



PAGES  
20-25

# 2024

## *A year to Remember*

### Take the quiz



# POLICE PLAZA PURGE

Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch booted dozens of NYPD bosses in a stunning purge Saturday, starting with a shakeup of the storied Internal Affairs Bureau. Sources said she is sanitizing the stench left by ex-Chief of Department Jeffrey Maddrey who, as The Post exclusively reported last Sunday, is accused by an underling of trading overtime for sex. The Post has since found other female cops in Maddrey's orbit pulled down massive OT, and learned investigators swept his office for evidence last week.

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## Heads roll as new commish 'cleans up' sex-for-OT mess





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LOTTERY

NEW YORK

■ Midday Nos. Sat.: **961**  
■ Midday Win-4 Sat.: **3289**  
■ Midday Take-5 Sat.:  
**2, 18, 20, 26, 27**  
■ Evening Nos. Sat.: **479**  
■ Evening Win-4 Sat.: **1650**  
■ Evening Take-5 Sat.:  
**4, 14, 16, 19, 34**  
■ Lotto Sat.: **12, 13, 19,**  
**30, 41, 48; Bonus: 25**  
■ Pick-10 Sat.: **2, 8, 9, 11,**  
**17, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 31, 32,**  
**33, 41, 49, 59, 61, 62, 64, 67**  
■ Cash-4-Life Sat.: **5, 17,**  
**27, 28, 41; Cash Ball: 1**  
■ Powerball Sat.: **6, 31,**  
**51, 54, 55; Powerball: 12;**  
Power Play: **x2**

NEW JERSEY

Pick-3 Sat.: **041; Fireball: 1**  
Pick-4 Sat.: **6116; Fireball: 1**  
Cash-5 Xtra Sat.: **14, 15, 16,**  
**26, 31; Xtra: x3**

CONNECTICUT

Play-3 Sat.: **329; Wild: 6**  
Play-4 Sat.: **6603; Wild: 2**  
Cash-5 Sat.: **1, 12, 17, 31, 33**

# Holiday flu takes 5 tragic tots

The flu is surging in New York and across the US — and claimed the lives of five kids in the days before Christmas.

Positive tests climbed a whopping 12% for the week ending Dec. 21, according to data released Friday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — meaning more than 12,000 people across the country were hospitalized from the virus, compared with 9,000 the week prior.

“It’s been increasing at a pretty

steady pace now for the past several weeks. So yeah, we are certainly in flu season now,” said Alicia Budd, an epidemiologist in CDC’s Influenza Division.

This season, the flu has already claimed the lives of roughly 1,500 people across the country, including nine children. Five youngsters’ deaths were recorded between Dec. 15-21.

Another 3.1 million people have reported contracting the flu, resulting in at least 37,000 hospitalizations, ac-

cording to the CDC.

No particular strain appears to be dominating at this time, but Budd warned it’s too early in the season to know how good a match the flu vaccine will end up being in combating the virus.

Though cases are rising in all regions and across all age groups across the country, outbreaks particularly exploded in 13 states this week, including Tennessee, Oregon and Louisiana. *Katherine Donlevy*



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# Bid to keep Maloney political cred alive

By MATTHEW SEDACCA

The daughter of former Rep. Carolyn Maloney is riding her mother’s coattails in a “shameless” bid to reclaim the 78-year-old Democrat’s old City Council seat, insiders told The Post.

Virginia Maloney, a product manager at Meta, flaunted her political pedigree in campaign material to potential voters since announcing her bid last month to replace term-limited Democratic Councilman Keith Powers, whose district comprises much of the Upper East Side and Midtown.

On her campaign website, the 37-year-old UES native lays out her concerns about the need for more affordable housing, combating extremism and improving healthcare access — but also leans into family lore of her mother going into labor with her while debating legislation on the City Council floor.

“My mother — a teacher, City Councilwoman and Member of Congress — taught me to believe in myself as a woman and that when I do, I can get great things done,” the website reads.



Facebook/Getty Images



**FAMILY TIES:** Insiders believe Virginia Maloney (left) is running for City Council as a way for her mother, Carolyn (inset), to reclaim a Manhattan congressional seat.

A new 30-second introductory campaign ad, which briefly touched on Virginia Maloney’s work for the city Economic Development Corp. and later the private tech sector, was similarly ham-fisted in touting the candidate’s lineage, lingering on a clear, striking portrait of her mother as she reminded people that she’s “the daughter of two public servants.” Her late father, Clifton Maloney, was a US Navy

vet and investment banker.

The elder Maloney, who regularly appears in Instagram posts on Virginia Maloney’s campaign account, will be trotted out next month as one of the hosts at a Midtown fundraiser for her daughter.

“Most candidates I’ve worked with who have that sort of dynasty are never this shameless,” one veteran Democratic strategist told The Post. “There is a time and a

place to evoke your mom, but from Day One, in such an aggressive way, strikes me as obscenely lazy.”

As of the latest campaign filings in October, Virginia Maloney had yet to document any contributions, according to campaign records.

A second Democratic strategist, meanwhile, suggested Virginia Maloney’s bid for City Council is ultimately a “proxy” for her mother to eventually reclaim her old congressional seat after being trounced by fellow Manhattan Rep. Jerry Nadler in the bitter 2022 Democratic House primary.

“Carolyn Maloney has been as visible at events, if not more, than the candidate,” the insider said. “Everyone knows she wants her seat back.”

Carolyn Maloney, whose estimated net worth was \$13 million in 2018, previously held the City Council District 4 seat representing the Upper East Side from 1983-93.

Carolyn Maloney did not respond to requests for comment.

*msedacca@nypost.com*

# Golden State winner of \$1.2B golden Mega jackpot

A Mega Millions player in the “Golden State” of California won the \$1.22 billion jackpot Friday night — ending the lottery’s three-month drought of having no grand prize winners.

The winning numbers

were 3, 7, 37, 49, 55, and the gold Mega ball of 6.

The ultra-lucky ticket-holder matched all six numbers, defeating the 1 in 302,575,350 odds of winning the grand prize.

The ticket was sold at a

Sunshine Food and Gas station in Cottonwood, located in northern California, 146 miles north of Sacramento.

The new billionaire can claim the estimated \$1.22 billion in annual payouts or choose the one-time cash

payout of approximately \$549.7 million.

“What an amazing present this holiday season! At an incredibly special time of year, this is both an incredibly special moment for our winner,

and for all the great organizations and causes that benefit from lottery ticket sales around the country,” said Joshua Johnston, lead director for the Mega Millions Consortium.

*Nicholas McEntyre*



# Next gen will 'Beta' test world

New year, new generation. Babies born in 2025 will be the first of a new peer group: Generation Beta, according to social researcher and futurist Mark McCrindle.

Gen Beta, which will last until around 2039, follows Gen Alpha, which spanned from 2010 to 2024. Before that came Gen Z, which ran from 1996 to 2010, and Gen Y, or millennials, who were born from 1981 through 1996.

The new generation "will inherit a world grappling with major societal challenges," McCrindle, who coined the term "Generation Alpha," wrote in a blog post.

"With climate change, global population shifts and rapid urbanization at the forefront, sustainability will not just be a preference but an expectation," McCrindle wrote.

He also said that by 2035, Gen Beta will make up 16% of the world's population and live in a world powered by artificial intelligence.

"Generation Beta will live in an era where AI and automation are fully embedded in everyday life," he said.

Angela Barbuti

She's a woman of "Substance." Margaret Qualley dons a little black dress for her Vogue Australia cover story in the mag's January 2025 issue. Talking about her smash-hit thriller "The Substance," she notes, "It's exciting when something becomes a part of the culture. I think that's what most artists are setting out to do: put enough of themselves into something that it feels somewhat universal."

# MAGIC BIRTH WISH



## New year & baby.

By ANGELA BARBUTI

There was some magic in the air in Times Square.

Last December, Ana Cecy Malacara visited New York City for the first time and shared with The Post at the New Year's Eve Wishing Wall her secret wish for 2024. Two weeks later she returned to her native Mexico.

"After I was back, I was feeling strange," she recalled. "I told my husband I need to get checked because I was having a lot of nausea. We thought it was a cold."

In fact, her dream written on a piece of Times Square confetti had come true: Ana (inset) was pregnant.

Grecia (pictured above), whose name means Grace in English, was born Aug. 15.

"We were trying for three or four months and we couldn't conceive yet," said Ana, 29, who shares another daughter, Lucia, 3, with her husband, Victor Serrano, 31, who proposed to her during the New York trip.

"It's a powerful thing, that confetti," she joked.

This year, on New Year's Eve, another 3,000 pounds of confetti will be tossed from the rooftops of Times Square after the ball drops at midnight.

### 'Fell in love with NY'

The fluttering spectacle of 25 million pieces of shredded paper will be broadcast on "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve with Ryan Seacrest." Ana says her family will be watching, as always.

The Wishing Wall, located on Broadway between 46th and 47th streets, opened Dec. 2. The Times Square Alliance, which runs it, said it has already collected 100,000 wishes. Last year, 150 countries were represented.

Ana, a General Motors engineer, says she will be back one day. "My husband and I fell in love with New York," she said.



## Qual-ity time with Margaret

Josh Olins for Vogue Australia

nypost.com

Courtesy of Ana Cecy Malacara

TEST YOUR 2024 RECALL ON OUR 6 PAGE YEAR-END QUIZ PAGES 20-25



## Demoted DCPI's 'soft landing'

The NYPD's hot-headed Deputy Commissioner of Public Information — who once called a New York Post reporter a “f-king scumbag” — was demoted this week, police sources said.

Tarik Sheppard will be an assistant chief and commanding officer at the Interagency Operations Division as of Dec. 26, NYPD paperwork shows.

“That’s definitely a downward move but a soft landing,” a police source said of Sheppard, a friend of Mayor Adams.

It’s not clear exactly why he was booted, but Sheppard (inset) got into a kerfuffle with then-acting Police Commissioner Tom Donlon at the NYC Marathon last month. He also called a Post reporter a “f-king scumbag” after the reporter reached out to Chief of Patrol John Chell for comment about a federal investigation of city officials.

Sheppard, once commander of the 28th Precinct in Harlem, was appointed to DCPI by former Police Commissioner Edward Caban in August 2023 and brought a cadre of his own people with him.

He expanded the office from about 50 employees to 85, some of whom are also being transferred, police sources said. *Tina Moore*

## Off-duty officer held in ‘rape’

An off-duty NYPD cop was arrested for allegedly raping and strangling someone close to him, sources told The Post on Saturday.

Samuel Sierra, 35, was arrested around 7:20 p.m. Friday night in East Harlem and charged with first-degree rape, second-degree strangulation and third-degree assault, police confirmed, calling the attack “domestic in nature.”

He allegedly attacked a family member or a partner, according to a source who wouldn’t disclose additional details of the incident.

Sierra was expected to be arraigned Saturday in Manhattan Criminal Court. He was suspended without pay pending trial.

He joined the NYPD in 2016, city records show. *Rich Calder*

# COP PURGE IS

## Untangling OT web of sleaze

### At least 2 other women involved

By TINA MOORE

More female officers in disgraced ex-Chief of Department Jeffrey Maddrey’s orbit pulled down massive overtime and other perks, The Post has learned.

The driver for the former top uniformed cop made an eye-popping \$163,414 in OT last year — and resigned days after The Post exposed her boss’ alleged sleazy conduct at police headquarters, records show.

Detective Ingrid Sanders (bottom right) was the seventh-highest overtime earner in the department, boosting her total salary last fiscal year to \$352,462, records show.

That put her pay not far behind Lt. Quathisha Epps, the top earner who made \$403,515, including \$204,453 in OT. Epps filed an explosive Equal Employment Opportunity Commission complaint accusing Maddrey of giving her overtime shifts in exchange for sex, The Post revealed in a front-page exclusive Sunday.

On the day of The Post’s inquiry, Maddrey quit. Sanders was immediately transferred from One Police Plaza to a Queens precinct and filed for retirement on Dec. 23, The Post found in police documents.

Sanders is a first-grade detective — the top grade — who served in the chief of department’s office since December 2022. She followed Maddrey there from the Patrol Services Bureau. She didn’t return multiple messages.

Maddrey also sought favors for a second detective, Ada Reyes, The Post has learned.

Epps, Maddrey’s personnel manager, told The Post that part of her OT was devoted to taking care of Reyes (top right).

“The overtime that he would give me he

would tell me to buy her things like get her some towels and things from Walmart, a microwave, and stuff like that so she doesn’t have to come out of her pocket,” Epps said. “I make the overtime and then I give things to her.”

“He would have me go apartment hunting with her,” Epps said. “I would be at work and he would tell me to get up and go with her to look for an apartment.”

Eventually, Epps claimed, Maddrey told her to rent an apartment that was in her adult children’s names on the Lower East Side to Reyes and her family because they were having trouble finding housing. Two sources confirmed the apartment arrangement to The Post.

Reyes made \$42,500 as a new police officer in 2019, but her pay jumped to \$154,405 in 2024, including \$55,923 in OT, city records show.

When Reyes came to work at NYPD headquarters in 2023, Maddrey told Epps to put her somewhere other than his 13th-floor office, Epps told The Post.

“Ingrid [Sanders] and I worked directly for him, and he was very specific not to put Reyes in the office,” Epps said. “He didn’t want her and Ingrid bumping heads.”

Reyes didn’t return multiple phone and text messages seeking comment. Nobody was at the apartment when The Post visited. A neighbor confirmed she and her husband lived there after looking at a photograph of her.

Maddrey demanded “unwanted sexual favors in exchange for overtime opportunities” from Epps between June 2023 and Dec. 16, 2024, the EEOC complaint alleges.

At a Friday press conference, Maddrey’s lawyer, Lambros Lambrou, called Epps a “self-professed swinger” who is under investigation for “stealing time.”



MADDREY



EPPS





# OUT OF THE BLUE

## Tisch boots top NYPD brass in major shakeup

By TINA MOORE  
Police Bureau Chief

Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch ousted dozens of NYPD bosses in a shocking Saturday purge, beginning with the department's Internal Affairs Bureau, a week after The Post revealed that top cop Jeffrey Maddrey was allegedly trading overtime for sex at police headquarters.

Deputy Chief Chris Morello, the No. 2 boss at the famed watchdog bureau whose mission is to weed out bad cops, was removed from his post, paperwork obtained by The Post shows.

This comes a week after Chief of Internal Affairs Miguel Iglesias was ejected the day of the Dec. 21 exposé in The Post.

Inspector Joseph Profeta, who was head of IAB's Group 1, was booted Saturday to Patrol Borough Brooklyn North, the documents show. The group investigates allegations regarding NYPD brass with the rank of captain or above.

"Tisch means business," a high-ranking source said. "She's cleaning up the mess and putting the department back on track."

The moves were made because of a "lack of oversight" by IAB, the source said.

### Told to 'beat' it

Inspector Michael Ricciardi of IAB Special Ops was also ousted and sent to Patrol Borough Manhattan North, the orders show.

Another dozen IAB bosses, ranging from lieutenants to sergeants, were sent packing to far-flung precincts across the city, the documents show.

Six members of Maddrey's office — five detectives and one police officer — were also booted in the bloodletting, most of them sent to walk the beat in public housing, the documents show.

The sweeping changes come after The Post revealed in a Sunday front-page story that Chief of Department Maddrey was alleg-

### Cleaning house

**Heads have rolled in the last week at 1PP under new Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch (below):**

- Chief of Department Jeffrey Maddrey — Quit
- Chief of Internal Affairs Miguel Iglesias — Forced out
- IAB Deputy Chief Chris Morello — Transferred
- IAB Group 1 Inspector Joseph Profeta — Transferred
- IAB Special Ops Inspector Michael Ricciardi — Transferred
- 17 IAB cops — Transferred
- Deputy Commish of Public Information Tarik Sheppard — Demoted
- 500 improperly transferred cops — Reverted to original posts



edly granting overtime for sex to Lt. Quathisha Epps, who raked in more than \$400,000 this year.

"If you want to show that you are genuinely trying to change the face of the department and get rid of all of Maddrey's cronies, this is the best way to do it," a police officer with more than 20 years on the job said.

Earlier this month, Tisch ordered 500 officers who had been "improperly transferred" to go back to their regular assignments, an internal police memo obtained by The Post shows.

The practice was known as "telephone message transfers" and led to a lack of boots on the ground in some areas and therefore slower response times, the Dec. 9 memo stated.

Epps claimed in an exclusive interview with The Post that Mad-

drey, the highest ranking uniformed officer in the NYPD, coerced her to have sex in his office between eight and 10 times, in exchange for the massive overtime.

Her lawyer, Eric Sanders, filed a discrimination complaint with the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission, a precursor to a lawsuit. Maddrey abruptly retired the day of The Post report.

He claimed through his lawyer on Friday that he had a "consensual, adult relationship" with Epps, but denied her accusation of "coercion."

The lawyer, Lambros Lambrou, said Maddrey had no authority to sign off on overtime pay.

In response, Epps' attorney told The Post, "This clown is a f-king disgrace. We have a treasure trove of digital data that will hopefully bring this degenerate to justice."



Paul Martinka

**JIG IS UP:** The 13th-floor One Police Plaza office of ousted Chief of Department Jeffrey Maddrey was scoured by investigators following claims that he made an underling have sex with him.

## Ousted chief's office combed

By TINA MOORE

Investigators searched a top floor of NYPD headquarters last week, seeking evidence in the tawdry sex-for-overtime scandal exposed by The Post, sources said.

The sleuths performed a crime scene analysis in the 13th-floor office of recently ousted Chief of Department Jeffrey Maddrey at One Police Plaza, where he allegedly preyed on Lt. Quathisha Epps and demanded sexual favors from her in exchange for green-lighting her staggering overtime pay, a source said.

The investigators likely were looking for evidence of sexual abuse, a potential felony, a source said.

Epps alleged in an Equal Opportunity Complaint that Maddrey, the force's top uniformed cop, had sex with her eight to 10 times in his office.

"She's alleging it was coerced. That's nonconsensual," an ex-NYPD official said of a possible criminal charge in the case.

Maddrey's lawyer denied the allegations on Friday, insisting the ex-NYPD honcho had a "consensual" relationship with Epps and that he was weighing a civil suit against her.

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg's office announced last week it is probing the devastating allegations against Maddrey, and a police source said the feds are also probing the sex-for-overtime scandal.

An NYPD spokesperson said Saturday, "The NYPD takes all allegations of sexual misconduct and overtime abuse seriously, and is thoroughly investigating this matter."

Epps previously told The Post that Maddrey first propositioned her in June 2023, telling his underling he wanted to have anal sex with her. He then allegedly bent her over the couch in his office and violently pulled down her pants before reaching in a locker to pull out a bottle of KY-Jelly, she said.

He then had sex with her even after she said "stop," Epps alleged.



# 'No change' after son's 2020 death



By CHRIS HARRIS

The torching death of a woman sleeping on a Brooklyn train has stirred up painful memories for a still-grieving mother — and left her outraged that the MTA hasn't learned its lesson.

When news of the shocking subway killing reached her in Arizona, Vicki Goble, 73, immediately thought about her son, Garrett Goble, who died in 2020 when someone started a fire on a No. 2 train that he was operating.

"For me, there were shades of remembering my son and what he went through working for the MTA," Goble told The Post on Friday. "I just can't imagine there were people on the train that just watched this guy do this, and did nothing to try to stop him."

## A fighting chance

Garret Goble, 36, a married father of two sons, had just started his shift as a motorman on March 27, 2020, when a career criminal loaded a trash-filled shopping cart onto the train and set it ablaze.

The six-year MTA veteran navigated the blazing train through the blackened subway tunnels to a Harlem station, where he helped evacuate more than a dozen passengers.

He later died from smoke inhalation.

The pain of his death forced Vicki Goble to leave her Flatlands, Brooklyn, home in 2022 for Arizona, she said.

"They did nothing," Vicki Goble said of the MTA, which still does not put fire extinguishers inside workers' cabins — as she and Garrett Goble's wife, Delilah, have been calling on the agency to do.

"I'm mad, because it's like they forgot about my son," Vicki Goble said. "It's a shame that more things haven't been done to improve fire safety on the subways, for the workers and the riders. They wanna do all this modernization of the stations, but without the workers and people who use it, you won't have a subway system."



"They could at least put a fire extinguisher in the cabins of the conductors. That might give people a fighting chance to put out a fire. The people that are in power tend to forget where they came from."



**REPEAT:** The pain of losing motorman Garrett Goble when his train (above) was torched in 2020 was stirred up by the recent burning of a woman (below).

Handouts

# 'Burning' rage at MTA

She said the MTA worker operating last weekend's train may have been able "to save that woman if they had acted."

## Painful reminder

The woman killed in last week's subway car fire has only been described as homeless. Guatemalan migrant Sebastian Zapeta-Calil has been arrested for the attack.

Nathaniel Avinger, who started the 2020 fire, has yet to stand trial on murder and arson charges.

An MTA spokesperson said fire extinguishers are only "kept along the tracks and within the booths at stations" — both areas the public cannot access.

"The MTA isn't doing anything," Vicki Goble said. "The system is so antiquated for a city this size."

# Vagrant 'burned self' at station

The homeless man who sustained burns to both legs and his upper body after catching fire inside Penn Station late Friday is now believed to have set himself ablaze.

Police and MTA sources told The Post on Saturday there is no evidence that a second person was involved in the shocking incident.

The 67-year-old man, who police have yet to identify, was found on fire by first responders at around 8 p.m. in a secluded tunnel not far from NJ Transit Tracks 11 and 12.

The man was rushed to NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center in stable condition. On Saturday, medical personnel upgraded his condition to critical.

The victim told police he awoke to find he was on fire, and claimed the blaze was set by someone.

It remains unclear how the fire began, but no criminality appears to be involved, sources said.

Friday's shocking incident unfolded just days after a still-unidentified woman was torched to death while sleeping on an F train in Brooklyn on Dec. 23. In response, the Guardian Angels on Sunday will announce the revival of their subway patrols.

Homeless individuals inside Penn Station told The Post many of them carry matches and lighters, as they smoke crack or synthetic marijuana, such as K2.

Chris Harris  
and Georgett Roberts

# Cab curb jump kills stroller

A Long Island woman who was walking on a Queens sidewalk Saturday was struck and killed by a yellow cab that jumped a curb after a crash, cops said.

The 23-year-old taxi driver was in a Toyota Rav4

at 115th Avenue and Lefferts Boulevard in South Ozone Park around 3:10 a.m. when he collided with a Honda Accord that was being driven by a 25-year-old man, cops said.

The crash sent the taxi ca-

reening onto the sidewalk, where the vehicle hit the 51-year-old woman and two men, 44 and 49.

The woman was "pinned" against a fence by the vehicle (right), a police source said. All three were rushed

to Jamaica Hospital, where the woman died.

She was identified as Vidya Dookran-Franco of Merrick, cops said.

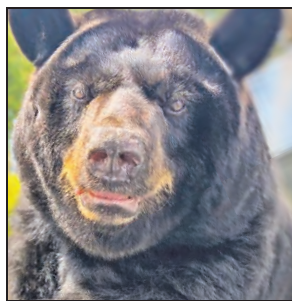
The men suffered minor injuries. There were no arrests.

Tina Moore



SG For NY Post





## HONEY

Star attraction gone.

# LI animal 'neglect' site under DA probe

The Suffolk County District Attorney's office is probing allegations of animal neglect at the taxpayer-funded Holtsville Ecology Center in Long Island, following The Post's reporting on claims its staff mistreated a 27-year-old bear named Honey before she was euthanized last month.

DA Ray Tierney said his office is investigating allegations brought by former employees and advocates against the state-licensed animal refuge in the Town of Brookhaven, including that several creatures there have died from a lack of proper veterinary care, following a request for an independent probe by Supervisor Dan Panico.

"We were asked to look into it so we will," Tierney told The Post, declining to discuss details.

The refuge, which is licensed by the state Department of Environmental Conservation and curiously run by the town's Highway Department, will be under "a lot more oversight now" by the town board members and the supervisor's staff, Panico vowed.

The DEC is conducting its own probe and previously said it has interviewed some of the eight former workers who shared their concerns with the advocacy group Humane Long Island.

The 3.5-acre refuge, which opened in 1974 on top of a former landfill and is free to the public, has roughly 100 sick or injured animals in its care.

The center came under fire in recent weeks after Honey, its star attraction, lost the use of the rear part of her body.

Matthew Sedacca

# 'COPS BEATEN' UP

By GEORGIA WORRELL and TINA MOORE

New York's Finest suffered a startling 4,600 injuries at the hands of violent suspects in the first nine months of 2024 — the most since the NYPD started keeping such statistics in 2016.

The frightening figure is 13% higher than the 4,077 officer injuries sustained citywide during the same period in 2023, and a whopping 60% higher than the 2,886 logged at that point in 2021.

Between April and June, 1,640 on- and off-duty cops were hurt by perps — the highest number ever recorded in a single quarter.

The following quarter was almost as bad, with 1,618 officer injuries, the second-most on record.

The majority of the 2024 injuries — 4,285 — were minor, but 192 were considered "substantial" and required treatment at a hospital, and 123 were "serious" enough to warrant hospital admission.

One top cop blamed the influx of more than 58,000 migrant criminals into the Big Apple.

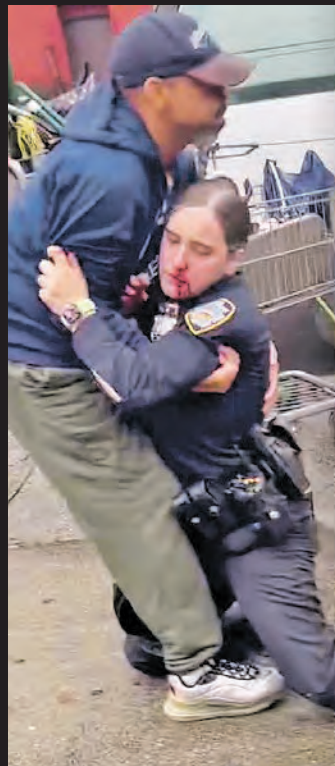
"When the laws dictate that there are no meaningful consequences to assaulting police officers and we are housing that very same criminal element free of charge, of course there will be many more interactions with the very same violent individuals we couldn't prosecute or deport," Sergeants Benevolent Association president Vincent Vallelong said.

"We have a notorious gang that is poisoning our city and they are given free passes, jeopardizing the lives of our law enforcement officers and compromising public safety," he told The Post.

Said one officer with more than two decades on the job, "A lot more migrants [assault cops] than regular citizens."

As of last month, nearly 8% of the 759,218 illegal migrants living in the city had been convicted of a crime or had charges pending, according to jaw-dropping ICE data exposed by The Post.

In one particularly ugly incident, two groups of brawling mi-



In the first nine months of 2024, New York's Finest suffered a startling 4,600 injuries at the hands of violent suspects — the most since 2017 for the three-quarter period:

YEAR	INJURIES
2024	4,600
2023	4,077
2022	3,490
2021	2,886
2020	2,483
2019	3,128
2018	3,131
2017	2,995

Source: NYPD "Use of Force" data

## Record high NYPD injuries

grants ganged up on a pair of officers who arrived to break up a May 19 fight inside of the Roosevelt Hotel in Midtown. Four migrants were arrested — three with rap sheets prior to the incident, according to sources.

### Repeat offenders

Beyond violent migrants, critics cited bail reform and soft-on-crime prosecutors like Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg for the surge in cop assaults.

"The de-carceral approach taken by both district attorneys and judges toward perpetrators who assault police officers is the main driver behind this ever-increasing rise in assaults," said retired NYPD Lt. John Macari. "The public sees no one is going to jail for it, so it's 'I can do what I want.'"

"Shoplifters, drug dealers, protestors and migrants have no fear of putting their hands on anyone — including the police," he added.

Police Benevolent Association president Patrick Hendry agreed, saying, "Far too many routine calls are turning into all-out brawls, and the reason is obvious: our justice system keeps releasing the same violent, repeat offenders, and they keep attacking cops when we try to lock them up again."

Repeat criminal Ernst Delma, for example, was on probation Aug. 8 when he viciously punched rookie officer Mary Fay to the ground in Soundview, The Bronx, according to authorities.

Delma, who had numerous prior arrests for assault and burglary — including a random slugging of a 57-year-old woman in Midtown in July 2022, police sources said.



**MIGRANT LINK:** Cops blamed recent violence on migrant crime, like in a Times Square beating (above), and recidivists, like those who attacked Mary Fay (left) and Rich Wong (below).



On Nov. 19, career criminal Gary Worthy was stopped by cops after robbing a Jamaica, Queens, smoke shop at gunpoint. Worthy, 57, shot at officers, hitting the thigh of veteran cop Rich Wong, who fired back, killing Worthy.

Worthy had been on lifetime parole after recently serving two stints in state prison.

Between August and September, cops from the 46th Precinct suffered the most injuries — 51 — out of the city's 78 precincts, according to the "Use of Force" data.

"The 46 is one of the more violent commands, and these perps just feel like there's no consequences," explained the officer with 20 years on the job.

Overall, the number of times at least one cop or perp was injured increased by 20% in the first nine months of 2024 from last year.

## Chess whiz checks out over dress code

Chess titan Magnus Carlsen quit a pair of tournaments in New York Friday after the sport's governing body told him he couldn't wear jeans while participating in his matches.

The International Chess Federation said Carlsen had violated its dress code by donning denim while competing at the World Rapid Championship.

But the global No. 1 chess player refused to change even after the chief arbiter had requested he do so and fined him \$200.

Carlsen (pictured at near left) subsequently was not paired for round nine of the tournament, but he could have returned to compete in the following round, according to Chess.com.

In addition to quitting the

World Rapid Chess Championship over the fashion fracas, Carlsen also pulled out of the Blitz Chess Championships, which are set to take place after the current tournament.

The dispute with the tournament's officials ultimately had been a "matter of principle," Carlsen told the chess outlet Take Take. Matthew Sedacca





# President finally sends his 'regrets'

By RICH CALDER

President Biden privately regrets dropping out of this year's presidential election and reportedly insists he could've beaten President-elect Donald Trump if he hadn't been pushed out of the race by his own party.

Biden and some of his aides have boasted to confidantes "in recent days" that the president should've stayed in the race and could've won a second term, The Washington Post reported Saturday, citing multiple anonymous sources briefed on the conversations.

Instead, the 82-year-old buckled to pressure by Democratic Party elites to drop out of the race in July because of poor poll numbers and his rocky June 27 debate performance, in which he gave incoherent answers and appeared to stumble over his words.

## Resisting 'blame'

Vice President Kamala Harris replaced Biden on the top of the Democratic ticket and was handily defeated by Trump, who'll be sworn in for a second White House stint on Jan. 20.

"Aides say the president has been careful not to place blame on Harris or her campaign," the outlet reported.

However, the president all

but admitted during a "CBS News Sunday Morning" interview in August that former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi led the charge because Dems in the House and Senate were worried that he'd drag down their chances of being re-elected.

And in September he told "The View" that he was confident he would have defeated Trump in November.

Many Democrats blame Harris' loss on Biden's insistence not to drop out sooner.

"Biden ran on the promise that he was going to be a transitional president, and in effect, have one term before handing it off to another generation," Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) told The Washington Post.

"I think his running again broke that concept — the conceptual underpinning of the theory that he would end the Trump appeal, he would defeat Trumpism and enable a new era."

Biden in recent weeks has admitted

to some of the myriad gaffes he's made in office, including that he "screwed up" during the debate and was "stupid" for not getting credit by putting his name on the pandemic relief checks

his administration sent out in 2021 — as Trump did.



AFP via Getty Images

# 'Million-dollar babies': Don

President-elect Donald Trump on Saturday accused Democrats of paying celebrities millions of dollars to endorse Vice President Kamala Harris — including MSNBC host Al Sharpton, who he ripped as a "con artist."

"Are the Democrats allowed to pay \$11,000,000, \$2,000,000, and \$500,000 to get the ENDORSEMENT of Beyoncé, Oprah, and Reverend Al?" Trump posted on his Truth Social platform.

Beyoncé joined Harris (both at right), as did Oprah Winfrey, on the campaign trail.

Sharpton's National Action

Network nonprofit received \$500,000 from Harris weeks before the interview, according to The Washington Free Beacon. Reps for Sharpton didn't immediately return messages Saturday.

Winfrey has insisted she wasn't "paid a dime" by Harris' campaign — saying her production company netted \$1 million for its town-hall work.

The campaign paid Beyoncé's production company \$165,000 in November — a month after both women appeared in Houston, according to reports.

Rich Calder



AP

# DJT:

By JON LEVINE

President-elect Donald Trump told The Post on Saturday that he supports work visas for highly skilled employees, appearing to side with Elon Musk in the roiling intra-MAGA debate on the issue.

"I've always liked the visas, I have always been in favor of the visas. That's why we have them," Trump said by phone, referring to the H-1B program, which permits companies to hire foreign workers in specialty occupations.

"I have many H-1B visas on my properties. I've been a believer in H-1B. I have used it many times. It's a great program," added Trump, who restricted access to foreign worker visas in his first administration and has been critical of the program in the past.

## Musk 'will go to war'

Musk and other tech barons argued this week that the H-1B visa program is critical to ensuring American companies can find highly skilled labor that may not be easily available in the US workforce.

MAGA hard-liners want Trump to follow through with his promise to promote US labor and impose tougher restrictions on immigration and nonimmigrant foreign workers.

Trump's Saturday comments come a day after Musk vowed to go to "war" on the issue, telling one mocking opponent to go "f--k yourself."

The flare-up happened after X user Steven Mackey jabbed Musk's defense of the program by using the billionaire's own words against him.

"Stop trying to optimize something that shouldn't exist," Mackey wrote, echoing a line often used by Musk.

Musk — who was born in Pretoria, South Africa, and immigrated to Canada at the age of 18 before becoming a US citizen 2002 — fired back: "The reason I'm in America along with so many critical people who built SpaceX, Tesla, and hundreds of other companies that made America strong is because of H1B."

"Take a big step back and F--K YOURSELF in the face. I will go



to war on this issue the likes of which you cannot possibly comprehend," he added, paraphrasing a memorable line from the 2008 comedy "Tropic Thunder."

## 'Keep winning'

The tech billionaire has been criticized by MAGA diehards, including Laura Loomer and Ann Coulter, who say the H-1B program has been abused and needs to be sharply curtailed.

And influential voices around Trump have publicly begun turning on Musk as well.

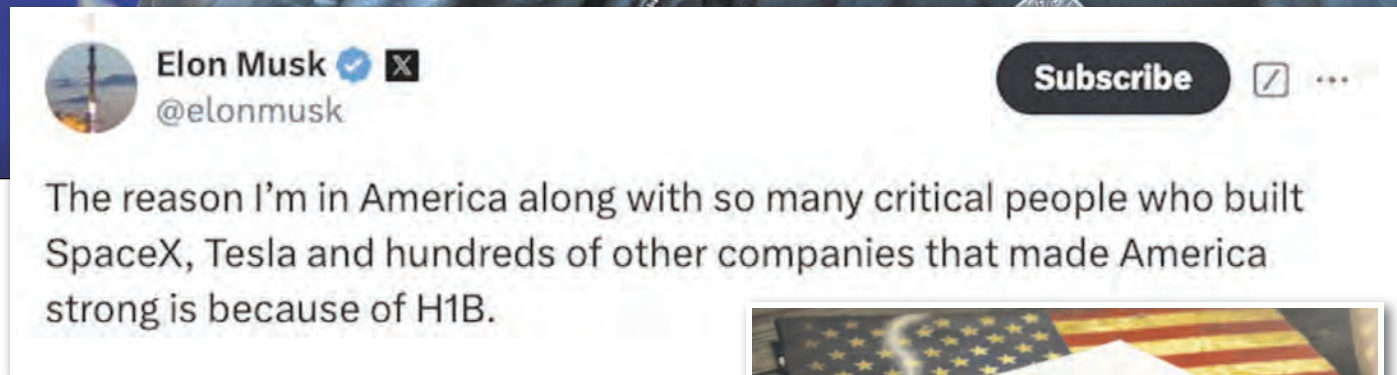
"Someone please notify 'Child



# THEY'RE HIRED!

## Trump backs Elon in specialty visa fight

**SKILLED DEBATE:** President-elect Donald Trump tells The Post he's in favor of H-1B visas for specialized workers, after Elon Musk defended the program against MAGA hard-liners.



Protective Services'— need to do a 'wellness check' on this toddler," former White House counselor Steve Bannon jeered at the X boss in a Saturday post to his account on Gettr.

Musk said his passion for the issue stemmed from wanting America to remain competitive and "keep winning" by attracting

"the top ~0.1% of engineering talent."

Vivek Ramaswamy, who is slated to run the Department of Government Efficiency with Musk, backed Musk and offered a critique of American society.

"American culture has venerated mediocrity over excellence," Ramaswamy wrote on X.



## Michelle's message response is mixed

Michelle Obama sparked a wave of online criticism after she shared a New Year's message with her followers on Instagram.

The former first lady (inset) posted a video Friday wishing her followers "Happy Holidays" and highlighting the work of the Barack Obama Presidential Center as 2024 comes to a close. But critics noted with disapproval that her video begins on a sour note.

"Happy holidays, everyone. I know it's been a difficult few months for so many of us, and that folks are feeling a little bit anxious and uncertain,"

Obama says in the video.

"But even during these tough times, there are plenty of reasons to stay hopeful," she adds, before mentioning programs operated by the Obama Foundation.

Hundreds of Instagram users commented on Obama's video within hours after it went live. Several supporters of President-elect Donald Trump read into Obama's comments. Their takeaway was that she had Trump's victory in mind when she spoke and they made their objections known.

"Michelle, America is excited about what's to come: a new horizon and prosperity for the nation. 2025-2029! No anxiety here," one user replied.

"We are certain it won't be worse than your husband's administration or the Biden administration," said a third. "That we are CERTAIN," another wrote.

Obama's supporters expressed gratitude for her video and shared heart emojis and other positive comments.

"Thank you for your message of hope," one replied. "It is so much needed."

Fox News





# Overtime & again



**STAGGERING:** Kashwayne Burnett (right), a Department of Social Services bookkeeper, logged 3,303 hours of overtime. He is one of the many rank-and-file workers, whose duties include assisting migrants, to log thousands of hours of OT.

## Extra, extra

The top 5 NYC workers in overtime earnings all work in areas affected by the migrant surge:

EMPLOYEE	OT HOURS
Kashwayne Burnett bookkeeper Social Services	3,303
Bardhan Pijush caseworker Social Services	3,137
Gavin McAuley housekeeper Homeless Services	2,664
Wilson Parra locksmith Correction	2,481
Dionne Gray community coord. Child Services	2,420
Agnieszka Wasek mortuary tech. Health Dept.	2,420



# HBO's founder Dolan passes

Charles Dolan, the billionaire founder of HBO and Cablevision, whose family owns Madison Square Garden, has died at age 98, his family said Saturday.

Dolan passed away of natural causes according to a statement reported by Newsday, which has been a Dolan family property since 2008.

"It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of our beloved father and patriarch, Charles Dolan, the visionary founder of HBO and Cablevision," the statement reads.

Dolan's career began in New York City in 1952 when he was just 26 years old.

Dolan, the father of New York Knicks Executive Chairman James Dolan, founded Sterling Manhattan Cable in 1962, which had exclusive agreements with New York pro sports teams, including the NBA Knicks and NHL Rangers.

Ten years later, in 1972, the Air Force veteran established Home Box Office, the first premium cable channel. The following year, in 1973, Dolan founded Cablevision, the company of which he was still the Chairman.

Dolan, whose family has a net worth of about \$5.4 billion according to Forbes, also founded News12 in New York City, the first 24-hour cable channel for local news in the US.

He is survived by six children, 19 grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

His wife, Helen Ann Dolan, died in 2023.

Shane Galvin

# Migrant crisis costing taxpayers \$139M

By RICH CALDER

New York City's biggest overtime hogs for a second straight year are largely rank-and-file workers responsible for tackling the Big Apple's \$6-billion-plus migrant crisis, The Post has learned.

Fifty-one of the 100 city employees who racked up the most OT during the fiscal year ending June 30 work at the Department of Social Services and Department of Homeless Services, and their duties include assisting migrants, an examination of city payroll records shows.

Each worker accumulated at least 1,851 hours in extra pay.

Kashwayne Burnett, a DSS bookkeeper, led the way, working 3,303 hours of overtime. That averages to roughly 14 hours a day, seven days a week. The 10-year

veteran's \$164,760 in overtime pay more than tripled his \$60,445 base salary.

Bardhan Pijush, a DSS caseworker, came in second with 3,137 extra hours, while Gavin McAuley, a DHS housekeeper, finished third, clocking 2,664 hours of OT.

In the previous fiscal year, 47 employees at both departments were among the 100 who worked the most OT, a huge leap from fiscal 2022 when only three workers made the list.

The migrant crisis "has been a major drain" on all municipal resources, but the DSS' and DHS' overtime hours and payouts are "absolutely staggering," City Councilman Robert Holden (D-Queens) told The Post. "We simply can't continue down this path," he said. "It has to end, and taxpayers are sick of it."

DSS and DHS staffers have been especially stretched thin by the more than 226,900 asylum seekers and other border crossers who've reached the Big Apple since April 2022 — and many have seen their workloads soar because of it.

As of Friday the city's migrant-crisis tab was \$6.5 billion, and 53,800 migrants were still in city care at taxpayer-funded shelters as of Dec. 15, city officials said.

Both agencies in fiscal 2024 racked up a jaw-dropping 2,959,114 hours of overtime combined, totaling more than \$139.4 million in payouts, records show.

That's a staggering 67% increase from the 1,770,634 overtime hours worked by DSS and DHS staffers in fiscal 2021, which predated the migrant crisis, while the agencies workers' earnings for extra shifts have nearly doubled since then,

from \$72.3 million.

It's also a 10% increase from fiscal 2023, when the agencies' staff combined to rack up 2,690,659 additional hours, totaling \$123.1 million in overtime earnings.

New York taxpayers are still on the hook for picking up the tab for the Biden administration's border blunders, warned Ken Girardin, director of research for the non-profit think tank Empire Center for Public Policy.

DSS spokesperson Neha Sharma said the agency is "extremely grateful" to its staffers who, "despite truly unprecedented challenges, have stepped up and worked long hours to provide necessary support for our newest arrivals and long-term New Yorkers in need."

Pijush did not respond to requests for comment. McAuley could not be reached for comment.

# NASA sun craft takes the heat      Paying price for holiday binge

Icarus has nothing on NASA.

The space agency's Parker Solar Probe survived the latest endeavor in its mission to "touch" the sun — flying just 3.8 million miles above the surface on Christmas Eve, its closest-ever approach. The spacecraft flew more

than seven times closer to the sun than ever and soared through the scorching solar atmosphere at 430,000 miles per hour — "faster than any human-made object has ever moved," the agency said Friday.

After two days of silence, the agency received a bea-

con tone confirming the spacecraft was safe late Thursday.

Unlike Icarus, a character from Greek mythology who died flying too close to the sun, Parker endured temperatures of up to 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit during its flyby. Nicole Rosenthal

Americans spent a record-breaking amount this holiday season, and now credit card debt is hitting an all-time high.

Consumers are "clearly on track" to smash record-breaking spending levels after doling out as much as \$989 billion over the last

two months, a National Retail Federation report said.

"Job and wage gains, modest inflation and a healthy balance sheet have led to solid holiday spending," National Retail Federation's chief economist, Jack Kleinhenz, said in a statement.

Data show that the uptick

kicked off in November — with Mastercard determining that shoppers couldn't stay away from Black Friday and other promotions.

A shocking 10% of the shopping came in the five days before Christmas Eve, the financial services company said. Katie Donlevy





**AMBER DAZA**

Alleges unwanted advances.

## Clarke's barmaid sex suit

A P.J. Clarke's general manager sexually harassed and assaulted a bartender, and even tried to persuade her to ditch her hubby in a sick bid to "ruin" the woman's marriage, according to a new lawsuit.

Amber Daza, 31, was subjected to "unwelcome sexual advances" by her supervisor, Kairsten Nunn, at the Lincoln Square location of the famous, century-old bar and grill starting in April, according to the Manhattan federal court filing.

Nunn allegedly visited Daza's apartment, insisted on staying overnight, and told Daza she might not "be able to control herself" if she slept over.

Nunn said she could give Daza better bartending shifts to make more money and "be near her more often," according to the lawsuit.

Lawyers for the parties did not immediately respond to inquiries from The Post.

*Deirdre Bardolf  
and Kathianne Boniello*

## Gal pal sues over fortune

A Manhattan real estate billionaire's son should be barred from getting a share of his father's fortune because he lied to try to cut his dad's lover out of the will, she argued in court papers.

Natalia Vostrikova insisted in new filings that Steven Gurney-Goldman had gone against his wealthy dad Allan's wishes when he made allegations she neglected the ailing man, who died alone in Russia in January 2022 at 78.

The son claimed Vostrikova neglected his dad in a bid to hasten his death.

*Kathianne Boniello*

# 'Equal-\$ retaliation led to suicide try' BREAKING NEWS BY ANCHOR



By KATHIANNE BONIELLO

She was the "sunshine" of her office — until she asked for equal pay.

A News12 anchor claims her simple claim for equity resulted in such harsh blowback from her network that she had a psychotic break and ended up on suicide watch.

Annalisa Klebers, an award-winning journalist who anchored the morning news for Altice USA-owned News12 stations in Connecticut and New Jersey, said the sudden change in her boss' demeanor came after she asked about a new contract with better pay than the \$71,000 she'd been getting.

What resulted, she claims, was months of being "gaslit" by supervisors, exclusion from meetings and having more and demeaning work piled on her — including fixing her co-anchor's many typos.

"What management did to me changed my life forever. I almost lost my life. My children came very close to almost losing their mother," she told The Post. "I felt like my whole world was caving in."

Klebers, a 42-year-old mother of three, was hired at the station in April 2018. Her supervisors praised her intelligence and work ethic, call-

ing her the "sunshine of the newsroom," according to a claim filed with the American Arbitration Association and obtained by The Post.

During the pandemic, she was often one of just two people in the building, responsible for everything from covering then-Gov. Andrew Cuomo's daily news conferences to "making sure the cameras, lights, and teleprompter were working," according to the claim. The efforts earned her a \$4,200 bonus.

### 'Alienated'

But co-workers were getting double that amount, she learned. When she voiced concerns to her managers, they turned on her, she claims.

"I felt humiliated," she said. "I was being alienated from the rest of the news team. Management began blaming technical difficulties on me that I had no control over."

"I did everything managers asked of me and more," she added. "This all while my contract and pay raise were being held over my head. It felt like management wanted me to quit or react poorly to the things they were doing to me."

She was cut out of a promotional advertisement featuring storm cov-



**'DERAILED':**  
Annalisa Klebers (bottom) was a popular News12 anchor (far and near left) but was sent "into a spiral" by management when she requested better pay, she claims in a lawsuit.

erage she helmed, while a male colleague who called out that day was edited into the footage, she claimed.

Klebers said she put in a formal complaint but then decided to resign. But Altice refused to accept her departure, claiming it was required to investigate her complaint. "It all sent me into a spiral," she said. "It was too much."

"On Friday, May 13, 2022, I became very ill," Klebers said. "I had a psychotic break. I was suicidal. This all happened in front of my husband and children and even my sister."

She spent six days in the psych ward on suicide watch, and was fired while out on disability.

"Her career was completely derailed, such to the point that she does not see any avenue back to an anchor desk, not at News12 or any media," said her attorney, Anthony Mango. Klebers wants the American Arbitration Association to award her the income she would have made as an anchor.

An Altice spokesperson said, "Any gender discrimination claims are entirely baseless, and we will defend against them vigorously in the appropriate forum."

*kboniello@nypost.com*



Courtesy of Annalisa Klebers; Dennis A. Clark



# 2025 B'way, movie & TV resolutions

## Our critic's wish list



**MOVIES**



**BROADWAY**

**ENOUGH'S ENOUGH:** No more superhero movies or British shows on Broadway.



**JOHNNY OLEKSINSKI**

**O**N Tuesday night, the Times Square ball will drop.

I, meanwhile, am praying that next year the entertainment industry doesn't drop the ball. Again.

Here are my overly optimistic New Year's resolutions for movies, Broadway and TV.

■ **At the movies: Cull the superhero flicks**

One of the most obvious lessons of 2024 is that audiences have grown weary of comic book stories. "Madame Web," "Kraven The Hunter" and "Joker: Folie à Deux" all deafeningly flopped.

Delusional Sony Pictures CEO Tony Vinciguerra recently claimed that " 'Madame Web' underperformed in the theaters because the press just crucified it. It was not a bad film, and it did great on Netflix." Come back to us, Tony! Your soulless schlock was a worldwide punchline.

Marvel, on the other hand, cooled its jets in 2024, only releasing "Deadpool & Wolverine," (above, left) which was a big, well-deserved hit.

You see? Scaling back, building

anticipation and not making the same old formulaic movie (the Ryan Reynolds/Hugh Jackman film was a buddy comedy) worked wonders.

Rival DC (Warner Bros.) is following suit, making the youthful reboot of "Superman" its sole 2025 release. Frankly, I could even do without that one.

So, why then is the Disney-owned Marvel dropping three films this year inside of five months?

"Captain America: Brave New World," "Thunderbolts" (whatever the hell that is) and "Fantastic Four: First Steps" will, they hope, return the MCU

to the glory days of 2019 when "Avengers: Endgame" grossed \$2.8 billion and "Black Panther" was nominated for Best Picture.

Never gonna happen. The moment has passed. Sayonara. Everybody should do some capes-and-spandex soul-searching in 2025.

■ **On Broadway: Chill with the British shows**

Reign it in, Britannia.

London imports have been coming in fast and furious since thea-

ters reopened in 2021.

A parade of Anglo flops passed by: "Back to the Future: The Musical," "Caroline, Or Change," "Life of Pi," "The Hills of California" and "Patriots" among them. Elton John's \$25 million "Tammy Faye" was just exorcised. Life won't be a cabaret for "Cabaret" (above, right).

There have been hits too — notably "Prima Facie," starring Jodie Comer, and "Merrily We Roll Along." And I wish the same success for the magnificent "Sunset Boulevard" with Nicole Scherzinger, which has the daunting task of selling the big, honkin' St. James into the summer.

More, sigh, are on the way. The overrated and annoying musical "Operation Mincemeat" and dismal "Stranger Things: The First Shadow" open in the spring. Every Broadway insider who's seen "Stranger Things" cannot stand it, and sales in London have fallen off a cliff. An auspicious start!

In 2025, power-hungry (and frequently inept) British producers and our new UK-based theater landlord, Ambassador Theatre

Group, need to wake up and realize that Broadway and the West End are not the same thing. Unless their goal is losing millions.

What do they say over there? Mind the gap.

■ **On TV: Please make a must-watch show**

This year, television abruptly became an afterthought.

What does it say about 2024 that the biggest smash was a seven-episode miniseries about a disturbed stalker ("Baby Reindeer," inset)?

That the era of peak TV is over. And we're back to base camp.

Viewers are now stuck with a mountain of niche fare that studios created to boost their streaming services, but nobody seems to be watching. "Shogun" is great, and yet I've never heard a single person talk about it. Ever. If a bonsai tree falls in a forest. . .

Water-cooler shows don't have to be dead, though, even if we're constantly told they are.

The TV pendulum needs to swing toward entertainment and big, bold storytelling rather than prestige and obnoxious messaging. That is, if they want eyeballs.

People are craving a weekly drama to talk about and obsess over. Give us a new "Game of Thrones." Well, one that's not "House of the Dragon."

See you next Sunday — and next year.



**TV**

## Social skills in decline

Remote work policies ushered in by the COVID-19 pandemic have taken a serious toll on employees' social and emotional well-being, a new study found.

Twenty-five percent of remote workers say their social skills declined since going fully remote, with millennials being the most susceptible to the harms of telecommuting, a Resume-Builder.com survey of 1,000 US workers found.

Transitioning to a remote set-up full-time has many employees struggling with behaviors and norms expected in social settings, including initiating conversations (18%), maintaining eye contact (16%) and participating in group discussions (15%), the November study found.

Nearly one in five remote workers reported their overall mental health has taken a nosedive, with almost two-thirds citing a lack of social connection as contributing to their psychological decline and 57% pointing to an increased sense of isolation.

Despite the drawbacks, most of the work-at-home set prefer to continue full-time remote work. The survey found just four in 10 would like to be in the office at least once a week.

*Deirdre Bardolf*

## Top 'hog at box office

"Sonic the Hedgehog 3" sprinted once again to the No. 1 spot on its second Friday in theaters, reeling in \$12.6 million, according to The Numbers.

"Mufasa: The Lion King" remained in second place, with earnings of \$12 million.

Gothic horror "Nosferatu," which was released on Wednesday, took third, with sales of \$7.25 million.

Landing in fourth was "Wicked," moving down a notch from last week and taking in \$6.83 million on its sixth Friday in theaters.

"Moana 2" fell down one spot to fifth, with a \$6.3 million-dollar take.

*Angela Barbuti*



# NO ESCAPING HIS 'ABUSE'

By SUSAN EDELMAN  
and DEIRDRE BARDOLF

A Queens public high-school teacher created a creepy “escape room” where he allegedly sexually abused a female student, according to a troubling report.

Scott Biski, a music teacher at Jamaica Gateway to the Sciences HS, also invited the girl to his home — calling it “the bat cave” — for sex when his wife and two kids were not home, investigators allege.

Biski, 50, began “grooming” the student when she was 14, a sophomore, and it culminated when she was a senior into “a sexual relationship,” charges a report by the special commissioner of investigation for city schools.

“I now understand that these weird hugs, embraces were actually just groping,” the now 25-year-old ex-student told investigators in 2022.

Biski arranged “makeshift dividers and old desks” in his music classroom and office, inviting students to hang out in his “escape room.”

There, Biski touched the student’s breasts and tried to kiss her, prompting the girl to pull away and “promptly” leave, the report says.

Biski would also invite the girl to his home to play board games with other kids. Once, she ar-



**SOUR NOTES:** Music teacher Scott Biski (left) built an “escape room” at Jamaica Gateway to the Sciences HS, a report says.

rived to find she was the only student there, the report says.

Biski also gave the girl lavish gifts, such as a flute that was only supposed to be lent to students, his favorite childhood book, new clothes and cash, including \$200 for Ugg boots, it says.

## Nearly 700 texts

The SCI found that he messaged the teen nearly 700 times, 82 times during school.

Biski told the girl to save his number under a fake name — Arthur Dent — “so as to not arouse suspicion,” she told investigators. Another student told SCI he believed the alias was Harvey Dent, a Batman villain whose alter ego was Two-Face.

Biski forcibly kissed and groped the student in his school office and forced her to

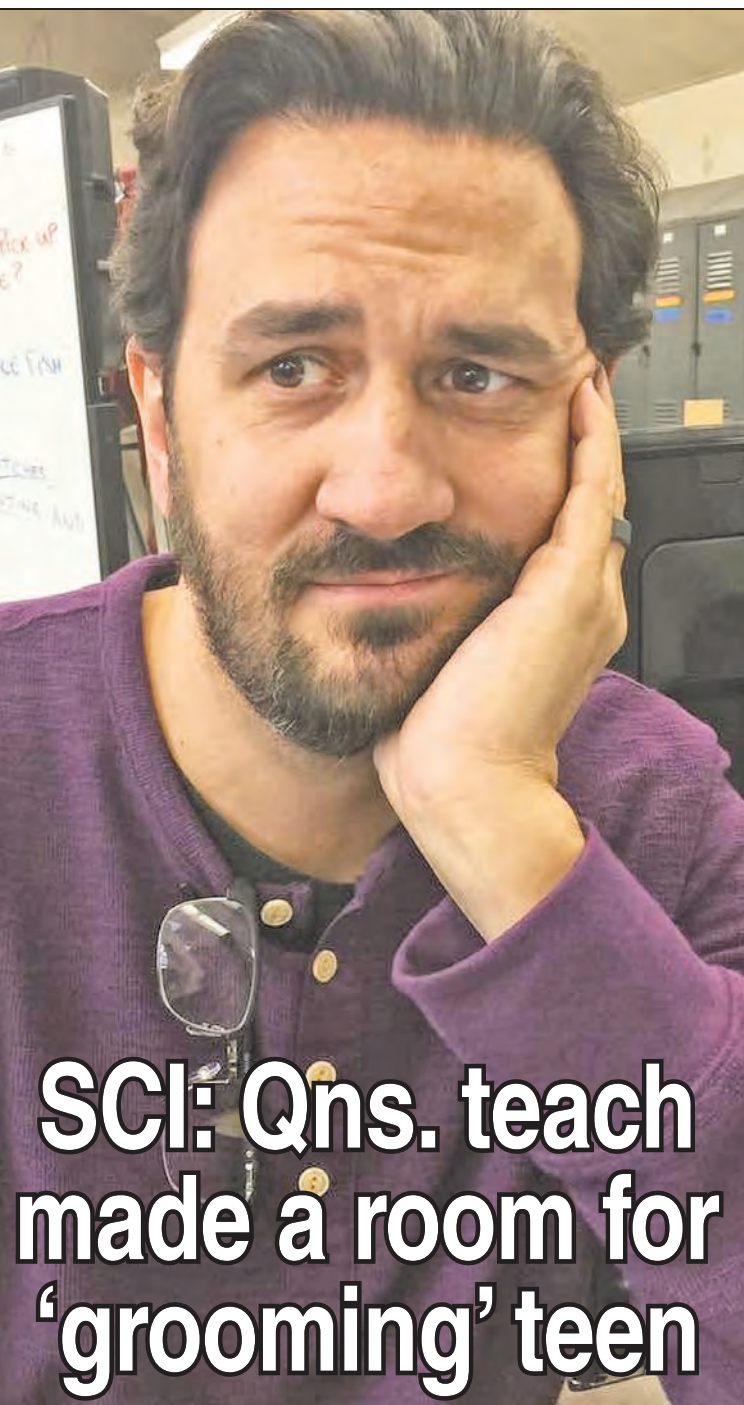
touch his erection, telling her, “That’s how you make me feel,” according to court documents and the SCI report.

Once she graduated, she told investigators, Biski would allegedly “pester” her into coming to his house when his wife and two kids were gone to engage in sex acts. And the perverted texts continued, she told them.

The student told investigators she was “disgusted” by his behavior because she saw Biski as a “father figure.”

The NYPD closed a criminal case against Biski because the student said the sexual contact was consensual and occurred after she turned 17, but the teacher’s behavior was “egregious, manipulative, and predatory,” the SCI charged.

Lawyers for Biski did not respond to inquiries.



## SCI: Qns. teach made a room for ‘grooming’ teen

# ‘Perv’ left vic in woods: cops Deliverer a ‘jerk’: suit

A 14-year-old Tennessee girl survived for two days last week in some Louisiana woods, after a creep who met her in a video game and used her for sex learned her age and ditched her there with a tent and some supplies, according to authorities.

Alexander Materne, 28, was pulled from a Christmas day family gathering by sheriff’s deputies and he admitted to abandoning the teen after they had engaged in sexual acts, according to the St. Charles Parish Sheriff’s Office.

The girl, whose name was not released, was found healthy Wednesday after the alleged perv showed deputies where he ditched her with a tent, food, and water two days earlier.

“You can’t make this stuff up. It’s a Christmas miracle that she was found

safe. This could’ve ended badly,” Tangipahoa, La., Parish Sheriff Gerald Sticker said.

Materne first met the girl while on-line gaming, took her from her house Monday and brought her to his St. Rose, La., home, according to officials.

While at Materne’s home, the pair engaged in sexual acts, at which time the girl revealed her age to the man, the officials said.

Materne then packed a tent, food and water, dropped the young girl off in the wilds of Tangipahoa Parish, and then went to celebrate Christmas with his family, officials said.

When the girl was missing for an extended period of time, her concerned family learned of the alleged relationship between her and Materne.

The family reached out to relatives of Materne and were able to get in contact with people who were at the Christmas party.

Sheriff’s deputies crashed that event and forced Materne to show them where he dropped off the girl, according to authorities. The girl was found in good health and taken to a hospital for further examination.

The Tangipahoa sheriff’s office lauded the actions of the girl’s parents. “They were the key to all of this,” Sticker said. “I’m telling you if they want a job, I’ll hire both of these parents as investigators.”

Materne was booked on one count of contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile and one count of aggravated kidnapping of a child. *Shane Galvin*

A Walmart delivery driver allegedly pleased himself feet from the doorstep of the South Carolina woman whose groceries he’d just delivered.

Both Walmart and driver Alvin Ortiz are named in a Dec. 19 Horry County lawsuit seeking unspecified damages. It is alleged that Ortiz, 39, dropped groceries off at the woman’s front door just after 9 a.m. July 8.

He then returned to his car in the woman’s driveway, the suit said, and sat in it for 10 to 15 minutes.

When the woman went out to check on him, she saw Ortiz had his pants down and he was going to

town, the suit said. She then ran back into her home and grabbed her young child, she claims.

They found a hiding spot and called a neighbor, who walked up to the car and caught Ortiz continuing to pleasure himself, the suit says. The neighbor got into an argument with Ortiz, who drove off before long, screaming violent threats from his car’s window.

Ortiz was charged with indecent exposure the following day. The case is pending.

In a statement to WMBF TV, Walmart said company lawyers “are reviewing the complaint.” *Chris Harris*



# Upsetting Adams' Apple cart



## Hizzoner's '25 trials

By RICH CALDER

Mayor Adams once declared himself the “future of the Democratic Party.” But heading into 2025, that future is in doubt.

It will be a make-or-break year for the indicted Adams, who faces bombshell federal corruption charges and a tough re-election bid.

Adams' approval ratings sunk to 26% last month, with 69% of New Yorkers saying he should resign, according a Marist poll.

But some aren't counting out the former cop just yet. “New Yorkers really care about strengthening our economy, lowering crime and having a more livable city, and Mayor Adams has delivered major wins on all those fronts,” said Brooklyn Democratic Party Boss Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn.

Here's a look at some of the challenges Hizzoner faces in 2025:

### ■ Federal corruption trial

Adams in September became the first sitting mayor in city history to be charged with federal crimes, indicted for allegedly taking bribes and illegal campaign contributions from foreign sources. He pled not guilty, vowed to remain in office, and is scheduled for trial in April.

### ■ Crowded Dem field

The centrist mayor faces a tough primary in June with a number of prominent leftist Dems, including Comptroller Brad Lander, former Comptroller Scott Stringer,

Queens Sen. Jessica Ramos and Brooklyn Sen. Zellnor Myrie.

His biggest challenge could come from former Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a fellow centrist who resigned in 2021 in the wake of a sexual misconduct scandal. He has denied wrongdoing.

### ■ NYC's migrant crisis

The Adams administration has been stretched thin by more than 226,900 illegal immigrants arriving in the Big Apple since April 2022, most seeking immediate shelter. As of mid-December, the city's migrant tab reached \$6.5 billion as workloads soared at city agencies.

Adams has tried to ease the burden by enforcing shelter-stay limits for families and adults, causing the number of migrants staying in taxpayer-funded city shelters to drop from over 65,000 a year ago to 53,800 as of Dec. 15. However, the issue remains a daunting one for him heading into 2025.

### ■ NYC's homelessness crisis

There were over 112,700 people living in taxpayer-funded shelters as of Dec. 15, spurred by the influx of migrants. This doesn't include the more than 4,100 homeless people living unsheltered in the streets and subways — the city's highest number of unsheltered in nearly two decades.

The City Council earlier this month passed Adams' “City of Yes” plan to help address the affordability crisis by building 80,000 new



## Luigi graffiti mars UES

Vandals defaced the exterior of late pedophile Jeffrey Epstein's former Upper East Side mansion this week with pro-Luigi Mangione rhetoric and the three words the accused United Healthcare CEO killer allegedly scratched on the deadly bullets: “Deny, defend, depose.”

Red spray paint was used to deface the East 71st Street home's gilded façade with the phrases “Free Luigi” and “They Fear The People.” Across the front door, the goons scribbled the three words now synonymous with Mangione's name.

The graffiti did not last

long. By noon Friday, workers were on site scrubbing the building clean.

After Epstein's 2019 arrest and ensuing jail suicide, the lavish home languished on the market. It was snatched up in 2021 by former Goldman Sachs exec Michael Daffey.

Chris Harris and Jon Levine

Jon Levine

housing units over the next 15 years. However, there's no immediate relief in sight.

### ■ City Council conflicts

Adams and the council's far-left majority have been at odds since he took office. It's been a tug-of-war for political power involving vetoes, overrides and dueling bids to put changes to the City Charter.

Adams and the council will be duking it out in court in 2025 after pols earlier this month slapped him with a lawsuit alleging he abused his powers by issuing an executive order flouting a controversial solitary confinement ban in city jails.

### ■ President Trump

The foundation is set for a good working relationship between

Trump and Adams, even though Adams will continue to be pressured by Dems and leftist media outlets to shun the Republican.

Adams in recent weeks has taken a tougher stance on the city's sanctuary status, in line with Trump's goals of deporting criminal migrants. And Hizzoner — who has not ruled out switching back to the Republican Party — might need Trump's help if he's convicted on the pending corruption charges.

### ■ Gov. Hochul

Hochul has the power under a seldom-used state law to remove any Empire mayor from office.

The governor has so far declined to oust the embattled Adams — in part because it would alienate

prominent black leaders who've rallied behind him.

But that hasn't stopped Hochul from pressuring Adams from behind the scenes to clean house. Several City Hall officials touched by churning federal investigations have either resigned or been forced out — driven by Hochul, sources told The Post.

### ■ Cleaning up the NYPD

The Police Department's reputation has been gutted by a series of scandals. Just last week, NYPD Chief of Department Jeffrey Madrey, a close friend of Adams, abruptly resigned after The Post uncovered allegations that he demanded sexual favors from a subordinate in exchange for overtime.



## INVASION

Vlad on  
lost jet:  
'Sorry'

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday apologized to Azerbaijan's president for the "tragic incident" in Russian airspace in which an Azerbaijani plane crashed in Kazakhstan and killed 38 people — but did not admit Moscow was responsible.

The doomed Azerbaijan Airlines Flight 8243 was heading on Wednesday from Azerbaijan's capital of Baku to Grozny, the regional capital of the Russian republic of Chechnya, when it turned toward Kazakhstan.

The jet crashed and exploded in a fireball while trying to land at an airport near Aktau.

There were 29 survivors.

Azerbaijan held a national day of mourning Thursday.

The Kremlin said Saturday that air defense systems had been firing near Grozny on Wednesday due to a Ukrainian drone strike, but did not say whether one of its weapons hit the jet.

Four sources with knowledge of the preliminary findings of Azerbaijan's probe told Reuters Thursday Russian air defenses accidentally shot down the plane, an Embraer 190.

Matthew Sedacca, With Wires

US Putin vic  
'wrongly held'

A Pennsylvania history teacher arrested in Russia on drug charges has been officially designated as wrongfully detained, US officials announced Friday.

Marc Fogel, a husband and father of two, was arrested in 2021 when he and his wife flew to Russia to teach. He was caught at the airport with what his family said was medically prescribed marijuana he took for back pain. Fogel is serving a 14-year prison sentence.

The US State Department determined in October that Fogel was wrongfully detained but just confirmed the designation Friday.

Deirdre Baldorf, With Wires

## NOKO'S HEAVY TOLL

Troops choose suicide  
over sure death in Ukr.

By DEIRDRE BARDOLF

North Korean soldiers sent to aid Russia in its fight against Ukraine are dying in droves and some of them have even chosen suicide over surrender, according to officials.

More than 1,000 North Korean soldiers were killed fighting in the Kursk region this past week — almost 10% of its deployment to Russia — after generals ordered a "human wave" attack, virtually sending them to their deaths.

"It is clear that Russian and North Korean military leaders are treating these troops as expendable and ordering hopeless assaults against Ukrainian defenses," National Security spokesman John Kirby told reporters on Friday.

"I hope they're loading up their commanders with a bunch of body bags, because they're clearly going to need it," he added.

He said the North Korean troops, who are fighting mainly on foot, are "highly indoctrinated, pushing attacks even when it is clear that those attacks are futile."

They are also facing water and supply shortages, according to Ukraine's military intelligence agency.

Earlier this week, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said that preliminary data indicated that more than 3,000 North Korean soldiers were killed or wounded in the region.

"They have many losses. A great deal. And we can see that

the Russian military and the North Korean enforcers have no interest in the survival of these Koreans at all," Zelensky said in a social media post. "Everything is arranged in a way that makes it impossible for us to capture the Koreans as prisoners — their own people are executing them, there are such cases. And the Russians send them into assaults with minimal protection."

He said Ukrainian forces took some North Korean soldiers prisoner but they were "severely wounded and it was not possible to save their lives."

## Appeal to China

Zelensky put the onus on North Korea's neighbors, particularly China, to step in and keep them from losing their lives in the bloody battles in Europe. "If China is sincere in its statements that the war should not escalate, it must exert appropriate pressure on Pyongyang," he said.

Zelensky previously expressed concerns that North Korea would send more troops to help Russia after the casualties.

In October, Kyiv announced that North Korea had sent up to 12,000 troops to Russia to assist it in the nearly three-year war following its invasion of Ukraine.

Ukraine seized about 380 square miles of the Kursk region of Russia in August but has lost about 40% of that territory since amid a counterattack by Moscow that has also killed and wounded many Ukrainian fighters, according to reports.

With Wires



**SNOW WAY TO DIE:** This macabre scene is believed to include North Koreans killed fighting in the war against Ukraine in the Kursk region of Russia.

## Russia claims plot to kill war figures

Russian security officials say they foiled a plot by one of their own citizens to kill a high-ranking officer and a pro-Russian war blogger.

Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) claims that the citizen was working

with Ukraine's military intelligence agency and planned to detonate a bomb hidden in a portable speaker.

The citizen contacted a Ukrainian Defense Ministry officer over Telegram, received instructions and

then retrieved a bomb from a hiding place in Moscow, the FSB said.

The agency did not name the official or blogger who were targeted.

Amid the nearly three-year war following Russia's invasion, Ukraine has

said the targeted killings of those it deems guilty of war crimes are legitimate, while Russia has called them "acts of terrorism."

This month, Ukraine's intelligence service killed a Russian lieutenant it said promoted the use of

banned chemical weapons.

President-elect Donald Trump's pick for Ukraine envoy, retired Lt. Gen. Keith Kellogg, said the attacks were "not really smart" and going "a little bit too far." Dierdre Baldorf, With Wires



# J.Lo, Costner hit Aspen bar

Page Six®

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Mara Siegler  
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Carlos Greer  
cgreer@nypost.com

## Oil meets powder

**STEVE Wynn** opened a new location of his gallery, Wynn Fine Art, in Aspen, Colo., over the holidays. We hear that a high-powered crowd came out to celebrate in the 1,700-square-foot space in the ski town, showing works by Basquiat, Warhol, Lichtenstein and **Yayoi Kusama**. VIP guests greeting Wynn and his wife, **Andrea**, included **John** and **Amy Phelan**, “Baby” **Jane Holzer** and her family, **Warren Lichtenstein** and Wynn’s stepson and director of the gallery, **Nick Hissom**. Hissom and **Kameron Ramirez** then hosted a dinner at the Snow Lodge in honor of featured artist **Connor Addison**, a cubist oil painter out of Barcelona.



## New stages of life

COMEDIAN **Michelle Buteau** is excited for her second standup special to drop New Year’s Eve on Netflix. “I’m the first woman to record a standup special at Radio City Music Hall,” she told Page Six. “Making *herstory*! That’s right, honey!” Off-screen, the “Survival of the Thickest” star’s mind is on her 5-year-old twins, who are in kindergarten. “It’s like, is everybody OK? Is anybody bothering them, did you eat your vegetables before you had your chocolate milk?” Buteau (above) added her son recently requested a “purple mohawk, and my daughter wants a phone. It’s insane.”

**JENNIFER Lopez** and **Kevin Costner** were seen hanging at the same Aspen, Colo., hotspot on Friday night — amid their high-profile divorces.

The Hollywood stars were spotted at the bar inside Wester wear shop Kemo Sabe in the swanky mountain town. (The store’s A-list devotees include **Beyoncé**, **Shania Twain**, **Rihanna**, **Kendall Jenner** and “Dances With Wolves” star Costner.)

A source exclusively tells Page Six that J.Lo and Costner (below) coincidentally ran into each other at the bar, and did not go together.

Lopez, 55, appeared to be having a great time with her pals, including longtime manager

**Benny Medina** — and was photographed laughing and enjoying a drink in a turtleneck sweater with her hair in a bun. She also stuck her tongue out at the paps for fun.

Costner, 69, chatted with other patrons in a black puffer coat, jeans and shades.

The “Yellowstone” star’s ex, **Christine Baumgartner**, filed for divorce last year after 18 years of marriage, and the couple had a bitter legal battle. (They settled and Baumgartner moved on with boyfriend **Josh Connor**.)

Costner was walking his Lab with a mystery woman on Wednesday in Aspen. (He’s previously denied rumors he was dating “Who Will Save Your Soul” singer **Jewel**, and said

he’s open to finding new love.)

J.Lo is of course going through her own divorce, from **Ben Affleck**, who has previously revealed Lopez is a “Yellowstone” fan.

“I’m kind of disturbed that my wife really likes ‘Yellowstone,’” Affleck, 52, told **Bill Simmons** last year on his podcast. But he added, “Part of me thinks that she’s really drawn to the romance between **Cole Hauser** and [Kelly Reilly].”

Other stars spotted in Aspen over the holidays include **Mariah Carey** (who was spotted with **Anderson .Paak**), **Kate Hudson**, **Heidi Klum** and reality star **Kyle Richards**. Lopez’s and Costner’s reps did not comment.



LAGOSS/PTV/The Daily Star dust / BACKGRID



## Ruff 'n' ready performers

WHEN dog trainer **William Berloni** got the call for a “small Yorkie” to appear in “Gypsy,” he got to work reaching out to various animal shelters and found his star — a petite canine named **Tana Jane** to play Rose’s pup Chow-sie. “Crazily enough, she had been in a production of ‘The Wizard of Oz,’ so she already had stage time,” Berloni (above) told Page Six recently. That’s also where they found a Chow-sie understudy, a puppy named **Indy**. Berloni swears there are no “All About Eve” shenanigans going on backstage between Tana Jane and Indy. “It’s more maternal, Indy is like a little brother,” he explained. “Indy has been to all the rehearsals, probably in a month or two we’ll put him into a matinee and see how he does.”

## Staying ‘Live’

**KENAN Thompson** can hardly believe he’s the longest-running cast member on “Saturday Night Live,” having been on the 50-year-old sketch show since 2003. “I never thought I would get the job in the first place!” he told The Post’s **Nicki Gostin**.

## ‘Museum’ boosted History

HOLLYWOOD director **Shawn Levy** had no idea how much his 2006 flick “Night at the Museum” helped NYC’s American Museum of Natural History. “I had heard about it generally,” but things didn’t click until he became a trustee this year, he told Page Six. “To see the stats, to be on the inside and to see the way it drove attendance was incredibly gratifying and I feel like this museum has been a part of my entire career and adult life.”

The movie, starring **Ben Stiller** and Robin Williams (plus **Dick Van Dyke** and Mickey Rooney), grossed more than half a billion globally and spawned two hit sequels. The “Deadpool & Wolverine” director made news last year when he was cheering on **Travis Kelce** in **Taylor Swift**’s suite at a Chiefs game with **Ryan Reynolds**, **Blake Lively** and **Hugh Jackman**. “I was just excited to sit in a cool box and see an NFL game because I’m a Montreal kid and the NFL is amazing and fascinating to me,” he said, admitting that attending the game with Swift, “[being] in the midst of that swirl was far bigger than a football game and probably more than I expected but it was super fun.”

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## Pillow talk Gold

COMEDIAN **Judy Gold** has two goals going into the new year. “To maybe get out of a chair without making noise,” the 62-year-old told Page Six, “and to be in a Broadway show, that’s my f–king dream.” The “Nora From Queens” alum said she’d been cast in a project headed for the Great White Way, but “then the pandemic happened, so it never happened.” Gold added that her partner bought her a pillow when she was cast that read “Broadway Bound Judy.” “I was literally on the phone with my agent when **Elysa** went to give me the present and it was March-something 2020, and my agent told me it was on hold and there’s Elysa standing there with this f–king pillow and it’s still in the plastic,” Gold said. “The goal is that I can open the f–king plastic this year.”



## Joy Pet nds ner

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Jane Van Demark, age 57, passed away peacefully on March 7, 2022. She is survived by her son David, her two grandchildren Sophia and Bella and 56-year-old Megan Shaw who now carries Jane's heart, allowing her to enjoy her own grandchildren, 43-year-old Amanda Rodgers who sees the world clearly thanks to Jane's corneas, 59-year-old Thomas Boyd who has a new lease on life with Jane's liver, 47-year-old Julio Sanchez who received Jane's pancreas, 72-year-old Sandy Patel who enjoys long walks in the park with her new lungs, 60-year-old Brian O'Neil who has the ability to move pain-free with her tendons, while her kidneys are sustaining the lives of 33-year-old Olivia Fischer and 52-year-old Michael Foster.

Jane's legacy lives on in these eight lives, a testament to the incredible impact one person can have on the world.

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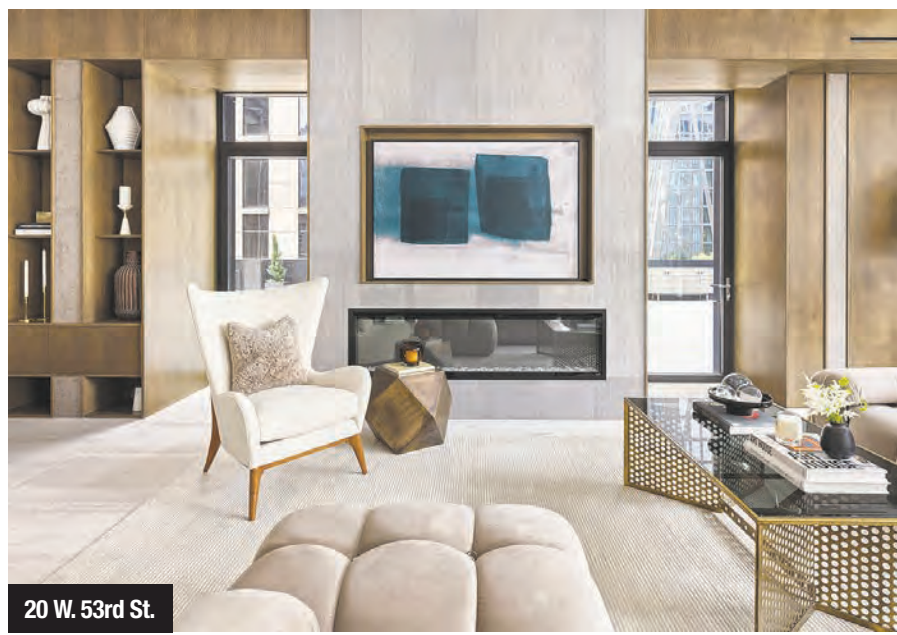
Life. Pass it on.





# Gimme Shelter

JENNIFER GOULD



20 W. 53rd St.

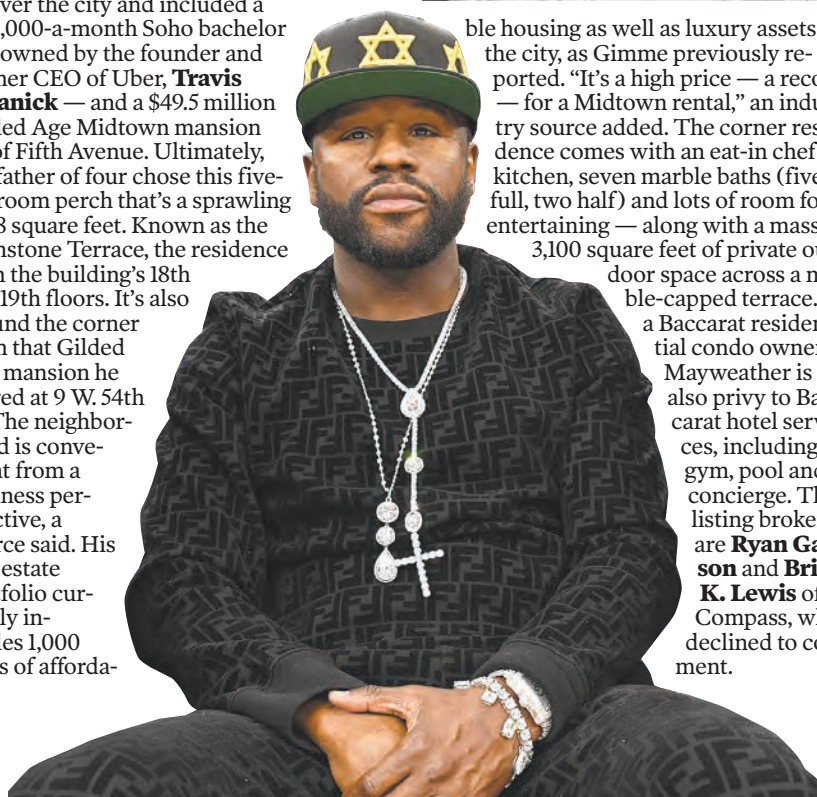
DDReps (2); Getty

## KEEPIN' IT 100

**B**REAK out the Cristal! Retired two-time world boxing champion **Floyd Mayweather Jr.** (below) has finally found a Manhattan residence — and for a glittering \$100,000 a month, to boot. The boxer-turned-real estate investor, who boasts 30 million followers on social media, is renting a sprawling, high-floor duplex inside the Baccarat Hotel and Residences at 20 W. 53rd St., Gimme Shelter can reveal. Mayweather's epic house hunt, which was chronicled by Gimme, took him all over the city and included a \$150,000-a-month Soho bachelor pad owned by the founder and former CEO of Uber, **Travis Kalanick** — and a \$49.5 million Gilded Age Midtown mansion off of Fifth Avenue. Ultimately, the father of four chose this five-bedroom perch that's a sprawling 4,178 square feet. Known as the Gemstone Terrace, the residence is on the building's 18th and 19th floors. It's also around the corner from that Gilded Age mansion he toured at 9 W. 54th St. The neighborhood is convenient from a business perspective, a source said. His real estate portfolio currently includes 1,000 units of afforda-



ble housing as well as luxury assets in the city, as Gimme previously reported. "It's a high price — a record — for a Midtown rental," an industry source added. The corner residence comes with an eat-in chef's kitchen, seven marble baths (five full, two half) and lots of room for entertaining — along with a massive 3,100 square feet of private outdoor space across a marble-capped terrace. As a Baccarat residential condo owner, Mayweather is also privy to Baccarat hotel services, including its gym, pool and concierge. The listing brokers are **Ryan Garson** and **Brian K. Lewis** of Compass, who declined to comment.



## Up chic's Creek

HEY, Jeff, can you spare a cup of sugar? One of the most expensive pieces of real estate now on the market in the US is a land parcel on exclusive Indian Creek Island off the coast of Miami — and a prospective owner can call **Jeff Bezos** (below, right) their neighbor. Thing is, that buyer will need to be as wealthy as Bezos. The 1.84-acre, undeveloped plot of waterfront land is on the market for a staggering \$200 million. It's a sky-high price, but it's not the priciest now for sale in America. That title goes to a sprawling waterfront compound across the state in Naples, which listed in early 2024 for a breathtaking \$295 million. Whoever buys the parcel, at 9 Indian Creek Island Road, can build their dream house next door to the Amazon billionaire and his fiancée **Lauren Sánchez** (left). Bezos has currently paid \$237 million for three properties on the island at 11, 12 and 28 Indian Creek Island Road. The ritzy island, known as one of the original "billionaire bunkers," boasts 41 homes, plus the Indian Creek Country Club, with an 18-hole golf course, on 300 acres. The listing comes with 200 feet on Biscayne Bay and views of downtown Miami. That means there's enough room to build a deep-water dock for a 180-foot megayacht, listing broker **Ilya Reznik**, of the Reznik Group, told Gimme Shelter, who added the sellers bought the land for \$27.5 million in 2018.



Indian Creek Island

Romain Maurice/MEGA; Bruce Glikas/WireImage

Bruce Glikas/WireImage



## Soup-er deluxe

POP art icon Andy Warhol (inset) once lived in this historic Carnegie Hill townhouse. Now you can, too — for \$22,550 a month. And the home comes with quirky touches — like a front door handlebar made in part from one of Warhol's former walking sticks, and a kitchen floor splattered with green paint left over from the Warhol era when the space was used as the artist's studio. Warhol owned this property from 1960 until 1972. The Upper East Side townhouse's artist studio is, most of all, where he created some of his most famous works like the Campbell's soup can pieces "This is where he got his creative juices flowing," said listing broker **Merav Shalhon** of Essential New York Real Estate. She added that Warhol lived with his mom in the townhouse and took care of her. In return, she took care of him and bought him the legendary Campbell's soup cans from a grocery store across the street. The Upper East Side residence, at 1342 Lexington Ave., at the corner of East 89th Street, is part of the Hard-enbergh/Rhineland Historic District. The four-bedroom, five-bath- room pre-war residence is 3,072 square feet, recently renovated and features modern interiors. The parlor level opens with an entry foyer, a wood-paneled library, a formal living room and woodburning fireplaces. Additional bedrooms, two of which have woodburning fireplaces, are on the upper levels. Four of them have ensuite baths and custom closets.



Carnegie Hill

Essential Real Estate New York LLC; Getty



## Fly high in Dumbo

THE price to buy Brooklyn's most expensive condominium has reached Olympian heights. This newly available \$19.5 million penthouse residence is also the borough's tallest, at Olympia Dumbo, Architectural Digest reported. A prospective buyer can be in some famous company there. The celeb-friendly, 33-story building is also where **Joe Jonas** and Brooklyn Nets star **Ben Simmons** have homes. The pad, known as Penthouse B, is a full-floor, five-bedroom residence featuring 552 square feet of outdoor space. The 4,928-square-foot aerie takes up the building's entire 32nd floor. The building's brokers are **Jessica Peters**, **Carl A. Ekroth**, **Fredrik Eklund** and **John Gomes**, all of Douglas Elliman — and **Karen Heyman** and **Casey Heyman** of Sotheby's International Realty.



Olympia Dumbo

Paul Marinka

Paul Marinka






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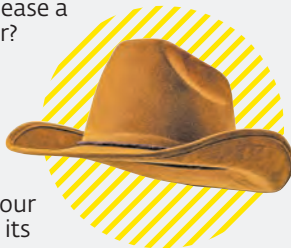




## ENTERTAINMENT

**1** Which artist did not release a country album this year?

- A. Beyoncé
- B. Taylor Swift
- C. Post Malone



**2** What broken-up band announced a reunion tour that immediately sold out its first run?

- A. R.E.M.
- B. One Direction
- C. Oasis

**3** What 2010s TV show experienced a popular streaming resurgence?

- A. "Suits"
- B. "Homeland"
- C. "Once Upon a Time"

**4** What network did the documentary "Quiet On Set: The Dark Side of Kids TV" focus on?

- A. Disney Channel
- B. ABC Family
- C. Nickelodeon

**5** Which actor did not appear in "Dune: Part Two?"

- A. Austin Butler
- B. Andrew Garfield
- C. Florence Pugh



**6** In what country did Madonna hold the largest stand-alone concert ever?

- A. Chile
- B. Brazil
- C. Argentina

**7** What snack — other than Zendaya's character, Tashi — did Art and Patrick share in "Challengers"?

- A. A banana
- B. A popsicle
- C. A churro



**8** What song plays during the flash mob dance in the opening credits of "The Perfect Couple"?

- A. "Criminals" by Meghan Trainor
- B. "Smooth Criminal" by Michael Jackson
- C. "Criminal" by Britney Spears

**9** What song did Luke Combs and Tracy Chapman duet at the Grammys?

- A. "Fast Car"
- B. "Give Me One Reason"
- C. "Beautiful Crazy"



**10** What emotion is introduced in "Inside Out 2?"

- A. Depression
- B. Anxiety
- C. Panic

# QUIZ OF THE YEAR 2024

*From Olympic controversies to record-setting songs and sports salaries, royals in crisis to Moo Deng: How much do you remember from the past year?*

By POST STAFF

**11** Which song of summer tied Lil Nas X's record for most weeks at No. 1 on Billboard 100?

- A. "Espresso" by Sabrina Carpenter
- B. "I Had Some Help" by Post Malone ft. Morgan Wallen
- C. "A Bar Song (Tipsy)" by Shaboozey

**12** What decades-old movie premiered a sequel?

- A. "Edward Scissorhands"
- B. "Addams Family Values"
- C. "Beetlejuice"



**13** What Netflix show told a "true story" about a stalker?

- A. "Baby Elk"
- B. "Baby Reindeer"
- C. "Baby Moose"

**14** What Marvel character starred alongside Deadpool in a new movie?

- A. The Hulk
- B. Storm
- C. Wolverine



**15** What is the name of Taylor Swift's latest album?

- A. "The Scarred Artists Club"
- B. "The Suffering Writers Commission"
- C. "The Tortured Poets Department"

**16** Which Ryan Murphy show did Travis Kelce appear in?

- A. "Grotesquerie"
- B. "Monsters: The Lyle and Erik Menendez Story"
- C. "American Sports Story: Aaron Hernandez"

**17** What Batman villain received their own spinoff show on HBO?

- A. The Riddler
- B. Poison Ivy
- C. The Penguin



**18** Which late-night host apologized on-air for jokes about Kate Middleton?

- A. Jimmy Kimmel
- B. Stephen Colbert
- C. Jimmy Fallon

**19** How many parts is "Wicked?"

- A. One
- B. Two
- C. Three



**20** What iconic game show had its host step down?

- A. "The \$10,000 Pyramid"
- B. "The Price Is Right"
- C. "Wheel of Fortune"





## SPORTS

**21** Danny Jansen became the first player in MLB history to play for two different teams during one game. What were the teams?

- A.** The Chicago White Sox and the Tampa Bay Rays
- B.** The Boston Red Sox and the Toronto Blue Jays
- C.** The Cincinnati Reds and the Texas Rangers

**22** The Mets embraced Grimace as a good-luck charm for the postseason — what was the team's signature song?

- A.** "OMG"
- B.** "LOL"
- C.** "SMH"



**23** What was the stage name of the Australian breakdancer who went viral for failing to score any points in the Summer Olympics?

- A.** StunGun
- B.** Raygun
- C.** B-Girl G-Clef



**24** At what major golf tournament was Scottie Scheffler arrested?

- A.** The Masters
- B.** The US Open
- C.** The PGA Championship

**25** What legendary football coach was fired from his NFL team?

- A.** Andy Reid
- B.** Bill Belichick
- C.** Dan Campbell



**26** Indiana Fever guard and Rookie of the Year Caitlin Clark played hoops at the University of Iowa with which other WNBA star?

- A.** Cameron Brink (Los Angeles Sparks)
- B.** Angel Reese (Chicago Sky)
- C.** Kate Martin (Las Vegas Aces)

**27** What NHL team won its first Stanley Cup?

- A.** The Florida Panthers
- B.** The Vancouver Canucks
- C.** The Buffalo Sabres



**28** The Boston Celtics became the winningest franchise in the NBA. How many banners do they have?

- A.** 17
- B.** 18
- C.** 19

**29** Which member of the US women's gymnastics team was controversially stripped of her bronze medal?

- A.** Simone Biles
- B.** Jordan Chiles
- C.** Suni Lee

**TURN THE PAGE FOR MORE  
ANSWERS ON PAGE 25**



**30** What platform streamed the Mike Tyson v. Jake Paul fight?

- A. Netflix
- B. Amazon Prime
- C. Peacock



**31** Juan Soto's record-setting \$765 million Mets contract includes what perk?

- A. His own private jet for traveling to games
- B. A personal chef
- C. A luxury suite at Citi Field

**32** What country won Copa América?

- A. Uruguay
- B. Argentina
- C. Columbia

**33** What NBA career points milestone did LeBron James surpass?

- A. 30,000
- B. 40,000
- C. 50,000



**34** What team won the WNBA championship?

- A. The Indiana Fever
- B. The New York Liberty
- C. The Chicago Sky

**35** What elite baseball club did Shohei Ohtani join?

- A. The 40/40 club
- B. The 50/50 club
- C. The 60/60 club

**36** Which NFL team did not fire its coach mid-season?

- A. Jets
- B. Bears
- C. Giants

**37** What rapper sponsored the U.S. women's water polo team?

- A. LL Cool J
- B. Ice-T
- C. Flavor Flav

**38** Which American city did not host an F1 race this year?

- A. Las Vegas
- B. Chicago
- C. Austin

**39** The Kansas City Chiefs became the first back-to-back Super Bowl champs since what other team?

- A. The Dallas Cowboys
- B. The Green Bay Packers
- C. The New England Patriots

**40** Which Dodgers player's glove did Yankee fans pull a ball from during a World Series game?

- A. Freddie Freeman
- B. Max Muncy
- C. Mookie Betts



## QUOTES

**41** In viral remarks from Kamala Harris, what kind of tree did she ask about?

- A. A coconut tree
- B. A lime tree
- C. A banana tree

**42** When Justin Timberlake was arrested for driving under the influence, what did he say his legal troubles would ruin?

- A. "The Grammys"
- B. "The world tour"
- C. "The 'Trolls' premiere"

**43** What was Hawk Tuah girl Halley Welch's end-of-year controversy?

- A. Failed meme coin
- B. Leaked sex tape
- C. DUI

**44** During their only debate as presidential candidates, what game did Donald Trump and Joe Biden challenge each other to face off in?

- A. Tennis
- B. Golf
- C. Pickleball

**45** Which Chiefs player said in a commencement speech that women graduates are "most excited" about marriage and becoming mothers?

- A. Justin Watson
- B. Noah Gray
- C. Harrison Butker

**46** Which actor published an op-ed in The New York Times asking Joe Biden to step aside as the Democratic presidential nominee?

- A. Brad Pitt
- B. Matt Damon
- C. George Clooney

**47** What kind of animal carcass did Robert F. Kennedy Jr. admit to dumping in Central Park in 2014?

- A. A bear cub
- B. A whale head
- C. A goat

**48** Which country star did Brianna "Chickenfry" LaPaglia claim offered her \$12 million to keep quiet about their breakup?

- A. Luke Bryan
- B. Zach Bryan
- C. Zac Brown





**57** What does "Moo Deng" — the name of the baby pygmy hippo that captured the world's attention — mean?  
**A.** Bouncy Pork  
**B.** Thick Bacon  
**C.** Ball of Fat



**58** What pop star spoke out against her fans' "predatory behavior?"  
**A.** Sabrina Carpenter  
**B.** Chappell Roan  
**C.** Charlie xcx

**59** Disgraced hip-hop mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs is accused of, among other things, sex trafficking that involved orgies known as ...  
**A.** Freak-offs  
**B.** Freakniks  
**C.** White parties

**60** Who did the Supreme Court rule has "presumptive immunity?"  
**A.** Judges  
**B.** Senators and representatives  
**C.** Presidents

## CURRENT EVENTS

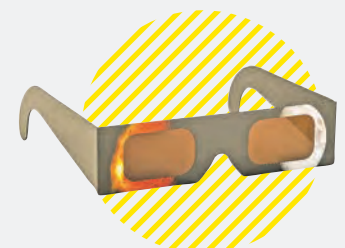
**61** Who was arrested for digging an underground tunnel in Crown Heights?  
**A.** Hasidic Jewish students  
**B.** Archeology professors  
**C.** TikTokers

**62** What did the New York City Council ban?  
**A.** Tenant-paid broker fees  
**B.** Rent control  
**C.** Rats



**63** In what city did the CIA foil a terrorist attack planned during shows of Taylor Swift's "Eras" tour?  
**A.** London  
**B.** Vienna  
**C.** Paris

**64** What kind of eclipse blanketed the US?  
**A.** Total lunar eclipse  
**B.** Total solar eclipse  
**C.** Partial lunar eclipse



**65** What country elected its first female president?  
**A.** Mexico  
**B.** Guatemala  
**C.** Venezuela

**49** Pope Francis apologized for using the offensive Italian term "frocaggine." What group does it refer to?  
**A.** Protestants  
**B.** Irish people  
**C.** Gay men

**50** Why did Oprah Winfrey sever ties with WeightWatchers?  
**A.** She loves bread too much  
**B.** She's taking Ozempic  
**C.** She loves her body the way it is



**51** In a blunder, who did Democratic VP candidate Tim Walz say he has become friends with?  
**A.** School shooters  
**B.** Murderers  
**C.** Sex offenders

**52** What member of the British royal family admitted to "experiment with editing" when sharing a family photo?  
**A.** Kate Middleton  
**B.** Prince William  
**C.** King Charles

**53** Which of these 2024 buzzwords refers to having romantic appeal?  
**A.** Brat  
**B.** Rizz  
**C.** Demure

**54** What did Ingrid Andress say was the reason she flubbed her performance of the National Anthem?  
**A.** She was sick  
**B.** She was hungover  
**C.** She was drunk

**55** What did President Volodymyr Zelensky say would end the Russia Ukraine war next year?  
**A.** The dissolution of Russia  
**B.** A diplomatic solution  
**C.** American troops on the ground

**56** How much of her own money did Jennifer Lopez say she spent to make "The Greatest Love Story Never Told?"  
**A.** \$10 million  
**B.** \$20 million  
**C.** \$30 million



NY Post composite

**TURN THE PAGE FOR MORE  
 ANSWERS ON PAGE 25**



**66** What major pageant franchise did not have its winner step down?

- A. Miss USA
- B. Miss Teen USA
- C. Miss America



**67** Which company's airplane malfunctioned, losing a door plug mid-flight?

- A. Lockheed Martin
- B. Airbus
- C. Boeing

**68** In what city did a bridge collapse when it was struck by a container ship?

- A. Baltimore
- B. Chicago
- C. Richmond

**69** What devices exploded en-masse in Lebanon?

- A. Laptops
- B. Pagers
- C. Tablets

**70** What member of the British royal family was not diagnosed with cancer?

- A. Queen Camilla
- B. King Charles
- C. Kate Middleton

**71** What water bottle brand did people physically fight over?

- A. Owala
- B. Stanley
- C. Yeti

**72** Which Ivy League president did not resign after much controversy?

- A. Harvard's Claudine Gay
- B. Columbia's Minouche Shafik
- C. Yale's Laurie McInnis



**73** What was Hunter Biden not convicted of or facing before Joe Biden issued a pardon?

- A. Gun charges
- B. Tax charges
- C. Treason charges

**74** How many assassination attempts were made on Donald Trump's life?

- A. One
- B. Two
- C. Three

**75** What country is connected to Eric Adams' indictment on bribery charges?

- A. Armenia
- B. Turkey
- C. Lebanon



**76** What state did not flip from 2020 in the presidential election?

- A. Georgia
- B. Pennsylvania
- C. North Carolina



**77** NASA astronauts Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams are finally scheduled to return to Earth in February after being "stuck" in space. How long will they have been gone?

- A. Four months
- B. Seven months
- C. Two years

**78** What city did New York City disastrously share a visual portal with?

- A. Philadelphia
- B. Dublin
- C. Rome

**79** What company was ruled to be a monopoly?

- A. Google
- B. Amazon
- C. Microsoft

**80** What major insurance company's CEO was killed in cold blood on the streets of Midtown?

- A. Aetna
- B. UnitedHealthcare
- C. Kaiser Permanente

## PEOPLE

**81** Which comedian assaulted Elmo on the "Today" show?

- A. Dave Chappelle
- B. Pete Davidson
- C. Larry David

**82** Which former One Direction member died after falling off a Buenos Aires hotel balcony?

- A. Niall Horan
- B. Liam Payne
- C. Louis Tomlinson

**83** Which president's wife is the Broadway show "Oh, Mary" about?

- A. George Washington
- B. Abraham Lincoln
- C. Thomas Jefferson

**84** How did country star Toby Keith die?

- A. Car accident
- B. Old age
- C. Cancer







NY Post composite

**85** James Earl Jones died this year. What iconic character did he not voice?  
**A.** Mufasa  
**B.** Darth Vader  
**C.** Batman



**86** Who is Time's Person of the year for 2024?  
**A.** Donald Trump  
**B.** Joe Biden  
**C.** Taylor Swift

**87** Who is People Magazine's Sexiest Man Alive for 2024?  
**A.** Travis Kelce  
**B.** John Krasinski  
**C.** Michael B. Jordan

**88** What cabinet role has Donald Trump chosen for his son Don Jr.'s ex-girlfriend Kimberly Guilfoyle?  
**A.** Ambassador to Greece  
**B.** Transportation Secretary  
**C.** "Border czar"

**89** What is the name of Justin and Hailey Bieber's baby?  
**A.** Jack Blues Bieber  
**B.** Jeremy Baldwin Bieber  
**C.** Justin Drew Bieber Jr.

**90** How many years in prison was FTX fraudster Sam Bankman-Fried sentenced to?  
**A.** 5  
**B.** 15  
**C.** 25

**91** Who did not appear on the roast of Tom Brady?  
**A.** Gisele Bündchen  
**B.** Kim Kardashian  
**C.** Ben Affleck

**92** Israeli troops killed Yahya Sinwar. Who was he?  
**A.** The leader of Hezbollah  
**B.** The leader of Hamas  
**C.** The prime minister of the Palestinian Authority



**93** RFK Jr. allegedly had an affair with a political reporter from what news outlet?  
**A.** The Washington Post  
**B.** The New York Times  
**C.** New York Magazine

**94** What is the career of singer Lana Del Rey's new husband?  
**A.** Alligator boat tour guide  
**B.** Funeral director  
**C.** Plumber



**95** What iconic British actress died?  
**A.** Judi Dench  
**B.** Maggie Smith  
**C.** Helen Mirren

**96** Who headlined during half-time at the 2024 Super Bowl?  
**A.** Beyonce  
**B.** Usher  
**C.** Kendrick Lamar

**97** Julian Assange was freed from a British prison. How many years did he spend there?  
**A.** Five  
**B.** Seven  
**C.** 12

**98** What award did Elton John win in 2024, getting him to EGOT status?  
**A.** Emmy  
**B.** Tony  
**C.** Grammy

**99** What rocker revealed he had a love child?  
**A.** Anthony Kiedis  
**B.** Dave Grohl  
**C.** Eddie Vedder

**100** What role did Trump name Matt Gaetz to in his new administration, before Gaetz withdrew because of controversy?  
**A.** Vice president  
**B.** Defense secretary  
**C.** Attorney General

## ANSWER KEY

### ENTERTAINMENT

1. B; 2. C; 3. A; 4. C; 5. B; 6. B; 7. C; 8. A; 9. A; 10. B; 11. C; 12. C; 13. B; 14. C; 15. C; 16. A; 17. C; 18. B; 19. B; 20. C

### SPORTS

21. B; 22. A; 23. B; 24. C; 25. B; 26. C; 27. A; 28. B; 29. B; 30. A; 31. C; 32. B; 33. B; 34. B; 35. B; 36. C; 37. C; 38. B; 39. C; 40. C

### QUOTES

41. A; 42. B; 43. A; 44. B; 45. C; 46. C; 47. A; 48. B;

49. C; 50. B; 51. A; 52. A; 53. B; 54. C; 55. B; 56. B; 57. A; 58. B; 59. A; 60. C

### CURRENT EVENTS

61. A; 62. A; 63. B; 64. B; 65. A; 66. C; 67. C; 68. A; 69. B; 70. A; 71. B; 72. C; 73. C; 74. B; 75. B; 76. C; 77. B; 78. B; 79. A; 80. B

### PEOPLE

81. C; 82. B; 83. B; 84. C; 85. C; 86. A; 87. B; 88. A; 89. A; 90. C; 91. A; 92. B; 93. C; 94. A; 95. B; 96. B; 97. A; 98. A; 99. B; 100. C





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# Postie gets obit against his will

## Beloved editor, 82

By MATTHEW SEDACCA

Michael Hechtman, a beloved and irascible New York Post editor who spent more than four decades at the tabloid, died Friday from lymphoma. He was 82.

The veteran newsman died in his sleep at Methodist Home for Nursing and Rehabilitation in The Bronx, said longtime friend Shelagh Masline.

A night editor with a gallows humor, Hechtman mentored generations of reporters at The Post, giving scores of young journalists their first break, former colleagues said.

"I would have nothing without Mike — I would not have been a reporter," said former Post journo Jennifer Fermino.

He infamously would have cub reporters sit beside him at his desk, where he would tear their stories to shreds.

"One of the first things he would do is create a huge gap, six to seven spaces between your byline and what was your lede, because you were going to start over again," said former Post reporter and Metro Editor Eric Lenkowitz.

Michael Jay Hechtman was born in Brooklyn April 5, 1942, to Henry Hechtman, a hat factory owner in the Garment District, and Rose Sass, a homemaker. His family moved to Rego Park, Queens, where he later would live for decades in a studio apartment without a stove.

He studied journalism at Brooklyn College and received a graduate degree from the University of Michigan, Masline said.

He served in the US Army Reserves, where he wrote press releases at Fort Dix in New Jersey, according to copy editor Milt



Facebook Candace Amos

**STAY REACHABLE!!** Michael Hechtman gets some Post reporters on the line — possibly at 2 a.m.

Goldstein. He was honorably discharged in 1971.

Following stints at the Hartford Courant and The Associated Press, Hechtman joined The Post in 1974 and cemented his status as "super rewrite man" — transforming street reporters' harried notes into seamless prose.

"The night that [Yankees catcher] Thurman Munson died in the plane crash in the late '70s, [Post Publisher Rupert] Murdoch said I want your best man on this story," former city editor Dick Belsky recalled. "Without hesitation we gave it to Hechtman."

### Wake-up!! calls

Hechtman had a tendency to wake up reporters at 2 a.m. to answer questions about their stories.

"He could take a 20-paragraph story and turn it into a haiku, that's how good he was," said former Post reporter Cynthia Fagen.

Fermino said Hechtman once rewrote the lyrics of "Oklahoma!" to be about the Jewish new year: "Rosh Hashana, where the

wind comes sweeping down the plains / and the matzoh ball stands proud and tall / we know we belong to the shul / and the shul we belong to is cool / and when we say vey, oy vey oy vey oy vey."

Hechtman was passionate about the New York City transit system and cats. He named his many feline companions over the years after the city's various rail systems, including "Metro-North."

He got his pilot's license around 1979, and would fly friends and colleagues on a twin-engine Cessna to Newport and Martha's Vineyard, Masline said.

After retiring in 2014, Hechtman returned to edit part-time at The Post.

Hechtman, who battled dementia for the past five years, had no living relatives but is survived by Masline and her daughter Caitlin as well as her daughter's fiancé, Ernie Wooden.

In a 2007 letter to Masline, he asked her to tell The Post's editors not to print an obituary for him. "If they do, I'll come back and haunt them," he warned.

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# Jet crash horror

## 179 are killed in S. Korea disaster



**FIREBALL:** Firefighters hose down the flaming wreck of a Boeing 737 early Sunday after it made a crash landing without landing gear.

By SHANE GALVIN

A commercial flight carrying 181 people skidded off a runway at an airport in South Korea and burst into a massive fireball, leaving all but two presumed dead, according to South Korean media.

The Jeju Air Boeing 737-800 was arriving from Thailand at Muan International Airport in the south of the Asian nation Sunday morning when its landing gear failed to extend just after 9 a.m. and it belly flopped onto the runway.

Video of the crash shows the jet sliding out of control past the

runway's end and exploding.

Of the 175 passengers and six crew members, all but two who were rescued from the smoldering fuselage are presumed dead, according to the Yonhap News Agency.

First responders are putting an emphasis on rescuing those who were located in the tail of the plane, which is where most of the casualties were found, according to Yonhap.

Two passengers were Thai nationals, and the others all South Korean, Yonhap reported.

Eighty firefighters arrived to rescue passengers and put out flames, with officials saying they

were able to get control of the inferno at 9:46 a.m.

Video posted on X shows the plane seeming to land on its belly, sparks and smoke flying from the runway, before it crashes and explodes in a fiery mass. The engines of the plane seem to glow bright red, nearly white, from the friction with the tarmac.

### 2nd landing attempt

The airliner had attempted one landing prior to the crash landing attempt, but was forced to “go-around” when the landing gear failed to lower normally,

The Guardian reports.

A “go-around” is standard aviation procedure that calls for pilots to abort their landing attempt, circle around the airport and reattempt a landing.

The cause of the landing gear failure is under investigation, with a theory that a bird strike is to blame currently being considered by authorities, according to Yonhap.

Choi Sang-mok, who was named South Korea's new acting president Friday, has ordered a massive rescue mobilization and will convene an emergency meeting Sunday morning, Yonhap reports.



### DENMARK

The Faroe Islands are home to the only subsea tunnel in the world with an underwater roundabout.

Eysturoy Tunnel, 614 feet below sea level, connects the two largest islands in the Faroe Islands, an autonomous territory of Denmark, halfway between Iceland and Norway in the North Atlantic.

The 6.8-mile-long tunnel was built by drilling holes in the igneous rock and then placing dynamite inside.

The pillar of natural rock left standing was painted by a Faroese artist, and has become a tourist attraction.

### JAPAN

A popular hot spring resort town is limiting its number of day trippers in an effort to combat overtourism.

Ginzan Onsen attracts 330,000 visitors each year, who get into altercations over the best spots to take photos and park their cars.

Starting Jan. 7, the town, in Obanzawa, Yamagata Prefecture, about 260 miles north of Tokyo, will require visitors to purchase tickets after 5 p.m. and ban visitors after 8 p.m. who are not staying in a nearby hotel.



### AUSTRALIA

A recent heat wave in which temperatures have reached 104 degrees has locals calling for the ban of black or dark-colored roofs, which are popular in new developments in Sydney and Melbourne.

In January, South Australia became the first state to stop the installation of dark roofs from one of its housing developments.



### PORTUGAL

Over 1,300 pea-sized, critically endangered snails were set free on Bugio, a Portuguese island in the Desertas Islands archipelago.

Conservationists found the two species of land snails, thought to be extinct since they hadn't been seen for a century, on the Deserta Grande Island, the main island of the archipelago.

They were transported to zoos in Europe and marked with identification dots to track them and then released into the wild.



### VIETNAM

Vietnam's largest city has unveiled its first mass transit line 12 years after construction began.

The delay in opening was partly due to the COVID-19 pandemic and financial issues.

Angela Barbuti, Wires

## IDF hits ' Hamas' hospital Gaza 'split' troop surge

The Israeli military launched a new offensive Saturday in northern Gaza, targeting Hamas fighters who have turned a hospital into a “shelter for terrorists.”

Troops moved to the area around Kamal Adwan Hospital near Beit Hanoun after concluding operations in Rafah last week, accord-

ing to the Israel Defense Forces, and were met with two long-range rockets fired out of the region.

Israel issued a warning to those who had not evacuated the area. Hamas has previously launched missiles in the face of IDF advances to prevent capture.

The IDF last targeted Hamas activities in the hospital

in October.

“The area has once again become a center of gravity for terrorist organizations and serves as a shelter for terrorists,” the IDF said on Telegram.

Israel denied reports that it had forcibly removed patients and set fire to the hospital.

Deirdre Bardolf, Wires

The Israeli military has been steadily expanding its presence along a strategic corridor that splits the Gaza Strip in half and there is no indication it plans to leave anytime soon, according to a report.

The Israel Defense Forces currently control the Netzarim Corridor and an 18-mile buffer zone.

The massive stretch houses more than a dozen outposts and several bases from which the IDF has launched key operations against Hamas, The Times of Israel reported.

A four-mile road along the stretch has been used to deliver humanitarian aid and keep people from returning to evacuated areas.

Deidre Bardolf



# Maher & Leno gibe 'mob' tale

In an interview with Jay Leno, comedian Bill Maher, on his podcast "Club Random," good-naturedly brought up the conspiracy theory that a recent series of injuries the legendary late-night host has suffered were the results of mobsters beating him over gambling debts.

Maher mentioned the brutal facial wound that Leno suffered in Pennsylvania in November.

"It's a conspiracy theory, since you've had three accidents [Leno suffered first- and second-degree burns in a fire in his garage in late 2022 and knocked off a motorcycle in early 2023], that you actually have gambling debts and that you're being beaten up by the mob," Maher said, laughingly referencing an article about the baseless claim.

Leno, 74, ridiculed the outlandish theory.

"I love the idea that the mob would drive to Greenburg, Pennsylvania, wait outside the Hampton Inn on kind of a sleety, rainy day to throw me down the hill," he said.

But Maher, 68, pointed out, "That's not what they're saying ... They're saying throw you down the hill was your cover story, and they just beat you up."

Leno was staying at a Hampton Inn outside Pittsburgh and opted to walk down a "60- to 70-foot" hill to get to a nearby restaurant. He lost his footing and rolled down the hill, injuring his eye on a rock.

Leno pitched the idea that his supposed mob aggressors should leave him alone and take a car from his vast collection instead.

Nicholas McEntyre



GABC WPV; WireImage; Imago/Zuma Press

# Model Haddon dies in CO leak 'BRIGHT LIGHT' GOES OUT

By NICHOLAS McENTYRE and DANA KENNEDY

Dayle Haddon, the Canadian supermodel who rose to fame for her work representing various cosmetic companies, died Friday from carbon monoxide poisoning. She was 76.

Haddon was found dead in a second-floor bedroom of a detached suite at the renovated farmhouse in Solebury Township, Pa., of daughter Ryan Haddon and son-in-law, actor Marc Blucas.

She had been staying in what police described as a "carrage house," as was Blucas' father, Walter "Wally" Blucas, 76.

Haddon, who lived in New York, and Walter Blucas, who is hospitalized in critical condition, were both visiting their children for the holidays, Solebury police told The Post on Saturday.

## Faulty flue

Haddon was found in an upstairs room and the elder Blucas was found lying face down in a first floor room, according to police.

He was taken to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital.

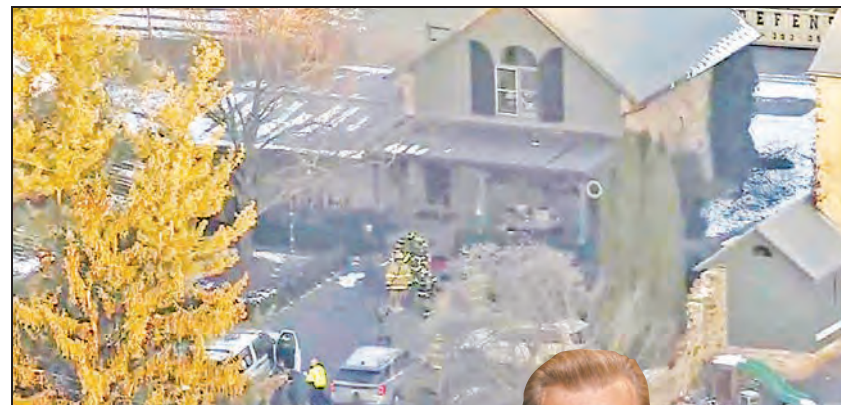
Police said their investigation indicated there was a faulty flue and exhaust pipe on a gas heating system that caused the carbon monoxide leak.

"The bright light that is Dayle has dimmed in this Earthly realm," Ryan posted Friday. "Shining somewhere as radiantly as ever where it's most needed, I have no doubt."

First responders were called to the property just after 6:30 a.m. Friday after receiving reports of a 76-year-old man lying unconscious, the police said.

The elder Blucas was brought to the hospital before rescuers learned that the elder Haddon was still inside. She was discovered and pronounced dead at the scene.

During her modeling career, Haddon



**RARE BEAUTY:** Dayle Haddon (left) died at the Pennsylvania home (above) of her daughter. The model also appeared in movies such as "Madame Claude" (right).



represented Revlon, Max Factor, Estée Lauder and L'Oréal, and was on the covers of Vogue, Elle and Cosmopolitan, according to her website.

She also acted in the movies "North Dallas Forty," "Bullets Over Broadway,"

"Celebrity" and "Madame Claude."

Haddon also was a UNICEF ambassador and wrote two books, "Ageless Beauty" and "The 5 Principles of Ageless Living."

nmcentire@nypost.com

# '68 'Juliet' Hussey is dead Suit's shrink rap vs. Arby's

Olivia Hussey, best known for portraying Juliet in the 1968 film "Romeo and Juliet," died Friday. She was 73. A cause of death was not revealed.

"Olivia was a remarkable person whose warmth, wisdom, and pure kindness touched the lives of all who knew her," a statement

posted on Hussey's social-media page said.

The Argentine-born actress skyrocketed to fame when she was 15 years old and starred in the two-Oscar-winning "Romeo and Juliet" opposite Leonard Whiting, then 16.

Whiting penned a tribute to his co-star, saying "Rest

now my beautiful Juliet."

Hussey won a Golden Globe for the Most Promising Female Newcomer in the role.

She is survived by her longtime husband, David Glen Eisley, her three children, Alex, Max and India, and grandson Greyson.

Jacki Thrapp

Arby's may have "the meats," but a Queens woman has a beef.

In a class-action lawsuit, Melissa Nelson, of Ridge-wood, is accusing the fast-food joint of downsizing its french fries and drinks without lowering prices or alerting customers.

"Arby's deceptively con-

tinues to sell its fries and beverages in smaller sizes," the Queens County Supreme Court suit alleges.

"The increase in prices may never be noticed by Arby's purchasers, who may be left only with a strange feeling ... even though this was due to ... downsizing," it continues.

Lawyers representing Nelson found that Arby's phased out its kiddie-sized fries, made that portion the new small, the prior small the new medium, and the old medium the new large.

Arby's did not respond to inquiries from The Post.

Deirdre Bardolf and Kathianne Boniello



# Post Weather Report

**Sunday**

**Today:** Breezy; rain and drizzle in the morning. High 54 to 60.

**Tonight:** Heavy rain; breezy, mild. Low 50 to 56.

**Monday**

**Tomorrow:** Breezy in the morning; decreasing clouds. High 53 to 59.

**Tomorrow night:** Clear. Low 37 to 43.

**Tuesday**

Clouding up. High 48 to 54.

**Evening**  
Mild with rain. Low 44 to 50.

**Wednesday**

Chance of rain. High 47 to 53.

**Evening**  
Breezy early. Low 31 to 37.

**Almanac**

YESTERDAY'S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 12PM

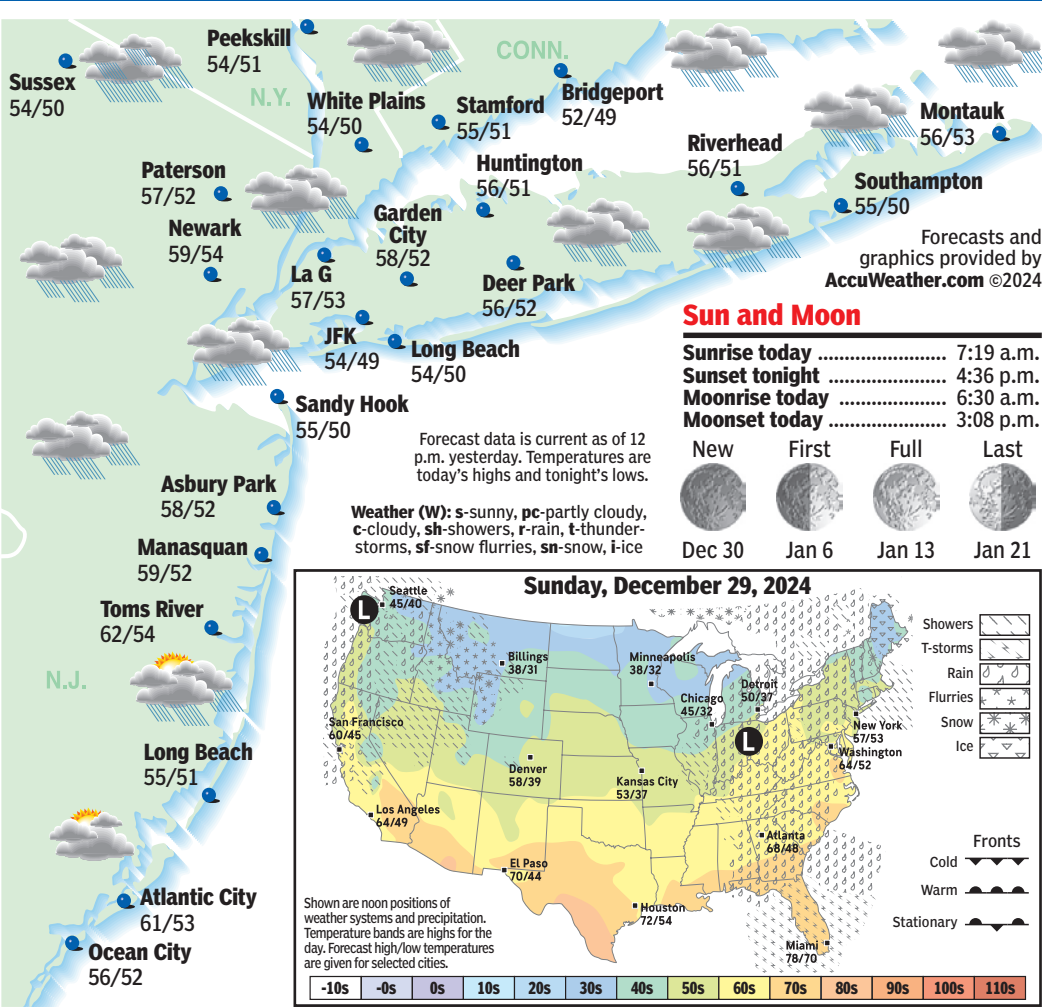
**Temperature**  
High: 44, Low: 40, Mean: 42

**Departure from Normal**  
Yesterday: +6 degrees

**Precipitation**  
Yesterday: 0.34", Month: 3.38",  
Year: 45.22", Normal year to date: 49.26"

**Heating Degree days yesterday** .....23  
**Total for the month (normal)** .....792 (717)  
**Total since July 1 (normal)** .....1356 (1503)  
**Last season to date** .....1324  
**Wind Chill** (at noon yest.) ..... 41  
**UV index** (for Sun.) ..... 1 (Low)  
**Humidity** (at noon) ..... 89%

**SNOW**  
Yesterday ..... 0.0"  
Month to date (normal) ..... 2.8" (4.3")  
**AQI rating:** (for Sun.) .....Moderate



New York Tides	TODAY		TOMORROW	
	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
High Tide for	6:17a	6:43p	6:57a	7:24p
Coney Island	6:26a	6:35p	7:10a	7:20p
Fire Island	9:57a	10:40p	10:32a	11:12p
Hempstead	9:56a	10:34p	10:36a	11:13p
Huntington	6:01a	6:27p	6:41a	7:08p
Jones Inlet	7:39a	8:01p	8:19a	8:41p
Montauk Point	9:57a	10:45p	10:30a	11:13p
Port Washington	6:21a	6:47p	7:01a	7:28p
Sandy Hook				

Regional cities	TODAY		TOMORROW	
Albany	50/46/r		56/35/r	
Danbury	55/53/r		58/32/sh	
Glens Falls	40/36/r		51/32/r	
Gr Barrington	52/49/r		55/33/r	
Kingston	47/44/r		57/32/c	
Liberty	49/45/r		50/29/c	
Monticello	49/45/r		50/29/c	
Newburgh	52/49/r		57/33/c	
Poughkeepsie	52/49/r		55/32/c	
Saratoga Springs	45/40/r		54/35/r	
Stroudsburg	54/48/r		52/32/c	
Torrington	52/48/r		57/32/r	
Syracuse	55/48/r		52/36/sh	

World cities	TODAY		TOMORROW	
Athens	53/42/pc		57/40/s	
Baghdad	66/42/pc		68/44/s	
Beijing	43/19/pc		45/19/pc	
Berlin	37/33/c		42/34/c	
Cairo	66/53/s		65/52/s	
Dublin	50/47/c		52/48/c	
Geneva	40/26/pc		40/26/s	
Hong Kong	66/57/pc		69/62/pc	
Jerusalem	57/43/pc		49/41/r	
Kabul	48/34/pc		50/34/pc	
London	49/43/sh		49/44/c	
Madrid	53/30/s		51/31/s	
Mexico City	72/42/s		72/43/s	
Montreal	41/36/r		49/34/r	
Moscow	34/33/c		35/28/c	
Paris	40/36/c		40/34/c	
Rio de Janeiro	81/73/r		81/73/t	
Rome	59/35/s		58/37/s	
Sydney	81/69/s		80/71/s	
Tokyo	53/37/s		51/37/s	

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P. 40-41



# CODDLE CULTURE

## REPEAT Offenders to City: Drop Dead.

New York lawmakers have been viewing criminals through rose-colored glasses. The past decade of reform policies treated offenders as innocent neighbors bamboozled by “root causes,” like poverty or poor education, into doing bad things. Our sympathetic laws chipped away at the criminal justice system’s ability to arrest, prosecute and incarcerate these lambs, instead offering them social services — so they wouldn’t



**HANNAH E. MEYERS**

want to prey on others.

But last Sunday this dream-world conception of criminality went up in flames. Sebastian Zapeta-Calil, reportedly a K2-addict in this country illegally (for the *second* time) lit a sleeping woman on fire on the F train.

Then he stood back and watched her burn to death, gently fanning the blaze as it consumed her standing body.

This stunningly grotesque murder is a wake-up call for city and state leadership to finally reorient law-and-order policies to protect the city’s most vulnerable people in its most vulnerable places. Zapeta-Calil sadistically slayed an apparently disabled homeless woman — in the subway, where there is limited access to protection or escape. It is she, tortured while sheltering underground from the cold and heartbreakingly anonymous, who deserves our compassion.

But our city leadership likes to pretend there isn’t a criminal mindset that responds better to stringency than to coddling. This blind delusion ignores the self-indulgent sense of entitlement that criminal psychologists have long understood to be a central feature of offenders’ thinking. Indeed, an estimated majority of prison inmates exhibit antisocial personality disorders.

When law enforcement stops curbing entitled behavior, it actively *intensifies* the sense of entitlement. And New York has been indulging like crazy.

Perhaps the most vivid example is the harmful impact of New York’s “Raise the Age,” which boosted the age of criminal responsibility statewide to 18-years-old. Under RTA, 75% of older teens committing violent felonies face no real consequences. Meanwhile, the most hardened teens get housed in detention facilities with younger (actual) kids. In the South Bronx’s Horizon facility, the number of older residents aged 16 to 21 jumped 880% in the five years since

For too long  
NYC  
authorities  
prioritized  
criminals over  
victims —  
with horrors  
like the recent  
subway  
burning a  
tragic result



**Sebastian Zapeta-Calil, in the US again after being deported, allegedly set a homeless woman on fire on the F train while high on K2.**

RTA, and those with a top charge of murder rose a terrifying 1,550%.

Placed in cuddlier institutions, these murder defendants aren’t behaving more nicely. Supervised by impotent Administration for Children’s Services workers instead of cops or corrections officers, the percentage of assaults resulting in injuries at Horizon grew 30% last year. This in a facility where 20-year-olds are housed with 13-year-olds whom they may harm again and again.

This fall, even the City’s own Department of Investigation found that RTA and bail reform rendered “existing disciplinary measures and institutional responses insufficient to deter misconduct, including acts of violence.” How do they know? “This ineffectiveness is demonstrated by the high levels of youth-on-youth and youth-on-staff violence, security breaches, and recovery of contraband including weapons and cellphones.”

Again, we aren’t protecting our

most vulnerable in the most vulnerable settings.

Outside of juvenile detention, too, teens freed from consequences by RTA are not acting nicer. Youth arrests for major crimes are surging, including a 42% leap last year, with hundreds of these offenses happening in vulnerable places that should be safe: public housing buildings and the transit system. New York is *growing* criminals by indulging youths’ sense of entitlement to harm others, rather than curbing it.

And we are also importing criminals, like Zapeta-Calil, who returned to the US after his original deportation. Last month, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency data revealed that Gotham harbors almost 60,000 migrants who are convicted felons or facing criminal charges. Having rewarded each illegal entrant with \$352-worth daily in free housing and services, we then expect them to behave like lawbreaking has consequences? Nope.

Illegal drugs also almost certainly played a role in Sunday’s twisted murder. Zapeta-Calil’s roommate describes his intense daily use of the synthetic drug K2 — a favorite among recent high-profile dangerous New Yorkers from Jordan Neely to Assamad Nash.

But drug offenses have also seen a softer response in part due to New York’s 2020 “discovery” law, which upped compliance burdens on prosecutors, forcing them

to dismiss many more cases. The Bronx District Attorney’s office, for instance, went from convicting 57% of non-marijuana drug cases in 2019, before “discovery reform,” to an average 33% conviction rate in the four years since. Even just considering felony cases, Bronx prosecutors went from 999 convictions in 2019 to only 341 convictions in 2022 (and merely 137 last year, although some cases are still pending).

The Bronx’s rampant open-air drug markets attest that reducing consequences for drug abuse did *not* inspire addicts to stop harmful behavior. Indulgence has just enabled more of it.

Even last month, NYC’s supremely indulgent Public Advocate Jumaane Williams cosponsored a City Council bill establishing a commission on “the root causes of violence in the city” to address everything from gang assault to murder through the lens of non-criminal justice approaches such as poverty reduction programs. This ignores the fact that getting away with committing violence is often the most obvious “root cause” for committing more violence.

Yes, justice often calls for leniency. But for criminals hurting New Yorkers, the *default* shouldn’t be leniency. Justice demands the default be enforcement.

New York: stop giving antisocial lawbreakers the benefit of the doubt that they won’t set homeless women on fire. Re-establish laws that protect the truly innocent.

*Hannah E. Meyers is a fellow and director of policing and public safety for the Manhattan Institute.*



**While Public Advocate Jumaane Williams studies “the root causes of violence,” drugs like K2 (right) are easy to come by.**



Robert Miller/ Bill Farrington



# POSTSCRIPT Culture Club

**T**HE West's fixation on therapy culture and ambiguous mental-health goals such as "wellness" often fails to address the needs of individuals with the most severe mental illnesses. These conditions — which are associated with criminal behavior, chronic unemployment and fractured relationships — demand urgent attention. While reforms to expand residential treatment and comprehensive care are essential, what if a cost-effective solution could complement these interventions, stabilizing those at the highest risk of harming themselves or others?



**NORA KENNEY**

Consider the story of Matt Baszucki. In 2016, as a freshman at the University of California, Berkeley, he began displaying signs of psychosis. By March, he'd spent two weeks in a psychiatric ward, diagnosed with bipolar disorder and prescribed medication. Despite multiple treatments, his condition was deemed "treatment-resistant," and no pharmaceutical combination could keep him stable or out of the hospital.

Desperate for answers, Matt's parents — Roblox co-founder David Baszucki and novelist Jan Ellison — turned to Dr. Chris Palmer, a Harvard psychiatrist researching the link between metabolism and mental health. Palmer, author of "Brain Energy" and director of the Metabolic and Mental Health Program at McLean Hospital, recommended the ketogenic diet, a low-carbohydrate, high-fat eating plan historically used to treat epilepsy.

Initially, Matt's symptoms worsened on the diet, but under Palmer's guidance, his condition gradually improved. Eventually, his bipolar symptoms went into full remission. Today, nearly three years later, Matt remains symptom-free while requir-

# The case for Keto

**RFK Jr. (top right) has espoused eating right to improve well-being, and the Keto diet could be a crucial component of this effort.**

Despite its risks and controversial backers, the link between diet and improved mental health is becoming clearer

Adobe Stock

ing less and less medication.

"Matt's story is not unusual," Palmer explained to me via email. "Despite receiving the best care available, he continued to suffer. [But] metabolic treatments hold the potential to improve the lives of millions of people."

NPR recently reported on the growing body of evidence linking the ketogenic diet to improved mental health. It highlighted stories like that of Iain Campbell, a researcher in Scotland who battled bipolar disorder until he tried the diet. Doctors like Dr. Georgia Ede, a Massachusetts psychiatrist and author of "Change Your Diet, Change Your Mind," echo Palmer's findings.

"The ketogenic diet is the most powerful therapeutic tool I have at my disposal," Ede shared in an email. She noted that the diet improves the brain's entire metabolic system, yielding transformative results in conditions ranging from ADHD and depression to psychosis and early Alzheimer's.

Of course, despite its promise, the idea that dietary changes could meaningfully address mental illness faces skepticism. The backlash journalist Gary Taubes endured two dec-

ades ago when he questioned the low-fat diet craze of the early 2000s and advocated for high-fat diets instead is illuminating. Yet, as public discourse evolves, the ketogenic diet may find greater acceptance — especially with figures like Robert F. Kennedy Jr. championing dietary reform as part of his "Make America Healthy Again" (MAHA) movement.

While Kennedy's views on vaccines and autism are controversial, his MAHA initiative has sparked a national conversation about the link between diet and poor health. In an August speech, Kennedy lamented the chronic disease epidemic fueled by poor nutrition. Highlighting advocates like Dr. Casey Means and Calley Means, he criticized the US food system's reliance on sugar and processed grains, which he linked to metabolic dysfunction and disease.

The Means siblings' critique — articulated most prominently during an appearance on "The Tucker Carlson Show" that became the most shared episode of the year across the entire Apple Podcast platform — aligns with emerging research on how metabolic dysfunction contrib-

utes to mental illness.

Policymakers should seriously explore the ketogenic diet's potential role in addressing these issues. While doctors like Ede emphasize that the keto diet — which some say could increase harmful cholesterol levels — isn't a standalone solution, she sees it as a powerful complement to traditional treatments, if administered under medical supervision.

"Personalized treatment planning and professional support are necessary to ensure the transition to ketosis is safe and effective," Ede explains. She suggests patients work with clinicians experienced in metabolic psychiatry and ketogenic therapies.

Beyond psychosis, the ketogenic diet shows promise in combating addictive behaviors that exacerbate societal issues. Ede notes improvements in patients struggling with gambling, binge eating and alcohol use. A recent study even found that patients undergoing alcohol withdrawal experienced fewer cravings and required less medication when following a ketogenic diet compared to the Standard American Diet (SAD).

Of course, the ketogenic diet isn't

a panacea for complex issues like psychosis or addiction. But backers say it can enhance the efficacy of costly treatments like pharmaceuticals and residential care.

As Kennedy argued, addressing chronic disease isn't just a moral imperative — it's an economic one. Chronic disease costs the US economy \$4 trillion annually, "a 20% drag on everything we do," he said. "We are poisoning the poor, we are systematically poisoning minorities across this country."

The mental health and addiction crises underscore the need for innovative solutions. In cities like New York and Portland, tragic cases like Ramon Rivera — who, suffering from severe mental illness, killed three people in a recent NYC stabbing spree — illustrate the societal toll of untreated disorders.

If experts like Palmer and Ede are correct, ketogenic diets — despite their shortcomings — could play a key role in stabilizing individuals with mental illness or addiction. As the MAHA movement gains traction, now is the time to consider the profound link between diet and mental health.

## — Chatter —

**"I invite every individual, and all people of all nations ... to silence the sounds of arms and overcome divisions."**

— Pope Francis in his Christmas Day message

**"For purposes of National Security and Freedom throughout the world."**

— President-elect Donald Trump's case for the United States to buy Greenland

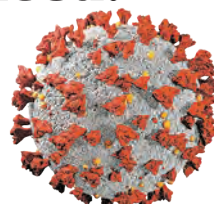


**"I've been fighting government waste like DOGE before DOGE was cool."**

— Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) in his annual Festivus Report on dubious federal spending

**"The scientists who had the subject matter expertise were silenced."**

— a source on how research backing a COVID lab-leak origin was kept out of a report on the pandemic to President Biden





# Hollywood loves to promote #diversity, except when it comes to Israel and Jews



**DAVID  
CHRISTOPHER  
KAUFMAN**

**H**OLLYWOOD came relatively late to the culture wars.

It wasn't until 2016 — when all 20 Oscars acting nominations went to white performers for the second year in a row — that the Academy Awards began to take diversity seriously. By the following year, black actors received nods in every major acting category, a result of both talent and the impact of the #OscarsSoWhite campaign that demanded real change.

Nearly a decade on, the most meaningful consequences of that change are failing to benefit everyone equally. Last week, the short-list for nominations for 2025 Oscars was released in 10 categories. And while there may be racial and gender diversity, it appears far more limited when it comes to Israel and Jews.

Take a quick look at the nominations for the Academy's two documentary categories, Documentary Feature Films and Documentary Short Films. In the former, a pair of features have clear anti-Israel agendas: "The Bibi Files" focuses on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's corruption scandals, and "No Other Land" details the destruction of a Palestinian village by Israeli soldiers in the West Bank.

There's also Palestine's official selection for the Documentary Short category, "From Ground Zero," an anthology of 22 "video diaries" from Gaza. The topic matter speaks for itself.

Important stuff, but what about the other side? More than a year after

## THE DEI LIE



**Hollywood has room for Jews like Jonathan Glazer (left), but not for Jews who are pro-Israel. Meanwhile, the Academy Museum (below) erased Jewish history in cinema.**

Getty Images, Adobe Stock

the Oct. 7 Hamas massacre — a period of remarkable cultural response to the terrorist attack and its impact on Israeli society and the Jewish world — no Israeli or Jewish-themed films have made the Academy short-list, despite plenty to choose from.

Both "OCTOBER H8TE," which chronicles antisemitism across American college campuses, and "We Will Dance Again," about the survivors of the Nova massacre, were submitted for consideration, but did not make the cut. Perhaps not by chance: Earlier this month, the International Documentary Association (IDA) removed paid advertising to support "We Will Dance Again." The film's producers alleged an "anti-Israel" bias, a claim the IDA branded "fictional."

Meanwhile, the Academy will continue its experiment with identity politics this coming awards season via its much-maligned new DEI standards. Launched last year, the

confusing standards demand a set percentage of minority participation, in various aspects of a film's production. A Best Picture nominee, for instance, must include at least one lead actor from an "underrepresented or ethnic group" or at least 30% of "secondary" actors must be racial minorities, women, LGBT or possess physical or cognitive disabilities.

But Jews, at least for the new standards, are not considered minorities, despite representing a mere 2% of the US population. In other words, the Academy views me as a minority because my father is black, but not because my mother is Jewish, even though there are more than six times as many African-Americans as Jewish Americans. How's that for fuzzy logic, and numbers! And these are just the highest-profile problems facing Israel and Jews in Hollywood right now.

On lower heat is the potential for

a new round of speeches in 2025 like the one given by "Zone of Interest" director Jonathan Glazer at last year's Oscars, where he renounced his Judaism while accepting an award for his film about the Holocaust.

And who can forget the new Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, which opened in 2021 with exhibits about Hollywood diversity that conspicuously left out Jews. Never mind that many of Hollywood's most iconic pioneers — names like Samuel Goldwyn and Louis B. Mayer — were Jews fleeing from European persecution.

Things only got worse when the museum finally debuted a follow-up exhibition highlighting Jewish achievement in Hollywood but filled with anti-Jewish stereotypes. The exhibition was eventually modified, but a few months later the Academy came under additional fire when it selected Oct. 7 — the first anniversary of the Hamas attack — for an

event to welcome new members.

"This is not just about one mistake, but a pattern of erasing Jews from the entertainment industry," observes Allison Josephs, founder and director of the Jewish Institute for Television and Cinema. "Jews like Jonathan Glazer, they're applauded, but . . . when it comes to Jews who support Israel and Judaism, have we lost Hollywood?"

More worrisome, Joseph adds, is the specter that openly pro-Israel Jews will fail to be voted into the Academy in the future if the anti-Zionist sentiment continues.

Still, the 2025 Hollywood awards season will be vastly different than last year for one key reason: Donald Trump. The once-and-future president has little patience for both wokey ideologies like DEI as well as chaotic pro-Palestinian agitators.

Already, corporate giants such as Walmart and academic titans like the University of Michigan have scaled back their DEI efforts in the wake of Trump's November win. And Disney announced it was removing a transgender storyline from an upcoming kids film.

Will such shifts trickle down to the final Oscar nominations and onto the red carpet next year?

Perhaps not initially, as Hollywood, as it did during the first Trump administration, fights to position itself at the center of the Trump #resistance. But with so many media giants now operating across so many media platforms — broadcast, streaming, search, social media and AI — Hollywood has never needed Washington more.

In fact, with Trump notoriously anti-regulation, Hollywood — or at least its finance and compliance folks — might actually come out in favor of the new administration, even if it does so *sotto voce*.

This may not put an end to the film industry's Jewish problem, but it could be a solid step in making sure it does not get worse.

dkaufman@nypost.com

### GIVE US YOUR HIRED

Four in 10 Americans say highly skilled workers should get "top priority" for legal immigration.

Highly skilled workers

42%

Workers to fill labor shortages

25%

Have close family in US

19%

— Pew



**"It's always raising the toll and never about reducing the toll."**

— Staten Island Borough President Vito Fossella, on a congestion pricing proposal to charge 25% more on high-gridlock days

### CITY ON FIRE

**"Nobody came to her aid...[it's] the Daniel Penny effect."**



— Guardian Angels co-founder Curtis Sliwa, on the woman burned to death on the subway allegedly by a Guatemalan migrant

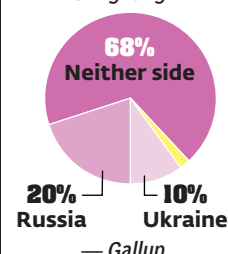
**"Gov. Hochul, shame on you. There's nothing you can say that's going to make this right in New York."**

— incoming border czar Tom Homan on state sanctuary policy



### BITTER STALEMATE

A majority of Americans say neither side is winning the Ukraine-Russia war after nearly four years of fighting.





# POSTSCRIPT Housing Crisis

**F**EW would argue that New York City isn't mired in a housing crisis — as defined by high prices and low vacancies. There's good evidence for that conclusion. The most recent federal New York City Housing and Vacancy Survey reported a vacancy rate of just 1.4%, “a stark contrast to the 4.54 rate in 2021.” Over the same period, median monthly rent rose from \$1,500 to \$1,641 — and that includes everything from luxury high-rises to public housing.



**HOWARD HUSOCK**

These sorts of figures drive an ongoing search for solutions to the problem — including, most recently, Mayor Adams' Dec. 12 announcement of a new city Charter Revision Commission to consider, as he put it, how to “deliver as much affordable housing to working-class New Yorkers and their families.”

A thorough examination of New York's housing policy — both at the city and state level — could include a growing body of economic research regarding rent regulation, which affects the 960,000 “rent-stabilized” apartments whose price is set not by the market but by mayoral appointees. Rent stabilization may provide a good deal for those lucky to benefit from it. But as economists from across the political spectrum increasingly concur, it ultimately harms the city's housing market for many.

**R**ESearch into the impact of rent control has a long history. Back in 1997, the Harvard economists Edward Glaeser and Erzo Luttner described the “misallocation of housing” that rent controls creates. That was their term for a mismatch between what renters might need and what they choose because the price is cheap — such as folks who might only need a small apartment, but live in a big one because they can afford it.

More recently, in 2018, the lib-



**Harvard economists Erzo Luttner (left) and Edward Glaeser warned of rent control side effects back in 1997.**

eral Brookings Institution cited the same problem: “Once a tenant has secured a rent-controlled apartment, he may not choose to move in the future and give up his rent control, even if his housing needs change.” This “misallocation,” Brookings continued, is not without major consequence, most notably “empty-nest households living in family-sized apartments and young families crammed into small studios.”

Last year's Census analysis of New York housing data suggests that's exactly what is happening here — as young people crammed into subdivided studios with multiple roommates know well. The difference between rent-regulated and market-rate housing in the Big Apple is stark: Only 94,000 (24%) rent-stabilized tenants had moved (either in or out) in the past year, compared to 221,000 (57%) of market-rate tenants. Rent-stabilized tenants are more likely to stay put — forming a kind of housing blockade for newcomers or households with kids who need more bedrooms.

As per the Census, the long-term rent-stabilized tenants were not necessarily low-income: 30% reported incomes above \$100,000 a year — in keeping with notorious stories of the actress Mia Farrow and Congressman Charles Rangel enjoying rent-stabilized units. (Farrow inherited hers through her family, as the law permits.)

Rent controls, notes the Journal of Housing Economics, lead to a redistribution of income — which can include tenants who become better off at the expense of landlords. As Kenny Burgos, the former Bronx Assemblyman who now heads the New York Apartment Association

# TAKING STOCK



**New York City is infamous for high rents and low vacancies, with the most recent stats showing a vacancy rate of just 1.4%.**

(NYAA) — which represents the owners of some 400,000 regulated units — notes, the current system “inhibits the natural flow and movement of a normal housing market.”

**T**HERE can be ill-effects on housing quality too, economists are finding, in ways that harm rent-stabilized tenants themselves.

In February, 2024, economists at the St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank looked at the physical effects of rent controls. They concluded that “while rent-control policies do restrict rents at more affordable rates, they can also lead to a reduction of rental stock and maintenance, thereby exacerbating affordable housing shortages.” Similarly, new research in the Journal of Housing Economics from March 2024 concluded that “even tenants in the



**After Argentine President Javier Milei (inset) scrapped rent regulation, Buenos Aires' (above) rental supplies grew 170%.**

controlled dwellings can suffer from rent control, as maintenance of such dwellings can be reduced, leading to a decreased housing quality.”

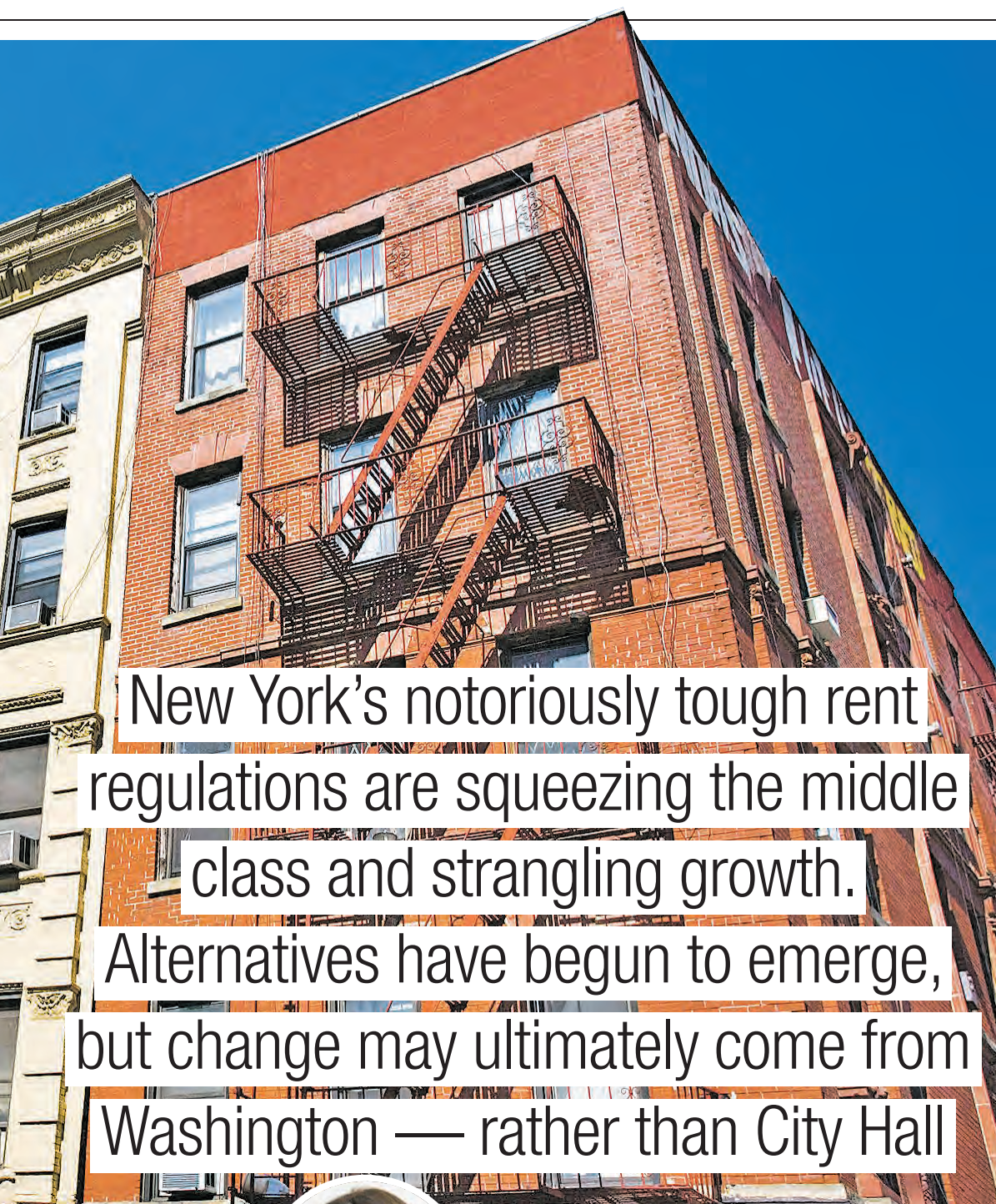
Once again, the most recent findings from New York reveal these

very same market conditions. Its review of “reported housing problems” found that there are more tenant complaints about rodents, leaks, cracks and heating in rent-stabilized units than in the non-regulated. The



**The Supreme Court recently declined to hear a challenge to rent regulation laws that argued such laws are unconstitutional.**





# New York's notoriously tough rent regulations are squeezing the middle class and strangling growth. Alternatives have begun to emerge, but change may ultimately come from Washington — rather than City Hall

numbers are striking: 376,000 reports of rodents in regulated units (39% of all), compared to 240,000 in market-rate units (22% of all).

The repair needs of older, rent-regulated buildings can even lead to owners simply abandoning them, as Maggie Brunn, president of Brooklyn's A&E Real Estate, has said. "When an apartment has been lived in for 20 or 30 years, those limits [on rent increases] don't even come close to the actual costs of rewiring, plumbing and the basic improvements you'd need to rent an apartment that a family would be proud to call home. That means more and more of those desperately needed low-rent apartments are sitting vacant."



**The return of Donald Trump could be a boon for landlords like Brooklyn's Maggie Brunn (inset).**

That problem has been exacerbated by 2019 New York state legislation which sharply limits rent increases even for rising costs such as major capital repairs.

Burgos of the NYAA estimates at

least 10,000 of such "ghost apartments" lie vacant — because their owners "aren't allowed to recoup their costs. Inflation, property taxes, insurance." As a result, he says, "banks won't lend to them."

That's exactly what Brookings has found. "Rent control can also lead to decay of the rental housing stock; landlords may not invest in maintenance because they can't recoup these investment by raising rents."

"The system," says Burgos, "is not working either for owners or tenants."

But how could this deeply established system — existing, in one form or other, for more than 50 years — actually be adjusted?

**T**HE experience of another major world city, Buenos Aires, Argentina, suggests doing so might not bring on the chaos and price-



**As Mayor Adams looks to add affordable housing, regulation keeps much of it empty, says Apartment Association head Kenny Burgos.**



**Even tenants in the controlled dwellings can suffer from rent control.**

—The Journal of Housing Economics

gouging tenant advocates would suggest. Late last year, libertarian-leaning Argentine President Javier Milei simply "scrapped" rent controls, as reported in The Wall Street Journal. The effect, it reported, is that "the Argentine capital is undergoing a rental-market boom. Landlords are rushing to put their properties back on the market, with Buenos Aires rental supplies increasing by over 170%. While rents are still up in nominal terms, many renters are securing better (or at least fairer) deals, with a 40% decline in the real price of rental properties when adjusted for inflation."

Simply scrapping rent control like in Buenos Aires would be far more difficult in regulation-laden New York, of course. But, as Burgos notes, even permitting the de-regulation of vacant units could lead to significant improvement — without affecting current tenants.

What he calls "vacancy control" stands in the way of the rent increases owners need to invest simply to comply with building codes and lead abatement laws — rather than leaving units vacant. The city's Charter Commission could help by reducing property taxes or water rates for regulated units.

But even a rapid deregulation might not be that consequential in much of the city. Census survey reports that the typical market-rate rent (\$2,000) is not fantastically higher than the typical regulated rent (\$1,500). In The Bronx, the typical rent for all units — including non-rent stabilized — is just \$1,200. Market rents, in other words, can be close to regulated rents in lower-cost neighborhoods. Combined with a wave of vacant units coming back on the market and new

investments, New York might follow (or at least tiptoe) in the footsteps of Buenos Aires.

**S**UCH a move would not only benefit renters, it would save the city the expenses associated with an agency most metropolises don't possess, the Rent Stabilization Guidelines Board, whose staff sets rent increase recommendations and monitors compliance. What's more, property owners — including mom-and-pop landlords who own just a few buildings — would no longer have to incur the red tape headaches of registering their buildings every year — and either mailing or hand-delivering the required forms and fees, to be paid, for each unit, both to the state (\$13) and the city (\$20). Failing to do so means a \$500 fine — per apartment.

There have been attempts, led by the owners' lobby, the Rent Stabilization Association (now part of the New York Housing Association), to upend the price control regime through the courts — without success. Most recently, the US Supreme Court declined a challenge based, in part, on the argument that rent regulation was effectively a legal "taking of an owner's property, without compensation."

The fact that property owners sought to overturn rent regulation through the courts makes clear how difficult it is to change the system legislatively. But city and state officials should take notice of the changing leadership in Washington. In the first Trump Administration, a White House Executive Council singled out rent control for criticism, writing that it can lead to "restricted supply [which] ends up hurting some of the lower-income renters they are intended to help."

New York City's budget relies on Washington for \$100 billion in revenue, including from the Department of Housing and Urban Development — which could attach strings to that aid, including revisions to rent regulation or calling for it to end. Once back in office, Donald Trump — as he often does — could prove a wild card and deregulate New York City's housing market.

*Howard Husock is a senior fellow in domestic policy at the American Enterprise Institute.*

Getty Images/Comstock Images



# POSTSCRIPT Editorial

## NEW YORK POST

AMERICA'S OLDEST CONTINUOUSLY PUBLISHED DAILY NEWSPAPER

# Tisch's Vital Cleanup

**No city service is more vital than law enforcement, so it's great to see former Sanitation Commissioner Jessica Tisch off to such an encouraging start in cleaning up the NYPD, as its new boss.**

The need for major house-cleaning at the Police Department was painfully obvious even before the bombshell sex-for-overtime scandal erupted last week. And Tisch — tapped by Mayor Adams and sworn in just a month ago — has already been giving her broom a robust workout.

Over last weekend alone, she moved 29 officers into new jobs, including 16 who'd earned more than \$100,000 in OT last year.

She accepted the resignation of the force's highest-ranking uniformed officer, Chief of Department Jeffrey Maddrey — who quit after The Post uncovered allegations he demanded sexual favors from a subordinate in exchange for overtime.

Tisch also pushed out Internal Affairs Bureau Chief Michael Iglesias for blowing off her requests to probe Maddrey for OT abuse, notably the overtime pay he granted Lt. Quathisha Epps, who now claims Maddrey forced her to have sex with him in exchange for \$204,000 in overtime pay.

Tisch also pulled drivers for two top officials over OT concerns and pushed out a spokesperson who once called a Post reporter a "f-king scumbag."

All this, after her predecessor Eddie Caban quit amid a federal probe into police warning nightclubs connected to his ex-cop brother about inspections, and Deputy Mayor Philip Banks, who oversaw the NYPD, stepped down amid *another* federal probe.

It's all left the department in "shambles," per one retired chief. Meanwhile, corruption probes at City Hall have roped in the mayor himself, as well as several of his top staff. So Tisch's task is to get the NYPD's house in order so it can focus on its main mission: reducing crime.

Major felonies are still up 30% from 2019 while signs of disorder proliferate — the reek of weed in every public place; "asylum-seekers" lounging on corners and madmen walking the streets; the toothpaste, etc., locked up in every drug store.

Thank the state's criminal-justice "reforms," the radical de Blasio expansion of "sanctuary city" protections, a plague of woke prosecutors and judges *and* the work of the profoundly anti-cop City Council. And while Adams won office vowing to prioritize public safety, he's had little success getting Albany or the council to wake up to reality, even as NYPD-command confusion and scandal further sinks rank-and-file morale and hands ammo to the enemies of policing — all making crime-fighting even harder.

This is Tisch's chance. She's "in charge, and she wants to put an end to the out-of-control frat house atmosphere" at the NYPD, one police source told The Post. "Things are different now than they were under commissioners [Keechant] Sewell, Caban and [Thomas] Donlon," the source added. "The mayor is not going to protect anyone and no one is safe."

Hear, hear. New Yorkers should cheer Tisch's aggressive approach. Righting this ship can't come soon enough.

# Trump's Port Mistake

**President-elect Donald Trump is wading into treacherous waters by backing the thugish demands of the International Longshoreman's Association on US port automation.**

A quick recap: This fall, the ILA staged a brief strike over its demands for a nearly 80% wage hike over six years *plus* a full stop to all port automation. Management, the US Maritime Alliance, offered a raise of "only" 50% and *some* flexibility around automation, an area where America's ports badly lag the rest of the industrialized world. President Biden stepped in and strong-armed the ports into agreeing to a deal on wages, with negotiations on other issues to continue through Jan. 15 — at which point a strike comes back on the table.

Now talks have broken down again, and Trump has sided with the ILA: "I've studied automation, and know just about everything there is to know about it," he bragged on Truth Social. "The amount of money saved is nowhere near the distress, hurt, and harm it causes for American Workers, in this case, our Longshoremen."

Fine: Trump has never pretended to be an old-

school Chamber of Commerce-loving Republican. And a port strike just five days before his inauguration would be bring shortages and price hikes.

But no way does the ILA deserve his complete support: This union is a lot closer to a protection racket than to Joe Hill. For starters, it already has 50,000 members getting paid to do just 25,000 jobs: Under *past* labor contracts that allowed *some* innovation, half the dockworkers at East and Gulf coast ports sit at home collecting "container royalties."

And Harold Daggett — the union boss vowing to "cripple" the US economy if any more automation is allowed — lives in a luxe, 7,000-square-foot mansion in tony Sparta, NJ; among the vehicles in his five-car garage is a Bentley convertible.

Most people *aren't* longshoremen, and yielding to the ILA's outrageous demands comes at every-one else's expense, including all the *genuine* working-class folks who helped re-elect Trump.

Sucking up to the ILA is the very kind of ugly transactional politics aimed at favored groups that sickened voters under Biden. Trump's playing with fire if he continues down this ILA-appeasing path.

**Under the watch of Gov. Gavin Newsom (left), California has begun a series of judicial efforts to counter what legislators believe will be an attack by Donald Trump on the state's way of life.**



**ALTHOUGH President-elect Donald Trump has not yet taken office, the government of California is not standing for it. Whatever it is, they're against it.**

"Lawyers from the Attorney General's office and the Governor's office have been preparing for a potential second Trump term for more than a year," declares a bill introduced in the state legislature in early December. It would authorize \$500,000 for "federal litigation expenses" against the Trump White House: in particular, a website featuring "descriptive narratives" about potential legal actions.

A second bill would set aside \$25 million to pay lawyers to sue the Trump administration and also to defend the state "against enforcement and legal actions taken by the federal government."

That's because, effective at noon on January 20, California could be in legal hot water.

State regulators have been pushing the cost of energy up and grinding businesses down with home-brewed environmental restrictions that are more stringent than federal standards. These would typically violate federal law, except that California has a waiver: special authority under the 1967 Clean Air Act to set its own standards. Trump has vowed to end the waiver.

State and city "sanctuary" laws are another potential source of legal jeopardy. California law helps shield criminal illegal aliens from deportation. Trump's "border czar," Tom Homan,



**SUSAN SHELLEY**

has said he'll arrest local officials who interfere with the operations of his officers.

Then there's elections. Trump has denounced California's government for prohibiting local voter ID laws, for mailing out tens of millions of vote-by-mail ballots, and for allowing voting to go on for a month. He might be able to change all that for elections in which a federal

office is on the ballot. The entire House of Representatives is on the ballot every two years.

California filed nearly 120 lawsuits against the first Trump administration, but Trump increased his vote share in 45 out of the state's 58 counties. One factor for this shift may be that California's stringent climate regulations are raising gas prices. The California Air Resources Board just updated its Low Carbon Fuel Standard regulation in a way that will push the price of gasoline up by 50-65 cents per gallon in January.

It's not even possible to calculate the cost of the state's ban on the sale of gas-powered cars starting in 2035, or its rule mandating a changeover to zero-emission medium- and heavy-duty trucks.

In recent weeks, the Biden administration's Environmental Protection Agency approved waivers to allow enforcement of California's "climate-friendly" car, truck and emissions rules. Trump could halt these regulations by ending the state's special authority under the Clean Air Act or by revoking the Biden-approved waivers. California would certainly go to court over that, and it might be joined by more than a dozen states, including New York, that

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AP: Getty Images

## How California is gearing up for a legal war against Trump's second administration

have chosen to adopt the same regulations.

But the legal landscape has changed since Trump's first term. The US Supreme Court has ruled that bureaucrats do not have the authority to impose regulations that upend significant portions of the national economy unless Congress has specifically granted that authority.

Recently the US Supreme Court agreed to hear a case related to California's Clean Air Act waiver.

The justices will decide whether the oil industry has standing to challenge it.

"Congress did not give California special authority to regulate greenhouse gases, mandate electric vehicles or ban new gas car sales," Chet Thompson, president and CEO of the American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers, said in a statement.

Even some of the states that adopted California's regulations are having second thoughts. Virginia is going back to the less stringent federal regulations after declaring CARB's Advanced Clean Cars II rule "unworkable and out of touch with reality."

State legislatures that adopted California's Advanced Clean Trucks rule are under pressure from truckers and truck dealers to delay implementation. On Jan. 1, the rule required 7% of

trucks sold to be zero-emission in New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, Washington and Oregon.

Back home, the state's fight against Trump's "mass deportation" plan is underway. State schools chief Tony Thurmond announced that to protect "attendance and funding," he's sponsoring legislation to "keep US Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents off California campuses by establishing a one-mile radius safe zone around schools."

In Washington, California's Sen. Alex Padilla urged his colleagues to quickly pass his Citizenship for Essential Workers Act, which would fast-track citizenship for more than 5 million undocumented immigrants and immediately grant them permanent legal resident status.

Padilla was California's secretary of state from 2015 to 2021. He personally implemented, and has fiercely defended, the election and voting procedures that Trump has vowed to "straighten out."

Who needs foreign wars? California and Trump are the Ultimate Fighting Championship.

*Susan Shelley is an editorial writer with the Southern California News Group, and VP of Communications for the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.*

## CHATTER Greenland gambit

If I may be so bold as to recommend to President-elect Trump, there is no need to negotiate with Denmark over the status of Greenland ("And he still wants to buy Greenland," Dec. 23).

Greenlanders have had the right to vote for independence for close to a generation. A legitimate and practical approach: There are 56,000 residents of Greenland.

The United States could offer a \$250,000 payment to each citizen upon the completion of a successful referendum for Greenland to become a US territory or state.

The cost would be approximately \$14 billion. The return: an immense long-term strategic and tactical victory for the United States of America for a paltry sum in comparison to our other foreign bequests.

**Bruce McMenemy, Sanford, Fla.**

## 9/11 funding snub

I am completely disgusted with our members of Congress, Democrat and Republican alike ("WTC health scare," Dec. 23).

You thieves composed a 1,400-page budget loaded with billions for your pet pork projects, which was rejected. Now that you didn't get your way, you didn't fund the 9/11 first responders bill?

Let me remind all of you that thousands of police officers, firefighters, EMTs and volunteers responded to the World

trade Center that horrifying day while you blowhards cowered in your homes and offices.

Every one of them deserves to be taken care of for their service to New York City and this country.

We are in a new era now. People are tired of getting ripped off by lawmakers peeing away their hard-earned tax money and not providing for those who deserve it. Be prepared to find new jobs.

**Michael Greaney, Massapequa**

## No help for NYers

Rep. Ritchie Torres is right ("As gov brags of safe subways!" Dec. 23).

Indeed, the city and state have failed the mentally ill. The other night, during rush hour at the busy Columbus Circle station, there was a young man who was naked from the waist down (wearing no underwear), standing on the platform.

People walked by. There were no police or the promised National Guard in sight.

I "saw something" and wanted to "say something," but there were no ears to listen.

**Melanie Coronetz, Manhattan**

## NFL money-grab

When did watching football games become so elite ("Players still mixed on Xmas slate," Sports, Dec. 25)?

Thank you, NBA, for keeping Christmas Day basketball games on basic TV channels.

Shame on the NFL for depriving poor fans who can't afford streaming services like Netflix

from enjoying a day of football with family and friends on Christmas.

**Betty Schwartz, Livingston, NJ**

## Xmas stabbing

So, here we go again: Episode "who knows what" in unprovoked attacks in New York City ("Knifer" spreads Xmas fear," Dec. 26).

Of all of the accomplishments that people are hoping for under our fearless and America-loving President-elect Donald Trump, the one I want is former Mayor Bill de Blasio & Co. scrutinized for spending an exorbitant amount of New York City funds on "mental illness programs."

Where, oh where, did this money go? And who got their hands on it? It's another "Lufthansa Heist," minus Henry Hill and James Burke. On Jan. 20, 2025 there will be a new "Don" in town. Capeesh?

**Joe Torrillo, Manalapan, NJ**



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# POSTSCRIPT Books



## REQUIRED READING by Hailey Eber

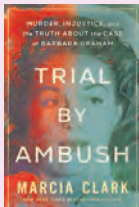
**Money for Couples: No More Stress. No More Fights. Just a 10-Step Plan to Create Your Rich Life Together.**

Ramit Sethi (*Workman*)  
Just in time for New Year's resolutions, here's a plan to get on the same financial page as your spouse and work together to manage debt and achieve your fiscal goals.



**Trial by Ambush: Murder, Injustice, and the Truth about the Case of Barbara Graham**

Marcia Clark (*Thomas & Mercer*)  
The famous attorney digs into Barbara Graham's 1953 murder trial. Graham and her two male co-defendants targeted a 64-year-old California woman for robbery, but things went wrong and their victim, whom they'd beaten and tied up, died from asphyxiation. The three were all convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to death. Graham was the second woman to be executed in the state of California. Clark explores the role sexism and sensationalism played in the case.



**Inheriting Magic: My Journey Through Grief, Joy, Celebration and Making Every Day Magical**

Jennifer Love Hewitt (*BenBella Books*)  
The "Party of Five" actress and mom-of-three recounts her mother's death from cancer and how she found joy again in seasonal celebrations and enchanting moments.



**Cabin: Off the Grid Adventures with a Clueless Craftsman**

Patrick Hutchison (*St. Martin's Press*)  
Hutchinson writes amusingly of leaving his Seattle office job to live off the grid. In 2013, he bought a run-down, 120-square-foot cabin in the Washington state wilderness with plans to fix it up himself, despite his near total lack of carpentry experience.



**Apartment Women**

Gu Byeong-mo (*Hanover Square Press*)  
In the latest from the bestselling Seoul native, four young couples move into an experimental living community in a nondescript area in South Korea. The government-funded setup is intended to make child-rearing easier, but each of the women — whose interior lives Byeong-mo richly renders — find the living situation far from ideal.



**Private Rites**

Julia Armfield (*Flatiron Books*)  
In this novel inspired by "King Lear," three estranged, queer sisters are forced together after the death of their father. But any chance at reconciliation is ruined by a secret revealed in his will and larger menacing forces — some related to the disappearance of their mother long ago — at play.



by MEIK WIKING

**W**HY are some people happier than others? And how can we improve our quality of life? Those are the two main questions I have been trying to answer for more than a decade. I run the Happiness Research Institute in Copenhagen — and, no, we don't have unicorns or chocolate fountains in the office. We try to understand through science how our jobs, money, and relationships influence happiness — ours and yours. Our goal: To help people across the globe do as the Danish do — and live a happier and more fulfilling life in 2025.

### Happiness at Work: It's Possible — Really

My latest book could not be more timely or aptly named — "The Art of Danish Living - How the World's Happiest People Find Joy at Work." My greatest superpower as a native Dane and happiness researcher is that I believe work can and should be a source of happiness. If we design it right.

A growing number of studies suggest that by looking at your job differently you can hack your way to a higher level of satisfaction. Changing your view of work has been coined "job crafting" by Amy Wrzesniewski, now a professor of organizational behavior at the Yale School of Management, and Jane Dutton, Professor Emerita of Business Administration and Psychology at the Michigan Ross School of Business. Profs. Wrzesniewski and Dutton have examined a broad range of employees — tech workers, hospital cleaners, factory workers and staffers in a women advocacy nonprofit.

Amy and her team noticed a key difference among the hospital cleaners, not necessarily the most desirable of jobs. Some of them saw themselves solely as cleaners, while others focused on other functions or even invented tasks that were not part of the job description, like making people laugh.

That was the case for one guy that Amy interviewed. As part of the hospital janitorial staff, his job was to clean up vomit when people were sick from chemotherapy.



Professors Amy Wrzesniewski (left) and Jane Dutton say happiness at work depends on "job crafting" your view of your gig.

But his view was that cleaning was just a segment of his job — his real job was to cheer people up when they were feeling down, such as after chemo. If a patient felt ashamed about vomited all over the floor, his go-to joke would be, "Please keep doing that — that is how I get my paycheck. If you can . . . aim for the floor in the future, maybe I can get some overtime."

We all have a list of tasks that we need to accomplish. But many of us have an opportunity to mind-hack ourselves into more happiness at work, no matter the tasks. The key is to redefine what we actually do at work, building in more of the stuff that we enjoy into our jobs.

### The Joy of Arbejdssfællesskab: A Work Community

Beyond paid work, you may also find happiness is forming what we Danes call an "arbejdssfællesskab" — a "work community" — gathering of friends and neighbors organized to accomplish a task, something that may be a common good for the group and that we cannot accomplish alone.

My friend Ida and her family have worked together in this way with two other families. Every year, each of the families plans a big project, for instance to build an outdoor pizza oven, a chicken coop or a fence for the land where their sheep graze. Together, they complete the three projects, one in the spring, one in summer and one in the autumn, on rotation. Each family makes sure the necessary materials and supplies are bought, and everyone brings tools. They work, eat and laugh together. Sounds like a great weekend to me.



Denmark is famous for its happy people. The Happiness Research Institute (above) studies how money, jobs and relationships influence joy — and how taking a page from the Danes could pay off for the rest of us.

### Escaping the Hedonic Treadmill

As we enter 2025, this might be a good time to escape the financial hedonic treadmill. Don't get me wrong, money does matter when it comes to happiness. But mainly because being without money is a cause for stress, worry and unhappiness. Not being able to put food on the table is undoubtedly not a happy situa-







# Northern light

For 2025, do as the Danes do and make happiness — and hygge — key components of both office and home

**‘They don’t just shovel in the food any more, they sip their wine, they tell us about their day.’**

— a father on how hygge helped his kids

vate a sense of hygge around our dinner tables.

“After I read about hygge I went out and bought these two chandeliers and we started lighting them at dinner,” one of my readers told me. He and his wife have three sons: 18-year-old twins and a son who was 15 at the time. When he first started to light candles, his boys teased him. “What’s with the romance, Dad? Do you want to have dinner alone with Mom?”

But soon he noticed small changes around the dinner table. Time seemed to slow down. The teenagers became more talkative. The change in atmosphere at the table put the boys in a story telling mood. “They don’t just shovel in the food any more, they sip their wine, they tell us about their day.”

Dinnertime is no longer just about food — it is about hygge. And now the boys are the ones who light the candles for dinner.

A small design change had a big impact. A different dinner setup had improved how a family interacted. And I think this is what our home should offer us — a place to be happy even in times of turbulence.

For a happier 2025, the key is to focus on what you can control. We may not always have control over the events affecting us — but we always have control over how we approach things. And while we may live in a turbulent world, we may still make our lives a happy place. In our own little worlds that we call home, we are masters of the universe. And maybe finding happiness at home this year will make us better equipped to help the world — and our offices — become a better place.

*Meik Wiking is CEO of the Happiness Research Institute and author of the new book “The Art of Danish Living - How the World’s Happiest People Find Joy at Work.”*

tion. And people in well-paying jobs are happier and more satisfied with their lives and jobs than people who make less money.

But after a certain level of need is met, additional income does not move the needle much when it comes to additional happiness. With money, as with most things in life, we see diminishing, marginal returns when it comes to happiness.

Your first slice of cake is wonderful — slice number eight, not so much. It is the same with money. The first money you receive is very important and will secure food on the table and a roof over your head. But if you already make a lot of money, then the more you earn, the more you tend to spend it on silly things like a coat for your dog.

In addition, people often care

more about their relative income than their absolute income. How much money do I make compared to Karen in accounting, or the Joneses next door? And the thing is, you are always going to find somebody who makes more money than you — and there is always going to be a higher number. I call it the-one-more-million-then-I-will-be-happy-syndrome. You won’t.

## Designing Happiness at Home

Instead, there is a much higher happiness return on investing in your relationships and this is where the Danish tradition of hygge comes in. Hygge can best be described as the art of creating a nice atmosphere. And sometimes, we need no more than to light a candle to culti-





# POSTSCRIPT Books

by STEVEN W. MOSHER

**J**IMMY Lai could have fled Hong Kong when the Communists arrived in 1997. Hundreds of thousands of his fellow Hong Kongers did, making for the friendlier shores of Canada, Australia and the United States.

But the billionaire entrepreneur, publisher of the former British colony's leading newspaper, the Apple Daily, decided to stay behind instead and fight for freedom. It's a decision that may cost him his life, his friend and biographer Mark Clifford believes.

As Clifford recounts in "The Troublemaker," Lai had escaped Communist China once before. In 1961, as a 12-year-old boy, Lai had slipped across the border into Hong Kong with nothing but the clothes on his back.

It was the time of the Great Chinese Famine — Mao's missteps would condemn 45 million people to death by starvation — and the city was crowded with refugees. But Lai managed to find a job in a factory as an odd-jobs worker.

Paid a pittance, he survived by sleeping on the factory floor and eating cheap noodles from street stalls.

Charismatic, energetic, and eager to learn, Lai quickly rose through the ranks. By the time he was 20 he was managing a factory with 300 workers.

At 26 he owned one. And then in 1981, at the age of 33, he founded the retail chain Giordano, where he pioneered fast fashion.

Jimmy Lai had made his fortune in freewheeling Hong Kong, which had prospered mightily under British rule. And although he was not politically active, he was hopeful that Deng Xiaoping's economic reforms would lead to increased freedom in his homeland as well.

That dream died on June 4, 1989, when the Beijing regime gunned down thousands of students and workers in and around the main square of China's capital city.

The Tiananmen Massacre was

# RED MENACE

More than three decades after the Tiananmen massacre, billionaire Jimmy Lai is still paying the price for demanding reform

China's brutal crackdown at Tiananmen Square in 1989 was a political awakening for Jimmy Lai (inset), now a political prisoner under lockdown 23 hours a day.



AP: LightRocket via Getty Images

Lai's moment of political awakening. He threw himself into the campaign for democracy with the same energy that was to make him a billionaire over the next decade.

Among other things, he helped some of the student leaders on China's most wanted list, democracy activists like Wuer Kaixi, to escape to the West.

But what really put Lai on what Beijing calls "a collision course with Beijing" was an article he wrote about then-premier Li Peng, one of the leaders behind the crackdown.

"He derided the Chinese premier as 'a national humiliation,' writes Clifford. "He criticized the barba-

rism, corruption, and decay of the Chinese Communist Party . . . He closed his column with an emphatic throw-down to the premier: 'I want to tell you that not only are you a bastard, you are also a bastard with zero IQ.'"

Beijing was furious, and began a campaign to destroy Lai's businesses, not to mention his reputation.

Like many Hong Kongers, Lai had made contingency plans to leave Hong Kong as the date of the hand-over approached.

But now he resolved not to leave. He had fled communism once before, but now he would stand and fight. He would use his money, his

influence, and the power of his Apple Daily presses to support Hong Kong's democracy movement and hold back tyranny.

Lai's oft-repeated credo, Clifford writes, was this: "I will fight for freedom, I will not give up anticommunism, [and] I will never give up my dignity as a human being."

Where did the courage to confront the biggest killing machine on the planet — the Chinese Communist Party — come from?

In part it came from "a businessman's instinc-

tive aversion to political control," Clifford writes. But he makes it clear that Jimmy Lai's convictions ran far deeper.

Although he had only five years of formal education, Lai was a voracious reader. Milton Friedman, a close personal friend, wrote: "On his own, [Lai] acquired a liberal education and became a libertarian."

On a more personal level, Clifford notes, Lai was inspired by the faith of the Catholics he met in the course of his pro-democracy activities, such as Cardinal Joseph Zen.

Lai entered the church within days of the Communist takeover. As his wife, herself a believer, noted at the time, "He knows that a fight is coming and that he will need God's help for this fight."

As Clifford's gripping account reveals, in the years since, Lai has been beaten up, his house firebombed, and repeatedly arrested. He has languished for most of the past four years in prison. Today Lai spends around 23 hours a day in solitary confinement in a maximum-security facility.

The national security charge he is now facing — colluding with foreign forces — carries a penalty of life imprisonment.

The story of Jimmy Lai's rise in the textile industry alone, as skillfully recounted by Mark Clifford, makes for a fascinating tale.

But it is his willingness to sacrifice his fortune, his freedom and his very life to the cause of freedom that makes this brilliant biography such compelling reading.

Jimmy Lai is not only China's most important political prisoner; he is the very personification of the greatest city in Chinese history.

His persecution at the hands of a totalitarian regime mirrors the ongoing destruction of Hong Kong itself.

His trial began on Dec. 18, 2023 — it is still ongoing.

Steven W. Mosher is the author of "The Devil and Communist China."



## BUZZ BOOK: How to Karaoke

For all the books in the crowded self-help market, few actually provide genuinely practical advice to address the real and deep issues in people's lives, like, say, the fear of singing karaoke in public.

Which is why Leah Tiscione's "How to Karaoke Even If You Hate Karaoke" (Mixam) is invaluable.

"This book is not meant to convince you that karaoke is the best thing in the universe," writes Tiscione, a graphic artist former staffer at The Post. "If you choose to hold onto the idea that it's a loud, obnoxious distraction for college kids, by all means.

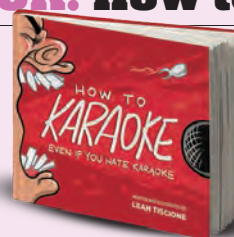
"But, if everyone practiced the etiquette required to make karaoke

palpable, you'd probably start loving it."

Tiscione's book includes everything you need to not just endure karaoke but even enjoy it.

While it offers helpful tips on the songs to choose ("the most crucial decision you will ever make in your entire life," she writes), it also lists the karaoke tracks that should always be avoided, like cheesy classics such as "Don't Stop Believing" and "American Pie."

"You run the risk of ruining a



good time with your choice of garbage," writes Tiscione.

Steer clear of controversial songs, too. "There are tracks out there about murder, rape and violence . . . fun for the whole family!" she adds.

"Truthfully, there are some younger crowds that wouldn't mind 'Cop Killer' by Body Count, but it's still in bad taste."

The length of your chosen song is also imperative. "Five minutes is pushing it, and six minutes is the entrance

to Irritation Station," she writes.

"Brevity is king!"

Similarly, having prior knowledge of your choice will stand you in good stead. "Knowing the lyrics before you sing is a free PED (Performance Enhancing Drug) that allows you the freedom to be as damn impressive as possible," she says.

And never, repeat, NEVER, drink too much beforehand.

While a couple of drinks can loosen inhibitions and reduce anxiety, it's crucial you don't overdo it before grabbing the mic, just in case someone records it and you turn up "on Instagram as a monument to your own stupidity."

— Gavin Newsham





# Sunday Break



“Runway Show” By  
Adrienne Baik

**Across**

- 1 Farm stores
- 6 Shell competitor
- 11 Secures
- 15 Big serving
- 19 Cover, in a way
- 20 Press backspace
- 21 Welsh accent feature
- 22 Company picture
- 23 Eldest von Trapp sister
- 24 Ride \_\_: roll backward while facing forward on a skateboard
- 25 Greek venues
- 26 Taj Mahal site
- 27 \*Dish service
- 29 \*Animated film with the tagline “Honey just got funny”
- 31 Kerfuffles
- 32 “Wonder Woman” antagonist
- 33 Sounds of hesitation
- 35 KPMG employee
- 36 Company VIP
- 38 Turns loose (on)
- 40 Focal point in a cathedral
- 42 Sign on a staff
- 43 British “sir”
- 44 “\*Rumpelstiltskin” or “Cinderella”
- 47 \*Many a sunset image
- 50 Reasons some check Zillow, for short
- 51 “... as all \_\_-

out”

- 52 Do not disturb
- 53 Truckloads
- 54 Chewy Japanese noodle
- 55 Inner circle members
- 57 Honey holders
- 58 105-Across producers
- 59 \_\_ Deng: pygmy hippo of internet fame
- 60 Finish with a lower score
- 61 High quality
- 62 Asian language
- 63 Long-haul travel perk, and a description of the answers to the starred clues
- 71 Expressive rock genre
- 72 Handled talent show intros, e.g.
- 73 Spiny succulent
- 74 \_\_ favor
- 75 Family, in Hawaiian
- 78 Dipper’s twin in “Gravity Falls”
- 80 Read a QR code
- 81 List title
- 82 Didn’t give
- 83 Preps vegetables, maybe
- 84 Fashion designer Anna
- 85 Holiday time, slangily
- 86 \*Kids party entertainer’s craft
- 88 \*Asian competition involving line cutting
- 91 Hosp. areas
- 92 D-Day conflict

93 Final notice?

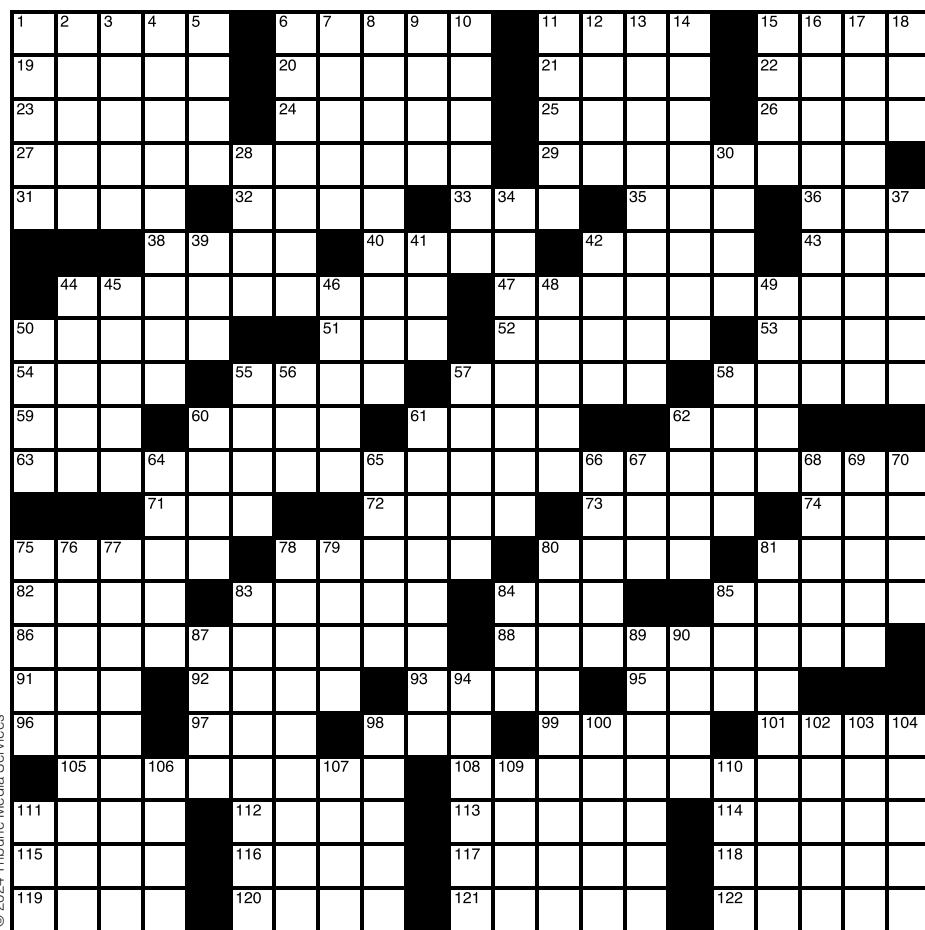
- 95 River residue
- 96 Thanksgiving tuber
- 97 \_\_ of the line
- 98 Big stretch?
- 99 Crunch in the cereal aisle
- 101 Takes in
- 105 \*Repeated tweets
- 108 \*Chinese festival
- performance said to bring good luck
- 111 Vocalist’s spotlight moment
- 112 Machu Picchu native
- 113 Less noble
- 114 Biotech giant
- 115 Color choices
- 116 Pair
- 117 Calendar entry
- 118 Spills the beans
- 119 Crafty marketplace
- 120 SFO info
- 121 Checks
- 122 “Easy on Me” Grammy winner

**Down**

- 1 Part of a taco assembly kit
- 2 Epic set in the 10th year of the Trojan War
- 3 Dupe
- 4 Extreme preoccupation
- 5 Window feature
- 6 Impatient kid’s cry
- 7 Give a TED Talk, e.g.
- 8 Efforts to get dough from

cookies?

- 9 Doubter’s query
- 10 “Frasier” actress Jane
- 11 Ambiguous shapes
- 12 Teacher’s helper
- 13 Groups that create harmony?
- 14 Spooked wildebeest movement
- 15 Bulgarian or Bosnian
- 16 Digital circuit building block
- 17 Come to the same conclusion concerning
- 18 Feathery wrap
- 28 Like some veils
- 30 Clumsy hulks
- 34 Got comfortable in a La-Z-Boy
- 37 Hot spots in the kitchen
- 39 Org. that takes many forms
- 41 Veterinary patient
- 42 Dove shelter
- 44 Consumed
- 45 Icy
- 46 Shoelace tip
- 48 Digger controller
- 49 Billiards bounce
- 50 Persian poet
- 55 \_\_ stick
- 56 Fire sign?
- 57 Guest spot?
- 58 Dwindle in size
- 60 Capital near the Andes
- 61 Old relation
- 62 MGM mascot
- 64 Tennis star Ivan
- 65 Fire sign?
- 66 Wordless



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- 67 French cookbook term
- 68 Big time?
- 69 Greet silently
- 70 Donald Glover’s “Community” role
- 75 “Here we go again”
- 76 Learn of
- 77 Looking sunny

- 78 Small glazed treat
- 79 Deep purple fruit
- 80 Travel baggage
- 81 Tackled together in tandem
- 83 Con
- 84 Go on a run?
- 85 Disney’s Cruella

- de \_\_
- 87 Was short
- 89 Gamer’s field
- 90 Twain hero
- 94 Hundred-to-one shot
- 98 “Good grief!”
- 100 Real estate expert
- 102 Camera view

- 103 Pathogen fighter
- 104 Vibe
- 106 Hopeful
- 107 College World Series org.
- 109 Critic’s kudos
- 110 Spreadsheet filler
- 111 \_\_ shed

## Post SU DOKU

You must put a number, from 1 to 9, in each empty box. Each number must appear once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-3 grids.

**Super Su Doku**, inside, multiplies the challenge — and your enjoyment. For that one, put a number from 1 to 12 in each empty box, making sure each number appears once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-4 grids. Tips and in-depth strategies at [www.SudokuWiki.org](http://www.SudokuWiki.org). For more Su Doku puzzles, see tomorrow’s New York Post.

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Very Easy #6,777

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

Difficult #6,567

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

Challenging #483

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

All Sunday puzzle answers on Page 52



# 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.

15

17

24

15

6

31

8

28

39

6

24

16

9

21

8

3

28

11

8

12

4

12

6

9

28

19

7

16

9

4

10

14

31

15

© Andrew Stuart, Syndicated Puzzles

#483 ▲

# 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.

2÷

3÷

120×

3÷

2−

2−

3+

11+

7+

1−

12+

6×

24×

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# Chess

By Andy Soltis

## Queen for the day

“Why on earth did White give up his queen?” a youngster looking at today’s game may ask. “He only got a bishop and a knight in return.” True, but after the sacrifice the position was much harder to defend with the Black pieces than to attack as White. White threw the dice when he chose 16 Bd3!? rather than

safer queen moves. Computers sneer at this. But they begin to see White’s powerful threats after move 24. Black resigned when he realized he had allowed 32 Rf8 mate. But there was no defense anyway because of threats like 32 Rh1+ Kg8 33 Bb3+ Kf8 34 Rf7+ and wins.

QUEEN’S GAMBIT DECLINED  
Jerusalem 2024

Daniil Dubov

Evgeny Postny

1 Nf3.....d5

17 Bxf5!.....Nxc2

2 c4.....e6

18 Bxc2.....Bxe5

3 d4.....Nf6

19 Nxe5.....Qxg5+

4 Bg5.....Be7

20 Kb1.....Qxe5

5 e3.....h6

21 Nxd5.....Rfd8

6 Bxf6.....Bxf6

22 f4.....Qe2

7 Qc2.....O-O

23 Bd3.....Qf3

8 h4.....c5

24 Rhf1.....Qg2

9 g4.....g6

25 f5!.....Rxd5

10 g5.....hxg5

26 cxd5.....Qxd5

11 hxg5.....Bg7

27 fxg6.....fxg6

12 Nc3.....cxd4

28 Bxg6.....Qe5

13 exd4.....Nc6

29 Rd7.....Rc8

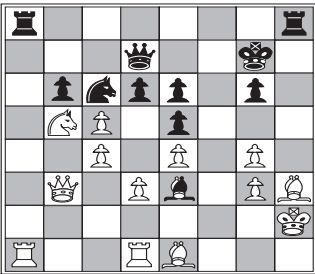
14 O-O-O.....e5

30 Bh7+.....Kh8

15 dxe5.....Bf5

31 Bc2 .Bc6 & Resigns

16 Bd3!?......Nb4



**Black to play and win.**  
F. Blohberger- A.Indjic  
European Championship 2024  
Last week: 1 Rxf6! mates, e.g. 1... Kxf6 2 Rf1+ Kg7 3 Qxg5+.

## Sunday Word Force

### TAPERING

From the word or phrase above, form at least 31 five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank, not both.

## Bridge

Bridge has had memorable writers. Terence Reese was a master of elegant prose, Hugh Kelsey and Geza Ottlik explored new dimensions of card play, and Victor Mollo imitantly treated the human side of the game. But nobody combined technical excellence and an engaging style better than Eddie Kantar. Eddie’s prolificity was amazing. His first article appeared in 1954, and he churned out top-quality books and articles over eight decades. Eddie was a world-champion player, a successful teacher and a member of the ACBL Hall of Fame. Eddie probably published more instructive play problems than anyone. (A few years ago, after looking at one of his old magazine articles, he wrote, with his typical self-deprecating humor, that he couldn’t solve some of his own problems!) But he could solve

problems at the table quite well. Eddie was today’s South in a deal almost 50 years ago. Against six hearts, West led the king of spades, and Kantar ruffed and cashed the A-K of trumps. When East discarded, Kantar had to pick up the diamonds. Looking for a clue, Kantar took the three top clubs and ruffed dummy’s ten. East followed. Kantar exited with a trump, and West won and led a spade. Kantar ruffed and took the king of diamonds. On the next diamond, West played the ten. Eddie worked it out. East had shown one trump and four clubs. If he had seven spades and a singleton diamond, he surely would have bid. So Eddie played East for six spades -- and so two diamonds. He put up dummy’s ace and made the slam.

South dealer  
Neither side vulnerable

NORTH

♠ 10 5

♥ 9 8 3

♦ A J 8 4

♣ A Q 10 9

WEST

♠ K Q 9 8 6

♥ Q 6 4

♦ 10 6

♣ 6 5 4

EAST

♠ A J 7 4 3 2

♥ J

♦ Q 9

♣ J 8 7 3

SOUTH

♠ None

♥ A K 10 7 5 2

♦ K 7 5 3 2

♣ K 2

South

1 ♣

2 ♠

6 ♥

West

Pass

Pass

All Pass

North

2 ♠

2 ♥

Pass

East

Pass

Pass

Pass

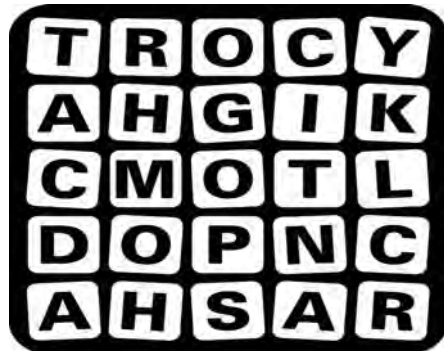
Opening lead — ♠ K

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By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



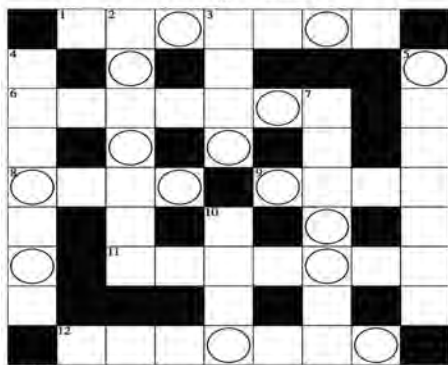
12-29-24

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by David L. Hoyt

Sunday Puzzle



12-29-24

BONUS

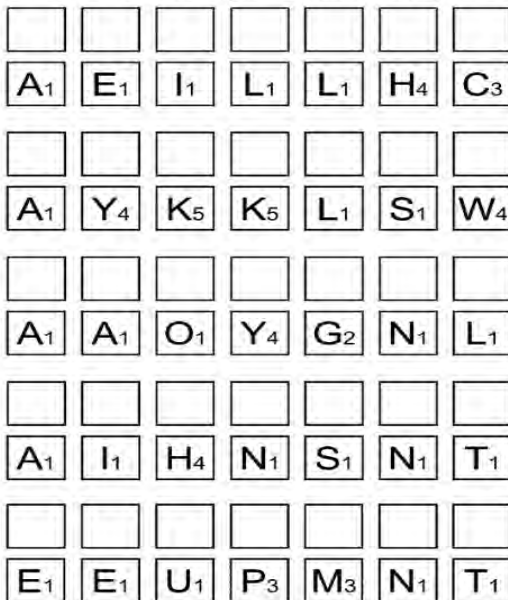
CLUE: National Park was established on Dec. 9, 1962.



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1st Letter Triple

RACK 1

RACK 2

RACK 3

RACK 4

RACK 5

Double Word Score

PAR SCORE 275-285  
BEST SCORE 334

FIVE RACK TOTAL  
TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE POINT SCALE

- 3 letters = 1 point
- 4 letters = 2 points
- 5 letters = 3 points
- 6 letters = 4 points
- 7 letters = 6 points
- 8 letters = 10 points
- 9+ letters = 15 points

YOUR BOGGLE RATING

- 151+ = Champ
- 101-150 = Expert
- 61-100 = Pro
- 31-60 = Gamer
- 21-30 = Rookie
- 11-20 = Amateur
- 0-10 = Try again

Boggle BrainBusters Bonus

We put special brain-busting words into the puzzle grid. Can you find them?

Find AT LEAST SIX BEST PICTURE (OSCAR) FILMS in the grid of letters.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Super Su Doku

		7		5		11		8	
	1	8			7		12	2	
	10		11		9	1	5	4	
				7		4	1		
5				9	6			8	
	11			2	8	3		6	1
2	5				1	6	4		
		4				7	10	5	9
				11	5				
	2		12		3	9		8	1
	8	3	10					6	9
	4			12			6	7	

Wonderword

First read the list of words, then look at the puzzle. The words are in all directions - vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward. Circle each letter of a word found and strike it off the list. The letters are often used more than once, so do not cross them out. It's best to find the big words first. When you find all the words listed in the clues, you'll have a number of letters left over that spell out the Wonderword.

Ahead, Alarm Clock, Beginning, Behind, Bucket List, Busy, Calendar, Calm, Changing, Clear, Clocks, Cuckoo Clock, Daily, Dart, Dash, Days, Decade, Desk, Digital, Dilation, Family, Fast, Focus, Future, Goals, Grandfather Clock, Holiday, Late, Leap, Life, Lists, Love, Mantel Clock, Minutes, Move On, New Year's, Objectives, Passing, Past, Peace, Pendulum, Personal, Planner, Plans, Productive, Quickly, Rapid, Rate, Reconciling, Reminders, Resolutions, Ring, Routine, Rush, Schedules, Seasons, Seconds, Sound, Speed, Starting, Step, Strike, Successful, Sundials, Swiftly, Ticking, Time, Travel, Wall Clock, Watch, Wishes, Zone

TICK TOCK ON THE CLOCK

SOLUTION: 11 LETTERS

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



By NY Post staff, Tori Schneebaum & Donna Grace

# Snaps

## SAY TEE-SE, PLEASE



**Halle Berry** and Grammy-winning boyfriend **Van Hunt** keep it casual on Christmas vacation.

Demi Moore / Instagram

halleberry / Instagram



## MOORE'S THE MERRIER

**Scout Willis** (from left), **Tallulah Willis**, **Demi Moore**, dog **Pilaf** and **Rumer Willis** celebrate mom Moore's new movie "The Substance."

Maggie Q / Instagram

## SEA-IZE THE DAY



**Maggie Q**, set to star in an upcoming "Bosch" spinoff, takes some time to rest and recharge.



## XMAS WISHES

Former **Victoria's Secret** model **Helena Christensen** celebrates her 56th birthday — and Christmas is icing on the cake.

helena.christensen / Instagram



## SPOTS ON

Rita Ora / Instagram



## GOOD TIDEINGS

Julianne Moore (center) has a beach holiday with husband Bart Freundlich (left), daughter Liv (right), son Cal and his fiancée, Kibriyaa Morgan.

Julianne Moore / Instagram

Alix Earle / Instagram



## LIVE ACTION BARBIE

Influencer Alix Earle is all sun and games in Key West, Fla.

For Rita Ora, 2024 is going out with a roar.

## TEN LORDS A-LIPA



"Dance the Night" reindeer, er, singer Dua Lipa parks her sleigh in England for Christmas.

duaipa/instagram



# Snaps

An angelic **Katy Perry** keeps her wings on in London after thanking fans for watching her British TV special "Night of a Lifetime."



STAR SHINE

KATY PERRY / Instagram



## HOLIDAY SPIRITS

"Love Island" host **Maya Jama** starts the party with a tray of drinks during a surprise DJ set at Soho's The Box.

Maya Jama / Instagram



Brie Larson / Instagram

## ICE, ICE, BABY

**Brie Larson** is looking Marvel-ous in seasonal colors while posing with a snowman.



jlo/Instagram

## MOD HATTER

**Jennifer Lopez** brings the warmth and hot beverages, snuggled between **Lucie** (left), her niece, and **Emme**, one of her 16-year-old twins.



**Ted Danson, wife Mary Steenburgen and their smoochy pooch posted holiday wishes.**



**CHEERFUL CREW**

Mary Steenburgen Instagram

**STOCKING STUFFER**

Heidi Klum / Instagram

**Heidi Klum opts for lace and fur boots, as she stokes the Christmas fires.**



MediaPunch / BACKGRID



**TOT'S ALL FOLKS**

**Emily Ratajkowski poses with son Sly, 3.**

Emily Ratajkowski / Instagram

**PAW PATROL**

**LET HIM COOK**



**Bradley Cooper calls out orders for his Philly cheesesteak spot in the East Village.**



LOOK WHO'S  
**TALKING**  
THIS WEEK'S GUESTS



**LIVE WITH KELLY  
AND MARK**  
9 a.m., ABC

**Monday:** Henry Winkler, Juno Temple  
**Tuesday:** Ali Wong, Seth Meyers  
**Wednesday:** Kelsey Grammer (above)



**JIMMY KIMMEL  
LIVE**

11:35 p.m., ABC  
**Monday:** Billy Eichner  
**Wednesday:** Kathy Griffin  
**Thursday:** Mikey Madison (above)



**TONIGHT SHOW  
JIMMY FALLON**

11:35 p.m., NBC  
**Monday:** Jerry Seinfeld (above)  
**Wednesday:** Lisa Kudrow, Elle Fanning  
**Thursday:** Cynthia Erivo, Martha Stewart

**Sunday December 29, 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 6:30pm	60 Minutes			60 Minutes		Grammy Greats: The Most Memorable Moments				CBS News 11pm	(11:35) Jets Late Night
4 WNBC	4	4	4	NBC Nightly News	Football Night in America			(8:15) Sunday Night Football: Atlanta Falcons at Washington Commanders from Commanders Field. Live.		Atlanta Falcons at Washington Commanders from Commanders Field.				CBS News 11pm	News 4 New York at 11
5 WNYW	5	5	5	NFL Football: Regional Coverage - Teams TBA			The OT Live.	The Simpsons	(8:32) Universal Basic	(9:01) Bob's Burgers	(9:32) The FOX Winter	The 10 O'Clock News	Sports Extra	In Depth	Raw Travel (R)
7 WABC	7	7	7	ABC World News	Frozen (2013, Adventure) Kristen Bell. PG ★★★					Frozen 2 (2019, Adventure) Idina Menzel. PG ★★½				Eyewitness News at 11	
9 WWOR	9	9	9	Raw Travel (R)	Chicago P.D.: Favor, Affection, Malice or Ill-Will			Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Suits: Faith		Suits: Blowback	
11 WPIX	11	11	11	Paid Program	Freddie Mercury: The Final Act: The final chapter of singer Freddie Mercury's life is showcased. (R)					Bob Hearts (R)	Bob Hearts: Randy's a	PIX11 News at Ten with Kaity Tong		PIX11 Sports Nation	
13 WNET	13	13	13	Tradfest: A Tri (R)	The First Lady: victory dance			Lucy Worsley's Royal Myths and Secrets (R)		All Creatures Great and Small: Papers (R)		All Creatures Great and Small: The Home Front (R)		Velvet: The Big Day	
21 WLIW	21	21	21	PBS News	Metro (R)	America (R)	Metro (R)	America (R)	Foreigner Double Vision		Foreigner	Collagen Diet (R)		Collagen	
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: Loose Cannons			NCIS: After Hours		NCIS: Scope		NCIS: Reasonable		NCIS: Charade	
41 WXTV	41	6	41	Noticiero	Man of Steel (2013, Action)			Henry Cavill. PG-13 ★½				Aquí y ahora		Noticias	
47 WNJU	47	16	12	Noticias	Exatlón EU: All-Stars			(7:58) Exatlón Estados Unidos: All-Stars: Part 2				Pica y se extiende		Noticiero	
55 WLNY	55	10	10	(6:00) ET	Inside	The Point	CBS News Sunday Morning			Paid		Judge Judy	Paid	Neighbor.	Neighbor.
A&E	46	46	181	First 48 (R)	The First 48 (R)			The First 48: Dead Stop		The First 48: Tracked (R)		(10:01) The First 48 (R)		The First 48: Heartless	
AMC	54	43	231	(5:30) The Hunger Games (2012, Action) PG-13 ★★★				The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (2013, Action)		Jennifer Lawrence. PG-13 ★★★				Mockingjay	
BET	37	54	270	Big Happy	BET Star Cinema			Tyler Perry's Madea's Witness Protection (2012, Comedy)		Tyler Perry. PG-13 ★★		Proud Mary (2018) R ★★			
BBCAM	71	101	189	Jerry Maguire (1996, Comedy)	Tom Cruise. R ★★★					A Few Good Men (1992, Drama)		Tom Cruise. R ★★½			
BRAVO	18	44	185	Billy Madison (1995) ★★½	Happy Gilmore (1996, Comedy)			Adam Sandler. ★★★				Billy Madison (1995, Comedy)		Adam Sandler. ★★½	
CNBC	15	24	102	Shark Tank	Shark Tank			Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank	
CNN	78	25	100	Newsroom	CNN Newsroom			Radical Story of Patty (R)		Radical Story of Patty (R)		Radical Story of Patty (R)		Radical Story of Patty (R)	
COM	45	50	190	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office: Fun Run		The Office	The Office	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	
DIS	49	31	250	Kiff (R)	Kiff (R)	Kiff (R)	Monsters, Inc. (2001) John Goodman. G		Primos (R)		Primos (R)	Primos (R)	Primos (R)	Primos (R)	
DSC	66	27	120	Homestead Rescue: Maine Bog Blues			Homestead Rescue: Hawaii-Five-No (R)						Homestead Rescue: Heartland Heartache (R)		
E!	24	51	196	Meet the Parents (2000, Comedy) Robert De Niro.					Meet the Fockers (2004, Comedy) Robert De Niro. PG-13 ★★½			Little Fockers (2010) ★★			
ESPN	28	36	70	30 for 30	SportsCenter			Sports	NHL Hockey: Dallas Stars at Chicago Blackhawks. Live.				Sports	SC	
ESPN2	29	35	74	(6:00) AKC National Championship Dog Show (R)						2024 MMA Awards XVI		X Games Aspen 2024			
FBN	43	106	117	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops (R)	Cops (R)	Cops (R)	Cops (R)	Cops (R)	Cops (R)	
FNC	44	26	118	Fox Report	The Big Weekend Show			Life, Liberty & Levin		Sunday Night		Weekend Show (R)		Life, Liberty & Levin (R)	
FOOD	50	97	164	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby Play: Holiday			Beat Bobby Play: Holiday		Beat Bobby Play: Holiday		Beat Bobby Play: Holiday		Beat Bobby Play: Holiday	
FREFRM	38	49	199	(6:45) Home Alone (1990, Comedy) Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci. PG						(9:15) Home Alone 2: Lost in New York (1992, Comedy)			Macaulay Culkin. PG ★★½		
FS1	400	99	83	American Rodeo		American Rodeo		The Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show: Day 1						Westminst.	
FX	10	40	53	(5:00) Strange in the Multiverse (2022)			Thor: Love and Thunder (2022, Action) Chris Hemsworth. ★★★						Thor: Love and Thunder (2022) ★★★		
HALL		191	240	'Tis the Season to be Merry (2021)			This Time Each Year (2024)			(10:01) Snow Bride (2013, Holiday) Katrina Law. ★★½					
HGTV	64	98	165	Home Town	Home Town: Unfinished			Home Town: When Life		(9:01) Home Town (R)		Hunters	Hunters (R)	Hunters (R)	Hunters (R)
HIST	40	47	128	(6:00) Built America Presents: Indulgence Innovators											
ID	23	171	123	Evil Here	Evil Lives Here (R)			Evil Lives Here (R)		Very Scary People: The Black Hand of Death			48 Hours on ID (R)		
LIFE	62	45	140	(5:00) Hidden Figures (2017, Drama) PG			Fifty Shades of Grey (2015, Romance) Jamie Dornan. R ★½						My Husband's Seven Wives (2024) NR		
MeTV	33	33	3	Collector	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Family	Family	Family	Family	Classics	Burnett	Van Dyke	Van Dyke	
MSG	27	87	78	(5:00) NHL	MSG Shorts	The Bettor	100 Yards (2019, Drama) NR						4th & For	4th & For	NY Giants
MSG Plus	48	88	80	(4:00) To Be Announced: Program information is unavailable at this time.											
MSNBC	14	23	103	The Sunday	Inside With Jen Psaki			My Generation: Millennials (R)			My Generation: Gen Z (R)				
MTV	20	53	210	(6:00) Night at Museum: Secret (2014)			Night at the Museum (2006, Adventure) Ben Stiller. PG ★★½			Ridiculous		Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	
NATGEO	65	162	121	Trafficked	Trafficked: Assassins (R)			Trafficked: Sextortion (R)		Inside Airport (R)		To Catch a Smuggler (R)		To Catch a Smuggler (R)	
NICK	6	121	252	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	
OWN	173	180	145	(6:00) 20/20	20/20 on OWN (R)			20/20 on OWN (R)		20/20 on OWN (R)		20/20 on OWN (R)		20/20 on OWN: Deadly	
PARMT	36	56	54	(5:38) 1923	1923: Turquoise Tide (R)			1923: Ghost of Zebrina		(9:36) 1923: One Ocean Closer Destiny			1923: Ghost Zebrina (R)		
SNY	26	60	77	(5:00) Bball	Jets Post Game Replay.			Amazin'	Amazin'	Wom. College Basketball Replay.			Sports Live.	Sports Live.	
SYFY	17	48	180	(5:58) Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (2007, Fantasy)			(8:57) Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (2009, Fantasy)			Daniel Radcliffe.					
TBS	8	39	52	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang: Pilot	Wipeout: Business Front		Grown Ups (2010, Comedy) Adam Sandler. PG-13 ★★½				
TCM	82	41	230	(6:00) King Solomon's Mines (1950) ★★★			Mildred Pierce (1945, Drama) Joan Crawford. NR ★★½					Double Indemnity (1944) NR ★★★★★			
TLC	52	28	139	90 Day (R)	90 Day Fiancé (R)			90 Day Fiancé: Before the 90 Days: Say Goodbye		(10:02) Sister Wives		(11:02) 90 Day Fiancé			
TNT	3	37	51	(5:00) Pirates: At World's End (2007)			Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (2011, Adventure) Johnny Depp. ★★★						Pirates of the Caribbean		
TVLAND	85	34	241	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	
USA	16	38	50	(6:00) SVU	Law & Order: SVU			Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU			
VH1	19	52	217	Sparkle (2012, Drama) Jordyn Sparks.			The Bodyguard (1992, Romance) Kevin Costner. R ★★½								
WE	59	42	149	Law & Ordr	Law & Order			Law & Order: Hands Free		Law & Order: Evil Breeds		Law & Order		Law & Order: Raimondo's	
YES	53	89	76	Brooklyn	NBA Basketball: Brooklyn Nets at Orlando Magic from Amway Center. Replay.					Homegrown		Yankees	NBA Basketball Replay.		
HBO	511	301	400	(6:09) Dune	(7:11) Dune: Prophecy (R)			(8:14) Dune: Prophecy (R)		(9:12) Dune: Prophecy: Handed Enemy		(10:35) Jupiter Ascending (2015) ★★½			
MAX	531	371	420	(4:34) Gangs of New York			Wanted (2008, Action) James McAvoy. R			(9:11) Deadpool (2016, Action) Ryan Reynolds. R ★★★★★		Results (2015) R ★★½			
MGM Plus	595	395		(6:15) Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part One (2023) ★★★★★						Earth Abides: Forever		Earth Abides: Forever (R)		Here After (2024) PG-13	
PARSHO	551	321	365	Jack Reach	(7:13) Dexter: Original Sin			Dexter: Original Sin		The Agency		Dexter: Original Sin			

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# DECIDER 8 THINGS TO WATCH WHEREVER YOU WATCH

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'Dexter: Original Sin' wastes a great cast on stale thrills: review

**1 DEXTER: ORIGINAL SIN**  
New episodes air Sundays, 10 p.m., on Showtime

By LAUREN SARNER

**G**ET out your plastic wrap. The hit serial killer drama "Dexter" has returned, with a prequel series about Dexter's younger years called "Dexter: Original Sin."

Set in 1990s Miami, the series follows a twentysomething Dexter (Patrick Gibson, "The OA") as he evolves from med school student into the iconic serial killer from the original show.

The cast is rounded out by Christian Slater as Dexter's policeman father, Harry, and Patrick Dempsey and Sarah Michelle Gellar as cops who work with Harry — and later Dexter, as the latter begins his internship at the Miami Metro Police Department.

"Dexter: Original Sin" is entertaining enough if you're a "Dexter" fan. It's got great performances and delivers some stale thrills — but with an emphasis on stale.

The original "Dexter" was Showtime's biggest hit, airing for eight seasons from 2006 to 2013.

# 'SIN'—FULLY STALE



Patrick Gibson (far left) stars as a young Dexter in the prequel series, with Christian Slater (right). Michael C. Hall (below) narrates.

Patrick Wynne/Paramount+ with Showtime; Showtime

The story followed Dexter (Michael C. Hall), a serial killer whose cop father, Harry (James Remar), taught him to channel his urges into only targeting fellow killers as his victims. In 2021, it had a sequel series, "Dexter: New Blood," following Dexter years after the events of the show.

The strongest part of "Dexter: Original Sin" is its cast. Gibson was great in the underrated Netflix series "The OA," so it's nice to see him get a star vehicle, and he captures Hall's demeanor

well. (Hall returns as an exec producer, and he lends his voice-over to Dexter's inner thoughts, just as he did for the original show).

Slater is stellar, and he carries much of the show's emotional weight.

Dempsey, on the other hand, is saddled with playing his role as a blowhard to a sometimes absurd extent. At one point, the character says to his team, "I'm not a proud mama, fellas. I am one

pissed-off menopausal bitch!"

It strains credibility that any boss would talk to his subordinates like that — even a cop in the '90s.

Nevertheless, it's fun to see Dempsey, the "sexiest man alive," lean into such an outlandish part.

Younger versions of Batista (James Martinez) and Masuka (Alex Shimizu) are also spot-on.

For "Dexter" fans who just want to see younger versions of the characters — or who just

want to see Dempsey and Slater chewing scenery — "Original Sin" is a treat.

The problem is the writing. Even the best cast can't fix that. First of all, this show doesn't seem to have figured out what its point is for existing.

The original "Dexter" extensively covered his childhood. Not much of Dexter's life is unexplored. So, the prequel series is left answering uninteresting questions that nobody asked, such as "Did Batista still wear that hat when he was younger?" (The answer: yes).

In lieu of saying anything fresh, "Dexter: Original Sin" is filled with imitations. Rather, it gives us more of the same: Dexter being a fun bad guy who goes after worse bad guys. There was an edgy charm to the original show. "Original Sin" has that charm, to a certain extent. You may be satisfied, if that's all you want.

"Dexter: Original Sin" isn't unwatchable. It's filled with entertaining performances, but the story feels like it's beating a dead horse, rather than offering up an exciting prequel that has a compelling reason to exist. And even Dexter, a serial killer, would never beat a dead horse. He had better taste than that.

## 2 NEW YEAR'S ROCKIN' EVE WITH RYAN SEACREST

Tuesday 8 p.m., ABC

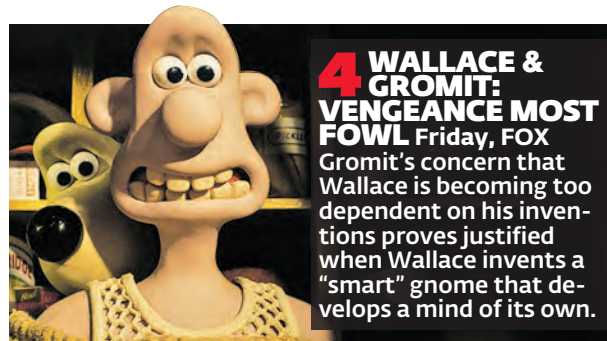
Hosted by **Ryan Seacrest** (left) live from Times Square, the show celebrates the year's very best in music, featuring a night of superstar performances from the Jonas Brothers, Alanis Morissette, Renée Rapp and Blake Shelton.



## 3 EXTREME MAKEOVER: HOME EDITION

Thursday 8 p.m., ABC

The classic home reno series is back on ABC, this time featuring The Home Edit's **Clea Shearer** and **Joanna Teplin** (above). The professional organizers will work alongside designers and contractors to specifically tailor each home from the inside out, highlighting inspirational and heartwarming stories along the way.



## 4 WALLACE & GROMIT: VENGEANCE MOST FOWL

Friday, FOX  
Gromit's concern that Wallace is becoming too dependent on his inventions proves justified when Wallace invents a "smart" gnome that develops a mind of its own.

## 5 NEW YEAR'S EVE LIVE: NASHVILLE'S BIG BASH

Tuesday 8 p.m., CBS

A star-studded special hosted by Keith Urban with over 40 performances from Luke Bryan, Miranda Lambert, Post Malone, Shaboozey, and more.

## 6 DON'T DIE: THE MAN WHO WANTS TO LIVE FOREVER

Wednesday, Netflix

This startling documentary follows Bryan Johnson, a man who has dedicated his life to defy aging, using controversial wellness practices.

## 7 LOCKERBIE: A SEARCH FOR TRUTH

Thursday, Peacock

In December 1988, 270 people were killed when a plane exploded over Lockerbie. Dr Jim Swire (**Colin Firth**, right) is nominated spokesperson for



the UK victims' families in their fight for justice.

Traveling across continents and political divides, Jim embarks on a journey that completely overturns his trust in the justice system.



## 8 GOING DUTCH

Friday, Hulu  
Loudmouth U.S. Army Colonel Patrick Quinn (**Denis Leary**, left) is reassigned to the Netherlands at the least important army base in the world, notable for its Michelin Star-commissary, top-notch bowling alley, and lavender-infused laundry, where he must reinstate discipline in the diverse group of military misfits.







## THE WEEK'S WINNERS



**RICHARD BAKER**  
Saks Global executive chairman adds luxe brand Neiman Marcus to the portfolio that also includes Bergdorf Goodman.

**TIM COOK**  
Apple poised to become first company to top \$4 trillion in market cap as investors bet on AI enhancements to boost sluggish iPhone sales.

**NETFLIX**  
First live football games on Christmas set a streaming record for the NFL and also avoided major glitches.

## LOSERS



**BOB IGER**  
Disney boss receives letter from incoming FCC chief Brendan Carr ripping ABC News over its "erosion in public trust."

**GLOSSLAB**  
Celebrity-backed Manhattan nail salon chain, which raised alarms after The Post reported about its failure to pay rent, filed for bankruptcy.

**NY HOMEOWNERS**  
Scores of homeowners upstate spend more on insurance and property taxes than on mortgages, study finds.

# IS WOKE BROKE, FINALLY?

## Nasdaq court twist



**CHARLES GASPARINO**  
WOKENESS is in retreat, but its stench will be hard to eliminate.

Consider the curious case of the bone-headed "Nasdaq diversity rules" — edicts by the stock market giant to force every company that "lists" there to choose a board of directors that stresses intersectionality — racial, sexual and gender diversity — as opposed to competence.

Sure, diversity is a worthy goal, but demanding outcomes in hiring through practices such as Diversity Equity and Inclusion is the most counterproductive way to run a business that woke mankind ever thought of. Forcing it on corporate boards as Nasdaq has been doing since 2020 is particularly scary. And now it's illegal.

Boards perform a vital function of oversight of public companies, and the C-suite. Making sure the CEO isn't robbing the place blind is what the law — established through the Depression-era Securities and Exchange Act — demands from directors.

Nasdaq turned decades of corporate law on its head at the height of the so-called social justice movement. It came at a particular hysterical time in American history, when the left tried to convince the country it was inherently racist because of the police killing of an ex-con named George Floyd as he was resisting arrest.

That was then. These days, sanity is returning and woke is in retreat. Courts are ruling that DEI is illegal. The Fifth Circuit federal court did

just that, telling Nasdaq it will have to end the insanity.

Yes, the ruling is a sign wokeness is dying. But it's not quite dead. The rules will likely find an afterlife because of a quirk in the disclosure system, and the way the securities regulators might interpret the court finding, The Post has learned.

Reminder: Nasdaq, like its main competitor, the New York Stock Exchange, is a stock market; it wasn't created to serve as a lefty NGO. One of its functions is to make sure people can buy and sell shares, in an orderly fashion, of the companies that "list" to trade there. Another is to ensure that listed companies follow basic corporate-governance rules that protect investors, including hiring competent directors.

### Seeking the 'Diverse'

Under CEO Adena Friedman, Nasdaq joined the social justice movement that was all the rage in 2020. She demanded that listed companies stock their board with directors who were not the target of progressive ire during that eerie time, aka straight white men.

"Each Company, except as described below in, must have or explain why it does not have, at least two members of its board of directors who are Diverse, including at least one Diverse director who self-identifies as Female; and at least one Diverse director who self-identifies as an Underrepresented Minority or LGBTQ+," the Friedman-led Nasdaq said in its edict.

As I point out in my book on progressivism run amok, "Go Woke Go Broke; The Inside Story of the Radicalization of Corporate America," the idiocy of this rule isn't confined to the very real fact that it's illegal by any fair reading of the securities

## Anti-biz 'diversity' rule

In the wake of the George Floyd (inset) police killing in 2020, Nasdaq CEO Adena Friedman adopted wild board-diversity rules for listed companies, which a court upended but may live on in a weird legal twist.



laws or various civil rights acts.

There are also very real studies with control groups, margins of error, etc., that show that there's no link between performance and diversity.

Plus, this rule doesn't apply to all those Chinese companies that Nasdaq lusts for to pay its listing fees. Companies hailing from one of the world's most oppressive regimes — that are literally controlled by the repressive Chinese Communist Party — get a free pass. No members of the persecuted Uyghur minority need apply, according to Friedman & Co.

Chinese listings can get away with placing a couple of women from the CCP to be directors.

Nasdaq has argued to me the rules weren't totally mandatory — though it always reserves the right to reject a listing. It also stressed that the rules were about disclosure, which sounds quaint until you realize that companies are supposed to disclose stuff investors care about like earnings, not their social justice preening.

On top of that, the disclosure part had an interesting compulsory element. A company board's diversity data, listed in its public disclosure filings, could be easily downloaded on the SEC's website known as EDGAR. This enabled powerful social activist groups with ties to the lefties who run the Biden White House — the Human Rights Campaign, the Center for American Progress — to jump into the debate

and pressure companies to up their diversity game as a de facto woke enforcement staff of the Nasdaq.

Then something brilliant happened. Someone sued. Not Nasdaq, but its regulator, the equally woke Securities and Exchange Commission, which approved the measure. The lawsuit argued that stock markets weren't created as political tools of the left. A federal court agreed.

Case closed, right? Not quite. The mandates could live on in a perverse way because of the disclosure system that each public company must comply with.

The way the people at the Nasdaq explained it to me, the rules were legal until the courts ruled they weren't. That means the EDGAR system likely continues to keep a record of thousands of companies that compiled the useless and illegal data the Nasdaq asked for, they tell me, even after the Nasdaq is supposed to vacate the mandates in early February.

They could be around well into perpetuity for the likes of the Human Rights Campaign to enforce their brand of social justice, securities lawyers I speak to say.

As one corporate lawyer told me: "Just think how dumb it was to have a stock exchange telling companies what slots you have to fill while giving the Chinese a pass. Then they will just sit there, which is even dumber."



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Quantitative Researcher wanted by Jain Global LLC in NY, NY to research /dvlp equity/futures trading strategies to deliver outsized risk adjusted returns, use a rigorous method to dvlp investment models & shape our insights, explore/deploy cutting edge machine learning/artificial intelligence techniques to improve investment models, work w/ engineers to code to enhance/extend automated trading infrastructure, dsgn/implmt tools to analyze & improve portfolio profitability, monitor /systematically improve execution costs of strategies by enhancing algorithmic trading models, research/implmt new techniques to optimize/hedge portfolio risk. Master's deg in Fin'l Engng, Math, Comp Sci or rlt'd field & 1 yr exp in the role offrd or in a closely rlt'd role & 1 yr exp (can be gained concurrently) w/: 1. Full-cycle alpha signal research and/or portfolio mgmt 2. Python (incl pandas, numpy & stats models), C++ & SQL 3. Versatility in statistical modelling involving linear & non-linear techniques (e.g., utilizing PCA, Lasso regressions, tree-based models) 4. Intraday trading & mkt microstructure 5. Cloud computing (AWS/Containers). Salary \$150,000.00-\$250,000.00/yr. Send resume to: Tom Levy, CAO at 510 Madison Ave, Fl. 23, NY, NY 10022 or email resume to careers@jainglobal.com.

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Pharmaceutical Account Specialist (Great Neck, NY): Build & maintain strong relationships w/ healthcare prof'ls; acquire an in-depth understanding of the pharmaceutical products being marketed; educate healthcare prof'ls on clinical benefits & appropriate patient populations for the products; analyze mkt trends & customer needs to dvlp targeted sales strategies. Bachelor's deg of Pharmacy is req'd; 12-mos exp of pharmaceutical sales is req'd. Annual wage: \$74,589. Send resumes to: LONGENE LIMITED, 8 Barstow Rd, Great Neck, NY 11021.

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NOTICES


PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK: COUNTY OF NEW YORK


SHELWOL LLC, Pltf v. KAYLAND REALTY LTD, et al., Defts. Index No. 850395/2023, pursuant to the Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale dated July 12, 2022 and entered in the King's County Clerk's office on August 3, 2022 and in the New York County's clerk office on May 2, 2023, I will sell at public auction public auction at the New York County Courthouse, 60 Centre Street, New York, New York, Room 130, on January 29, 2025 at 2:15 p.m., prem. k/a 5B Riverview Terrace, New York, New York (Block 1372, Lot 53). Approx. amt of judgment on the loan subject to this property is \$1,018,000 plus costs, attorneys' fees and interest. Sold subject to terms and conditions of filed judgment and terms of sale.  
Domenick Napoletano, ESQ., Referee. Jacobowitz Newman Tversky LLP, Attys. for Plaintiff, 377 Pearsall Ave., Ste C, Cedarhurst, NY.

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# Aqueduct

Analysis by Vic Cangialosi

Lock of the Day

Early On (5th)  
Lock Record: 9 for 22 (41%)  
Meet Record: 63/219 \$387.90

**1 1 mile; \$100,000; alw; 3up(f)**  
Last day of live racing in 2024. Aqueduct will be open on Wednesday, January 1st, 2025.

Chad Brown's **TOUGH STREET** raced evenly for 3rd at Keeneland. Board hither all 11 starts at this longer distance including a wire-to-wire win at the Spa under Franco. **AIN'T BROKE** closed well to be a close 2nd in the 6 panel Garland of Roses. Scored handily this level/distance here last winter. **KHALI MAGIC** was 4th of 6 in a NY stallion stake. Won back-to-back races at this distance here in June.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Ocean Gateway(L),125	D Davis	4-1-1	Clement	9-2
2	Tough Street(L),123	M Franco	3-1-3	C Brown	7-5
3	Khalí Magic(L),125	L Rivera, Jr	4-7-3	Ferraro	6-1
4	Ain't Broke(L),123	E Cancel	2-5-2	Rice	8-5
5	Willow Bend(L),121	J Lezcano	1-4-2	Rice	6-1

**2 6 1/2 fur; \$75,000; mdn; 3up**  
Early energy from **VITALIZE**. Duelled on the lead and tired. Route to sprint for Donk. **OMEY ISLAND** makes dirt debut for Duggan after going 0 for 3 on the lawn at Santa Anita. A 3rd place finish his best showing. Nyquist 3YO may welcome the change. **HUMSTINGER** debuted a head short here last month. Can move forward at 2nd asking for Mel Giddings.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Omey Island(L),122	L Rivera, Jr	7-3-5	Duggan	2-1
2	Ferris Muler(L),124	D Brown	4-4-8	Hosang	10-1
3	Shore Time(L),117	F Martinez	7-6-3	Sanchez-Pinro	10-1
4	Leo's Reward(L),122	M Franco	6-x-x	Donk	4-1
5	Vitalize(L),122	L Luzzi	5-4-2	Donk	7-2
6	Dreamalongwithme(L),122	E Cancel	x-x-x	Sells	20-1
7	Humstinger(L),122	R Maragh	2-x-x	Giddings	5-2

**3 1 mile; \$45,000; mdn clm(\$40,000); 2YO(f)**  
Two-year-old fillies going a mile. **AWESOME ROBERTA** sprinted home 3rd then 2nd. Daughter of Mitole should respond stretching longer. Trained by DePaz who can run 1-2 with **HIGHER FORCE**. She was 3rd then 7th racing 7/8. blinkers on. **AMELIA** Turf to dirt and lower after landing midpack. Franco a good sign.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Amelia,119	M Franco	6-9-x	David	5-1
2	Awesome Roberta,119	K Carmouche	2-3-6	De Paz	7-2
3	Giant At Work,119	E Cancel	5-x-x	Clement	5-2
4	Rye On the Rocks,114	C Elliott	7-12-x	Hennig	20-1
5	Higher Force,119	L Rivera, Jr	7-3-x	De Paz	9-5
6	Dear John,119	K Davis	2-7-x	Terranova II	6-1
7	Esther's Salad,119	S Vives	7-x-x	Jimenez	20-1

**4 1 mile; \$30,000; clm(\$16,000); 3up**  
Rice over Rice. Linda's **DEPUTY CONNECT** is 1 for 20 after finishing 4th this level/distance off the layoff. Can pick up elusive 2nd win, 2nd off the shelf. **GUM ISLAND** Outrun twice before heading to the sidelines in June. May need a race. **BIG RICH** moved lower and graduated (7th start). Competitively spotted for Jeremiah Englehart.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Golden Purchase(L),121	O Hrndz Mreno	5-5-7	Jones	10-1
2	Your Mission(L),118	F Martinez	6-10-10	Bernardini	15-1
3	Big Rich(L),118	K Carmouche	1-8-5	Englehart	4-1
4	Solo Empire(L),120	D Davis	7-9-7	Begg	12-1
5	Final Denile(L),118	M Franco	5-6-7	De Paz	7-2
6	Gum Island(L),118	J Lezcano	5-6-1	Rice	3-1

## Aqueduct Results

**FIRST-7 fur; \$90,000; mdn spl wlt; 2YO**  
3 Cptn Cook (Frnco) 3.00 2.30 2.10  
6 Griffin's Whrf (Crmouche) 9.70 5.00  
2 Attal (Lezcano) 2.60  
● \$1 Exacta (3-6) \$15.70 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (3-6-2-9) \$15.52 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (3-6-2) \$22.62  
**SECOND-1 mile; \$80,000; alc; 3up**  
5 Rck th Wknd (Dvs) 13.80 4.80 3.10  
7 Noonzio (Carmouche) 4.10 2.70  
3 Tomacon (Rivera,Jr.) 2.70  
Scr: Iron Man Ira, Liberty Central  
● \$1 Daily Double (3-5) \$16.30 ● \$1 Exacta (5-7) \$26.50 ● \$1 Quinella (5-7) \$10.70 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (5-7-3-4) \$13.87 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (5-7-3) \$43.87  
**THIRD-6 fur; \$150,000; Gravesend; 3up**

4 Mxms Mrds (Vlqgz) 6.90 3.50 2.30  
2 Full Mn Mdnss (Crmuch) 6.50 3.20  
3 Runninsonofagun (Rosario) 2.30  
● \$1 Pick 3 (3-5-4) \$50.25 ● \$1 Daily Double (5-4) \$25.75 ● \$1 Exacta (4-2) \$14.10 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (4-2-3-6) \$10.25 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (4-2-3) \$15.62  
**FOURTH-6½ fur; \$30,000; clm(\$16,000); 3up**  
9 Volent Swng (Coa) 17.80 8.70 5.70  
6 York Tavern (Lezcano) 3.50 2.60  
3 Ride Up (Ramsay) 3.80  
● \$1 Pick 3 (5-4-9) \$340.00 ● \$1 Daily Double (4-9) \$40.75 ● \$1 Exacta (9-6) \$43.25 ● \$1 Quinella (6-9) \$21.40 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (9-6-3-8) \$97.75 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (9-6-3) \$112.50  
**FIFTH-6 fur; \$75,000; mdn spl wlt; 2YO F**

7 Deputy Connect(L),121 E Cancel 4-7-3 Rice 4-1  
8 Wine Responsibly(L),113 C Elliott 5-3-4 Bhigroog 5-1

**5 7 fur; \$70,000; mdn; 2YO(f)**  
The last 2YO race of the year. **EARLY ON** ran 3rd and 4th at Saratoga after breaking poorly in both. Franco rides for Saffie Joseph. **GAGAS HAMSOME** and **MELANCIA** ran home 2-3 racing 6 furlongs here in November. Believe Gagas Hamsome gets more out of the extra furlong.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Early On,119	M Franco	4-3-x	Joseph	7-5
2	Contract Law,114	F Martinez	11-9-x	Serpe	20-1
3	Melancia,119	K Carmouche	3-7-x	Atras	8-1
4	Rasta Girl,119	D Brown	8-x-x	Follett	30-1
5	Midnightloveaffair,119	L Luzzi	8-x-x	Levine	6-1
6	Gaga's Hamsome,119	D Davis	2-5-3	Barker	5-2
7	Tale of the Tail,119	J Lezcano	4-x-x	Atras	5-1
8	Yayi Nikolle,119	S Civaci	5-x-x	Kantarmaci	12-1

**6 1 mile; \$65,000; alw; 3up(f)**  
**BACKSTRETCH ROSE** lost by a nose to a next out winner. Winner, same distance update this summer. Davis on..blinkers on. **LA VITA SOFIA** missed by a neck in her last start. She won racing this distance at the Springs as well. **DAZZY** ran 4th behind La Vita Sofia after scoring at Parx. Rider change to Franco. **ENIGMATIC** was 3rd last pair, behind top pair. **LUNA PATINA** moved lower and responded, breaking her maiden (7th attempt) by open lengths at Laurel.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Dazzy(L),121	M Franco	4-1-2	Ness	6-1
2	Backstretch Rose(L),120	D Davis	2-3-1	Abreu	5-2
3	Luna Patina(L),118	S Vives	1-8-6	Russell	4-1
4	Enigmatic(L),120	J Lezcano	3-3-5	Rice	9-2
5	La Vita Sofia(L),123	J Rosario	2-7-1	Rodriguez	7-2
6	Thirteen Red Flags(L),118	R Maragh	3-2-6	Chichakly	12-1
7	Street View(L),120	E Cancel	6-1-8	Rice	12-1
8	Roman Goddess(L),116	C Elliott	8-2-2	Rodriguez	10-1

**7 7 fur; \$95,000; alw; 3up**  
Wide open. **GENERAL BANKER** led late, outkicked in a NY stallion stake, this distance. Beat comparable company here in October. **CLASSIC LEGACY** exits a 3rd place finish with similar. Won at the Spa 2 back. Rebound in cards. **OTELLO** was last of 6 in the Pegasus at Monmouth and was given a 7 month breather. Won a stake at Gulfstream on New Years Day; not since. Never raced this short distance. 1st time lasix. Using in deep exotics with **AWESOME NATIVE** who was a wide 3rd in latest.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Reddington(L),123	S Vives	4-5-1	Barker	6-1
2	General Banker(L),125	L Rivera, Jr	2-5-1	Ferraro	5-1
3	Celestial Glaze(L),116	F Martinez	4-4-2	Rodriguez	15-1
4	Awesome Native(L),121	M Franco	3-4-2	Arriaga	4-1
5	Monday Morning Qb(L),116	C Elliott	1-2-1	Magee	15-1
6	Alternate Reality(L),121	K Davis	2-3-3	Englehart	20-1
7	Ridgewood Runner(L),122	K Carmouche	3-1-5	C Martin	12-1
8	Otello(M),120	J Rosario	6-9-6	Clement	8-1
9	Gun It(L),123	S Civaci	5-4-4	Kantarmaci	10-1
10	Classic Legacy(L),123	J Lezcano	3-1-2	Mott	7-2
11	Squire Creek(L),121	R Maragh	3-5-3	Arriaga	10-1

13 Nv Mlody (Vlquz) 4.60 3.10 2.60  
8 Forever to Go (Crmouch) 4.70 3.70  
9 Miss American Pie (Rosario) 4.40  
Scr: Deflection Point, Trulli Magic  
● \$1 Pick 3 (4-9-13) \$154.25 ● \$0.5 Pick 4 (5-4-9-4/11/13) \$702.50 ● \$0.5 Pick 5 (3-5-4-9-4/11/13) \$1319.25 ● \$1 Daily Double (9-13) \$33.25 ● \$1 Exacta (13-8) \$11.60 ● \$0.1 Superfecta (13-8-9-5) \$161.25 ● \$0.5 Trifecta (13-8-9) \$28.62  
**SIXTH-1 mile; \$65,000; st alc(\$50,000); 3up**  
9 Lbrt d Byux (Lzcn) 17.00 9.70 5.30  
3 Ministerial (Velazquez) 4.70 3.60  
10 Confabulation (Rosario) 5.60  
● \$1 Pick 3 (9-13-9) \$431.00 ● \$0.5 Pick 4 (4-9-4/11/13-9) \$759.25 ● \$1 Daily Double (13-9) \$26.00 ● \$1 Exacta (9-3) \$49.25 ● \$0.1

**8 1 1/8 miles; \$150,000; Queens County; 3up**  
The last stake of the year. **INSTANT COFFEE** was a fast closing 3rd. Summers gives him another furlong to work with. 0 for 6 this year and priced accordingly. **LAW PROFESSOR** is 3 for 4 this year after winning a photo finish at this distance. Won the Queen County last year by 7+. Ready to defend his title. **FILM STAR** won a 100k at Laurel by a game head. 3rd with optional claimers last time he ran 1 1/8. **TABEGUACHE** held off top pick by a diminishing 3/4 of a length. 0 for 6 at this longer distance. **MASMAK** and **PHILEAS FOGG** move to the stake off back-to-back victories.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Masmak,119	J Rosario	1-1-2	R Dutrow	4-1
2	Instant Coffee,122	L Rivera, Jr	3-4-9	Summers	15-1
3	Curbstone,122	M Oliver	7-2-7	Morley	30-1
4	Phileas Fogg,124	R Maragh	1-1-9	Rodriguez	8-1
5	Quality Chic,122	D Davis	3-1-3	Cook	10-1
6	Repo Rocks,122	A Wolfsont	7-4-2	Ness	15-1
7	Law Professor,122	K Carmouche	1-7-1	Atras	5-2
8	Unlimitedpotential,122	S Gonzalez	1-8-1	Kantarmaci	30-1
9	Film Star,124	J Lezcano	1-6-5	Rice	6-1
10	Surface to Air,124	F Jara	4-1-8	Synnefias	10-1
11	Tabeguache,122	M Franco	1-3-4	Cox	5-1

**9 6 fur; \$38,000; mdn clm(\$30,000); 3up(f)**  
Last call for '24. **MAJULU** was a tired 4th last out. Atras shaves a furlong and couples her with **MY ANGEL**. Ran home 4th all 3 starts at this distance, latest off the extended 21 month layoff. Improvement expected. Franco replaces Davis who stays on entrymate. **BETTER BE SMART** Turf to dirt and lower for Baker. Ran 3rd twice at the distance here earlier this year. **MIA NIPOTINA** reported home 2nd then a closer 3rd at Finger Lakes.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
2	Better Be Smart(L),122	K Carmouche	8-4-4	Baker	3-1
3	One Good Reason(M),122	S Vives	x-x-x	Morley	12-1
1	a-My Angel(L),124	M Franco	4-3-4	Atras	9-2
4	Ready to Romance(L),122	O Hrndz Mreno	8-x-x	Parker	30-1
5	Steppin' Hawk(L),124	D Brown	5-9-5	Hosang	20-1
6	I'm Kidding(L),122	J Lezcano	8-x-x	Englehart	15-1
7	Mia Nipotina(L),122	E Cancel	3-2-4	Sells	8-1
8	Blue Suede Sue(L),124	S Civaci	6-8-6	Gargan	8-1
9	Naughty Destiny(L),117	C Elliott	5-3-3	Morey	8-1
10	Digital Currency(L),117	F Martinez	9-4-5	Potts	30-1
11	Miss Uproar(L),124	R Maragh	2-3-6	Abreu	4-1
12	She's a Natural(L),124	L Luzzi	6-5-4	Sciaccia	15-1
1A	a-Majulu(L),122	D Davis	4-6-5	Atras	9-2

## PLAY OF THE DAY

All wet. Both Snare (17-1) and Saint Gaudens (7-5) didn't appreciate the sloppy conditions and threw in the towel early. Loss of -\$44.

Two plays on the last racing day of the year. Bet \$30 to win on Early On in Race 5 and \$4 across the board on Instant Coffee in Race 8.

— Vic Cangialosi

## Women's Coll. Hoops

**East**  
Buffalo 107, Le Moyne 59  
Coppin St. 69, Bryant 52  
Creighton 75, St. John's 56  
Detroit 66, Robert Morris 58  
Fairleigh Dickinson 66, Maine 48  
Georgetown 78, Md.-Eastern Shore 68

**South**  
Austin Peay 73, Tennessee Southern 66  
Georgia 83, Ohio 50  
Kentucky 88, W. Kentucky 70  
North Alabama 84, Bethel (Tenn.) 54

**Midwest**  
Akron 80, Harriers 52  
Fort Wayne 76, Wright St. 49  
IUPUI 65, Youngstown St. 50  
Illinois 64, Oregon 59  
Indiana 83, Wisconsin 52  
Minnesota 90, Penn St. 54  
N. Illinois 92, V-Hawks 44  
St. Thomas (MN) 81, E. Michigan 65  
Toledo 114, Defiance 30  
Washington 90, Northwestern 71

**Southwest**  
Oral Roberts 124, Haskell 47  
**Far West**  
Cal Poly 66, S. Utah 58  
Oregon St. 71, Gonzaga 67, OT  
Portland 81, Santa Clara 54  
Saint Mary's (Cal) 80, Pacific 78, OT  
San Francisco 85, Loyola Marymount 73  
UC Davis 115, Cal Maritime 29  
Washington St. 67, Pepperdine 46

## Today In Sports

1934 — The first college basketball doubleheader is played at New York's Madison Square Garden. NYU beats Notre Dame 25-18 and Westminster defeats St. John's 37-33.  
1957 — Tobin Rote passes for four touchdowns and scores another to give the Detroit Lions a 59-14 victory over the Cleveland Browns in the NFL championship game.  
1961 — Wilt Chamberlain of the Philadelphia Warriors scores 60 points against the Los Angeles Lakers at Hershey, Pa., the future site of his 100-point game.  
1963 — Chuck McKinley and Dennis Ralston give the United States a 3-2 victory over Australia for the Davis Cup title.  
1968 — The Baltimore Colts shut out the Browns 34-0 to win the NFL championship at Cleveland Municipal Stadium.  
1968 — The New York Jets beat the Oakland Raiders 27-23 in the AFL championship game.  
1979 — Safety Vernon Perry sets an NFL playoff record with four interceptions to lead the Houston Oilers to a 17-14 victory over the San Diego Chargers.  
1982 — Alabama's Jeremiah Castille intercepts three passes to help beat Illinois 21-15 in the Liberty Bowl and send coach Paul "Bear" Bryant out as a winner. Bryant finishes his coaching career with 323-85-17 record.  
1984 — Wayne Gretzky of the Edmonton Oilers scores his 100th point in the 35th game of the season, a 6-3 victory over the Detroit Red Wings.  
2006 — Texas Tech spots Minnesota a 31-point, third-quarter lead, then rallies for a stunning 44-41 overtime victory in the Insight Bowl, the largest comeback in Division I-A bowl history. The previous record for a bowl comeback was 30 points, set by Marshall against East Carolina in the 2001 GMAC Bowl.  
2007 — The New England Patriots complete a perfect regular season, finishing with a remarkable 16-0 record following a thrilling 38-35 comeback victory over the New York Giants. New England is the first NFL team since the 1972 Dolphins to win every game on the schedule, and that one was only 14-0.  
2011 — Baylor pulls out an incredible Alamó Bowl victory in the highest-scoring regulation bowl game in history, beating Washington 67-56 in the wildest shootout of this bowl season. Heisman Trophy winner Robert Griffin III isn't dazzling, but Terrance Ganaway rushes for 200 yards and five touchdowns.







EASTERN CONFERENCE						
Atlantic	W	L	OL*	Pt	GF	GA
Toronto	22	13	2	46	115	105
Florida	22	13	2	46	126	116
Boston	20	14	4	44	101	115
Tampa Bay	20	11	2	42	132	92
Ottawa	18	15	2	38	107	102
Montreal	15	17	3	33	105	123
Detroit	13	18	4	30	90	116
Buffalo	13	19	4	30	110	122

Metropolitan	W	L	OL*	Pt	GF	GA
Devils	24	12	3	51	130	98
Washington	24	9	2	50	130	91
Carolina	22	13	1	45	125	102
Pittsburgh	16	16	5	37	115	139
Philadelphia	16	16	4	36	111	131
Columbus	15	16	6	36	123	133
Islanders	14	15	7	35	99	116
Rangers	16	18	1	33	98	108

WESTERN CONFERENCE						
Central	W	L	OL*	Pt	GF	GA
Winnipeg	26	10	1	53	137	91
Minnesota	22	10	4	48	107	98
Colorado	22	15	0	44	125	121
Dallas	20	13	1	41	107	88
Utah	16	13	6	38	103	103
St. Louis	17	16	4	38	98	111
Nashville	11	18	7	29	88	114
Chicago	12	22	2	26	93	118

Pacific	W	L	OL*	Pt	GF	GA
Vegas	24	8	3	51	126	99
Los Angeles	20	10	5	45	108	91
Edmonton	21	11	3	45	114	99
Vancouver	17	10	8	42	111	112
Calgary	17	11	7	41	98	107
Seattle	16	19	2	34	106	117
Anaheim	13	17	4	30	83	106
San Jose	11	22	6	28	105	142

OL\*: Lost in OT (for 1 point)

**Saturday**  
Carolina 5, Devils 2  
Tampa Bay 6, Rangers 2  
**Islanders** 6, Pittsburgh 3  
Montreal 4, Florida 0  
Seattle 5, Vancouver 4, OT  
Philadelphia 3, Anaheim 1  
Los Angeles 4, Edmonton 3, OT  
Boston 4, Columbus 0  
Winnipeg 4, Ottawa 2  
Washington 5, Toronto 2  
Calgary 3, San Jose 1

**Sunday**  
**Islanders** at Pittsburgh, 5:30pm  
Buffalo at St. Louis, 3pm  
Edmonton at Anaheim, 4pm  
Montreal at Tampa Bay, 5pm  
Washington at Detroit, 5pm  
Calgary at Vegas, 8pm  
Ottawa at Minnesota, 8pm  
Dallas at Chicago, 8:30pm  
Philadelphia at Los Angeles, 9pm

**Monday**  
**Rangers** at Florida, 7pm  
Nashville at Winnipeg, 7:30pm  
Utah at Seattle, 8pm

Canadiens 4, Panthers 0

Montreal	0	3	1	4
Florida	0	0	0	0

**First Period:** None. **Penalties:** Samoskevich, FLA (High Sticking), 13:46.  
**Second Period:** 1, Montreal, Dach 3 (Guhle, Newhook), 1:39. 2, Montreal, Dach 4 (Newhook), 13:51. 3, Montreal, Evans 9, 17:19 (sh). **Penalties:** Xhekaj, MTL (Fighting), 10:11; Greer, FLA (Fighting), 10:11; Dvorak, MTL (Slashing), 16:28.  
**Third Period:** 4, Montreal, Caufield 18 (Slaftkovsky), 14:17. **Penalties:** None.  
**Shots on Goal:** Montreal 9-8-7—24. Florida 10-14-10—34.  
**Power-play opportunities:** Montreal 0 of 1; Florida 0 of 1.  
**Goalies:** Montreal, Dobes 1-0-0 (34 shots-34 saves). Florida, Knight 6-6-1 (24-20).  
**A:** 19,483 (19,250). **T:** 2:23.  
**Referees:** Michael Markovic, Wes McCauley. **Linesmen:** Matt MacPherson, Kilian McNamara.

Lightning 6, Rangers 2

Rangers	1	0	1	2
Tampa Bay	2	3	1	6

**First Period:** 1, Tampa Bay, Kucherov 16 (Point, Guentzel), 2:27 (pp). 2, Rangers, Panarin 16 (Trocheck, Fox), 9:23. 3, Tampa Bay, McDonagh 1 (Cirelli), 18:11 (sh). **Penalties:** Carrick, NYR (Tripping), 1:46; Cernak, TB (Hooking), 17:05.  
**Second Period:** 4, Tampa Bay, Point 23 (Kucherov), 3:35. 5, Tampa Bay, Cirelli 14 (Hagel), 5:02 (sh). 6, Tampa Bay, Point 24 (Kucherov, Hedman), 8:08 (pp). **Penalties:** Tampa Bay bench, served by Geekie (Too Many Men on the Ice), 4:50; Carrick, NYR (Roughing), 7:39; Goncalves, TB (Tripping), 10:30; Carrick, NYR (Cross Checking), 18:59.  
**Third Period:** 7, Rangers, Trocheck 10 (Lindgren), 0:13 (sh). 8, Tampa Bay, Paul 9, 14:12. **Penalties:** Smith, NYR (Hooking), 8:18; Borgen, NYR (Cross Checking), 9:29; Hedman, TB (Tripping), 10:45.  
**Shots on Goal:** Rangers 17-8-19—44. Tampa Bay 6-12-7—25.  
**Power-play opportunities:** Rangers 0 of 4; Tampa Bay 2 of 5.  
**Goalies:** Rangers, Quick 5-4-0 (12 shots-11 saves), Rangers, Shesterkin 11-14-1 (13-8). Tampa Bay, Vasilevskiy 16-10-1 (44-42).  
**A:** 19,092 (19,092). **T:** 2:41.  
**Referees:** Jean Hebert, Corey Syvret. **Linesmen:** Julien Fournier, Ben O'Quinn.

Flyers 3, Ducks 1

Philadelphia	0	1	2	3
Anaheim	0	1	0	1

**First Period:** None. **Penalties:** Gauthier, ANA (Hooking), 7:30; Michkov, PHI (High Sticking), 10:25.  
**Second Period:** 1, Philadelphia, Cates 7 (York, Brink), 4:03. 2, Anaheim, Terry 10 (Gudas, LaCombe), 15:38. **Penalties:** Hathaway, PHI (Tripping), 1:45; Terry, ANA (Tripping), 1:50; Gudas, ANA (Holding), 7:07; Foerster, PHI (Slashing), 15:55.  
**Third Period:** 3, Philadelphia, Frost 7 (Laughton), 5:57. 4, Philadelphia, Farabee 5, 17:40 (en). **Penalties:** Helleson, ANA (High Sticking), 13:38; Philadelphia bench, served by Farabee (Too Many Men on the Ice), 15:30; Vatrano, ANA (Roughing), 18:57.  
**Shots on Goal:** Philadelphia 7-12-6—25. Anaheim 10-12-10—32.  
**Power-play opportunities:** Philadelphia 0 of 5; Anaheim 0 of 4.  
**Goalies:** Philadelphia, Ersson 8-6-2 (33 shots-32 saves). Anaheim, Dostal 8-10-3 (24-22).  
**A:** 16,472 (17,174). **T:** 2:24.  
**Referees:** Jordan Samuels-Thomas, Chris Schlenker. **Linesmen:** Mitch Hunt, Kiel Murchison.

Kraken 5, Canucks 4, OT

Seattle	0	1	3	1	5
Vancouver	1	2	1	0	4

**First Period:** 1, Vancouver, Boeser 12 (DeBrusk, Miller), 16:03 (pp). **Penalties:** Gourde, SEA (Roughing), 13:58; Forbort, VAN (Roughing), 13:58; Wright, SEA (Hooking), 15:54; Soucy, VAN (Interference), 17:23.  
**Second Period:** 2, Seattle, Beniers 5 (Oleksiak), 1:18. 3, Vancouver, Garland 9 (Blueger, Soucy), 8:36. 4, Vancouver, Boeser 13 (Heinen, Soucy), 15:14. **Penalties:** Brannstrom, VAN (Hooking), 3:22; Garland, VAN (Holding), 6:25; Oleksiak, SEA (Hooking), 11:40.  
**Third Period:** 5, Vancouver, DeBrusk 16 (Forbort, Miller), 3:09. 6, Seattle, Schwartz 10 (Sprong, Dunn), 15:15. 7, Seattle, Dunn 6, 18:48. 8, Seattle, Schwartz 11 (Bjorkstrand), 19:10. **Penalties:** None.  
**Overtime:** 9, Seattle, Dunn 7, 2:15. **Penalties:** None.  
**Shots on Goal:** Seattle 6-9-12-2—29. Vancouver 6-9-5-1—21.  
**Power-play opportunities:** Seattle 0 of 3; Vancouver 1 of 2.  
**Goalies:** Seattle, Grubauer 4-10-0 (21 shots-17 saves). Vancouver, Demko 2-1-3 (29-24).  
**A:** 18,905 (18,910). **T:** 2:28.  
**Referees:** Cody Beach, Tom Chmielewski. **Linesmen:** Brandon Gawryletz, Bevan Mills.

Kings 4, Oilers 3, OT

Edmonton	1	2	0	0	3
Los Angeles	2	0	1	1	4

**First Period:** 1, Edmonton, Kapanen 5 (Brown, Emberson), 9:43. 2, Los Angeles, Byfield 7 (Clarke, Foegele), 12:32. 3, Los Angeles, Foegele 10 (Byfield, Spence), 17:35. **Penalties:** None.  
**Second Period:** 4, Edmonton, Nugent-Hopkins 7 (McDavid, Hyman), 3:20 (pp). 5, Edmonton, Arvidsson 4 (Draisaitl, Podkolzin), 11:59. **Penalties:** Laferriere, LA (Tripping), 3:08.  
**Third Period:** 6, Los Angeles, Jeannot 5 (Spence, Foegele), 2:32. **Penalties:** Jeannot, LA (Hooking), 3:16; Arvidsson, EDM (High Sticking), 6:22.  
**Overtime:** 7, Los Angeles, Byfield 8 (Danault), 3:19. **Penalties:** None.  
**Shots on Goal:** Edmonton 10-9-8-1—28. Los Angeles 9-9-5-6—29.  
**Power-play opportunities:** Edmonton 1 of 2; Los Angeles 0 of 1.  
**Goalies:** Edmonton, Skinner 13-8-3 (29 shots-25 saves). Los Angeles, Kuemper 9-2-5 (28-25).  
**A:** 18,145 (18,230). **T:** 2:31.

Jets 4, Senators 2

Ottawa	1	1	0	2
Winnipeg	0	2	2	4

**First Period:** 1, Ottawa, Stutzle 12 (Tkachuk, Batherson), 10:40 (pp). **Penalties:** Jensen, OTT (Tripping), 7:18; Pionk, WPG (Tripping), 8:53.  
**Second Period:** 2, Ottawa, Greig 4 (Chabot, Giroux), 4:03 (pp). 3, Winnipeg, Connor 22 (Morrissey, Scheifele), 12:46. 4, Winnipeg, Scheifele 22 (Ehlers, Miller), 15:01. **Penalties:** Vilardi, WPG (High Sticking), 2:33; Kleven, OTT (High Sticking), 7:07.  
**Third Period:** 5, Winnipeg, Vilardi 15 (Ehlers, Connor), 9:47 (pp). 6, Winnipeg, Ehlers 11 (Stanley), 11:19. **Penalties:** Heinola, WPG (Tripping), 5:44; Ottawa bench, served by Cousins (Tripping), 9:07.  
**Shots on Goal:** Ottawa 9-9-16—34. Winnipeg 9-6-8—23.  
**Power-play opportunities:** Ottawa 2 of 4; Winnipeg 1 of 3.  
**Goalies:** Ottawa, Sogaard 1-1-0 (23 shots-19 saves). Winnipeg, Hellebuyck 23-5-1 (34-34).  
**A:** 14,734 (15,321). **T:** 2:21.  
**Referees:** Mitch Dunning, Ghislain Hebert. **Linesmen:** Ryan Daisy, Justin Johnson.

Capitals 5, Maple Leafs 2

Washington	2	1	2	5
Toronto	1	1	0	2

**First Period:** 1, Toronto, Tavares 18 (Pacioretty, Benoit), 3:14. 2, Washington, Mangiapane 8 (Lapierre), 4:46. 3, Washington, Chychrun 10 (van Riemsdyk, Raddysch), 8:54. **Penalties:** None.  
**Second Period:** 4, Toronto, McMann 10 (Domi, Marner), 8:10. 5, Washington, Dowd 9 (Sandin, Mangiapane), 9:53. **Penalties:** Protas, WSH (Slashing), 15:41.  
**Third Period:** 6, Washington, Wilson 14 (Strome, Chychrun), 12:36 (pp). 7, Washington, Ovechkin 16 (Protas, Dubois), 16:37. **Penalties:** Dubois, WSH (Hooking), 2:00; McCabe, TOR (Hooking), 11:17.  
**Shots on Goal:** Washington 15-8-9—32. Toronto 14-13-10—37.  
**Power-play opportunities:** Washington 1 of 1; Toronto 0 of 2.  
**Goalies:** Washington, Thompson 14-2-2 (37 shots-35 saves). Toronto, Murray 1-1-0 (32-27).  
**A:** 19,125 (18,819). **T:** 2:23.

WTA Rankings

Singles- Through Monday

- Aryna Sabalenka, Belarus, 9416
- Iga Swiatek, Poland, 8295
- Coco Gauff, USA, 6530
- Jasmine Paolini, Italy, 5344
- Zheng Qinwen, China, 5340
- Elena Rybakina, Kazakhstan, 5171
- Jessica Pegula, USA, 4705
- Emma Navarro, USA, 3589
- Daria Kasatkina, Russia, 3368
- Barbora Krejickova, Czechia, 3214
- Danielle Collins, USA, 3178
- Paula Badosa, Spain, 2908
- Diana Shnaider, Russia, 2895

Islanders 6, Penguins 3

Pittsburgh	1	2	0	3
Islanders	1	3	2	6

**First Period:** 1, Islanders, Pageau 8 (Barzal), 14:47. 2, Pittsburgh, Bunting 10 (Rakell), 16:03 (pp). **Penalties:** Tsyplakov, NYI (Tripping), 0:56; Tomasino, PIT (Tripping), 12:17; Cizikas, NYI (Interference), 14:59.  
**Second Period:** 3, Islanders, Duclair 3 (Nelson, Palmieri), 5:39. 4, Islanders, Lee 14 (Romanov, Barzal), 8:36. 5, Islanders, Cizikas 2 (Romanov, Horvat), 9:39. 6, Pittsburgh, Acciari 4 (Nieto, Karlsson), 13:49. 7, Pittsburgh, Rakell 17 (Malkin, Grzelcyk), 19:56. **Penalties:** Tsyplakov, NYI (Hooking), 2:22; Nelson, NYI (Hooking), 11:36; Karlsson, PIT (Holding Stick), 16:44.  
**Third Period:** 8, Islanders, Cizikas 3 (Holmstrom), 14:43. 9, Islanders, Lee 15, 19:38. **Penalties:** None.  
**Shots on Goal:** Pittsburgh 9-12-4—25. Islanders 11-16-8—35.  
**Power-play opportunities:** Pittsburgh 1 of 4; Islanders 0 of 2.  
**Goalies:** Pittsburgh, Jarry 8-6-2 (35 shots-29 saves). Islanders, Sorokin 11-11-4 (25-22).  
**A:** 17,255 (17,113). **T:** 2:33.  
**Referees:** Michael Sullivan, Kelly Sutherland. **Linesmen:** Devin Berg, Dan Kelly.

Hurricanes 5, Devils 2

Devils	0	1	1	2
Carolina	0	1	4	5

**First Period:** None. **Penalties:** Meier, NJ (Tripping), 17:51.  
**Second Period:** 1, Devils, Cotter 8, 2:56. 2, Carolina, Orlov 4 (Jarvis, Walker), 19:30. **Penalties:** J.Hughes, NJ (Hooking), 7:48; Robinson, CAR (Illegal Check to Head), 11:59; Slavin, CAR (Interference), 15:00.  
**Third Period:** 3, Devils, Palat 8 (Hamilton, Bratt), 1:05. 4, Carolina, Aho 12 (Roslovic), 1:56. 5, Carolina, Blake 8 (Kotkanieni, Burns), 10:43 (pp). 6, Carolina, Roslovic 15 (Jarvis, Walker), 12:06. 7, Carolina, Roslovic 16 (Aho, Jarvis), 16:38 (en). **Penalties:** Kotkanieni, CAR (Roughing), 6:28; Meier, NJ (Kneeing), 6:28; Devils bench, served by Tatar (Misconduct), 6:28; Haula, NJ (Roughing), 12:24; Orlov, CAR (Roughing), 12:24.  
**Shots on Goal:** Devils 10-7-6—23. Carolina 16-12-13—41.  
**Power-play opportunities:** Devils 0 of 2; Carolina 3 of 4.  
**Goalies:** Devils, Allen 5-5-1 (40 shots-36 saves). Carolina, Tokarski 1-1-0 (23-21).  
**A:** 0 (18,680). **T:** 2:37.  
**Referees:** Beaudry Halkidis, Dan O'Rourke. **Linesmen:** Tommy Hughes, Libor Suchanek.

Bruins 4, Blue Jackets 0

Columbus	0	0	0	0
Boston	1	2	1	4

**First Period:** 1, Boston, Brazeau 8 (Carlo, Lohrei), 2:29. **Penalties:** Kastelic, BOS (Fighting), 2:35; Olivier, CBJ (Fighting), 2:35; Voronkov, CBJ (Hooking), 12:50.  
**Second Period:** 2, Boston, Geekie 8, 6:29. 3, Boston, Pastrnak 13 (Geekie, Zacha), 8:18. **Penalties:** Kastelic, BOS (High Sticking), 8:36.  
**Third Period:** 4, Boston, Koepke 6, 6:06. **Penalties:** Boston bench, served by Brazeau (Roughing), 6:43; Olivier, CBJ (Fighting), 6:43; Zadorov, BOS (Fighting), 6:43; Werenksi, CBJ (Holding), 7:48.  
**Shots on Goal:** Columbus 7-6-5—18. Boston 10-11-7—28.  
**Power-play opportunities:** Columbus 0 of 3; Boston 0 of 2.  
**Goalies:** Columbus, Tarasov 3-6-1 (28 shots-24 saves). Boston, Swayman 13-10-3 (18-18).  
**A:** 17,850 (17,565). **T:** 2:22.  
**Referees:** Eric Furlatt, Pierre Lambert. **Linesmen:** Shandor Alphonso, Michel Cormier.

# POP QUIZ

Question: from Rich Ackerman of CBS Sports Radio and Fox Sports: A Brooklyn native, this outfielder played for the Dodgers, Padres and Reds and appeared in episodes of “Gilligan’s Island” and “Batman” (the 1960s version). among other TV shows. Name him.

ANSWER TO LAST WEEK’S QUESTION: YOGI BERRA, WHITEY FORD, MICKEY MANTLE AND MOOSE SKOWRON APPEARED ON “THE ED SULLIVAN SHOW” TO SING “TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME.”

SUBMIT QUESTIONS TO: KENDAAVIDOFF4@GMAIL.COM

76ers 114, Jazz 111

Philadelphia										
	Min	FG	FT	O-Rb	A	PF	Pts			

P.George	31:38	4-11	3-5	0-3	2	5	13
C.Martin	35:54	2-5	0-1	1-6	0	2	5
Embiid	34:39	10-21	11-13	2-5	4	1	32
Maxe	40:39	9-23	9-10	0-0	6	3	32
Oubre Jr.	30:37	3-7	3-4	1-2	2	4	9
Yabusele	22:06	4-7	2-2	5-8	2	5	12
Lowry	18:46	0-1	0-0	0-2	5	0	0
Jackson	14:50	3-5	0-0	1-4	1	1	8
Council IV	10:50	1-3	1-2	0-2	0	1	3

**Totals** 240:00 36-83 29-37 10-32 22 22 114  
**Percentages:** FG .434, FT .784. **3-point goals:** 13-36. .361 (Maxey 5-13, Jackson 2-3, Yabusele 2-4, P.George 2-5, C.Martin 1-2, Embiid 1-4, Council IV 0-1, Lowry 0-1, Oubre Jr. 0-3). **Team rebounds:** 13. **Team turnovers:** None. **Blocked shots:** 8 (Embiid 3, C.Martin 2, Council IV, Lowry, Maxey). **Turnovers:** 8 (Embiid 4, Maxey 2, Oubre Jr., P.George). **Steals:** 15 (P.George 5, Embiid 4, Lowry 2, Maxey 2, C.Martin, Oubre Jr.). **Technical:** None.

Utah	Min	FG	FT	O-Rb	A	PF	Pts
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Markkanen	32:44	8-21	2-2	1-4	2	1	23
Williams	23:11	2-4	2-2	1-5	1	5	6
Kessler	29:35	5-8	1-3	5-11	0	5	11
Clarkson	30:10	7-16	3-3	1-3	4	1	17
Sexton	31:07	9-16	0-0	3-6	8	2	20
Sensabaugh	24:31	6-9	5-5	0-5	2	3	20
Collier	19:22	1-3	0-0	1-3	4	1	2
Juzang	15:38	2-5	0-0	1-5	1	1	6
Potter	15:16	0-2	0-0	0-0	3	1	0
Eubanks	9:12	3-3	0-0	0-2	1	3	6
Filipowski	9:11	0-2	0-0	1-4	1	2	0

**Totals** 240:00 43-89 13-15 14-48 27 25 111  
**Percentages:** FG .483, FT .867. **3-point goals:** 12-36. .333 (Markkanen 5-15, Sensabaugh 3-5, Juzang 2-4, Sexton 2-4, Williams 0-1, Collier 0-2, Potter 0-2, Clarkson 0-3). **Team rebounds:** 10. **Team turnovers:** 1. **Blocked shots:** 3 (Clarkson, Kessler, Sensabaugh). **Turnovers:** 21 (Collier 5, Kessler 4, Markkanen 3, Clarkson 2, Sexton 2, Williams 2, Eubanks, Filipowski, Sensabaugh). **Steals:** 3 (Filipowski, Markkanen, Sexton). **Technical:** Eubanks, 12:00 third.

Philadelphia	22	35	24	33	—114
Utah	34	18	29	30	—111

A: 18,175 (18,206).

Flames 3, Sharks 1

Calgary	1	1	1	3
San Jose	0	1	0	1

**First Period:** 1, Calgary, Huberdeau 14 (Weegar, Kadri), 4:40. **Penalties:** San Jose bench, served by Smith (Cross Checking), 8:17; Pachal, CGY (Fighting), 8:1



# The *POST* Line

NFL- Week 17		
Favorite	Sunday PTS (O/U)	Underdog
Colts	7.5 (40.5)	GIANTS
BILLS	10 (46)	Jets
Raiders	1.5 (37.5)	SAINTS
BUCCANEERS	8 (48)	Panthers
Titans	1 (39.5)	JAGUARS
EAGLES	7.5 (38)	Cowboys
Dolphins	3 (34)	BROWNS
VIKINGS	1.5 (48.5)	Packers
COMMANDERS	3.5 (46.5)	Falcons

Monday		
Lions	3.5 (50.5)	49ERS

NHL Sunday		
Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
PENGUINS	-105-115	Islanders
BLUES	\$105-125	Sabres
Oilers	\$225-275	DUCKS
Capitals	\$120-145	RED WINGS
LIGHTNING	\$200-250	Canadiens
WILD	\$135-160	Senators
GOLDEN KNIGHTS	\$200-250	Flames
Stars	\$200-250	BLACKHAWKS
KINGS	\$165-200	Flyers
Home teams in CAPS		

NBA Sunday		
Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
MAGIC	5 (208.5)	Nets
Hawks	1 (235.5)	RAPTORS
CELTICS	11.5 (232.5)	Pacers
T'WOLVES	7.5 (215.5)	Spurs
ROCKETS	6.5 (215.5)	Heat
THUNDER	7 (228.5)	Grizzlies

College Basketball Sunday		
Favorite	PTS	Underdog
OHIO STATE	18.5	Indiana State
PENN STATE	25.5	Penn
IONA	3.5	Harvard
Hofstra	1	QUINNIPIAC
FLORIDA	37.5	Stetson
N'WESTERN	12.5	Northeastern
SMU	16.5	Longwood
GEORGIA	23.5	S.C. State
MINNESOTA	20.5	Morgan State
ALABAMA	20.5	S. Dakota State
TEMPLE	15.5	Buffalo
INDIANA	15.5	Winthrop
OREGON	20.5	Weber State
PURDUE	19.5	Toledo
LSU	38.5	Miss. Valley St.
MICHIGAN	16.5	W. Kentucky
N. CAROLINA	26.5	Campbell

# Ca\$hing in on Allen with MVP at stake

By DOUG KEZIRIAN

Lamar Jackson has entered the chat. After the star quarterback delivered another memorable and eye-opening performance on national television, the NFL MVP race now is considered to be much tighter than previously thought — and that provides betting value in Week 17.

Josh Allen remains the MVP betting favorite, but his odds have lowered to -200 at Draft-Kings. The Bills quarterback was about -900 just two weeks ago.

Jackson's three touchdowns each on Christmas and the previous week have catapulted him back into serious consideration, lowering his odds to +145. The reigning MVP leads the league in QBR and has 39 touchdown passes with just four interceptions, along with 852 rushing yards and four TD.

Voter fatigue usually prevents a back-to-back award winner, but if the season is that incredible, then he can overcome that resistance. After all, Aaron Rodgers just pulled it off in 2020 and 2021.

That is why I believe Buffalo's matchup with the Jets provides a favorable opportunity. Allen has +105 odds to throw at least two touchdown passes against a de-

fense that was recently torched by Mac Jones and Tua Tagovailoa.

Allen should thrive, especially since he tends to excel in adverse conditions. Weather forecasts call for steady rain but fairly warm temperatures.

The MVP storyline is what makes the prop bet a solid play. I believe Allen's chances hinge on this performance, especially because Allen likely will skip next week's regular season finale. If he underdelivers against the Jets, that likely sways the award to Jackson.

I do believe that underlying narrative will influence play-calling in the red zone, especially if the Bills have a comfortable lead. He can always run for a score, and those odds are -115 and separate from the passing touchdowns. However, I think it is more likely that he is given the green light to find the end zone through the air.

The Bills want to win the game and secure the AFC's second seed. That is undeniably the top priority. But they also want their franchise cornerstone to win the MVP and will make certain decisions to accomplish both. That's why I view the +105 odds as value and a far better wager than -200 on an MVP ticket.



## SPORTS SHORTS

### NHL: Hurricanes beat Devils

**Jackson Blake** scored a power-play goal with 9:17 remaining to give Carolina the lead, and **Jack Roslovic** scored twice as the Hurricanes beat the Devils 5-2 in Raleigh, N.C. **Paul Cotter** and **Ondrej Palat** scored for the Devils, who snapped a three-game winning streak.

● In Toronto, **Alex Ovechkin** scored an empty-net goal in his return from a fractured left fibula as the Capitals upended the Maple Leafs 5-2.

● In Los Angeles, **Quinton Byfield** scored his second goal of the game with 1:41 remaining in overtime as the Kings beat the Oilers 4-3.

● In Vancouver, **Vince Dunn** scored his second goal of the game 2:15 into overtime and the Kraken overcame a three-goal, third-period deficit to beat the Canucks 5-4.

### NBA: Mavs, Suns players suspended

The NBA suspended Mavericks forward **Naji Marshall** for four games and Suns center **Jusuf Nurkic** for three games for their roles in an on-court fight during Friday night's game. Dallas forward **P.J. Washington** was suspended one game. All of the suspensions handed down are without pay.

● In San Francisco, **Jonathan Kuminga** had 34 points and made the go-ahead free throw in the Warriors' 109-105 win over the Suns.

### NFL: Tua doubtful with hip injury

Dolphins quarterback **Tua Tagovailoa** was downgraded to doubtful for Sunday's game against the Browns due to a hip injury. Tagovailoa was limited in practice this week with the injury, which he initially suffered in a loss to Houston on Dec. 15.

### MLB: Ohtani to become a father

**Shohei Ohtani** is adding a newcomer to his family lineup. The 30-year-old Los Angeles Dodgers superstar posted on his Instagram account Saturday that he and his 28-year-old wife, **Mamiko Tanaka**, are expecting a baby in 2025.

### NCAA: Beck declares for draft

Georgia quarterback **Carson Beck** on Saturday announced his plans to enter the NFL draft, five days after having season-ending elbow surgery. Beck, a fifth-year senior, made his NFL plans official on social media.

● In Inglewood, Calif., **Eric Dailey Jr.** scored 18 points and No. 22 UCLA edged 14th-ranked Gonzaga 65-62.

● In Memphis, Tenn., **Colby Rogers** scored 28 points as Memphis defeated No. 16 Mississippi 87-70.

● In San Diego, Ian Martinez scored 17 points as Utah State rallied from an 18-point deficit to beat No. 20 San Diego State 67-66.

● In Manhattan, **Geronimo Rubio De La Rosa** scored 27 points as Columbia beat Fairfield 85-72.

## College bowl and playoff glance

Date	Bowl	Matchup (Line)	O/U	Location	Time, TV
Monday	Music City	Missouri (-3) vs. Iowa	40.5	Nashville, Tenn.	2:30, ESPN
Tuesday	ReliaQuest	Alabama (-13.5) vs. Michigan	43.5	Tampa, Fla.	Noon, ESPN
Tuesday	Sun	Louisville (-2.5) vs. Washington	49.5	El Paso, Texas	2:00, CBS
Tuesday	Citrus	South Carolina (-10.5) vs. Illinois	49.5	Orlando, Fla.	3:00, ABC
Tuesday	Texas	Baylor (-3.5) vs. LSU	59.5	Houston	3:30, ESPN
Tuesday	Fiesta-x	Penn State (-10.5) vs. Boise State	52.5	Glendale, Ariz.	7:30, ESPN
Wed.	Peach-x	Texas (-13.5) vs. Arizona State	52.5	Atlanta	1:00, ESPN
Wed.	Rose-x	Ohio State (-2.5) vs. Oregon	55.5	Pasadena, Calif.	5:00, ESPN
Wed.	Sugar-x	Georgia (-1.5) vs. Notre Dame	44.5	New Orleans	8:45, ESPN
Thurs.	Gator	Mississippi (-17.5) vs. Duke	51.5	Jacksonville, Fla.	7:30, ESPN
Friday	First Responder	Texas State (-14) vs. North Texas	63.5	Dallas	4:00, ESPN
Friday	Duke's Mayo	Minnesota (-7.5) vs. Virginia Tech	42.5	Charlotte, N.C.	7:30, ESPN
Saturday	Bahamas	Buffalo (-2.5) vs. Liberty	50.5	Nassua, Bahamas	11:00, ESPN2
Jan. 9	Orange	College football playoff semifinal		Miami Gardens, Fla.	7:30, ESPN
Jan. 10	Cotton	College football playoff semifinal		Arlington, Texas	7:30, ESPN
Jan. 20	CFP National Championship			Atlanta	7:30, ESPN

x-College football playoff quarterfinal



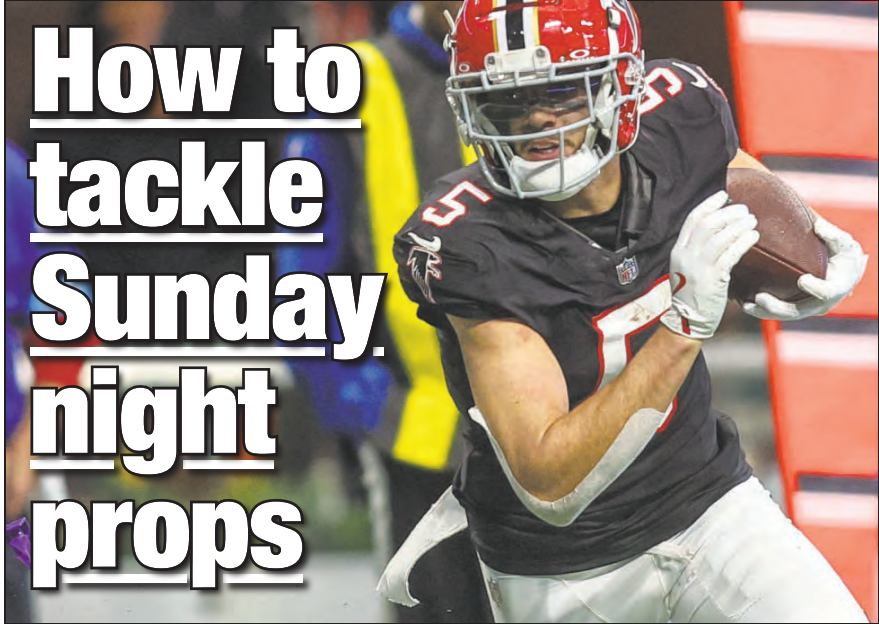
Home Team Lineups HOME AWAY							
	TODAY December 29	MON Dec. 30	TUE Dec. 31	WED Jan. 1	THU Jan. 2	FRI Jan. 3	SAT Jan. 4
	NO GAME	Wash. 7:00 MSG WHSQ	NO GAME	Utah 7:30 MSG WHSQ	NO GAME	OKC 8:00 MSG WHSQ	Chi. 8:00 MSG WHSQ
	Orlando 3:30 YES WFAN 101.9 FM	NO GAME	NO GAME	Tor. 7:30 YES WFAN	Milw. 8:00 YES WFAN	NO GAME	Phila. 6:00 YES WFAN
	NO GAME	Fla. 7:00 MSGSN WEPN	NO GAME	NO GAME	Bos. 7:00 MSG WHSQ	NO GAME	Wash. Noon ABC WHSQ
	Pittsburgh 5:30 MSGSN WRHU 88.7 FM WRCN 103.9 FM	NO GAME	Tor. 1:00 MSGSN WRHU WRCN	NO GAME	Tor. 7:30 ESPN+ WRHU WRCN	NO GAME	NO GAME
	NO GAME	NO GAME	Ana. 8:00 MSGSN	L.A. 6:00 MSGSN	NO GAME	NO GAME	San Jose 4:00 MSGSN
	NO GAME	NO GAME	Creig. 4:00 Peac.	NO GAME	NO GAME	NO GAME	Butler 2:00 FS1
Sunday				Sunday			
	Indianapolis 1 p.m. TV- Fox Radio-WFAN 660 AM			Buffalo 1 p.m. TV- CBS Radio-WAXQ 104.3 FM			

Today's Sports on the Air		
NFL	1 p.m.	Colts at Giants Fox, WFAN (660 AM)
	1 p.m.	Jets at Bills CBS, WAXQ (104.3 FM)
	4:25 p.m.	Packers at Vikings Fox
	8:20 p.m.	Falcons at Commanders NBC, WFAN (660 AM/101.9 FM)
NHL	5:30 p.m.	Islanders at Penguins MSGSN, WRHU (88.7 FM), WRCN (103.9 FM)
	8:30 p.m.	Stars at Blackhawks ESPN
NBA	3:30 p.m.	Nets at Magic YES, WFAN (101.9 FM)
Hockey	Noon	IIHF World Junior Championship: Switzerland vs. Sweden NHLN
	1 p.m.	PWHL: Ottawa Charge at New York Sirens MSG
	2:30 p.m.	IIHF World Junior Championship: United States vs. Finland NHLN
	5 p.m.	IIHF World Junior Championship: Czechia vs. Slovakia NHLN
	7:30 p.m.	IIHF World Junior Championship: Canada vs. Germany NHLN
College Basketball	1 p.m.	Women: South Florida at Rice ESPN2
	1:30 p.m.	Women: Providence at UConn SNY
	2 p.m.	Chicago State at Illinois BTN
	2 p.m.	Women: Iona at Hofstra MSGSN
	2 p.m.	Women: Wofford at South Carolina SECN
	2 p.m.	Women: Louisville at Boston College ACCN
	3 p.m.	Buffalo at Temple ESPNU
	4 p.m.	Women: North Carolina at Miami (Fla.) ACCN
	4 p.m.	Winthrop at Indiana BTN
	6 p.m.	Toledo at Purdue BTN
	6 p.m.	Women: Clemson at NC State ACCN
	8 p.m.	Campbell at North Carolina ACCN
Soccer	8 p.m.	Western Kentucky at Michigan BTN
	10 p.m.	Women: Michigan at USC BTN
	10 a.m.	EPL: Nottingham Forest at Everton USA
	12:15 p.m.	EPL: Liverpool at West Ham United USA
	12:45 p.m.	English Championship: Leeds United at Derby County CBSSN
Tennis	6 a.m.	ATP/WTA Brisbane- Early Rounds Tennis
	6:30 p.m.	United Cup-Day 4 Group Stage; ATP/WTA Brisbane, ATP Hong Kong, WTA Auckland- Early Rounds Tennis
Horse Racing	3 p.m.	America's Day at the Races FS1

ODDS & ENDS

NFL Sunday Jets at Bills odds and props	
FULL-GAME MONEYLINE	ODDS
Jets	+375
Bills	-500
WINNING MARGIN	ODDS
Jets by 1-13	+500
Jets by 14+	20/1
Bills by 1-13	+110
Bills by 14+	+125
FIRST TOUCHDOWN	ODDS
Josh Allen	+400
James Cook	+450
Breece Hall	10/1
Davante Adams	10/1
Ray Davis	12/1
Dalton Kincaid	12/1
ANYTIME TOUCHDOWN	ODDS
James Cook	-140
Josh Allen	-125
Breece Hall	+115
Davante Adams	+120
Garrett Wilson	+138
PASSING YARDS	O/U
Aaron Rodgers	220.5
Josh Allen	217.5
RUSHING YARDS	O/U
James Cook	67.5
Breece Hall	47.5
Josh Allen	31.5
RECEIVING YARDS	O/U
Davante Adams	64.4
Garrett Wilson	52.5
Khalil Shakir	45.5
Colts at Giants odds and props	
FULL-GAME MONEYLINE	ODDS
Colts	-400
Giants	+310
WINNING MARGIN	ODDS
Colts by 1-13	+105
Colts by 14+	+160
Giants by 1-13	+400
Giants by 14+	17/1
FIRST TOUCHDOWN	ODDS
Jonathan Taylor	+400
Tyrone Tracy Jr.	+900
Michael Pittman Jr.	10/1
Josh Downs	10/1
Devin Singletary	11/1
Malik Nabers	11/1
ANYTIME TOUCHDOWN	ODDS
Jonathan Taylor	-150
Tyrone Tracy Jr.	+105
Malik Nabers	+115
Devin Singletary	+140
PASSING YARDS	O/U
Drew Lock	192.5
RUSHING YARDS	O/U
Jonathan Taylor	104.5
Tyrone Tracy Jr.	50.5
RECEIVING YARDS	O/U
Malik Nabers	65.5
Josh Downs	47.5
Michael Pittman Jr.	41.5

BET SMART



LONDON CALLING: Given Falcons receiver Drake London is averaging 13 yards per reception this year, he only needs four or five to reach the Over tonight. Imagin Images

By DOUG ZIEFEL

The last “Sunday Night Football” game of calendar year 2024 features two teams in playoff contention. The 10-5 Commanders can clinch a playoff spot with a win here, while the 8-7 Falcons are desperately clinging to the top spot in the NFC South.

Let’s dive into my top SNF props:

Drake London Over 58.5 receiving yards (-110, bet365)

Quarterback change and all, London is still the top target in this Atlanta offense and has one of the best matchups on the slate. While the Commanders rank 10th in receiving yards allowed to wide receivers, they are 26th in PFF’s coverage grades.

London has the fifth-highest matchup advantage against the Commanders secondary, according to PFF. With him averaging 13 yards per reception this season, he only needs four or five catches to go Over here.

He should see that volume at a minimum as the market is expecting a trailing game script for the Falcons offense.

Bijan Robinson anytime touchdown (-120, DraftKings)

It may seem like this is too much juice for an anytime touchdown, but this price is pale in comparison to the rest of the market. Robinson’s average price to score on “Sunday Night Football” tonight is -143.

That implied probability of 58.8 percent is warranted when you look at the amount of high-value touches he receives on a game-to-game basis. This season, Robinson has averaged 3.6 red zone rushing attempts and 0.5 red zone passing targets.

That volume has resulted in him scoring in eight of fifteen games this year. However, with rookie Michael

Penix Jr. now under center, Robinson is being leaned on more in the red zone.

Last week against the Giants, Robinson garnered seven red zone rush attempts and one red zone target, which led to two touchdowns. Look for him to find pay dirt again tonight.

Zach Ertz Under 33.5 receiving yards (-110, bet365)

The tight end may be second on the Commanders in targets, but his targets have begun to dwindle in recent weeks as more outside receivers are emerging as threats to opposing defenses.

Over the past three games, Ertz has seen just 10 total targets, accounting for just five percent of the team’s target share in the past two weeks. Things won’t get any easier in this matchup against Atlanta.

The Falcons are 10th in receiving yards allowed to tight ends, and that is due in large part to the fact that Falcons linebacker Kaden Ellis has the seventh-best coverage grade against tight ends per PFF.

This all points to another quiet night from Ertz, despite the Commanders likely having more success through the air in this matchup.

Brian Robinson Over 15.5 rushing attempts (-104, BetRivers)

We talked about the potential for a trailing game script, opening up more receiving opportunities for London. The flip side of that game script will lead to more carries for Commanders lead back Brian Robinson.

Robinson commanded 46 percent of their rushing attempts since Austin Ekeler went down with an injury three weeks ago. We have seen Robinson get at least 16 carries in two of those three weeks, and he should be leaned on if the Commanders are leading late in this matchup.



By ANDREW BATTAFARINO

Cam Ward took a bite out of the record books Saturday in the Pop-Tarts Bowl.

He left Miami hungry for more in the second half.

The superstar Miami quarterback threw for his 156th collegiate passing touchdown late in the first quarter, making him the all-time Division I record holder.

But Ward, a likely top-five pick in the April NFL Draft, sat out the second half of the game as the No. 13 Hurricanes fell in a 42-41 heart-breaker to No. 18 Iowa State.

Head coach Mario Cristobal did not delve into the reasons why Ward sat out the second half, telling reporters after the game that conversations about that type of move would be kept private.

“Disappointed that we couldn’t pull out a victory,” Cristobal told reporters. “These guys have always fought and always competed and this was no exception. It’s painful. It’s as painful as it gets when you don’t win. But there’s a lot to build on.”

Ward put his name atop the list in the first quarter when he faked a handoff on first-and-goal from the 4-yard line and threw a lob into the back of the end zone that was corralled by Jacolby George.

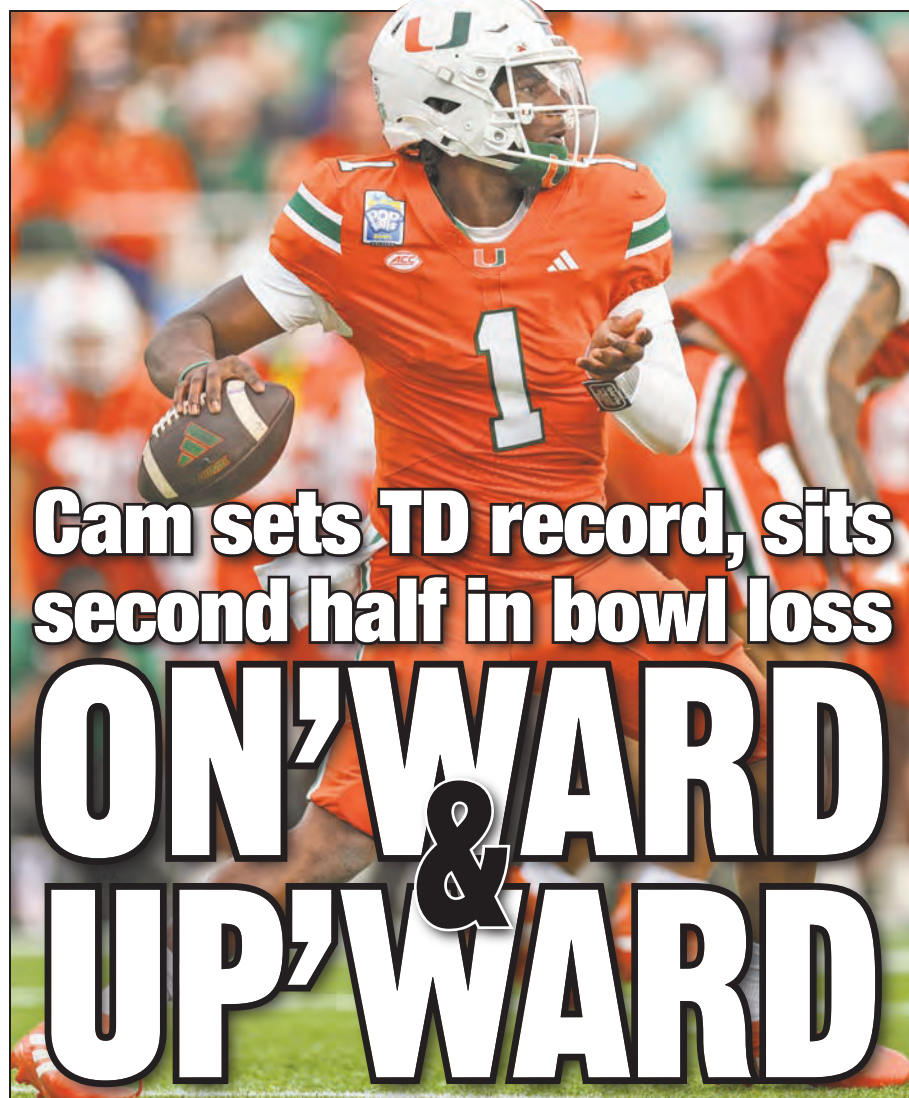
With the score, Ward passed Case Keenum (Houston) for the Division I lead.

He added two more touchdown passes in the second quarter: a 40-yard catch-and-run to Joshisa Trader and a 33-yard bomb over the top on a perfectly executed post route to Elijah Arroyo.

Ward finished by going 12-for-19 and 190 yards.

But Ward sat out the second half, with Emory Williams taking over and completing just 5 of 14 passes for 26 yards.

Miami was held to just 10 points over the final 30



Cam sets TD record, sits second half in bowl loss

ON ‘WARD  
&  
UP ‘WARD

**POP STAR:** Cam Ward threw for three first-half touchdowns Saturday before sitting for the second half of Miami’s 42-41 loss to Iowa State in the Pop-Tarts Bowl. Imagin Images

minutes.

The team was also without stud receiver Xavier Restrepo after he declared for the NFL Draft hours before the game.

Ward’s college career began at FCS Incarnate Word (2020-21), where he threw 71 touchdowns before adding 48 with Washington State.

Ward — who had already broken Miami’s single-season touchdown passing record before the bowl game — also moved into

the 2024 FBS lead for passing TDs (39) with his three scores Saturday.

The quarterback’s impressive talent has put him atop plenty of mock drafts, with analysts believing he will be among the first picks in the 2025 NFL Draft.

Ward finished fourth in the Heisman Trophy voting, and the day before the award presentation, he said if the Giants — who are currently in line for the top pick — take him, they’d be

getting “that dude.”

“I know if they get a chance to get me, they’re going to get everything,” Ward said. “They would be getting that dude. They would be getting somebody who is someone who doesn’t care about anything, just how he moves, how he operates on and off the field, is confident, somebody who is going to challenge himself more than he challenges the team.”

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# Shedeur, Colo. struggle in Alamo defeat

By RAUL DOMINGUEZ

SAN ANTONIO — Shedeur Sanders and Heisman trophy winner Travis Hunter were held quiet when it mattered most, and Colorado’s high-flying offense was grounded by BYU in a 36-14 Alamo Bowl loss on Saturday night.

“That’s a wrap. It’s over,” Colorado coach Deion Sanders said of Sanders and Hunter. “They’re on to the next. They are going to have tremendous careers. They are going to move on. They flush it. They may analyze it on the way home, but they are going to flush it.”

BYU’s L.J. Martin rushed for 88 yards and two touchdowns and Jake Retzlaff passed for 151 yards to lead the Cougars.

BYU (11-2, No. 17 CFP) scored in every quarter in rolling to its second straight bowl win and third in its past four appearances after failing to advance last season.

Colorado (9-4, No. 23 CFP) was held to 210 total yards with only 2 net yards rushing. The Buffaloes had 90 yards in the fourth quarter with the Cougars leading by 29 points.

Buffaloes quarterback Sanders was sacked three times and threw two interceptions before a sellout crowd of 64,261. Sanders passed for 208 yards and two touchdowns while completing 16 of 23 passes.

“It felt great representing Colorado and bringing it back to where it was in the



**SHEDEUR SANDERS**  
Colorado quarterback

past,” Shedeur Sanders said. “We laid the foundation of the program and it’s safer for the other players coming in to pick up where we left off.”

Meanwhile, Hunter had four receptions for 106 yards, including a 43-yard touchdown from Sanders with 6:14 remaining in the third quarter.

Colorado’s offensive woes started early against BYU.

The Buffaloes failed to convert on fourth-and-1 at the Cougars 49-yard line when Sanders’ pass to Will Sheppard fell incomplete.

BYU then marched 52 yards for its first touchdown on a 1-yard run by Martin with four minutes remaining in the first quarter. Cougars sophomore Parker Kingston returned a punt 64 yards for a TD to put BYU up 17-0 with 5:32 left in the first half.

The Buffaloes were shut out in the first half while being limited to 61 total yards, including minus-nine yards rushing on 12 carries.

Sione I. Moa added a 13-yard rushing touchdown in the third quarter for the Cougars. — AP

# Chargers clinch playoff spot with New England destruction

Associated Press

## NFL ROUNDUP

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Justin Herbert threw three touchdown passes and the Chargers clinched their second playoff appearance in three seasons with a 40-7 victory over the Patriots on Saturday.

The win also secured the fourth postseason appearance in Jim Harbaugh’s five seasons as an NFL coach, adding to the three he made during his stint with the 49ers.

Herbert finished 26 of 38 for 281 yards to become the third player

in NFL history with at least 3,000 passing yards and 20 touchdown passes in each of his first five seasons. He joins Pro Football Hall of Famer Peyton Manning and Russell Wilson.

Ladd McConkey had eight catches for 94 yards and pulled in TD throws of 6 and 40 yards. With a 10-yard reception in the second quarter, he passed 1,000 yards receiving for the season, making him

the third Chargers rookie receiver to reach that milestone.

### Bengals 30, Broncos 24 OT

Joe Burrow threw his third touchdown pass to Tee Higgins with 1:07 left in overtime, and the Bengals kept their slim playoff hopes alive with a wild win over the Broncos.

Following a Broncos punt, Burrow completed a 31-yard pass to Higgins to the Denver 3, then went back to the lanky receiver for the game-ending play. Higgins finished

with 11 receptions for 131 yards.

Cade York had a chance to win it for the Bengals with about three minutes left in overtime, but his 33-yard field goal bounced off the left upright. Denver then went three-and-out, including a Bo Nix incompleting on third down, handing the ball right back to Cincinnati (8-8).

### Rams 13, Cardinals 9

Ahkello Witherspoon made a diving interception on a deflected pass in the end zone with 37 seconds to play, and the Rams barely

maintained command of the NFC West race with a victory over the Cardinals.

Puka Nacua had 129 yards receiving and Kyren Williams scored the only touchdown for the Rams (10-6), who grinded through a difficult offensive night and survived a hair-raising fourth quarter for their fifth consecutive victory.

The Rams host Seattle (9-7) in their regular-season finale next weekend, but they could already have coach Sean McVay’s fourth division title clinched before then.



NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
East	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
y-Buffalo	12	3	0	.800	469	331
Miami	7	8	0	.467	305	329
<b>e-Jets</b>	4	11	0	.267	292	344
e-New England	3	13	0	.188	266	401
South	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
y-Houston	9	7	0	.563	349	358
Indianapolis	7	8	0	.467	318	359
e-Jacksonville	3	12	0	.200	277	396
e-Tennessee	3	12	0	.200	284	417
North	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
x-Baltimore	11	5	0	.688	483	351
x-Pittsburgh	10	6	0	.625	363	328
Cincinnati	8	8	0	.500	453	417
e-Cleveland	3	12	0	.200	245	380
West	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
*Kansas City	15	1	0	.938	385	288
x-L.A. Chargers	10	6	0	.625	368	281
Denver	9	7	0	.563	387	311
e-Las Vegas	3	12	0	.200	264	390

NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
East	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
x-Philadelphia	12	3	0	.800	402	283
Washington	10	5	0	.667	432	348
e-Dallas	7	8	0	.467	324	404
<b>e-Giants</b>	2	13	0	.133	215	362
South	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Atlanta	8	7	0	.533	327	349
Tampa Bay	8	7	0	.533	427	352
e-New Orleans	5	10	0	.333	309	346
e-Carolina	4	11	0	.267	283	448
North	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
x-Detroit	13	2	0	.867	493	299
x-Minnesota	13	2	0	.867	396	276
x-Green Bay	11	4	0	.733	413	287
e-Chicago	4	12	0	.250	286	348
West	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
L.A. Rams	10	6	0	.625	342	356
Seattle	9	7	0	.563	345	343
e-Arizona	7	9	0	.438	353	355
e-San Francisco	6	9	0	.400	331	349

e-Eliminated from playoffs  
x-clinched playoff spot  
y-clinched division  
\*-clinched home-field advantage

Week 17- Wednesday

Kansas City 29, Pittsburgh 10  
Baltimore 31, Houston 2

Thursday

Seattle 6, Chicago 3

Saturday

L.A. Chargers 40, New England 7  
Cincinnati 30, Denver 24, OT  
L.A. Rams 13, Arizona 9

Sunday

Indianapolis at **Giants**, 1pm  
**Jets** at Buffalo, 1pm  
Carolina at Tampa Bay, 1pm  
Dallas at Philadelphia, 1pm  
Las Vegas at New Orleans, 1pm  
Tennessee at Jacksonville, 1pm  
Miami at Cleveland, 4:05pm  
Green Bay at Minnesota, 4:25pm  
Atlanta at Washington, 8:20pm  
**Monday**  
Detroit at San Francisco, 8:15pm  
**Week 18- Sunday, Jan. 5**

Miami at **Jets**, 1pm  
**Giants** at Philadelphia, 1pm  
Buffalo at New England, 1pm  
Carolina at Atlanta, 1pm  
Chicago at Green Bay, 1pm  
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 1pm  
Cleveland at Baltimore, 1pm  
Houston at Tennessee, 1pm  
Jacksonville at Indianapolis, 1pm  
Kansas City at Denver, 1pm  
L.A. Chargers at Las Vegas, 1pm  
Minnesota at Detroit, 1pm  
New Orleans at Tampa Bay, 1pm  
San Francisco at Arizona, 1pm  
Seattle at L.A. Rams, 1pm  
Washington at Dallas, 1pm

NFL Injury Report

SUNDAY: COLTS AT GIANTS:

INDIANAPOLIS

**Out:** CB Julius Brents (knee), QB Anthony Richardson (back/foot). **Questionable:** TE Mo Alie-Cox (knee), LB Jaylon Carlies (shoulder), G Quenton Nelson (ankle), LB E.J. Speed (knee). **DNP:** DeForest Buckner (rest), C Ryan Kelly (rest), DT Grover Stewart (rest).

GIANTS

**Out:** S Raheem Layne (knee), LB Micah McFadden (neck), C John Michael Schmitz (ankle), CB Greg Stroman (shoulder/shin). **Questionable:** WR Malik Nabers (toe), DT Armon Watts (shoulder), G Austin Schlottmann (fibula), CB Dee Williams (toe). **Limited:** DT Cory Durden (shoulder), RB Tyrone Tracy Jr. (ankle), G Greg Van Roten (knee). **Full:** QB Drew Lock (right shoulder), G Jermaine Eluemunor (wrist).

JETS AT BILLS

JETS

**Out:** DL Leki Fotu (knee). **Questionable:** WR Davante Adams (hip), CB Sauce Gardner (hamstring), OL Morgan Moses (knee), DL Braidan McGregor (ankle), LB Haason Reddick (neck), S Tony Adams (ankle), K Greg Zuerlein (left knee). **Limited:** CB Michael Carter II (back), DL Quinnen Williams (hamstring). **Full:** OL John Simpson (calf), G Aliljah Vera-Tucker (ankle).

BUFFALO

**Questionable:** S Damar Hamlin (rib), CB Cam Lewis (shoulder), FS Taylor Rapp (neck), WR Curtis Samuel (rib). **Full:** OT Tylan Grable (personal).

FALCONS AT COMMANDERS

ATLANTA

**Out:** CB Kevin King (concussion), CB Antonio Hamilton Sr. (quad). **Limited:** WR KhaDrel Hodge (ribs), **Full:** WR Drake London (knee), OLB Lorenzo Carter (groin), TE Ross Dwelley (ankle), WR Casey Washington (concussion), DL Zach Harrison (achilles).

WASHINGTON

**Out:** WR Dyani Brown (hamstring), CB Marshon Lattimore (hamstring), LB Jordan Magee (hamstring), S Tyler Owens (ankle), T Andrew Wylie (groin), **Questionable:** DT Jonathan Allen (pectoral), QB Marcus Mariota (personal). **Limited:** DE Clelin Ferrell (knee). **Full:** WR Terry McLaurin (ankle).

COWBOYS AT EAGLES

DALLAS

**Out:** DB Kemon Hall (hamstring), WR CeeDee Lamb (shoulder), CB Amani Oruwariye (foot). **Doubtful:** G TJ Bass (thigh). **Questionable:** LB Eric Kendricks (calf), ILB Nick Vigil (foot), WR Jalen Tolbert (finger), OL Asim Richards (ankle), G Chuma Edoga (toe), S Donovan Wilson (knee), WR Jalen Brooks (knee). **Full:** OT Matt Waletzko (knee), CB Jourdan Lewis

(elbow), DT Mazi Smith (back), S Juanyeh Thomas (knee), S Malik Hooker (rest). **PHILADELPHIA**  
**Out:** WR Britain Covey (neck), QB Jalen Hurts (concussion/left finger), RB Will Shipley (concussion). **Doubtful:** LB Nakobe Dean (abdomen). **Questionable:** DE Bryce Huff (wrist). **Full:** A.J. Brown (knee/rest), OLB Josh Sweat (ankle/rest).

PANTHERS AT BUCCANEERS

CAROLINA

**Out:** RB Chuba Hubbard (knee), CB Chau Smith-Wade (illness/chest), LB Josey Jewell (concussion/quad). **Doubtful:** T Taylor Moton (knee), CB Jaycee Horn (hip). **Questionable:** OLB Jadeveon Clowney (knee/elbow), WR Xavier Legette (hip/wrist), DE A'Shawn Robinson (knee/illness), OLB D.J. Wonnum (shoulder/knee), G Damien Lewis (illness/ankle), OLB Cam Gill (illness). **Limited:** OLB Amare Barno (knee), WR Adam Thielen (hamstring), TE Tommy Tremble (shoulder/back).

TAMPA BAY

**Out:** TE Cade Otton (knee), WR Sterling Shepard (hamstring/foot), S Antoine Winfield Jr. (knee). **Questionable:** LB K.J. Britt (ankle), WR Kameron Johnson (ankle), FS Jordan Whitehead (pectoral). **Limited:** WR Mike Edwards (rest), OT Tristan Wirfs (foot/knee/ankle), DB Jamel Dean (knee), OLB Lavonte David (rest). **Full:** Kaevon Merriweather (knee).

PACKERS AT VIKINGS

GREEN BAY

**Out:** CB Jaire Alexander (knee), T Andre Dillard (concussion), LB Quay Walker (ankle), S Evan Williams (quad). **Questionable:** S Javon Bullard (ankle), LB Ty'Ron Hopper (ankle), WR Christian Watson (knee). **Limited:** G/T Elgton Jenkins (knee), TE Luke Musgarve (ankle). **Full:** TE Tucker Kraft (hip). **MINNESOTA**  
**Out:** CB Fabian Moreau (hip). **Questionable:** LB Ivan Pace Jr. (hamstring).

RAIDERS AT SAINTS

LAS VEGAS

**Out:** G Jordan Meredith (ankle). **Limited:** RB Dylan Laube (illness), CB Nate Hobbs (illness). **Full:** Kana'i Mauga (calf), G Jackson Powers-Johnson (quadricep/ankle). **NEW ORLEANS**  
**Out:** QB Derek Carr (left hand), RB Alvin Kamara (groin), C Erik McCoy (elbow), G Lucas Patrick (knee). **Questionable:** DT Nathan Shepherd (eye), TE Juwan Johnson (foot), WR Marquez Valdes-Scantling (chest), WR Chris Olave (head), CB Rico Payton (illness). **Full:** TE Juwan Johnson (foot), DE Payton Turner (ankle).

DOLPHINS AT BROWNS

MIAMI

**Out:** CB Kendall Fuller (knee), LB Anthony Walker (knee). **Doubtful:** QB Tua Tagovailoa

(hip). **Questionable:** T Terron Armstead (knee), S Jordan Poyer (knee/finger), WR Jaylen Waddle (knee), WR Dee Eskridge (knee), WR Tyreek Hill (wrist). **Limited:** LB Jordyn Brooks (quad/knee). **Full:** FB Alec Ingold (ankle). **CLEVELAND**  
**Out:** TE David Njoku (knee), DE Ogbo Okoronkwo (knee), WR Cedric Tillman (concussion). **Questionable:** QB Jameis Winston (right shoulder). **Limited:** WR Jerry Jeudy (knee/shin). **Full:** OL Germain Ifedi (achilles), CB Martin Emerson (back), QB Dorian Thompson-Robinson (calf).

TITANS AT JAGUARS

TENNESSEE

**Out:** S Amani Hooker (shoulder), RB Tony Pollard (ankle), K Nick Folk (abdomen), OL Dillon Radunz (shoulder), LB Otis Reese (ankle), WR Colton Dowell (knee). **Questionable:** WR Tyler Boyd (foot), WR Bryce Oliver (knee). **JACKSONVILLE**  
**Out:** OT Walker Little (ankle), LB Ventrell Miller (ankle), S Darnell Savage (concussion), . **Questionable:** LB Yasir Abdullah (illness). **Full:** DaVon Hamilton (illness), G Brandon Scherff (knee/shoulder), TE Brenton Strange (shoulder), G Ezra Cleveland (knee).

MONDAY: LIONS AT 49ERS

DETROIT

**Out:** WR Kalif Raymond (foot), RB David Montgomery (knee). **Questionable:** CB Terrior Arnold (illness). **Full:** G Graham Glasgow (knee), LB Jalen Reeves-Maybin (neck). **SAN FRANCISCO**  
**Out:** OL Aaron Banks (knee), DL Robert Beal Jr. (ankle), OL Spencer Burford (calf), LB Dre Greenlaw (calf). **Questionable:** S Ji'Ayir Brown (ankle), OL Colton McKivitz (knee), LB Tatum Bethune (knee). **Full:** DL Leonard Floyd (shoulder), RB Isaac Guerendo (foot/hamstring), FB Kyle Juszczyk (illness), DL Nick Bosa (hip/oblique), DL Jordan Elliot (knee), S Talanoa Hufanga (wrist), LB Dee Winters (chest).

ATP Money Leaders

Through Dec. 23		
1 Jannik Sinner	\$16,946,149	
2 Carlos Alcaraz	\$9,850,338	
3 Alexander Zverev	\$8,995,103	
4 Taylor Fritz	\$7,006,195	
5 Daniil Medvedev	\$5,615,756	
6 Casper Ruud	\$5,065,307	
7 Novak Djokovic	\$4,421,915	
8 Andrey Rublev	\$4,130,816	
9 Alex de Minaur	\$4,080,046	
10 Stefanos Tsitsipas	\$3,528,424	
11 Grigor Dimitrov	\$3,186,056	
12 Tommy Paul	\$2,940,923	
13 Jordan Thompson	\$2,893,246	
14 Ugo Humbert	\$2,817,088	
15 Jack Draper	\$2,745,025	
16 Hubert Hurkacz	\$2,729,808	
17 Frances Tiafoe	\$2,729,135	
18 Lorenzo Musetti	\$2,715,979	
19 Holger Rune	\$2,707,145	
20 Karen Khachanov	\$2,519,587	
21 Arthur Fils	\$2,445,708	
22 Ben Shelton	\$2,403,182	
23 Alexei Popyrin	\$2,336,806	
24 Sebastian Korda	\$2,185,286	
25 Tomas Machac	\$2,018,074	
26 Francisco Cerundolo	\$1,818,980	

Bengals 30, Broncos 24, OT

Denver	3	0	7	14	0	—	24
Cincinnati	0	7	3	14	6	—	30

First Quarter

**Den:** FG Lutz 30, 9:45.

Second Quarter

**Cin:** Higgins 2 pass from Burrow (York kick), 1:49.

Third Quarter

**Cin:** FG York 22, 9:07.

**Den:** Sutton 6 pass from Nix (Lutz kick), 3:10.

Fourth Quarter

**Cin:** Higgins 12 pass from Burrow (York kick), 11:33.

**Den:** M.Mims 51 pass from Nix (Lutz kick), 8:48.

**Cin:** Burrow 1 run (York kick), 1:29.  
**Den:** M.Mims 25 pass from Nix (Lutz kick), :08.

First Overtime

**Cin:** Higgins 3 pass from Burrow, 1:07.

	Den	Cin
First downs .....	19	34
Total Net Yards .....	329	499
Rushes-yards .....	27-123	28-115
Passing .....	206	384
Punt Returns .....	0-0	1-4
Kickoff Returns .....	1-27	3-98
Interceptions Ret. ....	0-0	1-2
Comp-Att-Int .....	24-31-1	39-49-0
Sacked-Yards Lost .....	2-13	7-28
Punts .....	4-41.5	1-47.0
Fumbles-Lost .....	2-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards .....	7-35	3-15
Time of Possession ....	26:57	41:56

Individual Statistics

**Rushing:** Denver, McLaughlin 10-69, Nix 7-31, Estime 9-24, Mims 1-(minus 1). Cincinnati, C.Brown 20-67, Burrow 4-25, Herbert 4-23.

**Passing:** Denver, Nix 24-31-1-219. Cincinnati, Burrow 39-49-0-412.

**Receiving:** Denver, Mims 8-103, Sutton 5-55, Vele 2-27, McLaughlin 2-7, Williams 2-0, Estime 1-13, Adkins 1-7, Trautman 1-5, Krull 1-3, Franklin 1-(minus 1). Cincinnati, Higgins 11-131, Gesicki 10-86, Chase 9-102, C.Brown 4-24, Iosivas 3-59, Grandy 1-7, D.Sample 1-3.

**Missed Field Goals:** Cincinnati, York 33.

Chargers 40, Patriots 7

L.A. Chargers	7	13	10	10	—	40
New England	0	7	0	0	—	7

First Quarter

**Lac:** Davis 23 pass from Herbert (Dicker kick), 3:28.

Second Quarter

**Lac:** FG Dicker 27, 10:15.

**Lac:** McConkey 6 pass from Herbert (Dicker kick), 3:03.

**Ne:** Douglas 36 pass from D.Maye (Slye kick), 1:24.

**Lac:** FG Dicker 38, :02.

Third Quarter

**Lac:** McConkey 40 pass from Herbert (Dicker kick), 7:43.

**Lac:** FG Dicker 41, 5:43.

Fourth Quarter

**Lac:** Dobbins 2 run (Dicker kick), 12:03.

**Lac:** FG Dicker 35, 3:47.

	LAC	NE
First downs .....	29	11
Total Net Yards .....	428	181
Rushes-yards .....	37-147	20-96
Passing .....	281	85
Punt Returns .....	2-18	1-15
Kickoff Returns .....	1-17	4-107
Interceptions Ret. ....	0-0	0-0
Comp-Att-Int .....	26-40-0	13-24-0
Sacked-Yards Lost .....	0-0	4-30
Punts .....	2-46.0	4-55.0
Fumbles-Lost .....	0-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards .....	6-54	7-60
Time of Possession ....	40:26	18:34

Individual Statistics

**Rushing:** L.A. Chargers, Dobbins 19-76, Haskins 8-30, Vidal 5-24, Herbert 3-12, Heinicke 1-8, Davis 1-(minus 3). New England, Gibson 12-63, Maye 6-32, Stevenson 2-1.

**Passing:** L.A. Chargers, Herbert 26-38-0-281, Heinicke 0-2-0-0. New England, Maye 12-22-0-117, Brissett 1-2-0-(minus 2).

**Receiving:** L.A. Chargers, McConkey 8-94, Johnston 5-48, Palmer 4-41, Davis 2-29, Smartt 2-23, Dissly 2-21, Haskins 1-10, Fisk 1-8, Dobbins 1-7. New England, Douglas 4-46, Boutte 4-28, Hooper 3-19, Bourne 2-22.

Rams 13, Cardinals 9

Arizona	0	0	6	3	—	9
L.A. Rams	0	10	0	3	—	13

Second Quarter

**Lar:** K.Williams 1 run (Karty kick), 3:23.

**Lar:** FG Karty 53, :27.

Third Quarter

**Ari:** McBride 1 pass from Murray (kick blocked), 8:31.

Fourth Quarter

**Ari:** FG Ryland 28, 14:00.

**Lar:** FG Karty 25, 6:33.

First downs .....	24	12
Total Net Yards .....	396	257
Rushes-yards .....	22-113	22-68
Passing .....	283	189
Punt Returns .....	2-15	1-6
Kickoff Returns .....	1-28	1-33
Interceptions Ret. ....	0-0	2-11
Comp-Att-Int .....	33-48-2	17-32-0
Sacked-Yards Lost .....	4-38	0-0
Punts .....	4-41.0	6-49.833
Fumbles-Lost .....	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards .....	9-62	7-46
Time of Possession ....	36:55	23:05

Individual Statistics

**Rushing:** Arizona, Carter 13-70, Murray 4-32, Mi.Wilson 1-7, Conner 4-4. L.A. Rams, K.Williams 13-56, Stafford 6-16, Corum 3-(minus 4).

**Passing:** Arizona, Murray 33-48-2-321. L.A. Rams, Stafford 17-32-0-189.

**Receiving:** Arizona, McBride 12-123, Harrison 6-96, Mi.Wilson 4-22, Dortch 3-18, Higgins 2-23, Carter 2-11, Conner 2-4, Z.Jones 1-19, Dallas 1-5. L.A. Rams, Nacua 10-129, K.Williams 3-16, Higbee 2-9, Kupp 1-29, Whittington 1-6.

DP World Tour Schedule





# Phil Mushnick

## EQUAL TIME

### No longer centers of attention

**S**O WHO'S next? What's next? And where?

In 2006 the nation was stood on its head prompted by a knee-jerk media working off a claim by a young, maladjusted woman with a story that reporters, columnists, TV essayists, The New York Times, politicians, black and social activists and racial fire alarm-pullers chose to believe, facts be damned.

And so Crystal Mangum, a young, self-employed black stripper accused three white Duke lacrosse players — all immediately condemned as “sons of white privilege” — were indicted and simultaneously sentenced to revulsion and expulsion, pariahs on their own campus.

Her original claim, according to police reports, was that she was raped by 20 Duke players, before reducing the number to three. Her co-stripper denied that there was a single rape.

From its start this case ignored facts in favor of race, gender and politics. The accused had zero credibility. As Mangum's ex-boyfriend said, she was not to be trusted or believed. She once even fled in a taxi she had stolen, leading police on a high-speed chase.

But facts didn't matter, thus the team's highly respected coach, Mike Pressler, after receiving threats and having his home vandalized, was forced by Duke to resign. That day Duke's president, Richard Brodhead, suspended the rest of the lacrosse season.

Pressler was given the bum's rush-to-judgement by even close alleged Duke pals, including His Excellency, Mike Krzyzewski.

Meanwhile, from Jesse Jackson to Stephen A. Smith, the race hustlers jumped. Jackson even promised Mangum a college scholarship.

Lot of good that promise will do her, as she came clean — she lied about the entire episode — two weeks ago from the prison in which she's confined for 14-18 years for



# RACE TO JUDGMENT

**BELIEVE IT OR NOT:** Crystal Mangum, who accused three Duke lacrosse players of rape in 2006, resulting in their immediate condemnation in the media, admitted this month her story was a hoax. AP

## Admission from Duke lax accuser met with silence

second-degree murder of a boyfriend.

This was another Tawana Brawley, another prosecution, persecution and ruin of ESPN's Doug Adler based on a reckless, inaccurate tweet from a New York Times freelance tennis reporter claiming that Adler had, for no discernible reason, suddenly called Venus Williams “a gorilla.”

And from NBC's Molotov cocktail tossing facts-fabricator Al Sharpton, to the coterie of columnists and commentators eager to convict the innocent, where are the public apologies? The spoken or

published deep regrets?

Just pretending it had nothing to do with them? It was others who promulgated such a serious, national injustice?

Me? I wrote two columns, one in 2006, the other in 2007, asking why facts and common sense had been subjugated or ignored in the Duke case?

Why was the accused in the Kobe Bryant rape case — settled out of court — media-examined and condemned as short on credibility — a 19-year-old slut — yet Mangum, a stripper with a felonious criminal record, portrayed as a poor victim

of “white privilege”?

I chose to write what I knew to be facts. I always try to. I knew that I'd be dismissed and scorned as a racist. But I know what it's like to be falsely accused.

And to my surprise and satisfaction, the overwhelming response from readers — including a black female assistant principal of a junior high school — was gratitude that someone in the media chose to deal with facts and logic rather than feelings.

But two weeks after Mangum came clean — spoke the obvious truth as I studied the facts starting in 2006 — those dozens and dozens of media that so publicly sentenced those three young lacrosse players to infamy, if not long stretches in prison, have yet to be heard from, the cowards.

## With Tiger, devil is in the details

AT A time when **Tiger Woods**, 48, can no longer make a cut, TV's Tiger fixation has surpassed the ludicrous to become inane.

Last weekend, as Woods competed in a father-son event, NBC offered a recorded closeup of his ball as he struck a tee shot. That it looked like every tee shot as it's struck didn't matter.

➤ If ESPN ever launched a “Where Are They Now?” feature, it might want to start with 6-foot-6, 260-pound **Arik Gilbert**, ESPN's top-rated college bound TE in 2000.

First Gilbert played for LSU, then transferred to Florida, then Georgia, then it was on to Nebraska, which he left after coping a reduced charge to a smash-and-grab robbery of a liquor store in Lincoln — his second burglary arrest in three weeks.

So where is he now? Where else? The transfer portal!

➤ So now entire NFL on-field defenses do a mob sprint to the end zone to “celebrate” a turnover — sometimes even if their team is winning!

➤ **Doc Emrick** reminds us that unlike the NBA and NFL, the NHL has never scheduled a game on Christmas Day since fundraisers during World War II.

WHILE ESPN, TNT and the NBA-partnered networks ignore the self-destruction of pro basketball as a creative, team sports by the senseless proliferation of 3-point heaving, consider this:

When many of us were kids, then well into adulthood, we could give the names of every team's centers, and in many cases their backups.

1980: Celtics — **Robert Parish**, **Eric Fernsten**; Suns — **Alvan Adams**, **Rich Kelley**; Hawks — **Tree Rollins**, **Steve Hawes**; Sixers — **Darryl Dawkins**, **Caldwell Jones**.

Heck, backup centers — **Mel Counts**, **John Gianelli**, **Kim Hughes** — had fan clubs. The Nets' dizzy backup center **Edgar Jones** became a Piscataway favorite just for showing up at the wrong college to play ball.

In 2018, the Knicks, a dreadful team, had one player worth watching: **Enes Kanter**, an outspoken pro-democracy Turk and relentless two-way rebounder, who averaged four offensive rebounds taking advantage of a team that missed a lot of shots.

The next offseason, feckless **David Fizdale** said he wanted Kanter to “work on his 3-point shooting.” Why? What for?

Forget backups, can you now name a dozen *starting* NBA centers?

Today, as NBA TV ratings are in decline and the NBA grows more dependent on despot-ruled countries — China, the United Arab Emirates — for overnight money, the 3-point shot, now moving in on 90 taken per game, has become the first thing to reduce or eliminate yet it will be the last thing, if ever, to be fixed.

Reader Pete Kruijmer: “What would happen to all sports if they reversed their scoring to give more points for scoring farther from the goal?”

“If football gave more points for long field goals than scoring TDs would teams just try to reach the 40 before trying field goals? If hockey awarded extra points for goal a scored from long range who would bother passing the puck and working it in?”

“If soccer gave extra goals for scores 30 yards or more out.

“Passing and teamwork would disappear just like in the NBA. Why don't other sports follow the NBA's gimmick?”

As was said of the Japanese military as the tide of World War II turned, its greatest enemy was “the tyranny of distance.”

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# Milton showing affinity to fill in at point guard

By BRIAN LEWIS

ORLANDO, Fla. — The minute the Nets traded Dennis Schroder away, point guard was going to be a problem. Or at least a potential one.

Shake Milton is out to prove he can be part of the solution.

Schroder had been not only Brooklyn's emotional

leader and ball pressure pest, but their floor general. Ben Simmons inherited the latter role, but — after having all or most of his prior three seasons wiped out by back woes — injuries and missed games are just a foregone conclusion. He still isn't

playing both ends of back-to-backs, and missed Friday's loss to San Antonio.

Keon Johnson is an off-guard tasked with being a perimeter defender. Newly acquired two-way Reece Beekman hasn't been able to get on the floor for more than mop-up cameos. And ball-dominant leading scorer Cam Thomas is still hurt.

But with Simmons out, Milton got his first Nets start and responded with 16 points, a season-high 12 assists and just a single turnover in 34 minutes against San Antonio. It was a performance that suggests whenever Simmons comes off the floor, Milton should be the one coach Jordi Fernandez trusts with the ball — starting with Sunday's game against the Magic.

"He was good," Fernandez said of Milton. "And then you look at his line with 5-for-9, 16 points, 12 assists. So, you know, pretty good."

"Most importantly it's 12 assists with one turnover. So, really very impressed, because he's playing a little bit out of position. He's more comfortable when I play him off the ball, and then I can run actions for him. I'm asking him to pick up, to bring the ball up and

then to try to score and organize everybody. And so he's doing a great job."

It was Milton's fourth career double-double, and first since April 2023 with Philadelphia. More importantly, after having just his second 20-point performance of the season on Thursday night in Milwaukee, Milton followed it up with the second most assists ever by a Net in their first start with the team.

The only player who surpassed his 12? James Harden with his 14 on Jan. 16, 2021, against the Magic.

"I felt good. It's not an easy job, doing what the team is asking

you to do sometimes, like picking up 94 [feet] and then, handling the rock and trying to get guys in the right spot," Milton said. "But everybody's unselfish. Everybody plays a role. So just try to step up and help the team however I could."

The navigating isn't completely new to Milton, but playing the point for extended stretches isn't something he's done a lot of lately.

Milton didn't play the point at all for the Knicks last season, per Cleaning the Glass, and did so for just six percent of his minutes in Detroit. But he's been on the ball for 53 percent of his Brooklyn possessions. And his recent play suggests when Simmons sits — or is out altogether — he could be the backup Brooklyn needs.

"I think that's the name of the game," Milton said. "I feel comfortable playing on-ball or off the ball. I feel like I've done that since I got into the league, so it's not really a thing for me, or an adjustment. And a lot of times you don't even have to think about it, because if you're being aggressive, then on the floor the game will tell you what you need to do, whether it's take a shot or look to kick."



SHAKE MILTON



# '0' that should help

## Thomas listed as probable to return today as Nets offense looking for boost

**SHOOT TO THRILL:** Guard Cam Thomas, the Nets' best scorer, is expected back against the Magic on Sunday after missing 13 straight games with a hamstring strain.

Getty Images

By BRIAN LEWIS

ORLANDO, Fla. — The Nets have had one of the NBA's worst attacks ever since they lost Cam Thomas. But they're on the brink of getting back their leading scorer.

And they hope they'll get their missing offense back with him.

Thomas was listed as probable for Sunday's game against the Magic.

The young shooting guard has missed the past 13 games with a left hamstring strain. Brooklyn was just 4-9 in those games, so his return can't come a moment too soon for the struggling Nets.

"It'll be nice when we get Cam Thomas back just to have some ... a real half-court bucket, half-court scorer," center Nic Claxton said recently of getting Thomas back. "That'll be good. We're missing him right now a lot."

Thomas has indeed been a bucket, averaging a team-high 24.7 points on impressive .461/.389/.866 shooting splits, all but the last representing career highs.

And to say Brooklyn has missed him is a gross understatement.

Despite most sportsbooks having projected the Nets to finish with the second-worst record in the league, they came out of the gates surprisingly well based on a better than expected attack. They were 8-10 after a win at then-Western Conference leading Golden State, and had the league's eighth-best Offensive Rating (115.0).

But Thomas got hurt in that victory over the Warriors, and since then Brooklyn has had the 29th-ranked Offensive Rating, or second-worst at

105.5.

Without point guard Dennis Schroder to run the pick-and-roll, Brooklyn has been almost completely reliant on Ben Simmons getting them going in transition.

When they haven't been able to get easy buckets in transition or early offense, they've sputtered to score in the half-court. They don't have players who can self-create.

Even though small forward Cam Johnson — who missed Friday's loss

to San Antonio with a right hip contusion, and is listed as probable against the Magic — has shown a newfound ability to do so, it's not his strength.

But it is — and always has been — Thomas'. His 1.24 points per possession in isolation is the best in the league (among players averaging at least two isos over 15 games).

The august company right behind Thomas — Jayson Tatum's 1.18, Kevin Durant's 1.14 and Kyrie Irving's 1.13 — should show just how prolific he's become.

And just how important to a team that was already talent-starved. Thomas hasn't played since before Thanksgiving, and Brooklyn's offense promptly cratered as soon as he left the lineup.

"Obviously it's different for everybody. You've got a lot of people in the spots, but our offense is different now, so we've all just got to adjust. It's part of the game. We're professionals. So it's not easy. It's definitely a challenge," Claxton said. "But we'll get there. And then, like I said, when we get [Thomas] back, that'll help."

With Thomas listed as probable, that could be as soon as Sunday against the Magic.

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**Sunday**  
**NETS AT MAGIC**

3:30 p.m.  
**YES**  
**WFAN**  
(101.9 FM)

ORLANDO MAGIC





**STEELY RESOLVE:** Anthony Duclair celebrates his goal during the second period on Saturday against the Penguins. The Islanders broke open a 4-1 lead on a Casey Cizikas (inset) goal, but that was whittled down to 4-3 before powering past Pittsburgh.

Imagn Images; Corey Sipkin

# Roy puts rook on 4th line

By ETHAN SEARS

As strong as Maxim Tsyplakov has been in his rookie year, taking penalties has been an issue throughout.

And after Tsyplakov took a second penalty in the second period of Saturday's 6-3 Islanders win over the Penguins at UBS Arena, coach Patrick Roy's patience ran out.

## ISLANDERS NOTES

The Russian was demoted to the fourth line for the remainder of the game, switching spots with Casey Cizikas, with Roy citing the penalties afterward along with a number of turnovers Tsyplakov made.

"A mix of both," Roy said. "We're here to win hockey games. It's not a charity event. It's about winning hockey games and he wasn't playing well. So that's all it is."

After Cizikas scored a pair of goals following his promotion to Bo Horvat's line, the immediate question now becomes whether the Islanders start Sunday's game in Pittsburgh the way they finished Saturday's.

"Playing with those guys, the way they see the ice, the way they can create opportunities, I'm just trying to play my game, get up the ice as quick as I can," Cizikas said. "Try and create a turnover or get in on the forecheck hard. That's just something I really tried to focus on even when I did move up with them."

► Roy said pregame that the Islanders' tentative plan is to give goalie **Marcus Hogberg** his first start on the second end of the back-to-back Sunday in Pittsburgh.

"That's my job to be ready when they need me," Hogberg said. "It's been feeling good in practice and then the periods that I've been playing."

► **Mathew Barzal's** first-period assist marked his first five-on-five point of the season.

► **Semyon Varlamov** (lower body) still has yet to start skating on his own, Roy said.

► With the Rangers' loss to the Lightning, Saturday marked the first time the Islanders have more standings points than the Blueshirts this late in the season since Dec. 11, 2022.

By ETHAN SEARS

## Islanders avoid blowing lead, hold off Pens to take home-and-home opener

Nobody said it outright in the lead up to the first of a back-to-back, home-and-home matchup with the Penguins on Saturday, but winning this set of games — or at least avoiding a sweep — was as essential a task as the Islanders have faced all season.

For weeks now, the Islanders have hung around on the periphery of the playoff race, too far back to really be a factor, but close enough that a three-game winning streak could in theory vault them above the cutline.

If they'd lost both games to the Penguins, though — and after a 7-1 embarrassment against the Sabres heading into the holiday break? Well, Pittsburgh came into Saturday four points ahead of the Islanders and a point behind Ottawa, which occupied the last playoff spot. You can do the math on how it would have looked had the Islanders lost a pair of four-point games.

Instead of staring down that reality, a 6-3 win over the Penguins at UBS Arena on Saturday,

combined with a Senators loss to the Jets, means that — at least for 24 hours — the Islanders are a mere three points off the playoff cutline.

"No one was happy to be embarrassed in front of our fans," coach Patrick Roy said, referring to the meltdown against Buffalo five nights prior. "... I could tell today when I did the meeting before the game, I think they didn't want to listen to me. It didn't matter what I would say. They wanted to play that game."

Winning did not come so easily after a 4-1 lead turned to 4-3 heading into the third after consecutive goals from Noel Acciari and Rickard Rakell, with the Islanders looking to be in real danger of blowing another game in a season full of should-have-been.

The game seemed to be trending toward fireworks in one di-

rection or the other.

But the Islanders — who quietly have not blown a lead in exactly a month — did not cede to the habits which haunted them in October and November.

Instead, they shut the game down, keeping up the physical play they'd sustained throughout and turning the match into a low-event slog, with the visitors recording all of eight shots in the last 20 minutes.

This match could be framed as the Islanders' formerly injured stars finally looking like themselves, with Anthony Duclair scoring and Mathew Barzal getting his first five-on-five point of the season with a beauty of a first-period assist to Jean-Gabriel Pageau.

The more accurate way to do so, however, would be in terms of the intensity and edge that has been lacking for much of the season, being very much present.

**ISLANDERS 6  
PENGUINS 3** Summary Page 57

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Gleyber Torres remained in contact with the Yankees after the World Series concluded, but it was clear to him the team's interest in continuing the relationship was minimal.

So the fact the Yankees never extended an offer to Torres in free agency before he agreed to a one-year contract worth \$15 million with the Tigers in recent days didn't come as a surprise to the 28-year-old infielder.

"I think [the Yankees] have all their priorities and I wasn't on the list," Torres said Saturday on a Zoom call with reporters.

Torres said his focus moved beyond the Yankees immediately after the World Series, when he began hearing from other teams. Last season he produced a .709 OPS that was the second-lowest of his career while providing subpar defense at second base, where was minus-4 in outs above average — placing him in MLB's 15th percentile — according to Statcast.

Torres' underwhelming numbers led him to pursue a one-year contract that will allow him to test free agency again next off-season.

"The season I had, I started slow in the first half," Torres said. "Everything was better in the second half, but still the numbers I had were not right for going into free agency, especially with my age. I was just telling my agents to look for a one-year deal. I always believe in myself. I bet on myself, so just in this process I was trying to find the right

# Torres: Yanks made me a low priority



**GLEYBER TORRES**

place to play for one year."

The Nationals and Angels were among the other teams from which Torres said he received offers.

He will now join a Tigers team that crystalized in the second half last season to secure an American League wild-card berth.

"I have to play where somebody wants to give the best for me," Torres said. "I have great friends there [with the Yankees], great communication with the entire organization and I feel proud of myself for being with the Yankees for seven years."

It's been an active off-season for the Yankees, but the team still has a question mark in the infield. Jazz Chisholm Jr. could play second or third base, with Oswaldo Ca-

brera, Oswald Peraza and DJ LeMahieu remaining as possibilities to play the other position if another infielder isn't acquired through a trade or free agency.

The Yankees watched Juan Soto jump to the Mets on a record contract worth \$765 million over 15 years, but wasted little time retooling the lineup by trading for Cody Bellinger before signing Paul Goldschmidt to a one-year contract worth \$12.5 million. The team also bolstered the pitching staff by signing Max Fried to an eight-year contract worth \$218 million before trading for All-Star closer Devin Williams.

Torres arrived to the Yankees in a 2016 trade that sent Aroldis Chapman to the Cubs. With the Tigers, he will be united with Javier Baez, whom he knows from the Cubs organization. Baez, who spent part of 2021 with the Mets, has been a major disappointment in his three seasons since signing a six-year contract worth \$140 million with the Tigers.

"I know his entire career has been highs and lows, but next year is another opportunity to be great," Torres said.

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# Mets kicked tires on Teoscar

By MIKE PUMA

Teoscar Hernandez returned to the Dodgers this week, but not without a show of interest from the Mets.

In an effort to add another bat, Mets brass broached the idea to the veteran slugger's camp of a two-year contract, according to league sources, aware that Hernandez was seeking a three-year deal. It appears that an offer wasn't officially extended to Hernandez by the Mets, but he was told to circle back if his negotiations with the Dodgers fell apart.

Hernandez received a three-year deal worth \$66 million from the Dodgers.

The Mets last week were also in on Joc Pederson, according to sources, before he agreed to a two-year contract worth \$37 million with the Rangers.

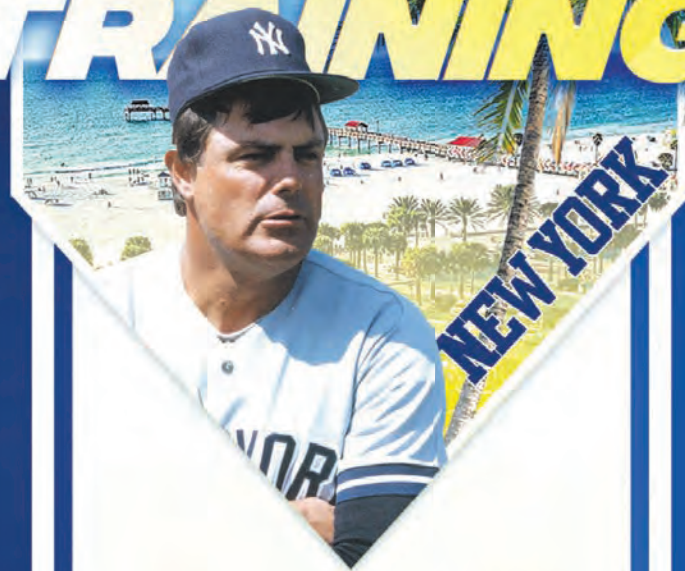
It's likely that Hernandez and Pederson were considered by the Mets for a DH role — J.D. Martinez and Jesse Winker, who shared those duties in the second half of last season, are both free agents.

As it stands, the Mets have Starling Marte as a DH possibility, but it's possible the veteran outfielder could be traded following Juan Soto's arrival to play right field. Marte has one year remaining on his contract at \$20.75 million.

The Post's Jon Heyman reported Friday that there's a sizable gap in talks between the Mets and Pete Alonso, who is seeking a long-term contract in free agency. If Alonso doesn't return, the Mets will have to decide in which direction to pivot, with it possible Mark Vientos would shift from third base to first base, creating an opening at third.

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By MOLLIE WALKER

TAMPA, Fla. — After limping into the holiday break, the Rangers face-planted coming out of it.

Prior to the game, Peter Laviolette talked about how there was only one direction his team could move at this point, but the 6-2 beatdown the Blueshirts suffered at the hands of the Lightning on Saturday night at Amalie Arena said otherwise.

The Rangers head coach also noted he's seen breaks go one way or another for teams.

After this one, the early indication is that the reigning Presidents' Trophy winners can in fact unravel even more. Their season continues to head toward complete and utter ruin, with Rangers star goalie Igor Shesterkin getting pulled for the second time in his last five starts Saturday night.

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RANGERS 2**

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"Right now, it's just frustrating," Laviolette said after the Rangers put 44 shots on goal, their second-highest shot total of the season, and still lost. "We're in the business of winning hockey games and we're not getting that done right now. It's tough to sit here and tell you good things. We're losing games. We need to win hockey games and we're not getting that done."

There was talk about the mental benefits of the three-day break.

Proclamations about the intent to turn the season around, and how to do it.

That's all it was at the end of the day: Talk.

The Rangers may have had a solid start to the game, but the battery life on their motor has been quick to drain this season.

Considering the fact that they've reached a minefield portion of their schedule, with all but one of their next eight games coming against teams in playoff position, the Rangers aren't going to get by any club without a

# BLACKOUT

## Rangers display no energy after break, get crushed again for eighth loss in 10



**IGOR-Y ENDING:** Brayden Point scores one of five goals in 13 shots on Igor Shesterkin before the former Vezina winner was pulled for the second time in five starts in a 6-2 loss to the Lightning. Getty Images

full 60-minute effort.

It's been a considerable amount of time since the Rangers last put together three periods they felt proud of.

They've now lost eight of their last 10 games, as well as 14 of their last 18 to sink further in the NHL standings. After the Islanders defeated the Penguins on Saturday night, the Rangers now have sole possession of last place in the Metropolitan Division.

"We've all been in games where we're losing, I don't think just because we're losing in a game doesn't mean we've lost

the game," said K'Andre Miller, who returned to the lineup after a six-game absence on injured reserve with an upper-body injury. "That's something this group maybe has lost a little bit. That pushback. I liked our game, I liked what we did overall. I think it's just, we can bring a little bit more."

Strengths have become weaknesses, while weaknesses have been exploited to the fullest.

The Rangers have now given up five or more goals 11 times through just 35 games.

Their power play, once one of

the most feared in the NHL, gave up two shorthanded goals as they fell to an astonishing 0-for-20 in the last seven games.

Mika Zibanejad has veered so far from what once made him a top center in the NHL. His mindset and demeanor seemingly weigh down his game like a sack of coal night after night.

Fanning on a one-timer on the power play in the middle frame, Zibanejad's miss allowed the puck to deflect off his skate and spring the Lightning for a 2-on-1 rush that Anthony Cirelli buried for the 4-1 lead.

The only time the Rangers truly responded was in the first period, when Artemi Panarin evened the score at one-all after Nikita Kucherov opened the scoring with a power-play goal less than three minutes into the game.

Their issues with defending the rush, however, continue to cripple the Blueshirts at every turn.

During their first power play of the game, Chris Kreider — skating in his first game back since serving as a healthy scratch — got caught too low in the offensive zone to spring Ryan McDonagh for a 3-on-1 rush the other way.

The former Rangers captain took it himself, wristing it just under the armpit of Shesterkin for the shorthanded score and 2-1 lead.

"We don't score on our power play, we let in two goals, we put ourselves in a bad spot," Zibanejad said. "I don't think that's the effort. I don't think that's the team itself or how we came out, how we started. I don't think that's why we lose a game. We had [44] shots, we've got to get in front of a few more and get some quality chances, but I thought we did. It's frustrating."

mwalker1@nypost.com

By MOLLIE WALKER

TAMPA, Fla. — The six games K'Andre Miller missed provided the 24-year-old defenseman with an opportunity to reflect.

It was his longest time away from game action in the middle of a season in his five-year NHL career, which was a learning experience in itself. But Miller took it as a chance to think on himself, how his season has gone and what he can do to help the Rangers retake control of

## Miller hoping time away helps reboot

their season.

"I think, definitely, I can help contribute to this team a lot," Miller told The Post before making his return to the lineup in the Rangers' 6-2 loss to the Lightning Saturday night at Amalie Arena. "Defending other players, top lines and making sure they're not getting X amount of looks on net every night.

Just being hard to play against and kind of having a mindset that I've done it for the last five years, what's changed in this past year?

"I think just instilling that confidence in myself and just knowing that I can come back and dominate, honestly."

### RANGERS NOTES

Miller missed the entire third period of the Rangers' 3-2 win over the Sabres on Dec. 11, after he was upended by Buffalo forward Jordan Greenway less than halfway through the middle frame.

The Rangers put Miller on injured reserve with an upper-body injury, but the Min-

nesota native said "there were a couple different things." He added that he's doing better now and felt good after his first game back.

With the team on the road for four of the six games Miller missed, the 6-foot-5 blueliner said he looked for ways to stay positive and stay in communication with his teammates. Maintaining

a good mindset and helping team morale was a priority for Miller, who said he just tried to be a good teammate while he was out.

"It sucked, I don't like being out," said Miller, who finished with four shots on goal, one block, four hits and two takeaways in the loss. "Obviously, I wish I was able to help contribute to the team



**INSULT TO INJURY:** Ryan McDonagh celebrates his first shorthanded goal since he was captain of the Rangers in 2016-17 in the Blueshirts' 6-2 loss in Tampa. Getty Images



## game

and help those guys through the couple games I missed. I'm grateful it wasn't anything too serious that kept me out even longer."

► Former Rangers captain **Ryan McDonagh** scored one of the Lightning's two shorthanded goals Saturday night.

The last time McDonagh

scored a shorthanded goal was the 2016-17 season, his second-to-last with the Rangers.

► **Zac Jones** was a healthy scratch for the third time in the last four games and the ninth time this season.

► **Gabe Perreault**, the Rangers' 23rd-overall pick in 2023, had three points (two goals and an assist) in Team USA's 10-4 win over Germany in Group A's preliminary round of the World Junior Championship.

# Minny flourishing despite Wild waste of salary cap

**S**O NOW that the debate about how large a percentage of the cap can be devoted to a goaltender has subsided in the wake of Igor Shesterkin's extension, the question now is how large a percentage of the cap can a team devote to buyouts and be a legitimate Cup contender?

How does the figure 16.8 percent sound?

Because that's the amount Minnesota is carrying on the 2021 twin buyouts of Zach Parise and Ryan Suter, a cool \$14,743,590 of the \$88 million cap. Nevertheless, under the direction of general manager Billy Guerin, who has been operating with between \$4.744M and the current \$14.744M under the ceiling for the last four seasons, the Wild have the fifth-best record in the NHL.

Next year, by the way, the buyout penalties decrease to a combined \$1.67M. So that while every team in the league is anticipating a bump of at least \$4.5M on the cap, the Wild will effectively gain approximately \$17.5M.

And just in time, too, because just about all of that is going to be going to Kirill Kaprizov when the 27-year-old winger, currently in at a \$9M AAV, is eligible to become a free agent in 2026-27, correct?

Fifteen or 16 million per, that's probably about right for the league's leading five-on-five point producer and the leading contender for the Hart Trophy when he comes up, don't you think?

Next summer is going to be fascinating, isn't it, with Kaprizov and Connor McDavid eligible for extensions while every major market team in the league and including the one that plays where this newspaper is published — tampering much? — will be monitoring Edmonton by the minute.

By the way, Kevin Fiala to the Kings for Brock Faber and the 19th-overall pick in the 2022 draft that became Swedish winger Liam Ohgren, are you kidding me?

Still, the reality is that the Wild have not won a playoff series since Guerin took command ahead of 2019-20. Actually, Minnesota has not won a round since 2015, and indeed, their first-round victories in both 2014 and 2015 are the only series the team has won since advancing to the 2003 conference final in the franchise's third year of existence.

And the first-round victories in 2014 and 2015 were the franchise's only rewards for the twin free agent signings of Parise and Suter to matching 13-year, \$98M contracts on July 4, 2012. There has always been a little bit less there than anticipated.

The Wild have hit on draft picks Kaprizov (a fifth-rounder) and on Matt



**CHEAP THRILL:** Brock Faber and the Wild have the fifth-best record in the NHL despite buyouts for Zach Parise and Ryan Suter taking up cap space. AP

Boldy and Marco Rossi (first-rounders). They hit on signing free agent Mats Zuccarello, whose music he makes with Kaprizov is almost reminiscent of the buddy film he had going with Derick Brassard in his Rangers days.

And while backup netminder Marc-Andre Fleury is enjoying his final lap around the league, Filip Gustavsson, obtained from Ottawa in a 2022 trade for Cam Talbot, is at the top of the leaderboard for save percentage and goals-against.

The Wild are stingy under head coach John Hynes, one of those guys typically derided as a recyclable. Of course, Minnesota has to be stingy.

They have that 16.8 percent gap.

► So someone is going to have to explain to me why not one of **Patrik Laine's** Montreal teammates stepped in during the first period in Columbus on Monday when the Blue Jackets were allegedly targeting the winger because of the

former Blue Jacket's disparaging comments about the organization in advance of the match.

Apparently there was a belief that Columbus was specifically going after the winger's left shoulder that he'd injured while playing for the Jackets. Bountygate!

Laine, who had experienced mental health issues during his three-plus years with the Jackets before he was traded to the Canadiens last summer, was hit four times by **James van Riemsdyk**, **Cole Sillinger**, **Dante Fabbro** and **Adam Fantilli** during his 6:15 of ice in the first period before he was pulled from the game.

It's unclear whether Laine had been injured or if the Canadiens were pulling him for his own safety. Seriously? But if the Jackets were targeting Laine, why didn't a single one of his teammates respond?

Where was **Josh Anderson**, who used his fists to gain retribution on **Jacob Trouba** five weeks after the

former Ranger's crushing concussing blow on **Justin Barron**? Where was **Arber Xhekaj**?

Where were any of them?

► So No. 9 is clearly the most decorated uniform number in NHL history, worn by **Gordie Howe**, **Rocket Richard**, **Bobby Hull**, **Andy Bathgate**, **Johnny Bucyk**, **Clark Gillies**, **Teeder Kennedy**, **Mike Modano**, **Paul Karaya**, **Lanny McDonald** and a host of lesser luminaries.

In 1959-60, in fact, every one of the Original Six had a Hall of Famer wearing No. 9 and that was Bathgate in New York, Richard in Montreal, Howe in Detroit, Bucyk in Boston and Hull in Chicago and **Dick Duff** in Toronto.

The question is whether No. 19 or No. 7 comes next.

**Howie Morenz** wore No. 7, so did **Ted Lindsay**, **Phil Esposito**, **Rod Gilbert**, **Paul Coffey**, **Bill Barber**, **Joe Mullen**, **Neal Broten**, **Rick Martin**, **Chris Chelios** and **Tim Horton**, and now it is worn by the Senators' **Brady Tkachuk** for however long he remains in Ottawa.

But No. 19 was worn by a cavalcade of immortals including **Bryan Trottier**, **Larry Robinson**, **Joe Sakic**, **Steve Yzerman**, **Jean Ratelle** and so, yes, No. 19 places and No. 7 shows.

Who do you have, No. 16 or No. 10?

Sixteen was worn by **Bobby Clarke**, **Brett Hull**, **Henri Richard**, **Marcel Dionne**, **Pat LaFontaine**, **Elmer Lach** and **Rick Middleton** but 10 has belonged to **Guy Lafleur**, **Ron Francis**, **Dale Hawerchuk**, **Alex Delvecchio**, **Syl Apps** (Sr.), **Artemi Panarin**, **John LeClair** and **Pavel Bure**.

I'll take 10.

► New Year's Snapshot. Elite Eight: 1. Devils; 2. Vegas; 3. Florida; 4. Winnipeg; 5. Edmonton; 6. Toronto; 7. Washington; 8. Carolina.

Player of 2024: **Matthew Tkachuk**.

Team of 2024: Latvia.

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**Larry Brooks**  
**Slap Shots**



By ANDREW CRANE

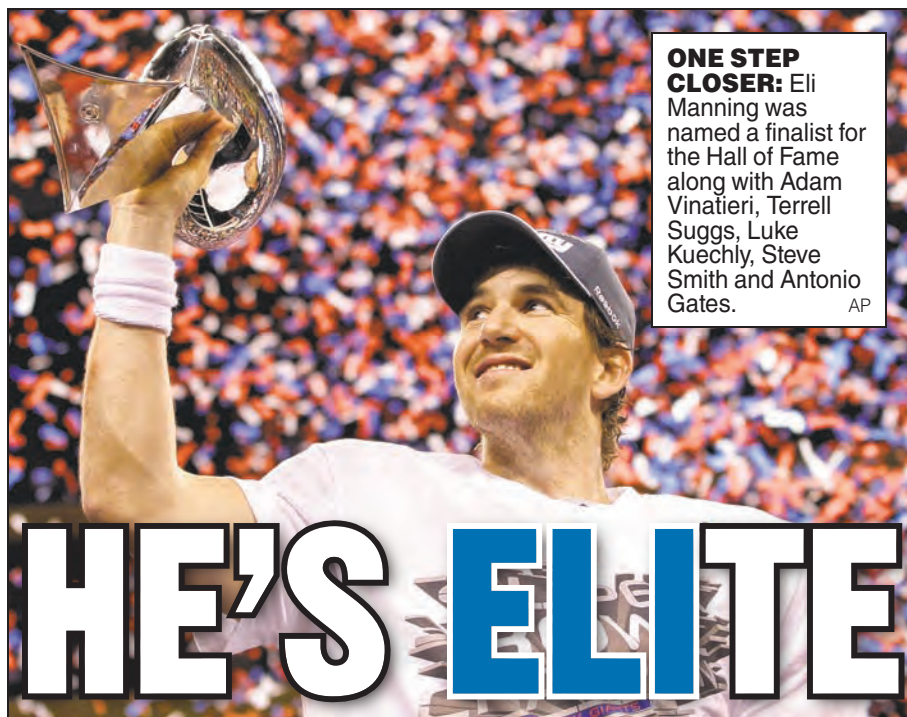
Eli Manning moved one step closer to football immortality Saturday, as he was named one of 15 finalists for the Pro Football Hall of Fame's Class of 2025.

Manning, the former No. 1-overall pick in 2004 who spent his entire 16-year career with the Giants and guided them to two Super Bowl wins, will find out Feb. 6 if he'll be inducted as a first-time nominee.

Terrell Suggs, Luke Kuechly, Marshal Yanda, Steve Smith, Eric Allen, Antonio Gates, Jahri Evans, Jared Allen, Reggie Wayne, Torrey Holt, Willie Anderson, Adam Vinatieri, Darren Woodson and Fred Taylor were the other finalists, with Suggs, Kuechly, Yanda and Vinatieri in a similar position as Manning as finalists in their first year of eligibility.

Manning retired after the 2019 season — a season when he was benched for Daniel Jones as the Giants pivoted toward the future — and finished his career with 57,023 passing yards, 366 passing touchdowns and 244 interceptions during regular-season games.

He also helped the Giants win Super Bowls in February 2008 and 2012. Manning was named the MVP for the game following each victory, but he never led the NFL in one of the league's major stats categories outside of interceptions — in 2007,



**ONE STEP CLOSER:** Eli Manning was named a finalist for the Hall of Fame along with Adam Vinatieri, Terrell Suggs, Luke Kuechly, Steve Smith and Antonio Gates. AP

## Manning finalist for Hall of Fame in just his first year of eligibility

2010 and 2013 — and failed to earn an All-Pro selection.

Manning was selected to the Pro Bowl four times, though.

And if Manning, who was named a first-time nominee in September, eventually gets inducted into the Hall of Fame, he'll join his brother and former Colts and Broncos quarterback, Peyton, who earned a spot

in the class of 2021.

"It's one of those deals that you can't control, you can't worry about," Manning told The Post's Ryan Dunleavy about his Hall of Fame chances in 2022. "Everything has been done. All the passes have already happened. I'm just enjoying retirement and the new things that I'm doing, my family and coaching my kids in their sports. I'm

probably more worried about whether they are going to make the All-Star team than I am about whether I'm going to make the Hall of Fame."

For the past four seasons, Manning and his brother have hosted the "Manning-Cast" alongside ESPN's traditional "Monday Night Football" broadcasts.

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# Decision looming on Thibodeaux

By PAUL SCHWARTZ

Shane Bowen was not with the Giants when they were evaluating all the prospects in the 2022 NFL Draft, meaning Bowen had nothing to do with the selection of outside linebacker Kayvon Thibodeaux with the No. 5-overall pick that year.

As their first season working together nears an end, Bowen has not exactly seen Thibodeaux take a quantum leap forward in his development as a defender. In 10 games, Thibodeaux has three sacks and 22 tackles. He had five forced fumbles in his first two seasons but none this season. He started the first five games, missed five straight games with a fractured wrist and returned to play in the past five games.

"Obviously, he missed a lot of time there in the middle of the year," Bowen said, "which is a big part of — I mean, we talked to all these guys about improving as the season goes and then you get unfortunately injured and you're on the shelf for however long. But I've been pleased with the way he's progressed and what

## GIANTS NOTES

he's put on tape here these last few weeks. And really last week, I thought it was probably one of his better games, like flying around, playing physical. And he's done some really good things for us."

Thibodeaux, 23, is eligible for a contract extension, but that is unlikely to happen, as he will not be coming off a strong season from a production standpoint — he had 11.5 sacks in 2023. The Giants must decide this spring if they want to exercise the fifth-year option on Thibodeaux, which would guarantee him an estimated \$16 million for the 2026 season.

► WR **Malik Nabers** needs nine receptions in the final two games to set the NFL record for a rookie. **Puka Nacua** set the record of 105 receptions in 2023. Nabers, with 97 receptions, could get beat to the record by another rookie, as Raiders tight end **Brock Bowers** has 101 receptions. Nabers is dealing with a toe injury

and is listed as questionable to play.

"I see Brock up ahead of me right now, so I don't know," Nabers said. "I'm gonna try to do my best to get it, but if my body won't let me do it, then I gotta focus on my future, put this to bed and continue to try to be better next year."

► The expectation for Sunday is for LB **Dyontae Johnson** to make his NFL debut against the Colts. Johnson spent the 2023 season on the practice squad and made the initial 53-man roster before hurting his ankle and landing on injured reserve.

"It's definitely a long time coming," said Johnson, who joined the team as an undrafted rookie from Toledo in 2023. "But throughout that process, I was just making sure I was ready to go whenever my number is called."

Johnson, undrafted out of Toledo, should play a role on special teams. With the Giants depleted at inside linebacker — **Micah McFadden** (neck) is out and **Bobby Okereke** (back) is on injured reserve — Johnson could get snaps on defense, along with rookie **Darius Muasau** and **Ty Summers**.

# Rodgers gives call-up a boost

By BRIAN COSTELLO

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Aaron Rodgers had something he wanted to say at the end of his media availability this week. The Jets quarterback had spent 10 minutes addressing his future, the team's motivation going forward and Garrett Wilson's frustration.

Now, Rodgers had something positive he wanted to say.

"I want to finish with a specific shout-out for a guy who does it right all the time, not just some of the time, all the time, and that's [safety] Jarius Monroe, who just got elevated to the active roster," Rodgers said. "So, shout-out to Jarius, he's a phenomenal young player."

It was unusual to hear a prominent player like Rodgers go out of his way to shine the spotlight on someone who is essentially the 53rd man on the roster. But Monroe is an unusual guy. The 24-year-old undrafted free agent from Tulane has a big personality, and that has shown itself in the locker room, on the practice field and in the meeting rooms. So, when interim coach Jeff Ulbrich called Monroe up in front of the team Tuesday and told him he was being signed from the practice squad to the active roster, the team erupted in cheers.

"It was amazing, man," Monroe said before acknowledging how nervous he was. "I was sweating like crazy."

Then, Monroe heard what Rodgers said about him to the media.

"It meant a lot," Monroe said. "That's a Hall of Fame

quarterback, also just a great human being outside of everything. I feel like a lot of times people don't know who he actually is. He's actually an amazing human being, an amazing teammate. He has a lot of the guys in this building rooting for him just because of the person he is. He's a great leader. I follow him every day. We have our own banter, competition at

practice, me being on the scout team all year.

"Just working my tail off and him taking notice of that, that means a lot to me being that he's such a great person."

Monroe said he tries to make his teammates smile. He believes mental health is important for players to perform well.

"I try to bring that positivity to my teammates every day," Monroe said. "I feel like that's my role right now. I want to be a star one day. I feel like I will be the best in the world one day. Right now, that being my role, I take that very seriously."

Ulbrich said Monroe has had a great effect on his teammates.

"It's crazy to think of an undrafted free-agent safety to have the impact on a team like this," Ulbrich said, "filled with so many exceptional players with exceptional careers and for him to have touched every single human being on this team is, I don't know if I've ever seen anything like it."

► The Jets activated K **Greg Zuerlein** off of injured reserve Saturday, and he will be their kicker Sunday in Buffalo. They also elevated DL **Bruce Hector** from the practice squad.



**MONROE DOCTRINE:** Undrafted safety Jarius Monroe got called up to the Jets from the practice squad. Bill Kostroun



# SERBY'S SUNDAY Q&A WITH ...

# EJIOFOR

Zuby

Robert Sabo

*St. John's star big man Zuby Ejiofor takes a shot at a Q&A with Post columnist Steve Serby:*

**Q: When Coach Pitino was recruiting you, what did you eat at Del Frisco's?**

A: I had a steak, with a side of fries. I can't remember exactly what type of steak I had.

**Q: Your first meal with him the night before was at Avra.**

A: I think I had a steak as well. He had asked me what I love to eat and stuff, and I obviously recommended a steak.

**Q: What was that first dinner like with Coach P?**

A: It was amazing. Obviously everybody knows who Coach Pitino is, and what he's meant for everybody around him. So to sit down with him for the first time, and my family was there as well so it wasn't just me going through the whole experience of getting to chat with him and just kind of understand what I could bring to his program, it meant a lot.

**Q: The next morning you had a terrific workout at Carnesecca Arena.**

A: My pops [mentor Andy Philachack], he wanted to ask Coach Pitino what I could bring to the program, and if I'm good enough to play for him. So Coach Pitino suggested to put me to the test, and that's exactly what we did, and I ended up having a pretty successful workout if I say so myself (smile), and yeah, that's why I'm here right now. So he saw the potential in me obviously and we've been working on it ever since, the player development workouts and stuff like that, and I'm just glad to be here.

**Q: What makes him a Hall of Fame coach?**

A: I would just say his passion. In practices, in games, you always feel his energy. It feels like he's coaching his first 10 years, it feels like. He says that he's not doing

this for him but he's doing this essentially for us to know what it feels like to win championships. Yeah, just his passion for the game, that's what I think separates him from the rest.

**Q: What did you think when he wore the white suit last year on Johnnies Day at the Garden?**

A: It was cool (smile). A little whiteout moment. Everybody loved that suit. When he put it on, we were like, "We can't lose this game. When he's looking that good, that fly, we can't lose this game," so we got the dub (laugh).

**Q: Coach P's motivation?**

A: He always says, "Nothing changes if nothing changes." If you're doing things the same way and it's not producing, why keep doing it the way that you've been doing it so far? Nothing changes if nothing changes. So you got to change up a little bit of something to ultimately get that result that you're trying to look for.

**Q: Any pregame or postgame speeches come to mind?**

A: He's always saying, "You play for the name on the front and not the one on the back," and when you do that, you're going to prosper. Not just playing for yourself, but playing for each other and playing for the program and just seeing where that takes you.

**Q: What's the easiest way to make him angry?**

A: It's got to be something defensively. Not communicating within each other. He doesn't get mad especially on the offensive end when you're off or you're not hitting shots, you're not hitting your free throws, you're not hitting 3-point shots. He would get mad though if you're thinking about it. That's where you have to have a strong mind. If you're not communicating, if you don't show passion and love for the game, that's where he can get mad I would think.

**Q: Where have you made the biggest strides in your game?**

A: I always take pride in being a defensive player first. I showed a little bit of that last year, but being able to flash a little bit of my offensive skill set this year is what I've been doing so far, and just improving on my leadership. I have a new role this year, I'm one of the captains of the group, so being able to be a vocal leader and not just lead by example and kind of uplift guys and get guys around

me a lot better.

**Q: Biggest strides offensively?**

A: Just being able to be more comfortable in the post. I think I'm a really good or decent offensive rebounder, I would say so. So just being able to get my teammates a second chance at being able to put the ball in the hoop ... being able to be a presence, a little bit of a presence in the post.

**Q: Do you see yourself on the defensive end as an intimidator?**

A: I would hope so (laugh). I would hope so.

**Q: Your on-court mentality?**

A: I have a really strong desire and will to win. I'm a sore loser, I don't like losing at all. I'm going to do whatever it takes literally to win the game, whatever a coach asks of me, even if I like it or don't like it, that's exactly what I'm going to do.

**Q: Why were you so upset after the Baylor game?**

A: It was obviously an emotional night, and I was upset and emotional because I had the chance to essentially ice the game, and it didn't fall through, and I missed those two free throws, which led to the 3-point shot being taken and made.

**Q: Why were you so hard on yourself?**

A: Because I could have ended the game. I know I'm better than that and it was an emotional night for me because I wanted to win as much as anybody else out there ... we all felt like it was our game, everything was flowing the right way for us.

**Q: On the opposite end of the spectrum was your game-winner at Providence.**

A: That was my giveback (smile).

**Q: Biggest obstacle you've had to overcome?**

A: I'm a big competitor so after high school, I'm thinking, "Oh yeah, I'm going to go to college, I'm going to be effective, I'm going to produce, I'm going to be impactful to a program," so I went to Kansas thinking that I would have the chance to make a winning impact for the program and it didn't happen. I played behind Joel [Soriano] and I got to learn a lot from him and I'm entirely grateful for that. Being able to have Joel to take me under his wing and show me the ropes of being at St. John's. That's been my obstacle so far and now here I am, so I think that molded

me into the person I am today.

**Q: Do you feel like you were disrespected in high school? Overlooked?**

A: Yeah. I wanted to be a McDonald's All-American, and I wasn't. I've always kind of come from the ground up, I would say. My first four years of high school I've been often overlooked by everybody, I didn't really get the spotlight like everybody else.

**Q: What did you learn about Coach Carnesecca?**

A: He was very soft-spoken, but his words meant a lot.

**Q: What was it like playing at the Garden for the first time last year against Michigan?**

A: Well it sucked because we lost (laugh). Other than that, man, it's the Mecca of basketball, obviously, and it was a surreal moment for me. I watched games on TV obviously but there's nothing like really playing on the floor where so many legends have played in the past, so just getting to know the history and being a part of that, it was a surreal moment.

**Q: When was the last time you visited Nigeria?**

A: Probably four years ago.

**Q: How proud of your Nigerian heritage are you?**

A: Pretty proud. My mom takes a hold to that very proudly. She's actually there right now. She went to Nigeria three, four days ago for the holidays. Some of my brothers went down there as well just to spend time with my family members down there and my pops down there as well.

**Q: Three dinner guests?**

A: LeBron [James]; Martin Luther King; my mom.

**Q: Favorite movie?**

A: "[Avengers] Infinity War."

**Q: Favorite actor?**

A: Robert Downey Jr.

**Q: Favorite actress?**

A: Megan Fox.

**Q: Favorite entertainer/singer/rapper?**

A: Rod Wave.

**Q: Favorite meal?**

A: I'm a big steak guy. Let's do a ribeye, I'm there.

**Q: How good can this team be?**

A: I think we can be as good as want to be, honestly. When we start having fun, and just playing off each other, I think we could really hang with anybody in the country, really.



# SLAY RIDE

## Johnnies demolish Delaware to conclude nonconference slate

By ZACH BRAZILLER

St. John's nonconference finale was representative of the entire slate.

Good, not great.

There were no bad losses, but no big wins.

The Johnnies held serve.

They didn't suffer setbacks to the likes of Boston College or Michigan, losses that came back to bite them last March. But losses to projected tournament teams Baylor and Georgia by a combined four points were frustrating nonetheless, leaving the Johnnies without a signature victory.

St. John's (11-2) will still enter the New Year in good position, expected to make the main draw of the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2015. Behind 20 points, 13 rebounds and eight assists from Deivon Smith, St. John's closed out the soft position of its schedule with a 97-76 thumping of Delaware of the CAA at Carnesecca Arena on Saturday night.

"I think we did our job," coach Rick Pitino said, referring to the completed nonconference schedule.

St. John's led by 23 points late in the first half and was on cruise control from there. The Red Storm defense coasted after halftime, allowing the Blue Hens (7-6) to shoot 58.1

from the field after the break. Additionally, the Johnnies couldn't contain sharpshooter John Camden, who scored 35 points and made nine 3-pointers.

"Obviously, any time you win you should be pleased, but to be honest with you, I'm anything but pleased," Pitino said. "I think sometimes when you're getting ready for your next opponent being Creighton, you [aren't] as focused."

It was a strong offensive performance. Six Johnnies scored in double figures. They had 23 assists on 39 made field goals and after going just 6-for-28 on 3-point attempts in their first two Big East games, they were 8-for-12 from deep on Saturday. Zuby Ejiofor owned the paint, with 16 points, seven rebounds and two blocks, and RJ Luis added 16 off the bench. Simeon Wilcher scored 12 and Kadary Richmond followed with 10 points and seven assists.

"We need both halves, honestly, because teams are super talented [in the Big East]," Smith said. "We need to put together two halves, stop the 3-ball, take our matchups seriously, pay attention to the scouts and get it all together so we can win a championship."

The schedule gets much tougher from here, a New Year's Eve date in Omaha, Neb., with perennial contender Creighton. That's followed by

Butler coming to Queens four days later and a visit to Xavier on Jan. 7.

Pitino didn't give his players a ton of time off after their victory over Providence eight days ago. They were back on campus on Christmas Eve for practice and individual player development sessions.

Coincidentally or not, St. John's started this guarantee game far better than its recent ones. Instead of toying with an overmatched opponent, the Johnnies flexed their muscles. They were sharp on the defensive end and quickly built a double-digit lead. The 3-pointers were dropping early: They made their first four attempts and led by as many as 23 in a one-sided opening half.

The effort wasn't there for the final 20 minutes. It didn't need to be to get past Delaware. But St. John's knows that playing two halves will be critical to having the kind of league season that is expected.

"I don't think we're near our potential, which is a good thing, not a bad thing," Pitino said. "But I think we have to get better defensively. It's just guys understanding personnel. If I had to point out our biggest weakness — obviously free throw shooting is glaring — but I think our biggest weakness is absorbing the scouting report. ... We're struggling with that a little bit."

zbraziller@nypost.com



**TASTY JAM:** Guard RJ Luis dunks home two of his 16 points off the bench for St. John's on Saturday against Delaware.

Robert Sabo

By ZACH BRAZILLER

Rick Pitino's pregame speech on Saturday was quick and to the point.

"Play like Zuby [Ejiofor]," with the coach referring to St. John's all-energy forward.

Deivon Smith took that to heart.

The speedy 6-foot guard filled up the stat sheet in the Johnnies' 97-76 win over Delaware at Carnesecca Arena, notching 20 points, 13 rebounds, eight assists and three steals. He also hit four of his five 3-point attempts.

"I tried to get more rebounds than Zuby tonight, honestly," Smith said. "That's my game, though. I like to rebound, I like to

## Smith flirts with triple-double in victory

### SJU NOTES

get guys going, play fast. Just me rebounding, I get to start the break a lot faster and get guys involved."

Smith has been terrific since returning from a one-game suspension. In four games, he is averaging 15 points, 6.7 rebounds, 5.7 assists and three steals.

"I think Deivon has picked up his game to Zuby's level, which is great," Pitino said. "He's really, really playing hard."

The only negative to Smith's day was a missed windmill dunk in the final seconds. Pitino wasn't too hard on him about it.

"Thirteen rebounds, eight assists, I think he deserves his moment to try and do something special," the Hall of Fame coach said. "I wish I could've done that in my day."

► Portuguese import **Ruben Prey** got his first start of the season on Saturday and had two points, a rebound and a blocked shot in 11 minutes. Pitino wanted

to give the freshman extended playing time to see if he was ready to play a bigger role as the new year nears.

Prey is battling USC transfer **Vince Iwuchukwu** for minutes as Ejiofor's backup. The 7-foot-1 Iwuchukwu played well in the win, notching 11 points and three rebounds in 10 minutes. He will likely play over Prey against Creighton on Tuesday to combat Bluejays center **Ryan Kalkbrenner**, according to Pitino.

"In the low post, he's really improving his game. We're going to

need him against Creighton, certainly," Pitino said of Iwuchukwu.

► St. John's and Delaware didn't shake hands after the game, which was agreed upon by both coaches beforehand. There have been a number of near-skirmishes across college basketball in the handshake line and Pitino believes it is in his team's interest to avoid it.

"Right now, the best thing to do is wish the coach good luck, wave to everybody, be gentlemen and move on," Pitino said. "It's not a big deal, but it's something we want to do."



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# Mike Vaccaro

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OPEN MIKE

**W**E are a basketball city again. That's the best sporting news as we bridge the final few days between 2024 and 2025. Basketball has always been an integral part of the very essence of New York's sporting soul. We are all, after all, sons and daughters of the gymnasium, of the playground, of the driveway.

We are Kareem and Tiny, we are Cousy and Connie Hawkins. Michael Jordan and Carmelo Anthony were born here, and there's a reason why both make a point of mentioning that while also embracing their extended home bases of North Carolina and Baltimore. We are Lapchick and Looie, we are Red Holzman and Nat Holman, we are Tom Thibodeau and Rick Pitino, Keith Urgo and Sandy Bron-dello, we are Brunson and KAT, we are Cam Johnson and Cam Thomas, we are Sabrina Ionescu and Jonquel Jones.

We are the home of The City Game.

And we are back.

The Liberty helped push us there. In the same way the Knicks had to wait 24 long seasons before they finally earned an NBA title, the Liberty ended a peripatetic 28-year quest by eking past the Minnesota Lynx. It was a remarkable year for women's basketball thanks to Caitlin Clark's epic heroics in both Iowa City and Indianapolis, thanks to a perfect 38-0 season by Dawn Staley and South Carolina, thanks to another romp to Olympic gold, the winning streak now at 61 games and counting.

*(And maybe it's a good 30 miles from the state line, but here's to the Fairfield women's team, which went 31-2 and gave Indiana all it could handle at Indiana in the NAAs, and already had beaten Villanova, Wake Forest and Arkansas this year.)*

The Liberty won the championship, took a triumphant tour up the

Canyon of Heroes, and it's made for an easy handoff to the men.

You start with the Knicks, of course, because all things basketball New York start with the Knicks. They recaptured the city's imagination last spring (for as long as they were all able to stand upright, anyway) and they've managed to add even more helpings of life, hope and expectation as we enter the new year. Nationally they are still seeking respect, and it's hard to find any of the national hoops commentators (save for Charles Barkley) eager to give them their due.

But that's fine. In New York, the buzz surrounding Knicks games is palpable. Remember when Mets fans would wish each other "Happy Harvey Day" or "Happy Jake Day" whenever those pitchers would start games, and it felt like a small civic holiday? It's gotten that way with the Knicks and each of their game

nights. And that's the most compelling testimony. The Knicks are must-see TV again.

But they are also not alone. Nobody has expected much out of the Nets, but the Nets don't seem to mind. Best of all, it's pretty obvious the Nets have a keeper coach in Jordi Fernandez, who gives nightly clinics in how to maximize the most out of every game and every player.

*(And let us use as our lead-off New Year's resolution the fervent hope that Sean Marks treats him better than he did his last keeper coach, Ken Atkinson. Although Atkinson, out of St. Anthony's in South Huntington, is doing his part to expand the New York renaissance to Cleveland this year.)*

To make this all better, there's even been a nice buzz bump among the colleges. St. John's is the leader of all of that, of course, and the Johnnies seem intent on honoring the memory of Lou Carnesecca by play-

ing an old-school city brand of ball, heavy on defense and unselfishness and getting after it 94 feet at a time. The Johnnies sure look like a Sweet 16-caliber team most nights, and it'll be something to watch them try.

Same deal for Columbia, hungrily eyeing their first Ivy title since '68, still 10-1, with a fascinating game looming Monday against Rutgers and their two brilliant freshmen, Ace Bailey and Dylan Harper. We'll be keeping an eye on Piscataway. And also The Bronx. Keith Urgo has done terrific work on Rose Hill and hopes to make a dent in the Atlantic 10 this year (and, not for nothing, a nice place to start will be Saturday, at home, against St. Bonaventure).

See you there, if you're going. See you in gyms all across New York in the weeks and months to come. Basketball rules the day, again. As a wise man once said about such wonderful hoops happenings as this: Yesssss!



# COURT'S IN SESSION

## New York's a hoops town once again

## VAC'S WHACKS

I'M A LITTLE late on this, but the University of Vermont — out of the America East conference — winning the NCAA soccer championship is one of the best stories you're going to get in this modern era of college sports.

► And while we're at it, the worst might be **Jim Larranaga**, who sure seemed a lot sweeter on NIL when it helped fuel his team to a Final Four two years ago, as opposed to now, when Miami is 4-8 and he flat quit on his team. He's disillusioned that it's a "pro" game now? Did he ever turn down any of the seven-figure annual salaries he's been given in Coral Gables or printed "that's waaaay too much"? So it's OK for coaches to get rich. Got it. That reeks of phony.



► I'm not sure the last time there's been a smarter, sweeter and just relentlessly enjoyable show on television than "Shrinking," which is just terrific every time out of the box.

► Why do I have the strange sense that it's going to be something like 17-17, late in the fourth Sunday at the Meadowlands, forcing Giants fans in real time to publicly own and acknowledge the tank?

**Rich Siegelman:** Much respect to Texans quarterback C.J. Stroud for showing his emotions after receiver Tank Dell suffered serious injuries while making a spectacular catch of Stroud's TD pass. There IS crying in football. **Vac:** Sometimes we take for granted just how dangerous a sport this is. And then you see a play like that ... **Andrew Smith:** While the Knicks

## WHACK BACK AT VAC

are winning, they are playing basically an eight-man rotation. That won't work for the 82-game season as players will get worn down and injured. Teams need to play a minimum of 10 players each game so come playoff time, these 10 players are not worn

down. Look what happened in the playoffs against Indiana! **Vac:** I would argue that those injuries were the product of playoff intensity and not fatigue. If and when Mitch Robinson returns will take care of this some.

**@orlmusic56:** I looked sideways at Bob Myers' quote at first but there are moments where these Knicks look flat-out unstoppable. It's the inconsistency, chemistry and defensive lapses that have held them back from being a flawless machine. They WILL be

better — which is exciting! **@MikeVacc:** They have been trending up for a month now. That tracks with just about every successful Tom Thibodeau team. **Brad Berkowitz:** The New York Rangers are also tanking for Shadeur Sanders/Cam Ward! **Vac:** You know, at this point, it's like my grandmother said about chicken soup when you're sick — it couldn't hurt.

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SCAN ME



# BRUN' FOR THE AGES

**Jalen makes mark with 55 to steal OT 'W'**



**ANY QUESTIONS?** Jalen Brunson, who entered Saturday night's game listed as questionable because of calf tightness, played savior for the Knicks in a 136-132 overtime victory, finishing with 55 points and nine assists in 44 minutes.

AP; Getty Images

By STEFAN BONDY

WASHINGTON, DC — For most of four quarters, the Knicks played with their food. They allowed themselves to enter a danger zone against the tanking Wizards, the worst team in the East, and entered their first overtime of the season because legs were tired and their defense devolved into a porous mess.

So what should've been an easy evening turned into a dogfight for the Knicks, who required Jalen Brunson to morph into hero mode and drop 55 points to squeak out Saturday's 136-132 OT win.

Brunson was a machine and did it unconventionally by today's NBA standards, needing just three 3-pointers to reach his double-nickel. He dropped 28 points in the paint, scored 42 overall after halftime, knocked down 16 free throws and collected nine assists, and the Knicks (22-10) needed all of it.

"It just happened," Brunson said. "That's the way the game was flowing. I looked up at the scoreboard, and it says 50-something."

Saturday represented New York's seventh straight victory and also its most unnecessarily dramatic. The Wizards are young and feisty and were led with 31 points from Justin Champagnie, the brother of former St. John's star Julian

**KNICKS** 136  
**WIZARDS** 132

**OT: Boxscore**  
**Page 56**

Champagnie. But the Knicks also were visibly lagging on the second night of a back-to-back. They were outrebounded, outthrustled and lucky to escape Capital One Arena with their winning streak intact.

Brunson almost single-handedly carried them to a comeback at the end of regulation.

With the Knicks trailing by five with 57 seconds left, the point guard converted an and-1 off a series of misdirection dribbles in the lane. On the following New York possession, Brunson pulled off a similar move for the tying floater with 11 seconds remaining.

It compelled overtime, which was also nip and tuck but survived by the Knicks because they nailed clutch free throws. Through it all, the Wizards rarely attempted to double-team Brunson. He wandered freely and punished the opposition.

"If you do double me, I have the utmost confidence in my teammates that they'll knock down open shots," Brunson said. "So whatever the defense is, we're going to adapt and ... find a way."

On Saturday, the way to averting a terrible loss was through Brunson. But the

box score explained the physical toll it took on everybody. Karl-Anthony Towns logged 44 minutes with 30 points and 14 rebounds. He was Brunson's best support on offense. Mikal Bridges played 47 minutes. Anunoby turned in 42 minutes.

It should've been good fortune to face the Wizards, who started two teenagers, a 20-year-old, and were missing their two top scorers because of injuries. DNPs are plaguing the NBA. In three of New York's past five games, the opponent didn't have its best two players — New Orleans (Zion Williamson, Brandon Ingram), Orlando (Paolo Banchero, Franz Wagner) and Washington (Kyle Kuzma, Jordan Poole).

But that hasn't been a problem for the Knicks, whose starters have missed just three games combined. Brunson was listed as questionable with a sore calf for Saturday, but predictably suited up.

And the Knicks were lucky he did. "This one was a tough one for us," said Josh Hart, who finished with 13 points and 11 rebounds in 39 minutes. "We were playing the second night of a back-to-back. I felt a little old today."

"A lot of us felt the same way. We were a little slow. But (Brunson) made big shots. That's why he's the captain. Find a way to win."

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## Precious moments: Achiuwa electrifies bench with huge dunk

By STEFAN BONDY

### KNICKS NOTES

WASHINGTON, DC — Jalen Brunson stuffed the box score with his double-nickel Saturday, but Precious Achiuwa was responsible for the most exciting — and most celebrated — play of the 136-132 overtime victory over the Wizards.

With about 10 minutes left in the second quarter, Achiuwa received a pass from Landry Shamet in transition and posterized

Washington's Kyshawn George with a soaring, one-handed jam. The Knicks bench launched into a wild celebration, clearing the bench and surrounding a straight-faced Achiuwa.

"They were going crazy," Achiuwa said. "I don't know how they didn't get a tech from that. Everybody was on the court. It was a cool

moment."

Achiuwa, who said he always tries to remain emotionless after dunks, finished with just three points in 19 minutes.

But he provided the top-10 plays moment.

"That gave us great energy in the first half," Josh Hart said. "He's a freak athlete. We need to see that a little more."

The most animated of celebrators was surprisingly OG Anunoby, who hounded Achiuwa after

the dunk.

"I didn't really see it," Hart said. "I was doing my own little reaction."

► It's bad for the Knicks that the Wizards are this bad.

After gutting their asset chest to acquire **Mikal Bridges** and **Karl-Anthony Towns**, the Knicks are still left with the protected first-round pick via their opponent Saturday and Monday night — the 5-24 Wizards.

The pick, which was acquired as part of the complex 2022 trades to dump **Kemba Walker's** contract and clear space to sign Brunson, is top-10 protected in 2025.

That already is very likely to convey with Washington sitting at the bottom of the East.

If it doesn't convey in the next draft, the pick becomes top-eight pro-

tected in 2026. If it doesn't convey by 2026, it becomes two second-round picks.

The Wizards, who are locked into bad contracts for **Jordan Poole** and **Kyle Kuzma**, aren't close to contention or turning a corner.

But they gave the Knicks a scare Saturday behind **Justin Champagnie's** 31 points.

**Dolan's dad dies at 98 / Page 10**





By STEFAN BONDY

WASHINGTON — Landry Shamet's first sensations were shock and pain.

Lots of pain.

"It just hurts," Shamet said in an interview with The Post. "There was no part after it happened where it didn't hurt for probably about five days."

There also was no ambiguity about the nature of Shamet's injury. Or the unfortunate timing. Just four days before final roster cuts — and with his contract unguaranteed — Shamet's limp shooting arm told the story.

Like anybody who saw the stomach-churning replay, the veteran Knicks guard immediately understood his shoulder was dislodged from its socket.

"Yeah, it was out," Shamet said. "I'd never had that happen to me either, so I think that was part of it, too."

"Even if it didn't turn out to be what it was, I think it still would have been pretty jarring, just having that type of injury. I'll be 28 in March. I've been playing this game for a long time, and having an injury for the first time like that, that's gonna be ... you're just like, 'What? What's happening?' You're trying to move your arm. You can't move your arm. Your hand's numb. You feel like you got shot."

The subsequent five minutes "felt like forever," Shamet recalled. There was a lidocaine injection to numb the shoulder. Somebody popped it back in. X-rays followed. Within four days of the injury, Shamet was waived by the Knicks and his contract disappeared.

After consulting doctors, Shamet chose the riskier path of rehabbing without surgery to hasten the return. Julius Randle tried and failed the same path last season. Shamet's past 10 weeks — which hit a high mark in Orlando with a productive return to the Knicks rotation — were a roller coaster.

"There's stretches in the first week where it's just really acute and I can't even lift my arm to wash under my arms or brush my teeth," Shamet said. "There's periods of time where you're like, 'God.' And that's what I talk about with the mental piece. Not only are you dealing with injury, rehabbing something you've never dealt with before, but now you're away from your teams, kind of out of rhythm. So that part could



**SOLDIER'S SHOULDER:** Landry Shamet's dislocated shoulder was a major setback this season, for both the guard and the Knicks, but his return from the injury is a second chance for him and the team.

Imagn Images

## No guarantee Shamet would make it back

be challenging. And there were days for sure where it was pretty bleak. Like, 'Groundhog Day.' Like, 'Ahh, we're still here. It still hurts.'

"But then you had days where there were big jumps and you're like, 'OK.' So both feelings were prevalent."

Friday night felt like one of those encouraging days for Shamet. In his third game since re-signing on a one-year deal, he was reinserted into the rotation, which Tom Thibodeau expanded to nine players to accommodate Shamet, and dropped seven points in 10 minutes with two steals while hitting 3 of 4 from the field.

His addition to the rotation is potentially a big deal for the Knicks (22-10), whose biggest flaw has been depth. They were dead last in the NBA in bench scoring (just 20.8 points per game) and playing time heading

into Saturday's 136-132 overtime win over the Wizards. No other team was close. As a result, New York's starters have carried the league's top minutes burden.

But with Shamet's addition Friday night, Thibodeau expanded his rotation from eight to nine players. OG Anunoby, who has been wearing wraps on his surgically repaired right elbow and lower left leg, played his fewest minutes of the season (28).

Shamet helped bring that balance while hitting his lone 3-point attempt. On Saturday, he played just six minutes and missed his only shot attempt but did pick up an assist and a steal.

"It still works," Shamet said of his shot.

That wasn't always a given. Getting to this point was a painful, unpredictable process.

"I couldn't use my right arm for six weeks," he said.



THE LINE	BRIAN COSTELLO	STEVE SERBY	MARK CANNIZZARO	PAUL SCHWARTZ	DREW LOFTIS	RYAN DUNLEAVY	STITCHES	MS. CHARLEEN	HOWIE KUSSOY	DAVE BLEZOW
Chiefs 3 (43.5) STEELERS (Chiefs, 29-10)	Chiefs (W)	Steelers (L)	★Steelers (L)	Steelers (L)	★Steelers (L)	Steelers (L)	Chiefs (W)	Chiefs (W)	Steelers (L)	Chiefs (W)
Ravens 5.5 (46.5) TEXANS (Ravens, 31-2)	Ravens (W)	Ravens (W)	★Ravens (W)	Texans (L)	Texans (L)	Ravens (W)	Ravens (W)	Ravens (W)	Ravens (W)	Texans (L)
Seahawks 3.5 (43.5) BEARS (Seahawks, 6-3)	Bears (W)	Seahawks (L)	★Seahawks (L)	Seahawks (L)	Seahawks (L)	Seahawks (L)	Bears (W)	Seahawks (L)	Seahawks (L)	Seahawks (L)
Chargers 4 (42.5) PATRIOTS (Chargers, 40-7)	Chargers (W)	★Chargers (W)	Chargers (W)	Patriots (L)	Chargers (W)	Patriots (L)	Chargers (W)	Chargers (W)	Chargers (W)	★Chargers (W)
BENGALS 3.5 (49.5) Broncos (Bengals, 30-24, OT)	Bengals (W)	Broncos (L)	Bengals (W)	★Bengals	Bengals (W)	Bengals (W)	★Bengals	Bengals (W)	Bengals (W)	Broncos (L)
RAMS 6.5 (48) Cardinals (Sat., late)	Rams	Rams	Cardinals	Cardinals	Cardinals	Cardinals	Rams	★Cardinals	Cardinals	Cardinals
BILLS 8.5 (46.5) Jets (Sun., 1:00, CBS)	Jets	★Bills	Jets	★Bills	Jets	Jets	Jets	★Bills	Jets	Bills
Colts 7.5 (40.5) GIANTS (1:00, Fox)	Colts	★Colts	Giants	Giants	Colts	★Colts	Colts	Colts	Giants	★Colts
Raiders 1 (37.5) SAINTS (1:00)	Raiders	Raiders	Saints	Raiders	Raiders	Raiders	Saints	Raiders	Raiders	Raiders
JAGUARS 1 (40) Titans (1:00)	Jaguars	Titans	Jaguars	Jaguars	Jaguars	Jaguars	Jaguars	Titans	Jaguars	Titans
EAGLES 7 (39.5) Cowboys (1:00)	Eagles	Eagles	Cowboys	Cowboys	★Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	★Eagles	★Cowboys	Eagles
BUCCANEERS 8 (48.5) Panthers (1:00)	Panthers	Panthers	Bucs	Bucs	Panthers	Bucs	Panthers	Bucs	★Panthers	Panthers
Dolphins 6.5 (40) BROWNS (4:05)	Browns	Browns	Dolphins	Browns	Dolphins	Dolphins	Dolphins	Dolphins	Browns	Dolphins
Packers 1 (48.5) VIKINGS (4:25, Fox)	★Packers	Packers	Packers	Vikings	Packers	Vikings	★Packers	Vikings	Packers	Packers
COMMANDERS 4 (47.5) Falcons (8:20, NBC)	★Comm.	Comm.	Comm.	★Comm.	Comm.	★Comm.	Falcons	Falcons	Falcons	Comm.
Lions 3.5 (50.5) 49ERS (Mon., 8:15, ESPN)	★49ers	Lions	Lions	49ers	★Lions	★Lions	★Lions	Lions	★Lions	★Lions
Home team in CAPS ★ Best Bets Lines reprinted from Friday's Bettor's Guide. For updated lines, see Page 58										

**SUNDAY**

**Titans (+1) over JAGUARS:** Going 2-13 against the spread with a 3-13 record is a fireable offense for Titans coach Brian Callahan. Tennessee waited far too long to bench quarterback Will Levis. The new signal-caller is Mason Rudolph, who isn't anything to write home about, but he doesn't usually turn the ball over at a historic rate. Last week, he threw three interceptions, so don't hold your breath that the Titans can figure it out. The Jaguars defense has the fewest takeaways in the NFL (eight).

**Packers (-1) over VIKINGS:** Sharps have been betting the Vikings up, down and sideways since this line opened, as Green Bay opened as two-point favorites and the line has now flipped to Packers +1.5. Sharps obviously think we are overreacting to the dominance the Packers have shown recently. But my model has the Packers listed as a one-point favorite, and DVOA supports it, with Green Bay ranked No. 3 in the NFL to the Vikings' No. 6. It's the marquee game of the weekend; sit back and enjoy a true playoff game.

**BUCCANEERS (-8) over Panthers:** Tampa Bay needed overtime to take the Panthers down in Week 13, but I'm not expecting that to occur again for a few reasons. Carolina has the sixth-fewest yards per play on offense and allows the fifth most yards per play on defense. The Panthers have ridden Chubba Hubbard to a few wins and covers as underdogs, but Hubbard is done for the season and the Buccaneers are allowing just 2.8 YPC. Let Bryce Young throw and you will watch him make mistakes.



Erich Richter  
Game Day

# GOTTA BET RUDOLPH IN DECEMBER

## Make it rein with new Titans QB

Bucky Irving smashes to run up the score in a critical division game.

**Colts (-7.5) over GIANTS:** There is not much you can point to statistically to say that the Giants should be more than a touchdown 'dog to the .500 Colts at home, and still, I could not even form an argument for your hard-earned money being wagered on this team. Their offense can't sustain drives, and the defense doesn't turn it over. Their defense also struggles against the run, allowing the fifth-most rushing yards per carry this season. Joe Flacco starts for Indy and loves throwing the ball deep. The Giants are allowing 58.2 percent comple-

tions on deep passes, by far the worst number in the NFL.

**Raiders (-1) over SAINTS:** The Saints just got shut out by the Packers and looked completely inept for most of that game. Meanwhile the Raiders looked solid against the Jaguars and face a team with the second-worst rushing defense in the NFL (31st in run defense DVOA). Las Vegas appears to be playing harder at this stage and can be trusted with your money on Sunday.

**Jets (+8.5) over BILLS:** The Jets won't stop teasing what could have been. Gang Green is a live double-digit underdog thanks to an improving run attack that has resulted in 4.4 YPC in their last three games and overall offense. They have the 18th rated offense in DVOA, ahead of the Seahawks,

Broncos and Colts, all borderline play-off teams. The Jets will play this division game close enough to cover 10 but likely lose another heart-breaker.

**Cowboys (+7) over EAGLES:** Oddsmakers suggest that the downgrade from Jalen Hurts to Kenny Pickett is worth just four points, as the spread moved from 11.5 to 7.5 after it was announced Hurts is out with a concussion. That number seems a bit low, considering the eighth and ninth points in a given spread are nearly worthless. Dallas is believing right now, and its defense is forcing turnovers in a big way, averaging the fourth most

in its past three games (2.3). The difference between Cooper Rush and Pickett is pretty negligible as well, even with CeeDee Lamb out this weekend.

**Dolphins (-6.5) over BROWNS:** Dorian Thompson-Robinson might be the worst quarterback in the NFL, and his supporting cast isn't any better. Cleveland is rated No. 32 across the entire league in DVOA and has now inserted Thompson-Robinson as quarterback. He's thrown just one touchdown in his NFL career and couldn't score on the Bengals' terrible pass defense. He won't find much more sanctuary than that. Miami is the 12th-best pass defense in yards per pass attempt (6.5) and eighth-best against the run (4.3 YPC al-



Mason Rudolph



POST STANDINGS

	W	L	T	Pct.	GB
Charleen	137	99	4	.579	—
Cannizzaro	132	104	4	.558	5
Schwartz	127	109	4	.538	10
Kussoy	124	112	4	.525	13
Blezow	122	114	4	.517	15
Dunleavy	120	116	4	.508	17
Costello	117	119	4	.496	20
Stitches	117	119	4	.496	20
Loftis	116	120	4	.492	21
Serby	109	127	4	.463	28

BEST BETS

	W	L	T	Pct.	GB
Kussoy	32	15	1	.677	—
Dunleavy	31	17	0	.646	1.5
Loftis	28	20	0	.583	4.5
Schwartz	27	21	0	.563	5.5
Cannizzaro	26	20	2	.563	5.5
Charleen	26	21	1	.552	6
Stitches	25	23	0	.521	7.5
Costello	23	24	1	.490	9
Serby	23	25	0	.471	9.5
Blezow	22	26	0	.458	10.5

lowed). There's enough here for Miami to cruise.

**Falcons (+4) over COMMANDERS:** The Commanders might just be the luckiest team in the NFL. After winning on a Hail Mary earlier this year, Washington was in the process of being absolutely waxed by the Eagles on Sunday before Jalen Hurts went down with an injury. This insane stream of good fortune has to end at some point. Atlanta is 10th best in yards per play on offense (5.7) and 13th best in yards per play allowed (5.4). Most of that was with Kirk Cousins, and Michael Penix should be nothing but an upgrade here. Atlanta rolls.

MONDAY

**Lions (-3.5) over 49ERS:** Before the season started, this game was lined as 49ers -4.5, but now this game is a shell of its expected greatness. It's the injured versus the battered on "Monday Night Football." Detroit is still holding onto hope that they can snag the No. 1 seed in the NFC while Kyle Shanahan's group plays for pride. Their peripheral stats are still excellent: 11th best in DVOA, fourth best in yards per play (6.1), and fourth best in yards per play allowed (5.1). They've found ways to lose their past two games by taking too many sacks (six), not getting any (zero), and turning the ball over (negative two turnover differential). Detroit covers a bit of a chess match that will be a must-win, especially if the Packers beat the Vikings on Sunday.

**Last Week:** 6-6-1

**Season:** 105-114-3

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THIS game is worthy of a Week 17 duel for a division championship.

The 11-4 Packers face the 13-2 Vikings on Sunday in Minneapolis, marking the first time in the rich 64-year history of the rivalry that both the teams have 11 or more wins going into the game.

Both teams have already clinched playoff berths and both enter as hot as any team in the league.

In this case, though, the NFC North title is not in the balance — for the Packers, that is.

The Vikings are tied with the Lions for first place in the division and the No. 1 overall seed in the conference playoffs. They can win the division for the second time in three seasons and gain the No. 1 seed, which comes with a first-round bye and home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs, if they beat the Packers this week and the Lions next week in Detroit.

A win by the Vikings, who've won eight consecutive games, sets the stage for a compelling season finale against the Lions for arguably the regular-season game of the year next Sunday.

A loss by the Vikings clinches the division for Detroit.

The Packers, who enter the game having won nine of their past 11 games, have already clinched a wild-card playoff spot, but cannot challenge for the division title.

The Vikings won the last meeting, a 31-29 decision in September. The Packers are coming off a 34-0 win over the Saints and the Vikings a 27-24 win over Seattle.

Green Bay quarterback Jordan Love had a bizarre game in the teams' last meeting. He completed 32 of 59 for 389 yards with four TDs — career highs in all four categories. Yet he also matched his career high with three INTs as the Packers came back from a 28-0 deficit only to fall short.

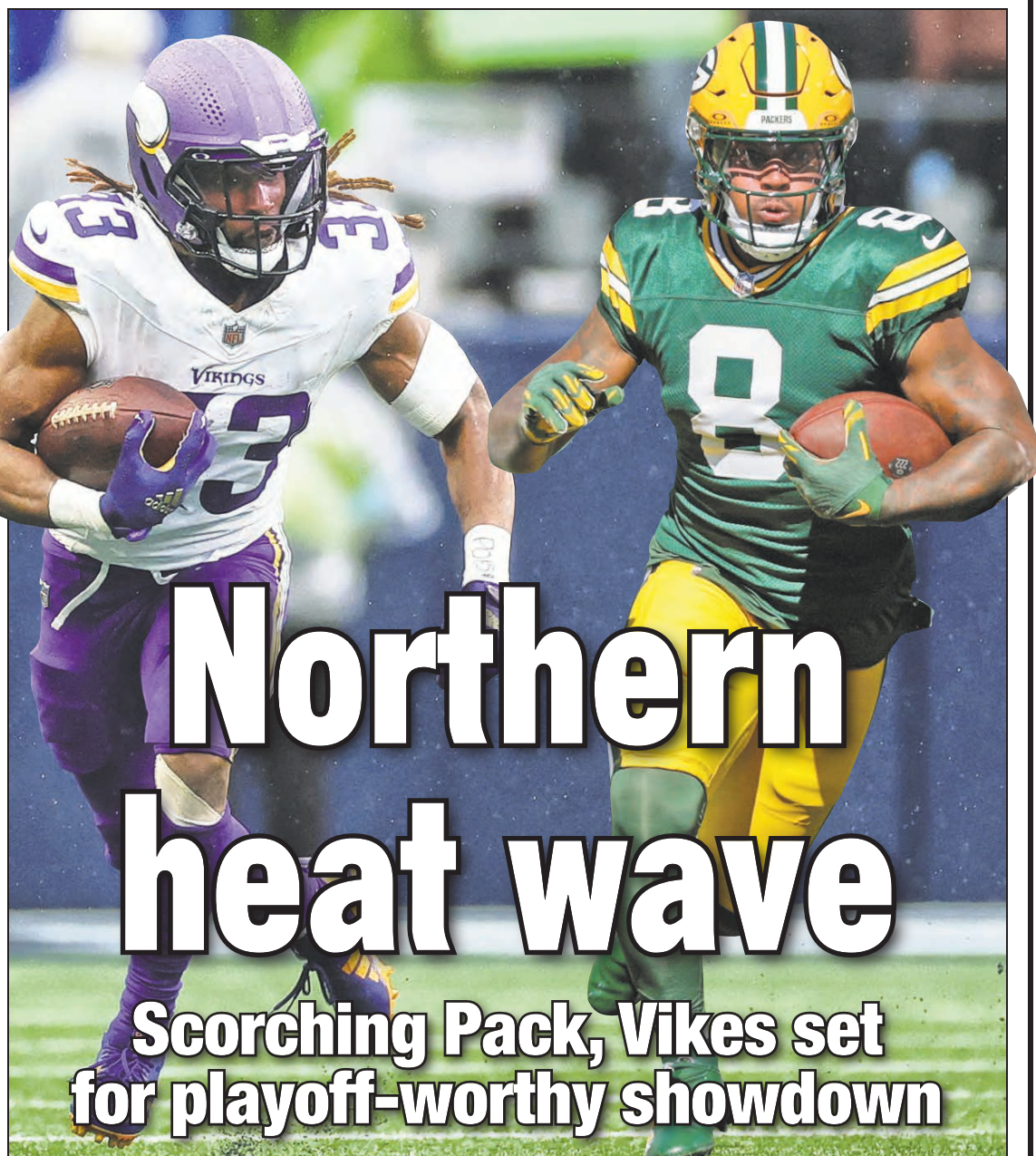
Love enters this matchup hot, having thrown eight TD passes and no INTs in his past five games. He's thrown for 3,135 yards with 24 TDs and 11 INTs on the season.

Love's counterpart, Minnesota's Sam Darnold, is enjoying a career renaissance, having thrown for 3,776 yards with 32 TDs and 11 INTs. All of those numbers are career highs — by a lot.

One of the fun subplots to this game is Vikings running back Aaron Jones — who played the previous seven seasons in Green Bay, rushing for 5,940 yards and 45 TDs — taking on his old team.

He's been a key piece for the Vikings, rushing for 1,046 yards and five TDs and catching 42 passes and two TDs.

In the previous meeting, he



# Northern heat wave

## Scorching Pack, Vikes set for playoff-worthy showdown

**RUSH TO JUDGMENT:** Aaron Jones, the longtime Packer, and his replacement, Josh Jacobs, will be on center stage when Minnesota plays host to Green Bay today.

Getty Images; AP

rushed for 93 yards on 22 carries and caught four passes for 46 yards. The 139 total yards from scrimmage against the Packers were his second-highest total of the season.

Jones enters this game with 440 total yards and four TDs from scrimmage over the past five games.

On the other side of the ball, the Packers have not missed Jones thanks to the performance of Josh Jacobs, who's run for 1,216 yards and 13 TDs after spending his first five seasons with the Raiders.

Jacobs enters the game having rushed for a TD in six straight games and is one away from the franchise record set by Paul Hornung, who scored in seven straight games in 1960.

Another Packers player to watch

is receiver Jayden Reed, who has 311 receiving yards and three TD catches in three games against the Vikings, including seven catches for a career-high 139 yards and a score in the matchup earlier this season.

The coaching matchup is a fascinating one with Green Bay's Matt LaFleur and Minnesota's Kevin O'Connell, who's the third coach in NFL history to win at least 13 games in two of his first three regular seasons, joining LaFleur (2019-21) and San Francisco's George Seifert (1989-91).

LaFleur credited the best division in the league this season for hardening the Vikings, Lions and his team.

"I think that just all of us going against one another, it's forced you to be at your best every week," LaFleur said. "You can't afford a slipup, just to keep up

with everybody."

The Packers would like to boost their confidence entering the post-season with a win over the Vikings, considering they are 0-4 against the teams with the top three records in the NFC: Detroit, Minnesota and Philadelphia.

The Packers have scored at least 30 points in each of their past five games, the second-longest run of games with 30-plus points in franchise history. But it's their defense that has been the difference.

The Packers have 28 takeaways — 10 more than it had all last year. That's ranked third in the league. They're allowing 19.1 points per game, which is ranked sixth. The Packers haven't finished a season among the top six in scoring defense since their 2010 title run, when they were ranked No. 2 with 15 points per game allowed.

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**Mark  
Cannizzaro**  
**Big Game**





# NFL KICKOFF

## WEEK 17

### THE SCHEDULE

Game	Time, TV	Weather
Chiefs 29, Steelers 10	Wednesday	
Ravens 31, Texans	Wednesday	
Seahawks 6, at Bears 3	Thursday	
Chargers at Patriots	Saturday	
Broncos at Bengals	Saturday	
Cardinals at Rams	Saturday	
Colts at Giants	1 p.m., Fox	46, chance of rain
Jets at Bills	1 p.m., CBS	49, rain likely
Raiders at Saints	1 p.m.	Indoors
Panthers at Buccaneers	1 p.m.	75, chance of rain
Cowboys at Eagles	1 p.m.	50, chance of rain
Titans at Jaguars	1 p.m.	75, chance of rain
Dolphins at Browns	4:05 p.m.	52, rain likely
Packers at Vikings	4:25 p.m., Fox	Indoors
Falcons at Commanders	8:20 p.m., NBC	53, chance of rain
Lions at 49ers	Mon., 8:15 p.m., ABC, ESPN	54, partly cloudy

### THE POST'S POWER RANKINGS

By Drew Loftis



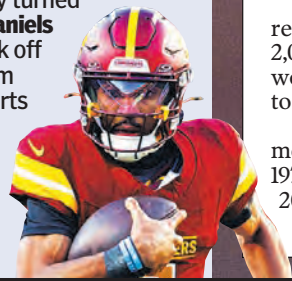
TEAM (W-L)	Last rank	TEAM (W-L)	Last rank
1. Bills (12-3)	2	17. Dolphins (7-8)	19
2. Lions (13-2)	3	18. Falcons (8-7)	20
3. Chiefs (15-1)	4	19. Cowboys (7-8)	21
4. Eagles (12-3)	1	20. 49ers (6-9)	17
7. Ravens (11-5)	7	*21. Cardinals (7-8)	18
5. Vikings (13-2)	5	22. Colts (7-8)	22
6. Packers (11-4)	6	23. Panthers (4-11)	26
9. Commanders (10-5)	12	<b>24. Jets (4-11)</b>	<b>23</b>
8. Steelers (10-6)	8	*25. Patriots (3-12)	28
*10. Chargers (9-6)	9	26. Bears (4-12)	27
*11. Broncos (9-6)	10	27. Saints (5-10)	24
12. Buccaneers (8-7)	11	28. Browns (3-12)	25
*13. Rams (9-6)	13	29. Raiders (3-12)	31
14. Texans (9-7)	14	30. Titans (3-12)	30
*15. Bengals (7-8)	15	31. Jaguars (3-12)	29
16. Seahawks (9-7)	16	<b>32. Giants (2-13)</b>	<b>32</b>

\*late game



**WHO'S UP: Commanders.** They turned it over five times yet **Jayden Daniels** & Co. still found a way to knock off our previously top-ranked team — impressive despite Jalen Hurts leaving early.

**WHO'S DOWN: Cardinals.** Would have fallen further, except there is a tier separation right below them.



**Eric Dickerson**  
**2,105**  
1984

**Adrian Peterson**  
**2,097**  
2012

**Jamal Lewis**  
**2,066**  
2003

**Barry Sanders**  
**2,053**  
1997

**Derrick Henry**  
**2,027**  
2020

**Terrell Davis**  
**2,008**  
1998

# CLUB 2K

**I**T COULD happen Sunday. There are eight running backs who have rushed for 2,000-plus yards in a single season. Saquon Barkley will become the ninth member of the exclusive club should he rumble through and around the Cowboys for 162 yards.

Records are made to be broken, and Eric Dickerson's 1984 single-season rushing record (2,105 yards) is tantalizingly in sight, though Barkley will need to be touched by the hand of God to break that one.

The intrigue: Would the Eagles allow him to break Dickerson's record in the regular-season finale against the Giants if he is close? Or will they decide to sit him and dare the Giants to win a game they will need to lose to draft Shedeur Sanders or Cam Ward?

But first things first: Let's get ready to welcome him into Club 2,000 and let's celebrate it even if he would be the first to need 17 games to enter.

O.J. Simpson became the first member of Club 2,000 when in the 1973 regular-season finale he ran for 200 yards at snow-covered Shea to smash Jim Brown's single-season

record (1,863) and finish with 2,003 yards across the 14-game season.

The man they called Juice brought the entire Bills offense with him to a special interview room and said: "These are the cats who did the job all year long."

Simpson predicted his record would be broken, and 11 years later Dickerson broke it at Anaheim Stadium when he rushed for 215 yards against the Houston Oilers for 2,007 after Game 15 game of the 16-game season.

"I was ready to play today," Dickerson said. "It's fantastic, but I'm glad it's over."

Dickerson recalled Rams quarterback Jeff Kemp asking him, prior to a 9-yard gain to break the record, what play he wanted to run.

"I said 47-Gap," Dickerson told the Los Angeles Times. "He said, '47-Gap it is, on 2, ready break.'"

Dickerson added 98 more in the regular-season finale against the 49ers for his record of 2,105 yards, which still stands.

"I don't think he'll break it," Dickerson told the Los Angeles Times of Barkley's pursuit. "But if he breaks it, he breaks it. Do I want him to break it? Absolutely not. I don't pull no punches on that. But I'm not

whining about it. He had 17 games to do it? Hey, football is football. That's the way I look at it. If he's fortunate to get over 2,000 yards and get the record, it's a great record to have."

Thirteen years later, a 29-year-old Barry Sanders rendered the Jets dizzy with a 184-yard explosion at the Silverdome that gave him 2,053 and the 1997 Lions a playoff berth. The game was paused when Sanders joined Club 2,000.

"It was thrilling, exciting, kind of humbling," Sanders said. "It's kind of — everyone had known what you did, so all eyes were already on you, and so once they hoist you on their shoulders, that's even more so the case."

"And so I felt a little bit uncomfortable but just proud of what we had accomplished going against a tough Jets team, a team coached by Bill Parcells, knowing that nothing was going to come easy."

The next year saw Terrell Davis rush for 178 yards in the regular-season finale against the Seahawks at Mile High to finish with 2,008.

"I could look up on the scoreboard and I see the 2,000 yards flashing — that was pretty cool," Davis said.

Baltimore's Jamal Lewis rushed for 114 yards in the 2003 regular-season finale against the Steelers at M&T Bank Stadium to finish with 2,066.

"They just weren't going to let it

**Steve Serby**  
**Serby Says**





Chris Johnson

2,006  
2009

O.J. Simpson

2,003  
1973

## Saquon has his eyes on joining group of legendary workhorses

happen,” Lewis said of Dickerson’s record. “I’m not disappointed. I knew how close I was, but we were trying [to win] and we really weren’t trying to concentrate on that.”

Dickerson, watching on television, held up a sign at the end of the game: “19 years and counting” and smiled.

Tennessee’s Chris Johnson joined Club 2,000 with a 124-yard rushing day in the 2009 regular-season finale in Seattle to finish with 2,006.

“It means a lot for me to get to 2,000 yards — only the sixth player ever to do it — and especially that we got the win today,” he said. “I’m not really tired, just happy.”

Adrian Peterson rushed for 199 yards in the 2012 regular-season finale against the Packers in Minneapolis to finish with 2,097 yards.

“I know Eric Dickerson is feeling so good right now,” Peterson said, and chuckled. “But God willing, I’ll get it next year.”

Dickerson congratulated Peterson on Twitter: “Just want to say that you are a Great player & if my record had to fall, I would like it to go to a player like you AP. ED.”

He would say the same about Saquon Barkley — even if 268 yards for his record to fall is a longshot. Club 2,000 would be a nice consolation prize.

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Saquon Barkley

1,838  
2024

AP (3); Getty Images (6)

## Allen deserves MVP, but title comes first

THE GAME was less than an hour in the books, but the image of Josh Allen sitting on a stool in front of his locker, still dressed in his game uniform with his head in his hands, still lingers in my mind.

This was after the Bills were vanquished from the playoffs, 27-24 in the AFC divisional playoff round by the Chiefs last January in Orchard Park, N.Y., where Allen was the best player on the field, completing 26 of 39 passes for 186 yards and a TD, and rushing for 72 yards and two more TDs on 12 carries.

That moving scene left me wanting more for Allen.

Fast forward to this season: Allen, with some stout competition, is still the best player on the field for any team. To be more specific, and accurate, he’s the NFL’s Most Valuable Player, and should be honored as such when the regular season is complete.

With two weeks remaining in the regular season, there not only are a handful of division titles up for grabs, but the MVP race is fascinating and debate-worthy.

If justice is served when the final ballots are submitted, Allen should be MVP because of the Superman-like things he does every week. And, most importantly, he’s the most valuable, most indispensable player to his team of anyone in the NFL.

Yes, it’s impossible to look away from what Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson is doing. Statistically, it seems almost impossible for Jackson not to be the MVP.

Jackson has completed 67.9 percent of his passes for 3,955 yards, 39 touchdowns and only four interceptions. He also has rushed for 852 yards and four TDs.

But Jackson has been blessed with the offseason acquisition of running back Derrick Henry, who has rushed for 1,783 yard and 14 TDs to go with an absurd 5.8 yards-per-carry average.

While Jackson was gifted Henry in the offseason, Allen was having his top two receivers, Stefon Diggs and Gabe Davis, subtracted. Diggs and

Davis combined for 243 targets last season, leaving Allen with essentially an entirely new receiving corps for 2024.

Both Allen and Jackson have had signature moments this season, but Allen’s have been lasting highlights for 2024.

His 12-3 Bills have defeated the Chiefs and Lions, the two teams with the best record in the NFL to date. And Allen was the linchpin to both wins.

Against Kansas City, Allen accounted for 317 yards of total offense, and his 26-yard TD run on fourth-and-2 that sealed

the 30-21 victory is one of the signature plays in the NFL this season.

In Detroit,

Allen passed for two TDs, rushed for two more and totaled 430 yards of offense.

The Bills are 2-0 against those current No. 1 conference seeds while the rest of the NFL is a combined 1-28 against the Chiefs and Lions.

With 11 rushing TDs this season, Allen is within one of the Bills’ career franchise record held by running back Thurman Thomas (65). He already passed O.J. Simpson earlier this season. Those are two of the best running backs in Bills history.

Bills coach Sean McDermott called Allen’s play this season “the best I’ve seen him play and not surprised.”

“When he sets a goal for himself, for the team, he’s hard to stop,” McDermott said. “Every week, we’re watching an incredible player play incredibly consistent week after week and I’ll let you guys fill in the rest of the sentence.”

Bills safety Micah Hyde said it best about his quarterback when he told reporters “a Super Bowl would mean a lot more” than an MVP trophy to Allen.

“I think that his drive for that is more than what he cares about for the MVP,” Hyde said. “Actually, I know, that’s a fact.”

The 28-year-old Allen, in his seventh NFL season, has never won MVP, instead watching Jackson win it twice (2019 and last season), Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes twice and Aaron Rodgers twice.

It’s his time.

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Mark Cannizzaro  
Cannz Corner





# JETS KICKOFF

WEEK 17: JETS (4-11) AT BILLS (12-3) · HIGHMARK STADIUM

## BRIAN COSTELLO'S GANG GREEN GAME PLAN

### It's a battle of pride vs. playoff positioning



ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — The Bills are playing for playoff position. The Jets are playing out the string.

That is the matchup on Sunday in Western New York as the Jets and

Bills meet for the 128th time. The Bills (12-3) can secure the No. 2 seed in the AFC playoffs with a win. The playoff dream was dashed weeks ago for the Jets (4-11). They are now playing for pride.

Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers said this week that the team will find out who are the pros on the team by how much effort is put forth in these last two weeks against the Bills and Dolphins.

"I think sometimes you need to say things like that to remind guys how important it is to be a professional, and this is a 365-day-a-year job, at least that's how you've got to approach it to stick around in the league for a long time," Rodgers said. "I may be old, and been in 20 years and sound like a coach sometimes, but I just believe that the players that are the most motivated stick around the longest, and those players can inspire other players, so if I say something like that it's because I want guys to finish things out the right way."

The Jets are coming off a 19-9 loss to the Rams, their third game this season of scoring fewer than 10 points. They now see

a division rival that they have not beaten since Week 1 of the 2023 season. Rodgers said people will be paying attention to see how much effort the Jets give.

"If I see somebody who is not doing it the right way, then I'll say something," Rodgers said, "but the beauty is that everybody is watching, this is an audition for all of us, there's a new regime coming in, at least in the GM spot, and we've got to figure out who is going to be on the squad moving forward, and these are important times for all the guys."

The Jets are 2-8 since Robert Saleh was fired in October. It has been one of the most disappointing seasons in Jets history. Interim coach Jeff Ulbrich said this is when you learn about players and coaches.

"Adversity's a gift because it really reveals people's true identity and their true character," Ulbrich said. "When you're rolling and things are going well and you're making a push for the playoffs, and you have things to play for regarding the postseason of course you're going to get peoples best. In moments like this, it's a really opportune time to look around and see how people respond, and that's why I'm so confident we're going to finish the way that we need to finish because of the character of this locker room."

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## MARQUEE MATCHUP

### Bills QB Josh Allen vs. Jets defense

The big debate right now is whether Allen or Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson deserves the MVP award this season. The Jets will get an up-close look at Allen as he tries to bolster his candidacy against them.

Allen has struggled at times against the Jets, with 14 touchdown passes and 11 interceptions in 12 games. Even so, he has beaten them in eight of 12 meetings. The Jets defensive players know that Allen has the MVP in his sights and believe he might give them some opportunities at an interception. Several Jets discussed this week that Allen has a \$1.5 million bonus in his contract if he wins MVP, thinking he might take some chances in this game.

Jets interim coach Jeff Ulbrich said Allen has upped his game.

"I feel like he's just improved at everything that he does," Ulbrich said. "He's improved in his ability to see the field, and really understand coverage, and put the ball where it needs to go, and saying that, that's a dangerous thing, because this is a guy that can beat you in so many ways with his legs, with his off-schedule stuff, with his, he is just a true competitor, ultimate winner, and he's tough for a defense, because even when you do everything right, he can still beat you."



## COSTELLO'S CALL

The Jets played the Bills close back in October — tied in the fourth quarter before Greg Zuerlein missed a 43-yard field goal — and I think it happens again Sunday. The sloppy conditions slow down Josh Allen and the Buffalo offense and the Jets hang around before the Bills pull it out in the fourth quarter.



# SOME STINGS NEVER CHANGE



WE'VE been trying to catch up for the better part of 64 years now. The very first game the Jets — then known as the Titans — ever played was on Sept. 11, 1960. There were 10,000 people scattered about the 55,000-seat Polo Grounds that Sunday afternoon, the first pro football game played there since Nov. 27, 1955 (Giants 35, Browns 35), the first major-league game of any kind since Sept. 29, 1957 (Pirates 9, Giants 1).

That first game, with thousands of good seats available, the Titans cruised to a 27-3 victory over the Buffalo Bills thanks to two rushing touchdowns from Al Dorow, 66 yards rushing from Pete Hart and 152 passing yards and a TD from quarterback Dick Jamieson. Don Maynard had four catches for 116 yards. The defense intercepted Bills QBs

Bob Brodhead and Tommy O'Connell twice. The Titans would win again a month later, at Buffalo's old War Memorial Stadium (even then nicknamed "The Rockpile").

It was a fine way to start a long engagement with our friends to the north and the west. And it seemed in the moment that Buffalo might well serve as a fine little brother to their New York AFL rivals.

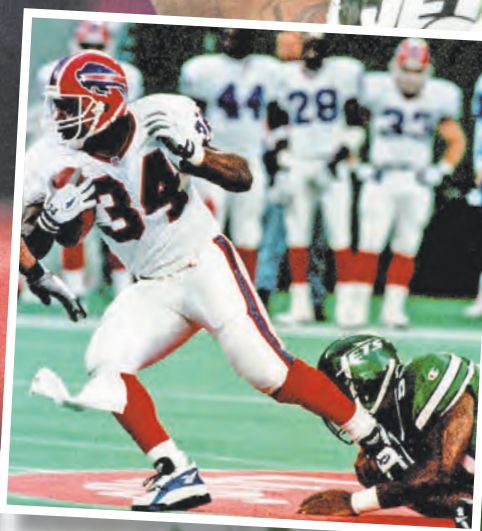
It didn't quite work out that way. For much of the time since then, the Jets have channeled Fredo Corleone: "I'm your older brother and I was STEPPED OVER!"

Even in 1968, the lone ribbon of glory in the Jets' 6 1/2 decades of misery muddled with mediocrity, the Bills took a bite out of them. Those Bills were dreadful, bound for 1-12-1 and the No. 1 pick in the draft that



Mike Vaccaro





**RUN OVER AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN!** Whether it's James Cook (left), O.J. Simpson (above, left) or Thurman Thomas (above, right), the Bills have long had their way with the Jets.

USA TODAY Sports; AP (2)

## For almost their entire intertwined histories, Jets have been beaten down by lil' bro Bills

would land them O.J. Simpson. The one win? Week 4, Sept. 29, when Buffalo picked off Joe Namath five times — three for pick-sixes — in a 37-35 stunner at the Rockpile that was the single-worst game of Namath's life.

Beyond that?

The Jets are celebrated with establishing AFL credibility by winning Super Bowl III. But it was the Bills who were the league's true dynasty, winning four straight Eastern Division titles from 1963-66 and winning back-to-back AFL titles in 1964 and '65.

Both teams have suffered through their share of dry spells, but the Bills since 1968 have experienced four separate plateaus of prosperity that dwarf anything the Jets have done in that time.

- From 1972-74, they were the most electric team in the AFC, appropriate since their fabled offensive line was dubbed the "Electric Company," as that was the unit that "turned on the juice."

- From 1979-82, following a complete

rebuild after sending Simpson home to San Francisco, Chuck Knox built them back into a division champion in 1980, and a year later knocked out the Jets at Shea Stadium in the AFC wild-card game, the first postseason game the Jets had played in 12 years.

- After another teardown, the Bills rose again starting in 1988 and proceeded to win six of the next eight AFC East titles and, more remarkably, represented the AFC in the Super Bowl four straight years, 1991-94.

- And after going 17 straight seasons without a playoff berth — and with the Jets finally making at least some inroads in this alleged rivalry, twice going to the AFC Championship game — the Bills have now been to the playoffs six straight years and seven out of eight. They've yet to make it back to the Super Bowl, but as long as they're led by one of the sport's most dynamic players — quarterback Josh Allen — it feels like only a matter of time before that happens. Feels like it'll happen some year. Maybe even this year.

Jets fans?

Well, as Fredo himself might put it: "IT AIN'T THE WAY I WANTED IT!!!"

So the teams meet Sunday in Orchard Park, and it is an effectively meaningless game for both teams, for different reasons. The Jets have been a dead team walking for 2 1/2 months. The Bills seemingly clinched the East by Columbus Day, and need to win only one of their two remaining games against the Jets and Patriots — combined record: 7-23 — to guarantee the No. 2 seed in the AFC postseason tournament.

And it's not going to get better soon. Allen is still only 28. The next quarterback of the Jets is unknown. As is the next coach. As is the next GM. We're staring at a few more years of straight up Fredoville in New York, where the clear capital of football sits on the banks of Lake Erie. Without Al Neri handy to take us out on a boat, take us to the middle of that lake, and take us out of our misery.

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## 4DOWNS

Brian Costello's keys to the game:

1

**WILSON WATCH:** Garrett Wilson did not hide his frustration after last week's loss to the Rams. Wilson was only targeted three times in the first 55 minutes of that game and he was vocal about his unhappiness afterward. This feels like a very tenuous situation for the Jets with Wilson, who is eligible for a new contract after this season. Will he ask for a trade? Will the new regime consider moving him? It is hard to believe it has gotten this far with the 24-year-old star receiver, but here we are. The Jets said this week they are looking to get him more involved.

2

**MILESTONE MARKS:** While the Jets have no playoff berth to chase, several of their players still have statistic milestones within reach. Quarterback **Aaron Rodgers** can become the fifth player in NFL history to throw 500 touchdown passes with one more. Rodgers also has the single-season Jets passing yards record in his sight. He needs 497 yards in the final two games to surpass **Joe Namath's** mark of 4,007 yards in 1967, albeit in three more games than Namath. Wilson is 13 yards from 1,000 yards this season, which would give him 1,000 yard seasons in the first three years of his career. Meanwhile, fellow wide receiver **Davante Adams** needs 72 yards to hit the 1,000-yard mark for the fifth straight season.

3

**DISASTER IN THE DIVISION:**

The Jets end the season with two more division games. They have won just one all season, their Week 3 victory over the Patriots when hopes were still high. They have been terrible in the AFC East for a long time now. The Jets are 5-23 in division games dating back to 2020. They have beaten the Bills twice, the Patriots twice and the Dolphins once in that span. Former coach **Robert Saleh** spoke about closing the gap with the Bills but it feels wider than ever. Buffalo is 23-5 in the division since 2020.

4

**OFF AND RUNNING:**

The Jets have had a terrible run game this season. They rank 31st in rushing yards, 32nd in attempts and 30th in rushing touchdowns. Last week, they had just 19 designed runs against the Rams in a close game. **Breece Hall** has not had a game this season with 20 rushing attempts. Can the Jets get the running game going this week? Well, it is supposed to be a windy, rainy day here and the Jets should lean on the running game. Hall's best game this season came in the first meeting with the Bills (18 rushes, 113 yards). If not now, when?





# GIANTS KICKOFF

WEEK 17: GIANTS (2-13) VS. COLTS (7-8) • METLIFE STADIUM

## PAUL SCHWARTZ'S BIG BLUE PLAYBOOK

### 10-game losing streak has beaten down Daboll, too



When Brian Daboll was hired, he arrived with a reputation for being outgoing, even gregarious, a wear-your-heart-on-your-sleeve kind of guy who showed his emotions on the sideline, joy and anguish on display for all to see.

Not so anymore. Oh, Daboll can erupt every now and then during a game but he plays things much more close to the vest, a cause-and-effect result of all the losing that has infiltrated his program and threatens to end his time as the head coach of the Giants after just three seasons.

Nowadays, Daboll gets in and out of press conferences, weekly Zoom interviews and postgame media sessions as quickly and superficially as possible. He is cordial but reserved, offering little or nothing in the way of perspective or insight, rarely letting his guard down. Ask him a big-picture question and you get as small-as-possible response. You want to look down the road? Daboll will take you only to that day's practice. Next season might as well be the next millennium.

There will be no hysterical perspective from Daboll when it comes to delving into any historical perspective. This week brings another potential brush with infamy, as the Giants (2-13) take a 10-game losing streak — already a franchise record — into Sunday's game against the Colts (7-8) at MetLife Stadium. The Giants are 0-8 at home and no team in NFL history has ever gone 0-9 at home in a season — a possibility only the past four seasons since the league went to a 17-game slate. It would be an ignominious black mark on this team and on Daboll, but he would not engage in discussion about it.

"Just trying to get a win here," Daboll said. "That's what we're thinking about."

It figures to be another ugly experience on what looks to be a rainy afternoon at the Meadowlands, with rows and rows of empty seats a jarring reminder that the Giants have nothing tangible to play for and are a tough watch. The fans who are in the building will no doubt be restless and plenty of them will want the Giants to compete hard — and then lose, so as not to screw up getting the No. 1 pick in the 2025 NFL Draft.

At least it looks as if Daboll, general manager Joe Schoen and co-owner John Mara will be spared the indignity of a third flyover from a small aircraft toting a banner demanding that Mara fire everyone. Expected low clouds and rain forced a New Jersey-based company that flies these planes to cancel orders because of Federal Aviation Administration regulations.

The fate of Daboll and Schoen are both in a state of flux, given how the arrow has tilted harshly down, from nine wins (plus one playoff victory) in 2022 to six wins in 2023 to this season's plummet to the worst record in the league.

One thing Daboll has not done much of is come out and rip his players when they lapse on the field, which they do on a weekly basis.

Offensive lineman Greg Van Roten, finishing up his 10th year in the NFL and his first season — and likely his last — with the Giants, said he likes Daboll "a lot" despite the lack of positive results.

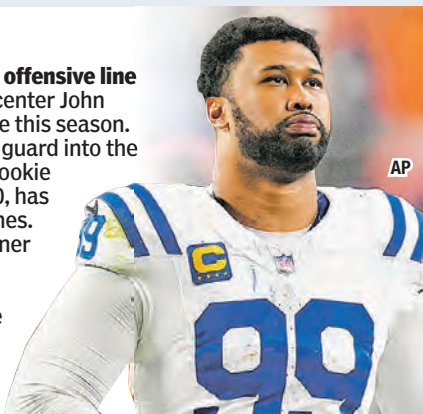
"I think he's a good coach," Van Roten said. "I came here because I am comfortable in the scheme, and I think it's a really good scheme. It just hasn't panned out the way that anybody hoped."

It has not come close to panning out, for Daboll or the Giants. And there's not much Daboll or anyone else has to say about that.

## MARQUEE MATCHUP

**Colts DT DeForest Buckner vs. Giants interior offensive line**

There is a shift up front for the Giants, with center John Michael Schmitz (ankle) missing his first game this season. That means Greg Van Roten moves from right guard into the center spot, with backups Aaron Stinnie and rookie Jake Kubas filling the guard spots. Buckner, 30, has 6.5 sacks this season despite missing five games. Since he was traded to the Colts in 2020, Buckner has more sacks (39) than any other defensive tackle in the league other than Chris Jones of the Chiefs. This is the ninth different offensive line combination this season for the Giants, matching the Patriots for the most in the league.



## PAUL'S PICK

The Colts entered the weekend in the hunt for a final playoff spot in the AFC. The Giants have been outscored 69-21 the past two weeks and it remains to be seen if their depleted and losing-weary roster can muster much in the way of a battle. If they don't gang-tackle Jonathan Taylor he will rip them to shreds. Oh, by the way, Drew Lock gets the start again at quarterback.



**FROM WORST TO FIRST:** There's never been an NFL team with an 0-9 home record in a season, but Giants fans will gladly watch the wrong kind of history Sunday at MetLife Stadium if it means securing the No. 1 pick in next year's NFL draft and the opportunity to draft Colorado's Shedeur Sanders or Miami's Cam Ward as the team's new quarterback.

N.Y. Post: Charles Wenzelberg; Imagin Images (2)



# JUST LOSE, BABY





# Completing historic 0-9 home record the next step in tank for No. 1 pick

IT HAS come to this:

Just Lose, Baby.

After all the festive and nostalgic 100th anniversary celebrations, A Night With Legends such as Bill Parcells and Lawrence Taylor, the telling of the story of The Duke: The Giant Life of Wellington Mara ... it ends at home in humiliation, one last public flogging of a once-proud franchise that has lost its way yet again.

It ends at home, but thanks to the cloudy forecast, without the prospect of another overhead plane designed to land on the runway to John Mara's anguished heart. It ends in apathy, empty seats all over MetLife Stadium. It ends with a New Year on the horizon that cannot get here fast enough.

It ends with too many Giants fans in attendance, silent or otherwise, hidden behind a brown bag or otherwise, rooting for an 11th consecutive loss and the first overall pick of the 2025 NFL Draft for

Cam Ward or Shedeur Sanders.

It ends with Just Lose, Baby.

Just Lose, Baby and become the first team to finish 0-9 at home.

This is con-

sidered a two-quarterback draft class, and the Giants are every bit as desperate for one of the two as they were when they chose Daniel Jones in 2019 to be Eli Manning's successor.

This is no time in the eyes of the fan base for the embattled Brian Daboll and

Joe Schoen to invoke Any Given Sunday against the Colts. It is too late in the game for that, and quite possibly for them.

The notion of tanking always has been anathema to Mara, and nary

a Giants player or coach will consider it. Of course, with these 2024 Giants, no such mandate is needed.

Mara had just turned 4 years old when the Giants lost 23-17 in OT to Johnny Unitas and the Baltimore Colts at Yankee Stadium in The Greatest Game Ever Played.

Mara is 70 now, and he would be the first to tell you that Giants-Colts ain't what it used to be. Unitas versus Charlie Conerly then, fill-in Joe Flacco versus Drew Lock now.

There will be no debate among true blue Giants fans over whether Manning should be a first-ballot Hall of Famer in 2025. The more pressing debates speak to a fan base in despair:

Is this The Worst Team In Giants History?

Should ownership clean house or not?

Mara was 10 when the 1966 Giants surrendered a record 501 points and finished 1-12-1. Allie Sherman, who had coached the Giants to three consecutive NFL Championship games, wound up in the crosshairs of Giants fans, who would start serenading him with choruses of "Good-bye Allie ... we hate to see you go." Until he finally went in 1969 following a blasphemous pre-

season loss to the Super Bowl III AFL Jets at the Yale Bowl.

"They paid their money," Sherman would say, "and can do what they want."

Correct. Daboll better wear earplugs — they pay a lot more money



Steve Serby

today than they did back then.

Sherman's 1966 quarterbacks: Earl Morrall, Gary Wood, Tom Kennedy.

Daboll's 2024 quarterbacks: Jones, Lock, Tommy DeVito, Tim Boyle.

Fran Tarkenton held the fort from 1967-71 following a blockbuster trade with the Vikings. From 1972-79, the Giants started seven quarterbacks — Norm Snead, Randy Johnson, Jim Del Gaizo, Craig Morton, Randy Dean, Jerry Golsteyn and Joe Pisarcik — before GM George Young used the seventh overall pick in 1979 on Morehead State quarterback Phil Simms.

Touchdown!

Super Bowls!

But then, after Simms was a shocking salary cap victim in 1994, the quarterback position would again haunt the franchise.

Young targeted Duke quarterback Dave Brown in the first round of the 1992 supplemental draft as Simms' successor.

Fumble!

It wasn't until GM Ernie Accorsi signed Kerry Collins as a free agent in 1999 that order was restored a year later when he quarterbacked the 2000 Giants into the teeth of Ray Lewis' Ravens in Super Bowl XXXVII.

Jim Fassel's 2003 Giants had lost their last eight games to finish 4-12, and armed with the fourth overall pick, Accorsi engineered the franchise-changing, draft-day trade with the Chargers for Manning for new head coach Tom Coughlin.

Touchdown!

Super Bowls!

No one can say with certainty right now that Sanders or Ward will be the right franchise quarterback to lead the Giants out of their modern-day wilderness years.

No one can say with certainty right now who will get the chance to draft him and coach him.

No one can say with certainty right now whether a different GM would want to trade down to accumulate draft equity to help fill the many roster holes that exist and sign a Justin Fields or a Kirk Cousins as a bridge quarterback instead. One more debate to occupy the shell-shocked Giants fan.

Parcells inherited a 1-15 Jets team in 1997 and moved the first overall pick to the Rams for quantity. Dick Vermeil surrendered the sixth pick, and picks in the third, fourth and seventh round, to grab left tackle Orlando Pace, who became a Hall of Famer and Super Bowl champion. James Farrior highlighted Parcells' haul.

Giants fans are putting the cart before the horse. The first overall pick has not yet been secured.

Just Lose, Baby.

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## 4DOWNS

Paul Schwartz's keys to the game:

1

**GOOD NABERS:** Another week, another loss and further evidence that **Malik Nabers** is growing throughout his rookie season. He was asked how tough it has been for him during this 10-game

losing streak and the 21-year-old did not separate his anguish from what his teammates are feeling. "It's tough on everybody," Nabers said. "It's not just tough on me. I'm continuing to keep [mentally] strong, continue to move forward, continue to try to better the team, better myself. Lead by example. I feel like that's really all we can do in this state of mind that we're going through."

2

**CATCHING ON:** **Tyrone Tracy** did not look like a running back last week against the Falcons when he ran a route that took him into the end zone, drifted to the back line to free himself and then

leaped for a catch and an impressive one-two toe-tap to stay inbounds for his first NFL touchdown reception. Tracy looked like a wide receiver on that play, which is not surprising — he was a receiver for three years at Iowa before switching to running back at Purdue.

3

**YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS:** The Giants will be in the quarterback market for the 2025 draft and teams get it wrong more often than they get it right. At the moment, it is looking more wrong

than right with **Anthony Richardson** and the Colts. Richardson, the No. 4 overall pick in 2023, was benched for two games to work on his preparation. He is a fantastic athlete but a sub-par passer, completing only 47.7 percent of his passes this season, with eight touchdown passes and 12 interceptions. Richardson was ruled out Saturday with foot and back issues, so 39-year old **Joe Flacco** will start for the Colts.

4

**RATINGS GAME:** Hello? Is there anyone out there watching? This comes as no surprise, but local viewership for the Giants is down 30 percent from last year, according to John Ourand of Puck.

This is something, considering the 2023 season (6-11) was not so hot for the Giants, who have been seen in 523,000 homes this season. For comparison purposes, the Jets are down 29 percent in local viewership from this season to last, averaging 578,000 homes. The Colts are not exactly must-see-TV for anyone outside of the Indianapolis area. How microscopic will local viewership be for this tilt?





SUNDAY

NEW YORK POST

# Sports

DECEMBER 29, 2024



NY Post photo illustration

# HOME ALONE

**With apathy at all-time high, Giants look to avoid infamy today vs. Colts**

Brian Daboll's Giants have lost 10 straight and can sink even lower today. A loss to the Colts at MetLife Stadium would make them the first team to go 0-9 at home. On the "bright" side, few are likely to attend — and another loss gets them closer to the No. 1 pick. **P. 82-83**



**GLEYBER KNEW HE WASN'T WANTED**

**PAGE 65**

**55 SAVES LIVES!**



**BRUNSON'S SEASON HIGH RESCUES KNICKS FROM EMBARRASSING LOSS IN DC**

**PAGES 74-75**

