

# SPORTS



Photos by Rich Gagnon / UND athletics  
UND gets ready for the 2022 NCAA regional against Notre Dame in MVP Arena on Thursday, March 24.

## Special teams ultimately doom UND

**Fighting Hawks had a chance to win regional semifinal on power play**

**By Brad E. Schlossman**  
Grand Forks Herald

ALBANY, N.Y. — UND didn't get much of a chance to crack Notre Dame's No. 2-ranked penalty kill Thursday night in MVP Arena.

The Fighting Hawks only had two power-play chances. But those opportunities went awry and ultimately led to Notre Dame's 2-1 overtime victory over the Fighting Hawks in the NCAA regional semifinals.

The key sequence came late in the third period.

Notre Dame forward Jack Adams was called for hooking with just 1:34 left in a 1-1 game.

On the ensuing power play, UND nearly gave up the game-winning goal short-handed — officials ruled the third period ended before Adam Karashik's shot crossed the goal line — then was forced to take a penalty to prevent a shorthanded break-away early in overtime.

"We realized that they pressure a lot, they block shots, they pressure up high," UND coach Brad Berry said. "They had seven short-handed goals before tonight. They're very aggressive."

UND started overtime with 26 seconds left on the power play. Berry said the team had a set faceoff play coming out of intermission.

"We really wanted to try to attack and make the most of the 26 seconds that were remaining on the power play," Berry said. "They made a great play to get a puck past us. We had to take a penalty on it, and the resulting goal they scored was on their power play. Specialty teams are a big difference at this time of year, and they made one more play than we did."

**Johnson shines**

At Christmas break, Berry vowed to get rookie defenseman Brent Johnson more time in the second half of the season.

That's exactly what happened — and Johnson ended up being one of the bright spots of UND's NCAA regional game.

Johnson scored his second goal of the season on a point shot and played more minutes than usual against a veteran, physical Fighting Irish team.

All signs point to an even more increased role for the Washington Capitals draft pick next season.

**Driscoll ends career on strong run**

UND fifth-year senior goaltender Zach Driscoll ended his college hockey career with another strong game.

Driscoll was excellent in making 23 saves — including eight in the second and eight in the third. His best save may have been when he moved from right to left to deny a backdoor opportunity for Irish defenseman Jake

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# SETBACK AFTER SETBACK

For Sanderson, this should have been an unforgettable season

**Albany, N.y.**

UND had a generational talent on its roster this season.

At No. 5 overall, Jake Sanderson is the second-highest NHL Draft pick to ever suit up at UND, a program that's been around for 76 years.

Jonathan Toews, who went No. 3 in 2006 before launching his Hall of Fame-bound career, is the only UND player taken higher.

Not only that, Sanderson stayed in college for a second season beyond his draft year, which has been a rarity among top-10 NHL Draft picks during the last 15 years.

Sanderson said he felt dominant for the final eight games of his freshman season, but he wanted to come back and do it for a full year before heading to the Ottawa Senators.

For Sanderson, this should have been one of the most memorable years of his hockey-playing career.

He should have been the best player the National Collegiate Hockey Conference has ever seen. He should have captained the U.S. World Junior Team aiming to defend gold, played in the Olympic Games, won the Hobey Baker Award and helped UND chase its ninth NCAA national championship.

Instead, he played in fewer than half of the NCHC games, his World Juniors was canceled, his Olympics started late due to COVID-19 and ended early due to an injury, he missed the Penrose Cup-winning night, the NCHC Frozen Faceoff and ultimately the NCAA tournament.

When he was in the lineup, Sanderson was as advertised. He was electric and put on a show nearly every night.



**BRAD E. SCHLOSSMAN**  
Sports writer

Going into the playoffs, no defenseman in the nation had more points per game than Sanderson.

He might be the best blue liner to ever played at UND — and UND had James Patrick.

But it was setback after setback for the defenseman from Montana. He sustained three different injuries and two different illnesses.

The run of bad luck started in the first half of the season.

Sanderson missed two games in November because of the flu. He missed two more in December because of an injury. He contracted COVID-19 on his way to the Olympic Games in January. In his first Olympic game, he sustained an injury that kept him out of the Olympic playoffs and the rest of college hockey's regular season.

Sanderson finally came back the first weekend of March and promptly suffered a season-ending injury. He played in two of UND's final 14 games of the season.

"Obviously, we want him in our lineup and we missed him dearly," UND coach Brad Berry said. "But at the end of the day, I don't think there's anyone who feels worse than Jake Sanderson."

Sanderson will soon sign with the Ottawa Senators, officially ending his college career. His last play at UND will epitomize his time in Grand Forks.

It was the final minute of Game 2 against Colorado College on March 5. The



UND players sit on their bench during the 2022 NCAA regional in MVP Arena in Albany, N.Y.

Tigers had a 6-on-4 advantage with their goalie pulled. Colorado College got a puck behind UND goalie Zach Driscoll in the crease area.

Sanderson saw the goal-mouth scramble starting, sprinted toward the crease and dove head-first to try to keep the puck out of the net. He did, but in the process, Tiger defenseman Bryan Yoon accidentally stepped on Sanderson's hand, slicing it so badly that he needed an operation.

"With his injury that he sustained in his last game at home, he very easily could have jetted off to Ottawa right away and his pro career could have taken off," Berry said. "He made an effort to stay around our guys and be a part of our family here. That says a lot about Jake Sanderson. He's going to have a very successful and fruitful career in front of him. But I'll tell you what, I think his impact that he left here in a short amount of time, we'll remember that."

Sanderson rebuffed any idea that he would leave his team midseason.

He spent the last few weeks watching practice every day next to Gavin Hain, who

suffered a season-ending injury in January.

Sanderson's absence was especially evident during UND's 2-1 overtime loss to Notre Dame in the NCAA regional semifinal Thursday in MVP Arena.

The Fighting Irish are annually one of college hockey's best defensive teams, clogging the neutral zone and making offense difficult to generate. Consider: During the last three meetings with Michigan and its seven first-round NHL Draft picks, the Wolverines only managed four goals combined.

UND had two players in its lineup this season that could generate offense at the drop of a hat. One was Riese Gaber, who did everything he could to will UND to a win Thursday night against Notre Dame. Gaber accounted for nine of UND's 24 shots on goal and he drew a penalty shot.

The other dazzling offensive talent was Sanderson, who didn't play.

Could he have made the difference Thursday night? Could he have had a grand finale in college hockey the

**SETBACK:** Page B3



Brad Rempel / University of Minnesota Athletics

Minnesota star forward Ben Meyers popped a shot past UMass goalie Matt Murray in overtime as the Gophers rallied to beat the Minutemen 4-3 in their NCAA tournament opener on Friday, at the DCU Center in Worcester, Mass.

## Gophers rally for overtime win over UMass

**By Jess Myers**  
Grand Forks Herald

WORCESTER, Mass. — In the run-up to Friday's NCAA first round meeting between Minnesota and UMass, Minutemen coach Greg Carvel joked that he had no interest in seeing Gophers star Ben Meyers on the ice. For good measure, he added that if Gophers coach Bob Motzko would take freshman wunderkind Matthew Knies out of the lineup as well, it would be appreciated.

Then they got on the ice, and Carvel's worst fears came true. The Gophers trailed throughout, until Knies got a power play goal in the third period to tie the game, and Meyers

scored the winner in overtime, lifting the Gophers to a 4-3 win over UMass and a chance to earn a Frozen Four trip.

After trailing 2-0 and 3-1 in front of a boldly partisan pro-UMass crowd, the Gophers survived and will now face Western Michigan on Sunday with the winner advancing to the Frozen Four in Boston.

"I felt we grew in the game and I'm really proud of our group because we battled tonight," Motzko said, after his team advanced to the regional final for the second consecutive year. "The only way you beat UMass is you've got to match that grit ... We like a little prettier hockey,

but we've got to learn to win games like that. We're growing as a team."

The Gophers (25-12-0) got a first period goal from Ryan Johnson and one in the second from Tristan Broz to keep the Minutemen from pulling away as UMass took 2-0 and 3-1 leads. On their second power play of the game, in the third, Knies knocked down a UMass clearing attempt then popped a shot over the shoulder of UMass goalie Matt Murray to forge the tie.

Justen Close had 20 saves in the win for the Gophers, who are seeking their first Frozen Four trip since 2014.

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SCOREBOARD

MEN'S HOCKEY

**NCAA tournament**  
First round  
**Albany (New York) Regional**  
**Saturday's regional championship**  
MSU Mankato vs. Notre Dame, 5:30 p.m.  
**Allentown (Pennsylvania) Regional**  
**Friday's results**  
Michigan 5, American International 3  
Quinnipiac 5, St. Cloud State 4  
**Sunday's regional championship**  
Quinnipiac vs. Michigan, 3 or 5:30 p.m.  
**Loveland (Colorado) Regional**  
**Saturday's regional championship**  
Minnesota Duluth vs. Denver, 3 p.m.  
**Worcester (Massachusetts) Regional**  
**Friday's results**  
Western Michigan 2, Northeastern 1, OT

**Minnesota 4, UMass 3, OT**  
First period — 1. UMA, Reed Lebster EA (Cal Kieffuk, Ryan Ufko) 14:09; 2. UMA, Garrett Wait PP (Ufko, Bobby Trivigno) 15:05; 3. UM, Ryan Johnson (Ben Meyers, Matthew Knies) 18:02  
Second period — 4. UMA, Lebster (Kieffuk, Anthony Del Gaizo) 1:24; 5. UM, Tristan Broz (Jaxon Nelson, Rhett Piliuk) 17:09  
Third period — 6. UM, Knies PP 13:17  
Overtime — 7. UM, Meyers (Aaron Hugen, Nelson) 8:31  
Goalie saves — UMA: Matt Murray 20; UM: Justen Close 20  
**Sunday's regional championship**  
Western Michigan vs. Minnesota, 3 or 5:30 p.m.

**Frozen Four**  
**In Boston**  
**Thursday, April 7**  
Allentown Regional Champion vs. Loveland Regional Champion; Worcester Regional Champion vs. Albany Regional Champion, times TBD  
**Saturday, April 9**  
National championship, 7 p.m.

BOYS BASKETBALL

**Minn. Class A tournament**  
**Friday's semifinals**  
Hayfield 72, Cherry 61  
Belgrade-Broeten-Elrosa 55, New Life Academy 53  
**Saturday's games**  
**At Concordia-St. Paul**  
Consolation championship, Sacred Heart vs. Russel-Tyler-Ruthton, 8 a.m.  
Third place, 10 a.m.  
**At Williams Arena**  
Championship, Hayfield vs. Belgrade-Broeten-Elrosa, 11 a.m.  
**Minn. Class AA tournament**  
**Friday's semifinals**  
**At Williams Arena**  
Minneapolis North 71, Morris Area 63  
Annandale 62, Caledonia 55  
**Saturday's championship**  
**At Williams Arena**  
Minneapolis North vs. Annandale, 1 p.m.

PREP TRACK & FIELD

N.D. Class A state indoor meet

**In Fargo, Friday**  
**Girls**  
**Team totals**  
1. Fargo Davies 125, 2. Bismarck Century 95, 3. Bismarck 60, 4. West Fargo 46, 5. Fargo North 36, 6. Red River 32.50, 7. Fargo Shanley 29, 8. Bismarck Legacy 28, 9. (tie) Mandan and Jamestown 26, 11. Minot 22, 12. West Fargo Sheyenne 21, 13. (tie) Valley City and Williston 11, 15. Bismarck St. Mary's 6, 16. Fargo South 5.50, 17. Devils Lake 5  
**Winners and GF top 5**  
60 dash — 1. Cece Deebom, FD, 7.75  
200 dash — 1. Deebom, FD, 25.85  
400 dash — 1. Erin Palmer, BCEN, 56.85; 2. Jocelyn Schiller, RR, 1:00.32; 4. Morgan Hartze, RR, 1:03.66  
800 run — 1. Acey Elkins, MAN, 2:25.53  
1,600 run — 1. Eleno Lovgren, WIL, 5:24.60  
3,200 run — 1. Elle S'Ondag, FN, 11:21.81  
60 hurdles — 1. Deebom, FD, 9.08  
4x200 relay — 1. Fargo Davies 1:49.20  
4x400 relay — 1. Fargo Davies 4:15.27; 5. Red River 4:21.07  
4x800 — 1. Red River 10:11.04  
High jump — 1. Hope Stein, BCEN, 5-03.00  
Pole vault — 1. Isabelle Snyder, FSH, 9-03.00  
Long jump — 1. Deebom, FD, 18-03.25  
Triple jump — 1. Stein, BCEN, 36-10.00  
Shot put — 1. Anthonett Nabwe, JAM, 44-11.00  
**Boys**  
**Team totals**  
1. Bismarck Century 112, 2. Bismarck 79, 3. Bismarck Legacy 76, 4. Fargo Davies 48.33, 5. West Fargo Sheyenne 48, 6. Minot 38, 7. Fargo North 35.33, 8. Red River 34, 9. GF Central 32, 10. West Fargo 24, 11. Fargo South 20.33, 12. Jamestown 14, 13. Devils Lake 12, 14. Fargo Shanley 6, 15. Mandan 3, 16. Valley City 2, 17. Bismarck St. Mary's 1  
**Winners and GF top 5**  
60 dash — 1. Dawson Hawkinson, BIS, 6.98

200 dash — 1. Hawkinson, BIS, 22.63; 4. Carter Elde, GFC, 23.14  
400 dash — 1. Cayden Kraft, BLEG, 53.83  
800 run — 1. Brady Korsmo, BIS, 2:04.13; 5. Elijah Dafeo, RR, 2:07.94  
1,600 run — 1. Owen Sondag, FN, 4:24.47; 3. Hunter McHenry, RR, 4:28.13  
3,200 run — 1. Sondag, FN, 9:36.60; 3. McHenry, RR, 9:43.38  
60 hurdles — 1. Brooks Turner, BCEN, 8.40; 3. Elde, GFC, 8.56  
4x200 relay — 1. Bismarck 1:34.25; 5. Red River 1:36.59  
4x400 relay — 1. Fargo South 3:32.05; 2. GF Central 3:34.47  
4x800 relay — 1. Minot 8:43.52  
High jump — 1. Ryan Brynjolfson, BCEN, 6-00.00; 3. Angel Lopez, GFC, 6-00.00  
Pole vault — 1. Katon Reinke, MIN, 13-00.00; 5. Ryaan Alshami, GFC, 11-00.00  
Long jump — 1. Hudson Schroeder, BIS, 21-04.50  
Triple jump — 1. Anthony Brown, MIN, 42-04.50  
Shot put — 1. Jacob Burckhard, BCEN, 56-00.00

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

**UND football**  
**2022 home schedule with start times**  
Sept. 10 — Northern Iowa, 3 p.m. (Potato Bowl)  
Oct. 1 — Missouri State, noon, (Hall of Fame, homecoming)  
Oct. 22 — South Dakota State, 3 p.m. (#SetTheExpectation)  
Oct. 29 — Abilene Christian, 3 p.m. (Youth Day)  
Nov. 12 — South Dakota, noon (Senior Day/Military Appreciation)

COLLEGE TRACK AND FIELD

**Ulseth earns honor**  
UND's Elise Ulseth was named the Summit League Women's Indoor Field Athlete of the Year, the league office announced Friday. Ulseth is the first Fighting Hawk to earn athlete of the year honors since North Dakota joined the Summit League.  
Ulseth made headlines at the 2022 Summit League Indoor Championships, winning the pentathlon title with a school record of 4,080 points. She became the first Fighting Hawk to eclipse the 4,000-point mark in the pentathlon and gained Indoor All-Summit League honors with her finish. At the conclusion of the indoor season, Ulseth's point total ranked 21st nationally.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

**Big Ten**  
**Friday's result**  
Rutgers 9, Minnesota 2

COLLEGE BASEBALL

**Summit League**  
**Friday's result**  
N.D. State 20, Northern Colorado 3  
**Big Ten**  
**Friday's result**  
Minnesota 11, Western Illinois 4  
**North Star**  
**Friday's results**  
Dakota State 3-6, Mayville State 2-4

WOMEN'S TENNIS

**Friday's results**  
Michigan 5, Minnesota 2  
Minnesota Crookston 7, Bethany Lutheran 0

BASKETBALL

Professional				
NBA				
Eastern Conference				
Atlantic				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Philadelphia	45	27	.625	—
Boston	46	28	.622	—
Toronto	41	32	.562	4.5
Brooklyn	38	35	.521	7.5
New York	32	42	.432	14.0
Central				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Milwaukee	46	27	.630	—
Chicago	42	31	.575	4.0
Cleveland	41	32	.562	5.0
Indiana	25	49	.338	21.5
Detroit	20	54	.270	26.5
Southeast				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Miami	47	27	.635	—
Charlotte	38	36	.514	9.0
Atlanta	37	37	.500	10.0
Washington	31	42	.425	15.0

**LOCAL CALENDAR**  
Boys basketball  
EGF Sacred Heart vs. Russell-Tyler-Ruthton, Minn. state tournament, 8 a.m., St. Paul  
Men's track and field  
North Dakota at Texas Relays, Austin  
North Dakota at Raleigh Relays, Raleigh, N.C.  
North Dakota at Bobcat Invitational, San Marcos, Texas  
Women's track and field  
North Dakota at Texas Relays, Austin  
North Dakota at Raleigh Relays, Raleigh, N.C.  
North Dakota at Bobcat Invitational, San Marcos, Texas  
College softball  
North Dakota at Kansas City, noon  
Men's tennis  
North Dakota at Air Force, 1 p.m.  
Women's tennis  
Kansas City at North Dakota, 4 p.m.

TODAY'S TV/RADIO

Auto racing:  
Formula One: Saudi Arabian Grand Prix qualifying, 11:55 a.m., ESPN2  
NASCAR Camping World Truck Series: XPEL 225, noon, FS1  
NASCAR Xfinity Series: Pit Boss 250, 3:30 p.m., FS1  
Baseball:  
College: Rutgers at Penn State, 4 p.m., BTN  
Basketball:  
College women: NCAA Tournament regional semifinal, 10:30 a.m., ESPN  
College women: NCAA Tournament regional semifinal, 12:30 p.m., ESPN  
College men: NCAA Division II championship, 2 p.m., CBS  
College women: NCAA Tournament regional semifinal, 3 p.m., ESPN2  
College men: NCAA tournament regional final, 5 p.m., TBS  
College women: NCAA Tournament regional semifinal, 5:30 p.m., ESPN2  
NBA: Brooklyn at Miami, 7 p.m., NBATV  
College men: NCAA tournament regional final, 7:30 p.m., TBS  
Golf:  
PGA Tour: WGC-Dell Technologies match play, 9 a.m., GOLF  
PGA Tour: WGC-Dell Technologies match play, 1 p.m., NBC  
PGA Tour: Corales Puntacana Resort Championship, 1 p.m., GOLF  
LPGA Tour: JTBC Classic, 4 p.m., GOLF  
Hockey:  
NHL: Chicago at Vegas, 2:10 p.m., ABC  
Lacrosse:  
College women: Northwestern at Michigan, 11 a.m., BTN  
College women: Penn State at Ohio State, 1:30 p.m., BTN  
Martial Arts:  
UFC Fight Nights, 6 p.m., ESPN  
Rugby:  
Major League Rugby: Houston Sabercats at Utah Warriors, 6 p.m., FS1  
Softball:  
College: LSU at Arkansas, 7:30 p.m., ESPN2

Orlando	20	54	.270	27.0
Western Conference				
Northwest				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Utah	45	29	.608	—
Denver	43	31	.581	2.0
Minnesota	43	32	.573	2.5
Portland	27	45	.375	17.0
Oklahoma City	21	52	.288	23.5

Pacific				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Phoenix	60	14	.811	—
Golden State	48	26	.649	12.0
L.A. Clippers	36	38	.486	24.0
L.A. Lakers	31	42	.425	28.5
Sacramento	26	48	.351	34.0

Southwest				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Memphis	51	23	.689	—
Dallas	45	29	.608	6.0
New Orleans	31	42	.425	19.5
San Antonio	29	44	.397	21.5
Houston	18	55	.247	32.5

**Thursday's Games**  
Toronto 117, Cleveland 104  
Memphis 133, Indiana 103  
Milwaukee 114, Washington 102  
New Orleans 126, Chicago 109  
Phoenix 140, Denver 130  
**Friday's Games**  
Charlotte 107, Utah 101  
Washington 100, Detroit 97  
Atlanta 121, Golden State 110  
New York 111, Miami 103  
Minnesota 116, Dallas 95  
Houston at Portland, 9 p.m.  
Philadelphia at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.  
**Saturday's Games**  
San Antonio at New Orleans, 4 p.m.  
Sacramento at Orlando, 6 p.m.  
Indiana at Toronto, 6:30 p.m.  
Chicago at Cleveland, 7 p.m.  
Brooklyn at Miami, 7 p.m.  
Milwaukee at Memphis, 7 p.m.  
Oklahoma City at Denver, 8 p.m.  
Houston at Portland, 9 p.m.  
**Sunday's Games**  
New York at Detroit, 2:30 p.m.

Minnesota at Boston, 5 p.m.  
Golden State at Washington, 5 p.m.  
Philadelphia at Phoenix, 5 p.m.  
L.A. Lakers at New Orleans, 6 p.m.  
Charlotte at Brooklyn, 6:30 p.m.  
Utah at Dallas, 6:30 p.m.

**College Men**  
**Friday's College Basketball Scores**  
**MIDWEST**  
Kansas 66, Providence 61  
Saint Peter's 67, Purdue 64  
**WEST**  
North Carolina 73, UCLA 66

**Women**  
**Friday's College Basketball Scores**  
**SOUTH**  
Texas 66, Ohio St. 63  
South Carolina 69, North Carolina 61  
**MIDWEST**  
Creighton 76, Iowa State 68  
**WEST**  
Stanford 72, Maryland 66

HOCKEY

Professional						
NHL						
Eastern Conference						
Atlantic Division						
	GP	W	LOTSOPts	GF	GA	
Florida	63	43	14	2	4	92 258 183
Toronto	63	40	18	4	1	85 232 191
Boston	64	40	19	3	2	85 194 171
Tampa Bay	63	39	18	2	4	84 209 180
Detroit	64	26	31	5	2	59 186 240
Buffalo	65	23	33	7	2	55 174 227
Ottawa	64	23	36	4	1	51 167 209
Montreal	64	17	37	9	1	44 163 242
Metropolitan Division						
	GP	W	LOTSOPts	GF	GA	
Carolina	64	42	15	5	2	91 209 154

Pittsburgh	66	39	17	4	6	88	214	177
NY Rangers	65	41	19	3	2	87	198	168
Washington	66	36	20	8	2	82	220	188
Columbus	65	32	29	2	2	68	214	243
NY Islanders	62	28	25	3	6	65	170	168
Philadelphia	65	21	33	7	4	63	167	228
New Jersey	64	23	36	1	4	51	197	233
Western Conference								
Central Division								
GP	W	LOTSOPts	GF	GA				
Colorado	65	46	14	4	1	97	251	181
Minnesota	62	38	20	0	4	80	231	198
St. Louis	63	35	19	6	3	79	224	180
Nashville	65	37	24	2	2	78	212	190
Dallas	63	36	24	1	2	75	188	188
Winnipeg	66	31	25	6	4	72	207	206
Chicago	65	24	32	7	2	57	175	224
Arizona	64	20	40	0	4	44	166	232

**Pacific Division**  
**GP W LOTSOPts GF GA**  
Calgary 64 39 17 8 0 86 222 155  
Los Angeles 66 35 22 6 3 79 191 186  
Edmonton 65 36 24 5 0 77 222 206  
Vegas 67 35 28 3 1 74 211 202  
Vancouver 66 31 26 6 3 71 188 190  
Anaheim 66 27 28 6 5 65 188 214  
San Jose 64 28 28 6 2 64 169 203  
Seattle 64 20 38 5 1 46 168 228  
**Wednesday's Games**  
Toronto 3, New Jersey 2  
Buffalo 4, Pittsburgh 3, SO  
Vancouver 3, Colorado 1  
Chicago 4, Anaheim 2  
**Thursday's Games**  
Boston 3, Tampa Bay 2  
Florida 4, Montreal 3  
Dallas 4, Carolina 3, SO  
NY Islanders 5, Detroit 2  
Philadelphia 5, St. Louis 2  
Minnesota 3, Vancouver 2, OT  
Ottawa 5, Winnipeg 1  
Edmonton 5, San Jose 2  
Vegas 6, Nashville 1  
Chicago 4, Los Angeles 3, SO  
**Friday's Games**  
Washington 4, Buffalo 3, SO  
NY Rangers 5, Pittsburgh 1  
Winnipeg 4, Columbus 3, OT  
Calgary 4, Arizona 2  
Colorado 6, Philadelphia 3  
**Saturday's Games**  
NY Islanders at Boston, 11:30 a.m.  
Tampa Bay at Detroit, 11:30 a.m.  
Chicago at Vegas, 2 p.m.  
Vancouver at Dallas, 6 p.m.  
Toronto at Montreal, 6 p.m.  
Florida at Ottawa, 6 p.m.  
New Jersey at Washington, 6 p.m.  
Carolina at St. Louis, 7 p.m.  
Columbus at Minnesota, 7 p.m.  
Edmonton at Calgary, 9 p.m.  
Seattle at Los Angeles, 9:30 p.m.  
Anaheim at San Jose, 9:30 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

**Friday**  
**Baseball**  
**American League**  
Boston Red Sox - Claimed RHP Ralph Garza off waivers from the Minnesota Twins, optioned him to Worcester (IL).  
Assigned 2B Nick Yorke to the Boston Red Sox.  
Assigned C Roldani Baldwin to the Boston Red Sox.  
Assigned 3B Alex Binelas, CF Stephen Scott, SS Matthew Lugo, and SS Marcelo Mayer to the Boston Red Sox.  
Designated RHP Kyle Tyler for assignment.  
Chicago White Sox - Claimed LHP Yoan Aybar off waivers from the New York Yankees.  
Cleveland Guardians - Assigned SS Jose Devers, SS Marcos Gonzalez, and SS Milan Tolentino to the Cleveland Guardians.  
Detroit Tigers - Assigned RHP Brad Bass and C Pedro Garcia to the Detroit Tigers.  
Houston Astros - Assigned LF Joey Loperfido to the Houston Astros.  
Assigned C Colton Shaver to the Houston Astros.  
Optioned LHP Johnathan Bermudez, RHP Shawn Dubin, and RHP Tyler Ivkey to Sugar Land (PCL).  
Signed 2B Franklin Barreto to a minor league contract.  
Kansas City Royals - Assigned LF Tucker Bradley to the Kansas City Royals.  
Los Angeles Angels - Assigned C Straton Podaras and RHP Greg Veliz to the Los Angeles Angels.  
Signed C Max Stassi to a three-year, \$17.5 million contract extension.  
Minnesota Twins - Assigned LF Elijah Greene and SS Mikey Perez to the Minnesota Twins.  
New York Yankees - Assigned RHP Barrett Lloseke, C Hemmanuel Rosario, SS Benjamin Cowles, and RF Raimfer Salinas to the New York Yankees.  
Oakland Athletics - Signed C Stephen Vogt to a one-year contract.  
Seattle Mariners - Assigned SS Connor Hoover to the Seattle Mariners.  
Assigned CF Colin Davis and C Freudy Batista to the Seattle Mariners.  
Signed RHP Sergio Romo to a one-year, \$2 million contract.  
Tampa Bay Rays - Assigned C Blake Hunt and C Luis Leon to the Tampa Bay Rays.  
Signed RHP Luke Bard to a minor league contract.  
Texas Rangers - Activated LHP John King.  
Assigned LF Carl Chester, 1B Jake Guenther, and RHP Fernery Ozuna to the Texas Rangers.  
**National League**  
Arizona Diamondbacks - Activated RHP Ian Kennedy.  
Assigned SS Jose Curpa to the Arizona Diamondbacks.  
Optioned LF Stuart Fairchild, RHP Humberto Mejia, and RHP Ryan Weiss to Reno (PCL).  
Chicago Cubs - Assigned SS Cam Balego, SS Reginald Preciado, and 3B James Triantos to the Chicago Cubs.  
Cincinnati Reds - Assigned RHP Jared Solomon to the Chattanooga (SL).  
Optioned LF Allan Cerda and RHP James Marinaro to Chattanooga (SL).  
Colorado Rockies - Acquired RF Randal Grichuk and cash considerations from the Toronto Blue Jays for RF Raimel Tapia and 2B Adrian Pinto.  
Assigned 3B Kyle Dattres to the Colorado Rockies.  
Assigned 2B Hunter Stovall and C Braxton Fulford to the Colorado Rockies.  
Optioned RHP Ryan Feltner, LHP Helcris Olivarez, LHP Ryan Rolison, and 3B Ryan Vilade to Albuquerque (PCL).  
Los Angeles Dodgers - Assigned 2B Omar Estevez to the Los Angeles Dodgers.  
Assigned 3B Justin Yurchak, SS Leonel Valera, CF Jose Ramos, C Hamlet Marte, RHP Reyes Moronta, RHP Jose Adames, and RHP Shane Greene to the Los Angeles Dodgers.  
Signed manager Dave Roberts to a multi-year contract extension.  
Signed CF Kevin Pillar to a one-year, \$2.5 million contract.  
Miami Marlins - Activated 1B Lewin Diaz.  
Optioned RF Jerar Encarnacion to Pensacola (SL).  
Outrighted CF Monte Harrison to Jacksonville (IL).  
Milwaukee Brewers - Assigned SS Yeison Coca and C Xavier Warren to the Milwaukee Brewers.  
New York Mets - Assigned SS Jaylen Palmer to the New York Mets.  
Assigned C Matt O'Neill, RHP R.J. Alvarez, and RHP Garrison Bryant to the New York Mets.  
Philadelphia Phillies - Assigned RHP Andrew Brown and CF Hunter Markwardt to the Philadelphia Phillies.  
Pittsburgh Pirates - Assigned LF Randy Romero and LF Connor Scott to the Pittsburgh Pirates.  
Optioned CF Jack Suwinski, SS Llover Peguero, and SS Tucupita Marcano to Indianapolis (IL).  
San Francisco Giants - Assigned RF Frankie Tostado to the San Francisco Giants.  
Assigned 3B Shane Matheny, SS Abdiel Ladera, RHP Ryan Walker, RHP Nick Morreale, and RHP Brooks Crawford to the San Francisco Giants.  
Optioned RHP Yunior Marte, RHP Randy Rodriguez, and RHP Gregory Santos to Sacramento (PCL).  
Washington Nationals - Assigned SS Jackson Flores, C Jake Sullivan, and LF Cody Wilson to the Washington Nationals.  
**Football**  
**National Football League**  
Atlanta Falcons - Signed WR Kha'Darel Hodge to a one-year contract.  
Signed QB Marcus Mariota to a two-year, \$18.75 million contract.  
Signed DB Erik Harris.  
Carolina Panthers - Signed DB Juston Burris.  
Cleveland Browns - Signed QB Jacoby Brissett to a one-year, \$4.65 million contract.  
Signed LB Anthony Walker to a one-year, \$5 million contract.  
Dallas Cowboys - Signed DB Jayron Kearse to a two-year, \$10 million contract.  
Detroit Lions - Signed LB Jarrad Davis.  
Houston Texans - Signed RB Royce Freeman to a one-year, \$1.19 million contract.  
Signed RB Andy Janovich to a one-year, \$3.3 million contract.  
Kansas City Chiefs - Signed WR Marquez Valdes-Scantling to a three-year, \$30 million contract.  
Las Vegas Raiders - Cut DB Natrell Jamerson and WR Javon Wims.  
Signed LB Jayon Brown, G Jermaine Eluemunor, and DB Duron Harmon.  
Waived DB Jordan Brown, DT P.J. Johnson, and T William Sweet.  
Miami Dolphins - Signed T Terron Armstead to a five-year, \$75 million contract.  
New Orleans Saints - Signed DB Daniel Sorensen to a one-year contract.  
New York Giants - Signed WR Richie James to a one-year contract.  
Pittsburgh Steelers - Signed DB Ahkelio Witherspoon to a two-year contract.  
San Francisco 49ers - Signed DE Kerry Hyder Jr. to a one-year, \$1.5 million contract.  
Signed DB Dontae Johnson.  
Tennessee Titans - Signed RB Dontrell Hilliard.  
**Basketball**  
**National Basketball Association**  
Detroit Pistons - Signed SF Braxton Key to a 10-day contract.  
Miami Heat - Signed SG Mychal Mulder to a two-way contract.  
Portland Trail Blazers - Signed PF Drew Eubanks and PG Kris Dunn to a second 10-day contract.  
**NCAA Basketball**  
Ball St. - Named Michael Lewis head coach.  
Massachusetts - Named Frank Martin head coach.  
Murray St. - Named Steve Prohm head coach.  
Ohio St. - Announced F.E.J. Liddell will enter the NBA draft.

Dodgers reach 3-year extension with Dave Roberts

The Los Angeles Dodgers and manager Dave Roberts reached an agreement on a contract extension Friday.

The club did not announce terms, but it's a reported three-year extension that takes Roberts through the 2025 season. Roberts was in the final year of his previous deal.

"I'm very happy to have the opportunity to continue leading this great team into the future," Roberts said in a statement. "To be able to wear the Dodgers uniform, and represent this world-class organization on and off the field, is truly an honor. From the players to the front office staff, every single person affiliated with the club has played a vital role in the team's success throughout my tenure. I look forward to continuing our quest to be the best in baseball each and every year."

Roberts is 542-329 in six seasons as Dodgers skipper. He has one World Series (2020) title and three National League pennants (2017, 2018,

2020) on his resume.

Under Roberts, the Dodgers lost to eventual World Series champion Atlanta in the NLCS in 2021, lost in the Divisional Series to Washington in 2019 and lost in the NLCS to Chicago in 2016, his first season as skipper. He was named NL Manager of the Year in 2016.

The move comes a day after Roberts guaranteed the Dodgers would win the World Series in 2022.

"We are winning the World Series in 2022," Roberts said Thursday on the 'Dan Patrick Show.' "We will win the World Series this year ... put in on record."

Ohio State's E.J. Liddell declares for NBA draft

Ohio State and two-time All-Big Ten forward E.J. Liddell announced Friday that he will forgo his final season of eligibility and declare for the 2022 NBA Draft.



# Duran’s quickest path to bigs is through bullpen

**By Betsy Helfand**  
St. Paul Pioneer Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Had Jhoan Duran not gotten hurt last season, there’s a chance the Twins would have gotten their first look at the hard-throwing pitching prospect in major league action then.

Instead, he spent most of the season off the field. After the start to his year was delayed by trapezius tightness, Duran returned in May, throwing in five games for the Triple-A Saints. Those five games — just 16 innings — comprised his entire season. An elbow strain in June landed him on the injured list, and he never returned.

But now, Duran is healthy and trying to make a case for a roster spot — one that would come almost assuredly out of the bullpen after nearly two full years (COVID-19 wiped out



Duran

the 2020 minor-league season) with virtually no game action.

“I wouldn’t put him in a box, saying he’s going down soon and that’s the end of it. We’re going to keep letting him pitch and let him show us what he is right now,” manager Rocco Baldelli said. “I think he’s getting to that point in his career where he’s right on the brink of helping a big-league team win a lot of games. He’s got a ton of ability, and I think he’s still growing. He’s still figuring this thing out, but he’s in a real good spot.”

The 24-year-old has thrown four scoreless innings this spring in two relief appearances. Thursday, he threw four pitches either at or above 100 miles per hour, and one at

99.9 mph.

“I’m trying to be consistent with all my pitches, my mechanics, with everything that I need to be consistent with and hopefully establish myself in the big leagues this year,” he said.

While Duran said Thursday he hadn’t been spoken to about his potential role, he expressed flexibility to pitch in whatever role was asked of him. And if that path is through the bullpen for the Twins’ No. 6 prospect per MLB Pipeline, a debut could come sooner rather than later.

“I know he’s missed some time with injuries, but he’s got a ton of ability,” Baldelli said. “He’s handled himself very well in camp.”

**Debut time**

Shortstop Carlos Correa, whose deal with the Twins became official on Tuesday, is

scheduled to appear in his first exhibition game as a Twin on Sunday at Hammond Stadium, Baldelli said.

The Twins have Monday off and Baldelli said Correa may come in for a light workout. After playing, they’ll assess how he’s feeling but most likely Correa will be back on the field on Tuesday after the off day.

“It’s more about him seeing the baseball, starting to kind of ramp his body into shape where he can go out there and do all the things he needs to do,” Baldelli said. “That’s what the lives (live hitting) are all about, especially with the number of at-bats and lives that he’s going to have kind of wedged between now and the end of camp.”

Correa has been taking live batting practice since joining the Twins. He said Wednesday that while he normally

sees live at-bats during the offseason, he didn’t want to risk getting hit by a pitch or suffering an injury while unsigned.

Pitcher Sonny Gray, another Twins newcomer, is expected to make his first start on Monday. Though the major-league team has the day off, Gray is expected to throw multiple innings to catcher Ryan Jeffers in front of pitching coach Wes Johnson in a minor-league game.

**Briefly**

Baldelli said third base prospect **Jose Miranda** was doing OK after getting hit in the jaw by a ball while on his way to first base in the Twins’ 2-1 loss to the Pirates on Friday at LECOM Park in Bradenton. Baldelli said Miranda did not have a concussion, though he did have some seam marks on his face as a result of the incident.

# Roster decisions coming soon for Twins with lockout aftereffects playing a role

**By Betsy Helfand**  
St. Paul Pioneer Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. — The Twins whittled down the number of players in camp by six on Wednesday, optioning a group of pitchers to the minors in their first round of cuts. A total of 53 players still remain, though, and with less than two weeks to go before Opening Day at Target Field, there are plenty of decisions to be made — and fast.

As a result of the lockout, a number of different things must be taken under consideration. Position players are trying to squeeze in as many at-bats as they possibly can in a limited amount of time, but pitchers, primarily, are most affected, with many starters not expected to be fully stretched out by opening day.

To account for that, Major League Baseball is expected to announce temporary expanded rosters from Opening Day until May 1. Rather than 26 players, rosters will have 28 for the month of April, changing

the way teams construct their rosters and make their determinations.

“Player health, no matter what, the health of the players is of the highest importance,” Twins manager Rocco Baldelli said. “We’re going to end up carrying some more pitchers than we normally would, and I would guess that most teams will do the same.”

Baldelli said the Twins weren’t really looking at a set number of pitchers — it could be 15, it could be more.

Twins starters are in various stages of the process as they use their time in Florida to get stretched out. Bailey Ober, at one end, threw 44 pitches in three innings on Friday. He’s likely the team’s most-stretched out starter at this point. Sonny Gray, at the other end, has yet to appear in game action yet, though that’s supposed to happen on Monday in a minor-league game.

“I think the fact that you have the potential for 15 or more arms on

your staff, I think that’s a good idea,” Baldelli said. “I think teams are going to take advantage of that in a good way.”

In concert with this, the Twins are preparing their relief pitchers to be able to handle a heavier workload. The vast majority of Twins relievers, Baldelli said, will wind up needing to be prepared to throw “two plus (innings), at the very least.”

“It’s one thing to sit here and talk about it, ‘Well, everyone’s going to have to give us a little bit of length and get stretched out’ and all that,” Baldelli said. “But when the season starts, and we see our guys going out there and going, bring in one guy, and he’s going 40 pitches, we bring in the next guy, he’s going 35. You’re going to see it actually play out like that, I think, much more than we’ve seen before.”

The Twins have been preparing Lewis Thorpe and Griffin Jax, two former starters, to come in in relief, and that pair



Jonathan Dyer / USA Today Sports

Baltimore Orioles shortstop Jorge Mateo (26) steals second base as Minnesota Twins shortstop Austin Martin (82) attempts to tag him out in the first inning during spring training March 21 at Ed Smith Stadium in Sarasota, Florida.

are among a group that would be able to come in and piggyback, should the Twins choose to include them on the roster and utilize them in that way.

While the Twins haven’t made most of their cuts yet, there’s also a little scheduling wrinkle that they must consider. Because the first week of the season was pushed back, the Triple-A season will now start before the major-league season. The Saints are scheduled to start on April 5 and will leave Florida a few days prior to that.

The Twins will still be in Fort Myers, playing their last Grapefruit League game on April 5 before departing for Minneapolis.

“The (roster decisions) we’re comfortable making, we’ll just make before the Triple-A group heads out,” Baldelli said. “There may be a couple of guys that stay a bit longer. We want to leave that option open.”

In a condensed spring, decision time is coming sooner than it seems and perhaps a portion of players leaving town

## SETBACK

From Page B1

way Johnny Gaudreau did, carrying Boston College to a national title on his way to NHL stardom? We’ll never know.

This is surely it for Sanderson’s college career. The Senators will be calling now — they probably started the second Graham Slaggert’s overtime goal went in the net — and will lure their top prospect, whether he can play again this season or not.

Sanderson has been the toast of Ottawa since the Senators picked him in the summer of 2020. But he always put his pro career on the back burner and was far more invested in being with his UND teammates and winning college hockey games than discussing his future.

For Sanderson, college hockey wasn’t a stepping stone to the pros. It was a destination. That’s why he went diving head-first into the crease against Colorado College. Winning games at UND was paramount for him.

“We’ll remember that elite player that came into our program,” Berry said, “who wasn’t about anything else but being part of North Dakota hockey.”

## DOOM

From Page B1

Boltmann in the second period.

Driscoll, who played a year at St. Cloud State and three at Bemidji State, entered the NCAA tournament with a .936 save percentage since Jan. 29.

**Ford cherishes year at UND**

UND fifth-year senior Connor Ford’s college career officially came to an end Thursday night.

After spending four years at Bowling Green, Ford said he’s grateful he took a chance at coming to UND for his final year of eligibility.

“Obviously, it was a great opportunity for me to come play for one of the best programs in college hockey and have an opportunity to be an impact guy and play big minutes every night,” Ford said. “We put together a great year as a group. There were times we didn’t have a full lineup against top-10 teams and we swept. Looking back, I’m proud of our effort as a group.”

“It’s hard to look back and feel bad about anything or have any regrets. I got to live out a dream of playing at North Dakota. So,



Rich Gagnon / UND athletics

UND freshman defenseman Brent Johnson celebrates his second goal of the season with his UND teammates in Albany’s MVP Arena on Thursday, March 24.

the last 12 months, I’m extremely grateful for.”

Ford finished with four goals and 28 points in 37 games. He also won a nation-best 587 faceoffs. Since UND kept that stat in 2003-04, only two players have won more draws in a season — Travis Zajac in 2005-06 (649) and Corban Knight in 2012-13 (623).

**Senden done?**

Both of UND’s fourth-year seniors — Gavin Hain and Mark Senden

— are eligible to take a fifth year because the 2020-21 season didn’t count against anyone’s eligibility due to COVID-19.

But at Thursday’s postgame press conference, Berry hinted that Senden might not return.

Seated next to Ford, Ethan Frisch and Senden at the press conference, Berry said, “Two of these guys up here are probably going to go away from our program next year and

play hockey or get on with their life or whatever they’re going to do. They’re going to be outstanding people in this world. They’re going to be outstanding fathers and husbands.”

Senden, the team captain, played in 34 games this season, tallying five goals and 17 points. He played through an illness during the NCAA regional semifinal loss against Notre Dame.

**Quick hits**

▶ Riese Gaber

accounted for nine of UND’s 24 shots on goal against the Fighting Irish.

▶ UND has lost its last three overtime games in the NCAA tournament. The last overtime win in the NCAAs was in 2014, when it beat Ferris State in double overtime on a goal by Connor Gaarder to send UND to the Frozen Four.

▶ Attendance at MVP Arena was 2,345, the smallest crowd to attend a UND game this season.



# Saint Peter's KOs Purdue to reach Elite Eight

## Kansas survives against Providence

**Field Level Media**  
PHILADELPHIA — Saint Peter's is keeping March mad. Daryl Banks III scored 14 points, Clarence Rupert had 11 — all in the first half — and the Peacocks took down third-seeded Purdue 67-64 in an East Region Sweet 16 game Friday in Philadelphia to become the first team in NCAA Tournament history to make the Elite Eight as a No. 15 seed.

Saint Peter's (22-11) overcame Purdue star Trevion Williams' 16 points and eight rebounds. The Peacocks once again applied their aggressive defense and forced 15 turnovers before outshooting the Boilermakers (29-8) down the stretch. The Peacocks will take on No. 8-seeded North Carolina (27-8) on Sunday with a chance to go to the Final Four. The Tar Heels beat UCLA 73-66 in the other regional semifinal. Banks tied the game at 57 with a jumper for Saint Peter's, and Purdue's ensuing shot to beat the shot clock missed the rim. Banks made it 59-57 with a floating layup, and Wil-

liams was crowded inside to force a missed shot. Free throws brought it to 63-59 before Mason Gillis' putback of a missed trey trimmed it back to two with 25.8 seconds left. Banks made two more foul shots, and Jaden Ivey responded for Purdue with a 3-pointer with eight seconds to play. But Doug Edert, one of the faces of Saint Peter's tourney run, made the game-clinching free throws with 4.1 seconds left. He finished with 10 points and drew the love of the heavily pro-Saint Peter's crowd. Zach Edey and Sasha Stefanovic posted 11 points apiece for Purdue, Gillis chipped in 10 and Ivey added nine to go with eight rebounds.

### Midwest Region

**Kansas 66, Providence 61**  
CHICAGO — Remy Martin scored a game-high 23 points, Jalen Wil-son added 16 points and 11 rebounds and top-seeded Kansas harassed fourth-seeded Providence en route to a 66-61 victory in an NCAA Tour-

nament Midwest Region semifinal on Friday. Kansas (31-6) advances to meet the winner of Friday's second semifinal between 10th-seeded Miami and 11th-seeded Iowa State in the regional final on Sunday afternoon. The victory was No. 2,534 in Kansas program history, snapping a tie with Kentucky for the most in college basketball. Providence (27-6) trailed by 13 points with 14:53 to go but used a 21-8 run to tie the game before taking its first lead at 48-47 on a Noah Horchler layup with 5:49 remaining. The Jayhawks responded with a 7-0 run to regain control, holding off the Friars to move on to the school's first Elite Eight since 2018. Al Durham paced Providence with 21 points to go with seven rebounds, while Horchler contributed 10 points and eight boards. The Friars shot 48.5 percent in the second half but 33.8 percent for the game. Kansas finished at 39.3 percent from the floor, including 2-for-14, from 3-point range, while boasting a 43-38 rebounding edge.



Bill Streicher / USA Today Sports  
St. Peter's Peacocks guard Doug Edert (25) celebrates after defeating the Purdue Boilermakers in the semifinals of the East regional of the men's college basketball NCAA Tournament on Friday at Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia.

Ochai Agbaji, a Naismith Player of the Year finalist, scored just five points for Kansas but blocked four shots, matching Mitch Lightfoot for the team lead in blocks.

### East Region

**North Carolina 73, UCLA 66**  
PHILADELPHIA — Caleb Love nailed the game-tying and go-ahead 3-pointers during the

final 100 seconds and No. 8 North Carolina downed No. 4 UCLA 73-66 in an NCAA Tournament East Region Sweet 16 game Friday night. Love exploded for 27 of his career-high 30 points in the second half to deliver North Carolina (27-9) another NCAA Tournament win in Hubert Davis' first year as head coach. The Tar Heels will face Cinderella No. 15 seed Saint Peter's on Sunday in the Elite

Eight. Armando Bacot accounted for 14 points and 15 rebounds and Brady Manek added 13 points and eight boards as North Carolina outrebounded UCLA 43-34. Bernard finished with 16 points to lead UCLA (27-8), which was aiming for its second straight Final Four trip. Tyger Campbell scored 15 points and dished six assists, Johnny Juzang had 14 points and Jaime Jaquez Jr. added 10.

# No. 1 South Carolina dominates inside, defeats UNC

**Field Level Media**  
Aliyah Boston controlled the lane on her way to 28 points and 22 rebounds as top-seeded South Carolina fended off North Carolina for a 69-61 victory in Friday night's Greensboro Region semifinal at Greensboro, N.C. The Gamecocks continually racked up second-chance points, thwarting comeback threats from the No. 5 Tar Heels. Zia Cooke racked up 15 points and Destanni Henderson finished with 13 points as the Gamecocks became the first team outside of the Atlantic Coast Conference to beat North Carolina this season. South Carolina (32-2) meets 10th-seeded Creighton in Sunday night's Greensboro Region final.

Deja Kelly scored 12 of her 23 points in the first half for North Carolina (25-7), which secured a road upset Monday night at Arizona. Alexandra Zelaya added 10 points. The Gamecocks, who were in the Sweet 16 for the eighth consecutive tournament, did serious work on the offensive glass and that made a difference in going up 56-45 through three quarters. Of their 48 rebounds, 25 came on the offensive end.

**Creighton 76, Iowa State 68**  
GREENSBORO, N.C. — Morgan Maly scored a career-high 21 points and No. 10 Creighton's Cinderella run in the women's NCAA Tournament continued as the Bluejays upset No. 3 Iowa State 76-68 on



William Howard / USA Today Sports  
South Carolina Gamecocks guard Destanni Henderson (3) shoots underneath against the North Carolina Tar Heels in the third quarter in the Greensboro regional semifinals of the women's college basketball NCAA Tournament on Friday at Greensboro Coliseum in Greensboro, S.C.

Friday in the Greensboro Region semifinal. Creighton (23-9) is the fourth double-digit seed to make the women's Elite Eight, joining No. 10 Lamar in 1991,

Emily Ryan led the Cyclones (28-7) with 22 points, eight rebounds and six assists. Nyamer Diew added 15 points.

### Spokane Regional

**Texas 66, Ohio State 63**  
Joanne Allen-Taylor scored 17 points and Aaliyah Moore made a late defensive play as No. 2 seed Texas advanced to the Elite 8 with a 66-63 victory against sixth seed Ohio State in Spokane, Wash., on Friday. The Longhorns (29-6), who have a 14-game winning streak, will play Sunday against No. 1 seed Stanford. Ohio State (25-7) trailed 60-50 with 5:51 left in regulation but got to within 62-61 on a Taylor Mikesell 3-pointer, before Rori Harmon's

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jumper made it 64-61 with 1:14 left. Tanaya Beacham hit a basket for the Buckeyes to pull to within 64-63. After a Texas miss, the Buckeyes had a chance to go ahead, but Moore blocked a shot by Taylor Thierry, and Harmon was fouled with 10.7 seconds left. She hit both free throws for the final margin and the Buckeyes, who did not have a timeout remaining, were unable to get a shot off. Mikesell led the Buckeyes with 19 points, Jacy Sheldon had 17 and Braxtin Miller 12. Ohio State was trying to reach the Elite 8 for the first time since 1993 when the Buckeyes lost the national title game to Texas Tech. They have failed to advance from the regional semifinal in its previous five tries.

## GOPHERS

From Page B1

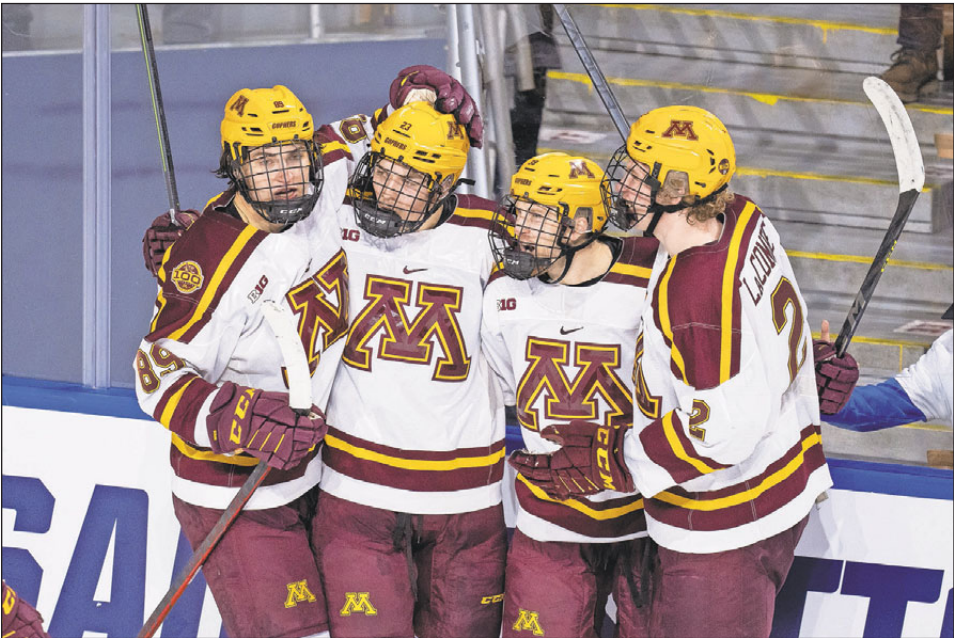
Trailing 3-2, the Gophers got a power play, and done what they have done often with an opponent in the penalty box. Knies knocked down a UMass clearing attempt near the right faceoff dot, dropped the puck to his feet then got a rising shot off that found the net. "They have an advantage on us in that they have some really high, high-end players," Carvel said. "That goal that Knies scored, that's ridiculous. He looked like Auston Matthews. He grabbed the puck, dropped it at his feet and it's in the top shelf. What do you do?" After chances in both ends of the ice in overtime, freshman Aaron Huglen, who was recently placed on the right wing with Knies and Meyers, dug out a puck behind the UMass net and centered it for Meyers, who scored on a rising shot to end it. "I thought we played really well in the overtime. We had our chances," said Minutemen captain Bobby Trivigno. "They had their chance and they buried it ... Tonight was one of those nights when our effort was there."



Contributed / University of Minnesota Athletics  
Massachusetts forward Cal Kiefluk (7) goes airborne after a hit by Minnesota defenseman Jackson LaCombe (2) during the Worcester regional Friday, March 25, 2022 in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Gophers coach Bob Motzko admitted that he had been wanting to add Huglen to that line for a time, but with the Gophers rattling off nine wins in a row, he was hesitant to mess with the lineup. After a loss to Michigan in the Big Ten tournament's title game, the coach re-set things slightly. "We were on a winning streak in February. I didn't change lines but I kind of wanted to give them some size," Motzko said, praising Huglen for his growth as a rookie. "He's really strong now and all that was the reason that we slid him over there, when we finally lost a game. We hadn't lost in a while till last week and you know. Right now looks like a good decision."

The Gophers suffered the classic double whammy in the first period when Johnson was called for cross checking. Before Minnesota could get control of the puck and force a whistle, the Minutemen sent Matt Murray to the bench for an extra attacker and sent a shot through traffic and past Close. There was a lengthy review of the play, as a UMass attacker's skates were in the crease but officials ruled he did not impede the goalie, and the goal stood. Less than a minute later on the power play, a shot went off Wait's skate and slid past Close to double the UMass lead. Again the play was reviewed, and again the goal stood for a 2-0 Minutemen lead.



Contributed / University of Minnesota Athletics  
Minnesota's Matthew Knies, left, Ryan Johnson, Ben Meyers and Jackson LaCombe celebrate Johnson's goal late in the first period Friday, against Massachusetts in Worcester, Massachusetts.

"I think the message was that there's a lot of game left," Meyers said. "Obviously it was unfortunate, but one goal happened 6-on-5 and then the other goal happened when they were on the power play so we felt like we could really do some damage 5-on-5 and we stuck to that and I don't think we took another penalty the rest of the game." The Gophers finally answered in the final two minutes, with some puck luck. Johnson's shot from the right circle was stopped by Murray, but the rebound

deflected off a UMass defender and over the goal line to pull Minnesota back within one after 20 minutes. The momentum didn't last long, as the Minutemen re-established a two-goal lead early in the second, with Lebster netting his second of the game. But the Gophers made a late push, evening the shots on goal and getting another on the scoreboard when Broz tipped a cross-ice pass by Jaxon Nelson to make it 3-2 after two. Earlier in the day, Western Michigan got its first-ever NCAA

tournament win, beating Northeastern 2-1 in overtime to reach the regional final. Minnesota 4, UMass 3, OT UMass 2-1-0-0-3 Minnesota 1-1-1-1-4 First period — 1. MA, Reed Lebster 8 (Cal Kiefluk, Ryan Ufko), 1:24. 5. MN, Tristan Broz 6 (Jaxon Nelson, Rhett Pitlick), 17:09. Penalties — Cedric Fiedler, WM (hooking), 5:17. Third period — 6. MN, Matthew Knies 13 (unassisted), 13:17. (pp). Penalties — Colin Felix, MA (interference), 1:11. Overtime — 7. MN, Ben Meyers 17 (Aaron Huglen, Nelson), 8:31. Penalties — None. Shots on goal — MN 5-10-5-4-24; MA 6-9-4-4-23. Goalies — Justin Close, MN (23 shots-20 saves); Matt Murray, MA (24-20). Power plays — MN 1-of-2, MA 1-of-1. Referees — Ryan Hersey, Nick Krebsbach. Linesmen — John Grandt, Tyler Liffing. Att. — 6,002.





Acquired in an offseason trade with the Yankees, Donny Sands is competing for the Phillies' backup catcher job.

# Playing with nothing to lose

Donny Sands was once homeless. Now he's trying to make the Phillies

By Alex Coffey  
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Clearwater, Fla.

It took Donny Sands three weeks to convince his mother, Alma, to sell her car. The Phillies catching prospect had just bought her a brand new Mercedes Benz with his signing bonus. It was pristine, but that was the problem. She didn't want to drive it anywhere. The roads by their home in Tucson, Ariz., were full of potholes and dust. That type of vehicle belonged on pavement.

So for three weeks, with a Mercedes sitting in her driveway, Alma drove a beat-up 2006 Toyota Camry. That was a car she didn't mind getting dirty. It had seen the most harrowing parts of their journey — including four evictions — and served as a home for Donny for seven months when he was in high school.

Donny's father, Roger, passed away in 2012 from a heart attack. Alma had trouble finding work, and moved back home to Mexico a year later, where she cleaned houses and worked out of her brother's dental practice. Donny stayed in Tucson with the Toyota Camry. He'd go to school, go to baseball practice, and drive the car out to Santa Rita Park. He put towels on the windows and roll them up, so they stayed put. And then he would go to sleep in the backseat.

The day he sold the Camry for \$2,000, Alma cried. Tears of sadness, but also tears of joy, for the journey that her son was embarking on. She was in disbelief that Donny, who had been playing baseball with his father in the backyard since he was 2 years old, had been selected by the New York Yankees in the eighth round of the 2015 MLB draft.

At 18, her son was able to buy her a house and a Mercedes Benz. She used to take care of him. Now he was taking care of her.

"That's why I do this," Sands, 25, said. "I want to give her everything."

Sands' journey through baseball wasn't going to be easy, but it never was going to be as difficult as the experiences he'd lived

through by the time he showed up to Florida to join the Gulf Coast Yankees in June of 2015. Donny was playing third base at the time. At the end of that year, the Yankees' minor league catching coordinator, Josh Paul, approached with him with an idea.

"How do you feel about catching?" Paul asked Sands. "You don't have decide right now. Take some time and think about it."

Ten seconds later, Sands had an answer.

"Yeah," he said. "I'll catch."

That first season behind the plate, in 2016, wasn't pretty. Sands had 14 passed balls through 20 games in the Gulf Coast League and the Appalachian League. The next season, in 2017, he had 25 passed balls through 93 games in single-A Charleston and high-A Tampa.

To work on his reaction time, he and the team's catching coach, Hector Rabago, did a drill called "eyes closed blocking." You shut your eyes and listen for a soft neon ball to come whizzing out of a pitching machine. Then you use your instincts to react.

Sands did "eyes closed blocking" drills six times a week. He worked on throwing twice a week, and receiving seven times a week. And he did this all before games.

Not everyone is built for that type of workload, but Rabago, who is now the bullpen catcher for the Phillies, was certain Sands could handle it. Sands was certain he could handle it, too.

"It's always the chip on my shoulder," Sands said. "When people struggle in baseball, it's just baseball. That's life. You go 0 for 4 and it's baseball. It's a game. I'm not sleeping in my car. If I got through that, I can get through this. I lost my dad. You can go through a lot of other stuff that's worse than going 0 for 4."

The drills began to pay off. By 2018, Sands had cut his passed balls down to eight, between 26 games through his rookie league and high-A seasons. He earned a spot in the Arizona Fall League in

2019. With the 2020 minor league season canceled due to the pandemic, Sands had time to continue to work on his defense, while cleaning up his bat path to make it more stable. When he returned to the field in 2021, it was clear that he'd elevated his game to new heights.

Sands started that season in double-A Somerset, but 39 games later was called up to triple-A Scranton/Wilkes Barre, where he hit .272/.339/.476 with eight home runs through 42 games — and one passed ball. A few months later, the Yankees traded him to the Phillies with right-handed pitcher Nick Nelson for infielder TJ Rumfield and left-handed pitcher Joel Valdez.

"Donny has been one of the top elite receivers in the game," Rabago said. "He brings some stuff on both sides of the diamond, but I'd say his receiving was top 10 in the minor leagues in the past few years. And I think he's going to do the same thing in the big leagues."

Rabago and Sands talk about the big leagues as an inevitability. Sands' right arm is covered in tattoos — his father's initials and the day he passed away, his mother's name, his favorite bible verse — but on his bicep, there are three blank stars. He says that when he makes the MLB All-Star Game, he'll fill in the years.

And who's to say it won't happen? Sands plays with nothing to lose. He already knows what it's like to lose a father, what it's like to lose a home. Now he finds himself in the midst of a competition for the Phillies' backup catcher spot, behind J.T. Realmuto, and he's enjoying it, because this is a game, and it should be enjoyable.

Alma is enjoying it too. She doesn't miss an inning, and hopes to see many more, perhaps when the Phillies are in Arizona. She and Donny could drive over to the ballpark in her Mercedes Benz, but in her heart, she'd know that it was the Toyota Camry that got them there.

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COMMENTARY

## Why the women's NCAA, Final Four are better than the men's

The first women's NCAA basketball tournament allowed to employ the phrase "March Madness" will culminate in the first women's Final Four held in Minneapolis since 1995.

The first weekend of the women's March Madness demonstrated that in at least one way, the women's tourney is better than the men's.

The Final Four will demonstrate another.

In the first weekend of women's March Madness, the tourney broke an attendance record set almost two decades ago. If you watched on television, you saw packed arenas filled with loud fans.

That's where the women's tourney beats the men's. The women play their first two rounds at home sites of highly-seeded teams, ensuring that diehard fans of quality programs will be able to attend.

The dirty secret of men's March Madness is that the atmosphere at the games rarely matches the excitement caused by the bracket and the broadcasts.

Anyone who has attended the first two rounds of games at far-flung arenas has been shocked by the antiseptic nature of the atmosphere. Those games feel as if they are being played in a television studio.

The broadcasts will focus on the court and on the small pockets of invested fans, but fan bases are small and split and many of the fans in the stands don't care about the game they are watching — they are there for one team.

The women's tourney proved last weekend that playing true home games is the way to go, and that playing true home games doesn't have to be seen as an unfair advantage. Six double-digit seeds won in the first round, on the road.

If the women used neutral sites, perhaps the best local story of the first weekend would have felt less dramatic. Lakeville North alum Lauren Jensen, a transfer from Iowa, lifted Creighton to a last-minute victory over Iowa at Iowa's Carver-Hawkeye Arena.

That moment wouldn't have felt quite the same in Boise or Orlando.

The women's tourney will culminate in Target Center. The choice of our local WNBA and NBA arena over U.S. Bank Stadium is logical. Why hold your signature event in a stadium that could feature empty seats?

Target Center is also the correct aesthetic choice.



JIM SOUHAN

The men play in stadiums because the NCAA can sell more tickets, but many of those tickets are lousy for basketball, as Timberwolves fans from the advent of the franchise can attest.

The women will benefit from the more intimate feel of Target Center, which should already be known as the home of the most successful sports franchise in Minnesota history, the four-time champion Lynx.

The women's tourney holds another obvious advantage over the men's: The women don't feature players who are using college for one year to prepare for the NBA.

The one-and-done rule in men's college basketball has led to a noticeable decline in the quality of play. The best women's teams tend to build cohesiveness and get to market their best players for years before they move on to the WNBA.

If the women's game has yet to attract your attention, this might be the ideal time to change your viewing habits.

Watch the women's tourney this weekend and you'll see Paige Bueckers, the best player produced by Minnesota since Lindsay Whalen, whose picture she used to keep on her wall. You'll see her coach, Geno Auriemma, trying to return to Minneapolis, where his team beat Tennessee in the championship game in Target Center in 1995.

You'll see Jensen and Creighton, and Dawn Plitzuweit's remarkable South Dakota program, which features five Minnesotans. And Dawn Staley, one of America's great coaches, trying to turn South Carolina into a UConn-like dynasty.

You'll see local angles and history, and you'll be supporting strong women in the wake of GOP senators launching racist attacks on Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson, one of the most qualified Supreme Court candidates in American history.

The winners of this weekend's regionals will advance to Minneapolis. This would be a good time to study up for Minnesota's next great event.

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Connecticut's Paige Bueckers (5) and Nika Muhl (10) react after a foul called on teammate Christyn Williams against Arizona during the third quarter in the Final Four semifinal of the NCAA Tournament at the Alamodome on April 2, 2021, in San Antonio, Texas.