, the most dangerous president in American history," Sen. Bernie Sanders said in a fundraising email that arrived two hours before the assassination attempt on Trump's life.

"The Threat Remains and Democracy Must Be Defended"

screamed an email from Joe Biden at about the same time.

See, he's a threat, he's dangerous. He's not a normal human being or normal opponent. He's beneath contempt.

True, heated words and inflated language lead many people to open their checkbooks. It's the sad norm of fundraising, especially online.

But the same words mean something entirely different to other people. If they hear them day in and day out, on television and in newspapers and on even acceptable social media, they begin to believe them.

Literally.

And one of those people loaded up and went to the Trump rally in Butler, Pa.

Thank God his shot was an inch or two off target.

World is watching

The really sad part is you don't need me to tell you any of this. Just remember the first thought that came to your mind when you heard the news that Trump had been shot and saw the picture of the bleeding former president being lifted by beefy men in suits, blood on his ear, face and hands.

Once you knew he was shot at a rally, you knew everything you needed to know.

You knew they did it, they finally did it. Even before you learned anything about the shooter, who is now dead, you knew.

Even as the investigation begins into the shooter's life and background, the larger questions are being asked.

Most important is this: Was that the first shot in the second civil war?

Let us pray the answer is no, and pledge that we will not turn to violence against our fellow Americans.

And remember this: The world is watching. And wondering.

They see that the people in the greatest, most powerful country in history cannot stop hating each other and destroying their nation. They wonder why.

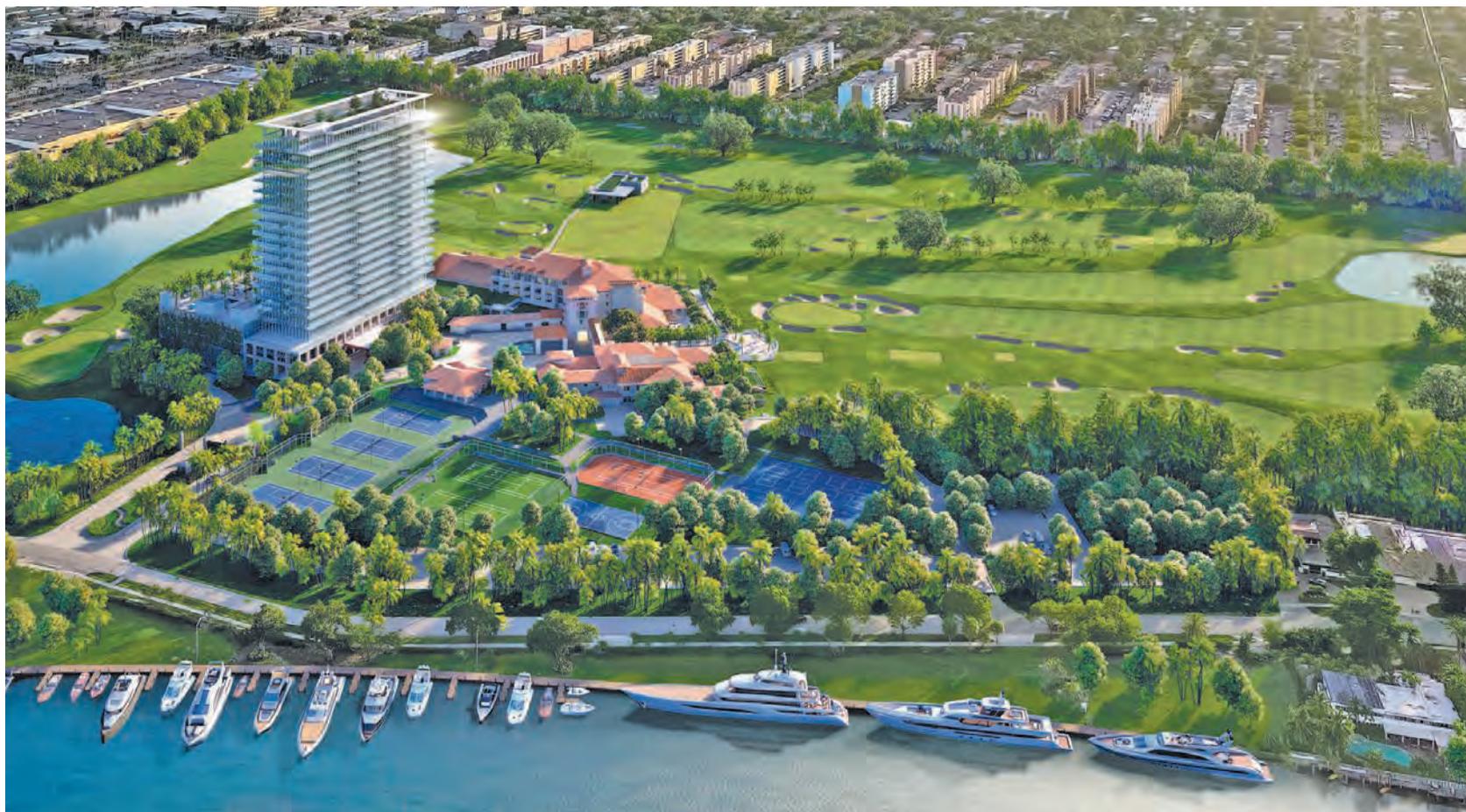
And they fear for themselves because if America tears itself apart, what hope do they have?

The 1787 scene involving Benjamin Franklin outside the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia fits the moment.

Asked by a passer-by if the new constitution would create a monarchy or a republic, Franklin responded: "A republic, if you can keep it."

Here we are, 237 years later, and Franklin's warning rings anew. Can we keep it?

REUTERS



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Christie's secrets to staying sublime at 70



Antoine Vergias for Social Life

This “Uptown Girl” woke up on the right side of the bed.

Timeless beauty Christie Brinkley graces the July cover of *Hamptons* magazine *Social Life*, sharing her tips for feeling sexy at any age with Editor-in-Chief Devorah Rose.

“I’ve decided to take off my glasses, and I encourage others to do the same,” the 70-year-old model, actress, entrepre-

neur and mom of three said. “When I put on a little makeup or even when I look at my Instagram, I make sure my glasses are off because I don’t need to overthink or criticize every little detail. Who has time for that?”

“I want to see the world with a little blur. I think that’s the best advice I can give: Take off your glasses, stop looking for imperfections, and enjoy your life.” *Angela Barbuti*

Million\$ for the Minions

The Minions deserve a medal.

“Despicable Me 4” was No. 1 at the box office on its second Friday in theaters, earning \$13.6 million, *The Numbers* reported.

The horror movie “Longlegs,” starring and produced by Nicolas Cage, came in second, with sales of \$10 million.

“Inside Out 2,” which was in second place last Friday, fell down a notch to third, with just over a \$6.1 million take.

“Fly Me to the Moon,” a rom-com drama starring A-listers Scarlett Johansson and Channing Tatum, landed in fourth, with close to \$4.5 million in revenue.

In fifth place was “A Quiet Place: Day One,” which fell two spots from last Friday, with \$3.6 million in revenue. *Angela Barbuti*

HARDLY MAGIC BEANS

‘Good’ brew, but won’t \$ave Rudy: experts

By MATTHEW SEDACCA and JON LEVINE

He’s still going to have to grind. Cash-strapped former Mayor Rudy Giuliani has reason to perk up about his new coffee line — but it’s a tall order to think it will rescue him from his mountain of debt, *java* experts told *The Post*.

Giuliani (inset) announced the launch of Rudy Coffee in May as he faced being at least \$148 million in hock and his legal troubles brewed.

To put Giuliani’s beans to the test, *The Post* assembled a pair of the city’s most revered tasters, who consult for the Intercontinental Exchange, to sample the brew Thursday in its Midtown offices.

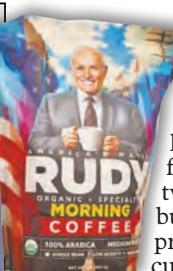
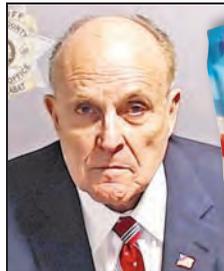
After a two-hour tasting, Steven Colten, a five-decade coffee mer-

chant and grader, concluded: “Can it be an ongoing source of revenue for him? I think it will be challenging.”

Colten was joined by fellow merchant and grader Glenn Garnes to try the brand’s three \$29.99 bags of beans, including light and dark roasts and a decaffeinated option.

Still, the organic, 100% Arabica beans from Honduras were not as disastrous as the ex-mayor’s dye job.

“They’re good quality, but I just don’t view them as exemplar as specialty coffee,” Colten said.



“There’s nothing to be embarrassed about these coffees.”

Garnes dinged the light Morning blend for having a “little twinge of bite, a little burnt note,” but Colten praised a cooled-down cup for its acidity and “a little fruitiness.”

The Bold brew, which boasts “Fighting for Justice” on the bag, was reviewed as a “more straightforward kind of coffee” by Garnes.

The decaf was “balanced” but “very neutral in flavor,” Colten said. “He’s not selling garbage,” said Garnes.

Giuliani, who was disbarred in New York last week, inked a con-

tract in April with Miami-based roaster Burke Brands, earning him 80% of the profits from each sale of Rudy Coffee, or about \$5 per 2-pound bag, court records show.

In December, a jury slapped Giuliani with a \$148 million judgment for defaming two former Georgia election workers he accused of voter fraud during the 2020 election.

A week later, he filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in White Plains court.

On Friday, federal bankruptcy Judge Sean Lane tossed out his case, citing Giuliani’s failure to be transparent about his assets, including his coffee venture. The ruling means Giuliani is not protected from creditors who want to go after his assets to recoup their debts.

Giuliani did not respond to a request for comment.

NY wants you to dish

'the dirt'

By MATTHEW SEDACCA

In this summer of stink, amid an endless heat wave and a 25% annual surge in trash complaints, New York City is turning to rats for help.

The Sanitation Department is rolling out a new campaign urging New Yorkers to snitch on the filthiest residential and commercial property owners as well as tenants — and will throw the foulest offenders in a new, online “Hall of Shame.”

“Some sidewalk slobbers have had it too good for too long, but now, their litter lovefest is over,” Commissioner Jessica Tisch told The Post.

The Hall of Shame “is where we’ll be calling out those worst of the worst — property owners who put the businesses and residences around them at risk by allowing filthy conditions to fester,” she said.

The goal is to locate the scofflaws and humiliate them into cleaning up. Trash pics can be sent through a new portal on the agency’s website.

Enforcement and Cleaning Operations units will inspect the properties to determine which have broken the law, which requires building owners to clean their sidewalks and 18 inches into the street.

Offenders will be hit with fines up to \$100 for residential properties and \$500 for commercial. The worst of the worst get inducted in the Hall of Shame — showcasing their grimy photos and addresses.

“I’m all for it, especially the fine part,” cheered bouncer Randy Robinson, 34, as he stared down a mountain of cardboard boxes on Broadway in the Garment District. “When you hurt their pockets, and their pride, they’ll listen. New Yorkers don’t like embarrassment.”

The campaign comes as 311 complaints about filth have surged



DON'T MESS UP: Sanitation head Jessica Tisch (inset) is after “sidewalk slobbers” behind trash piles like this in Corona.

Report on filthiest neighbors

J.C. Rice



Trash complaints to the 311 hotline have skyrocketed:

Complaint	2024	2023	% incr.
Dirty sidewalk	19,222	15,339	25%
Dirty street	1,188	1,019	17%
Obstructive trash or recycling	2,644	2,076	27%
Dog waste	1,463	1,439	2%

through July 7 this year compared to the same period in 2023, including:

■ 19,222 reports about dirty sidewalks, from 15,339 reports last year.

■ 1,188 reports about dirty streets, from 1,019 last year.

■ 2,644 reports about obstructive trash, from 2,076 last year.

■ 1,463 reports about dog poop, from 1,439 last year.

A murderer even hid a corpse in a sleeping bag alongside piles of trash bags on East 27th Street.

“It’s so bad now that you can hide a dead body in garbage bags,” said Kips Bay resident Joshua Guzman.

“I walked right past it . . . They always [leave out] so much garbage right there and you never notice.”

But some are holding their noses over penalizing owners.

“Blanket penalties are not productive,” said Alexandra Schimdbauer, lead organizer for the community group Flatbush Cleanup.

But Tom Harris, president of the Times Square Alliance BID, noted, “There’s a history in the city of publicizing bad actors,” including the annual worst landlords list. “Now they’re applying a practice that was effective in those areas to people that make our city a dirtier place.”

The initiative is the latest effort by the Adams administration to polish the Big Apple, after an announcement last week that small residential buildings will be required to dump trash in container bins.

Bad air at B’klyn special school

A special-needs elementary school near the toxic Gowanus Canal in Brooklyn is the latest neighborhood property to be flagged for contaminated air, The Post has learned.

Traces of cancer-causing vapors and other hazardous substances — including benzene and xylene — were found in air and soil samplings of two buildings used by PS 372 on Carroll Street, records show.

The findings in the school’s annex around the corner at 219 First St. — which serves kids as young as 3 and those undergoing occupational and physical therapy — are troubling enough that the state plans to install equipment there to remove harmful fumes by venting underground contaminants.

“While the levels in the indoor air do not pose a significantly increased health risk, some of the chemicals are exceeding levels that would typically be found in indoor air,” wrote the state Health Department’s Daniel Tucholski in a June 12 letter to Rev. Orlando Ruiz of Our Lady of Peace Church, which rents the buildings to the 3K-to-5 school.

As The Post first reported last month, the state Department of Environmental Conservation is investigating roughly 100 blocks in and around the canal to determine how many are contaminated. Of the 626 properties targeted during the study’s first phase, 131 have been tested — and 21 had air levels of toxins above “acceptable” levels.

Rich Calder

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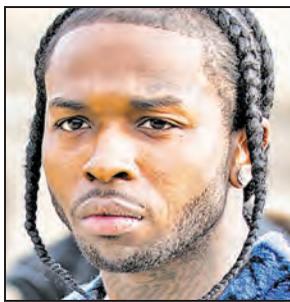
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- NEW YORK**
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- Midday Win-4 Sat.: **1053**
- Midday Take 5 Sat.: **1, 3, 33, 35, 39**
- Evening Nos. Sat.: **476**
- Evening Win-4 Sat.: **3134**
- Evening Take 5 Sat.: **2, 5, 11, 15, 28**
- Pick 10 Sat.: **2, 3, 5, 10, 15, 24, 29, 32, 38, 43, 46, 48, 50, 53, 56, 58, 61, 69, 73, 78**
- Cash-4-Life Sat.: **13, 35, 36, 38, 49**; Cash Ball: **2**
- Lotto Sat.: **6, 9, 19, 24, 27, 41**; Bonus: **38**
- Powerball Sat.: **9, 55, 59, 66, 69**; Powerball: **21**; Power Play: **x2**
- NEW JERSEY**
- Pick-3 Sat.: **063**; Fireball: **9**
- Pick-4 Sat.: **2495**; Fireball: **9**
- Cash-5 Xtra Sat.: **4, 15, 30, 34, 41**; Xtra: **4**
- CONNECTICUT**
- Play-3 Sat.: **625**; Wild: **5**
- Play-4 Sat.: **2758**; Wild: **8**
- Cash-5 Sat.: **2, 8, 11, 15, 29**

POST CONTACTS

- Editorial**
- Main Office (212) 930-8000
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POP SMOKE

Killed in 2020 robbery.

Thug: No rap slay remorse

A man who was allegedly involved in the cold-blooded killing of Brooklyn-born drill-rap pioneer Pop Smoke showed no remorse over the senseless tragedy in a new interview.

Blockstar, whose real name is King Vermont Raskel, told the “No Jumper” podcast that he’s “not sorry about nothing” in his first public comments since he and three other men allegedly broke into a Hollywood Hills home where 20-year-old Pop Smoke was staying around 4:30 a.m. on Feb. 19, 2020.

One of the perps, who was 15 at the time of the murder, admitted in court three years later to shooting the famous rapper — whose legal name is Bashar Barakah Jackson — according to reports, which did not identify the defendant, tried as a minor.

Blockstar reportedly pled guilty to voluntary manslaughter and home invasion robbery in 2023. It is not clear when or under what conditions he was released. *Georgia Worrell*

Robber taps Waverly Inn

The historic Waverly Inn on Bank Street — whose past and present visitors include boldfaced names from Robert Frost to Taylor Swift — was visited by a bougie burglar overnight, police said.

A male intruder struck the West Village eatery between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. Saturday, cops said.

The bandit, who entered through a window leading to the kitchen, made off with \$3,000 in cash, \$1,200 in wine and liquor, credit cards and the cash register for good measure, the NYPD said.

Dean Balsamini

Commish quits, stunning City Hall

By RICH CALDER
and SUSAN EDELMAN

Embattled FDNY Commissioner Laura Kavanagh is quitting her \$243,171-a-year post, she told The Post Saturday.

The stunning development comes amid a slew of controversies that left some members of Mayor Adams’ administration questioning her ability to lead the country’s largest fire department.

Kavanagh, who Adams tapped as the city’s first female fire commissioner in 2022, said in an email to The Post she feels it’s “time for me to pass the torch” and explore other career opportunities.

“My dedication to the FDNY has never and will never waver,” she wrote. “It has been the honor of a lifetime to devote the last 10 years — five as first deputy commissioner and more than two as commissioner — to advocating for the men and women of the FDNY.

“While the decision I have made over the last month has been a hard one, I’m confident that it is time for me to pass the torch to the next leader of the finest Fire Department in the world. I look forward to spending the next several months assisting the department’s transition in leadership, before embarking on my next professional challenge.”

Kavanagh sent the email mere minutes after Adams gave her a huge vote of confidence and tried to squash rumors that her resignation was imminent.

“I love her style — I want her in my administration, whichever she decides to do,” he told The Post following an unrelated Brooklyn event. “She sat down with me some time ago and said ‘I’m looking to do some other things in my life at this moment,’ and whenever she decides to do so, she will. As long as she wants to be my fire commissioner, she will be my fire commissioner.”

Facing the heat

Although Adams remained supportive of Kavanagh, she’s felt plenty of heat within the administration amid a slew of firestorms on her watch.

They include rising FDNY emergency-response times, surges in lithium-ion battery fires city-wide, repeated criticism from underlings and an age-discrimination lawsuit filed by department honchos she demoted.

“She was a political operative — not a firefighter — so her selection [as commissioner] was always an unusual choice, and she’s been unable to do what she was brought in to do: put out political fires,” a City Hall insider said.

Kavanagh, who began her career working on campaigns for ex-President Barack Obama, ex-Mayor Bill



UP IN SMOKE AT FDNY

BYE-BYE BRAVEST: FDNY Commissioner Laura Kavanagh’s departure came minutes after Mayor Adams had heaped praise on her.

Paul Martinica

City Hall sources called some of the criticism of Kavanagh unfair, noting factors such as increased traffic and fewer ambulances and fire trucks on the road have impacted response times.

Once The Post broke the news of Kavanagh’s decision, the mayor’s office issued a statement calling her a “trailblazer” who “led the department to new heights.”

Union brass farewell

James Brosi, president of the FDNY Uniformed Fire Officers Association, said the union was looking “forward to working with the new commissioner.

“The next commissioner must immediately prioritize the plague of lithium ion battery fires, an increase in cancer diagnoses for firefighters, and a concerning increase in fire related deaths,” he said in a statement to The Post.

The FDNY defended its record under Kavanagh, with spokesman Jim Long noting successful educational campaigns on the dangers of lithium-ion batteries.

Last year, the city had 268 fires with 18 deaths caused by the batteries, but so far this year one death, he noted. Overall, the city’s 38 fire deaths as of July 12 are down from 70 as of July 22 last year.

Additional reporting by Khristina Narizhnaya and Craig McCarthy

de Blasio and other Democrats, has dealt with a series of public-relations nightmares since Adams named her commissioner, in part to tackle the department’s long-time struggle to diversify.

Most recently, she came under fire from critics last month after The Post published texts she sent New York Attorney General Letitia James, lamenting she couldn’t “fix” the behavior of her department’s predominantly male workforce.

Kavanagh made the blunt admission March 8 while apologizing to James, a day after pro-Donald Trump firefighters and other attendees booed the Democratic pol during a department ceremony.

“I should have called you last night, but I’ve been trying to find a way to say I’m sorry that doesn’t involve me apologizing for men

who don’t deserve such grace,” texted Kavanagh, according to records The Post obtained from the AG’s office through a Freedom of Information Law request.

Last month it emerged the FDNY ordered firefighters and medics to hose down political talk on the job in an internal order which read in part, “The workplace is generally not the appropriate place for political expression.”

The order didn’t define “political expression,” and FDNY officials refused to detail the policy.

Insiders said Adams’ office was unhappy with the correspondence, prompting Kavanagh to sit down with Deputy Mayor for Public Safety Phil Banks on Monday.

Another meeting was on the books the next morning, but it was abruptly canceled, sources said.

Rebel at war over new film

Page Six®

Ian Mohr

imohr@nypost.com

Oli Coleman
ocoleman@nypost.com
Mara Siegler
msiegler@nypost.com
Carlos Greer
cgreer@nypost.com

Perfect pitch

MR. Showbiz himself **Murray Hill** still can't believe he got to throw out the first pitch at a Met game last month. "It was a dream come true," the fixture of New York comedy told Page Six. "As you know, these are hard times that we're in right now in the world and I was a pig in s--t. It was the happiest I've ever been! Me, this guy right here, short and chubby throwing the first pitch at the Mets — and they won!" In 2021, we reported that Hill lost "virtually everything" after a fire at his apartment on Thanksgiving — which happened to be his 50th birthday. Bouncing back, when we saw the star, he admitted, "I'm not supposed to be out tonight," as his memoir is due on shelves in August.



Learning curves

CABARET powerhouse **Bridget Everett** is proud of her buxom figure. "Lower back problems aside, it's glorious," she told Page Six. "It's something to look at, it's something to talk to, keeps you company, win-win!" Everett (above) gamely posed on the red carpet holding a portable fan, which she graciously pointed at photographers. The "Somebody Somewhere" star will be appearing at the Beacon Theatre for one night only this October. The pre-sale code was, not surprisingly, "t--ties." For real.

"PITCH Perfect" star **Rebel Wilson** is being sued for defamation by producers of a film she directed, "The Deb," after she alleged they'd embezzled funds from the upcoming movie and there was "inappropriate behavior" on set.

In court docs obtained by Page Six on Friday, producers **Amanda Ghost**, **Gregor Cameron** and **Vince Holden** said they were taking legal action against Wilson to hold her "accountable for her attempts to bully" them into meeting her "unreasonable demands by spreading vicious lies without regard for the irreparable damage her reckless words would cause."

The plaintiffs described Wilson as a star who acts like "a champion of other female artists

and whistleblower against abusive conduct within the film industry," but, in reality, is "a bully who will disregard the interests of others to promote her own."

Wilson's directorial debut is a musical comedy set in rural Australia in which a farm girl aims to reinvent herself at a debutante ball.

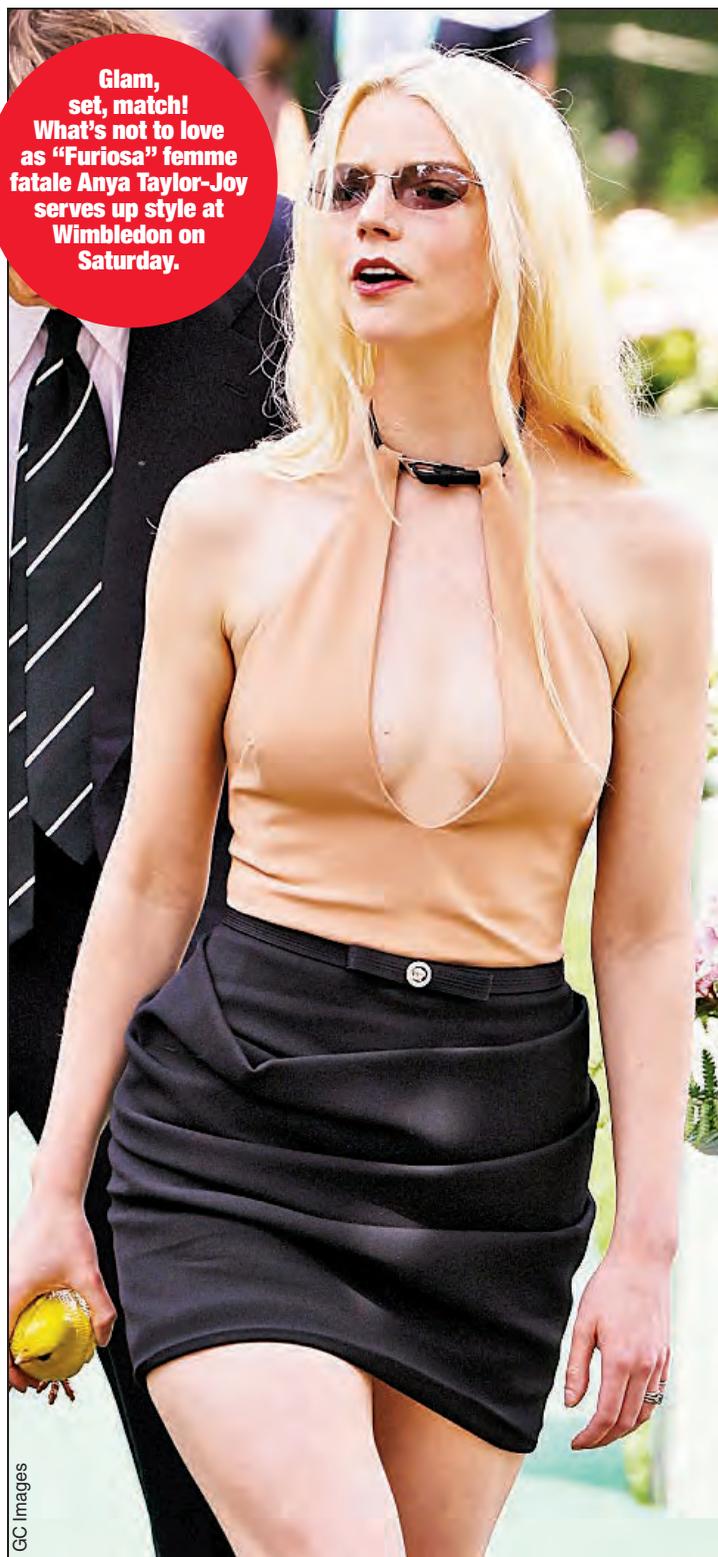
The producers of the movie are accusing Aussie actor Wilson in their suit of granting a young artist named **Hannah Reilly** a scholarship to develop the screenplay for "The Deb," but then getting upset when she was not given the full writing credit.

They allege Wilson aimed to "get credit for work she did not do, and to overshadow young,

upcoming artists who truly deserved the credit." They claim that when "Rebel did not get her way . . . she revived a fictitious story about Ms. Ghost sexually harassing a lead actor in 'The Deb' . . . [and claimed] that Ms. Ghost and Mr. Cameron were embezzling."

Wilson's reps did not issue a statement, but Wilson profusely denied all the allegations via Instagram Stories, and said she has 200 witnesses that support her.

"So good luck f--k-wit producers trying to prove anything other than I'm a professional who did an amazing job as a first time female director!" she wrote. The film does not have a release date.



Glam, set, match!
What's not to love as "Furiosa" femme fatale Anya Taylor-Joy serves up style at Wimbledon on Saturday.

GC Images

Purpose Bilt

BILT Rewards launched its new Bilt Originals program with a party at Stephen Weiss Studio downtown. Hosted by Bilt founder and CEO **Ankur Jain**, some of the new initiative's brand ambassadors in attendance included **Brett Neustrom**, **Madi Webb**, **Eli Rallo**, **West Wilson** and **Antonio Dillard**. Also enjoying the evening were special guests **Genie Bouchard**, **Jack Brinkley-Cook**, **Jessel Taank**, red sauce influencer "Cugine" **Danny Mondello**, **Trent Simonian** and more. A spy said, "The location and details of the event were a surprise for attendees, who were picked up in individual cars to transport them . . . Bilt dropped clues along the way, giving each brand ambassador an iPod with a teaser video." The dinner menu was created by Fini's **Will Unseld** and **Sean Feeney**.

We hear

THAT **Ingrid Jean-Baptiste** will host the Bastille Day Celebration at SummerStage in Central Park tonight . . . THAT activists **Maaz Inon** and **Aziz Abu-Sarah** will be speaking at Judson Memorial Church this evening.



Making 'Mary'

COLE Escola — who wrote and stars in the theater world's new smash hit "Oh, Mary!" as Mary Todd Lincoln — told Page Six that the show moving to Broadway is a "dream come true. I wish I had something interesting to say — but it's just boring that this is my dream come true and this is the happiest I've ever been in my life. Sorry! Print that!" The "Search Party" star (above), who is nonbinary, noted that the show's genesis came about during a dark time in their life, and now that "it's resonating with people, or at least making them laugh, it's really rewarding and fulfilling." Escola joked after the debut B'way performance Thursday that the show "is closing tonight. It wasn't in the cards." But it's actually gotten major raves, including in The Post.

Solo Lo a cool dish in Hamps

JENNIFER Lopez treated herself to a delicious dessert in the Hamptons — and left a sweet tip! We hear the "Marry Me" star stopped by East Hampton's A La Mode ice cream shop over the Fourth of July weekend. "She got a mini cone with sprinkles and was very friendly to everyone," said a source, who added that J.Lo left a \$50 tip. Lopez has been spotted out east with her 16-year-old child, **Emme**, whom she has with ex-husband **Marc Anthony**, and a group of friends as she and **Ben Affleck** deal with alleged marital issues. She was also spotted enjoying a bike ride with her longtime pal and vocal coach, **Stevie Mackey**, and shopping in Bridgehampton with her manager, **Benny Medina**. "Good times, good friends, good wheels," Mackey captioned a photo on Instagram of himself and Lopez sitting on matching bikes. "Life is like riding a bicycle. In order to keep your balance, you must keep moving," he wrote on an accompanying Instagram Story. Sources told Page Six that chances of a reconciliation between Lopez and the "Air" actor are slim and that Lopez is focusing on "health, happiness and joy" for herself and her family.

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Gimme Shelter

JENNIFER GOULD



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DDReps

PINK EYE

It might be in Red Hook, but **Jemima Kirke's** (left) townhouse is all about the color pink. Known as the ultimate boho-chic "cool girl," Kirke, the British-American artist and actress, has listed her Brooklyn home at 100 King St. for \$2.67 million. Now a mother of two, Kirke got her start in her friend **Lena Dunham's** "Girls," the cult HBO hit that launched in 2012, playing Jessa Johansson. Kirke's siblings are also in show business. **Domino Kirke**, an actress and singer, is married to **Penn Badgley** of "You" fame and, formerly, "Gossip Girl." Jemima's younger sister is the actress **Lola Kirke**. The 25-foot-wide, three-story home was built in 1910. At 2,382 square feet, it comes with five bedrooms, 3½ baths and a renovated eat-in chef's kitchen, along with a woodburning brick fireplace, hardwood floors, wood-beamed ceilings and lots of exposed brick. Charming details include a woodburning stove encased in brick in the living room and a rear garage/studio/workshop. There's even a clawfoot tub in one of the bedrooms and a walk-in closet in the main bedroom suite. The delightful home is infused with bold colors as well as soothing blues and minty greens, perhaps to mellow out the various shades of pink. There's also a deck off the open kitchen/dining area, a front garden and a backyard, too. Kirke bought the home for \$1.99 million via an LLC, Elvis Inn, in 2018. The sellers were writer **John Marciano** and **Andromache Chalfant**, an artist and set designer for theater and opera who bought it for \$755,000 in 2008. The listing broker is **Orren Azani** of Compass.

WireImage



4 E. 95th St.



Heidi Solander

Stem sell research

IF there's a code to crack when it comes to selling apartments, Sotheby's broker **Diana Rice** said she's found it — with flowers. The chic hack kicks up the glam level to make every apartment look more desirable. For a three-bedroom prewar co-op in Carnegie Hill, that means bringing in expert **Jill Brooke** (below), founder of Flower Power Daily. Brooke's bespoke flower arrangements "create visual harmony and vibrancy," Rice said. For the co-op at 4 E. 95th St., the flower arrangements move from the public spaces to the bedrooms. The classic, yet modern abode is now asking \$2.57 million. Brooke incor-

porated the apartment's location by Central Park, and brought outdoor foliage like dogwood branches inside the home.



450 E. 52nd St.

Real Estate Production Network: ABC

She acted up

THIS Midtown Manhattan penthouse duplex comes with quite the Broadway history. The two-bedroom, 2½-bath home is at the landmarked Campanile, at 450 E. 52nd St., and it's on the market for \$9.8 million. The penthouse was owned by the late Broadway legend **Mary Martin** (inset), who was known as a muse for many of Rodgers and Hammerstein's hit musicals. An actress and singer, Martin starred in many memorable leading parts over the years, from the title role in "Peter Pan" to **Nellie Forbush** in "South Pacific" and **Maria von Trapp** in "The Sound of Music." And Martin wasn't even the only star in the building. Legendary residents also included the late **Greta Garbo**, who bought a seven-room apartment on the fifth floor. The current sellers bought the home in "estate" condition and completely renovated it, said listing broker **Tyler Whitman** of the Agency. **Morrie Breyer**, of Baton Rouge-based Breyer Studio, did the interior design and architecture. At 3,000 square feet, the penthouse also boasts 2,000 square feet of planted outdoor terraces.



Aman with a plan



A FIVE-STORY penthouse at the Aman New York at 730 Fifth Ave. has sold for \$135 million — to the developer. **Vlad Doronin** (inset), whose OKO group sculpted the tony project, claimed it for himself — even though in 2019 he announced a deal to sell it to an Asian investor for \$180 million. This is the Big Apple's most expensive deal of the year so far — significantly surpassing a \$115 million penthouse duplex sale at Central Park Tower in June. This massive 12,536-square-foot mansion in the sky — sold as a



"white box," or raw space — takes up floors 22 through 26 of the landmarked edifice. The Crown

Building now houses an 83-room hotel, with 22 luxury residences on floors 15 through 30. The penthouse comes with wide views of Central Park and reportedly includes two pools — one indoor and one outdoor.

OKO Group (2); Getty Images

Hedge your bites

ATTENTION finance bros: A \$14.5 million townhouse has hit the market close to 425 Park Ave. — the new-construction tower that houses both **Ken Griffin's** Citadel hedge fund offices and **Jean-Georges Vongerichten's** new classic restaurant Four Twenty Five. That said, "The new owners will also enjoy all the benefits of private delivery from New York's top new restaurant," said listing broker **Dolly Lenz** of Dolly Lenz Real Estate. The historic property, at 119 E. 55th St., dates to 1868. Designed by **James W. Pirsson**, the building features a red brick exterior. The five-story home also comes with a basement and terraces. Outside, there's a backyard that could sport a summer kitchen. At 19 feet wide, the 5,330-square-foot home — now a white box — can feature four bedrooms, six full baths and three powder rooms. Zoned residential and commercial, it can be transformed to its original single-family status with help from GVK Architects.



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Vic kin not done with Alec

Vow to 'fight to the end' after slay raps nixed

By OLIVIA LAND

Alec Baldwin is still under the gun. "Rust" cinematographer Halyna Hutchins' family and widower plan to "fight to the end" and hold the actor responsible for her on-set death nearly three years ago — even after a New Mexico judge tossed involuntary manslaughter charges against him.

"This dismissal of the criminal case against Alec Baldwin is in no way, shape, or form an exoneration of him," Gloria Allred, the powerhouse attorney who represents Hutchins' parents and sister, said outside the Santa Fe courthouse Saturday.

"It does not change the fact that Alec Baldwin killed Halyna Hutchins on the set of 'Rust.' It does not change the fact that he fired a loaded gun while pointing it at a human being," she continued.

Baldwin, 66, was holding a prop gun on the ill-fated Western's set on Oct. 21, 2021, when it went off and a live round fatally struck Hutchins

and wounded director Joel Souza.

Judge Mary Marlowe Sommer ruled on Friday that the charges against Baldwin should be dropped due to indications that the prosecution withheld crucial ammunition evidence from the defense.

Baldwin thanks supporters

Baldwin broke his silence on the court's decision in an emotional Instagram post on Saturday afternoon. "There are too many people who have supported me to thank just now," he wrote alongside a photo of himself in the Santa Fe courtroom.

"To all of you, you will never know how much I appreciate your kindness toward my family," the father of eight added.

Allred said the family's representatives "regret that the judge did not exercise any of the other options available to her, which would have allowed the criminal prosecution to proceed."

"We are dedicated to holding Alec

Baldwin and the entire 'Rust' production accountable in our civil lawsuit, which is not affected by the decision of the judge in this criminal case," the lawyer continued. "Actors do not have any special right to ignore gun safety guidelines. We all have a duty to each other to make sure that our workplaces are safe."

Allred's scathing takedown came after Hutchins' widower, Matthew Hutchins, also vowed to hold Baldwin accountable for the tragedy.

"We respect the court's decision," attorney Brian J. Panish told The Post on Saturday on his behalf.

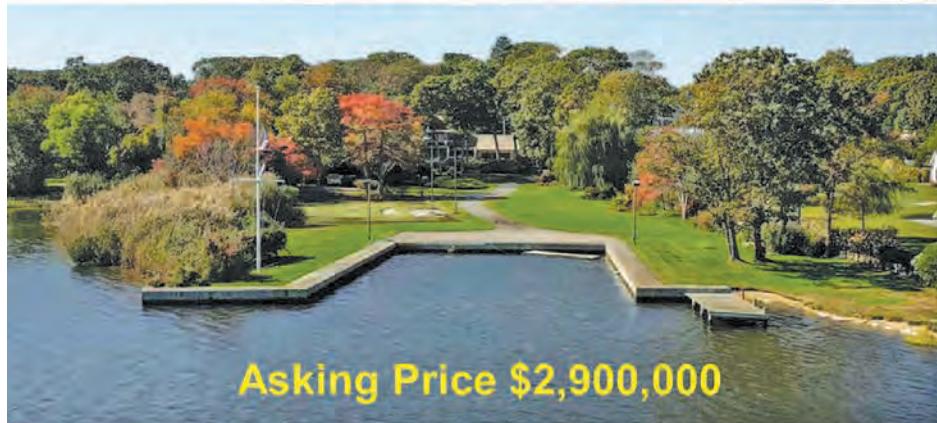
"We look forward to presenting all the evidence to a jury and holding Mr. Baldwin accountable for his actions in the senseless death of Halyna Hutchins," Panish said.

Special prosecutor Erlinda Ocampo Johnson, who stepped off the case just moments before the shocking twist, told NewsNation she believed Baldwin did engage in "horseplay" with his prop gun that could be viewed as "reckless."



RELIEF: Alec Baldwin hugs his wife Hilaria as a judge drops involuntary manslaughter raps against him Friday.

Great River, Long Island Waterfront

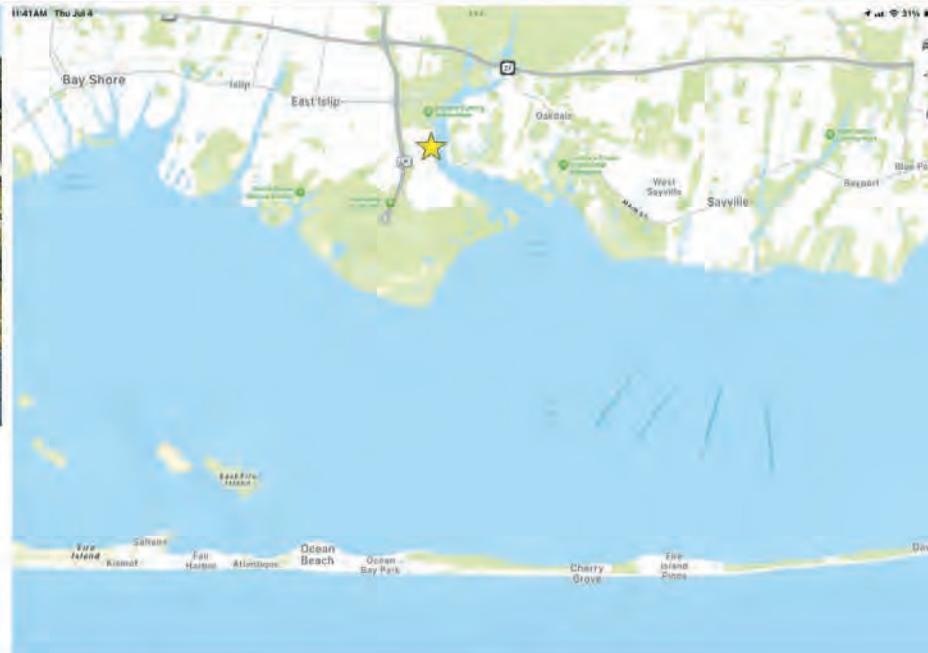


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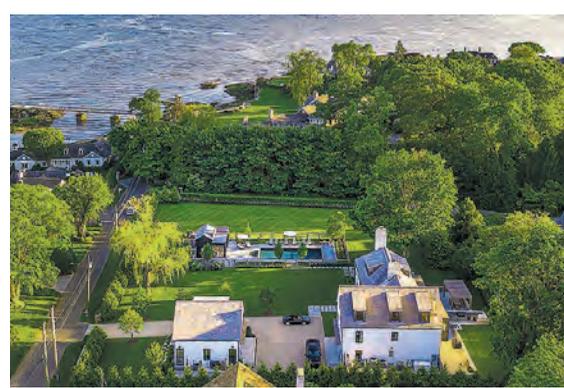
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NYC in top 3 cities for food inflation

That's a pricey Apple!

By CHRIS HARRIS
and CLAIRE SAMSTAG

New Yorkers have been handing over more and more cheddar for their bacon and their bread as the city has the third highest inflation in the nation, a study found — and financial experts warn prices could rise even higher.

You could've gotten a dozen eggs in the Big Apple for \$1.51 back in 2020. Today, those same eggs could run you \$6.59, depending on the store. A package of bacon cost \$5.58 in 2020 but could set you back nearly \$14 today.

Only people living in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and Honolulu are seeing prices go up faster than they are in New York, according to the report by WalletHub.

'Cutting back'

Detroit follows New York City with the fourth highest inflation rate, while Boston and San Bernardino, Calif., tied for fifth.

"I was shocked at how much people have to pay for food here — the pricing is so much more than Canada, it's mental," said Canadian tourist Aura Hertzog, 50. "I don't know how people can pay \$8 for strawberries."

The Post crisscrossed Manhattan this week to hear from shoppers, who say they've been mak-

ing sacrifices to offset inflation's crushing effects.

At Wegmans in Astor Place, Michael Kong, 21, said he paid \$100 for a week's worth of groceries, including a pound of organic grapes, rice and some veggies.

"I've been cutting back a lot on snacks and treats," explained Kong, a medical scribe at a nearby CityMD urgent care clinic. "I haven't been buying groceries long, but things have to get better, or I'm going to be broke — and hungry."

'So absurd'

"I don't buy meats anymore," confessed John Malecki, 68, as he exited a Key Food location in Alphabet City. "I used to buy steaks all the time. But I've decided I can live without."

"I was actually just thinking at checkout, 'My God, these prices are getting so absurd.' I just bought a little thing of wheat germ for \$7. I used to buy this stuff as a teen for \$1... and the container was bigger."

Karl Vandenberg, 25, has been paying up to 30% more for groceries this year, and is cutting back on beef and chicken.

"I see it more with the prices of meats going up," he said at Wegmans. "I'll mostly buy the store brand as opposed to the name brand, which helps out a ton."

Ukr. soldiers worry about Joe, too

Ukrainian soldiers are weighing in on President Biden's bid for a second term, following his recent gaffe during the NATO summit closing press conference Thursday, during

which he mistakenly referred to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky as "Putin."

While Zelensky brushed the gaffe off, Ukrainian soldiers told the Kyiv In-

dependent they're concerned about Biden's mental fitness and think the best thing he could do for both America and Ukraine is drop out of the race.

"I believe that [Biden]

needs to be removed urgently," offered Pavlo, a junior lieutenant at Ukraine's 63rd Mechanized Brigade, deployed in the Donbas. "Any reasonable Democrat will be bet-

ter than him."

They also don't see him beating former President Donald Trump, who has questioned recent aid packages to the war-torn nation. *Chris Harris*

Misery at the market

The Big Apple is among the cities hardest hit by inflation. Here's how prices have changed since 2020:

Gallon of milk	
2020	\$3.32
Now	\$9.39
+182%	

Loaf of bread	
2020	\$2.07
Now	\$4.69
+126%	

Orange juice, 52 oz.	
2020	\$2.32
Now	\$7.39
+218%	

Dozen eggs	
2020	\$1.51
Now	\$6.59
+336%	

Pound of chicken	
2020	\$4.04
Now	\$5.99
+42%	

Stick of butter	
2020	\$2.52
Now	\$6.89
+73%	

Bacon, per pound	
2020	\$5.58
Now	\$13.99
150%	

Apples, per pound	
2020	\$1.17
Now	\$2.06
76%	

Judith Ginzberg, 73, hopes food prices start returning to normal soon. While she works full-time, her partner can't, she said. So Ginzberg has been getting less but paying more for years.

"Whenever I go grocery shopping, it's over \$100 — even if I'm not getting any protein," complained Ginzberg. "I hate that groceries are unreasonably expensive because of corporate greed,

and so I really do try to look for deals when I go to the store."

To determine which cities have been most impacted by inflation, WalletHub compared consumer price indexes with data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Within the last year, the consumer price index has risen more than 4% in the Big Apple, the report reveals. The national year-over-year inflation rate sits at 3%.



ITALY

A museum in Milan finally has an opening date after 50 years of delays. The Brera Modern is set to launch Dec. 7, and will house the modern art from the Pinacoteca di Brera gallery. Since its initial planning stage, five decades have passed along with 39 different governments in Italy. The delays were caused by multiple setbacks, most recently the discovery of asbestos and issues with the air conditioning system.

TURKEY

Hundreds of wrestlers competed in the 663-year-old Kirkpinar Oil Wrestling Festival in northwestern Turkey, where participants are covered from head to toe in olive oil. The 752 wrestlers taking part this year was a sharp drop from around 3,500 in 2023, due to qualifying requirements that were added to help Kirkpinar's status as "the Olympics of oil wrestling."

SOUTH KOREA

A neighborhood in Seoul is so overcrowded by tourists that the government has restricted access with curfews. Bukchon Hanok Village attracts thousands of visitors a day to explore its traditional Korean houses called "hanok." However, the sightseers are outnumbering the locals, who complain about their noise and littering.

AUSTRALIA

Paintings believed to be created by Pablo Picasso were displayed in an exhibition at Tasmania's Museum of Old and New Art, for three years before they were revealed as fakes. Last week, the curator of the exhibit, which went on to spark a gender discrimination lawsuit because the paintings were displayed in a "women only" part of the museum, confessed that she had painted them herself because real Picassos were too expensive to insure.

BRAZIL

A pair of Brazilian rowers gave up their Olympic dreams to help flood victims in Rio Grande do Sul, where more than half a million people were displaced after heavy rain. Evaldo Mathias Becker and Pedro Tuchenhagen had hopes of participating in the qualifying phase this month for the Paris 2024 Olympics. Their lightweight category has already been eliminated in the 2028 Olympics, making this year their last chance to compete.



RUTH WESTHEIMER
Love guru to millions.

What a sex life! Dr. Ruth dies at 96

Ruth Westheimer, the superstar sex therapist known to millions as “Dr. Ruth,” has died at age 96.

Westheimer died Friday at her home in Manhattan, her publicist Pierre Lehu confirmed. No cause of death was announced.

For more than four decades, the beloved psychologist dished advice on orgasms, masturbation and fantasies, helping to destigmatize sex for generations of Americans.

Well into her nineties, she was still touting the benefits of making love.

“Understand, this country of ours is more sexually active than before,” she told *The Post’s* Cindy Adams in 2021. “Sex is no sin.”

Just last year, Westheimer was appointed New York state’s honorary ambassador to loneliness by Gov. Hochul.

“Dr. Ruth led an extraordinary life,” the governor said in a statement on Saturday. “She was brave, funny, candid and brilliant.”

Westheimer, who was born in Germany in 1928, survived the Holocaust and relocated to the US in 1956.

She spent years working in academia before coming to public prominence in 1980 with the segment “Sexually Speaking” on New York’s WYNY-FM.

Once, when asked how to perform oral sex on a man, Westheimer memorably responded: “Make believe it’s an ice-cream cone!”

Amid her radio success, Westheimer turned to TV, hosting “The Dr. Ruth Show,” which premiered in 1983, and penning some 45 books including her “Guide to Good Sex.” *Andrew Court*

SWEAT AND TEARS

WORK IT: Richard Simmons was on a mission to spread cheer and help Americans sweat to the oldies, opening gyms, hosting a TV series and selling some 20 million copies of his workout tapes.



By PATRICK REILLY

Legendary fitness instructor Richard Simmons has died, according to a report.

Simmons, who turned 76 on Friday, died just 24 hours after he thanked fans on social media for their birthday wishes.

The health guru, who stepped away from the public eye a decade ago, rose to fame in the 1970s and '80s after opening several gyms across the country and releasing his iconic high-energy fitness tapes.

His death was first reported by TMZ. Police told the outlet they believe it was a natural death.

Simmons revealed in March he had been diagnosed with skin cancer.

In a rare interview with *People* magazine this week, he said he “feels good” despite his age.

“I am grateful that I’m here, that I am alive for another day,” he said. “I’ll spend my birthday doing

Flamboyant fitness wiz Simmons is dead at 76

what I do every day, which is to help people.”

The “Sweatin’ to the Oldies” star had announced earlier this year he was planning to open a Broadway musical with renowned producer and composer Patrick Leonard.

Stardom and spoofs

Simmons was beloved, and parodied by the likes of Eddie Murphy on “Saturday Night Live” for his flamboyant, positive attitude that helped millions of Americans get in shape for decades.

He was the author of nine books, including the *New York Times*

bestseller “Never Say Diet.”

Simmons was born in the French Quarter of New Orleans and was inspired to get healthy after weighing in at 268 pounds when he graduated high school, according to a biography on his website.

After taking control of his weight through healthy eating and exercise, he moved to Los Angeles in 1973 and would open his fitness studio, Slimmons, in Beverly Hills, where he continued to teach classes until 2013.

His success as an instructor — and his bubbly personality — landed him appearances on local television and then nationally tel-

evised broadcasts. In 1980, he launched his own nationally syndicated series, “The Richard Simmons Show,” which ran for four years and received numerous Emmy Awards.

Simmons’ 65 fitness videos sold more than 20 million copies.

After Simmons announced his cancer diagnosis, he pleaded with his followers on social media to “enjoy your life to the fullest every single day. Get up in the morning and look at the sky . . . count your blessings and enjoy.”

He concluded with some tips for living a healthy lifestyle, which included enjoying a dessert “once in a while.”

“There is something else very important that you must do,” he added. “Tell the ones that you love that you love them.”

“Hug those people and children who you really care for. A big hug really goes a long way.”

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\$80 RENTAL BIKE RIP-OFF

Charged for snatcher's 38 miles

By DEIRDRE BARDOLF

The rented e-bike of a city man was snatched up by an opportunistic pedaler who cruised nearly 40 miles around Manhattan for six long hours on the victim's dime.

Fernando Peña, a model from The Bronx, admitted in an Instagram video that he improperly docked his rented Citi Bike in lower Manhattan, which made snatching the bicycle a breeze.

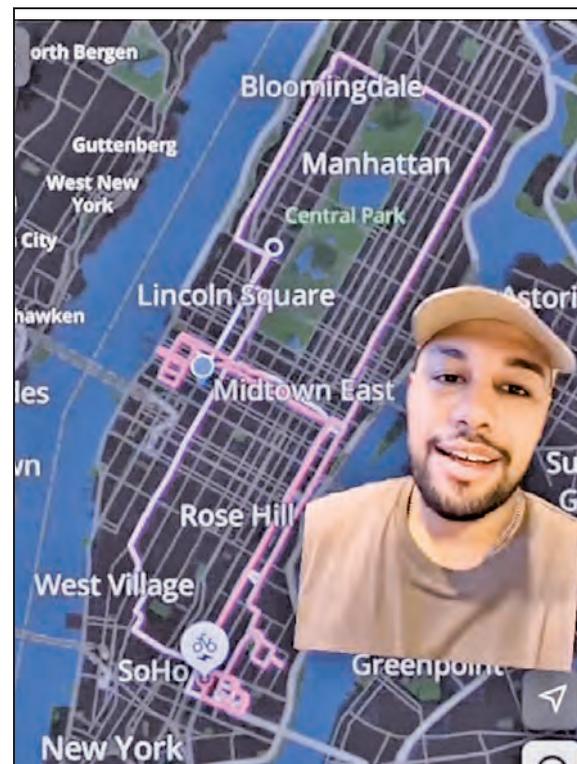
The person traveled in a strange loop from Soho, around Central Park and back, zigzagging through Midtown at one point and heading back and forth near 42nd Street. The person logged 38.64 miles over the course of 367 minutes to Peña's account — for a total bill of \$79.91.

"I've never met you, man, but I really do hate you," Peña, 28, said in an Instagram Reels addressing the culprit. The video went viral after being shared by the account New Yorkers, collecting 21,000 "likes" and over 800 comments.

"It's a beautiful day [but] you spent no time in Central Park and yet you spent, like, half of your time zig zagging through 42nd Street," Peña added. "What were you doing?"

Some social-media users speculated that the bike bandit was delivering food, given the repetitive route.

"Bro did all his deliveries for the day on your tab," one person com-



WILD ROUTE: Bronx model Fernando Peña detailed a rental scofflaw's Citi Bike day in an Instagram video.

mented with a laughing face emoji.

Peña said the blow to his pocket left him scrounging for dinner, which that night was sourdough toast with "Everything but the Bagel" spread from Trader Joe's.

'Blame yourself'

"I'm trying to save up on money, and then you do this," he said in the video.

"I hope you had the adventure of a lifetime," Peña quipped.

Some scolded him for his carelessness.

"Don't leave your rented bike," one said.

"Blame yourself for not locking the bike," said another.

Another called Peña naive and said native New Yorkers would know not to make his mistake.

"Born and raised in the Bronx I've ridden Citi Bikes 1,000 times," he responded. "This was meant to be funny . . . don't turn it into something that it's not."

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Beheading Jesus 'hate crime'

A taxi driver was hit with a hate-crime charge for allegedly beheading a statue of Jesus at a Queens church, prosecutors said.

Jamshaid Choudhry, 44, of Hollis, was arrested Thursday night and charged with criminal mischief as a hate crime and other related crimes for allegedly decapitating a statue of a young Jesus outside of the Holy Family Roman Catholic Church in Fresh Meadows on June 30.

The statue stood outside the church for 42 years, according to the Diocese of Brooklyn, and the damage will cost \$20,000 to repair, they said. The Mary and Joseph statues were unscathed.

"We will not tolerate unprovoked attacks, especially those driven by hate," said Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz.

Choudhry pleaded not guilty Friday in Criminal Court and was released. *Dean Balsamini*

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ATTACK ON OCT.

MARK TOTH & COL. JONATHAN SWEET (RET.)

Israel has tried seven times to assassinate Mohammed Deif, the military brains behind Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

Jerusalem attempted an eighth time Saturday.

Optimism is growing in Israel that the IDF succeeded in eliminating the mastermind of the Oct. 7 terrorist attack that killed nearly 1,200 people and resulted in the taking of 250 hostages.

Forty-five of those dead were American citizens, and eight Americans — largely forgotten by the White House — are still being held hostage by Hamas in Gaza.

Blame Deif (pictured) for their deaths and fates. He was the principal architect behind Oct. 7 and countless other deadly kinetic operations against Israel.

In the world of linguistic homophones, Deif is indeed synonymous with “death.” However, Deif is not his real name.

He was born Mohammed al-Masri in 1965 in Khan Younis, a city in southern Gaza. Fifty years later the evil chemist was named by the State Department as a Specifically Designated Global Terrorist.

Deif had been responsible for Hamas’ military strategy in its war against Israel in 2014. That war was a harbinger of what was to come nine years later. Hamas kidnapped and murdered three Israeli teenagers, and the IDF responded in force.

Targeting Israeli civilians has long been part of Deif’s deadly playbook. In 1996, he was the primary planner of what became known as the Jaffa Road Bombings, which killed 25 civilians, including two American students studying in Israel, Mathew Eisinfeld, 25, and Sara Ducker, 22.

Deif for decades has plotted against and killed Americans.

That he might have met his end in and a round Khan Younis is fitting, and probative of just how evil Deif is. Not only is it where he was born, but it is emblematic of how Hamas military leaders

Deif is (was?) Israel’s biggest target



hide and fight behind Palestinian civilians in Gaza.

Israel had designated that southern area of the strip as a safe zone for civilians. In response, it would appear that Deif, alongside Rafa Salameh, Hamas brigade commander of the Khan Younis military forces, attempted to hide there in and around Palestinian war refugees — men, women and children alike.

Hamas deceit

Hamas is denying Deif was targeted. Instead, predictably, according to reporting in The Wall Street Journal, Hamas, which claims at least 90 people were killed in the bombing, released a communiqué stating, “These false claims are merely to cover up the extent of the horrific massacre.”

Early purported visual evidence of the Israeli strike strongly suggests otherwise. Given the scale of detonation and destruction, the IDF was after something strategically and/or tactically big, as in a Mohammed Deif kind of big.

Jerusalem has vowed to eliminate every Hamas planner and participant of Oct. 7, one way or the other.

Only days after Hamas assaulted Israeli kibbutzim and the Nova Music Festival in southern Israel, Shin Bet, Israel’s shadowy security service, according to reporting in the Jerusalem Post, “established a new unit named Nili, an acronym in Hebrew for “The Eternity of Israel Will Not Lie.”

Earlier in March, the IDF confirmed that it had killed Marwan Issa, Deif’s military deputy widely viewed as Hamas’ No. 3 military commander.

Dead men tunneling

As we forewarned in late December, Hamas’ leaders are all dead men tunneling, and increasingly more and more of them are turning up dead. Deif may now be the latest.

The timing of the IDF’s attempt to eliminate Deif comes at a critical juncture of Israeli-Hamas cease-fire negotiations in Doha, Qatar. Only days ago,

President Biden had hailed progress on the proposed framework of the multiphased cease-fire under consideration, after Hamas reportedly dropped key demands.

Egypt and Jordan quickly condemned Saturday’s IDF attack, and Jerusalem warned its citizens of a likely response from Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Considering Deif’s monstrous history of orchestrating Palestinian terrorist attacks against Israeli and American civilians and his planning of acts of war against Israel and role as the head of the Qassam Brigades, he is a legitimate military target under the rules and laws of war, and his very presence in Khan Younis among civilians is a war crime.

A Fatah’s spokesperson in the West Bank admitted as much, noting “Hamas must not hide among civilians. Why was Deif in the Al-Mawasi camp?”

Why indeed? *Mark Toth writes on national security and foreign policy. Col. (Ret.) Jonathan Sweet served 30 years as a military intelligence officer.*

By JON LEVINE and MATTHEW SEDACCA

A massive Israeli airstrike in Gaza Saturday targeted the Hamas commander considered the mastermind of the horrific Oct. 7 attacks that triggered the war — but Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said it is unclear whether the notorious terrorist was killed.

The Israel Defense Forces dropped five 2,000-pound bombs on a fenced-off compound where Muhammad Deif, the commander of Hamas’ military wing, and Rafa’a Salameh, commander of Hamas’ Khan Younis Brigade, were holed up.

Outside the Defense Ministry headquarters in Tel Aviv Saturday night, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said at a press conference it “is not absolutely certain” the two Hamas leaders had been eliminated during the overnight strike, but boasted that the attack had been possible because Israel had “rebuffed the many pressures” domestically and abroad to end the war early.

The Israeli leader promised to take out all of Hamas’ leadership “one way or another.”

Deif is widely viewed as Hamas’ second-in-command in Gaza behind the supreme terror boss Yahya Sinwar. His death could derail cease-fire talks, but would also be seen as a major victory for Israel.

In civilian area

Witnesses said the strike landed inside the al-Mawasi refugee camp, an Israeli-designated safe zone located west of Khan Younis. Palestinians have been told to flee there to escape fighting in other parts of the war-torn enclave.

The bombs left an enormous crater filled with little but dust where the compound once stood, images on social media showed.

The IDF acknowledged the compound was in a civilian area, but said it was not part of a camp for displaced Palestinians. The IDF, which released before-and-after images of the site that showed a fenced-off area, said no Israeli hostages were held at the location.

“The area that was struck is an open and forested area, with several buildings and sheds,” the military said.

In a statement, Hamas denied that Deif had been targeted in the strike and called it an excuse

7 MASTERMIND



Terrorist's death unclear after huge IDF strike in refugee camp

WHAT'S LEFT: Fires burn Saturday after the IDF dropped five 2,000-pound bombs on a compound inside the al-Mawasi refugee camp in Gaza — leaving a giant crater (top) — in an attack targeting long elusive Hamas #2 Muhammad Deif (far left).

to justify “the extent of the horrific massacre.”

Unverified reports from the Hamas-run health ministry in Gaza said at least 90 Palestinians were killed and another 300 injured in the strike.

Hamas figures do not distinguish between civilian and terrorist casualties and the group is known to hide high-value targets in densely populated areas.

Long-sought

“Israel targeted October 7 mastermind Muhammed Deif, head of the Hamas military wing,” said Eylon Levy, a former Israeli government spokesman, on X Saturday. “If he was hiding among civilians in a makeshift camp, that shows how determined Hamas is

to use civilians as human shields and sacrifices.”

Videos circulating on X showed Israelis breaking into celebration when news of the strike was announced.

Long before the current war, Deif was wanted by the Israeli military and became infamous for his ability to elude capture or assassination. In December, Israel placed a \$100,000 bounty on his head.

In recent days, Israel received intelligence that there was the possibility it could take out Deif, but the opportunity to strike only emerged in real-time, one official said.

Deif and Salameh relocated several times in recent weeks to avoid Israeli strikes, the sources said. Israel received intel for the

strike from informants who knew about the locations of the terror group’s leaders, along with “second- or third-tier” Hamas officials who had been arrested and interrogated.

In May, the International Criminal Court said it was seeking arrest warrants for Deif along with Sinwar and other senior Hamas leaders, on war crimes charges committed during the Oct. 7 attacks.

Worries for cease-fire

The strike comes as US, Egyptian and Qatari mediators continue to work to narrow the distance between Israel and Hamas over a proposed deal for a three-phase cease-fire and hostage release plan in Gaza.

Egypt’s Foreign Ministry con-

demned Saturday’s strike and demanded that Israel “cease its attack on civilians,” TOI reported.

Family members of the Israeli hostages kidnapped on Oct. 7 fretted whether the strike on Hamas’ military leaders would kill the latest round of cease-fire talks.

“We’re all for settling the score with the Hamas murders, but not at the cost of our loved ones’ lives and our chances to get them home,” Einav Zangauker, whose son, Matan, is still in Hamas’ clutches, reportedly told Israel’s Channel 12.

“If Muhammad Deif was eliminated with a hostage deal on the table, and Netanyahu doesn’t get up now and say he’s willing to take the deal, even at the price of ending the war, that means he’s given up on my Matan, and on

the rest of the hostages,” Zangauker said.

During the Saturday night press conference, Netanyahu shared that he had signed off on the strike once he learned that there were no hostages in the area and of the degree of the potential collateral damage from the strike.

The prime minister said he promised at the start of the war that Hamas’ leadership behind the Oct. 7 attacks, “from the first to the last,” would be killed.

Deif’s death and those of other Hamas leaders, Netanyahu added, would further Israel’s wartime objectives of freeing the hostages, eliminating the terror group and preventing any further threats to the Jewish state from Gaza, while also sending a warning to Iran. *With Wire Services*

By RICH CALDER

Chilling video of casino OD

The son of an ex-City Hall bigwig lost consciousness after overdosing on fentanyl and fell out of his chair while playing blackjack at Mohegan Sun — and staffers there wasted precious minutes getting help that could've saved his life, chilling video obtained by The Post shows.

Casino pit bosses and dealers continued working at nearby blackjack tables even as Ethan Bherwani — son of Kamal Bherwani — lay motionless on the floor, the video of the May 18, 2021, incident shows.

Jerrad Santiago — who authorities say dealt the fentanyl-laced drugs that eventually killed Ethan — stood behind Ethan when he sat down to play blackjack shortly before 2 a.m. Santiago, 44, slinked away shortly after Ethan collapsed at 2:01 a.m., the video shows.

Four-and-a-half minutes after the 22-year-old collapsed, a casino worker finally checked on him — but from several feet away, according to the video, which was used as a court exhibit in an ongoing legal case.

It took until 2:11 a.m. — a full 10 minutes after Ethan hit the floor — for medics from the Mohegan Tribe's reservation to arrive. They began CPR at 2:12 a.m. and spent 10-plus minutes trying in vain to revive him, the video shows.

He was declared brain dead and died nine days later at Hartford Hospital. Fentanyl, cocaine, marijuana and alcohol were all in his system — and an addiction medicine specialist testified fentanyl likely killed Ethan, according to court records.

"If they had gotten to him in three minutes, he'd be completely alive," Kamal Bherwani told The Post.

"My son was going to law school. He was cooped up during the pandemic

GRIEVING:

Kamal Bherwani holds a photo of late son Ethan. Stills from video (right) show Ethan collapsing to the floor at Mohegan Sun in 2021.



NYPost: J.C. Rice



IT'S FATHER VS. MOHEGAN SUN

and celebrating his graduation; he made a mistake . . . but it should not have cost him his life," continued Bherwani, who served as NYC's chief information officer for health and human services under Mayor Michael Bloomberg and also worked as an exec for Mayor Rudy Giuliani.

Mohegan is currently one of nearly a dozen bid-

ders vying for three New York City casino licenses.

Bherwani is calling on Gov. Hochul to reject Mohegan and partner Soloviev Group's \$10 billion "Freedom Plaza" casino proposal near the UN.

"What [Mohegan] has proven is that they put money ahead of . . . safety," said Bherwani.

Santiago pleaded guilty

in January to federal narcotics distribution charges after being caught selling fentanyl-laced heroin in 2023 to undercover authorities and faces up to 20 years behind bars.

Kamal, however, wants more justice. He said he believes the Mohegan Tribe — which has its own justice system — tried covering up his son's death

by taking advantage of the casino being on a reservation and not subject to US laws.

He filed a negligence lawsuit in May 2022 against Mohegan, where the video of the incident was submitted as an exhibit. A tribal court tossed that suit on a technicality, but Bherwani is planning to file a new suit.

Woman escapes 'rapist' on UES

A woman escaped a would-be rapist on the Upper East Side who then made his getaway on a motorized scooter, police said.

The victim, 27, was in front of 349 East 76th St. around 11:45 p.m. Friday when she was accosted, authorities said.

Cops responding to a 911 call of an "assault in progress" found the distraught victim, who was then taken to New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center in stable condition, police said.

Unconfirmed reports said the victim was aided by at least one good Samaritan and sought refuge nearby.

The disturbing incident happened as rape across the city spiked 11%, according to the latest NYPD data.

The unidentified attacker sped off westbound on East 76th Street on a "two-wheel scooter," an NYPD spokesperson told The Post.

There have been no arrests.

The attack left New Yorkers shaken.

"We have an influx of people from all over the world that's contributing to the crime. I think the mayor has to do a better job of policing the streets," said a man who gave his name as Chris as he worked out at a nearby New York Sports Club. "You can't underestimate the safety of New Yorkers nowadays."

The neighborhood is "typically safe," a front desk employee at the gym told The Post.

Dean Balsamini and Dorian Geiger

'Speedy' hub charged in wife's death

Two suspected speed demons are accused of fueling a deadly multi-vehicle crash in New Jersey — and one of the drivers is now being charged in the death of his own wife.

Benjamin Futerman (right, with tragic wife Kristina), 32, was behind the wheel of a BMW and Wilson Familia, 22, was driving a Ford Mustang — both allegedly exceeding 100 mph —

when they crashed on Route 9 near Ferry Road in Old Bridge shortly after 1 a.m. on June 2, the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office said.

Futerman's wife, Kristina Godich, 31, who was sitting in the front passenger seat, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Futerman of Manalapan and Familia of Old Bridge "drove recklessly and at a high rate of

speed before colliding with other vehicles," prosecutors said.

"The cause of the crash is still being investigated," said prosecutor spokesperson Brynn Krause.

Futerman was rushed to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in critical condition, and was released days later. He surrendered to authorities Wednesday, officials said. Fa-

amilia and his three passengers were also hospitalized.

Familia surrendered to the Old Bridge Police Department on Monday.

Futerman was hit with one count of first-degree aggravated manslaughter and one count of second-degree vehicular homicide in the death of his wife, prosecutors said.

Dean Balsamini



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SHELTER SKELTER

Smoke gets in their eyes



Obtained by The New York Post

Shelter cig areas spark ire

Parents are fuming over plans for designated outdoor smoking areas at an already controversial shelter for ex-cons and drug and alcohol abusers that will open steps from their lower Manhattan elementary school.

The so-called low-barrier shelter — due to its loose regulations on sobriety and criminal records — is slated to open on Pearl Street in the fall next door to the Peck Slip School, which houses pre-K through 5th grade.

Last week, it emerged that the plans for the 106-bed shelter at 320 Pearl St., a former Hampton Inn, call for courtyard (above) and rooftop smoking sections.

“It’s a serious health risk for all of our children and teachers,” said Peggy Bilse, a Financial District parent leading the fight against the shelter.

“Smoking areas mean cigarette and weed smoke next to our school building on a regular basis and would make it impossible to open windows on the side of

the school building that abuts this area,” raged another parent.

Shelter operator Breaking Ground rakes in nearly \$300 million a year in city contracts.

“It is beyond incomprehensible, it just keeps getting worse and worse,” said Kenny Grant, father of a 4-year-old.

Families and the South Street Seaport community are fighting the plans, which they say were plowed through by the city with little transparency and community engagement. They are demanding the shelter be made for families instead of being a lax facility with a predominantly male population.

Community Board 1 slammed the decision to notify the community right before its August break and while the PTA is off for the summer.

Breaking Ground and the city Department of Homeless Services did not respond to inquiries from The Post. *Rich Calder and Deirdre Bardolf*

Measles at B’klyn site

Two people living in a Brooklyn migrant shelter have tested positive for measles — raising the number of cases across the city to 11 this year.

Health officials scrambled to determine who else has been exposed at the Clinton Hill facility at 47 Hall St., a massive shelter that opened last summer and houses more than 3,000 adult migrants, according to City Council Member Crystal Hud-

son. Testing is being limited to the first floor, where the two infected residents lived.

Health officials are also assessing vaccination documentation. Anyone who isn’t immune will have to quarantine for 21 days, according to Hudson.

Measles cases have surged in the Big Apple this year, compared to just one case in 2023, Health Department data indicate. *Lauren Elkie Schram*

Nabes live in fear as

By MATTHEW SEDACCA
and GEORGIA WORRELL

Arrests are skyrocketing at homeless and migrant shelters across New York City, with a 100% surge so far this year — terrifying neighbors who are increasingly ravaged by crime in their communities.

Between Jan. 1 and March 31, cops made 836 arrests at shelters citywide — the most for any quarter since at least 2018 — including 272 felony busts and 573 for misdemeanors, according to NYPD data. In the same period last year, there were just 418 arrests at shelters, comprising 160 felonies and 258 misdemeanors.

The 25th Precinct, which covers East Harlem as well as Randall’s Island — home to the city’s gargantuan 3,000-bed tented migrant shelter — saw a jaw-dropping 295% jump in arrests with 83 during this period, up from 21 during the same time in 2023.

‘City doesn’t have plan’

Residents told The Post that the Randall’s Island shelter has been an incubator of brutal and random violence.

“It’s a total s--t show over there and the city doesn’t have a plan,” said financier John, 67, who walks to the island every morning from his home on the Upper East Side.

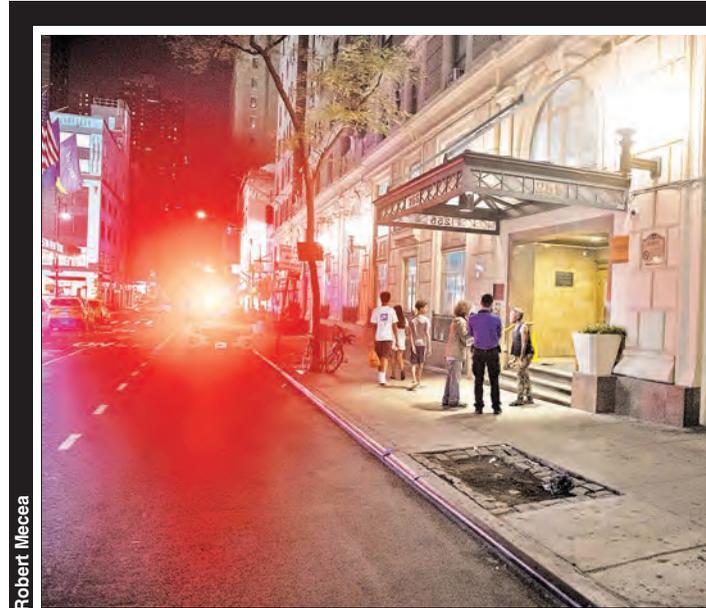
A few months back, a migrant on an e-bike sucker-punched him in the back of the head as he crossed the footbridge onto crime-ridden island, John said. The other day, he added, a friend and his wife were walking in front of the tent city when a brute on a bike slapped the woman out of the blue.

“There’s a lot of crime that happens,” he said. “A cop here told me once that they had sexual assaults and all this s--t here that doesn’t even get reported.”

In January, a migrant was stabbed to death at the tent city in a dispute over a woman. The next month, a melee broke out between cops and the shelters’ rowdy residents, and two migrants were arrested for assaulting a security guard just days later.

Meanwhile, major crimes in the precinct are up nearly 14% so far this year, according to police data. Murders have jumped 50%, from 4 to 6; felony assaults have increased roughly 25%, from 204 to 254; and grand larceny is up almost 15%, from 235 to 270.

“That s--t is bad,” East Harlem resident Malcom Warner, 28,



Robert Mecca

DANGER ZONE: A surge in arrests at city shelters this year included a stabbing in Midtown (above), a shooting on East 25th Street (opposite page, left to right), a Coney Island knife attack and a large brawl and knifing on Randall’s Island.

Out of control

The NYPD made 836 arrests at homeless and migrant shelters citywide between Jan. 1 and March 31, double the number of arrests in the same period in 2023. Here are the precincts with the most collars:

Precinct	'23	'24	% chg
25th East Harlem	21	83	+295%
44th Grand Concourse	45	63	+40%
73rd Brownsville	29	60	+107%
46th Fordham	25	46	+84%
79th Bed-Stuy	18	39	+117%

said of the chaos spilling out into the streets from over the bridge. “It’s gotten to the point that the old people can’t sit outside and enjoy themselves. They’re worried about being attacked.”

‘It’s affected the staff’

In Long Island City — which is packed with a city-topping 23 migrant shelters, The Post revealed in a front-page report last week — the 108th and 114th Precincts saw shelter arrests increase 100%, from 9 to 18; and 64%, from 11 to 18, respectively,

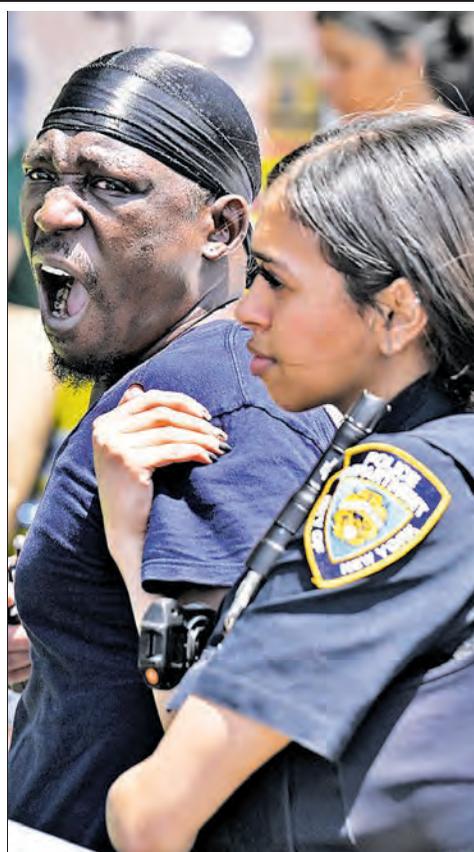
during this year’s first quarter.

“It’s affected the staff, including us, which is something we just have to deal and live with,” said Doug Gleiber, 51, who runs a wooden box-making company in the neighborhood with his father.

One of his workers almost quit after, she said, she was harassed by migrants, who were furious she accidentally tapped one of their mopeds with her car, Gleiber recalled.

“The guys were out there and they were screaming at her. . . . They got angry and kicked her car,” he said. “She has been here

busts spike at temp housing in '24



Peter Gerber

Unsafe to work: lawsuit

Knife-wielding migrants are attacking each other and staff at the sprawling Randall's Island shelter, a former worker claimed in a lawsuit.

Leeanna Alexis says she was terminated after complaining about unsafe conditions at the 3,000-bed shelter, where a 24-year-old man was fatally stabbed in January and a massive brawl erupted last month.

Alexis, 28, "witnessed the occupant/migrant that was stabbed and bleeding," and called out of work the next day, fearing for her own safety, according to the Manhattan Supreme Court lawsuit filed against Medrite, the shelter operator.

"Medrite permitted knife attacks and other attacks on staff members to occur, permitted occupants of the shelter and/or migrants to bypass security with knives, and permitted random people to come in and out of the shelter without prioritizing or ensuring safety," Alexis said in the legal papers.

About 10 days after complaining and asking to transfer to the company's lower Manhattan facility, she was terminated, with Medrite falsely accusing her of a "concerning pattern" of not showing up for work, alleged Alexis, who is seeking unspecified damages.

Kathianne Boniello

100% CRIME SURGE: NYPD

for 10-plus years, and she felt so much anxiety that she would have to go out here."

Some 207,000 migrants in total have been in the city's care since spring 2022, costing taxpayers \$4.88 billion as of May, according to the Office of Management and Budget.

"Crime at shelters is skyrocketing due to disastrous decarceral policies that flood our streets with criminals, the warehouse-style shelter system, and the constant flow of violent migrant gang members crossing our border," Councilman Bob Holden

(D-Queens) seethed.

"This lunacy is transforming neighborhoods into crime-ridden zones, and New Yorkers are paying the price with their safety and taxpayer dollars."

Sleep with 1 eye open

William Fowler, a mayoral spokesman, said the uptick in shelter arrests is unsurprising given the surge in the city's shelter population amid the ongoing migrant crisis, and insisted the facilities were among the safer options for homeless.

"Like any other population that rises, increases in arrests at our shelter sites are expected to rise with increasing numbers of people. But our shelters still remain a much safer alternative to sleeping on our streets or in the subway system," he said.

He clarified that the NYPD shelter arrest data may also include busts that happen on the street at or near a shelter, or those involving a person who was arrested at one of the housing facilities for a crime that did not occur there.

Crime also festers at non-migrant shelters, such as the VIP Commu-

nity men's shelter that opened in March on East 123rd Street.

"When they first opened that up, cops were coming every day," said Ty Johnson, 34, an overnight maintenance worker at the shelter.

"You can't put these guys in areas that are drug-infested already, it's not gonna work," Johnson said. "If these shelters in certain areas, back blocks, the crime would be lower because they'd be away from people."

Last month, a shelter resident referred there by the city Department of Homeless Services managed to sneak a razor blade into

the facility and slashed five men, all of whom had to be hospitalized, according to police.

Residents recalled the bloody attack as a clear example of the dangers they face inside the tinderbox housing set-ups, many of which provide beds for drug addicts and mentally ill individuals.

"When you're sleeping, you've got one eye closed, one eye open, because you never know what's going to happen," Francisco Albino, 55, who shares a room with 10 other men and relies on his 6-year-old Yorkie, Tommy, for protection.

D'AGNYC

NEW YORK'S ORIGINAL GROCER SINCE 1932

RED HOT. CAN'T BE STOPPED.



GLUTEN-FREE

NON-GMO

NO CHEMICAL PRESERVATIVES

Inside the lawsuit against Iran
P. 36-37



HANGING TOUGH

THIS week, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization descended on Washington to celebrate NATO's 75th anniversary. The member states convened for the most anticipated meeting of the post-Cold War era. At the opening gala on Tuesday night, President Biden greeted foreign dignitaries in the room where the original treaty was signed in 1949. The prevailing theme was unambiguous. The alliance would project unity, resolve, and a common sense of purpose.



REID SMITH

However, cracks in that façade are impossible to ignore. The war in Ukraine—which served as a strategic adhesive at its outset and prompted alliance expansion to the High North countries of Finland and Sweden—now grinds on members states. It has tested their strategic and energy reserves, defense industrial capacity, and domestic willpower. Meanwhile, political developments in the United States have left European delegates tugging at the collars at the thought of a second Trump administration.

Amid these anxieties, NATO's European representatives will likely extend lavish promises to keep the United States placated and sufficiently invested in the status quo.

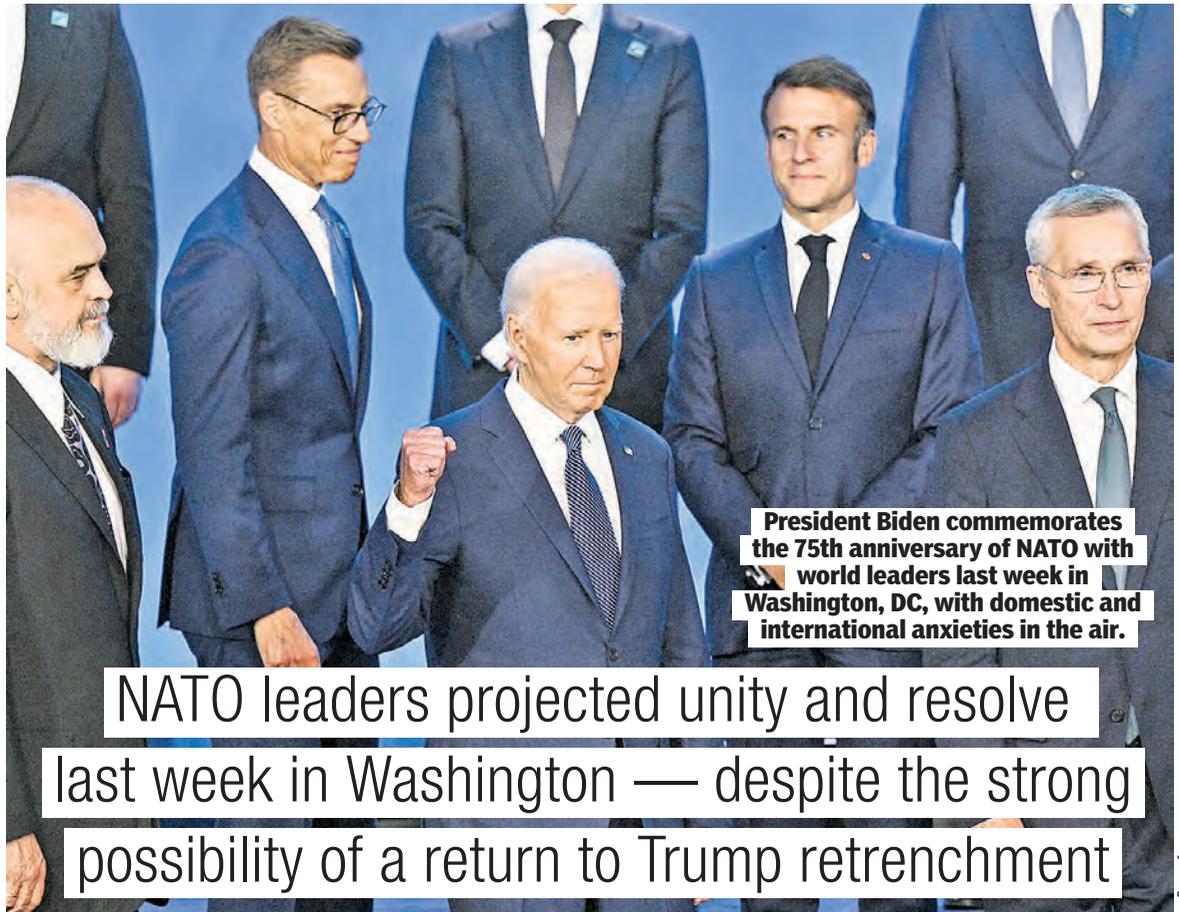
They will do so by offering greater burden-sharing in fulfillment of the "Wales Pledge." In 2014, NATO member states gathered in Cardiff to formally commit to spending 2% of GDP on defense and 20% of those monies on new military hardware.

It is notable that this very modest commitment took a decade to accomplish. Well, nearly. As outgoing Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg acknowledged earlier this year, NATO allies will only reach the 2% target as a cumulative average, with 10 member states failing to meet or exceed the objective in 2024.

One wonders what sort of external shock would be required to prompt full adoption of the pledge after two and a half years of war on the alliance's eastern flank? Moreover, given the possibility of US retrenchment, that 2% spend may prove suddenly insufficient.

In addition to spending more, the European delegates have promised to expand the map of alliance activities. This approach is not without precedent. NATO adopted an expeditionary mission after the collapse of the Soviet Union more than three decades ago, and went "out of area" for the Balkan Wars and US-led interventions in Afghanistan and Libya years later.

But now our European allies are



President Biden commemorates the 75th anniversary of NATO with world leaders last week in Washington, DC, with domestic and international anxieties in the air.

NATO leaders projected unity and resolve last week in Washington — despite the strong possibility of a return to Trump retrenchment

promising to help counter China's aggressive behavior in the South China Sea. This would likely include freedom-of-navigation operations conducted by alliance members. Of course, most NATO states would be unable to contribute to a Pacific mission. Few command "blue water" navies capable of projecting global power. Many are geographically landlocked. Others may simply feel compelled to concentrate defense capabilities closer to home.

Finally, NATO-Europe members will work with the Biden administration to "Trump-proof" the alliance's presence in and assistance to Ukraine. This will include the permanent deployment of a senior civilian NATO official to Kyiv. The alliance also announced new efforts to train and arm the Ukrainian military but stopped short of guarantees or timelines for granting membership within the security collective.

Understandably, some NATO states are wary of absorbing "Article V" collective defense obligations — ostensibly compelling the alliance

to go to war on behalf of Ukraine — for a country that's currently locked in bitter combat with a nuclear superpower. This has not foreclosed further talk and empty promises about an "irreversible" path to membership.

Policymakers in Washington should judge these pronouncements warily. Rather than expanding its responsibilities and the alliance map, our European counterparts should be encouraged to retool their NATO contribution to accomplish its founding purpose: namely, the resolute defense of the North Atlantic.

For instance, pledges to meet the 2% threshold for defense spending are welcome — if inadequate — but often rely on creative accounting rather than acquisition of actual military capability. Europe should take steps to fortify its strategic autonomy: improving military coordination among member

states, investing in a cross-border defense industrial base, and manning the ramparts at the eastern front.

American military power can thus be re-deployed from a forward presence in Eu-

rope to meet the challenges posed by China. The U.S. would not abandon its alliance commitments — our naval assets, airpower, and nuclear arsenal would provide a formidable backdrop — but this would shift the primary burden to our wealthy and capable allies. This would also negate calls for European frigates to patrol the Indo-Pacific.

Meanwhile, empty promises about Ukrainian membership in NATO demonstrate the triumph of ideological commitments over alliance interests. Washington has already said it is unwilling to risk World War Three over the line of demarcation in the Donbas. Protestations to the contrary will achieve little deterrent effect. Similarly, the permanent NATO mission to Kyiv proposed at the Washington summit may have the paradoxical effect of prolonging the war by inflating false hopes in Ukraine while further provoking the roots of Russian predation.

Instead, as NATO celebrates 75 years, the best gift it can give itself is to get back to basics by meeting commitments, enhancing capabilities, and focusing on its fundamental purpose of continental defense.

Ultimately, an alliance that is committed to the stout protection of Europe will be more appealing to any US leader than one premised on false promises and anxious pleading.



Ahead of a potential return to the White House, NATO-Europe states are seeking to "Trump-proof" the alliance's Ukraine aid.

Reid Smith is vice president of foreign policy at Stand Together.



KEVIN D. WILLIAMSON

BAD MEDICINE

THE surgeon general — who rejoices in the rank of vice admiral as leader of what is technically a uniformed service — spends most of his time functioning as a lobbyist, one who uses taxpayers' money for his lobbying. And lobbying is precisely what he's doing with his recent declaration of a gun-violence "public health emergency."

If the surgeon general wants to change the gun laws, then let him run for the lawmaking body: Congress, or a state legislature, if one will have him. But making laws is hard work — the vice admiral would rather make pronouncements from on high. The Biden administration has made no progress on its gun-control promises, which are mostly unconstitutional or imbecilic or both. But President Biden does have Vivek Murthy out there, swanning around in his admiral's uniform, dressed like Captain Crunch and talking like a watered-down version of Mike Bloomberg.

To meet the "emergency," Vice Admiral Murthy has offered a litany of familiar recommendations in his recent report that are far removed from any actual medical issue: funding for gun-control propaganda disguised as safety research; instructing doctors and other medical workers to harass patients about guns during medical consultations; instructing Congress that it ought to pass invasive gun-storage laws, expanded background-check laws, red-flag laws, a ban on so-called assault weapons, etc.

Any actual medical recommendations? Of course not.



National gun policy is better left to lawmakers than Surgeon General Vivek Murthy

Surgeon General Vivek Murthy (oval) recently declared a gun-violence public health emergency, with recommendations including telling Congress it should pass gun-control laws.

Perhaps the surgeon general ought to call for a ban on Democratic mayors and city councils in cities of more than a certain size — call them "high-capacity assault metros." After all, there are lots of places that have tons of guns and relatively low rates of violent crime while there are practically no big cities with Democrat-dominated local governments that do not have serious violent-crime problems.

Incredibly, the surgeon general has almost nothing to say about the one genuinely *medical* aspect of violent

crime in the United States: the incompetence of American psychiatric care, particularly in the public-health sector — something that might, after all, be of some interest to a man who is, remember, the head of the national public-health service.

In his long, poorly informed, and often incoherent report, Vice Admiral Murthy does not even consider mental-health as a cause of crime but mentions only the resulting "mental-health burden and trauma for those exposed to firearms violence." About half the mass shooters

in the United States from 1982-2023 had documented mental-health problems before they committed their crimes.

The Commissioned Corps of the US Public Health Service, of which the surgeon general is the chief, has a small army of mental-health specialists on its payroll. What are they doing all day? Counseling people displaced by wildfires.

I'll believe it is an emergency when the people who call it an emergency act like it is an emergency.

The main problem for the gun-

grabbers is that the Supreme Court has decided that the Bill of Rights means what it says, leaving a big constitutional roadblock in the path of progressives who would like to seize firearms in Wyoming and Maine to make Democrats feel better about the lawlessness in Chicago and Los Angeles.

The violent-crime situation in the United States is not very good at all, but the Biden administration does not want to talk about that as a law-enforcement problem — an important progressive constituency absolutely hates the police. So, now the issue is to be one of health care.

But is the situation an emergency? In 1990, New York City had 2,605 murders, mostly shootings; in 2023, there were 386. Room for improvement, sure, but also much improved — hardly an unprecedented crisis. Nationwide, violent crime rates have been trending lower for decades, even accounting for the COVID-era uptick. Even in many places with incompetent Democratic leadership.

The Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service is the most Washingtonian kind of uniformed service you could imagine: all officers, no enlisted men, and legal "noncombatant" status if they happen to wander into a danger zone. (I mean Afghanistan, not the Bronx.) It is a very silly relic of an earlier time, but it remains a uniformed service and Murthy is a member.

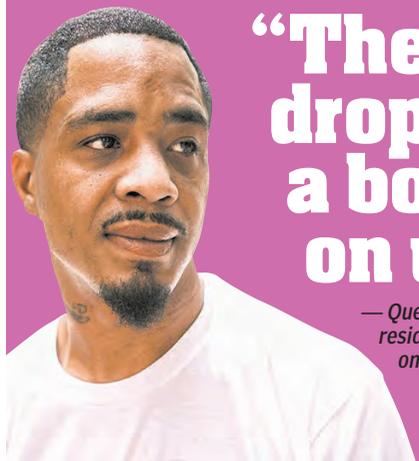
It is not the job of the uniformed services to lecture Congress on what the law should be. Speaking more broadly: It is the job of the executive branch to execute the laws, not to make them. The Supreme Court just reminded the ATF of that fact in the matter of Donald Trump's unconstitutional bump-stock ban, recently overturned.

Of course, there is room for disagreement about the issue. If Vice Admiral Murthy feels so strongly about gun violence, he should resign his commission and run for Congress, which is the place for that kind of disagreement.

Otherwise, he should maybe think about getting back to his area of expertise: medicine.

William Farrington, AP, via Getty Images

Chatter

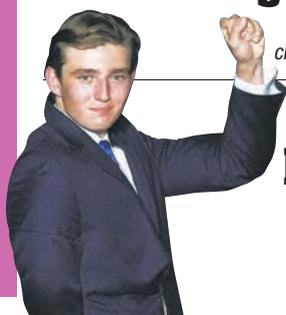


"The city dropped a bomb on us."

— Queensbridge Houses resident Danny Beauford, on the disproportionate number of migrant shelters in poorer ZIP codes

"I have asked Major League Eating to adjust my score down to a count of 46.75 hot dogs and buns."

—Nick Wehry in the wake of accusations that he cheated in Nathan's Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest



"You're pretty popular. He might be more popular than Don or Eric."

— former President Donald Trump, after son Barron received a standing ovation on the campaign trail

"The DSA's decision... is yet another moment of transparent, unapologetic anti-Jewish animus pervading the organization."

— "pro-Israel activist" Amanda Berman on the national Democratic Socialists of America revoking its endorsement of Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez



In the age of DEI and TikTok, a 'Devil Wears Prada' reboot is a major fashion faux pas



JACQUELYNN POWERS

THIS week fashion-watchers have been girding their loins with the announcement of a potential sequel of "The Devil Wears Prada." The return of Meryl Streep's Miranda Priestly, the steely and cruel editrix loosely based on Vogue doyenne Anna Wintour, was met with cheers from the Chanel set.

Disney is developing the sequel to the 2006 acclaimed hit with the film's original screenwriter Aline Brosh McKenna and producer Wendy Finerman. Streep, Emily Blunt and Anne Hathaway are also reportedly in talks to reprise their roles, along with Stanley Tucci.

But star casting aside, does it actually make sense to revisit this blockbuster?

Sure, the mid-aughts flick was a huge hit financially — it grossed \$326 million globally — and critically, nabbing Streep a Golden Globe win for Best Actress and her 14th Oscar nomination. In the ensuing years, "Prada" has only grown in popularity — fully establishing itself as a bona fide cult classic.

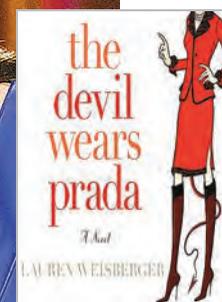
And this month, a musical adapta-



A "Devil Wears Prada" sequel would reunite Emily Blunt, Meryl Streep and Anne Hathaway, but gone are the days when Anna Wintour truly ruled with an iron first.

withering Wintour had to, gasp, apologize to her staff for racial insensitivity and systemic bias.

As Page Six first reported, Wintour wrote an emotional note to her team after former Bon Appetit editor Adam Rapoport's controversial blackface photo surfaced. Rapoport resigned, but it opened up Condé Nast and Wintour to accusations of race-based pay disparity and discrimination.



"I want to say plainly that I know Vogue has not found enough ways to elevate and give space to Black editors, writers, photographers, designers and other creators," Wintour admitted. "We have made mistakes too, publishing images or stories that have been hurtful or intolerant. I take full responsibility for those mistakes."

Since then, Vogue and other Condé Nast titles have course-corrected with DEI initiatives and "balanced" reporting promoting healthy body image.

Meanwhile, Teen Vogue has become a woke hotbed of Gaza sympathizers — with none other than Squad-member Ilhan Omar and her Columbia-protesting daughter Isra Hirsi on its cover.

Makes one miss the "Condé Nasty" days.

As for the sequel, will Miranda be relegated to doing GRWM (Get Ready With Me) posts and fetching her own coffee? Will Emily embrace body positivity while jabbing herself with Mounjaro? Will Andy wear a keffiyeh while reporting on pro-Hamas rallies? Please, no!

And while it was fab to watch Streep, Blunt and Hathaway briefly reunite at this year's SAG awards, I don't think I can handle the agony of watching the dying gasp of the magazine industry being portrayed on the big screen. After all, it's bad enough experiencing it IRL.

That's all.

tion of the movie is previewing on London's West End with Vanessa Williams slipping into the iconic role with an original score by Elton John.

Publishing is facing a bleak reality. Traditional print has gone the way of the bellbottoms — and this time, they're not coming back.

Condé Nast's famously bloated budgets are maxed out. Killing \$300,000 fashion shoots because they aren't good enough? Never! Two assistants like Priestly? With today's meager funds? More like an intern using AI and remote resources.

A job a million girls would kill for? Let's face it, today's fashion-savvy #girlbosses know they can make more money on TikTok or OnlyFans.

over Condé Nast and the Met Gala, Wintour no longer wields the iron clad power she once enjoyed.

The front row of fashion shows is now dominated by iPhone-wielding influencers sponsored by athleisure brands.

Keeping advertisers at bay and threatening designers? Not anymore. The consolidated fashion conglomerates like Kering and LVMH are the ones setting the trends with their lucrative multi-brand portfolios, not the editors.

Calling Gwyneth, or really anyone, fat? You'd be canceled now that plus-sized models such as Paloma Elsesser and Ashley Graham regularly score magazine covers (including Vogue!).

Even more historic? In 2020, the



Out of style

Vanessa Williams via Getty Images; BFA.com/Shutterstock

DEGREE OR NOT TO BE

Confidence in US higher education is declining.



— Gallup

"Ukraine's future is in NATO"



— 2024 NATO Summit declaration

NO-GO JOE

"If the Lord Almighty came down and said, 'Joe, get out of the race,' I'd get out. But the Lord Almighty's not coming down."

— President Biden in a defiant ABC News interview



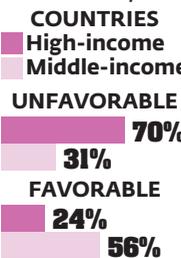
"We are not going to win in November with this president."

— Biden campaign booster George Clooney, calling on the president to drop out of the race



SEEING RED

High- and middle-income nations are divided on how they view China's economic impact.



— Pew

POSTSCRIPT International Law

THE Islamic Republic is no stranger to US sanctions imposed on its economy and military apparatus. But can one sue Tehran's clerical leaders and other international state sponsors of terrorism in a US court?

The answer is yes, although you're unlikely to see a defense attorney representing Ayatollah Khamenei showing up in court.

On July 1, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), together with law firm Crowell & Moring, brought forth a lawsuit in a US court against a trio of nations they claim are responsible for terrorism.

The landmark lawsuit, filed in federal court in Washington, DC, on behalf of more than 125 American survivors of the Hamas-led massacre in Israel on Oct. 7, holds the Islamic Republic, Syria and North Korea responsible for providing financial, military and strategic support to Hamas before the atrocities. The ADL and lawyers are demanding \$4 billion in compensatory and punitive damages for the victims and their families.

"Iran is the world's leading state sponsor of antisemitism and terror — along with Syria and North Korea ... they must be held responsible for their roles in the largest antisemitic attack since the Holocaust," said ADL CEO Jonathan Greenblatt, when announcing the suit.

The 117-page complaint alleges that Tehran funded and trained terror groups in Gaza, including Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad. Less than a month after the Oct. 7 attacks, US Rep. Bill Huizenga (R-Mich.), who chairs the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, noted that Hamas receives approximately \$350 million annually, or 93% of its total annual budget, in support from Tehran.

JAMES Pasch, ADL's senior director of national litigation, told The Post that while he doesn't



JONATHAN HAROUNOFF

expect a response from Iran, Syria or North Korea, there's clear precedent in the US for a case like this to proceed — if not succeed. "US courts ... have repeatedly held foreign terrorists supporting nation states responsible for terrorist attacks that caused the death and injury of American citizens," Pasch said.

Law firm Crowell & Moring, which filed the lawsuit jointly with the ADL, has a long history of successfully prosecuting terrorism cases. Such cases include the Libyan terrorist bombing of UTA flight 772 in 1989, where 170 passengers and crew, including seven Americans, were killed, as well as deadly attacks on US embassies in Beirut and Nairobi in 1983 and 1998, respectively, resulting in favorable judgements for victims totaling some \$18 billion.

Aryeh Portnoy, partner and co-chair of Crowell's terrorism litigation practice, told The Post that the Oct. 7 case "presents an opportunity for American victims ... to tell their truth in a court of law, and to have the opportunity for the court to decide whether they have been wronged, who should be held accountable, and whether they are entitled to some remedy for their suffering."

"While nothing will ever undo the unbearable pain Hamas caused our family or the brutal losses we've suffered, we hope this case will bring some sense of justice," said plaintiff Nahar Neta, whose mother, California native Adrienne Neta, was murdered by Hamas in Kibbutz Be'eri last October. "My mom," Nahar

added, "devoted her life to caring for others regardless of race or religious beliefs."

Had Iran, Syria and North Korea not supported Hamas, the lawsuit contends, an attack on the scale of Oct. 7 — where 1,200 people were massacred and more than 250 were kidnapped — couldn't have taken place.

As for Syria, the complaint alleges that the Assad regime has long been a haven for leaders of Palestinian terrorism, and that Hamas regularly routes "weapons shipments originating from Iran through Syria and from there to Gaza."

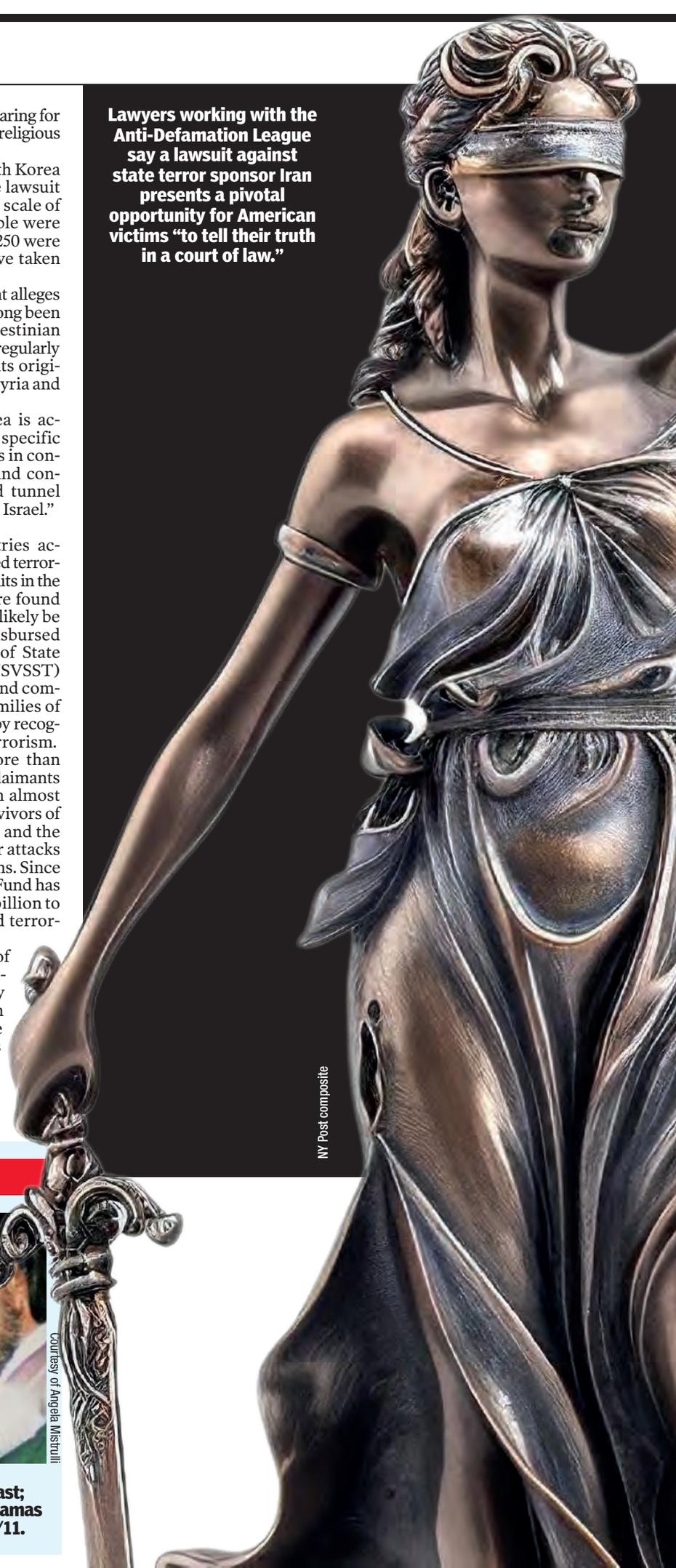
Meanwhile, North Korea is accused of having "provided specific assistance to Iran's proxies in connection with the design and construction of underground tunnel networks used in attacks in Israel."

VERY rarely do countries accused of state-sponsored terrorism acknowledge lawsuits in the US, but if those nations are found guilty, the plaintiffs would likely be granted compensation disbursed through the US Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism (USVSST) Fund. Set up in 2015, the fund compensates survivors and families of terror attacks perpetrated by recognized state sponsors of terrorism.

There are currently more than 18,000 eligible American claimants included in the fund, with almost two-thirds comprising survivors of the Sept. 11 attacks in 2001 and the rest victims of other terror attacks involving American citizens. Since its founding, the USVSST Fund has distributed more than \$6 billion to victims of state sponsored terrorism.

The fund isn't made up of tax dollars. Instead it is financed by monies seized by the Department of Justice in terror-related cases where companies and individuals were found guilty of illicitly transacting with state sponsors of terrorism, such as Iran, Cuba or North Korea.

Lawyers working with the Anti-Defamation League say a lawsuit against state terror sponsor Iran presents a pivotal opportunity for American victims "to tell their truth in a court of law."



NY Post composite

Victims of State-Sponsored Terror

Courtesy of Stephen M. Flatow; Courtesy of Nahar Neta



Courtesy of Angela Mistrulli

Stephen Flatow's daughter Alisa (together, left) was murdered in a 1995 Palestinian suicide blast; Nahar Neta lost his mother, Adrienne (middle), when she was slain at Israel's Kibbutz Be'eri by Hamas terrorists on Oct. 7; Angela Mistrulli's father, Joseph (right), was killed in the Twin Towers on 9/11.

American lawyers are suing the governments of Iran, Syria and North Korea for supporting the Oct. 7 terror attacks. Their goal: \$4 billion and justice for the victims of Hamas

JUDGMENT DAY

The only issue is that the USVSST Fund is no longer working as intended, according to legal experts. Owing to Dept. of Justice staff shortages — and bureaucratic foot-dragging — seized funds and assets earmarked for American terror victims are not being fully fun-

neled to the USVSST Fund, leaving survivors short-changed.

In 2023, for example, the world's largest crypto exchange, Binance, was fined \$4.3 billion for money laundering violations and sanctions violations involving Iran, but only \$898 million was deposited into the USVSST Fund, according to DOJ records.

What had initially started as an efficient process for victims of terror to receive compensation has become bogged down in bureaucracy, and reforming this broken system has garnered bipartisan support.

FEW people understand the importance of a properly-functioning victims' fund like Stephen

Flatow. His 20-year-old daughter and Brandeis University undergrad, Alisa Flatow, was murdered, alongside seven Israeli soldiers, in April 1995 after a Palestinian suicide bomber drove a van loaded with explosives into a public bus on a road to the Israeli town of Kfar Darom.

After discovering that Iran sponsored the Palestinian terrorists behind Alisa's murder, Flatow, together with a team of lawyers, filed a lawsuit against the Islamic Republic in 1997. A year later, the district court judge presiding over the case ruled that the Iranian government had financially aided the Palestinian terrorist group and was therefore responsible for Alisa's murder.

The court ordered the Islamic Re-



A Hamas terrorist grabs a man amid the horrific raid on the Nova music festival in southern Israel on Oct. 7 — part of a wave of attacks that left 1,200 people dead and some 250 taken hostage.

public to pay \$250 million in damages to Alisa's family, but State Department politics got in the way. "The State Department and DOJ claimed it was bad public policy," Flatow said. "If we did that to Iran, they would" retaliate and seize US assets in return. Flatow added that the State Department under Bill Clinton and Barack Obama's presidential administrations have appeared far more interested in reintegrating the Islamic Republic into the international community than seeking compensation for families like his own.

"Clinton made a good run [at negotiating with Tehran], but . . . it failed. Obama then released all this money to Iran in exchange for the nuclear deal, which flopped," Flatow said. "We should recognize after 45 years that Iran has no interest in being welcomed back to the community of nations."

Years went by until the Flatow family received any compensation — a much smaller settlement after Flatow and other victims' families had relentlessly fought with the State Department and DOJ to pay them the compensation they had been attempting to collect from Iran.

Flatow told The Post that he hopes the fund is fixed to help survivors and victims' families overcome unimaginable suffering. "Losing a victim to terrorism is a brutal shock to the system," he said. "The emotional recovery is certainly helped by a financial reward and the sooner families can receive their compensation, the faster they can get on the road to recovery."

That's why a group of Republican and Democratic House lawmakers introduced new legislation in May 2024 to replenish the USVSST Fund while guaranteeing regular annual payments to the approximately 18,000 US victims included in the fund.

ANGELA Mistrulli was among those Americans grateful for the renewed efforts to fix the decade-old fund. Her father, Joseph, was a carpenter working at Windows of the World, the restaurant on the 107th floor of the World Trade Center's North Tower and was killed on September 11, 2001 after hijacked planes struck both towers.

"This bill is going to take care of almost 20,000 victims of terrorism, and set up a place for victims of the future that they don't have to go through the 20 years of struggling and fighting that we had to," Mistrulli said at a recent press conference.

"Without a functioning USVSST Fund, victims will relive the worst moments of their lives [in court] but for no meaningful relief," said Crowell partner Portnoy, who has represented hundreds of victims of state-sponsored terrorism.

"The bipartisan legislation introduced [ensures] . . . that the specific funds identified to help these victims' recovery actually reaches them as the law requires."

Experts expect the Oct. 7 lawsuit to last up to two years as it makes its way through diplomatic channels and all of the plaintiffs' painful testimony. With the atrocities of last October well documented — and Hamas' ties to the Islamic Republic, Syria and North Korea robust — a favorable outcome for the American victims is likely.

But whether the USVSST Fund is reformed to help survivors get their lives back together remains to be seen.

Still, however the case turns out, it is a very public step toward securing justice — and, perhaps, preventing terror attacks in the future.

Jonathan Harounoff is the author of the forthcoming book "Unveiled: Inside Iran's #WomenLifeFreedom Revolt."



Crypto platform Binance was fined \$4.3 billion in 2023 for violating Iranian sanctions, but not all of the funds have been recovered.

NEW YORK POST

AMERICA'S OLDEST CONTINUOUSLY PUBLISHED DAILY NEWSPAPER

Behind 'Battleground NY'

New York Democrats are in full "the sky is falling" panic mode — as witness Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine fretting: "I truly believe we're a battleground state now."

Both Politico and Axios reported on the panic last week, as state leaders beg the Biden campaign to spend here to bolster down-ballot Democrats.

It's also likely why less-progressive Empire State Dems are the ones saying Biden should step aside.

Rochester Rep. Joe Morelle reportedly said the question on the prez's ability to serve is "the challenge. I don't think he's met that challenge yet." Rep. Pat Ryan, who in 2022 barely won his Hudson Valley swing district, sighed: "Joe Biden is a patriot but is no longer the best candidate to defeat Trump."

President Biden's stock is in freefall here. The Siena poll showed him with only a 12-point lead over Trump in February, dropping to just eight points in June. But it's simply not fallout from Joe's condition; it's crime, the migrant influx and raging antisemitism — issues that national and state Democrats won't confront.

And the New York voter revolt began long before that Trump-Biden debate. In the 2022 midterm elections, Dems lost four suburban swing districts, while Gov. Hochul beat her GOP challenger Rep. Lee Zeldin by a mere six points — two years after Biden won the state by 23 points.

Crime was the chief issue that year; then the illegal-migrant crisis metastasized. It's worst in the city, but a real worry in the 'burbs — especially since gangs like MS-13 and Tren de Aragua have proved eager to strike there, not to mention the millions of commuters who spend their days in the city.

Then came Hamas' horrific Oct. 7 attack and the

war in Gaza — and a huge uptick in antisemitism, including violent attacks, raging "pro-Palestine" demonstrations and campuses shut down by kids acting on what they learned in class and the outside-agitator pros. Jews are told to use back entrances at their temples, warned not to wear anything ID'ing them as Jews or advised to hide when rabid antisemites are out for blood.

No surprise that a full 44% of New York Jewish voters feel unsafe, but the progressives who dominate the New York Democratic Party (and the Biden administration) plainly don't care.

And it's not just Jews, but many non-radical voters who resent it. Post-Oct. 7 concerns plainly drove George Latimer's Democratic-primary win over Rep. Jamaal Bowman, but it's also driving many voters away from the Dems completely.

Who could blame them when Democrats like Mark Levine won't demand law and order to quell the violence and to punish the Jew-haters, while the likes of Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg keep dropping charges against law-breaking protesters?

Fear of a suburban voter revolt is likely behind Gov. Hochul's 11th-hour decision to "pause" congestion-pricing; she's generally tried to address worries on crime and migrants, too.

But her hands are too often tied by the progressives who dominate the Legislature.

It's no longer unimaginable that New York could vote for Queens native Trump this November, and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries' hopes of retaking those swing seats are fading.

No wonder New York Democrats are trembling four months ahead of Election Day.

Denial on Chicago's Carnage

Guess who's responsible for the hideous 4th of July weekend crime wave that saw 109 shot in Chicago with 19 fatalities? That's right: Richard Nixon! . . . At least if you ask far-left dunderhead Mayor Brandon Johnson.

"We had a chance 60 years ago to get at the root causes. And people mocked President Johnson, and we ended up with Richard Nixon," Johnson lectured the press after the shootings.

He declined to elaborate further — likely because the idea's so insane not even a neo-Soviet like Johnson can sell it with a straight face.

"Root causes," though, remain a favorite bogey of Johnson and the larger left when it comes to violent crime — he demanded fed funds to address them at the same whacked-out presser, citing poverty as the cause of the violence while speaking of vague plans to "transform" the Windy City.

No: Going hat in hand to the feds is not the answer to 109 shooting victims and 19 fatalities, in-

cluding several kids.

You know what might work? Locking up criminals and re-empowering the police.

Illinois was the first state in the nation to eliminate cash bail; Chicago, under the thumb of retiring Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx — pre-eminent even among the pro-crime left — saw thugs and killers run wild as Foxx stood down in the name of "equity."

And Johnson himself is a police defunder from way back, an ultra-leftist who's already done massive damage just during his brief tenure.

The worst part? Johnson himself knows he's telling lies — saying even as he blathered about injustice that "this is a choice. It's a choice to kill . . . There will be consequences for the violence."

We'll believe it when we see it; just as with the shootings, the current decay of Chicago is a choice.

But we suspect the monstrous policies Johnson admires will ensure the carnage continues.

BRAIN DRAIN

Cancel culture is so pervasive that it's now impacting mental health — and there's no relief in sight

On a podcast recently, UFC CEO Dana White compared cancel culture to the 1980s when LGBTs remained "in the closet," unable to be their true selves. Back then, White argued, coming out could destroy your life. Three decades later, cancel culture is taking a similar toll.



ANDREW HARTZ

White's message resonates with millions of people today. It's also consistent with new data on the subject of free speech and expression. Heterodox Academy just released their 2024 campus expression survey. It found that 45% of students were reluctant to talk about politics. Another study from the Freedom Economy Index found that high percentages of people believe that being "discovered" as a Republican will harm their career.

As a clinical psychologist, I hear stories like this all the time. People are afraid to say what they think at work, at school and even with family. Their fears aren't baseless. They see people being attacked and don't want it to happen to them. It could be a financial advisor falsely accused of bias, a teacher disciplined for disagreements about gender ideology, a doctor suspended for an inappropriate tweet. These incidents create a culture of fear. Now, it's impacting mental health.

And psychologists are noticing.

A few months ago, I received a call from Dean McKay, a clinical psychology professor at Fordham University and an expert in obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD). He said that in his prac-

tice, he'd noticed a new trend. More of his clients are reporting intrusive thoughts (obsessions) about saying or doing things that might get them "cancelled." They worry constantly about doing something un-PC and then having the mob come after them. This can contribute to avoidance of social situations that might damage their professional and personal lives.

Actually, this phenomenon isn't all that surprising. Symptoms of mental illness are often shaped by socio-political contexts. In Freud's day, the focus might have been more on sexual repression. In the Middle Ages, the focus was often steered toward the religious beliefs of the time. Now, people are bombarded by an intensely politicized culture.

Some of this makes sense. If a man has social anxiety, and his workplace has a flurry of accusations of sexism (about jokes, microaggressions and the like), then we would expect his social anxiety to be focused around gender. He'd be prone to excessive worries about sexism accusations, and his symptoms would take shape in that environment.

The same could be true for people with depression, substance use disorders, or anger management issues. The social context of the moment is the when and where of psychiatric symptoms. Beyond providing additional stresses, this context can shape triggers, reactions, coping and even the nature of symptoms themselves.

There are many examples of this type of phenomena. Millions of people, for instance, attend aggressive DEI train-

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New studies have found that many people fear being exposed as Republicans and 45% of college students are reluctant to talk politics.



Adobe Stock (2)

ings at work or school. Often, these trainings divide people into subsets based on race or gender, and then they attack one group and praise the others. Sometimes the language is vicious; calling white people “toxic,” “ignorant,” or inherently racist. In some DEI trainings I’ve seen people forced to read an article titled “Whiteness as Pathological Narcissism.”

This type of all-or-nothing framework isn’t just degrading and hurtful. It can lead to anger, anxiety and other psychological problems — both for those who believe in these ideologies and for those who are attacked.

Another example is self-censorship. There’s plenty of reason to believe this negatively impacts mental health. For one thing, self-censorship can cause isolation. Even if someone is well-liked, they’re still alone if no one is aware of their core values, thoughts, or feelings. Over time, this can leave people feeling empty or fake.

There are countless other socio-political issues that impact mental health

— from hostility toward traditional religious beliefs, to experiences of anti-white racial aggression, to changing norms around sexual behavior, to the challenges facing young men living in a culture that frequently demonizes masculinity. And these ideologies have crept into nearly every area of life: dating, TV shows, family life, and even churches and synagogues.

Take the Unitarian Universalist church website. It leads with pleas for social justice and action on climate and it ends with its support for Black Lives Matter. But what about faith, devotion — God?

As social dynamics have become more extreme, people are increasingly looking for answers. New research is confirming what many already believe: the politicization of culture negatively impacts mental health. Psychology has the potential to offer explanations and provide solutions, such as helping people overcome anxiety about speaking up, or helping folks who disagree have more constructive conversations.

Unfortunately, political bias in the mental health field has prevented it from addressing cancel culture and self-censorship. There’s almost no academic research on these topics. There are essentially no trainings for therapists — and few therapists specialize in addressing these issues. People fearful of social ostracism have almost nowhere to turn for help. If we really care about mental health, this needs to change.

Andrew Hartz, Ph.D., is a clinical psychologist based in New York City, and the founder and president of the Open Therapy Institute.

CHATTER

Smoking gun

There’s enough past evidence to show Alec Baldwin is narcissistic and arrogant, even belligerent at times (“Supporting actor Alec,” July 11).

Had he demonstrated true remorse for allegedly negligently shooting Halyna Hutchins, instead of adamantly denying responsibility, a reasonable deal might have been arrived at.

Now, as his trial begins, Baldwin’s classic hubris might be his Achilles Heel.

Vincent Ruggiero, Scottsdale Ariz.

Tory downfall

I was puzzled by The Post Editorial Board’s attack on the British election: Far from showing the differences between the United States and United Kingdom, it highlights its similarities (“You’ve Got Electoral College Gripes?” Editorial, July 8).

The biggest difference is that the United Kingdom has stronger third parties than the United States, as the far-right Reform Party just demonstrated.

But even the United States is not immune from this phenomenon. During the 2020 presidential election, President Biden’s margins of victory in the states of Arizona, Georgia, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin were smaller than the number of votes for the Libertarian Party and other write-ins.

In other words, third parties cost former President Donald Trump the election just as third

parties cost the Tories their seats.

Americans shouldn’t ignore the outcome of British elections. There are many lessons and warnings for your own coming contest, especially for anyone who opposes the Democrats but is flirting with voting Libertarian in November.

Robert Frazer, Lancashire, United Kingdom

California king

There is no question that Gov. Gavin Newsom is waxing rapturous about the Biden debate debacle (“Gavs back him — but privately,” July 4.)

Gavin is consumed with subtly signaling to everybody about his White House aspirations while masquerading about with coiffed hair and insincere department.

His challenge now is how to shove Vice President Kamala Harris to the side track.

Tony Favero, Half Moon Bay, Calif.

Serena’s slam

Serena Williams made history last week at the ESPY awards, but not in a good way (“Serena Williams eviscerates Harrison Butker at ESPYs: ‘We don’t need you,’” July 11).

She was way out of line to single out and denigrate Harrison Butker, an audience member, for his recent commencement speech. She can disagree with him, but that was not the venue to vent her opinions.

How did ESPY permit such vitriol to be spewed before mil-

lions? ESPY should issue Butker an immediate apology. Williams is too proud to do so.

She was the “host” whose job is, by definition, to make everyone feel welcome. Her rudeness and attempt to disparage this gentleman was a cringeworthy embarrassment. It only served to diminish her, not him.

She has money, so she can make infinite costume changes, but she’d be richer by far if she had some class.

Suzanne Krafts, Delray Beach Fla.

France resists

The victory of France’s New Popular Front is a noteworthy development (“The left bank shot,” July 8).

Despite not securing an absolute majority, the leftist coalition’s success underscores a country’s desire for change. American voters should take heed.

Jagjit Singh, Los Altos, Calif.



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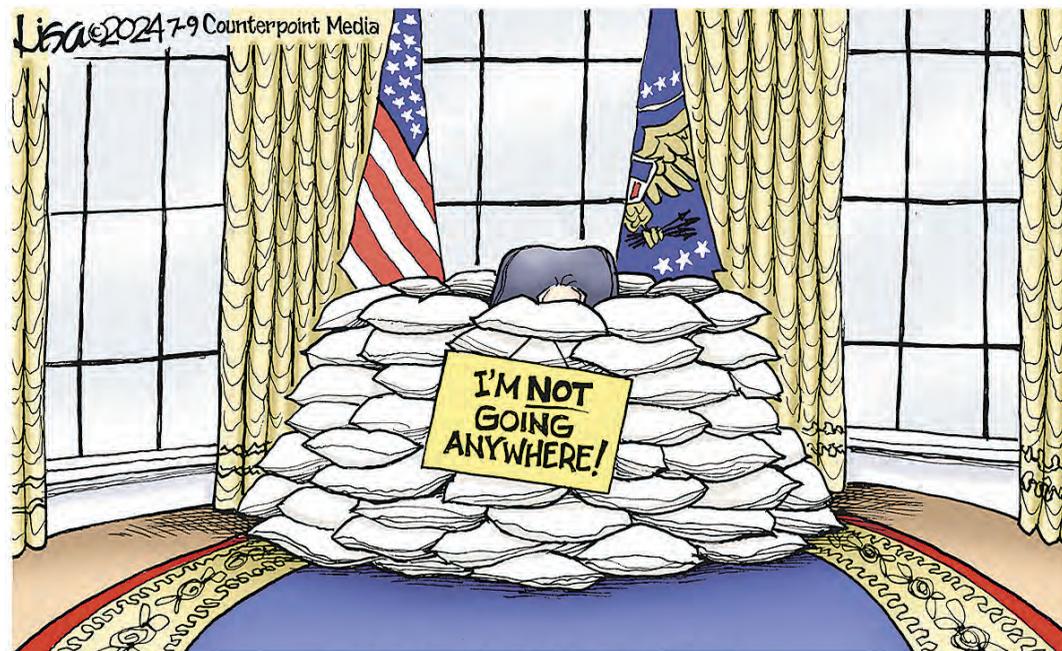
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The President's Inner Circle

Getty Images



OCD expert Dean McKay’s (left) patients fear being canceled. UFC CEO Dana White compared it to oppression of LGBT people.



REQUIRED READING

by Hailey Eber

The Bright Sword: A Novel of King Arthur

by Lev Grossman (Viking)

The bestselling author of "The Magicians" trilogy reimagines the legend of King Arthur — looking beyond Lancelot and Gawain and giving quirkier characters such as Sir Palomides, the fool Sir Dagonet and Merlin's apprentice Nimue a chance to shine.



JFK Jr.: An Intimate Oral Biography

By RoseMarie Terenzio and Liz McNeil (Gallery Books)

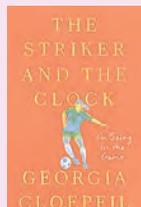
Twenty five years after a plane crash claimed the life of Kennedy, his wife and sister-in-law, this book attempts to shed light on just who America's prince was. Terenzio, his former executive assistant and the chief of staff at his "George" magazine, brings unique perspective and access to the endeavor.



The Striker and the Clock: On Being in the Game

By Georgia Cloepfil (Riverhead Books)

A professional soccer player — but hardly a star — reflects on playing for six teams in six different countries, the state of women's soccer and what it means to be a serious athlete. The memoir is written in 90 short installments to reflect the 90 minutes of a soccer match.



Robert Ludlum's The Bourne Shadow

By Brian Freeman (G.P. Putnam's Sons)

The latest Jason Bourne book finds the enigmatic secret agent having to confront his past after a woman recognizes him as his former identity, James Webb.



The Au Pair Affair: A Novel

By Tessa Bailey (Avon)

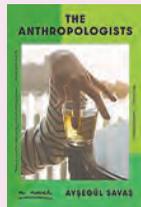
A hunky hockey veteran (is there any other kind?) who is a single dad develops feelings for his kid's nanny, a sassy, broke 20-something with dreams of being a marine biologist.



The Anthropologists

By Aysegül Savas (Bloomsbury Publishing)

A young couple looks at apartments in a foreign city, dreaming of what their life might look like in each potential home. The events that unfold — namely day-to-day life — are ordinary and yet quietly revelatory.



How a mid-19th-century German-Jewish

by CAROLINE HOWE

THEY were branded the "Jewish Mafia," or the "Kosher Nostra" — four violent, street-tough Jews with lots of criminal smarts who dominated tabloid headlines and the wanted posters that festooned the bulletin boards of US post offices across the land:

Among them was Meyer Lansky, dubbed the kingpin of organized crime in America; Arnold Rothstein, known as "The Brain," considered the pioneer executive of the nation's crime wave in the Roaring Twenties; Benjamin Siegel, known as "Bugsy," handsome, hot-headed and ruthless with Hollywood good looks; and then there was Louis "Lepke" Buchalter, who then-FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover called "the most dangerous criminal in the United States."

But decades before their crimes made them legends, there was Fredericka Mandelbaum, a portly German immigrant mother of four — the ultimate Jewish mother who a Drew Barrymore of the era, the mid to late 1800s, might have lovingly called "Mamala." Except for her looks.

At a mannish 6 feet tall, apple-cheeked and of Falstaffian girth, she weighed between 250 and 300 pounds and resembled what one reporter viewed as "the product of a congenial liaison between a dumpling and a mountain."

She dressed in voluminous black, brown or dark blue silk gowns, topped with a sealskin cape, a bonnet of ostrich feathers and covered, eventually, in diamonds estimated at a worth of more than \$40,000 — earrings, necklaces, brooches, bracelets and rings — worth some \$1.3 million today.

Before long, Mandelbaum, who started in New York's immigrant alleys on the Lower East Side as a street peddler, became America's first major organized crime boss.

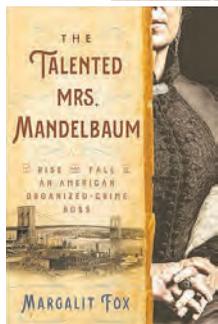
ONCE, when Pinkerton detectives raided her storefront and opened the safe, a fortune spilled out: rings, chains, bracelets, silverware, loose diamonds the size of peas; in hidden passages were bars of gold, and equipment to weigh the stash.

Her greatest caper — the 1869 burglary of Manhattan's Ocean National Bank, masterminded by Mandelbaum — netted her \$800,000, some \$23 million in today's money.

And those wages of crime were just the tip of her years-long spree, often protected by a corrupt police leadership and Tammany Hall power brokers.

The strange story of Mandelbaum and her criminality is detailed in journalist Margalit Fox's entrancing new 336-page true crime book, "The Talented Mrs. Mandelbaum: The Rise and Fall of an American Organized-Crime Boss" (Random House).

"For 25 years, Fredericka Mandelbaum reigned as one of the most infamous underworld characters in America," writes Fox, a former New York Times obituary writer,



and author of five other nonfiction books. "Working from her humble Manhattan storefront, Rivington and Clinton Streets, she presided over a multimillion-dollar criminal operation that centered on stolen luxury goods and later diversified into bank robbery. Conceived in the mid 1800s — long before the accepted starting time for organized crime in the United States — her empire extended across the country and beyond."

Having caught the attention of the press, The New York Times would call her "the nucleus and center of the whole organization of crime in New York."

Arriving in steerage in 1850 from Kassel,

Germany, Mandelbaum was an impoverished 25-year-old. She settled into Kleindeutschland, a community of fellow German Jews on New York's Lower East Side with her husband where she began working the streets as a rag peddler — at a time when most of the city's population lived below 14th Street. Selling lace door to door, she quickly learned there was no future in street peddling.

ACCORDING to the author, Mandelbaum hooked up with a veteran criminal thief and fence, "General Abe" Greenthal, who taught her how to appraise luxury goods and that became the founda-

immigrant became the mother of all New York gangsters

QUEEN OF THE CITY



Sideburned New York district attorney Peter Olney (left) maneuvered to bring Fredericka Mandelbaum (circled, opposite page) to justice through an entrapment plot. She'd worked her way up in the criminal underworld with the aid of con man "General Abe" Greenthal (right).

of the city's premier receivers of stolen goods, even as she was marginalized for being an immigrant, a woman and a Jew.

Fox writes that Mandelbaum was more than just a successful crook. She was a "business visionary who systemized the enterprise of property crime with a cadre of NY's best bank robbers, housebreakers and shoplifters."

Widowed in 1875, she became the sole support of four children. Thus, with police and politicians on her payroll, the crime boss began planning bank stickups — all while still reigning as a popular Manhattan society hostess, a philanthropist, and running a storefront of a sprawling criminal enterprise.

When New York became the garment center of the country, it was time for the talented Mrs. Mandelbaum to expand her business into stealing silk.

With the growth of crime in big cities like New York, local law enforcement needed help and it arrived in the form of Allan Pinkerton's aggressive National Detective Agency, whose motto was "We Never Sleep."

His son, Robert, took over when his father died and was conscripted by New York District Attorney Peter Olney to nail Fredericka Mandelbaum through entrapment.

The plan was to slip an agent into her shop and catch her handling stolen goods.

Pinkerton Agent Gustave Frank led the operation, introducing himself to Mandelbaum as a shady silk jobber and eventually worming his

way into her confidence. Unearthing a piece of silk that still had private markings, he urged her to come clean and she punched him in the face. She was arrested, indicted and given a trial date.

The year was 1884. On the day of her trial, she jumped bail and fled to Toronto, Canada.

FREDERICKA Mandelbaum died in Canada in the spring of 1894 at age 68 from paralysis.

The Fall River Daily Evening News of Massachusetts reported that the "Queen of Crooks — had lived like a princess since she escaped from New York."

She finally made it back to New York, the city where she began and ended her career of crime, in a coffin. She was buried in the family plot at the Union Field Cemetery in Queens, where another corrupt New Yorker was laid to rest — the attorney and fixer, Roy Cohn.



A vigilant Ms. Mandelbaum monitors the shop from her clandestine parlor.



Fredericka Mandelbaum first settled into the crowded Jewish community on the Lower East Side. Eventually her criminal exploits, all breathlessly covered by the day's press (right) had her fleeing to Canada.

tion for her future career.

She learned to steal — "availing herself of choice items from one bourgeois home so that they might adorn another or lifting bolts of silk from large textile concerns for sale to neighborhood tailors," writes Fox.

Women were the most skilled shoplifters at the time and Mandelbaum mentored these underworld ladies to steal and promised them bail if arrested.

She fenced anything "from silks to securities" — even 50,000 stolen cigars. But her specialty was diamonds removed from diamond stickpins in

fashion at the time and easily extracted from a cravat or lapel by a nimble-fingered thief. Back at her shop, the diamonds would be removed and sold to witting and unwitting customers.

But there was no great fortune here, so she turned to shoplifting with a skilled crew of foot soldiers before moving on to become "a large-scale receiver of luxury stolen goods, an orchestrator of theft-to-order and bank robberies," writes the author.

"She sold to dealers and dressmakers in Trenton, Albany, Buffalo, Cin-

cinnati — she had agents everywhere," according to a Pinkerton agent, and owned warehouses across the tri-state area.

OVER the next two decades, according to Fox, Mandelbaum had become a criminal mastermind and the country's most notorious fence — buying, camouflaging and reselling stolen luxury goods through her modest haberdashery shop with a network of hand-picked burglars and thieves.

As the author points out, Mandelbaum had established herself as one

DELL Technologies

BLACK FRIDAY IN JULY

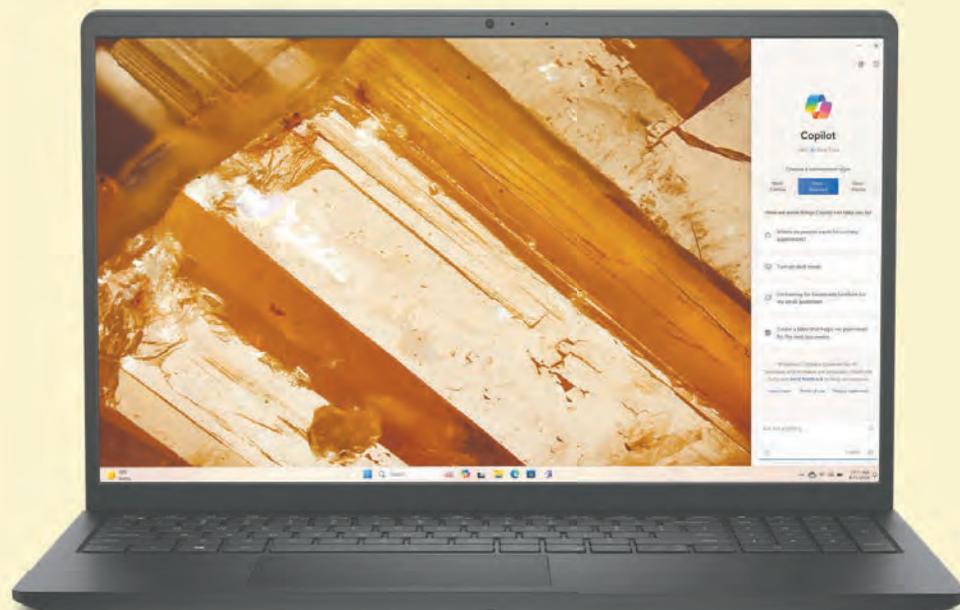
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Sight unseen

by JOHN KENNEDY

As an only child growing up in a military family, Jay Ellis was in constant search of stability. He swapped cities and schools with every change of the calendar, due to his dad's Air Force assignments. Interpersonal connections were fleeting. But his bond with Mikey was different.

Ellis — the 42-year-old actor best known for portraying Lawrence in HBO's now-defunct dramedy series "Insecure" — describes Mikey as the big brother he'd always wanted: a fly-guy hybrid of "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air"-era Will Smith and Kadeem Hardison as Dwayne Wayne of "A Different World." The two youngsters were inseparable.

Mikey was suave, smart and always down for shenanigans; together they'd assemble time-travel machines, evade bullies and speculate about the appropriate ratio of tongue and saliva for one's first kiss.

But Mikey wasn't like other kids. For all of the low- and high-stakes mischief they'd partake in — from pre-K to well into middle school — Mikey could be neither seen nor heard by anyone other than Ellis himself.

"For a long time I thought I was the kid, Haley Joel Osment, from 'The

Sixth Sense' and maybe, just maybe, there was the possibility I was seeing dead people," Ellis writes in his debut memoir, "Did Everyone Have an Imaginary Friend (or Just Me)?" (One World/Penguin Random House, out July 30).

Thankfully, for Ellis' sake, the only "medium" in his youth referred to clothing sizes. His make-believe friendship with Mikey now serves as the focus of Ellis' new book, a vulnerable, knee-slapping, and occasionally heartbreaking series of vignettes that depict a Black boy's innocence and ingenuity in a sincere, relatable manner.

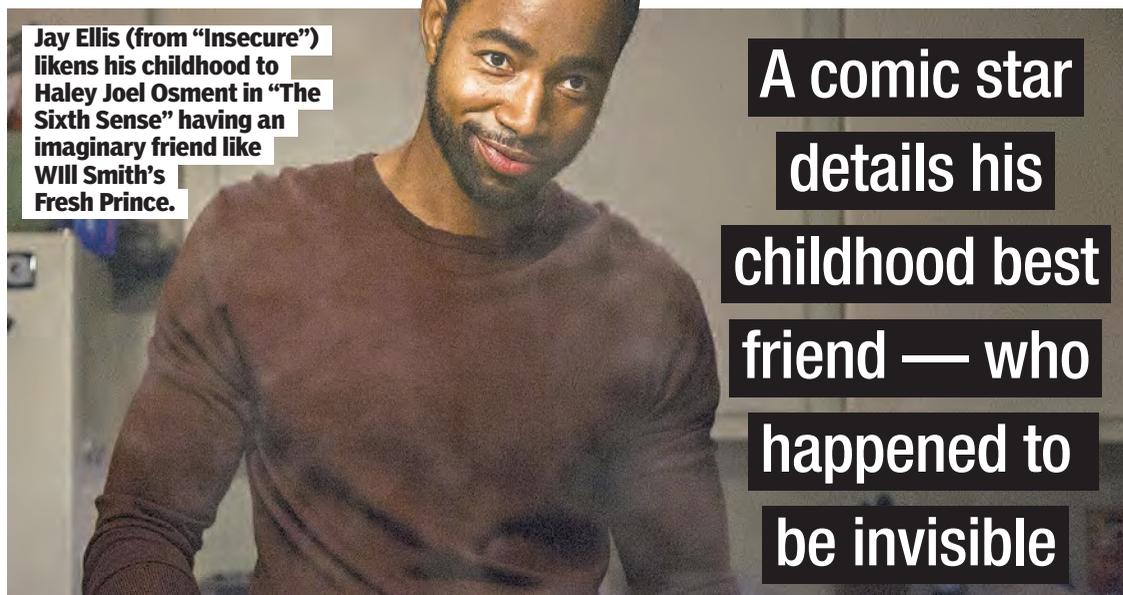
The juvenile episodes abound, recounting stories of a child's search for acceptance and adventure.

When Ellis transferred to an elementary school in Texas where most students spoke Spanish, he gelled down his hair with Luster's S-Curl Activator, studied telenovelas, rebranded himself as Romon (his middle name), and unsuccessfully cosplayed as a "Latin lover" — all under Mikey's counsel.

On another occasion, Ellis made a mess at his dad's office while he and Mikey straddled a push broom that he visualized as an aircraft soaring over Disney World.

"I went from imagining flying jets back in that hangar in Austin, Texas, to literally flying jets in movies," writes Ellis, who appeared alongside Tom Cruise in 2022's "Top Gun:

Jay Ellis (from "Insecure") likens his childhood to Haley Joel Osment in "The Sixth Sense" having an imaginary friend like Will Smith's Fresh Prince.



Anne Marie Fox/HBO

A comic star
details his
childhood best
friend — who
happened to
be invisible

Maverick."

Ellis' book takes readers back to simpler, more wholesome times, fortified by references to Ice Cube, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, "White Men Can't Jump" and other millennial pop culture totems. For parents, it's a testament to the importance of encouraging a child's creativity, despite the occasional collateral damage.

"[My parents] not only tolerated me having an imaginary friend, after a while my mom was even encouraging," Ellis writes, adding that on one birthday, his mother, finance executive and television producer Paula Bryant-Ellis, baked a separate cake for Mikey. "I'm sure many Black parents would have had me prayed over and bathed in anointing oil... or told me to sit down, be quiet, and quit it."

The stories aren't all so trivial, though. Ellis recalls narrowly escaping a shootout between rival gang members at a Sacramento, Ca movie theater at age 9. Mikey's "bubble guts" foreshadowed the impending danger.

Two years earlier, Ellis' imagined bestie helped him process the death of a cousin murdered as a result of mistaken identity.

As Ellis matured, Mikey's presence

faded, becoming more subconscious guiding voice than conjured entity. But the lessons remained.

Through Mikey, Ellis understood the importance of loyalty after he discovered he was being tricked by a high school sweetheart. His confidence had already been fortified when he faced intimidating opponents on the basketball court. He knew not to tolerate classmates' racial slurs while attending a Tulsa, Okla., magnet school.

Still, nothing could fully prepare Ellis for the trauma of being pulled over by police nine times in one year — before the age of 18 — seemingly without cause or reason. Or the "Scared Straight"-like prison visit he endured after violating city curfew.

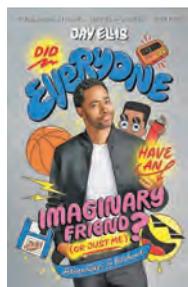
"Mikey helped me feel safe in questioning why the world was the way it was, and in imagining how the world, and my life, could be," he writes.

The anecdotes in Ellis' book are

vivid and whimsical — stories that feel ripe for a TV retelling. (Perhaps his friend and "Insecure" co-star/creator Issa Rae could help make that a reality.) He doesn't explore beyond high school, but it's clear how those formative years with and without Mikey shaped Ellis as a man and an entertainer.

Ultimately, Ellis' boyhood chapters remind readers of how fulfilling it can be to tap into your inner child. And maybe talk to yourself every now and then.

"We all have a voice that guides us and helps us become the person we are today... for good and bad... Sometimes, if you listen close enough to that voice and allow yourself just a few minutes to tune out all the adult stuff that our very serious and very busy lives are throwing at us, that voice is our sense of play, our sense of joy, and our sense of imagination saying, 'Let me back in!'"



BUZZ BOOK: Spare me

As anyone who's ever listened to his podcasts or radio shows will know, Anthony Cumia isn't exactly backward in coming forward, and in his second book, "Spare Me" (Post Hill Press), he continues with his scathing attacks on the people and issues currently vexing him.

From the flat-earth fanaticism of Owen Benjamin ("In my opinion, Owen is very smart and mentally ill") to his long-standing feud with actor and comedian Bill Burr ("It was a personal thing between Bill and his wife and me. It's not as sordid as it sounds."), Cumia revisits some of the more high-profile spats he's recently waged (and even won).

He also addresses everything from the 2021 Capitol riot to Black Lives Matter and how Donald Trump will fare in November's Presidential election. "The thing that I'm most afraid of is that the election will be stolen from him again — not with ballots or faulty voting machines but by the mainstream media going full f---ing force against him again and influencing the minds of Americans — who unfortunately, have an average IQ of ninety-eight," he



writes.

Cumia saves his most blistering criticism for the final chapter, however, when he lays waste to what he regards as the scourge of cancel culture, something, he says, he's endured first-hand.

When he was fired from SiriusXM in 2014 for what the company called "racially-charged and hate-filled remarks" on social media, Cumia started his own Compound Media Network instead. "I literally had to make a broadcast com-

pany just so I could talk about s---t that I was not allowed to talk about on anyone else's platform," he writes. "How insane is that?"

Indeed, as far as Cumia sees it, the entire country is now being held hostage by special interest groups. "They are a small f---ing percentage of the population, but they have all this power to ruin your life," he writes.

The key, he concludes, is to keep fighting the fight. "You don't have to agree or disagree with anyone's opinions. But you should agree that people shouldn't be canceled and lose everything just for voicing their f---ing opinion. "In closing: f---k them!" — Gavin Newsham

Kakuro

Place 1 to 9 in each white cell. To choose the right number, you need to work from the clues in around the edge. The numbers below the diagonal lines are the sums of the solutions in the white cells immediately beneath. The numbers above the divide are the sums of the solutions immediately to the right. Rows and columns do NOT have to be unique.

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#459 ▲

New York Post, Sunday, July 14, 2024 nypost.com

Chess

Checkedered careers

By Andy Soltis

Many American fans remember Pal Benko, who fled his Communist Hungary homeland to become a world-class player and longtime resident of the United States.

Few Americans are aware the great Geza Maroczy fled his native Hungary 40 years before Benko, after a failed Communist takeover, and temporarily lived in the U.S.

Maroczy's remarkable six-decade career is recalled in a

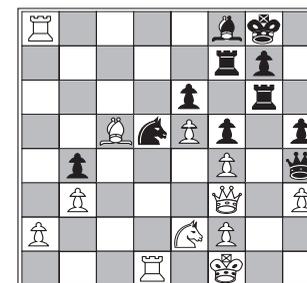
splendid new book, "Chess Warrior, The Life and Games of Geza Maroczy" by Laszlo Jakobetz.

His best-known legacy is the "Maroczy Bind" pawn structure. The only known game of his playing the bind occurred during an exhibition tour of America in 1908.

After the key move 5 c4 Maroczy wrote "Black cannot move ...d5 and his play is very embarrassed."

SICILIAN DEFENSE Philadelphia 1906

Geza Maroczy	Hermann Voigt
1 e4.....c5	15 a5.....Qc7
2 d4.....cxd4	16 axb6.....axb6
3 Nf3.....g6	17 Ra6.....Nd7
4 Nxd4.....Bg7	18 Bxg7.....Kxg7
5 c4!.....Nf6	19 Qa1!.....Ne5
6 Nc3.....d6	20 Ra7.....Qd8
7 Be2.....O-O	21 Be2.....Bd7
8 Be3.....Bd7	22 Nd5.....Kg8
9 O-O.....Nc6	23 Rc1.....e6
10 h3.....Nxd4	24 Ne3.....h5
11 Bxd4.....Bc6	25 b5!.....Qh4
12 Bf3.....Re8	26 Rd1.....Qf4
13 b4!.....b6	27 g3!.....Qh6
14 a4.....Rc8	28 Rxd6.....Resigns



White to play and win.

M.Suyarov-B. Daneshvar

Tashkent 2024

Last week: 1...Qxh5+! 2 Qxh5 Ra1+ 3 Bc1 Rxc1+! 4 Kxc1 Bf4+ and mates.

KENKEN

Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners. Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

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Sunday Word Force

REVIEWABLE

From the word or phrase above, form at least 26 five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank, not both.

Bridge

You've been called to serve on a grand jury, investigating the result of today's deal: to wit, that North-South were minus 100 points when they might have done better. The prosecuting attorney presents the evidence. Decide whether to issue any true bills.

South opened one spade, North responded INT and South then leaped to four spades, passed out. West led a trump. Declarer won, led a diamond to dummy's ace and returned the queen of hearts to finesse.

West took the king and led another trump, and South was headed for a minus. He drew trumps, cashed his A-J of hearts and exited

with a diamond, but East won with the nine and led the queen. Declarer had to ruff that and eventually was obliged to lead clubs from his hand. He lost two clubs to East's jack and ace and went

down one.

So what say you? South's bid of four spades didn't rise to the level of a chargeable offense, but it was questionable. South might well judge to play at notrump; most experts would do so with a running spade suit and semi-balanced pattern. If South raises North's INT to 3NT, North will surely take nine tricks.

South's play, though, was indictable. At the third trick South must lead the three of hearts to his jack. If the finesse won, South would take the ace, ruff his eight in dummy and lead toward his king of clubs to try for an over-trick.

When instead West takes the king of hearts and leads a second trump, declarer draws trumps and gets back to dummy with the queen of hearts for a club lead. He makes his game when East has the ace.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ 5 2
♥ Q 3
♦ A J 6 3
♣ 10 8 5 4 2

WEST
♠ 10 9 8
♥ K 9 5 2
♦ K 10 8 4
♣ Q 7

EAST
♠ 7 4
♥ 10 7 6 4
♦ Q 9 7
♣ A J 9 6

SOUTH
♠ A K Q J 6 3
♥ A J 8
♦ 5 2
♣ K 3

South 1 ♠
West Pass
North 1 NT
East Pass

Opening lead — ♠ 10

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By Maude Campbell, Tori Schneebaum & Donna Grace

Snaps

VEST-LAID PLANS

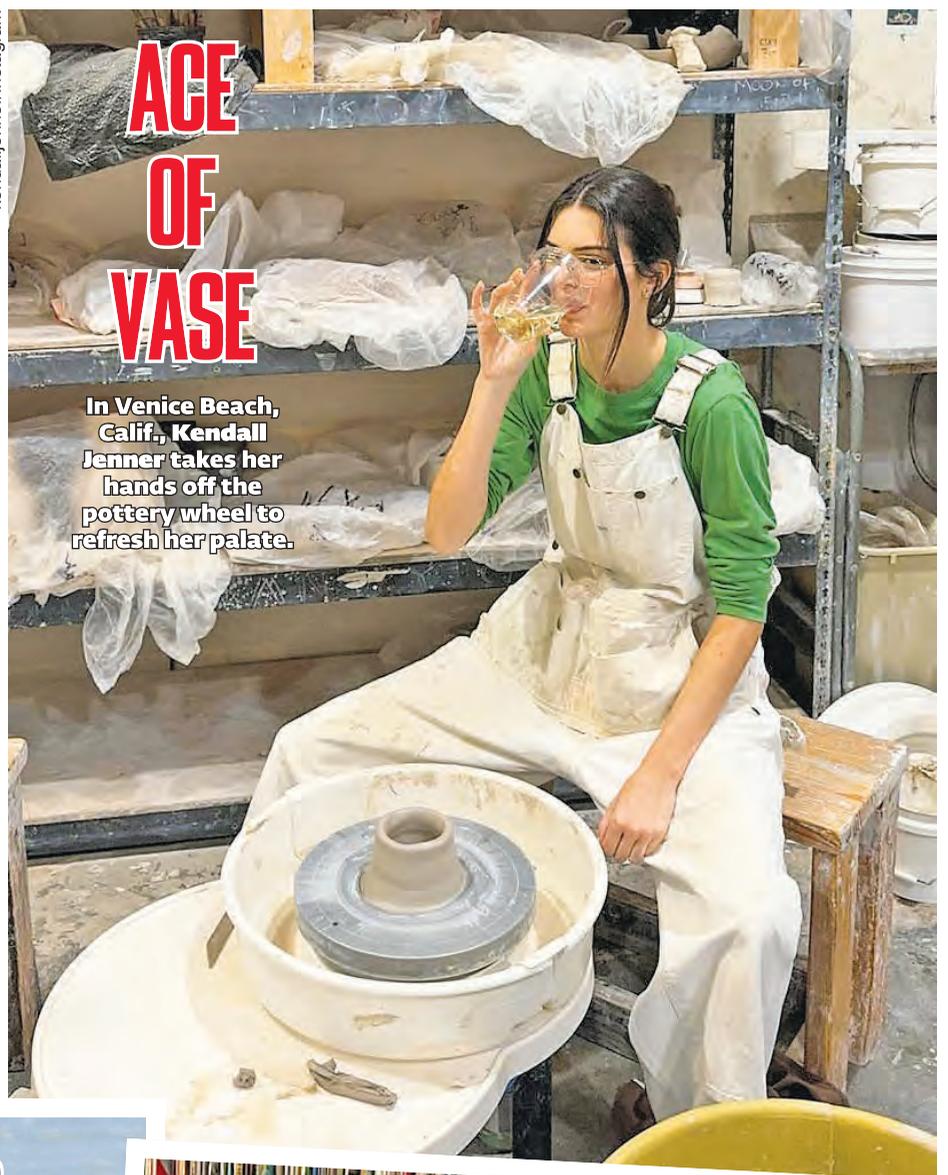


Jennifer Garner rollicks on a white water rafting trip in Montana.

kendalljenner/instagram

ACE OF VASE

In Venice Beach, Calif., **Kendall Jenner** takes her hands off the pottery wheel to refresh her palate.

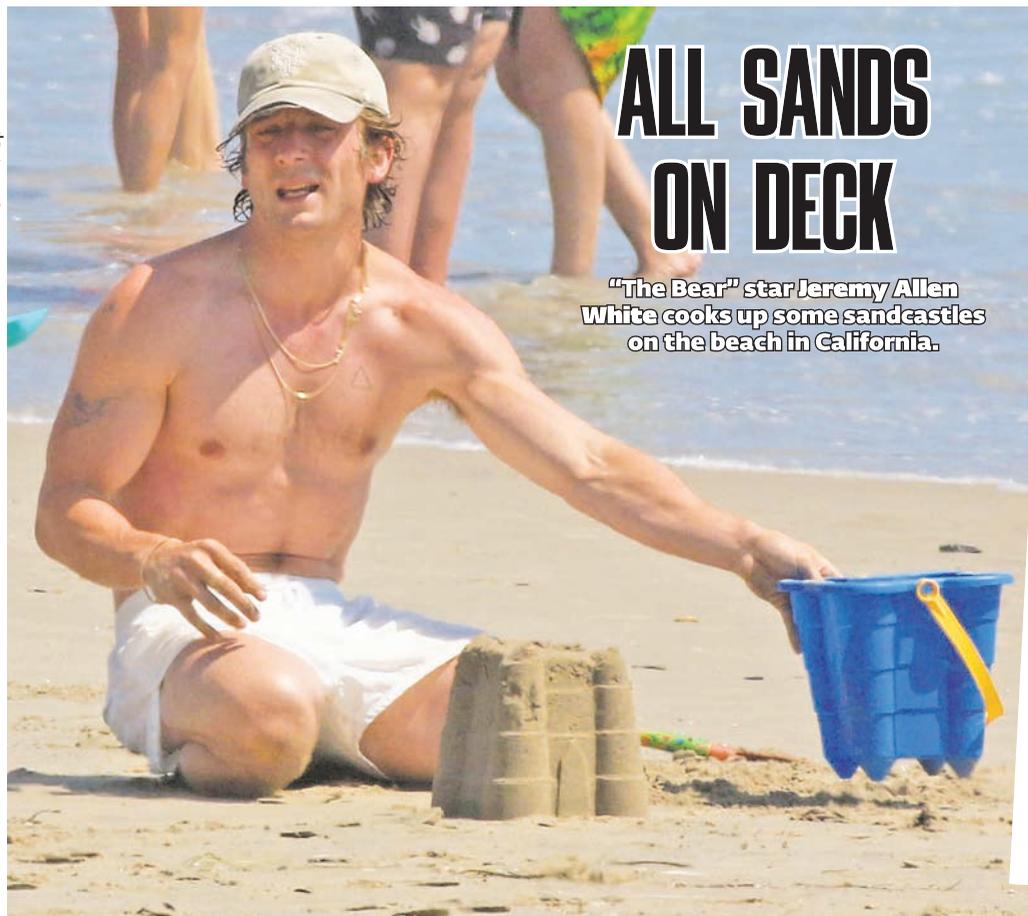


jennifergarner/instagram

Dr. Juice / SplashNews.com

ALL SANDS ON DECK

"The Bear" star **Jeremy Allen White** cooks up some sandcastles on the beach in California.



FOR THE RECORD

Tom Hanks spends time with things his own age for his 68th birthday.



ritawilson/Instagram



Felipe Rrerales / SplashNews.com



SUNSPOT

Actress Jameela Jamil perfects her tan in Europe.

jameelajamil/Instagram



RAINBOW BITE

Halsey shows her true colors while filming in the West Village.



MAMA & LLAMA

On a road trip in Norway, Jennifer Connelly and daughter Agnes, 13, let local llamas guide them through nature.

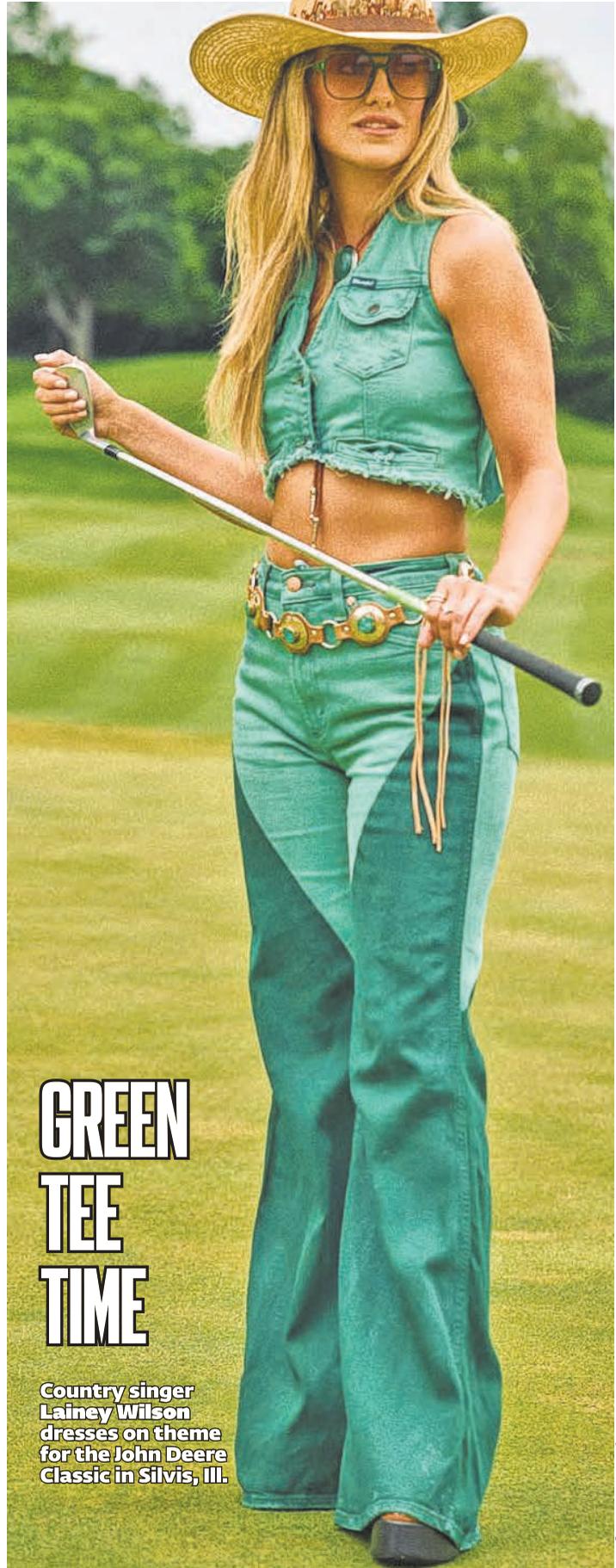


Tig Notaro (from left), Jennifer Aniston and Reese Witherspoon kick off filming Season 4 of "The Morning Show."

JEANIUS AT WORK

jenniferaniston/Instagram

Snaps



GREEN TEE TIME

Country singer **Lainey Wilson** dresses on theme for the John Deere Classic in Silvis, Ill.

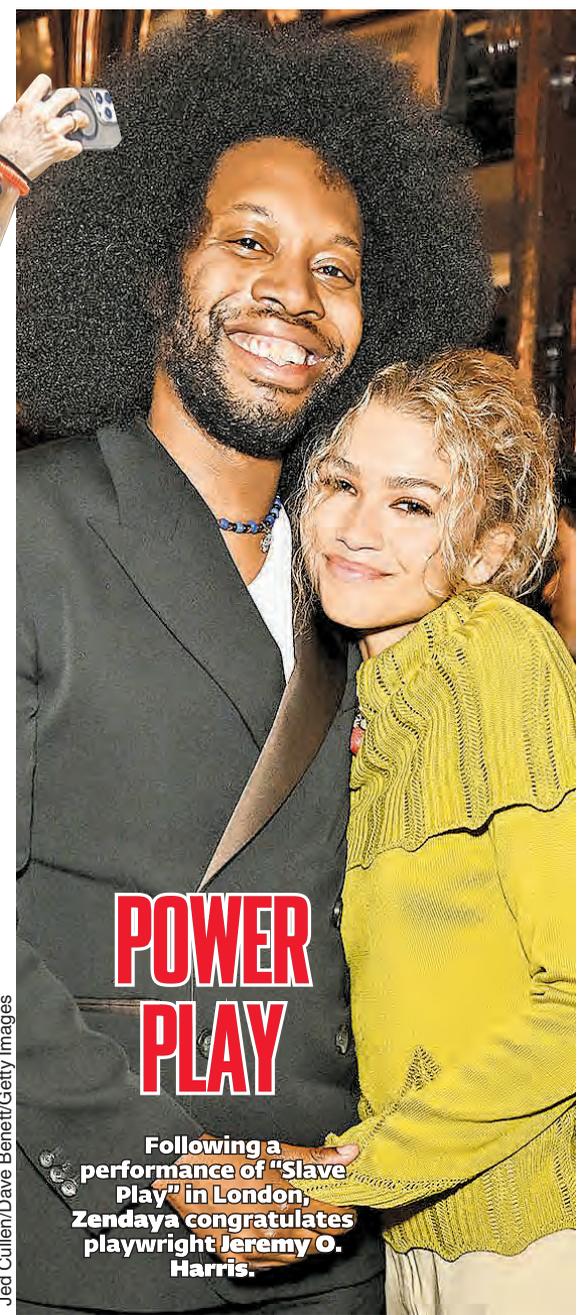
NK / SplashNews.com

laineywilson/instagram



In Barcelona, Spain, **Chris Hemsworth** and wife **Elsa Pataky** keep close while playing tourists.

TWENTY-THOR SEVEN



POWER PLAY

Following a performance of "Slave Play" in London, **Zendaya** congratulates playwright **Jeremy O. Harris**.

Jed Cullien/Dave Benett/Getty Images

lisarinna/Instagram



'HILLS' ARE ALIVE

Former "The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills" co-stars **Erika Jayne** (from left), **Teddi Mellencamp**, **Dorit Kemsley**, **Lisa Rinna** and **Kyle Richards** show off their silly sides.



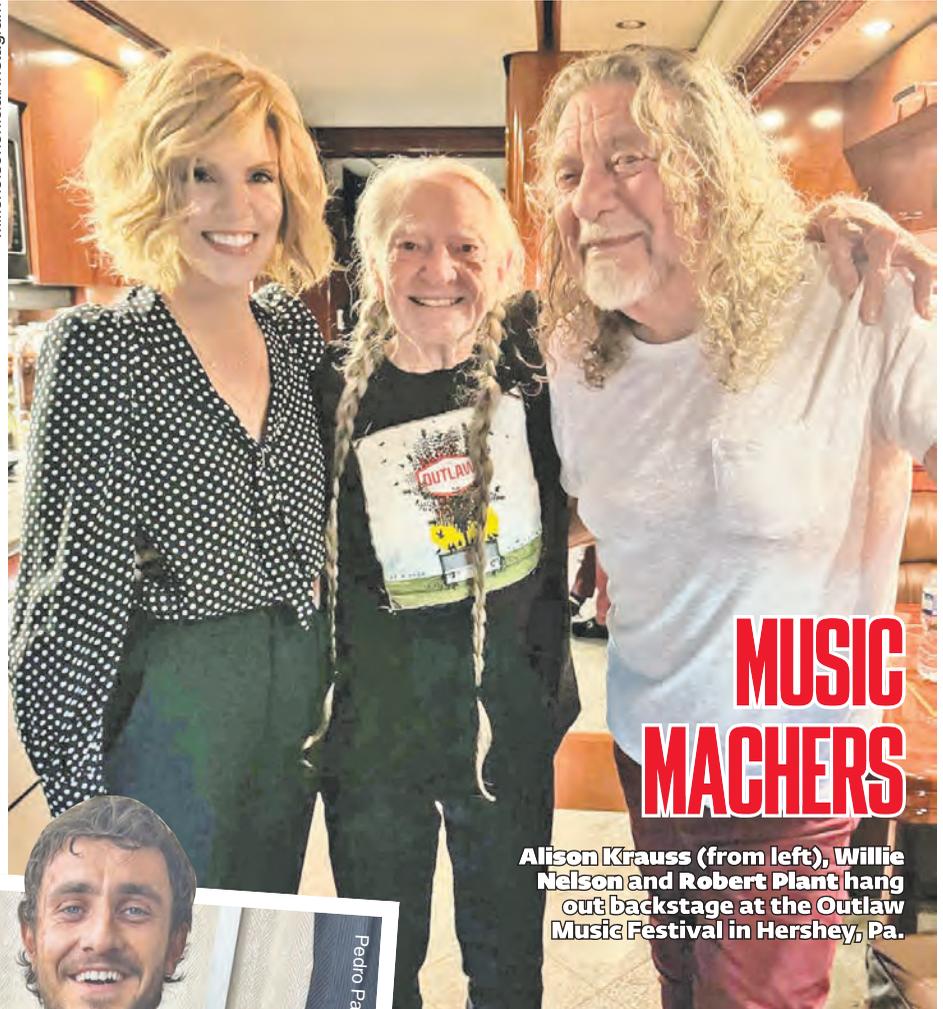
**SHE'S
A '10'**

Model Suki Waterhouse defies the reality that she had a child four months ago.

10

sukiwaterhouse/Instagram

willienelsonofficial/Instagram



**MUSIC
MACHERS**

Alison Krauss (from left), Willie Nelson and Robert Plant hang out backstage at the Outlaw Music Festival in Hershey, Pa.

WireImage



In Málaga, Spain, Dakota Johnson gives love to former stepdad Antonio Banderas, who was married to her mom Melanie Griffith for nearly 20 years.

BASK OF 'ZORRO'

antoniobanderas/Instagram



Paul Mescal prepares for battle on the set of "Gladiator II"

Pedro Pascal / Instagram

**WARRIOR
POSE**



GAME FACE

Lena Dunham is all business at Day 9 of London's Wimbledon Tennis Championships.

LOOK WHO'S TALKING

THIS WEEK'S GUESTS



WATCH WHAT HAPPENS LIVE

10:00 p.m. / Bravo

Monday: Johnathan Shillingford, Iain MacLean

Tuesday: Caroline Brooks, Tracy Tutor

Wednesday: Kate Hudson (above), Brad Goreski



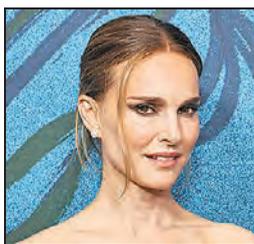
TONIGHT SHOW JIMMY FALLON

11:35 p.m. / NBC

Monday: Natalie Portman, Julio Torres

Tuesday: Rachel Maddow, Bobby Flay

Wednesday: Kerry Washington (above), Anthony Ramos



LATE NIGHT SETH MEYERS

12:35 a.m. / NBC

Monday: Anna Faris, Colman Domingo

Tuesday: Natalie Portman (above), Noah Kahan

Wednesday: Daisy Edgar-Jones

Sunday July 14, 2024

SP = Spectrum, C = Cablevision, F = FiOS Movies Sports New

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	News	60 Minutes	Tulsa King: Go West, Old Man		Tracker: Off the Books (R)		The Equalizer: Condemned (R)		CBS 2 News at 11PM	(11:35) CBS 2 News
4	WNBC	4	4	4	NBC Nightly News	American Ninja Warrior: Qualifiers 3 & 4: Participants face two new challenging obstacle courses. (R)			America's Got Talent: Auditions 6 (R)				News 4 New York at 11	News4 NY
5	WNYW	5	5	5	TMZ	Copa Tonight (7:45) Copa America 2024: Final Live.					The 10 O'Clock News	Sports Extra	In Depth: Gary Player	Raw Travel (R)
7	WABC	7	7	7	ABC World News	America's Funniest Home Videos (R)	America's Funniest Home Videos (R)		The Sandlot (1993, Family): A shy klutz is befriended by a ragtag sandlot baseball team. Art LaFleur. ★★★				Eyewitness News at 11	
9	WWOR	9	9	9	(6:00) Chicago P.D.	Chicago P.D.: The Devil You Know	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family
11	WPIX	11	11	11	Paired Program	Sweet Home Alabama (2002, Comedy) Reese Witherspoon. PG-13 ★★½			The Conners		PIX11 News at Ten with Kaity Tong		PIX11 Sports Nation	Yankees Nation
13	WNET	13	13	13	American Masters: Waterman - Duke: Ambassador of Aloha (R)		Professor T: The Conference		Grantchester		DI Ray: Staying on Top		Luisa Spagnoli: The Queen of Chocolate	
21	WLIW	21	21	21	PBS News	Elton John: The Million Dollar Piano	Carole King: Home Again				John Denver's Rocky Mountain High		Brain	
25	WNYE	25	22	25	(5:30) TBA	GZero	Profiles (R)	On Story	Day's Work	Her B Idea	Neighbor	Voyager	Feet	Confucius Was a Foodie
31	WPXN	31	3	531	(6:00) NCIS	NCIS: Out of the Dar.	NCIS		NCIS: Going Mobile		NCIS: Someone Else's		NCIS: Wide Awake	
41	WXTV	41	6	41	Fútbol Central Directo.	CONMEBOL Copa América 2024: Final Directo.						La jugada del verano		
47	WNJU	47	16	12	Noticias	Top Chef VIP: Part 1		(7:58) Top Chef VIP: Part 2			Pica y se extiende		Noticiero	Noticias (R)
55	WLNY	55	10	10	(6:00) ET	In Focus	The Point	CBS News Sunday Morning		Paid	Judge Judy	Paid	Women Of Wrestling	
A&E	46	46	181	181	Storage (R)	Storage (R)	Storage (R)	Biography: WWE Legends: The Miz			(10:01) WWE's Treasures		(11:04) Biography: WWE	
AMC	54	43	231	231	Armageddon (1998, Science Fiction) Bruce Willis. PG-13 ★★★						Orphan Black: Echoes		Armageddon (1998) ★★★	
BET	37	54	270	270	Think Like a Man Too (2014, Comedy) Michael Ealy. PG-13 ★★						Temptation: Confessions of a Marriage Counselor (2013) Jurnee Smollett. ★½		Jurnee Smollett. ★½	
BBCAM	71	101	189	189	(4:01) 2012 (2009, Action)	(7:31) I, Robot (2004, Science Fiction) Will Smith. PG-13 ★★★					(10:01) Orphan: Echoes		I, Robot (2004) Will Smith.	
BRAVO	18	44	185	185	Housewives	Real Housewives (R)	The Real Housewives of New Jersey		(9:31) Real Housewives		Real Housewives (R)		Housewives	
CNBC	15	24	102	102	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank	
CNN	78	25	100	100	Newsroom	CNN Special	CNN Special		CNN Special		CNN Special		CNN Special	
COM	45	50	190	190	22 Jump Street (2014) R	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office
DIS	49	31	250	250	Kiff (R)	Kiff (R)	Kiff (R)	Big City (R)	Phineas	The Ghost	Hamster	Hamster	Hamster	Big City (R)
DSC	66	27	120	120	Nkd & Afrd	Naked and Afraid (R)	Naked and Afraid: Last One Standing				In the Eye of the Storm		(11:01) Naked and Afraid	
E!	24	51	196	196	(6:00) American Pie (1999, Comedy) R	American Pie 2 (2001, Comedy) Jason Biggs. R ★★½					American Wedding (2003, Comedy) Jason Biggs. ★★½		American Wedding (2003, Comedy) Jason Biggs. ★★½	
ESPN	28	36	70	70	Baseball	2024 MLB Draft: from Cowtown Coliseum in Fort Worth, Texas. Live.					SportsCenter Live.		SportsCenter Live.	
ESPN2	29	35	74	74	(6:00) NBA Summer League Live.		NBA Summer League Live.				NBA Summer League Live.		NBA Summer League Live.	
FBN	43	106	117	117	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops
FNC	44	26	118	118	Sp. Rpt.	The Ingraham Angle	Jesse Watters Primetime	Hannity			Special Report (R)		The Ingraham Angle (R)	
FOOD	50	97	164	164	Grocery (R)	Guy's Grocery Games (R)	Food Truck Race	Alex vs America			Alex vs America: Alex vs Bacon (R)		Alex vs America: Alex vs Bacon (R)	
FREFRM	38	49	199	199	Aladdin G	(7:05) The Incredibles (2004, Adventure) Craig T. Nelson. PG ★★★½		(9:45) The Incredibles 2 (2018, Family) Holly Hunter. PG ★★★½						
FS1	400	99	83	83	The Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show: Day 2						UEFA Euro 2024: from Germany.		UEFA Euro 2024: from Germany.	
FX	10	40	53	53	(4:00) Black	Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings (2021, Action) Simu Liu. PG-13 ★★★					Marvel's The Avengers (2012) Robert Downey Jr.		Marvel's The Avengers (2012) Robert Downey Jr.	
HALL		191	240	240	(6:00) Rescuing Christmas (2023)	Ms. Christmas Comes to Town (2023) Erica Durance.					A Glenbrooke Christmas (2020) Autumn Reeser.		A Glenbrooke Christmas (2020) Autumn Reeser.	
HGTV	64	98	165	165	100 Day (R)	100 Day Dream Home (R)	100 Day Dream Home (R)	100 Day Dream Home (R)			Hunters (R)	Hunters (R)	Hunters (R)	Hunters (R)
HIST	40	47	128	128	(6:00) Food	Food Built: Flight of the B	Food Built: Chicken Coup	Food That Built America			The Icons: Hollywood		(11:05) Food Built (R)	
ID	23	171	123	123	Monster (R)	American Monster (R)	American Monster (R)	American Monster (R)			48 Hours on ID		48 Hours on ID (R)	
LIFE	62	45	140	140	Enough (2002, Drama) Jennifer Lopez.	Lies and Ex Wives: Secrets on Maple Street (2024)					(10:03) Sister Wife Murder (2024, Thriller) Dia Nash.		(10:03) Sister Wife Murder (2024, Thriller) Dia Nash.	
MeTV	33	33	3	3	Collector	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Family	Family	Family	Family	Ed Sullivan	Burnett	Van Dyke
MSG	27	87	78	78	Lights Out Xtreme Fighting: LXF13		The Bettor	The Juice			Overtime Elite Replay.		Overtime Elite Replay.	
MSG Plus	48	88	80	80	(12:00) FanDuel Racing Live.		United Fight		United Fight		Poker Taped.		Poker Taped.	
MSNBC	14	23	103	103	The Sunday	Ayman (R)	Ayman		Prime Weekend (R)		Inside With Jen Psaki (R)		Ayman (R)	
MTV	20	53	210	210	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous
NATGEO	65	162	121	121	Queens (R)	Shark Side Moon (R)	Baby Sharks (R)	Baby Sharks (R)			When Sharks Attack		Baby Sharks (R)	
NICK	6	121	252	252	SpongeBob	SpongeBob: Big Birthday	Kids' Choice Awards 2024 (R)		Rock Paper		Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
OWN	173	180	145	145	(6:00) 20/20	20/20 on OWN: Angels	20/20 on OWN (R)	20/20 on OWN (R)	20/20 on OWN (R)		20/20 on OWN (R)		20/20 on OWN (R)	
PARMT	36	56	54	54	Bar Rescue	Bar Rescue (R)	Bar Rescue (R)		Bar Rescue: Kitchen (R)		Bar Rescue: Long Island		Bar Rescue (R)	
SNY	26	60	77	77	Yeah ...	Yeah ...	Yeah ...	Yeah ...	Yeah ...		Broadway Boxing: Broadway Boxing 2402 Replay.		Sports Live.	Sports Live.
SYFY	17	48	180	180	(5:30) Weight of Massive Talent (2022)		(7:58) Jaws (1975, Thriller) Roy Scheider, Robert Shaw. PG ★★★½				(10:53) Jaws 2 (1978) ★★½		(10:53) Jaws 2 (1978) ★★½	
TBS	8	39	52	52	The Longest Yard (2005) Adam Sandler.	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang		Bang		Impractical	Impractical
TCM	82	41	230	230	Around the World in 80 Days (1956) ★★½	The Killers (1946, Crime) Burt Lancaster. NR ★★★½					Criss Cross (1949, Thriller) Burt Lancaster. NR ★★★		Criss Cross (1949, Thriller) Burt Lancaster. NR ★★★	
TLC	52	28	139	139	90 Day (R)	90 Day Fiancé (R)	90 Day Fiancé: Happily Ever After?: Heartbreak				MILF Manor		(11:03) 90 Day Fiancé	
TNT	3	37	51	51	Dark (2019)	Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 (2017, Action) Chris Pratt. PG-13 ★★★					The Lazarus Project (R)		(11:07) Lazarus Project	
TVLAND	85	34	241	241	Mike	Mike	Men	Men	Men	Men	Men	Men	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
USA	16	38	50	50	Chrisley (R)	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU	
VH1	19	52	217	217	(5:30) Lethal Weapon 3 (1992, Action) R	Lethal Weapon 4 (1998, Action) Mel Gibson. R ★★★					He Got Game (1998) R ★★★		He Got Game (1998) R ★★★	
WE	59	42	149	149	Law & Ordr	Law & Order: Nullification	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order: Blood		Law & Order: Shadow		Law & Order: Burned	
YES	53	89	76	76	(6:00) Yankees Classics: Gil 14 Ks/Soto 2 HRS		Major League Cricket: MI New York VS Texas Super Kings Live.							
HBO	511	301	400	400	Return of the King (2003) Ian McKellen.	(7:54) Of the Dragon (R)	House of the Dragon		(10:07) Of the Dragon (R)		(11:14) Of the Dragon (R)		(11:14) Of the Dragon (R)	
MAX	531	371	420	420	(6:01) The A-Team (2010, Action) ★★★	The Manchurian Candidate (2004) R ★★½			(10:10) Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (2014, Action) ★★½		(10:10) Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (2014, Action) ★★½		(10:10) Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (2014, Action) ★★½	
MGM Plus	595	395			(6:45) Creed (2015, Drama) Michael B. Jordan, Sylvester Stallone.	Hotel Cocaine			Emperor of Ocean Park		Hotel Cocaine (R)		Hotel Cocaine (R)	
PARSHO	551	321	365	365	Anchorman: Ron Burgundy (2004) ★★★	Mayor of Kingstown	Special	(9:45) Special Ops:			The Wolf of Wall Street (2013) R ★★★½		The Wolf of Wall Street (2013) R ★★★½	

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NEW YORK POST

TV

8 THINGS TO WATCH THIS WEEK



Sal Vulcano, Brian Quinn, and James Murray's lead the prank show "Impractical Jokers."

THEY STILL GOT IT

By MICHAEL HASKOOR

If you've stayed in a hotel or a hospital sometime during the last decade, odds are you've watched "Impractical Jokers" on truTV at some point or another.

Going strong for 11 seasons now, the hidden camera improv comedy show starring James "Murr" Murray, Brian "Q" Quinn, and Sal Vulcano, has evolved over the years but its core premise has stayed true: to shock and surprise the unsuspecting public in the most hilarious ways ever.

Season 11 of "Impractical Jokers" premieres on Thursday, July 11th at 10:00 p.m. ET on its new network TBS, but this show has been such a mainstay since day one.

The new season is a return to the original format that works so well, but with a few twists you'll have to watch to find out. DECIDER had a chance to catch up with Q and Murr to hear what fans should expect from Season 11.

DECIDER: After so many seasons, how do you guys keep things fresh and what makes you want to continue doing it?

BRIAN "Q" QUINN: Keeping it fresh is kind of not that hard, we're just kind of doing what we've always done, which is just messing with each other. We've known each other, God, almost 40 years at this point. We've welded to each other's side for so long that it's kind of

James 'Murr' Murray and Brian 'Q' Quinn share what to expect in 'Impractical Jokers' Season 11

not that hard.

JAMES "MURR" MURRAY: Yeah, I think it's our job as comedians to keep the show fresh and evolving. At the top of every season, we spend time, almost like a month, with our production team and writers coming up with ideas and spins on the show and how to change the format and evolve it in new ways, big swings we want to take that season, because one thing we always said from day one is if we're still having fun doing the show, we'll keep doing it. And we're still having a blast. So there you go.

What can viewers expect to see in the new season? Are there any guest stars that you're, like, particularly pumped about?

Q: We didn't do what we did last season with the celebrity guests. We kind of went back to basics... I've kind of looked at last season as like we needed to change. You know, Joe [Gatto] left obviously. And we wanted a clear line in the sand, and that kind of did it. It was different for us. We found that working with celebrities was personally easier, but their schedules are

hard... So we were excited to go back. We have a few guests this season, but they're more in line with our friends.

As far as challenges go, are there any particular ones that both of you guys enjoy doing more than others?

MURR: Coming up in an episode, there's a punishment with Sal where he's got to teach senior citizens his new workout routine. Like how he went from 1000 pounds to 700 pounds, this is how, here's the deal. And he walks in the room, and it's just a stripper pole in the middle. I'm going through a presentation on his workout routine before he actually got on the pole and told us how to lose weight, so we kind of did it there. But yeah, my favorite bits are when it's really personal.

How have you guys handled any negative criticism from fans?

Q: When Joe left the show, there was a lot of, 'No Joe, no show.' And you just want to be like, 'Dude, I didn't want Joe to leave the show.' Like Joe left, what do you want from me? I was supposed to stop doing what I'm doing and working with the people I love? People who are just unreasonable about it, it doesn't affect me at all. And it's kind of gone away. I haven't really heard it in a while.

MURR: All we do is focus on making each other laugh... If it makes Sal and Q laugh... I have to imagine that people watching are going to love it, too.



2 2024 MLB ALL-STAR GAME

Tuesday 8 p.m., Fox
The American League will face off against the National League at Globe Lief Field in Texas.

Dodgers slugger **Shohei Otani** (left) will start on the National League while Yankees Aaron Judge and Juan Soto will compete on the American League.

3 NAKED AND AFRAID: LAST ONE STANDING

Sunday 8 p.m., Discovery Channel
The most exciting and memorable contestants from "Naked and Afraid" return to the franchise for this all-stars season, where they'll need to use their survival skills to compete head to head for \$100,000.

4 LADY IN THE LAKE

Friday, Apple TV+
Based on the novel by Laura Lippman, Oscar winner Natalie Portman stars in this mystery as an investigative journalist trying to solve a murder in 1960s Baltimore. She quickly becomes obsessed with the disappearance of a young girl and a local woman and will stop at nothing to find out who is at fault.



5 LOVE LIES BLEEDING

Friday, Max
Kristen Stewart (right) stars in this A24 romantic drama as a reclusive gym manager who draws an ambitious bodybuilder into her criminal family.

6 COBRA KAI Thursday, Netflix

It's the beginning of the end. In this final season of "Cobra Kai," Daniel (**Ralph Macchio**, right) and Johnny (William Zabka) must team up to have their students compete in the world karate championship. While the senses are trying to set their differences aside, Cobra Kai founder John Kreese returns to the Valley.



7 INSPIRING AMERICA: TEAM USA

Friday 8 p.m., NBC
Hoda Kotb, Savannah Guthrie, and Lester Holt will profile Team USA's brightest stars ahead of the 2024 Paris Olympics, including **Simone Biles** (left), LeBron James, Noah Lyles, Katie Ledecky, Coco Gauff and more.

8 LUCKY 13

Thursday 8 p.m., ABC
Hosted by **Shaquille O'Neal** and **Gina Rodriguez** (below), "Lucky 13" will test people's knowledge of the world and themselves with 13 true-or-false trivia questions. But that's not all: If they can accurately predict how successfully they've answered 13 questions, they could take home the \$1 million jackpot.



THE WEEK'S WINNERS



DAVID ELLISON

Skydance Media chief and son of billionaire Larry Ellison set to take over the Paramount empire after a deal was finally reached with the Redstone family.

ELON MUSK

Judge tosses lawsuit by laid-off Twitter employees who sought \$500 million in severance from the X owner.

JAMIE DIMON

Wall Street giant reported Q2 profit rose 25% to a record \$18.1 billion as the bank cashed in billions of dollars of its Visa shares.

LOSERS



INGRID CIPRIAN-MATTHEWS

CBS News president, accused of blocking Catherine Herridge's reporting on the Hunter Biden laptop, ousted after less than a year on the job.

BILL HWANG

Archegos founder convicted of manipulating stock prices and defrauding banks before his \$36 billion firm collapsed.

MSNBC

A doctor's \$30 million defamation suit heads to trial after anchors and others said he performed "mass hysterectomies" on ICE center detainees.

'CEO' JOE WOULD BE CAST OFF

No biz would allow frailty



CHARLES GASPARINO

THERE is a raging debate over what exactly ails Joe Biden, and whether because of it, he should step aside as the Democratic presidential nominee.

He and his handlers say nothing is wrong other than old age and losing a few steps. Most Americans and key Dems are more alarmed. He's going on 82, and they see severe signs of aging or worse, like the early stages of any number of neurological illnesses in his slurred speech and wonky body movements.

They see the leader of the free world — but only between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. They don't think he should seek re-election because they don't think he's healthy enough to win.

I can't tell you whether Joe Biden will eventually succumb to the intraparty pressure and drop out of the race. What I can say one thing with absolute certainty: If he were the chief executive, not of the country but of a publicly traded company, things would be much different.

What ails Biden would have been disclosed because that's the law. He would have been forced to step down, not after his recent disastrous debate performance, but years earlier when he first showed obvious signs of not being right. Unlike his top advisers, VP Kamala Harris, or flacks that have covered up Biden's health issues, executives and board members who lie about their principal's ailments face various civil and even criminal penalties.

They have a legal "fiduciary" duty to keep those who own their stock in the know about potentially market-

moving events, aka "material events." The CEO's health is one of the big ones.

"If a CEO presented a speech or was in a meeting and exhibited similar behavior, the board would be meeting in hours to find a new leader. These are hard grueling jobs," one corporate boss and Biden supporter told me.

And it's the law.

Yes I know, being the president is much different than a CEO running a company. The president vows to uphold the Constitution; the CEO, his executive team and board of directors vow to uphold the nation's securities laws.

Still, it's kind of an oddity that public shareholders — people who hold stock in a company — have more legal and disclosure rights when it comes to the health of the person protecting their investment than the American people have when it comes to the health of the person in charge of protecting their country.

Council of elders

Biden's staff, his wife and family can obfuscate all day (and they do) about the true nature of the president's health, throw misdirection at all those visits by a neurologist in recent months, deny the obvious about his stamina, essentially gaslight the American people with (until recently) the help of the DC press corps without any legal retribution.

It's something that securities lawyers and CEOs — again including those who support Biden — are pretty astonished about because they just run companies and he runs the entire country.

Recall JPMorgan boss Jamie Dimon, who might be the most successful CEO in a generation, dis-

Elder misstatesman

President Biden's inner circle, including wife Jill (below left), and Vice President Kamala Harris (below right) have helped to shield the added chief executive from public scrutiny — withholding from Americans crucial health information that could otherwise inform their voting choice.



closed not just a heart ailment in 2020 but his throat cancer years earlier. Dimon survived both and if you know him, he was in much better physical and mental health than the current occupant of the White House.

Undemocratic party

Based on Biden's physical condition, most people question whether he can handle the rigors of the 2024 presidential race, much less survive four years if re-elected. It's a scandal that is just starting to play itself out now — with most of the mainstream media exposed and embarrassed that they ignored signs of Biden's worsening health. They feared it would help elect their worst nightmare: that monster known as Donald Trump.

They also deprived the American people of a presidential nominee that actually won a primary. If Biden does resign, Harris or any number of possible replacements would be elected by the party's elite at next month's convention.

Often lost in the political machinations is Joe Biden's personal ordeal; it's sad watching him suffer. The growing consensus is that Biden is suffering from Parkinson's, a neurological disease, where the patient ex-

periences slurring of speech and inability to walk and in later stages uncontrollable body movements.

It's something I have some experience with since my dad, a construction worker, suffered from a severe form of it because of various head injuries while on the job. He died six years after being diagnosed at just 54 years old.

Many Parkinson's patients don't have dementia; their plight is having functioning cognitive abilities with an inability to articulate words normally or move the right way when the brain signals the nervous system. It's frustrating to be trapped inside a body that is undergoing such trauma. It explains why Biden is easily angered, why he looks frozen.

And yes, it's a scandal that Biden is allowed to continue with this charade, with many layers on top of lying to the American people. Where is his family, or his top Cabinet members, or vice president performing an intervention or lawmakers invoking or calling for the 25th Amendment and stopping what is tantamount to elder abuse?

If Joe Biden were CEO they would have to, or they may be going to jail.

Charles Gasparino is the author of the forthcoming book "Go Woke, Go Broke: The Inside Story of the Radicalization of Corporate America."

EMPLOYMENT

ENGINEERING

Project Engineer Manager (Smithtown, NY) Inspect project areas for eqpm, labor usage, & working conditions. Conduct geotechnical experiments to test & determine projects' geological suitability. Evaluate field & worksite data. Implmt working methods. 40 hrs/week & \$72,613/yr. Bachelor's deg & 2 yrs of exp reqd. Send resume: Giuseppe Abbrancati, Owner, Gappsi Inc., giuseppe@gappsi.com

Coating Engineer: Rsrch, dsng, & dvlp thin films coatings & mat's to meet spectral & environ'l specs. Optm'n of coating processes using thermal evaporat'n, electron beam, IAD & IBS; perf comp simulat'n & modelling of coating perf. Create & maint SOP for all processes. Optm process parameters & doc. Req: Bachelor's deg in Mechanical Engg + 24 mos exp as Coating Engr or Mechanical Engr. Salary: \$70,096/yr. Job loc: Bohemia, NY. Mail your app to: Designs for Vision, 4000 Veterans Memorial Hwy, Bohemia, NY 11716, Attn: VP of Personnel. Must ref JOB#CE-07-24. No calls.

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This engagement will involve a one-month trial working period. The one month period can be extended each month if all goes smoothly and other Home Health Aides agree to the extension.

*Interviews will be held by the client's daughter. Please email references and certifications to StacyatCareForMyMominNYC@gmail.com.

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Caring for an elderly woman with Alzheimer's who needs routine assistance with personal hygiene, dressing, eating, getting into and out of bed, administering medication and monitoring vitals. Daily trips by wheelchair to Central Park are a regular routine, weather permitting.

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Other responsibilities include keeping bedroom, bathroom, and other common areas tidy and making sure clothes, towels and sheets are washed, dried and organized as needed.

Social security number required at face-to-face interview.

FINANCIAL

Financial Analyst for Unihome New York Inc, F/T in New York, NY. Gather financial information to detect trends, patterns, and potential opportunities in the real estate market; Construct financial models for the analysis of gathered data to support decision-making; Apply business analytics to optimize processes, identify financial risks, and improve cost efficiency; Create financial reports for both management and clients by employing data visualization techniques. Master's degree in Business Analytics & 12 months related job experience required. Email resumes unihomenewyork@hotmail.com.

Credit ANALYST (On-Site) (Bangkok Bank Public Company Limited -NY Branch) Manhattan, NY - initiation of new clients & monitor account activities; assess their credit & financial strength; prepare financial projection & analyze financial statements. Conduct lending assessment in line with regulatory guidelines. Summary & conclusion of credit analysis; Must have MBA w/ concentration in Finance or Acctg. No exp reqd. Salary \$108326/yr. Email res to: helpdesk.nyb@bangkokbank.com.

GENERAL HELP WANTED

Household Manager (New York, NY) Coordg household repairs w/ apt buildg handymen & outside repair service personnel. Manag'g inventory of household supplies & grocery items. Mang'g sched & takg children to & from school, afterschool, weekend activities, & medical appts usg rideshare/public transport. Prep meals for family, laundry/dry cleang. Assistg children w/ homework. Intermittent domestic dmstc travel. Reqs: 2 yrs household mgmt exp. Salary \$55,432.00/yr. Res: Simonsen Household, catkinsokc@gmail.com

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HEALTHCARE

Pathologist F/T. Cairo Diagnostics LLC (White Plains, NY): Evaluate & interpret patient specimens for molecular & genetic abnormalities; Decide on the appropriate molecular or genetic tests to be performed based on clinical indications; Oversee & ensure the qty of test results by implmtg & maintaining rigorous qty control procedures; Interpret the results of molecular & genetic tests, integrating them w/ other clinical & pathological data to make a final diagnosis; Generate comprehensive & clear reports detailing the findings of the molecular tests & their implications; Collaborate w/ other physicians, surgeons, & healthcare providers to provide insights & guidance based on molecular test results; In conjunction w/ lab technologists & other experts, aid in the dvlpmt, validation, & implmtm of new molecular tests; Keep abreast of the latest advancements in molecular pathology & integrate them into practice as necessary; Ensure the lab meets all safety, regulatory, & accreditation stds rtd to molecular testing; Contribute to the dvlpmt of lab policies, protocols, & procedures rtd to molecular testing. Min. Reqmts: Medical Doctor Deg; Anatomical Pathology (AP), Clinical Pathology (CP), or Hematopathology Board Certified w/ the American Board of Pathology, or be board-eligible; NY State Medicine License for Physician, or be eligible; Completed Residency (min. 3 yrs of training) in Laboratory Medicine, Anatomical Pathology, Clinical Pathology, Hematopathology, or rtd fields. Special Reqmts: Proficient use of Microsoft Office Applica (Excel, Word, PowerPoint); Proficient use of flow cytometry data analysis s/ware such as Kaluza; Proficient use of microscope imaging s/ware such as Olympus cellSens; Excellent Oral/ Written Communication & Interpersonal Skills. Wage: \$240,000/yr. Mail CV to: Nisren Elshazly, 244 Westchester Ave, Ste 310A, White Plains, NY 10604 (Worksite).

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PROFESSIONAL

Mechanical Design Engineer (Hauppauge, NY) Dvlp, coord, & monitor all aspects of production for the semiconductor & defense industry. Dvlp & test models of alternate dsngs to assess feasibility, sustainability, & necessity of modification. Oversee installation, operation, maintenance, or repair to ensure that machines are installed & functioning. Bachelor's Deg is reqd. 5 yrs of exp is reqd. 40 hrs/wk & \$125,798/yr. Send resume to Murat Basaran, President, Basaran Grinder Corp, murat@basarangrinder.com.

Designer (NYC) Create architectural dsngs, covering concept dvlpmt, research, & material sourcing. Present dsng ideas & visual collateral internally & to clients. Maintain dsng/construction documentation. Communicate w/ clients & other prof's throughout the process. Coord in the construction admin process. Reqd: Masters in Architecture & 12 mos exp in dsng large housing projects &/or commercial & residential bldgs on both architecture & interior scope, & producing concepts & drawings using Rhino, Revit, AutoCAD, Photoshop, Illustrator, & GIS is reqd. Salary: \$86,466/yr. Mail resume to Leong Leong Architecture DPC, 123 Bowery, Flr 2, NY, NY 10002.

PROFESSIONAL

General Counsel and Board Secretary (New York, NY) Bravia Capital Partners, Inc. - Transactional support relating to investment activities, particularly cross-border M&A relating to Asia. In coordination with company leadership, prepare, review, and negotiate commercial agreements on behalf of management. Manage company's investment entities and local operating entities and ensure compliance with local and US law. Must have a Juris Doctor degree and New York Law License with at least 8 years of experience as a corporate attorney at a law firm, including at least 5 years of experience in cross-border or international corporate transactions and negotiating commercial contracts. 10% international travel will be required. \$245,000-265,000/yr. Qualified applicants email resumes to HR at hr@braviacapital.com.

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Business Specialist, Assist in the development and implementation of strategies for effective business operation. Bachelor with 1yr exp. Mail resume to Sergio Tacchini Operations, Inc. 42 W 24th Street, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10010

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Saratoga

Analysis by Vic Cangialosi

Lock of the Day

Star Of Mystery (9th)
Lock Record: 1 for 2 (50%)
Meet Record: 11/33 \$65.60

Saratoga Results

FIRST-5/2 fur; \$80,000; mdn spl wt; 2YO F
4 Dre to Brz (Gfflon) 3.10 2.40 2.10
3 Gerin's Empire (Velzquez) 4.80 3.00
2 Mischief Maxey (Rosario)
● \$1 Exacta (4-3) \$5.00 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (4-3-2-7) \$9.20 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (4-3-2) \$13.75

Winner picked by Vic C (Lock)

SECOND-1 mile; \$175,000; Kelson; 4up
5 Crl Spcklr (IRE) (Gfflin) 3.50 2.30
4 Talk of the Nton (OrtizJr.) 2.20
Scr: Repo Rocks, Mysterious Night (IRE)
● \$1 Double (4-5) \$2.85 ● \$1 Exacta (5-4) \$3.80 ● \$1 Quinella (4-5) \$2.00

Exacta & Double picked by Vic C

THIRD-6/2 fur; \$80,000; wcl(\$50,000); 4up
1A Top Gunnr (Frcnc) 5.60 3.00 2.40
5 I Got No Munny (OrtizJr.) 6.70 4.00
4 Celestial Glaze (Ortiz) 3.20
● \$1 Daily Double (5-1) \$7.80 ● \$1 Exacta (1-5) \$24.50 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (1-5-4-7) \$27.45 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (1-5-4) \$33.50

FOURTH-7 fur; \$110,000; alc; 3up
2 Illumnare (OrtizJr.) 4.10 2.50 2.10
3 Classc Legacy (Alvarado) 2.40 2.10
5 Abadin (Saez) 2.60
Scr: J Factor, Uncorrelated
● \$1 Pick 3 (5-1-2) \$12.50 ● \$1 Daily Double (1-2) \$7.00 ● \$1 Exacta (2-3) \$3.50 ● \$1 Quinella (2-3) \$2.10 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (2-3-5-6) \$4.52 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (2-3-5) \$6.50

Exacta picked by Vic C

FIFTH-1/16 mile; \$110,000; alc; 3up
3 Rbl Rd (GB) (Ortz) 6.70 3.30 2.90
1A Unt Ecnmcs (GB) (OrtizJr.) 2.80 2.10
4 Hunt Ball (Alvarado) 4.50
Scr: Skylander, Certified Loverboy, Notah, Greek Order (GB), Donegal Surges, Fromanothamutha, Grandpa's Kid
● \$1 Pick 3 (1-2-3) \$21.50 ● \$0.5 Pick 4 (2/5/6-1-1/2/8-3) \$29.75 ● \$0.5 Pick 5 (4-2/5/6-1-1/2/8-3) \$53.00 ● \$1 Daily Double (2-3) \$8.60 ● \$1 Exacta (3-1) \$6.70 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (3-1-4-8) \$9.75 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (3-1-4) \$15.75

SIXTH-5/2 fur; \$95,000; alc; 3up (f&m)
11 Strctly Tboo (Rsr) 7.70 5.10 4.10
6 U Should B Dancng (Prt) 8.00 5.30
8 Fancypants Juliana (Cancel) 5.60
Scr: Bussia, First Class Cat
● \$1 Pick 3 (2-3-11) \$47.50 ● \$1 Daily Double (3-11) \$15.50 ● \$1 Exacta (11-6) \$31.00 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (11-6-8-7) \$76.40 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (11-6-8) \$104.62

SEVENTH-5/2 fur; \$100,000; mdn spl wt; 2YO
1 Tough Catch (Sez) 15.00 6.20 4.90
9 Innovator (Rosario) 6.70 4.90
2 Moment's Notice (Franco) 8.30

● \$1 Pick 3 (3-11-1) \$125.75 ● \$0.5 Pick 4 (1/2/8-3-11/12-1) \$171.00 ● \$1 Daily Double (11-1) \$40.00 ● \$1 Exacta (1-9) \$40.25 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (1-9-2-7) \$204.15 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (1-9-2) \$195.00

EIGHTH-7 fur; \$100,000; mdn spl wt; 3up
4 Rynlds Chnll (Alvrd) 21.60 7.20 5.10
10 Hurrane Nelson (Frcnc) 4.50 3.40
3 Upstanding (OrtizJr.) 5.00
● \$1 Pick 3 (11-1-4) \$350.50 ● \$1 Daily Double (1-4) \$61.00 ● \$1 Exacta (4-10) \$29.50 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (4-10-3-1) \$138.30 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (4-10-3) \$92.12

NINTH-1/16 mile; \$115,000; alw; 3up
10 Tknng Cndy (Lzcn) 13.60 7.20 4.00
1 Tidal Forces (Castellano) 19.80 9.10
8 Irish Aces (Gaffalione) 2.70
Scr: Ocean Atlantique, Synthesis, Costa Terra, Runningwscissors
● \$1 Pick 3 (1-4-10) \$651.00 ● \$0.5 Pick 4 (11/12-1-4-10) \$1923.00 ● \$0.5 Pick 5 (3-11/12-1-4-10) \$8810.00 ● \$1 Daily Double (4-10) \$81.25 ● \$1 Exacta (10-1) \$227.75 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (10-1-8-7) \$765.00 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (10-1-8) \$412.25

TENTH-1 mile 1 fur; \$500,000; Diana; 4upf
6 Whtbm (GB) (Prt) 11.60 6.70 5.10
1 Molra (Gaffalione) 7.10 5.70
5 Gina Romantica (Franco) 8.00
Scr: Venti Valentine
● \$1 Pick 3 (4-10-6) \$668.00 ● \$1 Daily Double (10-6) \$60.75 ● \$1 Exacta (6-1) \$42.00 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (6-1-5-4) \$130.70 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (6-1-5) \$194.00

ELEVENTH-6 fur; \$175,000; Sanford; 2YO
6 Mo Plex (OrtizJr.) 5.70 3.20 2.40
6 Studlydrigh (Perez) 2.70 2.20
5 Three Echoes (Prat) 2.40
Scr: Mentee
● \$1 Pick 3 (10-6-8) \$181.25 ● \$1 Double (6-8) \$19.50 ● \$1 Exacta (8-6) \$7.70 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (8-6-5-2) \$6.75 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (8-6-5) \$7.45

TWELFTH-5/2 fur; \$70,000; alw; 3up
9 Rthm Nc (SntnrJr.) 6.60 5.50 4.80
10 Feathers Road (Vazquez) 42.80 12.20
1 Final Verdict (Gaffalione) 4.70
Scr: Will Be Famous, Bourbon's Hope, He's Got It, Upside Potential, Tivy, Magnificent Mile
● \$1 Cons Pick 3 (6-8-3) \$17.90 ● \$1 Pick 3 (6-8-9) \$100.00 ● \$1 Double (8-9) \$15.20 ● \$1 Exacta (9-10) \$164.00 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (9-10-11) \$1134.60 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (9-10-11) \$705.50 ● \$1 Cons Double (8-3) \$3.05

1 5 1/2 fur; \$100,000; mdn; 2YO(f)

A baby race in the Sunday opener. **SILVER CIRCLE** raced evenly, 2nd best and gets more ground to work with. **LA CARA** is 0 for 2 after reporting home 2nd this distance at Churchill. **ELEMAH** (Giddings/Johnny V) and **PRACTIAL LOV** (Mott/Lezcano) make career debuts. **KIMCHI CAT** Like top pick she ran evenly for 2nd in her opener. Shorter price. Gaffalione rides for Amoss.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Kimchi Cat,119	T Gaffalione	2-x-x	Amoss	3-1
2	Eleimah,119	J Velazquez	x-x-x	Giddings	8-1
3	Going Steady,119	L Saez	x-x-x	Lukas	12-1
4	Silver Circle,119	D Davis	2-x-x	Summers	6-1
5	She's a Gamer,119	E Cancel	x-x-x	Casse	12-1
6	Bossy Pants,119	J Alvarado	3-x-x	Mott	5-1
7	Practical Lov,119	J Lezcano	x-x-x	Mott	8-1
8	La Cara,119	J Ortiz	2-6-x	Casse	2-1

2 6 fur; \$70,000; alw; 3up

Softly spotted for his seasonal debut, **RIDERS SPECIAL** responded, winning by a 1/2 dozen lengths. Ran 3rd this level/distance last year. May be better equipped. Owned/trained by Rice who couples him with **BLOWN COVER**. Exits a tired 5th of 7 at Keeneland. Better tightening to a sprint. **TIVY** and **SCREAMING UNCLE** ran home 2-3 at the Big A. Tivy has hit the board 14 of 16 on dirt.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	a-Rider's Special(L),124	K Carmouche	1-4-4	Rice	7-5
2	Independent Paul(L),124	R Vazquez	5-7-2	Jacobson	15-1
3	Screaming Uncle(L),124	R Maragh	3-1-1	Persaud	10-1
4	Tivy(L),122	J Castellano	2-2-3	Antonucci	8-5
5	Magnificent Mile(L),124	T Gaffalione	2-1-6	Potts	8-1
6	Bourbon's Hope(L),122	O Hrdmz Mreno	4-6-7	Jones	15-1
7	Dads Good Runner(L),119	A Bocachica	1-5-8	Persaud	6-1
1A	a-Blown Cover(L),118	J Lezcano	5-7-2	Rice	7-5

3 5 1/2 fur(T); \$95,000; alw; 3up

The first of five turf races. **YOUR MAN ALEX** won at 1st asking then 3 lengths shy after racing wide. Rider change to J Ortiz. **BOSS TWEED** has won 2 in a row. A 3rd in cards if we're off turf. **RUSSI** Runnerup last pair at Aqueduct. Broke maiden, this shorter distance at Saratoga last summer. **FINAL DENILE** made grass debut and ran well for 2nd in front of the compromised top pick. **TWISTED FILIGREE** graduated at Belmont 13 months ago. We will wait.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
2	Russi(L),122	J Castellano	2-2-3	James Bond	2-1
1	a-Allied Attack(L),120	L Saez	9-6-3	Maker	8-1
3	Your Man Alex(L),120	J Ortiz	4-1-x	Giddings	6-1
4	Two's a Crowd(L),118	I Ortiz, Jr	3-6-1	Ryan	12-1
5	Friday I'm in Love(L),122	K Carmouche	4-7-5	Englehart	20-1
6	Twisted Filigree(L),118	E Cancel	1-2-x	Weaver	9-2
7	Final Denile(L),120	J Rosario	2-1-7	Clement	3-1
8	Saratoga Banker(L),124	K Coa	2-1-2	Ferraro	10-1
9	Cashel Kitten(L),122	L Rivera, Jr	4-1-6	Englehart	20-1
10	Collected Special(L),118	Rider TBA	7-1-6	Atras	8-1
11	Boss Tweed(L),118	J Alvarado	1-1-6	Contessa	9-5
12	Limit Up(L),122	Rider TBA	2-1-2	Englehart	8-1
1A	a-Launch Control(L),124	L Saez	1-3-5	Maker	8-1

4 7 fur; \$115,000; alw; 3up(f)

Expect noise from **SIGNAL FROM NOISE**, 2nd off the layoff for Chad Brown. Length short after 10 months rest. Blinkers off. **MIGHTY MADISON** scored racing this distance before shipping from Churchill. Versatile. Has speed and closing ability. **MOSIENKO** closed well to get within 3 lengths of the winner last pair. 3 for 10 at this longer distance. Races off the Jacobson claim.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
2	Signal From Noise(L),122	I Ortiz, Jr	2-5-3	C Brown	6-5
3	Backyard Money(L),122	J Rosario	4-3-8	Lukas	10-1
1	a-Mosienko(L),122	R Vazquez	4-2-5	Jacobson	4-1
4	Into Happiness(L),122	J Velazquez	6-7-6	Hennig	15-1
1A	a-Starship Defiant(L),124	M Franco	6-3-3	Jacobson	4-1
5	My Kentucky Girl(L),122	J Alvarado	5-6-5	Mott	12-1

6 Mighty Madison(L),124 J Ortiz 1-4-2 Bauer 8-5

5 1 1/8 miles; \$100,000; mdn; 3up

From the Belmont Stakes to a maiden race. **PROTECTIVE** was 6th behind Dornoch in the Belmont. Ran 3rd this shorter distance in both the Wood Memorial and Peter Pan. Irad rides for Pletcher. **MILITARY ROAD** is 0 for 5 but in the money every time. Neck shy this distance. **HAIZUM** was 4th at Pimlico; 5th at Churchill. Matz stretches the Arrogate colt longer; adds blinkers. Johnny V at a price. **ITZA MIRRAKLE** debuted 2nd after trailing. Morley gives him 2 more furlongs.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Military Road(L),118	M Franco	2-2-2	Clement	9-5
2	Haizum(L),118	J Velazquez	5-4-x	Matz	20-1
3	Itza Mirrakle(L),118	D Davis	2-x-x	Morley	4-1
4	Salacious(L),118	L Saez	3-3-2	D'Angelo	20-1
5	Elko County(L),118	B Hernandez	2-3-3	McPeek	10-1
6	Trulli Warrior(L),118	T Gaffalione	6-x-x	Pletcher	6-1
7	Protective(L),118	I Ortiz, Jr	6-3-3	Pletcher	8-5

6 1 1/16 miles(T); \$100,000; mdn; 3up(f)

Deep closer **DEEP SATIN** finished full of run to get 2nd twice in Kentucky. Moves forward for DeVaux who also saddles **PISCIOTTA**. She broke last of 12 before passing tired rivals to be 4th in her opener. Franco picks up the Keeneland invader. Chad Browns **COIF** went dirt to turf and landed midpack after a wide trip. Best value. **STRIFE** and **LA SALVADORENA** both ran well for 2nd at the Big A. Contenders getting another 1/16.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	a-Pisciotta(GB)(L),118	M Franco	4-x-x	DeVaux	2-1
2	Coif(L),118	F Prat	6-6-x	C Brown	10-1
3	Appellate(L),118	L Dettori	10-7-2	Pletcher	12-1
4	Montego Bay(L),118	J Alvarado	6-6-x	Mott	20-1
5	Sunday Tiff(L),118	J Castellano	4-5-x	Morley	12-1
6	Out too Late(GB)(L),118	R Vazquez	3-8-x	Maker	15-1
7	Miss Hebrides(M),118	B Hernandez	x-x-x	McPeek	20-1
8	Strife(L),118	J Rosario	2-2-x	Clement	4-1
1A	a-Deep Satin(L),118	J Ortiz	2-2-x	DeVaux	2-1
9	Hollywood Dream(M),118	J Lezcano	6-x-x	Mott	30-1
10	Latte Lizzie(L),118	I Ortiz, Jr	4-6-4	C Brown	6-1
11	La Salvadorena(L),118	D Davis	2-2-x	Handal	5-1
12	Goodnight My Angel(L),118	I Ortiz, Jr	5-5-x	Pletcher	3-1

7 1 3/8 miles(T); \$115,000; alw; 3up

The **BATTLE OF NORMANDY** won gate-to-wire at Aqueduct. Unproven at this longer distance but he was a close 3rd in Grade 3 when he tried. **TRULY QUALITY** is the M/L fave after winning by a 1/2 dozen at the distance. **DAUNT** was 5th behind **CRABS N BEER** who was 3rd at the Big A. Johnny V on Daunt who is proven at this distance.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Cyber Ninja(L),124	J Ortiz	1-5-2	Mott	10-1
2	Truly Quality(L),124	L Dettori	1-3-3	Thomas	5-2
3	Battle of Normandy(L),124	F Prat	1-9-3	McGaughey III	7-2
4	Six Minus(L),122	I Ortiz, Jr	5-2-8	Pletcher	8-1
5	Daunt(L),122	J Velazquez	5-4-7	Ribaudo	8-1
6	Lincoln Hawk(IRE)(L),122	R Vazquez	3-2-4	Jacobson	15-1
7	Relampago Verde(L),126	B Hernandez	1-3-1	McPeek	20-1
8	Mondego(GB)(L),122	J Rosario	3-12-4	Clement	4-1
9	Gilded Age(L),122	T Gaffalione	1-2-1	D'Angelo	30-1
10	Crabs N Beer(L),124	J Castellano	3-2-1	Brion	8-1
11	Lucky Curlin(L),122	L Saez	9-6-5	Maker	12-1
12	Bay Street Money(L),122	M Franco	6-7-7	Maker	20-1
13	California Frolic(L),122	J Alvarado	6-6-3	Avila	12-1

8 1 mile; \$45,000; clm(\$25,000); 3up

Is **PROVE WORTHY** a worthy favorite? Moves sharply lower for Norm Casse. Showed 3rd moving a mile at Churchill. **MAGIA NERA** Consistent. A win and three 2nd place finishes in last 4 starts. Shows up again. **WARRIOR RICARHD** drops for Donk after a distant 5th. Rider change to Johnny V.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Ski Country(L),123	L Luzzi	4-5-6	Noda	15-1

2	South Street(L),123	I Ortiz, Jr	2-2-4	Jacobson	10-1
3	Prove Worthy(L),125	R Santana, Jr	7-3-1	Casse	6-5
4	Stop the Spread(L),123	T McCarthy	6-9-4	Caramori	20-1
5	Magia Nera(L),125	M Franco	2-1-2	David	5-2
6	Kentucky Joker(L),123	J Castellano	3-4-5	Englehart	15-1
7	Unstable Prince(L),125	R Vazquez	3-8-1	Jacobson	15-1
8	Thank You Jon(L),123	L Rivera, Jr	2-5-1	Romero	12-1
9	Philharmonic(L),125	T Gaffalione	1-10-6	Zito	15-1
10	Street Swagg(L),123	F Prat	11-5-8	Rodriguez	12-1
11	Warrior Richard(L),123	J Velazquez	5-7-4	Donk	8-1

9 5 1/2 fur(T); \$175,000; Quick Call; 3YO

The feature is the Grade 3 Quick Call. **STAR OF MYSTERY** Euro-bred made US debut in the Grade 1 Jaipur and ran well for 3rd. Wins here for Appleby, same distance. **WORKS FOR ME** exits a handy O/C win. Moves to a stake if we're off turf. **AMERICAN RASCAL** Dirt to turf for Asmussen. Well short in a Group 2 at Aspen in only grass start. Won a 100k on dirt. Best value. **FANDOM** (200k at Keeneland) and **MANSA MUSA** (allowance at Saratoga) both lead off tight victories.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	No Nay Mets(IRE),118	I Ortiz, Jr	12-4-4	Weaver	8-1
2	Smokey Smokey,122	R Vazquez	1-2-6	Maker	12-1
3	Fandom(GB),122	J Ortiz	1-1-x	Cox	9-2
4	Feltrinelli,118	L Saez	7-3-1	Weaver	30-1
5	Mansa Musa(IRE),120	J Alvarado	1-3-2	Mott	6-1
6	Star of Mystery(GB),119	F Prat	3-x-x	Appleby	4-5
7	American Rascal,118	J Rosario	6-2-1	Asmussen	20-1
8	Set,122	K Carmouche	5-12-1	Casse	15-1
9	Apollo Ten,117	M Franco	2-1-4	Clement	15-1
10	Baraye,117	G Corrales	1-1-2	Ward	7-5
11	Works for Me,118	F Prat	1-2-6	Lee	6-5

10 1 1/16 miles(T); \$50,000; clm(\$30,000); 3up

Wide open in the weekend. **ST JOE LOUIS** is 1 for 19 but a strong 2nd this distance last out. **VALUE ENGINEER** makes 3YO debut for Maker. Couple of lengths short at Churchill before going on the shelf. J Ortiz up. **PRICING POWER** makes turf debut for Chad Brown. 1 for 5 on dirt. Prat on the wildcard. **VINCE THE PRINCE** enters off a wire-to-wire maiden breaker (7th start). Competitively spotted for Nevin, same distance.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	a-La Maquina(L),123	R Santana, Jr	6-1-2	Abreu	8-1
2	Big Big Star(L),125	J Castellano	4-2-1	Brion	6-1
3	Value Engineer(L),118				

AL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Baltimore	57	38	.600	—	—	3-7	L-5	29-22	28-16
Yankees	58	39	.598	—	+4½	4-6	W-2	25-19	33-20
Boston	52	42	.553	4½	—	7-3	W-1	23-25	29-17
Tampa Bay	47	48	.495	10	5½	4-6	L-1	26-27	21-21
Toronto	43	52	.453	14	9½	4-6	L-2	21-24	22-28

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Cleveland	58	36	.617	—	—	5-5	W-1	30-11	28-25
Minnesota	54	41	.568	4½	+1½	6-4	W-1	27-18	27-23
Kansas City	52	44	.542	7	1	5-5	L-1	31-18	21-26
Detroit	46	50	.479	13	7	7-3	W-1	23-24	23-26
Chicago	27	70	.278	32½	26½	3-7	L-3	17-33	10-37

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Seattle	52	45	.536	—	—	5-5	L-2	30-18	22-27
Houston	50	45	.526	1	2½	7-3	L-1	28-20	22-25
Texas	45	50	.474	6	7½	6-4	W-1	24-21	21-29
Los Angeles	40	55	.421	11	12½	4-6	W-2	21-29	19-26
Oakland	36	61	.371	16	17½	5-5	L-1	22-25	14-36

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

Saturday

Yankees 6, Baltimore 1
 Detroit 11, L.A. Dodgers 9, 10 inn.
 Pittsburgh 6, White Sox 2
 Boston 5, Kansas City 0
 Cleveland 4, Tampa Bay 2
 Philadelphia 11, Oakland 5
 Texas 2, Houston 1, 10 inn.
 Minnesota 4, San Francisco 2
 L.A. Angels 2, Seattle 1
 Arizona 12, Toronto 1

Sunday

Yankees at Baltimore, 11:35 a.m.
 Kansas City at Boston, 1:35
 Oakland at Philadelphia, 1:35
 L.A. at Tampa Bay, 1:40
 L.A. Dodgers at Detroit, 1:40
 Pittsburgh at White Sox, 2:10
 Texas at Houston, 2:10
 Minnesota at San Francisco, 4:05
 Seattle at L.A. Angels, 4:07
 Toronto at Arizona, 4:10
Monday
 No games scheduled

NL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Philadelphia	62	33	.653	—	—	6-4	W-1	37-15	25-18
Atlanta	52	42	.553	9½	+3	5-5	L-1	29-17	23-25
Mets	49	45	.521	12½	—	7-3	W-5	26-25	23-20
Washington	44	52	.458	18½	6	4-6	W-2	20-24	24-28
Miami	32	63	.337	30	17½	2-8	L-5	18-31	14-32

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Milwaukee	54	42	.563	—	—	3-7	L-3	28-17	26-25
St. Louis	50	45	.526	3½	+½	6-4	W-2	26-21	24-24
Pittsburgh	47	48	.495	6½	2½	6-4	W-3	22-24	25-24
Cincinnati	47	49	.490	7	3	6-4	W-3	25-27	22-22
Chicago	46	51	.474	8½	4½	7-3	L-2	25-21	21-30

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Los Angeles	56	40	.583	—	—	3-7	L-1	28-19	28-21
San Diego	50	48	.510	7	1	4-6	W-1	26-27	24-21
Arizona	49	47	.510	7	1	7-3	W-4	26-23	23-24
San Francisco	46	50	.479	10	4	4-6	L-1	27-22	19-28
Colorado	33	63	.344	23	17	4-6	L-3	20-27	13-36

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

Saturday

Mets 7, Colorado 3
 Detroit 11, L.A. Dodgers 9, 10 inn.
 St. Louis 11, Cubs 3, 1st game
 St. Louis 5, Cubs 4, 2nd game
 Pittsburgh 6, White Sox 2
 Cincinnati 10, Miami 6
 Philadelphia 11, Oakland 5
 Washington 6, Milwaukee 5
 San Diego 4, Atlanta 0
 Minnesota 4, San Francisco 2
 Arizona 12, Toronto 1

Sunday

Colorado at **Mets**, 1:40
 Oakland at Philadelphia, 1:35
 L.A. Dodgers at Detroit, 1:40
 Miami at Cincinnati, 1:40
 Pittsburgh at White Sox, 2:10
 Washington at Milwaukee, 2:10
 Cubs at St. Louis, 2:15
 Minnesota at San Francisco, 4:05
 Atlanta at San Diego, 4:10
 Toronto at Arizona, 4:10
Monday
 No games scheduled

Yankees 6, Orioles 1

Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Av
Verdugo lf	5	0	1	0	0	2	.238
Soto dh	4	2	2	1	0	1	.300
Judge rf	5	2	2	1	1	2	.308
Rice 1b	4	0	0	0	1	3	.230
Torres 2b	4	1	3	1	0	1	.230
Wells c	4	1	1	3	0	1	.220
Volpe ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.245
Grisham cf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.173
LeMahieu 3b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.188
Totals	37	6	10	6	3	12	

Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Av
Henderson ss	4	0	1	0	0	0	.288
Rutschman c	4	0	1	0	0	1	.279
Santander rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.234
O'Hearn dh	4	1	1	0	0	0	.274
Westburg 2b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.274
Mountcastle 1b	4	0	1	1	0	1	.272
Cowser cf-1f	4	0	2	0	0	1	.221
Hays lf	2	0	1	0	0	1	.262
Mullins cf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.211
Urias 3b	2	0	0	0	1	0	.233
Totals	33	1	8	1	1	7	

Yankees **400 020 000 — 6 10 0**
Baltimore **000 100 000 — 1 8 0**

LOB: New York 7, Baltimore 6. **2B:** Judge (24), Torres (15), Soto (15). **3B:** O'Hearn (2). **HR:** Wells (6), off Rodriguez; Soto (23), off Rodriguez; Judge (34), off Rodriguez. **RBIs:** Torres (35), Wells 3 (20), Soto (66), Judge (85), Mountcastle (43). **RISP:** New York 2 for 9; Baltimore 0 for 5. **DP:** New York 2 (Volpe, Torres, Rice; Rice, Volpe, Rice).

Yankees	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gil, W, 10-5	6.0	5	1	1	1	7	95	3.17
Hill	2.0	2	0	0	0	0	26	2.03
Cousins	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	8	1.54
Baltimore	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Rodriguez, L,	5.0	8	6	6	1	7	91	3.88
11-4								
Webb	0.2	0	0	0	1	0	18	2.61
Akin	1.1	1	0	0	1	3	33	3.70
Nittoli	2.0	1	0	0	0	2	25	0.00

T: 2:35. **A:** 44,018 (45,971).

Tigers 11, Dodgers 9, 10 inn.

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Av
Ohtani dh	4	3	2	2	1	1	.314
T.Hernández rf	4	0	2	0	1	1	.261
Freeman 1b	4	1	1	2	1	0	.293
Pages cf	5	1	2	0	0	1	.257
Taylor lf	4	1	1	1	1	1	.161
Lux 2b	5	0	2	2	0	0	.216
K.Hernández ss	5	1	1	2	0	0	.191
Rojas ss	0	0	0	0	0	0	.283
Biggio 3b	3	1	0	0	2	1	.175
Barnes c	4	1	1	0	1	1	.259
Totals	38	9	12	9	8	6	

Detroit	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Av
Ibáñez 1b	2	1	1	1	1	0	.285
B-Pérez ph-rf	2	1	1	0	1	0	.265
Malloy lf	5	1	1	0	0	1	.211
Urshela 1b	1	1	2	0	0	0	.255
Vierling 3b	5	1	2	2	0	2	.248
Greene cf	5	1	3	0	0	0	.271
Canha dh	1	1	0	0	0	0	.228
Rogers ph-dh	4	0	0	0	0	1	.203
Kelly c	5	1	1	1	0	0	.245
Keith 2b	4	1	3	4	1	1	.253
Báez ss	2	0	0	0	0	0	.179
McKinstry ss	3	0	2	0	0	0	.192
Vilade rf-1b-lf	5	2	1	1	0	2	.294
Totals	44	11	16	11	2	8	

Los Angeles **101 031 210 0 — 9 12 1**
Detroit **020 020 005 2 — 11 16 1**

One out when winning run scored. **E:** K.Hernández (4), Ibáñez (2). **LOB:** Los Angeles 10, Detroit 9. **2B:** Pages (15), Keith (10), Greene 2 (21), McKinstry (5), Vierling (13). **3B:** Ohtani (4). **HR:** Ohtani (29), off Montero; K.Hernández (5), off Faedo; Vilade (1), off Wrobleski; Ibáñez (4), off Wrobleski; Keith (9), off Phillips; Urshela (4), off Ramirez. **RBIs:** Freeman 2 (61), Taylor (15), Ohtani 2 (69), Lux 2 (24), K.Hernández 2 (15), Keith 4 (37), Vilade (4), Ibáñez (21), Vierling 2 (41), Kelly (29), Urshela 2 (29). **SB:** Ohtani (23), McKinstry (6). **CS:** Lux (1). **SF:** Freeman. **S:** Pérez. **RISP:** Los Angeles 4 for 14; Detroit 4 for 13.

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Wrobleski	5.0	5	4	3	2	4	84	6.30
Banda, H, 2	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	9	2.25
Treinen	1.0	2	0	0	0	1	20	2.28
Vesia	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	21	1.28
Vanasco	0.0	3	3	3	0	0	8	13.50
Phillips, BS, 14-16	1.0	3	2	2	0	1	27	2.73
Ramirez, L, 0-3	0.1	1	2	1	0	0	6	3.33

Detroit	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Montero	5.0	7	5	5	4	4	92	5.47
Wentz	0.1	1	1	1	0	0	9	5.22
Faedo	1.2	3	2	2	1	1	33	3.53
Chafin	1.0	1	1	1	0	0	20	3.77
Miller	1.0	0	0	0	0	15	5.23	
Vest, W, 2-3	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	12	3.27

T: 3:11. **A:** 40,196 (41,083).

Mets 7, Rockies 3

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Av
Blackmon dh	4	1	1	2	0	2	.256
Tovar ss	4	0	2	0	0	1	.269
McMahon 3b	2	0	1	0	2	0	.273
El.Díaz c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.286
Doyle cf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.277
Rodgers 2b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.266
Cave rf	4	1	1	1	0	3	.257
Toglia 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.183
Hilliard lf	3	1	2	0	0	1	.292
Tot							

Rangers 2, Astros 1, 10 inn.

Texas	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Semien 2b	5	1	1	0	2	2.241	
Seager ss	3	0	1	0	2	0.272	
Smith 3b	2	1	0	0	2	2.290	
Langford lf	4	0	0	0	1	2.258	
García rf	4	0	0	0	1	1.214	
Lowe 1b	5	0	1	1	0	1.264	
Heim c	4	0	1	0	1	0.245	
Jankowski dh	2	0	0	0	0	1.212	
Grossman ph-dh	0	0	0	0	2	0.219	
Taveras cf	4	0	0	0	0	3.231	
Totals	33	2	4	2	9	12	

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Altuve 2b	5	0	2	0	0	1.306	
Bregman 3b	5	1	1	0	0	1.256	
Alvarez dh	4	0	1	0	1	1.300	
Kessinger pr	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	
Diaz c	5	0	2	1	0	2.287	
Singleton 1b	4	0	2	0	0	0.245	
Peña ss	3	0	0	0	0	2.272	
Meyers cf	4	0	0	0	0	1.238	
Loperford lf-rf	4	0	1	0	0	1.282	
McCormick lf	3	0	0	0	0	2.203	
Dubón ph	1	0	0	0	0	0.280	
Cabbage rf	0	0	0	0	0	0.246	
Totals	38	1	9	1	11		

Texas	100 000 000	1 — 2 4 0
Houston	100 000 000	0 — 1 9 0

LOB: Texas 12, Houston 10. **HR:** Semien (13), off Arrighetti. **RBIs:** Semien (51), Lowe (37), Diaz (49). **SB:** Smith (5), Langford (8). **CS:** Smith (1). **Runners left in scoring position:** Texas 7 (Taveras 2, Lowe 3, Smith 2); Houston 4 (Meyers 2, Bregman, Diaz). **RISP:** Texas 1 for 10; Houston 2 for 9.

Texas	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Eovaldi	7.0	8	1	1	0	7	95	2.97
Robertson, W, 3-3	2.0	1	0	0	0	3	30	2.88
Yates, S, 15-15	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	5	0.81

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Arrighetti	6.0	2	1	1	3	7	85	6.72
King	1.0	0	0	0	3	2	34	2.16
Martínez	0.2	1	0	0	2	1	21	2.47
Dubin	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	6	5.40
Scott, L, 6-3	2.0	1	1	0	1	1	28	1.36

T: 2:51. A: 42,094 (41,000).

Reds 10, Marlins 6

Miami	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Chisholm cf-2b	6	1	1	0	0	1.251	
B.De La Cruz lf	6	1	1	0	0	3.245	
Burger 1b	5	2	4	4	0	0.225	
Bell dh	4	1	2	2	1	2.230	
Myers rf-cf	4	0	1	0	1	1.265	
Bruján cf	0	0	0	0	0	0.218	
Edwards ss	4	0	2	0	1	1.333	
Rivera 3b	4	0	1	0	1	2.212	
Bride 2b	2	1	1	0	0	0.182	
J.Sánchez ph-rf	3	0	1	0	0	0.245	
Fortes c	5	0	1	0	0	1.178	
Totals	43	6	15	6	4	11	

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
India 2b	2	0	0	0	0	1.274	
Espinal 2b	2	1	2	2	0	0.211	
E.De La Cruz ss	4	1	1	0	2	2.255	
Candelario dh	4	1	1	1	0	1.245	
Steer 1b	4	1	1	0	1	1.244	
Stephenson c	4	1	1	0	0	1.244	
Fraley lf	4	1	1	0	0	2.277	
Marte 3b	4	1	1	0	0	2.177	
Hinds rf	3	3	3	3	0	1.500	
Benson cf	3	0	0	1	0	2.191	
Totals	34	10	10	9	0	13	

Miami	003 201 000 — 6 15 0
Cincinnati	013 303 00x — 10 10 0

LOB: Miami 14, Cincinnati 1. **2B:** Bell (17), J.Sánchez (14). **HR:** Burger (10), off Abbott; Bell (9), off Abbott; Steer (15), off Cabrera; Hinds (4), off Cabrera; E.De La Cruz (16), off Cabrera; Candelario (16), off Cabrera; Hinds (5), off Nardi; Espinal (6), off Nardi. **RBIs:** Burger 4 (35), Bell 2 (39), Steer (60), Hinds 3 (11), E.De La Cruz (41), Candelario (45), Benson (33), Espinal 2 (27). **SB:** Myers (4), B.De La Cruz (2). **Runners left in scoring position:** Miami 8 (Edwards 2, Rivera, Chisholm, Bride, Myers, B.De La Cruz 2); Cincinnati 0. **RISP:** Miami 3 for 20; Cincinnati 1 for 2.

Miami	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Cabrera, L, 1-3	3.1	6	7	7	0	7	63	8.26
Brazoban	1.2	1	0	0	0	1	23	3.60
Nardi	1.0	3	3	3	0	2	27	5.30
Bender	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	11	3.96
Puk	1.0	0	0	0	2	2	10	4.85

Cincinnati	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Abbott	3.1	7	5	5	2	4	78	3.39
Farmer	0.2	1	0	0	1	0	15	2.70
Santillan, H, 1-0	2.0	2	0	0	0	1	10	0.00
Moll, W, 1-1	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	5	2.78
Cruz, H, 2-1	1.0	2	1	1	0	1	20	4.50
Wilson	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	12	4.44
Sims	1.0	2	0	0	0	3	24	3.45
Suter	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	14	3.73

T: 2:46. A: 26,219 (43,891).

Nationals 6, Brewers 5

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Abrams ss	5	1	1	2	0	1.269	
Thomas rf	5	0	2	0	0	1.252	
Yepez 1b	4	1	2	0	1	0.353	
Wood lf	4	1	1	0	0	3.245	
Ramírez dh	3	1	1	1	0	0.242	
b-Ruiz ph-c	1	0	0	0	0	0.224	
Vargas 2b-3b	3	0	1	1	0	0.253	
Adams c	3	0	2	1	0	0.239	
Winker ph	1	0	0	0	0	1.263	
Law p	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	
Finnegan p	0	0	0	0	0	0.000	
Lipscomb 3b	2	0	0	0	0	0.232	
a-García ph-2b	2	2	2	1	0	0.281	
Young cf	3	0	0	0	0	0.251	
Totals	36	6	12	6	2	6	

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Chourio lf	5	1	1	0	0	0.245	
Ortiz 3b	4	1	0	0	1	1.259	
Contreras dh	3	0	0	0	1	2.287	
Adames ss	4	0	1	0	0	3.238	
Hoskins 1b	4	1	2	0	2	2.215	
Frellick rf	3	1	1	0	1	0.273	
Monasterio 2b	1	1	1	1	0	0.203	
Turang 2b	2	0	0	0	0	1.278	
Perkins cf	3	0	0	0	1	1.243	
Haase c	3	0	1	2	0	2.353	
d-Bauers ph	0	0	0	0	1	0.219	
Totals	32	5	6	5	6	12	

Washington	000 300 102 — 6 12 0
Milwaukee	500 000 000 — 5 6 0

LOB: Washington 6, Milwaukee 6. **2B:** Yepez (16), Vargas (13), Thomas (11), Chourio (12), Hoskins (9), Monasterio (3). **HR:** García (11), off Junis; Abrams (15), off Megill. **RBIs:** Ramírez (7), Vargas (21), Adams (8), García (45), Abrams 2 (48), Hoskins 2 (46), Monasterio (10), Haase 2 (5). **SB:** Frellick 2 (14), Monasterio (5). **S:** Young. **RISP:** Washington 4 for 11; Milwaukee 3 for 9.

Washington	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Parker	0.2	3	5	5	2	2	46	3.90
Weems	1.2	2	0	0	2	3	38	5.68
Barnes	2.2	1	0	0	0	4	34	3.62
Floro	2.0	0	0	0	1	2	34	2.11
Law, W, 5-2	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	11	3.18
Finnegan, S, 25-29	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	21	2.45

Milwaukee	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Keuchel	3.0	8	3	3	0	2	65	5.40
Junis	3.1	2	1	1	0	1	36	2.84
Peguero, H, 9	1.1	0	0	0	2	1	25	3.29
Megill, L, 0-2, BS, 18-20	1.1	2	2	2	0	2	20	2.05

T: 3:00. A: 34,169 (41,700).

Padres 4, Braves 0

Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Kelenic cf	3	0	0	0	1	1.259	
Albies 2b	4	0	1	0	0	1.254	
Riley 3b	4	0	0	0	0	3.257	
Olson 1b	3	0	0	0	1	3.229	
Ozuna dh	3	0	2	0	1	0.304	
Duvall rf	4	0	1	0	0	0.191	
Rosario lf	4	0	1	0	0	2.190	
Murphy c	4	0	0	0	0	1.211	
Arcia ss	3	0	0	0	0	3.210	
Totals	32	0	5	0	3	14	

San Diego	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Arraez 1b	4	0	3	1	0	1.315	
Profar lf	4	0	0	0	0	1.303	
Cronenworth 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1.260	
Machado dh	4	2	3	1	0	0.267	
Solano 3b	4	1	2	0	0	0.291	
Merrill cf	4	0	1	0	0	1.281	
Peralta rf	4	0	3	2	0	0.253	
B.Johnson rf	0	0	0	0	0	0.154	
Campuzano c	3	0	0	0	0	0.226	
Wade ss	2	1	1	0	0	0.238	
a-Kim ph-ss	1	0	0	0	1	0.225	
Totals	34	4					

The *POST* Line



MLB		
Favorite	Sunday Money Line	Underdog
ORIOLES	-104-112	Yankees
METS	\$188-225	Rockies
RED SOX	\$104-122	Royals
PHILLIES	\$188-225	Athletics
RAYS	-104-112	Guardians
REDS	\$166-198	Marlins
ASTROS	\$130-154	Rangers
BREWERS	\$120-142	Nationals
Pirates	\$172-205	WHITE SOX
CARDINALS	\$106-124	Cubs
GIANTS	-102-116	Twins
Mariners	\$158-188	ANGELS
Braves	\$156-186	PADRES
D'BACKS	\$136-162	Blue Jays
TIGERS	OFF	Dodgers

WNBA		
Favorite	Sunday PTS (O/U)	Underdog
Aces	11.5 (171.5)	MYSTICS
LYNX	2.5 (160.5)	Fever
STORM	14.5 (153.5)	Dream

Home Teams In CAPS

Men's Olympic Basketball

Sunday, July 28

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
+United States	12.5 (178.5)	Serbia

Wednesday, July 31

+United States	33.5 (175.5)	South Sudan
+Lille, France		

CFL

Sunday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
ELKS	3.5 (49.5)	Redblacks

SPORTS SHORTS

SOCCER: Red Bulls draw in Colorado

Colorado got a gift score in the second half on an own goal by Red Bulls defender **Sean Nealis** and the Rapids escaped with a 1-1 draw in Commerce City, Colo., to run their unbeaten streak at home to seven.

Neither team scored until **Lewis Morgan** used assists from **Dante Vanzeir** and **Cameron Harper** to find the net in the first minute of stoppage time to put the Red Bulls up 1-0 at halftime. The Red Bulls (9-4-10) are on a six-match unbeaten run with one victory and five ties.

● In Chicago, New York City FC overcame a commanding possession disparity, was not credited with a shot on goal until late in the second half and settled for a 0-0 draw with the host Chicago Fire.

Matt Freeze made two saves for NYCFC (11-9-3, 36 points), who fell to 2-4-1 in its past seven matches.

● At Red Bull Arena, **Sophia Smith** scored in the 64th minute, and the United States got revenge for a loss to Mexico earlier this year with a 1-0 friendly victory in the rematch. The Americans will play Costa Rica on Tuesday at Audi Field in Washington before departing for the 2024 Olympics in France.

MLB: Tigers rally to beat Dodgers

Gio Urshela hit a two-run homer in the 10th inning after the Tigers overcame a 9-4 deficit in the ninth to beat the Dodgers, 11-9, in Detroit.

Shohei Ohtani hit his 200th homer and tripled, giving him 233 total bases — the

eight-highest total before the All-Star break since the game was first played in 1933.

● In Boston, **Kutter Crawford** took a one-hitter into the eighth inning and the Red Sox beat potential AL All-Star starter **Seth Lugo** in a 5-0 victory over the Royals.

● In Houston, **Marcus Semien** hit a leadoff homer and **Nathaniel Lowe's** RBI single with two outs in the 10th inning lifted the Rangers to a 2-1 victory over the Astros.

● In San Diego, **Dylan Cease** allowed one hit and struck out 11 in six dominant innings to lead the Padres to a 4-0 victory over the Braves.

● In St. Louis **Nolan Arenado** hit a two-run single in the eighth inning and the Cardinals beat the Cubs 5-4 to complete a doubleheader sweep. The Cardinals routed the Cubs, 11-3, in the opener of a split doubleheader.

GOLF: Aberg takes 2-shot lead

Ludvig Aberg overcame a pair of bogeys early on the back nine with three late birdies that carried him to a 5-under 65 at the Scottish Open in North Berwick, slightly dampening the enthusiasm of a gallery fully behind local star **Robert MacIntyre**.

● In Sotogrande, Spain, Indian golfer **Anirban Lahiri** shot a 5-under 66 to take a four-shot lead of the LIV Golf Andalucia tournament.

● In Evian-Les-Bains, France, **Stephanie Kyriacou** posted seven birdies in a 4-under 67 and will take a one-shot lead into the final round of the Evian Championship.

ACTION TOP PLAY

Win brewing for Los Cafeteros

By MICHAEL LEBOFF
actionnetwork.com

Copa America has not disappointed, and Sunday's final between Argentina and Colombia in Miami should be an absolute spectacle. Tickets on the secondary market are going for astronomical prices, and these two massive fan bases should fill Hard Rock Stadium and turn it into a sea of sky blue and yellow.

In most cases, the atmosphere for a final played in a neutral venue doesn't impact how you want to handicap a match, but this contest is a little different given how this tournament has played out and the strengths of these two teams.

Argentina is the master at controlling soccer matches. La Albiceleste want to

get a lead and put the game in a stranglehold with possession and sturdy defensive work. Colombia will do everything they can to prevent that from happening.

Los Cafeteros would benefit from this being a back-and-forth, physical match, and the atmosphere's playing a role in how the game is played and officiated.

Playing in this cauldron should benefit Colombia, which will want to get Argentina out of its comfort zone and throw this match into chaos.

With the pressure, the crowd and Colombia's form, I think Los Cafeteros have a decent chance to do just that.

THE PLAY: Colombia to win inside 90 minutes (+310).

Michael Leboff analyzes soccer for Action Network.

Pitching Form

	(Game time)	2024			'24 vs OPP			CAREER vs OPP			LAST 3 STARTS		
		W-L	ERA	*REC	W-L	ERA	vs OPP	W-L	IP	ERA			
Yankees	Rodón (L)	9-7	4.63	11-8	0-1	13.50	0-3	0-3	14.1	9.42			
Orioles	Kremer (R)	4-5	4.42	5-6	1-0	2.57	3-3	1-2	13.0	6.92			
Rockies	Márquez (R)	0-0	0.00	0-0	0-0	0.00	4-2	1-2	14.0	5.79			
Mets	Quintana (L)	4-5	3.91	10-8	0-0	0.00	3-3	1-0	18.0	1.00			
Athletics	Estes (R)	3-4	5.53	5-6	—	—	—	1-2	16.1	5.51			
Phillies	TBD	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Dodgers	TBD	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Tigers	TBD	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Pirates	Keller (R)	10-5	3.40	12-6	—	—	—	2-1	18.2	4.82			
White Sox	Shuster (L)	1-2	3.52	0-1	—	—	—	0-1	2.0	6.0			
Twins	Paddack (R)	5-3	5.18	11-5	0-0	0.00	1-1	0-0	12.0	7.50			
Giants	Snell (L)	0-3	7.85	3-4	0-0	0.00	2-2	0-0	13.2	3.95			
Blue Jays	Kikuchi (L)	4-8	4.00	5-14	0-0	1.93	0-1	0-1	18.0	4.00			
D'Backs	Gallen (R)	6-5	3.33	7-7	0-1	5.40	0-1	1-1	15.1	4.11			
Royals	Singer (R)	5-5	2.93	11-7	1-0	4.05	2-0	1-1	19.1	1.40			
Red Sox	Bello (R)	9-5	5.40	10-6	0-0	1.35	0-0	2-1	14.1	8.16			
Guardians	Lively (R)	8-4	3.59	10-5	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-1	17.1	5.71			
Rays	Pepiot (R)	5-5	4.20	8-8	0-0	2.25	0-0	1-1	15.0	2.40			
Rangers	Scherzer (R)	1-2	3.09	2-2	—	—	5-2	0-2	18.1	3.93			
Astros	Blanco (R)	9-3	2.53	13-4	1-0	1.50	2-0	1-1	18.1	3.44			
Mariners	Gilbert (R)	6-5	2.94	11-8	0-1	8.10	4-2	1-1	19.0	4.26			
Angels	TBD	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Marlins	Rogers (L)	1-9	4.82	3-15	0-0	0.00	0-1	0-1	14.1	4.40			
Reds	Lodolo (L)	8-3	3.30	10-3	0-0	0.00	1-0	1-1	15.1	4.70			
Nationals	Irvin (R)	7-7	3.13	8-11	0-1	5.40	0-1	2-1	20.0	3.15			
Brewers	Rea (R)	8-3	3.80	11-5	0-0	0.00	0-0	2-1	17.1	4.67			
Cubs	Taillon (R)	6-4	2.99	8-7	0-1	3.86	5-2	2-1	19.0	3.32			
Cardinals	Mikolas (R)	7-7	4.88	9-10	1-0	2.92	6-4	1-1	16.2	5.94			
Braves	Sale (L)	12-3	2.74	12-5	1-0	0.00	3-0	2-1	18.1	1.96			
Padres	Vásquez (R)	4-10	4.66	5-7	0-1	4.50	0-2	1-0	15.1	1.76			

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

STITCHES

Guards, Ben before the break

"Hey, Stich. Through meticulous analysis, I've come up with a plan to turn your season around. Make your pick, then bet that team the *next* day, regardless of pitching. Seems your picks always win the next day. Always your fan!"

— **Pete Borrelli, Rochester, New York**
Oh, don't I know it. Case in point, Pete: You may have noticed the Cards, after scoring one lousy run for us Friday night, put a "9" on the scoreboard in the first inning Saturday.

Getaway day. All-Star break begins Monday. The first half could not have gone bet-

ter for the Guardians while the Rays are hovering at the .500 level. Cleveland's Ben Lively was fortunate to walk away with a no-decision after the Tigers mauled him for six runs. We cashed when the Guardians won in extra innings. Tampa Bay's Ryan Pepiot has allowed six runs in his past 19 innings. Play \$50 on the Guardians because Mr. Borelli, they can't win tomorrow.

—\$
The joy of six. The Reds hit six homers and outslugged the Fish, 10-6. Rece Hinds hit two. Winner. Down -904 geronimos.
stitches@nypost.com

Home Team Lineups HOME AWAY

	TODAY July 14	MON July 15	TUE July 16	WED July 17	THU July 18	FRI July 19	SAT July 20
	Baltimore 11:35 a.m. Roku WFAN 660 AM/ 101.9 FM	Home Run Derby 8:00 ESPN ESPN	All- Star Game 8:00 Fox ESPN	NO GAME	NO GAME	T.B. 7:05 YES WFAN	T.B. 1:05 YES WFAN
	Colorado 1:40 SNY WCBS 880 AM	Home Run Derby 8:00 ESPN ESPN	All- Star Game 8:00 Fox ESPN	NO GAME	NO GAME	Miami 7:10 SNY WCBS	Miami 4:10 PIX11 WCBS
	NO GAME	NO GAME	Conn. 7:00 MY9 Prime Video	NO GAME	NO GAME	NO GAME	NO GAME

	Wednesday	Wednesday	Saturday
	CF Montreal 7:30 Apple TV+		Chicago Red Stars 5:00 CBSSN

Today's Sports on the Air

MLB	11:35 a.m.	Yankees at Orioles	Roku, WFAN (660 AM/101.9 FM)
	1:30 p.m.	Guardians at Rays	MLBN
	1:40 p.m.	Rockies at Mets	SNY, WCBS (880 AM)
	7 p.m.	2024 Draft	ESPN, MLBN
WNBA	1 p.m.	Mercury at Sun	ABC
	3 p.m.	Aces at Mystics	CBSSN
	4 p.m.	Fever at Lynx	ESPN
Tennis	9 a.m.	Wimbledon, Gentlemen's Singles Final	ESPN
	Noon	Wimbledon, Mixed Doubles Championship	ESPN
Soccer	3 p.m.	Euro Final: Spain vs. England	Fox
	7 p.m.	CPL: Pacific at Forge FC	FS2
	8 p.m.	Copa America Final: Colombia vs. Argentina	Fox
NBA Summer League	3:30 p.m.	Cavaliers vs. Bucks	NBATV
	4 p.m.	Nets vs. Clippers	YES
	5:30 p.m.	Timberwolves at Pacers	NBATV
	7:30 p.m.	Magic vs. Pelicans	NBATV
	8 p.m.	Spurs vs. Hawks	ESPN2
	9:30 p.m.	Nuggets vs. Raptors	NBATV
	10 p.m.	Bulls vs. Warriors	ESPN2
	Golf	10 a.m.	PGA Tour: The Genesis Scottish Open, Final Round
Noon		Champions Tour: The Kaulig Companies Championship, Final Round	Golf
Noon		PGA Tour: The Genesis Scottish Open, Final Round	CBS
1 p.m.		LIV Golf: Final Round	PIX11
2:30 p.m.		American Century Championship: Final Round	NBC
4 p.m.		PGA Tour: The ISCO Championship, Final Round	Golf
Basketball	3 p.m.	BIG3: Week 5	CBS
	7 p.m.	CFL: Ottawa at Edmonton	CBSSN
Auto Racing	11 a.m.	IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship: Chevrolet Grand Prix	USA
	12:30 p.m.	NTT IndyCar Series: Hy-Vee One Step 250,	NBC
	2:30 p.m.	NASCAR Cup Series: The Great American Getaway 400 Presented by VisitPA.com	USA
Horse Racing	Noon	FanDuel Racing	MSGSN
	1 p.m.	Saratoga Live	FS1
Sailing	5:30 p.m.	SailGP: Event 13 - Day 2	CBSSN

ODDS & ENDS

NASCAR Odds to win the Great American Getaway 400 Sunday, Pocono, Pa.

DRIVER	ODDS
Denny Hamlin	+375
Kyle Larson	+500
Christopher Bell	+600
Martin Truex Jr.	+750
Tyler Reddick	+800
William Byron	10/1
Ty Gibbs	10/1
Chase Elliott	12/1
Ryan Blaney	16/1
Brad Keselowski	18/1
Ross Chastain	25/1
Kyle Busch	25/1
Joey Logano	25/1
Chris Buescher	30/1
Bubba Wallace	30/1
Alex Bowman	30/1
Josh Berry	80/1
Chase Briscoe	100/1
Noah Gragson	100/1
Daniel Suarez	100/1
Michael McDowell	150/1
Austin Cindric	200/1
Carson Hocevar	200/1
Erik Jones	200/1
Todd Gilliland	200/1
Austin Dillon	300/1
Ricky Stenhouse Jr.	300/1
Justin Haley	300/1
Ryan Preece	300/1
AJ Allmendinger	300/1
John H. Nemechek	300/1
Corey Lajoie	500/1
Zane Smith	500/1
Harrison Burton	1,000/1
Daniel Hemric	1,000/1
Cody Ware	2,000/1
JJ Yeley	2,000/1

MLB Favorites to win the 2024 World Series

TEAM	ODDS
Dodgers	+310
Phillies	+500
Yankees	+550
Orioles	+650
Braves	+900
Guardians	14/1
Twins	16/1
Astros	18/1
Mariners	20/1
Brewers	25/1
Padres	35/1
Red Sox	50/1
Cardinals	50/1
Diamondbacks	66/1
Royals	66/1
Mets	66/1
Rangers	80/1
Giants	100/1

ACTION BET SMART



By NICK STERLING
actionnetwork.com

The NASCAR Cup Series heads to the Tricky Triangle for the Great American Getaway 400 at Pocono. You can tune into the race at 2:30 p.m. Sunday on USA Network.

Last season, Denny Hamlin put Kyle Larson into the wall in the final laps to steal the victory. Hamlin leads all drivers with seven career victories at Pocono.

Combine that with his 2024 speed and it shouldn't surprise anyone to see Hamlin at the top of the odds board. Among the top seven drivers on the board, just Hamlin and Martin Truex Jr. (+750) have visited victory lane at Pocono.

Here are my favorite bets:

Denny Hamlin to win (+450, FanDuel)

Hamlin is easily the driver to beat at Pocono. He's been fast at the track from the jump, winning his first two career races there. Hamlin struggled at Pocono for much of the 2010s but regained his speed over the past few years.

Over the past seven races, Hamlin has three victories and five top-five finishes. He crossed the finish line first in the 2022 race, but NASCAR disqualified him after failing post-race inspection.

A 14th-place finish in 2021 resulted from pitting from the lead coming to the white flag. He's had race-winning speed in every Pocono race since 2020.

Hamlin has been one of the best drivers in 2024. A trip to his best track could spell trouble for the rest of the field.

William Byron top-five finish (+160, bet365)

Byron has had a tough stretch, finishing 15th or worse in four of his past six races. The short flat tracks don't suit his strengths, but he's been a top contender at Pocono.

Byron has five top-10 finishes in 10

HAM' IT UP: Denny Hamlin (-450) is a good bet to win the Great American Getaway 400 at Pocono on Sunday, writes Nick Sterling.

starts at the track. He's led 13-plus laps in three of the past four races, including a race-high 60 laps in last year's race.

Byron pitted from the lead with three laps to go in the 2021 race. Last season, he might have had the car to beat, but pit strategy led to a poor finish.

It's about time Byron strung together a strong stretch of finishes. I expect a strong performance from the No. 24 team at Pocono.

Bubba Wallace finishing position Under 14.5 (-115, Caesars)

It wasn't long ago that Wallace was on the right side of the playoff outline. Now, he sits 51 points below with a win likely being his only path to the postseason.

It'd be a stretch to win at Pocono, but I expect a solid showing from Wallace, who has four races with 23XI Racing at Pocono and has yet to finish worse than 14th. That includes three straight finishes of 11th or better.

Betting on Wallace to finish in the top 10 isn't a bad option, but I feel much better about him finishing 14th or better.

Alex Bowman over Joey Logano (-105, bet365)

Two weeks ago, Logano removed himself from the playoff outline with a victory at Nashville. That put Bowman in a tough spot, but he emerged victorious at the Chicago Street Course.

Bowman and Logano have had similar speed in 2024, with Bowman a little better overall. Once you look at the Pocono numbers, Bowman has the advantage.

He has finished 11th or better in four of the past five races, including a victory in 2021. Logano has finished 20th or worse three times in that stretch.

Overall, Bowman has finished ahead of Logano in six straight Pocono races. That streak should continue Sunday.

Nick Sterling analyzes NASCAR for Action Network.

By ETHAN SEARS

No Breanna Stewart, no problem. The Liberty were without their two-time MVP on Saturday but still put away the Sky for a second straight game, beating Chicago, 81-67, at Wintrust Arena to move their league-best record to 20-4 behind Sabrina Ionescu's 28 points on 9-for-21 shooting.

"We had to do a little bit more, obviously, with some starters out," Ionescu said. "But we believe in every single player on this team and their capability and understanding what they're able to come in and help us achieve. Hats off to them."

In addition to Ionescu's scoring, contributions from Leonie Fiebich and Ivana Dojkic — who combined for 25 points — helped the Liberty make up for Stewart's absence.

Down low, Fiebich and Jonquel Jones — who finished with 14 points, nine rebounds and seven assists — served to limit Chicago's twin towers of Angel Reese and Kamilla Cardoso in the paint enough for the Liberty to get by in this survive-and-advance match.

Reese, who took a record 15-game double-double streak into Saturday, finished two points short of extending it and received a technical foul in the fourth quarter thanks to her reaction to a fifth personal foul.

Just a couple of days after it took the Liberty until late in the game to pull away from Chicago in Brooklyn, a 15-0 run into half-time helped the Liberty put their foot down earlier.

After a slow start for Ionescu, she got going late in the second quarter to help spark a run that left Chicago in the dust, assisting a Dojkic three and a Jones layup while hitting a pair of free throws to finish the half.

Suddenly, the Liberty — who had not led since it was 3-2 — were up by nine heading into the half, and their best player was cooking.

"It's a long game and we started the game, I think, taking some quick shots, some rough shots. As soon as we slow the ball down, we're able to drive



I' HAS IT: Liberty guard Sabrina Ionescu reacts after scoring on her way to 28 points and an 81-67 victory over the Sky, getting the job done without two-time MVP Breanna Stewart. USA TODAY Sports

and kick, we're able to get into the paint," Ionescu said. "We established JJ off pick and rolls down low. That just opened up the floor for us, obviously in transition, as well."

Dojkic had a simpler explanation. "I think that when we play for each other," she said, "we're really unbeatable."

"When we share the ball, when we always try to find each other in the best positions, we are very, very effective."

A brief scare came when Marina Mabrey hit a pair of 3-pointers to bring the Sky within seven going into the fourth quarter.

But the Liberty kept them at arm's length for the entirety of the fourth, as Chicago never rees-

tablished its early edge down low and couldn't put together a run.

Consecutive buckets from Chennedy Carter got the Sky within eight with 3:27 to go. But a free throw-line jumper from Ionescu followed by Sky coach Teresa Weatherspoon taking a technical foul got the lead back to double digits with 90 seconds left — more than enough to hang on. A deep 3-pointer from Ionescu proved to be the dagger.

Aside from moving to 20-4 on the season, though, the best news of the day for the Liberty was that Stewart's injury does not appear to be a long-term concern.

"Stewie probably could have went today but it's the smartest thing to give her a rest," coach

Sandy Brondello said. "Just taking time where we can. It's a big game for us but we still have to think big picture, be smart about our players' health as much as we can."

Brondello cast the decision to sit the superstar forward, whose 19.3 points per game lead the Liberty, more in terms of load management than any cause for concern. Kennedy Burke started in Stewart's place, finishing with seven points. The Liberty were also missing Betnijah Laney-Hamilton with a right knee injury for a third straight game.

"Just a little injury," Brondello said of Stewart. "Give her the rest today. She'll hopefully play next game."

esears@nypost.com

Krejciikova crowned at Wimbledon

By HOWARD FENDRICH

LONDON — Barbora Krejciikova won Wimbledon for her second Grand Slam title with a 6-2, 2-6, 6-4 victory over Jasmine Paolini in the final Saturday.

Krejciikova is a 28-year-old from the Czech Republic who adds this trophy to her championship at the French Open in 2021.

She was unseeded in Paris back then and was only the 31st of 32 seeds at the All England Club after illness and a back injury this season limited her to a 7-9 record entering this tournament.

Krejciikova is the second Czech woman to leave Wimbledon as the champion in the past eight editions of the event. Last year's champion also is from the Czech Republic: unseeded Marketa Vondrousova, who lost in the first round last week.

The seventh-seeded Paolini was the runner-up at the French Open last month and is the first woman since Serena Williams in 2016 to get to the finals at Roland Garros and Wimbledon in the same season.

Both finalists Saturday took turns being in charge of the run of play.

Playing coolly and efficiently — seemingly effortlessly — Krejciikova claimed 10 of the first 11 points and quickly owned a double-break lead at 5-1.

As much as the crowd, likely because of a desire to see a more competitive contest, pulled loudly for Paolini, yelling "Forza!" ("Let's go!") the way she often does or "Calma!" ("Be calm!"), Krejciikova never wavered.

She has net skills, to be sure — that's part of why she has won seven Grand Slam women's doubles titles, including two at Wimbledon — but Krejciikova mainly was content to stay back at the baseline, simply delivering one smooth groundstroke after another to its appointed spot and getting the better of the lengthiest exchanges. — AP

Judge turned season around between trips to Baltimore

By GREG JOYCE

YANKEES NOTES

BALTIMORE — The last time the Yankees were at Camden Yards, Aaron Judge ended the series batting .197 with a .725 OPS and six home runs through 33 games.

Sunday, he will enter the last game before the All-Star break against the Orioles batting .308 with a 1.114 OPS and 34 home runs through 95 games.

Judge continued his monster season Saturday by going 2-for-4 with

a walk, double and a 431-foot blast to help the Yankees cruise past the Orioles, 6-1.

Judge's 34 home runs set a franchise record before the All-Star break, though through 97 team games in his record-breaking 2022 campaign, he had belted 37.

"Hopefully those 34 homers came in a lot of wins," Judge said with a humble grin. "That's what it's all

about. Don't really try to focus on our stats, personal stats. It's just about trying to get wins."

Manager Aaron Boone said it would have been "very believable" if he had been told in spring training that Judge would have 34 home runs (at least) by the All-Star break.

Austin Wells, meanwhile, claimed to have pegged Judge for 34 long balls at the break when the Yankees were last here from April 29-May 2, when Judge was still getting queried about his

slow start to the season.

"I said he's gonna have 34 homers, 85 RBIs," said Wells, reciting Judge's current stat line. "But that is unbelievable, really. Getting to be in the dugout and watch him do that is just, I can't put it into words because I've never seen anything like it before."

► **Juan Soto** got a rare DH day Saturday, with Judge moving to right field and **Trent Grisham** starting in center. Boone has said Soto does not like DHing, but still planned to use

him there occasionally while **Giancarlo Stanton** is out.

► **Gleyber Torres** recorded his first three-hit game since April 27 against the Brewers. ... **Jorbit Vivas**, who was called up Friday, remained out of the lineup Saturday despite the Orioles starting a righty in **Grayson Rodriguez**. **DJ LeMahieu** got another start at third base but dropped back to hitting ninth after batting leadoff in Friday's series opener.

East	W	L	Pct.	GB
Liberty	20	4	.833	—
Connecticut	17	5	.773	2
Indiana	10	14	.417	10
Chicago	9	14	.391	10½
Atlanta	7	15	.318	12
Washington	6	17	.261	13½

West	W	L	Pct.	GB
Minnesota	16	7	.696	—
Las Vegas	15	7	.682	½
Seattle	15	8	.652	1
Phoenix	12	11	.522	4
Los Angeles	6	17	.261	10
Dallas	5	19	.208	11½

Saturday
Liberty 81, Chicago 67
 Los Angeles 87, Dallas 81

Sunday
 Phoenix at Connecticut, 1pm
 Las Vegas at Washington, 3pm
 Indiana at Minnesota, 4pm
 Atlanta at Seattle, 6pm

Monday
 No games scheduled.

Tuesday
 Connecticut at Liberty, 7pm
 Phoenix at Washington, 11:30 a.m.
 Seattle at Los Angeles, 3:30pm
 Chicago at Las Vegas, 10pm

Wimbledon

At All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club; London; Purse: €17,942,000; Surface: Grass; (seedings in parentheses):
Women's Singles - Championship
 Barbora Krejickova (31), Czechia, def. Jasmine Paolini (7), Italy, 6-2, 2-6, 6-4.

Golf

LIV Golf Andalucia
At Real Club Valderrama; Cadiz, Spain; Purse: \$20 million; Yardage: 7,010; Par: 71
Second Round
 Anirban Lahiri 69-66 135 -7
 Danny Lee 67-72 139 -3
 Martin Kaymer 72-68 140 -2
 Tyrrell Hatton 72-68 140 -2
 Eugenio Chacarra 68-72 140 -2
 Bryson DeChambeau 74-67 141 -1
 Lee Westwood 71-70 141 -1
 Richard Bland 71-70 141 -1
 Louis Oosthuizen 70-71 141 -1
 Dean Burmester 66-75 141 -1
 Marc Leishman 76-66 142 E
 Joaquin Niemann 74-68 142 E
 Jon Rahm 73-69 142 E
 Sergio Garcia 69-73 142 E
 Brooks Koepka 75-68 142 E
 Paul Casey 74-68 143 +1
 Matthew Wolff 73-70 143 +1
 Patrick Reed 72-71 143 +1
 Cameron Smith 72-71 143 +1
 Sam Horsfield 70-74 144 +2
 Phil Mickelson 73-72 145 +3
 Charl Schwartzel 73-72 145 +3
 Anthony Kim 73-72 145 +3
 Dustin Johnson 73-72 145 +3
 Scott Vincent 72-73 145 +3

PGA/DP Tour- Genesis Scottish Open
At The Renaissance Club; North Berwick, United Kingdom; Purse: \$9 million; Yardage: 7,237; Par: 70
Third Round
 Ludvig Aberg 64-64-65 193 -17
 Robert Macintyre 67-65-63 195 -15
 Adam Scott 67-65-64 196 -14
 Sungjae Im 63-67-67 197 -13
 Collin Morikawa 65-66-66 197 -13
 Antoine Rozner 65-64-68 197 -13
 Sahith Theegala 66-65-66 197 -13
 Matteo Manassero 67-63-68 198 -12
 Rory McIlroy 65-66-67 198 -12
 Erik Van Rooyen 67-67-64 198 -12
 Corey Conners 65-67-68 200 -10
 Ugo Coussaud 65-67-68 200 -10
 Cameron Davis 68-66-66 200 -10
 Tommy Fleetwood 65-69-66 200 -10
 Nicolai Hojgaard 66-66-68 200 -10
 Matthew Jordan 67-65-68 200 -10
 Maximilian Kieffer 64-72-64 200 -10
 Yannik Paul 65-67-68 200 -10
 Daniel Brown 65-69-67 201 -9
 Rasmus Hojgaard 68-63-70 201 -9
 Mackenzie Hughes 66-66-69 201 -9
 Romain Langasque 66-68-67 201 -9
 Hao-Tong Li 64-71-66 201 -9
 Xander Schauffele 69-65-67 201 -9

Connor Syme 68-66-67 201 -9

The Amundi Evian Championship
At Evian Resort Golf Club; Evian-les-Bains, France; Purse: \$8 million; Yardage: 6,527; Par: 71
Third Round
 Stephanie Kyriacou 66-66-67 199 -14
 Lauren Coughlin 65-70-65 200 -13
 Ayaka Furue 65-65-70 200 -13
 Pajaree 67-69-67 203 -10
 Anannarukarn 65-68-71 204 -9
 Hye Jin Choi 70-70-64 204 -9
 Ally Ewing 64-68-72 204 -9
 Patty Tavatanakit 69-67-69 205 -8
 Na Rin An 64-70-71 205 -8
 Ingrid Lindblad 72-63-70 205 -8
 Yu Jin Sung 69-69-67 205 -8
 Chanettee 64-71-71 206 -7
 Gemma Dryburgh 70-66-70 206 -7
 Esther Henseleit 69-67-69 206 -7
 Ariya Jutanugarn 70-67-69 206 -7
 Jin Young Ko 70-67-69 206 -7
 Somi Lee 66-71-69 206 -7
 Hae-Ran Ryu 66-73-67 206 -7
 Madelene Sagstrom 69-67-71 207 -6
 Georgia Hall 72-65-70 207 -6
 Akie Iwai 70-69-68 207 -6
 Minjee Lee 61-67-68 196 -20

PGA/DP Tour- ISCO Championship
At Champions at Keene Trace; Nicholasville, Ky.; Purse: \$4 million; Yardage: 7,328; Par: 72
Third Round
 Pierceson Coody 66-67-64 197 -19
 Harry Hall 64-66-67 197 -19
 Rico Hoey 69-67-62 198 -18
 Sam Bairstow 67-65-66 198 -18
 Neal Shipley 66-65-67 198 -18
 Johannes Veerman 65-67-67 199 -17
 Lanto Griffin 68-62-69 199 -17
 Chez Reavie 67-63-70 200 -16
 Matthis Besard 66-68-67 201 -9
 Steve Stricker 70-68-64 202 -8
 Ernie Els 70-66-66 202 -8
 Robert Karlsson 69-68-67 204 -6
 K.J. Choi 71-66-67 204 -6
 Jerry Kelly 70-71-63 204 -6
 Michael Wright 66-68-67 201 -9

Senga may return after All-Star break

By PETER BOTTE

METS NOTES

Carlos Mendoza was not ready to reveal his rotation plans for the Mets coming out of the All-Star break Friday in Miami, but he did not rule out Kodai Senga rejoining the starting staff.

Senga, who has not pitched in the majors this season due to shoulder and triceps issues, will make his third minor-league rehab start Sunday for Syracuse against Scranton/Wilkes-Barre, the Yankees' Triple-A affiliate.

Asked before Saturday's game against the Rockies

whether the 2023 All-Star would need another minor league start after the break, Mendoza replied, "That's still TBD."



KODAI SENGA

"We gotta get him through [Sunday], and then probably not until Tuesday, we gotta give him Monday and Tuesday to see how he's responding," Mendoza added. "He's going to go 60- to-65 [pitches], so that the volume is going up now. We'll have a better idea after he goes through [Sunday's] outing."

➤ **Harrison Bader and Jose Iglesias** both were out of the starting lineup after belting two home runs apiece in Friday's 7-6 win.

Mendoza said the Mets are still keeping an eye on Bader. He missed two games earlier this month with a neck issue after crashing into the outfield wall in Washington. Iglesias has been dealing with an illness in recent days.

"Tough week, huh? To hit two home runs and then not in the lineup," Mendoza joked before Saturday's game. "There's a good chance they'll be back in the lineup [on Sunday]."

Bader entered Saturday's game in center field in the seventh inning with the Mets holding a 4-3 lead. Iglesias came in as a defensive replacement at third base in the ninth.

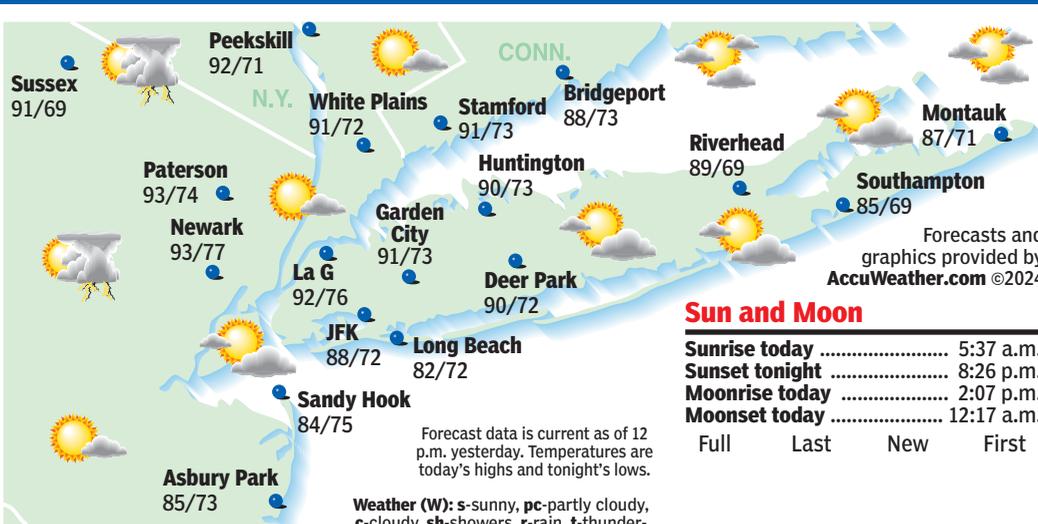
Post Weather Report

Sunday
 Today: Mostly sunny and hot. High 89 to 95.
 Tonight: Mainly clear and warm. Low 73 to 79.

Monday
 Tomorrow: Hot; a t-storm around in the afternoon. High 92 to 98.
 Tomorrow night: Partly cloudy and warm. Low 73 to 79.

Tuesday
 Mostly sunny; hot. High 92 to 98.
 Evening: Partly cloudy. Low 76 to 82.

Wednesday
 A heavy t-storm. High 91 to 97.
 Evening: Showers/t-storms. Low 67 to 73.



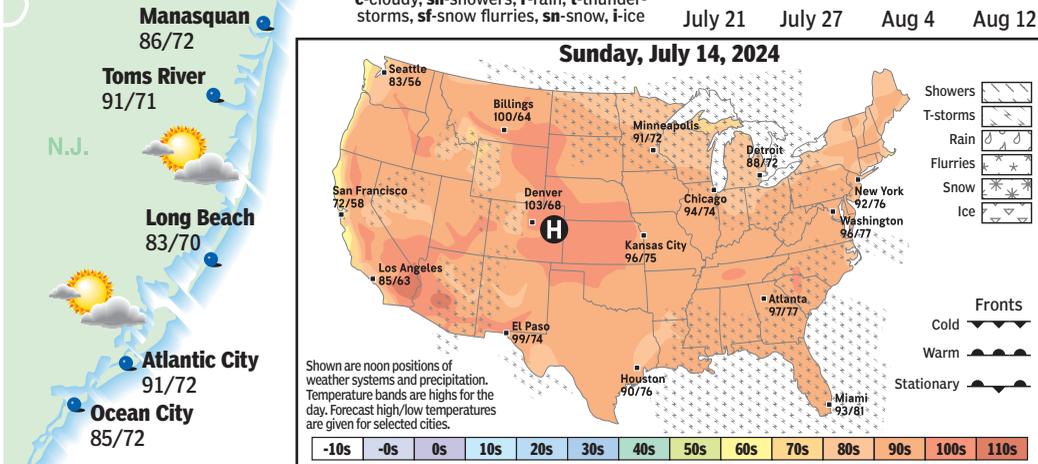
Almanac
 YESTERDAY'S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 12PM

Temperature
 High: 77, Low: 72, Mean: 75
Departure from Normal
 Yesterday: -3 degrees

Precipitation
 Yesterday: 2.06", Month: 2.42", Year: 28.10", Normal year to date: 25.60"

Cooling Degree days yesterday 10
Total for the month (normal) 199 (159)
Total since Jan. 1 (normal) 619 (467)
Last year to date 452
Heat Index (at noon yest.) 81
UV index (for Sun.) 10 (Very High)
Humidity (at noon) 93%

AIR QUALITY
Pollen: Moderate Predominant pollen: Weeds
AQI rating: (for Sun.) Good



AccuWeather Get the AccuWeather app

New York Tides

	TODAY	TOMORROW
High Tide for Coney Island	1st 2:06a 2:49p	1st 2:52a 3:34p
Fire Island	2:04a 2:51p	2:53a 3:52p
Hempstead	5:52a 6:16p	6:51a 7:11p
Huntington	6:01a 6:24p	6:57a 7:17p
Jones Inlet	1:50a 2:33p	2:36a 3:18p
Montauk Point	3:47a 4:28p	4:45a 5:20p
Port Washington	5:47a 6:11p	6:43a 7:03p
Sandy Hook	2:10a 2:53p	2:56a 3:38p

Regional cities

	TODAY	TOMORROW
Albany	93/70/s	93/71/t
Danbury	92/70/s	93/71/t
Glens Falls	90/62/s	92/66/t
Gr Barrington	91/66/s	92/68/t
Kingston	94/69/t	96/67/t
Liberty	87/64/t	89/63/t
Monticello	88/64/t	91/64/t
Newburgh	93/71/t	95/69/t
Poughkeepsie	94/70/pc	96/70/t
Saratoga Springs	91/65/s	93/69/t
Stroudsburg	90/68/t	95/68/t
Torrington	91/68/s	93/69/t
Syracuse	93/72/pc	88/69/t

World cities

	TODAY	TOMORROW
Athens	98/79/s	98/81/s
Baghdad	108/83/pc	109/87/pc
Beijing	86/70/c	84/71/r
Berlin	78/57/pc	83/63/s
Cairo	97/80/s	98/79/s
Dublin	65/49/sh	62/54/sh
Geneva	80/60/pc	86/63/t
Hong Kong	96/85/t	94/84/t
Jerusalem	84/71/s	87/69/s
Kabul	88/66/s	90/67/s
London	71/52/c	69/57/c
Madrid	91/67/s	88/65/s
Mexico City	73/55/r	75/56/sh
Montreal	87/70/s	87/68/t
Moscow	78/66/pc	81/64/t
Paris	74/55/pc	79/59/pc
Rio de Janeiro	77/70/c	75/69/pc
Rome	89/66/s	92/67/s
Sydney	63/45/s	62/49/s
Tokyo	85/76/c	86/75/t

HAVE A RICE DAY

English Euro hopes hinge on workhorse Declan

By MARK GLEESON

BERLIN — Declan Rice's contribution could prove the key for England as they look to overcome Spain in the European Championship final Sunday and win the title for the first time.

The 25-year-old has been the team's anchor and workhorse, running more, playing every minute and proving a consistent force at the tournament in Germany as England reached a second successive final despite some indifferent form at times.

The 46.5 miles he has covered in 10 hours of football is more than any other player at Euro 2024 and underlines his contribution — with England looking to Rice to drive the team forward from his role in the center, setting the tempo and bringing a physicality to the game that might unsettle Spain.

His contribution in helping out defensively will be just as important, if not more so.

The official UEFA figures have Rice top of the defending stats at Euro 2024, too — with 41 balls recovered, 14 tackles and six attempted clearances.

He is matched only by French fullback Jules Kounde, whose side were eliminated in the semifinal, and is better than the likes of teammate Marc Guehi, Germany's Antonio Rudiger and Manuel Akanji from Switzerland.

Rice always had a strong defensive reputation, but in his first season at Arsenal looked much more polished in attack, and he has brought that improvement to England, too.

He went to the Euros with good numbers — seven goals and eight assists in the Premier League last season, the fourth-

highest combined total of any Arsenal player and more than twice as many as he previously managed when he was at West Ham United.

It has given him a confidence that has carried through to the national team, even though a major tournament at the end of a taxing club season is both a mental and physical drain.

"In the first couple of games, I was feeling more tired than I am now," he admitted on the eve of the final. "The adrenaline kicks in more as the games ramp up. You get that extra bit of energy, extra bit of fire."

"On Sunday, all of us will run through brick walls, do anything to win this game. Whether that's in 90 minutes, 120, we'll give it absolutely everything. That's all we can ask of

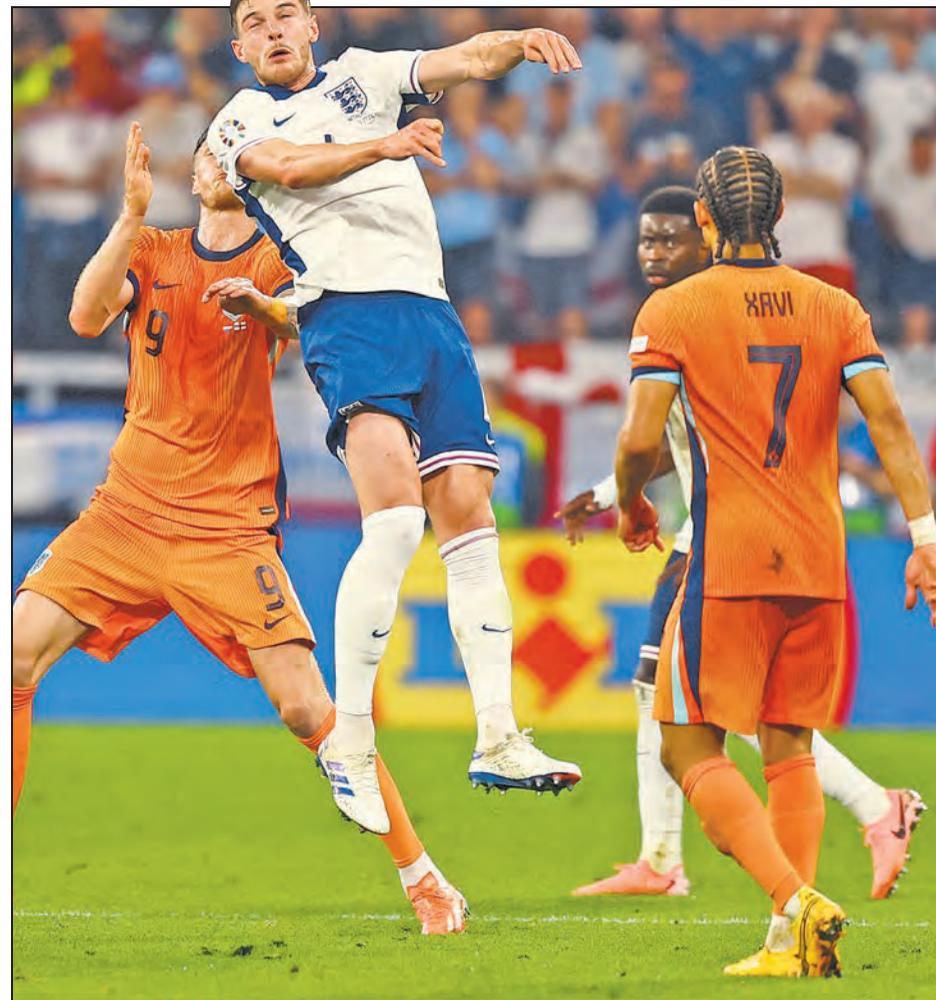
each other."

There is also the added motivation of having lost in the Euro 2020 final. Rice was in the side beaten on penalties by Italy at Wembley in their first Euros final three years ago.

"Seeing Italy walk up to lift the trophy at your home stadium lives with you as a football player," he told reporters. "We know that in the last final we probably just sat off and didn't attack as much as we should have. There are not many times you go back-to-back in finals, but this group of players are so hungry."

"We know it's going to be tough and know you can't overlook Spain, who have been a top nation for so many years," he added. "But I've never seen a group so motivated, in training, and how we talk with each other around the place."

"Everyone is so driven to win this game."
— Reuters



GETTING AHEAD: England's Declan Rice, performing a header during a semifinal win over the Netherlands on Wednesday, will be a key to determining how the English fare in the Euro Final on Sunday against Spain.
Reuters

'El Fideo' saying farewell as Messi's foil in Copa final

By SIMON EVANS

Argentina's golden era will forever be linked with the genius of Lionel Messi, but Sunday's Copa America Final is a reminder of the key influence of winger Angel Di Maria.

The 36-year-old has made clear that the clash with Colombia, when the world champions could win their third straight major title, is his last game in the famous light blue and white stripes.

Whatever happens during the clash at Hard Rock Stadium, it is going to be an emotional occasion for Di

Maria, who hasn't hidden his feelings about his farewell.

"With all the pain in my soul and feeling a lump in my throat, I say goodbye to the most beautiful thing that has happened to me in my career, to wear it, sweat it and feel it with all my pride," Di Maria said in November when announcing his planned retirement.

Like Messi, Di Maria played through all the years of frustration for Argentina that ended with their 2021 Copa America triumph in Brazil and was then obliterated by the joy of the World Cup title in Qatar a year later.

Like the eight-times Ballon d'Or winner, Di Maria fought for glory in South America while enjoying a successful career in European football — particularly in Spain, where he was a league title and Champions League winner with Real Madrid.

Both players hail from the football hotbed of Rosario, and their success together began with the 2008 Olympic Games, where Di Maria scored the winner in the

Copa America Final
COLOMBIA vs. ARGENTINA



gold medal game against Nigeria.

That victory was expected to be the first of many for a talented generation of Argentine player, but instead it became merely referred to, for 13 years, as the only title they had managed.

When Argentina finally claimed silverware in the 2021 Copa at the Maracana in Rio, the headlines around the world proclaimed the end of Messi's long wait for a trophy with his country.

As in Beijing, it was Di Maria who got the decisive goal, cutting in from the right and lobbing Brazil keeper Ederison in the 22nd minute.

But operating in Messi's shadow is exactly what Di Maria has been thriving on for the Albiceleste. — AFP

➤ In Charlotte, N.C., Luis Suárez tied the score two minutes into second-half stoppage time, and Uruguay beat Canada, 4-3, on penalty kicks after a 2-2 draw Saturday night to finish third in the Copa America.

Uruguay goalkeeper Sergio Rochet saved Ismael Kone's

weak penalty kick after a stutter step on Canada's third attempt and Alphonso Davies put Canada's fifth and final kick off the crossbar.

Federico Valverde, Rodrigo Bentancur, Giorgian de Arrascaeta and Suarez converted Uruguay's attempts past goalkeeper Dayne St. Clair, while Jonathan David, Moise Bombito and Mathieu Choiniere made their kicks for Canada, which went first in the shootout.

Bentancur put Uruguay ahead in the eighth minute, but Canada built a 2-1 lead on goals by Kone in the 22nd and David in the 80th.

Fantasy folks can inspire MLB change

MLB IS in dire need of a rules change for the All-Star Game, and as a representative of the fantasy baseball community, I implore you and your league mates to become keyboard warriors and email the Commissioner's Office immediately.

Put the participation trophies away. Not every kid needs to play an inning, and not every MLB team needs to be represented at the Mid-summer Classic. Those who play in the All-Star Game should be All-Stars, not just the best player on their lousy, last-place team. The snubs we've seen this season are an atrocity, and fantasy managers of those players should be outraged.

By **HOWARD BENDER**

FANTASY ALARM



In the AL, we watched in horror as Joe Ryan, George Kirby and even Eric Fedde were left off the roster in favor of Angels starter Tyler Anderson. Does the southpaw have a better ERA than all three? Yes, but he loses out to all of them in almost every other metric, including WAR — which may not be a fantasy category, but it certainly measures the overall value of the player.

But because we have this inane rule that every team needs to be represented, we're stuck with a lame-duck starter who will likely get pummeled during his one inning.

In the NL, why is Ryan McMahon on this roster? He isn't even the best player on his team, yet there he is while Christian Walker, Francisco Lindor and Willy Adames are all being sent home for the week.

Why do we need representatives of the Angels, Marlins or Rockies? All three teams are terrible, with no worthy All-Star players. At least the Athletics, who also stink, had someone worthy of a nod in Mason Miller. These other three teams? Nothing. Hot trash.

We need a change for the All-Star Game, and it starts with a grass-roots campaign from the fantasy community. We know more about what these players are doing than most casual fans, or homers who vote for their favorite player regardless of performance. People already make fun of baseball enough. We need to stop giving them fuel for their fire.

Howard Bender is the head of content at FantasyAlarm.com. Follow him on X @rotobuzzguy and catch him on the award-winning "Fantasy Alarm Radio Show" on the SiriusXM fantasy sports channel weekdays from 6-8 p.m. Go to FantasyAlarm.com for all your fantasy baseball news and advice.



USA TODAY Sports

Paul Skenes

Roto warriors

Picking Rage's 2024 All-Star squad

BY DAY'S end, we will be at the intermission of a wild season in which three of the top-10 fantasy players have already suffered season-ending injuries and several other top picks are struggling.

Rookie flamethrower Paul Skenes is baffling opponents, some veterans have managed to turn back the clock, and unheralded players have come out of nowhere to, in some ways, carry fantasy squads in the first half.

Below is a group of players who have provided massive returns on their average draft positions in order to make Roto Rage's third Bargain Bin All-Star team:

FIRST BASE Josh Naylor, Guardians

Average is mediocre, but has career-best marks in homers, runs scored and slugging percentage. He ranks fourth in RBIs, seventh in homers and his xBA indicates he could get better in the second half.

SECOND BASE

Jordan Westburg, Orioles

First-time All-Star hit .280 with 15 homers, 50 RBIs, 46 runs, six stolen bases and a .838 OPS in his first 86 games, with a 278.33 ADP.

SHORTSTOP

Jackson Merrill, Padres

A late-round pick (292.53 ADP), the rookie entered the weekend hitting .285 with 12 homers, 46 RBIs, 40 runs and 10 stolen bases.

THIRD BASE

Alec Bohm, Phillies

Has as many doubles as he had in 2023 and ranks fourth in RBIs.

CATCHER

Logan O'Hoppe, Angels

Among qualified catchers, he ranks fourth in runs, fifth in average and OBP, sixth in hits and homers, and ninth in RBIs.

OUTFIELD

Aaron Judge, Yankees

Roto Rage's first-half MVP wasn't a top-three pick. That makes him a bargain.

Brent Rooker, A's

Despite having the second-worst strikeout percentage in the league, he hit .279 with 18 homers, 55 RBIs, a top-10 slugging percentage and the 13th-best OPS. Has outperformed his 258.1 ADP.

Jurickson Profar, Padres

To say he was on no one's radar

may be the understatement of the year (439.4 ADP).

UTILITY

Marcell Ozuna, Braves

A mid-round pick who is leading the NL in RBIs while ranking second in homers.

STARTING PITCHERS

Garrett Crochet, White Sox

Has the best strikeout and swinging-strike rates in the majors, a top-10

opponents' average and a top-20 ERA, walk rate and WHIP. His xERA, FIP and xFIP are nearly a half-run below his actual ERA, which is a sign he has been unlucky. Not bad for a guy with a 323.53 ASP.

Jack Flaherty, Tigers

Might not be racking up the wins, but he has the seventh-lowest walk rate, the fourth-highest strikeout rate, the seventh-highest swinging-strike rate and owns a top-20 ERA.

Paul Skenes, Pirates

Since being called up, he has a 1.90 ERA in 11 starts and allowed two runs or fewer in nine of those outings. He has been pulled from no-hit bids twice and has struck out seven or more in 10 of his 11 starts (including two 11-strikeout efforts).

CLOSER

Ryan Helsley, Cardinals

From April 1-July 5, he was 2-3 with 31 saves in 32 chances while owning a 2.03 ERA, .192 opponents' average and 16 percent swinging-strike rate.

jjwilk@nypost.com

CHECK SWINGS

- And now, some first-half awards. **Tarik Skubal**, who already has a career-best 10 wins, is the Cy Young winner. He ranks in the top 10 in strikeout and walk rates, and has the second-best ERA and swinging-strike rate among qualified starters. He also has the fifth-lowest opponents' average and the best WHIP in the majors.

- The Least Valuable Player is Arizona's **Corbin Carroll**. Despite ranking in the top 20 in runs scored and leading the NL in triples, he entered Friday hitting .209 with three homers, 25 RBIs and a .296 on-base percentage, which is the 24th-worst in the league. This is not what was expected from a top-five pick.

- Rookie of the Year: **Paul Skenes**. Period. The end.

TEAM NAME OF THE WEEK

Rece's Pieces

Submitted by Joe Carola Submit to: @NYPost_Roto

BIG HITS

Reese Olson SP, Tigers

Owens a 2.40 ERA and 31-6 strikeout-walk rate in his past five starts, and is 3-0 with a .202 opponents' average and 14 percent swinging-strike rate in that span.

Brenton Doyle OF, Rockies

Entered the month batting .253, but has raised his average to .277 after hitting .485 with six homers, 12 RBIs, a stolen bases and a 1.767 OPS.

Michael Wacha SP, Royals

Allowed more than two earned runs in one of his past nine starts, going 5-2 with a 2.61 ERA, .204 opponents' average and 47 strikeouts.

Rowdy Tellez 1B, Pirates

Had at least one hit in 21 of his past 30 games, hitting .351 with seven homers, 22 RBIs, 16 runs, a stolen base and a 1.023 OPS.

BIG WHIFFS

Carlos Rodon SP, Yankees

Since his last win, June 10, he is 0-5 with a 10.57 ERA, .350 opponents' average and 10 walks. He has allowed eight home runs, 36 hits and 27 earned runs over his past 23 innings.

David Fry C/1B/OF, Guardians

Was hitting .352 when he hit his last homer May 31, but entered Friday hitting .288 after going 20-for-93 (.215) with 23 strikeouts in 30 games since.

Taylor Ward OF, Angels

Entered the weekend hitting .173 with no homers, 17 strikeouts and a .483 OPS over his previous 14 games.

Ezequiel Tovar SS, Rockies

Had four hits in his first 40 at-bats (.100) this month. He struck out 17 times with no homers, one RBI, one run scored and a .244 OPS.



Phil Mushnick

EQUAL TIME

SERENA-ITY NOW!

IT'S OFTEN better to be known by one's enemies than their friends.

Thus the big winner from Thursday's desperate-for-attention ESPYs was Chiefs kicker Harrison Butker, who was forced to just sit there as 43-year-old host and media-entitled career brat Serena Williams attacked him for his conservative Christian sensibilities expressed by Butker, a Catholic, to a Catholic college's graduating class.

Williams disagreed with Butker's family-first take on parenting and motherhood, thus he would suffer her angry, direct and classless condemnation.

And to that ESPN's audience of intolerant pro-tolerance sycophants and panderers applauded or otherwise indulged Williams' verbal ambush, a scene reminiscent of the U.S. Open when Williams screamed at a lineswoman, "I swear to God I'll f---ing take the ball and shove it down your f---ing throat!"

That, and countless other highly public episodes of rotten, childish and even threatening behavior — win or lose — were ignored by ESPN's lead tennis voices, fellow tantrum-



tossing John McEnroe and Chris Evert, and virtually all media during Williams' ungracious and ungrateful "farewell tour."

For crying out loud, this woman, antithetical to common decency and even minimal sportsmanship, was portrayed

as a role model!

I don't know Harrison Butker's parents, but I'm familiar with Williams' father, Richard Williams — the father of nine children from four mothers and a loud-mouthed, race-baiting miscreant unashamed to utter anti-white and anti-Jewish slurs.

Sports Illustrated, which lost a lot of credibility and subscribers among know-better readers when it named Serena "Sports-person of the Year," attributed Richard's bigotry to his "flakiness."

And there's evidence that her petulance and self-entitlement persists in the active form of other female tennis pros who have no compunction in acting like on-court louts. To that unfinished end, she likely remains inspirational, a genuine role model.

The pandering persists, thus why else would ESPN choose her to host an awards show that celebrates and rewards sports?

But we were long conditioned by ESPN to expect the worst from ESPN, like "Manny being Manny."

The only surprising thing about this ESPYs was that LeBron James wasn't chosen Father of the Year.

Money for players, not for stadium

APPARENTLY impressed by the taxpayer-funded, loan-enabled \$250 million debt accrued by Rutgers' Big Ten Fever-Stricken athletic department — a bridge loan too far — Penn State has borrowed \$700 million to improve Beaver Stadium.

With NIL payments and other come-hither, survival-of-the-wealthiest gifts to football recruits, I'd fire the loan officer.

► **Michael Kay** recently threw one of his on-air, self-serving fits when his ESPN-NY radio show included an ad for SNY that unsurprisingly pitched the Mets' announcers as the best in the business — as if Kay was shocked by such puffery in an advertisement.

Thursday, during the Yankees game on YES — imagine: a Yankees game on YES! — Kay dutifully and enthusiastically read a promo for another competitor: the All-Star Game "on Fox!"

► It might be over before it starts for Fox's new, hideously overpriced — 10 years, \$375 million — lead analyst **Tom Brady**. He has sought broadcasting advice from NBC's hideously overpaid and wildly unpopular blowhard analyst **Cris Collinsworth**.

That's like taking singing lessons from **Yoko Ono**.

► ESPN's Wimbledon "coverage" is again "look what we can do!" TV. And it's always about the last thing or the next thing — the sell — rather than what we tuned in to watch and what ESPN paid for and promoted: live tennis.

The view of good matches is split-screened to see big names warming up for their coming match or for interviews with a just-finished winner who is "happy to advance."

► As per the NBA's unreal world salaries, nothing recedes like excess. Especially those excesses — greed — unabashedly spoken in public.

Paul George, at 34 his best NBA All-Star years likely in the past tense, says he rejected the Clippers three-year, \$150 million renewal to sign with the 76ers, as L.A. didn't include a no-trade clause nor the four-year, \$212 million the Sixers dangled. Thus, he said, the offer was "disrespectful."

He said this on his own podcast as if he anticipated "Amen to that!" from an audience populated with those who can no longer afford to attend NBA games.

Before he signed with Philly, George's career NBA salary totaled a disrespectful \$305 million.

Perhaps that's why reader **Ed McKenna**, after hearing that **LeBron James** had "opted out" of his Lakers contract, wrote it's a good idea: "I'm opting out, too."

mushnickphilip@gmail.com

Back afta this Francesca foul-up

IT'S LIKELY becoming too easy for the Funhouse folks who compile and share the bogus genius of sports media know-it-all/gasbags such as **Colin Cowherd** and **Mike Francesca** at the @BackAftaThis account on Twitter, er, X.

Last week, @BackAftaThis found Francesca doing what he does best: not only being consistently wrong, but being instantly, comically and colossally wrong.

On his "I'll Never Host a Podcast" podcast, he spoke of the chances of a Yankee hitting two home runs in a game:

"You're gonna be waiting a long time for someone other than [Juan] Soto or [Aaron] Judge to

get it done."

Well, "a long time" lasted about two hours, as **Ben Rice** that day hit three homers.

► Georgia will soon swap nicknames with Georgia Tech to become "The Ramblin' Wrecks."

Last week, there two more arrests of UGA football recruits for reckless driving. That's four just this offseason.

The team's total arrests for reckless driving — including one that caused a player fatality and the death of a football staffer — has been difficult to keep current.

But the number the past two years now is at least 24, according to the Athens (Ga.) Banner Herald.

Head coach **Kirby Smart**, who at \$13 million per does only what the "school" allows him to do, is known for handling such matters "internally."

Regardless, Georgia is again ranked No. 1 by ESPN's dutiful automations — no questions asked, no answers needed.

► We've lately tuned in to Mets telecasts to hear that their bullpen is ex-

hausted, as if that's a matter of bad fortune as opposed to managerial design.

So Thursday, the Mets led the Nationals, 5-0, after six, when **Carlos Mendoza** brought in new guy **Phil Maton**, who made one, two, three with two strikeouts on 10 pitches. And then he was pulled.

In a 7-0 final, Mendoza used five pitchers. Why? I'll hang up and listen to your answer.

► I'm a soccer fan. I admit it. As Maynard G. Krebs said, "I'm not bad, just weak."

Two-year deal for Schneider

By ETHAN SEARS

In an offseason that has become about keeping their blue line together, the Rangers now have just one puzzle piece left to complete the picture.

Braden Schneider on Saturday became the latest player to resign with the Blueshirts, inking a two-year bridge deal for \$4.4 million, The Post confirmed per an industry source.

SportsNet's Elliott Friedman was the first to report the deal.

The 22-year-old is likely to be on the second pair with K'Andre Miller next season, continuing a pairing that had success when together in 2023-24.

"I think this year, I feel like with the staff we got, I felt like I've learned a ton," Schneider said at the team's breakup day. "I feel like I've gained a ton of confidence. A great opportunity. I think I just gotta make sure I keep building on my game."

"There's levels that I want to find still. There's still a lot of growth and a lot of learning. I'm looking forward to getting there and coming back here and continuing to grow as a player."

While Jacob Trouba's \$8 million annual salary for a likely third-pair role is an albatross for the Rangers to navigate around, the \$2.2 million annual number for Schneider helps balance things out on the right side of their defense since the two players average a \$5.1 million cap hit between them.

After a strong regular season compounded by a superb playoff run, Schneider looks set for his role to increase next season. The bridge deal sets up the 22-year-old to go into restricted free agency again in two seasons, when — if his development continues on its current path — the Rangers will likely look to sign him to a longer-term extension.

For now, though, the focus turns to Ryan Lindgren, the last restricted free agent the Rangers need to re-sign this summer.

Lindgren, who filed for arbitration ahead of last week's deadline, is projected by Evolving Hockey's model to come in at six years with a \$4.88 million annual cap hit — a deal the Rangers could fit under the salary cap.

Retaining Lindgren — who is both Adam Fox's left-hand man and groomsmen — is now Item No. 1 on general manager Chris Drury's agenda.

esears@nypost.com



JUNE 24



JUNE 28

SLOW DOWN: Within a week after Aleksander Barkov (left) and the Panthers lifted the Stanley Cup, Macklin Celebrini had been drafted first overall by the Sharks and NHL free agency had begun. That's too tight of a window, writes The Post's Larry Brooks.

AP; Getty Images

Calendar craziness

Condensed NHL offseason leaving no time to breathe

IT IS going to be the same kind of late June crunch schedule next year, too, with the Four Nations tournament coming up in February, the regular season ending April 17, at least two weeks too late. It will be the same in 2025-26 when the NHL returns to the Olympic Games in Milan.

There will be no time to breathe between the Cup Final and the draft, then no time to breathe between the draft and free agency. The compressed schedule has as much to do with cost as the elimination of the centralized draft. Well, almost as much. Well, it's a factor, at least.

There will be an opportunity for the league and the NHLPA to address the critical date schedule during the next round of collective bargaining that's not all that far removed, with the current CBA due to expire Sept. 15, 2026. Two more years.

If the draft — in whatever form it's held — annually presses up against the end of June, there is no reason for free agency to open on July 1. Deals are done, miraculously and supernaturally, within seconds of the opening bell. Riches would not be lost if free agency were pushed back to July 5. Not a single player would be inconvenienced by the switch.

It would give folks time to breathe. The first-overall pick morphed into the first free-agency signing in a matter of hours. The draft was overshadowed by the specter of the open market. An additional four days would allow for more attention to be devoted to prospects in addition

to providing more of a ramp-up to free agency.

Here's one. It is absurd that the length of the Cup Final determines when the league's first buyout window opens. As currently written, buyouts begin June 15, or 48 hours after the Final ends, whichever is later. The date matters because buyouts are set at one-third

for players under the age of 26 and two-thirds for 26-and-over.

Millions of dollars can be at stake, as they were when the Kings were ruminating about Pierre-Luc Dubois, who had seven years at \$47 million remaining on his contract at the end of his first season in Los Angeles. Dubois was set to turn 26 on June 24.

Had the Final ended June 21 or

earlier, the Kings could have bought out Dubois for approximately \$15.833 million, per Puckpedia. That would have been the number had the Panthers closed out the Oilers in either Games 5 or 6.

But when Edmonton extended the series to Game 7 on June 24, Dubois would have had another 15.8 million reasons to celebrate his birthday, for had he not been traded to the Capitals five days earlier, the buyout price would have doubled.

Who thinks that makes any sense?

Even when age is fixed by the league to a designated date, the calendar can have unintended consequences, but it is not completely arbitrary. This buyout rule is crazy. Half of the league is done by mid-April and another eight are done by the end of the month.

Why does everyone have to wait? There is no rule prohibiting teams from making trades during the playoffs — Dubois was traded for Darcy Kuemper during the Final — so clubs should be allowed to conduct their own business on their own individual calendars.

Teams should be allowed to buy out players starting 48 hours after their respective final games, either of the regular season or playoffs. Age and the buyout formula should be designated by a fixed date so that millions aren't at stake by the vagaries of the calendar ... or whether which team wins Game 6.

➤ Wait a second.

The Senators traded a first-rounder and two seconds to the Coyotes for **Jakob Chychrun** on March 1, 2023, and 16 months later — July 1, 2024 — they traded Chychrun to the Caps for a third-rounder and **Nick Jensen**, and with cleverness like this, I cannot imagine how Ottawa has missed the playoffs seven straight seasons, can you?

➤ Honor system, please, but I am wagering that you have no idea with which team **Jarome Iginla** ended his career.

➤ Who would you have rather had on your team? **Jeremy Roenick** or **Keith Tkachuk**? Who would you rather have had? Roenick or **Rick Tochet**?

And yet Roenick is the one headed to the Hockey Hall of Fame.

➤ Finally, **Jim Dolan** might want to encourage **Jalen Brunson** to give **Igor Shesterkin** a call.

larry.brooks@nypost.com



Larry Brooks
Slap Shots

BATTLE ROYAL

Many on marquee for Open at Troon

By MARK CANNIZZARO

When the British Open was last played at Royal Troon, age-old records were shattered.

Henrik Stenson set the Open Championship record for best combined score by shooting a 264 (20-under) in the 2016 event. That score barely bettered Phil Mickelson, who also set the single-round British Open record by shooting 63 in the opening round.

The final-round duel between the two was as epic as any in major championship history.

“The quality of the golf was pretty much mind-blowing,” said Jim “Bones” Mackay, who caddied for Mickelson and is now an NBC on-course commentator. “Both those guys were absolutely incredible. I remember the crowds, just the buzz around the place, the electric atmosphere

was something I never saw again.

“I’ll tell you a little story. I think on the 13th tee on Sunday, Phil had just made a 25- or 30-footer for par on 12, and I was the last guy off the tee. I had grabbed some water, and an R&A official came up to me and tapped me on the shoulder and said, ‘Would you mind telling both the players that we’re concerned about their position on the golf course and they need to hurry up a little bit.’

“I said, ‘Sir, this is so amazing what’s going on out here right now, I’m not saying a word to anybody about anything. I just want to watch this play out.’ It was just golf at its absolute highest level.”

Mickelson is 54 now and playing on LIV Golf, as is Stenson. Both will be in the field this week, but neither lands anywhere near the top of the list of most compelling storylines.

Among them include how Rory McIlroy will bounce back from letting the U.S. Open slip through his grasp last month at Pinehurst No. 2.

Also at the forefront is Bryson DeChambeau, who won that U.S. Open that McIlroy lost. DeChambeau, now a two-time major championship winner, is the most interesting player in golf right now. He finished tied for eighth at the Masters and was runner-up at the PGA. What does he have in store for an encore in the British?

DeChambeau’s popularity shouldn’t overshadow the year Scottie Scheffler is having. Scheffler, because of his low-key public persona, doesn’t create the kind of buzz players like DeChambeau and McIlroy do, but the man has won six times this year and has a Tiger Woods-like stranglehold on the No. 1

world ranking.

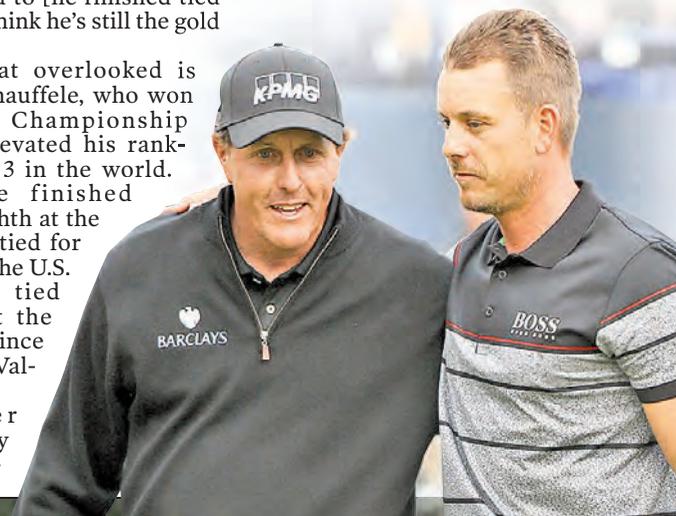
“It starts and stops with Scottie Scheffler,” NBC lead commentator Dan Hicks said. “Even though his U.S. Open wasn’t as Scheffler-esque as we’ve become accustomed to [he finished tied for 41st], I think he’s still the gold standard.”

Somewhat overlooked is Xander Schauffele, who won the PGA Championship and has elevated his ranking to No. 3 in the world. Schauffele finished tied for eighth at the Memorial, tied for seventh at the U.S. Open and tied for 13th at the Travelers since his win at Valhalla.

Another player easy to over-

look this week is the defending champion, Brian Harman — who hasn’t won since his out-of-the-blue, six-shot victory last year at Royal Liverpool.

Another question entering the



WIDE OPEN: Bryson DeChambeau (left), Scottie Scheffler and defending champ Brian Harman (right) are among the top contenders heading into this week's British Open at Royal Troon. With any luck, fans will be treated to type of excitement its previous visit provided in 2016 between Phil Mickelson and Henrik Stenson (below).



week is what Woods might do?

He missed the cut at the U.S. Open and PGA, and finished last among the 60 players who made the cut at the Masters. This will be his final tournament of the season, the last time we likely see Woods play until he plays the father-son event in Florida and his own Hero World Challenge, both in December.

What about Jon Rahm, who's been the most surprising player who jumped to LIV Golf and fell off the radar?

Rahm was ranked No. 2 in the world when he left for LIV and has barely been heard from since, completely losing his mojo. He's yet to win a LIV event and hasn't fared well in the majors. He finished 45th at the Masters, missed the cut at the PGA and had to withdraw from the U.S. Open with a foot injury.

"I've talked to Jon a little bit,

[and] obviously he's very disappointed with his major championship performance," said European Ryder Cup captain Luke Donald. "The first two were certainly not up to his standard. Then obviously the unfortunate timing of the injury [at the U.S. Open]. I think it's a big week for him. I'm sure it has been a massive focus for him to try and get his game to a level where he's going to be back in contention at a major. Yeah, I think there's a little bit of pressure on that, and we'll see how he deals with it."

Asked this week before the LIV event in Spain where he would "rate" his game at the moment, Rahm said, "Maybe six to a seven out of 10, if I had to say."

"But the year is not over," he added. "[There's] still a lot to play for. It would not be unheard of to see a player finish strong and change that to maybe a nine out of 10."

mcannizzaro@nypost.com

Getty Images (3); USA TODAY Sports

Easy to root for a Rory rebound

RORY MCILROY needed some alone time. He craved anonymity.

He'd just let the U.S. Open slip through his hands with two short missed putts on the final three holes at Pinehurst No. 2 last month and hastily bolted the premises immediately afterward.



The next day, McIlroy predictably withdrew from the Travelers Championship, for which he'd committed, "to process everything and build myself back up," he said at the time.

He wasn't in any kind of head space to answer questions about how he failed to end his 10-year drought without a major championship, when he had one hand on the trophy in the waning moments of the final round.

He didn't want to recount the 30-inch putt on the 16th hole with the lead, a putt he pulled left after having made his previous 496 putts from inside 3 feet; or the nervous missed downhill 4-footer he missed on the 72nd hole, which opened the door for Bryson DeChambeau to storm through.

McIlroy needed to get lost somewhere — to a place where no one would remind him about what had just taken place at Pinehurst.

So, he went to Manhattan. He walked the High Line while listening to tunes on his AirPods and got away for three days.

"It was nice to sort of blend in with the city a little bit," McIlroy said last week in advance of playing the Scottish Open, his first tournament back after the U.S. Open. "I walked around. I walked the High Line a couple of times. I made a few phone calls. Sort of was alone with my thoughts for a couple days, which was good."

McIlroy won't be alone in his thoughts this week when he arrives at the British Open at Royal Troon, where he has one final chance to win his first major championship since 2014. Many eyes will be fixed on him to see how he responds to what he called one of the worst moments of his career.

"The way I've described Pinehurst on Sunday was like, it was a great day until it wasn't," McIlroy said. "I did things on that Sunday that I haven't been able to do in the last couple years — took control of the golf tournament, holed putts when I needed to... well, mostly when I needed to."

McIlroy, who continues to insist he feels "closer to winning my next major championship than I ever have," said there were "learnings in there, too" from the loss at Pinehurst.

If McIlroy has proven himself to be anything in his brilliant career, it's that he's resilient. He famously went on to win the 2011 U.S. Open just two months after he'd blown a four-shot lead at the Masters with nine holes to play.

"When I look back on [the U.S. Open final round], just like I look back on some of my toughest moments in my career, I'll learn a lot from it, and I'll hopefully put that to good use," McIlroy said.

Since

Pinehurst, outside support has poured in for McIlroy, who's become a polarizing figure for the past couple of years with his strong and sometimes waffling opinions about LIV Golf, his presence on the PGA players council and his off-and-on marriage issue with his wife, Erica.

"I think any golfer — any human being — who's watched Rory finish with those missed putts on 16 and 18 really felt for him," said Luke Donald, McIlroy's European Ryder Cup captain. "Obviously, I would have loved to have seen Rory pull through after not having won a major for 10 years or so, but he does time and time again bounce back, stronger than most people."

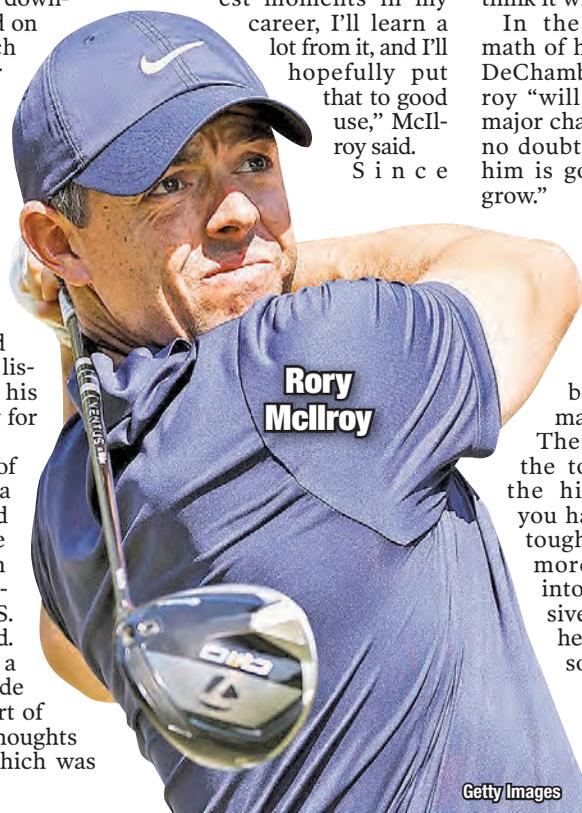
Brad Faxon — who, like Donald, will be calling the Open as an analyst for NBC this week — has worked with McIlroy as his putting coach.

"Any of us that have played this game knows how this game can flip in an instant," Faxon said. "I think that's why we love and hate this game so much, [because of] what it can do to the human mind. I think these things will help Rory to be stronger when he gets in that situation the next time. I think it will be better for him."

In the immediate aftermath of his win at Pinehurst, DeChambeau declared McIlroy "will win multiple more major championships. There's no doubt. I think that fire in him is going to continue to grow."

Matthieu Pavon, who was in the mix until the end at the U.S. Open, said, "At the end of the day, we are all human. Rory has been chasing another major [for] many years. The more you want it, the tougher it gets, and the highest expectation you have for yourself, the tougher it gets [and] the more pressure you get into. Rory is just a massive champion. I'm sure he will fight back really soon."

"Soon," McIlroy hopes, is this week at Troon. For his mental well-being, it needs to be.



Getty Images



OFF WE GO! The NFL is changing its kickoff rules for the 2024 season. Now, the sequence will look similar to how the XFL did it in 2020.
Getty Images

KICKING OFF NEW ERA

By BRIAN COSTELLO

Teams ready to adapt quickly to game-changing shift in rules

As training camps open for the 2024 NFL season, there is a great unknown hanging over every team.

The NFL instituted a new kickoff rule this year, and it is going to drastically alter a play that became stale in recent years after changes were made for safety. No one seems to know quite what to expect from the rule change, including coaches.

“It’s a big challenge with all these new rules,” Jets special teams coach Brant Boyer said. “It’s kind of a wait-and-see kind of deal, and you see what fits and what works and what kicks are best and who’s doing it, all that stuff. I think there’s a huge unknown, to be honest with you. We’ve done nothing but study and study and study, and been in here almost every day, to be honest with you, trying to figure out what’s going to work best, but nobody knows until

you strap it up and the preseason games start.”

The kickoff is going to be a huge storyline in the preseason, when casual fans tune in and see a play that looks very different from what they are used to. The biggest visual difference is the formation. The kicking team, other than the kicker, will line up with one foot on the receiving team’s 40-yard line. Those players cannot move until the ball hits the ground, a returner or the end zone. The receiving team will line up in two zones. The setup zone is a 5-yard area from the 35 to the 30 where nine players must line up. Seven players must have a foot on the 35-yard line. These players cannot move until the

kick has hit the ground, a returner or the end zone.

Then, there is the landing zone. This is the area between the 20-yard line of the receiving team and the goal line. Teams can have a maximum of two returners in this area.

Any kick that lands short of the landing zone will be treated like a kickoff out of bounds, and the ball will be spotted at the 40-yard line. A kick that lands in the landing zone must be returned. If the ball lands in the landing zone then goes into the end zone and the receiving team downs it, the ball will be spotted at the 20-yard line. If a kick hits in the end zone and is downed or goes out of the back of the end zone, the ball will

be spotted at the 30.

The XFL had a similar kickoff rule, and Boyer said he has been studying “a ton” of that league’s film. Still, he is unsure what to expect.

“It all looks good on paper what we all have planned and what we try to do, but at the end of the day, nobody knows until we get out there in the preseason, and that’s the truth,” Boyer said.

The Jets expect the number of returns to increase dramatically with this new rule. That is one reason they signed veteran returner Tarik Cohen this spring. They also had Jakeem Grant in for a tryout but did not sign him.

There is debate about whether teams will be kicking line drives

at the returners or trying to skip it on the ground to make it tougher to field the ball. There is also debate about what type of returner you want exactly.

“That’s part of the discussion for sure, like what kind of space is there going to be?” Jets coach Robert Saleh said. “Are you breaking arm tackles? Are you running through space? But again, there’s a lot of unknowns. There’s going to be a lot of discovery made in this first year. There’s going to be a lot of discovery made within the first five weeks. By the time you leave training camp, there’s going to be a lot of discovery and thoughts on the direction that it’s going to go, so I think I definitely speak for this building that we’re all excited to see what happens with it.”

Special teams sometimes get overlooked in the preseason. This year, the new kickoff will take center stage.

bcostello@nypost.com

Rodgers back, feels ‘good’ after ‘beautiful’ Egypt trip

By RYAN DUNLEAVY

Maybe the first song played over the loudspeakers in Jets training camp will be “Walk like an Egyptian.”

Aaron Rodgers, who is returning from a season-ending torn Achilles, confirmed reports Friday that he was in Egypt when he missed

mandatory minicamp in June after participating in all voluntary OTAs.

He will be back in Florham Park, N.J., when Jets veterans report to training camp July 23.

“I felt good all spring,” Rodgers told NBC Sports while playing in the American Century Championship golf tournament.

“Had a nice OTAs. Had a beautiful trip to Egypt. And this is like the last marker — summer is over on Sunday. Walking up [hole] 18 is like super bittersweet, but it’s fun to be out here.”

The Jets were aware of Rodgers’ long-standing plans to visit Egypt but termed his absence “unex-

cused,” thus subject to fines, because it would set a bad example to excuse one star from a mandatory camp for a non-emergent matter.

The practice format for OTAs and spring minicamp is essentially the same.

Rodgers, 40, played just four snaps for the Jets last season, cutting short a Super Bowl hype train that

slowly is regaining steam as he returns to a roster loaded with high-end talent.

“My Achilles feels good,” Rodgers said. “I felt really good at the end of last year. Then there’s kind of a ... there’s always that kind of plateau part. It’s just about getting back into it.”

Jets fans are hoping that Rodgers’ post-surgery re-

turn to the football field is as smooth as his return to the links.

“My first round out, I was fortunate or lucky enough to make an ace at 17 at Shadow Creek,” Rodgers said, referring to a golf course in Las Vegas. “That’s been the highlight of my golf offseason.”

rdunleavy@nypost.com



Mike Vaccaro

mvaccaro@nypost.com

OPEN MIKE

IT'S FUNNY the way perception works. Jalen Brunson has enjoyed a full day's worth of a skyrocketing approval rating after agreeing to an extension that'll leave (for now anyway) \$113 million on the table.

(It's at about 98.5 percent, and not 100, because there are those who — fairly — point out that Brunson isn't exactly donating the entirety of the \$39 million he WILL be receiving annually to UNICEF).

Thing is, Brunson was already hovering around 95 percent, especially with Knicks fans. He's not only a terrific player but always comes across as a generally good dude — eager to needle his teammates, even more likely to over-praise them, ever accountable, ever accessible.

"Haven't you heard?" Josh Hart said last winter. "Jalen is the perfect person."

He said that with a dry smile. But there was an element of truth, too.

So, sure, it's possible that because Brunson is so inherently likeable, his decision on his contract was greeted with even more enthusiasm than it might have otherwise. We want to like the guys we root for. We want to think the investment we make in them is a worthy one. Tom Brady has been inevitably linked to all of this because he gave up a lot of nickels and dimes through the years, and though he may not have always been quite the choirboy Brunson has been, it's hard to build up a strong dislike for Tom Brady the person (as opposed to Tom Brady the football assassin).

And it's funny ...

Because there was a time when Alex Rodriguez was willing to do something comparable to what Brunson did Friday afternoon. Whenever we talk about Rodriguez, that part of the equation almost never is mentioned, and when it is it's almost never given near as much of an airing as his remarkable skill, talent and numbers, his epic decline, his Page Six addictions, and, of course, the money he made as a player, which was in excess of \$441

A-DISCOUNT?



WHAT ABOUT ME? Before Alex Rodriguez wound up with the Yankees in 2004, he had agreed to a \$4 million pay cut to facilitate a trade to the Red Sox. Twenty years later, however, he isn't considered as selfless as Jalen Brunson after Friday's Knicks-friendly extension (inset). EPA

Like Brunson, Rodriguez once tried to take less ... but without much praise

million.

This is likely because of the \$252 million chunk of it that he agreed to in 2000, the culmination of a public auction that settled at the odd figure of 252 because either Rodriguez or his agent, Scott Boras, thought it important to exactly double the previously high salary outlay in North American sports, the \$126 million the Timberwolves gave Kevin Garnett. It was distasteful at the time,

and quickly aged worse and worse.

And overshadowed the fact that in the offseason of 2003-04, Rodriguez volunteered to take a pay cut — a genuine pay cut — to jump into the Yankees-Red Sox fray on the side of the Idiots and not the Emperors. Texas was eager to unload his contract. A-Rod was desperate to play relevant baseball again, and the Yankees already had a third baseman in place, Aaron Boone. So the Sox put

in place a series of trade proposals, the core of which was this: Rodriguez to the Sox in exchange for Manny Ramirez and Jon Lester (Boston was also ready to ship Nomar Garciaparra to the White Sox for Magglio Ordonez, so Rodriguez would've stayed at shortstop, too).

But there was one critical part to the deal.

The Sox needed A-Rod to take a \$4 million pay cut.

And here's the thing: He was eager to do it.

Now, he wouldn't have had to simply walk away from all of the money. The Sox were willing to allow A-Rod to retain his image rights, and he'd also be able to opt out after the 2005 season (same as Brunson has plenty of opportunities to make up for much of what he's forfeited as long as he stays healthy).

It was still a stunning choice.

It reverberated throughout baseball.

And, ultimately, it never happened.

The MLB Players Association jumped in, vetoed the deal, said it would set a terrible precedent, and the baseball union is one of the strongest unions that's ever been.

Soon enough Boone would play an ill-fated basketball game. Brian Cashman would reach out to the Rangers. And so A-Rod was a Yankee, and he would write his known chapter here, write his own legacy (better and worse) ... and almost never, ever, be thought of us anything other than an excellent player with a fat bank account and a few steroid skeletons dangling in his closet. It's funny how perception works.

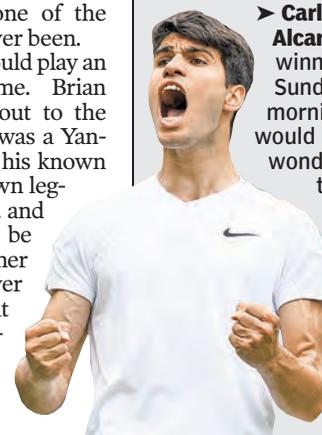
VAC'S WHACKS

TWO EPISODES in, this is the greatest season of "Hard Knocks" ever, and I've seen them all. I could've watched those combine meetings for three hours. And apparently you have to be Will Hunting to understand how to play quarterback in the NFL.

► I'm still enjoying "Presumed Innocent" a lot, though I'm not quite sure that **David E. Kelley's** intent was to have me rooting that **Jake Gyllenhaal's** Rusty Sabich gets life without parole. Unless he was going for "most unlikeable guy you're supposed to be pulling for" with that one.

► If the Mets or Yankees are looking for trade deadline help ... the Sioux City Explorers of the American Association needed an emergency starter last week and sought out 44-year-old **J.D. Scholten**, a former minor leaguer now in the Iowa State House. Scholten threw six one-run innings in his first start, then seven more one-run innings in his second.

► **Carlos Alcaraz** winning Sunday morning would be a wonderful thing for tennis.



Reuters

Bill Findlay: I keep telling myself to calm down. Keep asking myself if I'm looking at all of this rationally. And no matter what, I keep getting a strong, growing sense of destiny regarding the Knicks. Haven't been this excited since the banner days. Can't wait!
Vac: And, honestly, here's the thing: Even if it doesn't work out,

WHACK BACK AT VAC

isn't it fun to be excited again?

Joe Nicoletti: I do not know any Yankees fan who believes — whether it is Alex Cora, Kevin Cash or Rich Kotite in the opposing dugout — Aaron Boone

has a managerial advantage.

Vac: I'm gonna have to go with Boone over the Jets version of Kotite, at least. Maybe not the Philly version.

@Yoplin: It may be time to

conquer my jinx fears and own that Brunson jersey.

@MikeVacc: Those, sadly, do not come at a hometown discount.

Bert Delgado: The Tampa Bay Rays have a couple of walls on

the left side of their infield defense: shortstop Taylor Walls and third baseman Isaac Paredes, whose last name means "walls" in Spanish.

Vac: Further proof that you can get a little knowledge in addition to (hopefully) a few laughs in your weekly dose of WhackBacks!

EVERY SUNDAY MIKE VACCARO RESPONDS TO READERS' QUESTIONS AT VAC@NYPOST.COM AND @MIKEVACC ON X

Yanks' Gil earns win without his best stuff

By DAN MARTIN

BALTIMORE — Just in time for the All-Star break, Luis Gil is pitching like an All-Star again.

The right-hander, who followed a terrific 14-start stretch to start the season with an abysmal three-start span that likely cost him a spot in this week's Midsummer Classic in Texas, delivered a second straight solid performance to close out the first half.

On another sweltering day at Camden Yards, facing a first-place Orioles team in the midst of a slump, Gil gave up just one run in six innings, as the Yankees won back-to-back games for the first time in a month with a 6-1 victory.

And this time, Gil picked up the win, something he wasn't able to do in his previous start, when he allowed just one run over 6 2/3 innings against the Red Sox last Sunday in a game the Yankees dropped, 3-0.

Gil didn't dominate on Saturday, but was effective and a better slider was a key reason why he was able to limit Baltimore despite not necessarily having his best stuff, according to Aaron Boone.

"The slider was really good again," Boone said. "It speaks to how good he can be when he's not perfect."

Boone noted that Gil altered the grip on his slider "a couple weeks ago. We saw the results. It's definitely a pitch that's a factor for him."

Gil said through an interpreter he feels more "comfortable" with the slider since the grip change.

"It's not slipping away," Gil said. "I feel comfortable executing the pitch."

Along with the four-seam fastball, catcher Austin Wells said the slider gives Gil "another plus pitch."

The beneficiary of the Yankees' four-run first, Gil pitched around a pair of singles in the bottom of the first, when he got Ryan O'Hearn to pop out and Jordan Westburg to fly out to left.

He gave up a run in the fourth after O'Hearn led off with a triple and scored on a Ryan Mountcastle groundout.

Boone called the two consecutive solid outings before the break "a good sign, I hope" and added he expects Gil to be better for what he's gone through.

"Just who he's been all year, with the focus, the — at times — greatness [and] the bumps in the road he's had, the learning moments he's had," Boone said. "There's a lot to be gained from an experience standpoint. He's continued to meet the challenge."

A SUMMER

By STEFAN BONDY

The obvious hole in the Knicks' rotation, as dissected ad nauseam since Isaiah Hartenstein bolted to Oklahoma City, is backup center.

That remains in question — along with Precious Achiuwa's ongoing free agency. But there's another small crevice in Leon Rose's construction: Backup point guard.

Assuming Jalen Brunson's health, it's a minor role. And theoretically, the Knicks should have it covered with Miles McBride and Donte DiVincenzo.

But the Knicks could use another ball handler/facilitator, if only for insurance. McBride, as scouts noted from the outset, is more of a two-guard in a point guard's body. He's "a safe passer, not any kind of playmaker," as one longtime talent evaluator put it. DiVincenzo is also more comfortable off the ball.

The lack of a Brunson backup became an issue in the playoffs, when playmaking was such a weakness the Knicks turned to extended Alec Burks minutes for hope. Burks is gone, signing with the Heat for a vet minimum \$3.3 million. Perhaps the return of Julius Randle, a point forward at times, or the addition of Mikal Bridges, a capable creator off the dribble, will cover up whatever problems the Knicks have when Brunson is on the bench.

Still, that potential area of need is a storyline for summer league given two of the main characters on the Knicks squad — Tyler Kolek and Rokas Jokubaitis.

Both played in Saturday's 94-90 loss to the Hornets in the Knicks' Las Vegas Summer League debut, and the results were a mixed bag with promising moments, in particular, for Kolek.

The 34th pick in last month's draft, who signed a four-year contract worth over \$9 million, started over Jokubaitis and led the Knicks in assists Saturday with seven while grabbing seven boards. He was a fine floor general, adept with running the offense while struggling with his shot (2-for-6). At 23 years old, the point guard is considered more ready-made than most of his 2024 draft peers. He might've been the team's best player in the first half, then turned more passive as the Knicks leaned on Duane Washington Jr. (26 points) for offense.

Jokubaitis, meanwhile, played only 14 minutes off the bench and finished with eight points on 3-for-6 shooting.



Kolek & Jokubaitis work to earn role as backup point guard

The 23-year-old Lithuanian is at something of a career crossroads while rejoining the summer league squad after a two-year hiatus.

Jokubaitis was drafted 34th in 2021 by the Knicks and stashed overseas, enjoying success — and a Euroleague Rising Star Award — with Barcelona.

But Barcelona's backcourt grew crowded, and Jokubaitis is "expected" to leave the Spanish team next season for Zalgiris Kaunas, a Lithuanian squad, according to a report Friday from BasketNews. Summer league represents Jokubaitis' opportunity to impress upon the Knicks coaching staff that it should keep him.

He didn't get much of a chance Saturday in Vegas. Kolek took up the majority of minutes.

In free agency, the options are dwindling. Kyle Lowry, for instance, just re-upped with the rival Sixers. The free agents remaining who would fit the definition of a backup point

guard include Dennis Smith Jr., Patrick Beverley, Devonte' Graham and Cam Payne.

Perhaps the better option is on the summer league roster. They showed a little bit Saturday.

► Pacome Dadiet, the Knicks' first-round pick last month, looked overwhelmed and missed six of his seven shots in 26 minutes. At just 18 years old, he shot a pair of airballs in the first half and lived up to his billing as a long-term project. ... One draft pick who wasn't available Saturday was Kevin McCullar Jr., who didn't travel to Las Vegas as he recovers from a knee injury sustained during the college season at Kansas. McCullar, the 56th pick last month, suffered a "bone bruise," according to reports at the time, but he missed the entire NCAA Tournament and hasn't played in over four months.

sbondy@nypost.com



JOB

AUDITIONS: The Knicks could use an additional backup point guard behind Jalen Brunson, and Tyler Kolek and Rokas Jokubaitis (far left) got their chances to audition for the role in Saturday's Las Vegas Summer League opener against the Hornets. Kolek had seven points, seven rebounds and seven assists, while Jokubaitis scored eight points with two rebounds and one assist. Getty Images (2)



Johnson trying to get better, not just get his

By BRIAN LEWIS

LAS VEGAS — To get his contract, Keon Johnson has had to get out of the mindset of trying to get his.

The young wing has matured from his rookie season in Portland, when current Brooklyn assistant Steve Hetzel first coached him. He's matured even more since last season with the Nets, most of it spent in the G-League.

Friday's under-control performance — complete with a tough game-winner — was proof that maturation is still ongoing. And a great step for a 22-year-old unrestricted free agent trying to earn another contract with Brooklyn.

"Happy. I'm very happy. It's growth; he's maturing as a player," said Hetzel, a Nets assistant serving as head coach for Las Vegas Summer League. "The game is slowing down for him, which is allowing him to slow down on the court and he's making these positive plays."

Johnson had 16 points, six assists and just one turnover in Friday's 97-95 summer league-opening victory over Indiana, including a contested baseline turnaround to win it.

But that maturation has been evident in other ways, including Johnson's willingness to defend and do the dirty work. He's uber-athletic, yet is learning to not only play more under control but to fit into a team concept offensively.

"In Long Island, he had stretches where he was in a mindset of, 'I'm trying to get mine.' That's where he's progressed the most, is trying to make the right play more than just score," said Noah Clowney, who played alongside Johnson in the G-League.

"And you watch the game [Friday], he tried to make a lot of the right plays, and then being the best defender on the team. You've got to be one of the best defenders if you want to play. If you want to play, you want to get minutes, you've got to defend."

Johnson did that, grabbing five rebounds, blocking three shots and coming up with a couple of steals. Pairing better defense with his athletic gifts on offense is something that both Hetzel and head coach Jordi Fernandez have harped on.

"For me, [Fernandez] is always kind of reiterating being a dog on defense," Johnson said. "Coming in and just playing with physicality. ... He sent me little tidbits from our practices and that we've got to get better at certain little things. I feel like we've shown that here in the summer league thus far."

Said Jalen Wilson: "He was aggressive but under control. With his speed, being able to elevate when he can, there's so many different moves to make. His mindset coming in, picking up dudes 94 feet and on the opposite end getting to the cup, making tough shots like the game-winning shot he had. His mindset's been great."

The winner was a tough 12-footer on the baseline. The contest was good, but the execution was better.

Johnson — signed on a two-way deal last season — made just five cameos for Brooklyn. But he showed offensive flashes with Long Island, averaging 18.2 points, 6.4 rebounds on .478/.379/.803 shooting splits in 26 G-League games. Johnson averaged 16.7 points in 15 more Showcase Cup games.

"I feel like it's getting a little bit slower for me, but I feel like I'm starting to put myself in better positions where I can show what I can do with the ball in my hands and also playing off the ball," Johnson said. "Each day this summer, I've been constantly getting better at playing off the ball and just playing with space. And here in the summer league, I'll be able to show that a lot."

He hopes enough to earn a return to Brooklyn, two-way or otherwise.

"Right now I'm just really focused on summer league. This is the only opportunity that I know I have right now," Johnson said. "So I'm just really focused on playing summer league and just showing what I can do. And hopefully I'll be here. But just giving myself the best opportunity for my career."

➤ The Nets aren't expected to add to their front office. But BJ Johnson — who has run the draft as director of player evaluation — is among several execs expected to get internal promotions, a source told The Post.

blewis@nypost.com

HUMBLING OF HUMBER

Amazin's high pick took bumpy ride through MLB, but he had perfect day along the way

By **HOWIE KUSSOY**

JUSTIN Verlander still has a seat in the clubhouse.

The future Hall of Famer, 41, is 10th on the all-time strikeouts list, chasing 300 wins and another World Series title. He is the oldest player left standing in the majors, 20 years removed from being taken by the Tigers with the second-overall pick in the 2004 MLB Draft — and two decades since Philip Humber went third to the Mets.

"I love the fact that he's still going," Humber said. "I always enjoyed watching him pitch. More power to him. It's really neat to see him compete at the age I'm at. That's awesome."

Humber, 41, resides in the same state — roughly 200 miles north of Houston, in Tyler, Texas.

It has been nearly 11 years since Humber — the Mets' highest draft pick since 1995 — has touched a major league mound. It has been eight years since he hung up his spikes and embarked on a second career as a commercial real estate broker.

He was a blue-chipper turned trade chip, who transformed from bust to hero and back again, and came to hate the game he loved. For what it did to him. For what it didn't do. For how much it demanded of him. For the indifference it returned.

He had no more use for it. But his son did. And so did his son's friends. So, they met again, like childhood friends who drifted apart and rediscovered their bond.

"If I spend any time thinking about my career — I have a son that's 11, and I've been coaching his baseball team for about a year now — it's how can I use my experience and the things I went through to help these young men develop baseball-wise, but also life-wise?" Humber said. "I think it's been really good for me. It's something my son and I enjoy doing together. But also with some of the other kids on the team, helping them and their parents keep things in perspective because a lot is expected at a very young age.

"Baseball is gonna be a small window. Everyone is gonna be told at one time or another, 'You're not good enough. Your playing time is over.'"



HUMBER was drafted by New York — twice. The Yankees took a flier on the ace out of Texas' Carthage High School in the 29th round of the 2001 draft, but the right-hander turned down a respectable offer and instead pitched in college at Rice. Three years later, Humber and his family surrounded a computer in their living room, listening to the draft on MLB.com.

Matt Bush went first to San Diego. Verlander — the only eventual All-Star among the top 11 picks — went next.

Humber went where he wanted.

"They start announcing the name, and everybody starts jumping up and down," Humber said. "It was a very exciting time. I was so excited about what was to come. I was a bit of a baseball nerd as a kid, so I knew about Tom Seaver and Doc Gooden and Darryl Strawberry and Gary Carter. Nolan Ryan was my biggest guy, and I knew that's where he started, so that was cool to me. I was very enthusiastic that the Mets drafted me. There

were a couple teams I would've been like, 'Ehh, I don't know if I want to go there,' but the Mets, that was one where it was like, 'This is awesome.'

"It was also a very exciting time because you could tell they were about to go after it. They got Pedro [Martinez]. Me and [Carlos] Beltran signed the same day. They had Tom Glavine. You think about the guys on that team: Moises Alou, Shawn Green. Carlos Delgado came. We may win for a long time is what I was thinking, and I'm gonna get to be right in the thick of that."

The future was easy to see for the collegiate national champion: All-Star Games. Cy Young awards. World Series titles.

"That's how it'll go," Humber recalled thinking. "Get right to the big leagues and on your way to the Hall of Fame."

Humber's first spring training featured clashes with then-Mets pitching coach Rick Peterson



START FROM THE TOP: Philip Humber was taken third overall by the Mets in the 2004 draft. His career didn't live up to the hype, and now he is a real estate broker.



regarding his delivery. His first professional season was cut short by an elbow injury, which required Tommy John surgery.

"We never saw much life on his fastball," then-Mets general manager Omar Minaya said. "He was a great college pitcher with a good pedigree and a good delivery. He had the ability to pitch up. Then he got hurt, and we never saw the real Humber that he was in college."

Humber — one of the Mets' three top-10 draft picks of the past quarter-century, along with Mike Pelfrey and Matt Harvey — debuted with the Mets in 2006 as a September call-up, pitching two innings of relief for the NL East champs.

"One of my most vivid memories, I was pitching a meaningless inning in my debut, and Pedro was on the rail cheering me in a blowout game, and that meant a lot to me," Humber said. "He was always open to me asking questions, and I would ask him a lot of questions, playing catch in the outfield. Same thing with Billy Wagner in the bullpen. Tom Glavine was great to me. They all treated me like gold. I just wish I would've played with them longer."

Humber made only one start with the Mets.

It came in the midst of the greatest collapse in team history. With the Mets holding a two-game division lead and five games remaining in the 2007 regular season, Humber was summoned to Shea Stadium on 14 days' rest — and one month since he had made his most recent start, in Triple-A — as a



"IT'S LIKE THE REST OF YOUR CAREER, TRYING TO CAPTURE THE SAME FEELING OF WHAT IT FELT LIKE THAT DAY."

— EX-MET PHILIP HUMBER ON HIS 2012 NO-HITTER WITH THE WHITE SOX

fill-in for an injury-ravaged rotation.

Humber got through three scoreless innings and was spotted a five-run lead, but he left with a no-decision after allowing five runs, six hits and two walks in four innings of a 9-6 loss to the Nationals.

"Wild times, man," Humber said. "They said, 'Hey, we got this guy, he's been in big spots before. Maybe it was back in college, but he's been in big spots. We know he's gonna throw strikes. Let's throw him in there and see how it goes.'"

"It actually started pretty good, and then I fatigued there. But Shea Stadium in a playoff race, that was cool. You talk about the hair on the back of your neck standing up. I remembered when I walked out there, they were playing, 'Feels like the First Time.' The upper deck is full. Everyone's right on top of you. They don't make them like that anymore.

"I just wish it would've gone better."

That winter, the Mets acquired the best pitcher in the world. No price — monetary or in prospects — felt too high for Johan Santana, the missing piece for the title contender. Just as Humber returned from his honeymoon in Mexico, he learned on TV that he — along with Carlos Gomez, Kevin Mulver and Deolis Guerra — was being sent to Minnesota.

Humber ultimately threw just nine innings for the team that took him third in the draft, the team whose cap he planned on displaying on his Hall of Fame plaque.

"I wasn't completely surprised," Humber said. "If Johan was gonna go somewhere and the Mets were interested, I knew I could be a part of it. ... It was kind of bittersweet. You're looking forward to the opportunity, but you're kind of sad it didn't work out with the team that drafted you."

It didn't work out with the Twins, either, who let him leave in free agency after two seasons largely spent in Triple-A. It didn't work out with the Royals — who also found him best suited for the minors — or the A's, who designated him for assignment before ever sending him to the mound.

After making two major league starts in his first seven years as a pro, Humber went

9-9 with a 3.75 ERA with the White Sox in 2011. In April, he took a no-hitter into the seventh inning at Yankee Stadium.

The next year, he finished the job.

On April 21, 2012, in Seattle, Humber became the 21st player in MLB history to throw a perfect game. Humber, who was making just his second start of the season, entered with 11 career wins, the fewest of any pitcher to accomplish the feat in 90 years.

"It's something I'm really proud of and thankful for that will always be a part of baseball history," Humber said.

He received a call from President Barack Obama. He made an appearance on "The Late Show with David Letterman."

He questioned what he was doing standing beside Sandy Koufax and Randy Johnson for eternity, doing what Nolan Ryan had never done in 27 big league seasons.

He knew others did, too.

HUMBER was desperate to prove that perfection wasn't the fluky act of an underachiever, that the best day of his career was the beginning of what the Mets envisioned before the 2004 draft.

The confidence built from retiring 27 straight was smothered by self-inflicted pressure. It was the millions of dollars at stake in that upcoming offseason, when he was eligible for arbitration. It was the wife and newborn son — born 10 days after the perfect game — to take care of. It was the potential he wanted to validate — leading him to press, to push himself harder, to mess with grips and study film far past the point of being helpful.

Humber allowed nine runs in the first outing after his masterpiece. Two starts later, he was pulled in the third inning. By August, he was sent to the bullpen. By the fall, he was placed on waivers, finishing with the majors' highest ERA (6.44) of any pitcher to throw at least 100 innings.

"There shouldn't have been [pressure]," Humber said. "But it's like the rest of your career, trying to capture the same feeling of what it felt like that day. I'm not naive enough to think I'm gonna throw another perfect game, but just to have that type of feel. You start chasing that."

"I probably let things snowball on me mentally. When you've had a lot of struggles in your career, it's good because it hardens you mentally, but there's some scars there. When it starts to turn and you feel it go downhill, it's easy to say, 'Here we go again.' If I could go back and talk to [myself], I'd say, 'Relax. Be cool. Get back to your routine. One start is not gonna make or break you.'"

"It's hard trying to be that guy. Just be you."

HE RETURNED home to Texas the next year. It was his final season in the majors.

He went 0-8 with a 7.90 ERA for the Astros in 2013. Humber spent the next season in the minors. In 2015, he joined South Korea's Kia Tigers. At the next spring training, he hung up his glove, opting for retirement over a minor league assignment from the Padres.

"There had been a lot of ups and downs, and that takes a toll — not just on you, but as a family, going through that with you," Humber said. "My son was 3 years old and getting closer to school age. I wanted to have a more stable family life rather than, 'Dad's in South Korea, let's FaceTime.'"

"I was gonna need to start a new career at some point. I needed to go in that direction more than going to Triple-A and hoping there's an opportunity during the year."

"I just needed to step away from that environment. I had not let up for 20 years. I am a grinder. I needed to step back and figure out who I am outside of this."

At 34, Humber returned to Rice's campus, where he completed his undergraduate degree. Then, he became a commercial real estate broker.

"It was really good for me to have that runway from a standpoint of not being like I gotta get a paycheck right now, so I gotta take whatever's out there," Humber said. "I looked at a lot of different things. One of the things that appealed to me about real estate is you eat what you kill. So it's very similar to baseball. If you're good at what you do, it doesn't matter if you've been doing it 'X' amount of time, you get to move up."

He doesn't think about his career much or wonder why it unfolded as it did or what, if anything, he could have done to justify the highest of hopes attached to his draft slot.

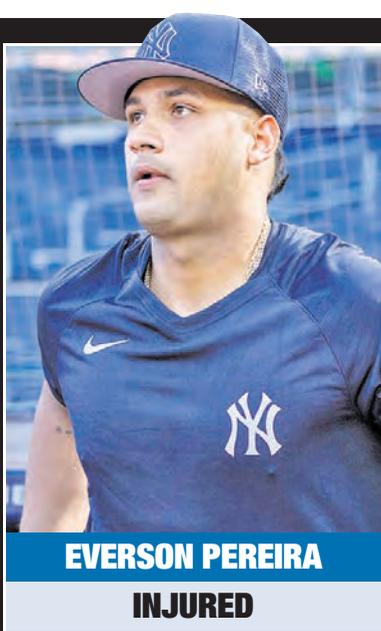
"What I've discovered through [coaching] is I really like teaching," said Humber, who ended his career 16-23 with a 5.31 ERA. "It doesn't have to be baseball. Sharing knowledge with young people, helping them along in their development, it's an honor to be a part of that. I always tell the parents of the kids on the team, 'You're putting a lot of trust in me, and I don't take that lightly.' I'm very careful with the words I choose with them."

"One thing I've learned is you need to observe a lot before you start offering advice."

It has been 20 years since Humber joined the Mets, a dozen years since the perfect game, more than eight since he decided he was done.

"I had plenty of opportunities," Humber said. "I can't blame anyone but the man in the mirror. It wasn't for a lack of effort or passion for it. ... It didn't work out the way I envisioned, but it worked out the way it was supposed to."

hkussoy@nypost.com



EVERSON PEREIRA
INJURED



CLAYTON BEETER
INJURED

SYSTEM ERROR

ARLINGTON, Texas — Spencer Jones arrived at the Futures Game striking out in an Eastern League-high 37.1 percent of his plate appearances.

But he was in attendance — and that is not nothing with the Yankees farm system in 2024. Jones falls into the subset of underperforming Yankees prospects with Roderick Arias and Will Warren. But at least they are performing — as in being on the field.

Jasson Dominguez is basically going to miss the whole season, first recovering from Tommy John surgery and now sidelined by an oblique injury. Everson Pereira underwent elbow surgery. Chase Hampton, Henry Lalane and Carlos Lagrange just returned recently from sustained injury absences, and Clayton Beeter might miss the rest of the season with a shoulder ailment. Caleb Durbin has been out since late May with a hand injury. Brock Selvidge, who had been invited to the Futures Game, was pulled late due to biceps soreness that is not considered serious.

Oswald Peraza fills the Bingo card. He missed the outset of the season recovering from a shoulder injury and has had his prospect status plummet with poor performance.

“I call them the Red Flag organization,” said one scout who covers the Yankees. “There are upside plays, but there are red flags everywhere with results and injury.”

Combine that with the inventory the Yankees have traded in recent years, notably in pitching, and they face a trade deadline with outside questions about quantity and quality in prospect depth. And suddenly over the past few weeks their major league roster has revealed the need for

Yankees need minor league reboot after rough first half

multiple additions before July 30 at 6 p.m.

Keep in mind that prospects are like stocks, fluctuating all the time.

And keeping pitchers, in particular, healthy at all levels is not a Yankees issue exclusively. As one talent evaluator said, “Two or three good weeks and everything changes [in evaluation].”

Plus, like beauty, prospect quality is in the eye of the beholder. For example, multiple talent evaluators mentioned still liking Warren despite his 6.64 Triple-A ERA. As one scout who covers the Yankees system said, “I haven’t forgotten what I saw in spring training when I thought he’d come up and help them at some point this year.”

Also, it would only take one seller to remain captivated by the upside of Jones’ power/athleticism combination to make a big deal. A scout who covers the system said, “There are tons of holes in [Jones’] swing, but when he squares one up, you end up talking about it for a week because of how far it goes.” Another: “There is moderate to

high risk with him, but a lot to like.”

And one veteran scout said bluntly about the Yankees’ ability to get swaps done this month: “Brian Cashman is perhaps better than anyone else in trading his [expletive] prospects for something.”

So I suspect the Yankees will find a way to — at minimum — land a couple of relievers and a supplementary infield bat in the

next two-plus weeks. To get that level of return, opposing talent evaluators mentioned players such as the rising bat of catcher Agustin Ramirez (a scout: “I’m not sure it will be at catcher, but I think he will hit in the majors.”), second baseman Jared Serna (“At least a useful utilityman, possibly a starting second baseman.”) and reliever Jack Neely (“Not far from going into a pen right now.”) as the kind of prospects who can help the Yankees at least marginally upgrade the roster from the outside.

Before Carlos Narvaez’s promotion to replace the injured Jose Trevino, a talent evaluator praised: “He’s sneaky good. He has real defense, I think there is some pop in the bat and he has a presence about him.”

But can the Yanks get involved for bigger pieces such as Isaac Paredes, Yandy Diaz, Mason Miller or Garrett Crochet if they are moved in the next few weeks?

For example, for the two remaining control years of Dylan Cease, the White Sox in the offseason said that Jones had to headline a deal and gave the Yankees a list of others who interested them including Peraza, Pereira and Warren.

Chicago is seriously weighing trading the new All-Star Crochet, who at some point this year due to his recent low work output might have to transition to the bullpen. The Yanks would probably love to have Crochet as a power

lefty in the bullpen the rest of this season and a piece of the rotation moving forward. But what do the White Sox think now of players such as Jones, Peraza, Pereira and Warren? And remember even in spring, the Yanks were not finalists for Cease, when the Padres beat out the Rangers.

I have sensed the Yanks have no desire to trade Dominguez, who likely steps into their starting outfield next year. They drafted Jones first in 2022 hoping the 6-foot-6 Vanderbilt product could be a lefty version of Aaron Judge. Jones turned 23 in May — he is a few weeks younger than Anthony Volpe, but this remains his age-22 season. In his age-22 season, Judge was only at High-A, and though he was performing well, no one was putting historic player evaluations on him. So the Yanks hardly want to give up on Jones’ upside — and he does have lots of upside, as shown Saturday in the Futures Game when in two plate appearances he lined out at 100.7 mph, walked and stole a base.

But if the Yanks believe they are going to sign Juan Soto long-term and project to have an outfield of Soto, Judge and Dominguez for a while, would that make Jones more expendable?

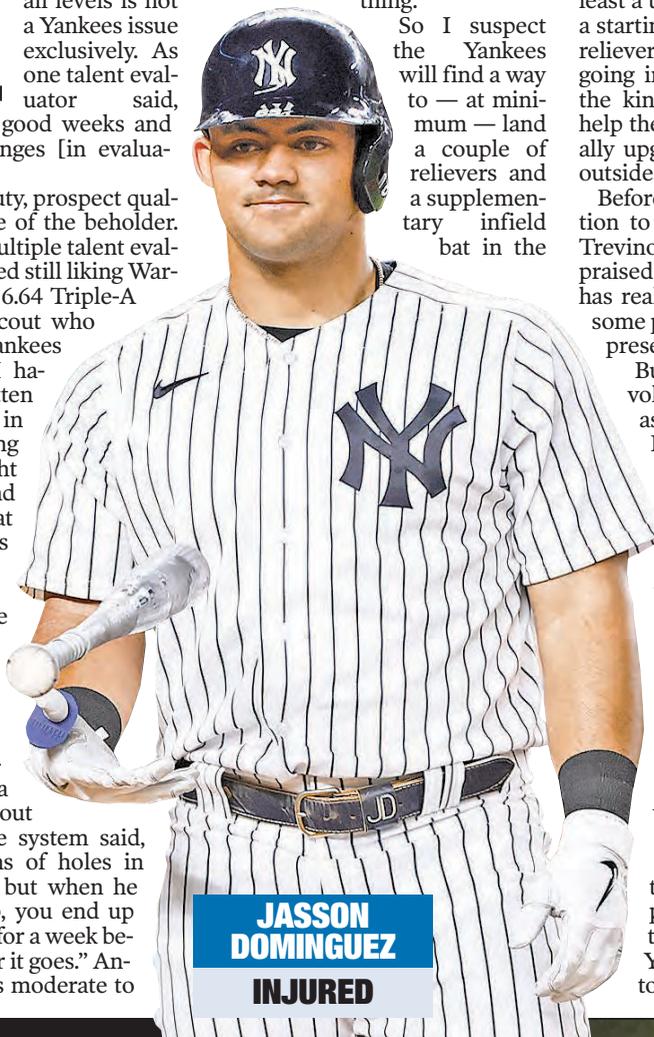
Two evaluators concurred that the Yankees had Dominguez and Jones as their most protected prospects with last year’s first-round pick, shortstop George Lombard — who at 19 is playing very young at Low-A — just below that. The rest of the system was perceived as more available in trades.

“The Yankees get their prospects to hit the ball hard as hitters, and add velocity and spin as pitchers, and they are going to light up the models of teams that value players similarly, so they are going to have items to move,” the evaluator said. “But the system is not elite. It is down. There is less to pick from.”

joel.sherman@nypost.com



Joel Sherman



JASSON DOMINGUEZ
INJURED

Sproat could assist Mets' leaky bullpen

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

ARLINGTON, Texas — What if part of the Mets' second-half bullpen solution can be added internally rather than at the trade deadline?

What if a starting pitcher with "electric stuff," as Yankees top prospect Spencer Jones put it, can briefly transition back into a multi-inning reliever for a team desperate for any effective bullpen arm?

If that's his clearest path toward the major leagues, Brandon Sproat welcomes the challenge.

"Whatever chance I can get to get to the big leagues as quick as possible, whether that's starting or relieving, I'm definitely not going to complain about it," the Mets' No. 2 pitching prospect, behind Christian Scott, said Saturday. "I'd figure out a way."

So far, Sproat has figured out a way in a hurry. The Mets chose the power arm from the University of Florida in the third round in 2022 — and couldn't come to an agreement, forcing Sproat back to the Gators for his senior season. The Mets liked the right-hander enough to draft him a second time, in last year's second round, and Sproat's first professional season has rewarded the organization's persistence.

Sproat dominated in six games with High-A Brooklyn, was promoted in May and has continued dominating with Double-A Binghamton. In 14 games and 73 ²/₃ innings this year, the 23-year-old has pitched to a 1.71 ERA with 85 strikeouts and a 0.95 WHIP.

It was enough to bring the rising prospect to Saturday's All-Star Futures Game at Globe Life Field, where Sproat entered in the third inning and pitched a scoreless, 12-pitch frame around an er-

ror. His sinker touched 99.2 mph. One star prospect (the Rangers' Sebastian Walcott) reached on a would-be ground out to shortstop before another star prospect (the Orioles' Samuel Basallo) grounded into a double play.

"Legs kind of felt like jello," Sproat said with a smile after the 6-1 National League win. "It was a really cool experience."

His performance has generated questions about whether a part-time reliever in college, who hits triple digits with his fastball and has better located his secondary stuff this season, could grow into the August or September answer out of the Mets' bullpen just one year removed from being drafted.

The Mets have not promoted a prospect to the majors one season after being drafted since Michael Conforto, their 2014 first-round pick, shot through the system and helped the 2015 Mets reach the World Series.

Sproat is hoping he will have as short a wait as Conforto did, setting his personal debut goal for "toward the end of this year."

"Honestly, as soon as possible, that's the obvious answer," said Sproat, who consistently added that he tries not to look too far ahead. "My biggest goal is to be where my feet are, at the end of the day."

His arm is threatening to bring him other places. Sproat's 100-mph fastball is his calling card, but he might generate more foolish swings on his changeup. New this year is a sweeper that he learned from Binghamton team-

mate Nolan McLean, a two-way prospect. Sproat had issues figuring out a slider, tweaked the grip into a pitch with more horizontal kick and has found a significant weapon against righty hitters.

Going back to high school, Sproat's velocity and movement turned heads but his command had lagged behind. He walked 15 in 21 ²/₃ innings out of Florida's bullpen in 2021. With more experience, the fireballer has begun to harness the stuff and has walked a reasonable 3.4 batters per nine innings this season.

"[My command has] been night and day from what it was and how much it's grown," Sproat said.

A couple of weeks ago, Sproat faced Double-A Portland, a star-studded Red Sox affiliate, and threw six scoreless and efficient innings in which he struck out three and allowed five hits and two walks. The Red Sox prospects in the lineup remember the game.

"You definitely remember when you face a guy like that," shortstop Marcelo Mayer said. "He's a great arm. He's got electric stuff."

"He's got that unique balance of throwing so hard and having such great secondaries. That's literally what makes a great pitcher."

Added catcher Kyle Teel: "He's a really good arm, really knows what he's doing with his pitches. I remember an electric fastball."

There is a clock on when fans in Queens can begin seeing that fastball.

msanchez@nypost.com

Jones thrilled to see Rice thrive in Bronx

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

ARLINGTON, Texas — It was not a huge surprise that a lefty swinger with power rose from Double-A Somerset all the way to The Bronx this season and has run with a major league job.

But the identity of that slugger has been unpredictable. It was No. 12 prospect Ben Rice who crushed minor league pitching until he earned his promotion, beating No. 2 prospect and former Somerset teammate Spencer Jones to a debut — as Jones has watched from afar with a smile.

"It's incredible, right?" Jones said of Rice. "You're just now starting to see the player that I've played with for the last two years. It's somebody who's a very tough at-bat every time he's up there. ... It's just cool to watch him succeed."

Jones will not say so, but he hopes he is not too far behind his buddy, whom he had just texted

Saturday morning. Jones' presence at the All-Star Futures Game, in which he went 0-for-1 with a walk and a steal, represented both hope and a yearning for more: For a second straight year, the star prospect had performed well enough to earn the trip, but for a second time, he earned that trip from below Triple-A (last year from High-A Hudson Valley, this year Somerset). He is still searching for his first taste of both Scranton/Wilkes-Barre and, of course, the majors.

The 6-foot-6, 23-year-old has been hailed as the lefty Aaron Judge for obvious reasons: His power is prolific and was on display repeatedly during spring training, and his speed, center-field defense and throwing arm also are excellent.

"His height and his size, it's a little intimidating," said Mets prospect Brandon Sproat, who pitched against Jones in college and in Double-A. "You look up and it's like, jeez, he's tall. He's got great tools."

But Jones — like Judge, who struck out in 44.2 percent of his at-bats in his first season in the majors — has struggled to consistently make contact.

In his first 73 games with Somerset, Jones has struck out 124 times (37.1 percent). It is an area he needs to improve, although this season has been one of some improvement thus far.

Fresh off an impressive Grapefruit League showing, Jones hit just .206 with a .594 OPS through May 30 with Somerset. Since May 31, he has a .269/.335/.510 slash line with eight home runs in 36 games, reminders of his immense potential.

"For me, it's trust," Jones said from Globe Life Field, where the National League won, 6-1. "It's not thinking too much about mechanical things or whatever and just going out there ready to compete. It's something that all players learn at some point, and I'm starting to figure that out."

A MAJOR ISSUE IN MINORS:

Spencer Jones made the MLB Futures Game, but the outfield prospect is one of several Yankees minor leaguers having disappointing 2024 seasons.

Getty Images



Amazin' third baseman Mark Vientos, nicknamed "Swaggy V.," takes a swing at some Q&A with Post columnist Steve Serby.

Q: Describe your mentality on the field.

A: I'm a competitor. I want to be the best out there, I want to be the best for my team. I want to win. ... I am confident. ... I play the game hard. ... If I'm not the best player out there, I want to believe that I am. And I feel like I use a lot of my anger out on the field to my advantage. I feel like I'm intense during the game, like I'm not how I am mellow right now that we're having a conversation. I'm intense, I'm, like, super-focused, and that's what I like about the game. It makes me feel different. When I'm in the game, I'm intense, I'm fearless, I'm, like, a competitor, and that's why I like playing this game.

Q: So you play angry?

A: I play angry. ... As human beings, we all have anger in something, we have stress in something, and I use it to my advantage. I use it like, "Come on," like, "Have that aggressiveness." Some people want to be chill on the field, some people want to be happy. I want to be aggressive, I want to be like I'm-gonna-bite-your-head-off-type of mentality.

Q: You'd be a good football player.

A: I think in every sport you have to have that mentality, in my opinion.

Q: What drives you?

A: I feel like the drive is just myself. My mind is constantly making fun of me. My mind is constantly saying that I'm not gonna do this, I'm not gonna do that. And I'm like competing against myself. It's like no matter how old I get, I want to be at the top of my game, and I feel like winning is one of the things, I want to win. I feel like if I make an All-Star team. ... I won't be satisfied with that because me, myself, would be like, "You're not gonna do it again." It's a never-ending, like, cycle of me competing with my own self, my own thoughts.

Q: Seven years ago you wrote, "I feel like I can be an All-Star in the future." Do you still feel that way?

A: Absolutely. I feel like everything you speak into words, into existence. I mean it 100 percent. Because I'm showing up to the ballpark every day, no matter how tired I am, no matter how much sleep I did or did not get, I am working to the point of those goals. I say that, and that could happen in 10 years, that could happen in two years, that can happen in one year. I don't know when it's gonna happen, but I know it's gonna happen because I'm working towards it every day.

Q: How long have you been keeping a journal?

A: I've done it for four years now. I just started writing down thoughts and things that come up in my head, maybe ideas. It's not just about baseball. One day I could be driving to the field and something pops up and I'll write it down. It's a good thing to take stuff off your mind. I feel like sometimes we keep things in our mind that, as men, I feel like we keep it inside, we don't want to talk about it. So I feel like if you don't want to talk about it, you could write about it. That's a way you could get it off your mind.

Q: Can you give me a recent example?

A: Just, like, telling myself, like, to keep doing what I'm doing, and I'm in a good spot just mentally and emotionally, like what I've been doing is right on cue. Just little things like that so maybe two years from now I'll go read and I'll be like, "Oh

SERBY'S SUNDAY Q&A WITH... Mark VIENTOS

look, on this day I was doing this, I was here mentally, I was here spiritually," whatever the case might be like.

Q: Do you read books about the mind or speak to sports psychologists?

A: This is a great question because I feel like that's my biggest interest, is how the mind works, and how the human brain works, and why people do certain things and why they don't ... why some people want to be CEOs of companies and could handle all that pressure and all that stress, and some people just want to live average lives. It amazes me 'cause I want to know why. And I've always had that curiosity at a young age. ... I've always been talented at the game, but I feel like when I was younger, I never had the confidence. I'm talking about like high school, middle school, like, I always had that doubt in myself. As many times as I would perform well, I'd always have a doubt in my head. And I would always be like ... "Why do I feel this way?" So I started reading books about it, just like self-help books. I'm very big on YouTube and just, like, listening to podcasts on certain athletes that I admire or certain, like, spokespeople that I admire, and just pick, like, their brain by listening to them and see how they talk about themselves and see how they go about their lives.

Q: Who are some of the podcast or YouTube people you like?

A: Joe Rogan has a lot of good people that hop on his podcast ... [Andrew] Huberman ... Kobe [Bryant had] a good amount of podcasts he [was] on, I've heard a lot about his stuff. I go on YouTube, I'll find someone, it could be a random person, and I'll get information and just like run with it if it works for me.

Q: So that helped you overcome or eliminate doubt?

A: Absolutely. ... I'm just trying to improve every day, any way I can.

Q: Believing in yourself.

A: I feel like if you don't believe in yourself, who is gonna believe in you? So I just worry about my opinion and my point of view. Whatever I do, if I stop playing baseball and I become a plumber, I'm gonna believe that I'm gonna be the best plumber.

Q: What is the criticism about your game that bothers you the most?

A: Everybody talks about my defense.

All I could do is appreciate that. First of all, I gotta give thanks to God for the ability I have. I feel like I was born to play baseball. And this game has always come easy to me, and I feel like when it came to defense, it was almost like I didn't really put the focus and the emphasis on it, and now that everybody is talking about how bad I am or whatever they're saying, it makes me work that much harder on it.

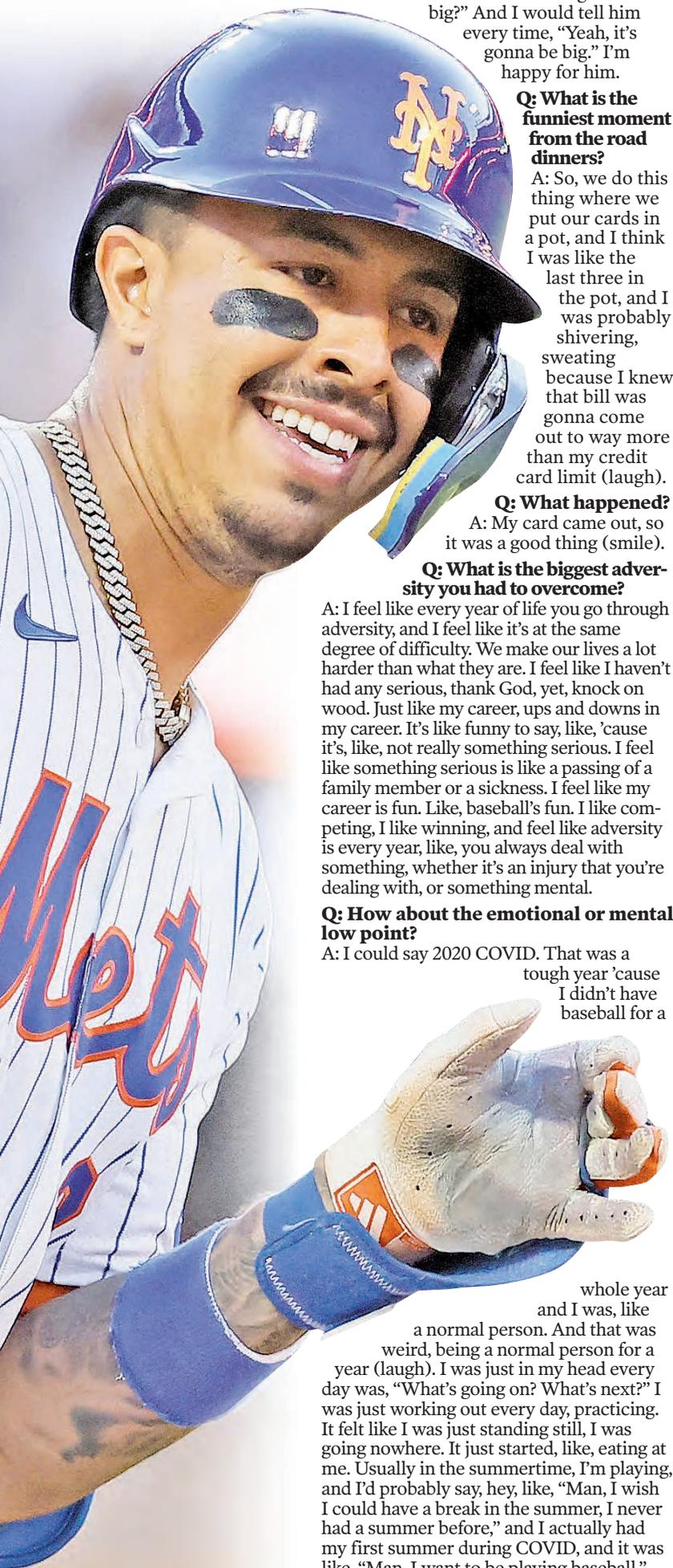
Q: So you have no doubt that you will be able to master defense at third base.

A: Hundred percent.

Q: "OMG."

A: That's Jose Iglesias. When I was in Triple-A with him, all he would talk





about it is this friggin' song that's out now (smile). Like, "Hey, what do you think about this? You think it's gonna be big?" And I would tell him every time, "Yeah, it's gonna be big." I'm happy for him.

Q: What is the funniest moment from the road dinners?

A: So, we do this thing where we put our cards in a pot, and I think I was like the last three in the pot, and I was probably shivering, sweating because I knew that bill was gonna come out to way more than my credit card limit (laugh).

Q: What happened?

A: My card came out, so it was a good thing (smile).

Q: What is the biggest adversity you had to overcome?

A: I feel like every year of life you go through adversity, and I feel like it's at the same degree of difficulty. We make our lives a lot harder than what they are. I feel like I haven't had any serious, thank God, yet, knock on wood. Just like my career, ups and downs in my career. It's like funny to say, like, "cause it's, like, not really something serious. I feel like something serious is like a passing of a family member or a sickness. I feel like my career is fun. Like, baseball's fun. I like competing, I like winning, and feel like adversity is every year, like, you always deal with something, whether it's an injury that you're dealing with, or something mental.

Q: How about the emotional or mental low point?

A: I could say 2020 COVID. That was a tough year 'cause I didn't have baseball for a

whole year and I was, like a normal person. And that was weird, being a normal person for a year (laugh). I was just in my head every day was, "What's going on? What's next?" I was just working out every day, practicing. It felt like I was just standing still, I was going nowhere. It just started, like, eating at me. Usually in the summertime, I'm playing, and I'd probably say, hey, like, "Man, I wish I could have a break in the summer, I never had a summer before," and I actually had my first summer during COVID, and it was like, "Man, I want to be playing baseball."

Q: How did Swaggy V. start?

A: I mean, you don't see it? No, I'm just kidding (smile). I've always been super-invested in my appearance and how I look. One of my teammates started calling me Swaggy V., and I kind of ran with it because as a little kid my parents will be, "Oh, let's go pick up food real quick." And I'll go dress and put my freshest outfit on, and I always just took that as it was my identity that I wanted to look good all the time.

Q: Are you among the top three dressers on the Mets?

A: I like to say I am.

Q: No. 1?

A: I'm gonna be honest, I'll give it to Francisco Lindor 'cause he's been in the league a lot longer than me, he has more years. But we're pretty close.

Q: When and why did you grow the mustache back?

A: I don't know, man, I'm just bored with, like, how I look sometimes. Like, two years ago I had blond hair, and then I do a buzz cut. I just like changing my look up. I like trying new things seeing if this works or this doesn't work.

Q: Alex Rodriguez, Manny Machado and David Wright have all been role models for you.

A: Manny Machado and Alex Rodriguez, I feel like I could relate to them 'cause they're both from Miami, they were both shortstops in high school, turned into third basemen, and I like the swagger that they got. More David Wright the Captain is just like the way he played the game. My dad, big-time Mets fan growing up and I grew up watching the Mets, grew up going to Marlins games to see the Mets and David Wright. I wore No. 5 'cause of David Wright when I was younger. Those are three guys that I've looked up to, and probably still look up to this day.

Q: Do you miss playing shortstop?

A: Yeah, I do, I miss playing shortstop, shortstop's cool. Now I go back to shortstop, I'm like, "Man, there's a lot of room over here."

Q: Three dinner guests?

A: Kobe, Marcus Aurelius, David Goggins.

Q: Why Marcus Aurelius?

A: He's stoic. ... I started reading five, six years back, casually as a routine, and the first book I read was "Ego Is the Enemy," and Ryan Holiday, the author, he mentions Marcus Aurelius a lot. Just, like, how he went about his life, all the things he dealt with, and basically a stoic is someone who goes through hardships and gets through them, and goes about their life.

Q: Favorite movie?

A: "The Wolf of Wall Street."

Q: Favorite actor.

A: Adam Sandler?

Q: Favorite actress?

A: Margot Robbie.

Q: Favorite singer/rapper/entertainer?

A: Drake.

Q: Favorite meal?

A: Pizza.

Q: What would your message to Mets fans be about this team and Mark Vientos?

A: They're gonna be surprised about this team because everybody was doubting in the beginning, and I have a feeling, a big feeling, that we're gonna prove a lot of people wrong. And then me, that you're gonna get a competitor, someone that wants to win and someone that's gonna work his ass off every single day.



BETTER DAYS: Drew Smith and Luis Torrens celebrate the Mets' victory June 21, two days before the reliever was injured against the Cubs. AP

Smith has surgery, done for season

By JARED SCHWARTZ

Drew Smith's season is officially over.

And his Mets career could very well be, too.

The reliever underwent right elbow UCL reconstruction surgery with internal brace augmentation Friday, the team announced. The operation was performed by Dr. Keith Meister in Arlington, Texas.

He'll likely miss all of 2025 in addition to the rest of this season.

"You hate to see it," manager Carlos Mendoza said before beating the Rockies, 7-3, on Saturday at Citi Field. "... He's still young. He'll get back on the field, he'll get back on track. He's got a lot of innings left."

Though it was expected, Smith's absence provides another brutal blow to a Mets bullpen that is already running on fumes. Smith, 30, owned a 3.06 ERA with two saves this season in 19 appearances.

But Smith, the team's longest-tenured pitcher, revealed last month that an MRI exam showed he had "pretty significant" ligament damage in his right elbow, and it was quickly expected that he would need surgery. He sought a second medical opinion, and now Smith has officially undergone the second elbow operation of his career.

Smith previously missed the 2019 season after undergoing Tommy John sur-

gery on his right elbow a season after making his MLB debut.

"It's a cruel game," Smith said June 29 when he revealed the injury. "And sometimes it's unfair. ... I've been with the Mets for a long time, and I love this organization. I don't know if my time here is over, obviously, but it could be, and it just sucks to see it end like this."

Beyond leaving the Mets' bullpen thinner, the injury comes at a brutal time for Smith. He is set to be a free agent after the season for the first time in his career.

Originally a third-round pick in the 2015 MLB Draft by the Tigers who was sent to the Rays two years later, the Mets acquired Smith from Tampa Bay in 2017 in exchange for Lucas Duda. In six seasons with the Mets, Smith recorded a 3.48 combined ERA with five saves.

He last pitched in the team's win against the Cubs on June 23. He was forced to enter that game in the ninth inning with a rushed warm-up following Edwin Diaz's ejection for sticky stuff. Smith recorded two outs before motioning for the trainers to check on him. He stayed in the game but gave up a single and was subsequently pulled.

A few days of rest did not solve Smith's pain, and an MRI exam soon showed the damage.

More Mets / P. 63

PEN AUTHORS NEW CHAPTER



vs. Rockies

Sunday, 1:40 p.m., SNY,
WCBS (880 AM)

LHP Jose Quintana



2024 stats:
4-5, 3.91 ERA

Career vs. COL:
3-3, 5.09 ERA

Last start:
Tue., vs. WAS;
7.0 IP, 1 H, 0 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

32% Sinker **21%** Curve **21%** Fastball

RHP German Marquez



2023 stats:
2-2, 4.95 ERA

Career vs. NYM:
4-2, 3.27 ERA

Last start:
Apr. 26, 2023, at
CLE; 3.2 IP, 3 ER

2023 PITCH BREAKDOWN

34% Fastball **25%** Slider **22%** Sinker

UP NEXT

FRIDAY: at Marlins, 7:10 p.m., SNY, WCBS
TBD vs. TBD

SATURDAY: at Marlins, 4:10 p.m., PIX11, WCBS
TBD vs. TBD

INJURY REPORT

■ **Drew Smith** underwent right elbow UCL reconstruction surgery with internal brace augmentation Friday and will miss the rest of the season.

■ **Kodai Senga**, who has missed the season to date with shoulder and triceps injuries, will make a rehab start with Triple-A Syracuse on Sunday, his third rehab start. Manager Carlos Mendoza did not rule out Senga's making his season debut next week if all goes well.

■ **Jose Iglesias**, who has been dealing with an illness the past week, did not start Saturday after smacking two homers Friday.

By PETER BOTTE

Converted starter Jose Butto has emerged as a game-changer for the Mets out of the bullpen as a multiple-inning weapon since returning from the minors earlier this month.

Butto and Dedniel Nunez, two pitchers who weren't in the bullpen plans to start the season, continued to provide a lift for a beleaguered and injury-riddled bullpen. They combined to record the final 14 outs of the Mets' 7-3 victory Saturday over the Rockies at Citi Field — their fifth win in a row with one game remaining before the All-Star break.

METS 7
ROCKIES 3 **Boxscore**
Page 58

"Unbelievable job," Carlos Mendoza said afterward about the two relievers. "These guys both have been pretty impressive, pitching in different situations and now in some high-leverage situations. They continue to get the job done.

"It says a lot about our organization. ... These guys will continue to get opportunities."

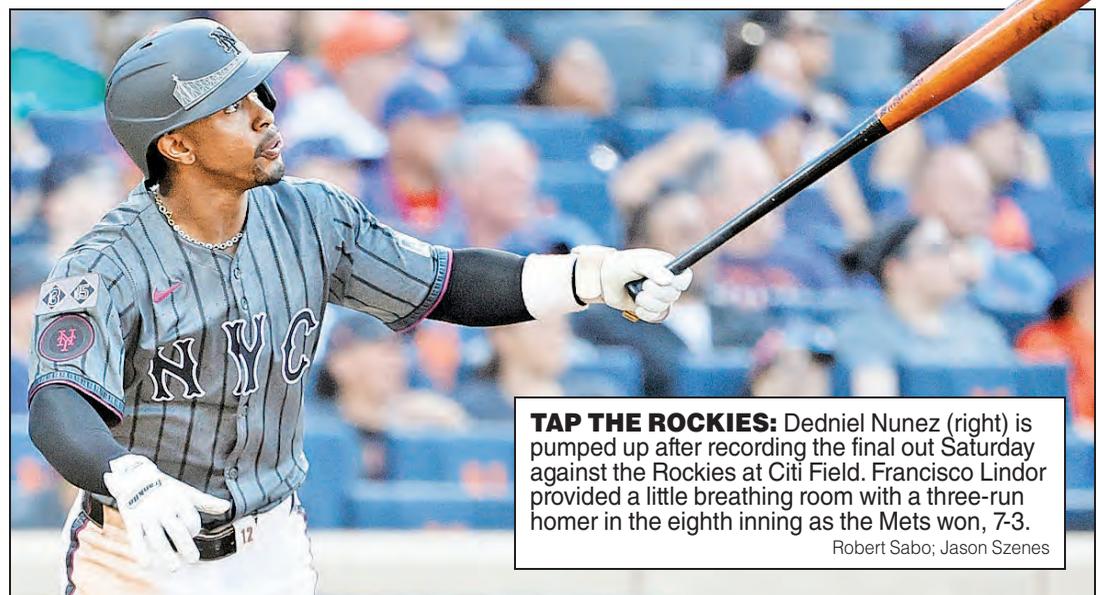
Francisco Lindor deadpanned that he is "not impressed at all" by the emerging duo, instead saying he "knew what they were capable of doing" and now are getting the opportunity to prove it amid a series of bullpen injuries.

Lindor cracked a three-run homer for breathing room in the eighth inning for the surging Mets, who have posted a 25-10 record over their past 35 games to improve to 49-45 overall while taking over the second wild-card position in the National League.

"It feels good, and it feels like we all have a sense of urgency," Lindor said. "We're back in a good way, and we have to ride it out as long as we can and finish the first half as strong as we can."

Rookie righty Christian Scott lasted 4 1/3 innings in his third start since being recalled from Triple-A Syracuse for a second big-league stint this season. He allowed three

Beleagued relievers step up to help Mets to 5th straight win



TAP THE ROCKIES: Dedniel Nunez (right) is pumped up after recording the final out Saturday against the Rockies at Citi Field. Francisco Lindor provided a little breathing room with a three-run homer in the eighth inning as the Mets won, 7-3.

Robert Sabo; Jason Szenes

runs on seven hits with one walk and five strikeouts, including a two-run homer by Charlie Blackmon in the fifth to cut the Mets' lead to 4-3.

Butto, who made seven big-league starts earlier this season, hasn't allowed a run over 7 2/3 innings in four relief appearances since July 2, including a four-out save Wednesday against Washington. He replaced Scott with two runners aboard in the inning — an unfamiliar spot for him — and escaped trouble by getting Elias Diaz to ground into a 3-6-1 double play.

Butto fanned five over the next two innings to maintain the one-run lead before allowing a single and a walk to open the eighth.

"That was a really good experience to come in with men on first and second," Butto said. "The first thing I learned [about relieving] is we gotta be ready for anything.

You have to be ready to help the team in any situation."

Nunez replaced Butto and got Diaz to bounce into another double play; he now has stranded all 12 runners he has inherited this season.

After Brenton Doyle fouled out to end the inning, Nunez also worked a scoreless ninth for his first career save. He said "the best part about it" was that his 9-year-old son and 2-year-old daughter attended a Mets game for the first time.

"It's something where it's more than being blessed, more than grateful, more than excited," Nunez said through a translator. "I'm really appreciative of the opportunity and I have to continue to go out there and attack the hitters and do my job."

Season-long slumping Jeff McNeil provided a key two-run double in the second inning for a

4-0 Mets lead after they'd scored their first two runs on a throwing error by Rockies second baseman Brendan Rodgers.

Scott, who is still searching for his first major-league win after eight starts, was tagged for a solo shot by Jake Cave in the third to cut the lead to 4-1.

Scott could not complete the fifth after allowing the Blackmon blast, but Butto and Nunez carried the Mets home from there.

"It's just their competitiveness. Every time Butto and Nunie get the rock, you know they're gonna give everything they have," said Scott, a teammate of those players in the minor leagues. "I thought Butto did an unbelievable job keeping them off-balance today, and Nunie came in and did what Nunie does. ... They're pitching their asses off and that's great to see."

pbotte@nypost.com



By JARED SCHWARTZ

Francisco Lindor won't let any of it affect him.

The Mets' star shortstop won't let the abundance of criticism he often receives — undeserved, at times — bother him. The Mets' highest-paid player won't let the lack of recognition he gets discourage him. The Mets' leader won't let a rough patch affect his mentality.

Lindor's drive comes from within.

He smacked a three-run home run to give the Mets breathing room in the eighth inning of their 7-3 win over the Rockies on Saturday afternoon at Citi Field to continue his red-hot stretch.

"That's a good question because I keep asking myself the same thing," manager Carlos Mendoza said about Lindor's lack of recent accolades. "I don't think people appreciate or recognize what he brings to the baseball field, what he means to this team. Great player. He's been doing it for a long time.

"Just the joy, the passion, the care, the willingness to continue to get better. He never stops. He's always looking for ways to improve."

Lindor, 30, was notably not named an All-Star last week. Unless Lindor or another Mets player fills in as a replacement, Pete Alonso is set to be the only Mets representative at the Midsummer Classic.

Lindor won't let All-Star snub be a distraction

Notoriously a slow starter, Lindor struggled through a brutal April to begin the season and saw his batting average dip as low as .190. But he picked it up in May, and has been red-hot since June.

Mendoza moved Lindor to the leadoff spot May 18, and he has flourished. Entering Saturday, Lindor hit .296/.366/.517 with a .883 OPS in 49 games at the leadoff spot, and went 1-for-3 with two walks at the plate on Saturday. For the season, he's hitting .250/.324/.453 with a .777 OPS, 17 homers and 51 RBIs.

In his four seasons with the Mets, Lindor has not yet been named an All-Star. A Silver Slugger award in 2023 remains his only accolade with the team.

"I don't need more moti-

vation," Lindor said. "To me, motivation is something that you try to find when you don't really want to do things. I have the discipline to go out there day in and day out and do what I have to do, stay focused on my daily job. If people want to recognize me, great. If they don't want to recognize me, it is what it is."

Lindor's homer Saturday extended the Mets' lead to 7-3 after they saw their 4-0 lead shrink to 4-3.

The shot clocked 106.9 mph off Lindor's bat and went 420 feet to dead center.

"That's a special player, that's a special person," Mendoza said. "I'm just glad that I get to be able to watch him play shortstop for the New York Mets day in and day out."

jschwartz@nypost.com

Torrens' stellar defense on display

By SEAN SAVAGE

The Mets have one of the best arms in the league, except the throwing isn't coming from a pitcher.

Enter Luis Torrens, the 28-year-old catcher with a cannon of a right arm.

Making it all the better, the Mets obtained him for mere cash considerations from the Yankees.

"You know you're going to get a quality at-bat, but he's also he's going to take care of the pitching staff," manager Carlos Mendoza said of Torrens. "He's going to lead them; he's going to call the game, and then his ability to shut down a running game because his arm — the quick transfer — so, yeah, he's a tremendous help."

On Saturday afternoon in the Mets' 7-3 win over the Rockies at Citi Field, Torrens showcased why he could be considered among the best backup catchers in baseball.

In the top of the second inning, Torrens threw out Brenton Doyle as he tried to steal second. Torrens has thrown out eight

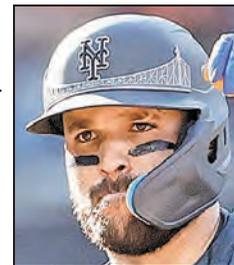
of the past 12 runners attempting a swipe.

"It's really nice having a catcher that knows what you're going to do, and he's confident in my game plan while I'm confident in his," said Mets starter Christian Scott, who gave up seven hits, three runs and struck out five in 4 1/3 innings of work.

"It's almost like the pitch I'm thinking of, he's calling it already," Scott said. "It's nice to be able to have that chemistry and being on the same page. 'He's done an unbelievable job back there.'"

Torrens — who went 1-for-3 with a double, an RBI, and two runs scored Saturday — joined the Mets on May 31, and has paid immediate dividends in replacing Omar Narvaez. Narvaez went through a brutal 0-for-28 span of trying to throw out base stealers, which helps explain why he's a former Met.

Torrens has shattered any expectations the Mets may have had when adding him to the squad, including amassing eight extra-base hits in the 19 games he has played. In comparison, Narvaez had nine extra-base hits in 77 games over two seasons.



LUIS TORRENS

BACK-TO-BACK TO BUSINESS

By GREG JOYCE

YANKEES 6 **Boxscore**
ORIOLES 1 **Page 58**

BALTIMORE — The Yankees and Orioles' benches-clearing madness Friday night avoided any fisticuffs, as did Saturday's game.

But the Yankees spent Saturday afternoon throwing punches with their bats while Luis Gil put the Orioles in handcuffs to secure back-to-back wins and a series victory for the first time in a month, and climb back into a tie for first place in the AL East.

Austin Wells delivered the first haymaker with a three-run homer in the first inning before Juan Soto and Aaron Judge went back-to-back in the fifth. Along with six strong innings from Gil, it was more than enough to lift the Yankees to a 6-1 win over the Orioles on a sticky and sweltering day at Camden Yards in front of a sellout crowd of 44,018.

As rough as things have gone for the Yankees (58-39) since the last time they won a series before Saturday — June 10-13 against the Royals — they now have a chance to enter the All-Star break in first place in the division if they can finish off a sweep of the Orioles (57-38) on Sunday.

"We needed it big-time, to bounce back and get on track," Soto said. "It's part of the game. We were going out there and trying our best, things weren't going our way. But we keep trying until we find a way. We did a great job today to get the series and try to get the sweep [Sunday]."

The Yankees had gone 0-7-1 in eight series since clinching a four-game set over the Roy-

als, including their second series loss of the season against the Orioles. During that skid, they went 6-17 while their 3½-game lead atop the division evaporated into a two-game deficit behind the Orioles.

But the Yankees finally have some momentum on their side, winning three of their last four and responding to Friday's late-game chaos — set off by Clay Holmes' 97 mph sinker hitting Heston Kjerstad in the ninth inning — by coming back and sticking to playing winning baseball.

"We're putting ourselves in a great position going into the All-Star break and that's the most satisfying thing," Judge said.

Aaron Boone and Orioles manager Brandon Hyde spoke after tempers flared Friday night, seemingly clearing the air, and Baltimore did not retaliate by hitting any Yankees on Saturday.

Instead, the Yankees' bats made the most noise while Gil turned in a second straight bounce-back start — striking out seven over six innings of one-run ball — to enter the break in impressive fashion.

Thanks to consecutive strong starts from Gerrit Cole and Gil, the Yankees locked up their first series win over the Orioles since April 7-9, 2023.

Wells, who on Friday night was playing peacemaker as he held back Hyde from charging at the Yankees dugout, set

the tone in the first inning by visiting Eutaw St.

After Gleyber Torres had put the Yankees up 1-0 with a two-out infield single, Wells worked a nine-pitch at-bat against Grayson Rodriguez that ended with a 397-foot blast to right field to make it 4-0.

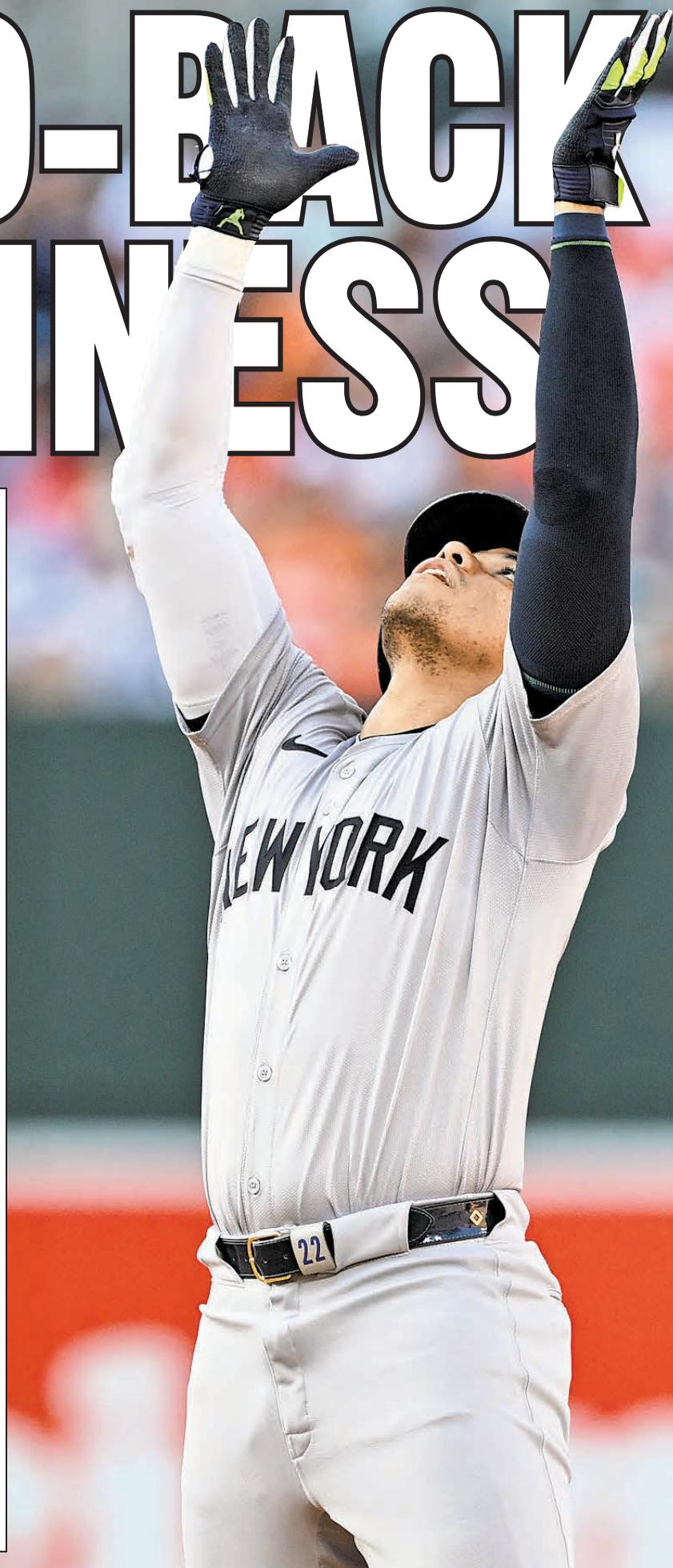
"Big-time," Judge said. "[We] came out and made a statement. I think that was the biggest thing, especially after everything that transpired [Friday] night. For us to get that first run early and then him to have a great at-bat against a tough pitcher and get the one mistake and let it leave the ballpark, that was big-time for not only us but for Gil on the mound to go out there with some confidence."

Wells, who should get more playing time with Jose Trevino landing on the injured list Saturday, continued to swing a hot bat, hitting .296 with a .922 OPS over his last 24 games.

In the fifth inning, right after the Orioles had scratched a run across, Soto and Judge went back-to-back for the second time this season. Soto crushed his 23rd of the season, a 426-footer to center field, before Judge smoked his 34th of the year 431 feet to the batter's eye.

"It's just been fun to watch those two on a nightly basis do what they're doing in the batter's box," manager Aaron Boone said. "Both homers — Juan's, that bullet line drive to center, and then that classic Judgey to the moon that just keeps on going."

gjoyce@nypost.com



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Official Hospital of the New York Yankees

Yankees end monthlong drought with consecutive victories in Baltimore



JUST WHAT THEY NEEDED: The Yankees' Juan Soto gestures after hitting a double during the ninth inning Saturday in Baltimore, where the Yanks picked up their second win in a row — something they had not done since mid-June. Captain Aaron Judge (inset) smacked a double of his own during the third inning. AP (2)

Montefiore Einstein

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INJURY REPORT

■ **Jose Trevino** landed on the 10-day injured list Saturday with a left quad strain that he sustained Friday night sliding into home in the top of the ninth inning. He was returning to New York for tests to determine the severity and how long he might be out.

■ **J.D. Davis** remained in Tampa after coming down with stomach flu bad enough to land him on the IL.



ON DECK

at Orioles

Sunday, 11:35 a.m., Roku, WFAN (660 AM, 101.9 FM)

LHP Carlos Rodon



2024 stats:
9-7, 4.63 ERA

Career vs. BAL:
0-3, 5.74 ERA

Last start:
Tue., at TB
4 IP, 4 ER, 5 SO

PITCH BREAKDOWN

50% Fastball **26%** Slider **11%** Change

RHP Dean Kremer



2024 stats:
4-5, 4.42 ERA

Career vs. NYY:
3-3, 4.70 ERA

Last start:
Sun., at OAK
6 IP, 3 ER, 8 SO

PITCH BREAKDOWN

34% Fastball **28%** Cutter **15%** Splitter

UP NEXT

FRIDAY: vs. Rays, 7:05 p.m., YES, WFAN
TBD vs TBD

SATURDAY: vs. Rays, 1:05 p.m., YES, WFAN
TBD vs. TBD



AUSTIN POWERS: Austin Wells hits a three-run home run in the first inning against Baltimore on Saturday at Camden Yards. Getty Images

Wells comes through as Trevino goes on IL

By DAN MARTIN

BALTIMORE — The Yankees entered the season with plenty of catching depth and now they may need to rely on it.

Jose Trevino was placed on the 10-day injured list Saturday with a left quad strain sustained sliding into home in Friday's win over the Orioles at Camden Yards.

To take his place on the roster, the Yankees called Carlos Narvaez up from Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.

And Austin Wells, who was already getting more time behind the plate, will certainly see even more action in Trevino's absence.

That might not be a bad thing, as Wells has been better at the plate of late and delivered the biggest blow of Saturday's 6-1 win over the Orioles with a towering three-run shot to right field in the top of the first.

It was Wells' sixth homer of the season and fourth since June 29. He's also gone deep three of the last six times he's started.

"I feel I'm in a good spot," Wells said. "The more reps and the more at-bats I get, the better I'll be."

Trevino returned to New York to get more tests to determine the severity of the injury.

Regardless of how much time Trevino misses, Aaron Boone said he has no plans to use rookie Ben Rice at the position now that the lefty-swinging Rice has begun to get regular time at first base in place of the injured Anthony Rizzo.

"For right now, [Trevino's injury] doesn't change my plans at all," Boone

said of Rice, who came up through the minors as a catcher, staying at first base. "And that's partly because we have a ton of confidence in [Narvaez]."

Boone said despite Narvaez not having played in the majors before, the organization has been impressed by what he's been able to do.

"He has a great presence, great skills behind the plate [and has] got some power offensively," Boone said. "So when I put him in there in the lineup, I'll do it with a lot of confidence. We have no plans to alter what Ben is doing. He obviously can catch, but we need him at first base."

The Yankees like Narvaez's pitch-framing ability and he hit well at SWB, but in his last eight games there, Narvaez had just one extra-base hit.

He was signed by the Yankees out of Venezuela in 2015 as an international free agent.

Even before Trevino's injury, Wells had seen his playing time increase.

After Trevino started six of seven games from June 19-27, Wells has behind the plate for nine of the last 15 games.

Boone said he expects the Yankees to see more right-handed pitching even after the All-Star break when the Yankees open the second half against Tampa Bay, meaning the lefty-swinging Wells would get the majority of time, anyway.

"We'll see," Boone said. "But I won't be hesitant to go with [Narvaez]."

dmartin@nypost.com

More Yanks / Pages 72, 62



AMAZIN'S IN FIFTH GEAR

BULLPEN LOCKS DOWN ROCKIES TO SECURE WIN NO. 5 IN A ROW / PAGES 81-78, 63

SUNDAY

JULY 14, 2024

NEW YORK POST

Sports

Aaron Judge celebrates a solo home run with Juan Soto, who also homered, in Saturday's 6-1 win at Baltimore. The win came after the benches cleared the night before, and it pulled the Bombers into a virtual tie for first in the AL East. P. 82-83, 72, 62

BURST TO FIRST

Day after dustup, Yankees smack O's to pull into tie atop East



HERE'S THE DEAL

YANKEES MIGHT NOT HAVE PROSPECTS TO LAND BIG FISH



SHERMAN PAGES 76-77



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