The Free Press, A8, Saturday, March 26, 2022

BRIEFS

Turriff receives NSIC award

MANKATO — Minnesota State's Trevor Turriff has been named the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference's Outstanding Senior of the Year for wrestling.

The award is presented to a student-athlete who participates at their institution for four years and is academically superior while making a positive contribution to the team and university.

Turriff, a two-time All-American, who won a national championship at 174 pounds this season. He was 21-3 this season with three pins and six major decisions.

Turriff, who has a 3.79 grade-point average in business, was named to the Northern Sun's All-Academic Team/Team of Excellence and was a National Wrestling Coaches Association Scholar All-American.

Turriff is also a member of the Minnesota State Student Athlete Advisory Committee. He has volunteered as a youth wrestling official and camp clinician and with the Kiwanis Holiday Lights and the Mankato Marathon.

Geistfeld chosen for All-Star team

MANKATO — Bethany Lutheran senior Hanna Geistfeld has been selected to the NCAA III all-star team, which is chosen by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association.

The all-stars were chosen by a committee composed of head women's basketball coaches at NCAA Division III programs, all of whom are members of the WBCA. All players were nominated by WBCA member coaches.

There used to be an allstar game associated with the Women's Division III Final Four, but there will not be a game this year due to COVID protocols

The Free Press

Vikings sign Packers' corner

EAGAN — Former Green Bay Packers cornerback Chandon Sullivan signed with the Minnesota Vikings on Friday, the latest player to switch from one NFC North rival to another.

The 25-year-old Sullivan played more than 76% of the snaps on defense last season for Green Bay, mostly in the slot position in the nickel package. He didn't miss a game in three years with the Packers and had five interceptions and 16 passes defensed from 2019-21.

Undrafted out of Georgia State, where he became the program's career interception leader, Sullivan broke into the NFL in 2018 with Philadelphia.

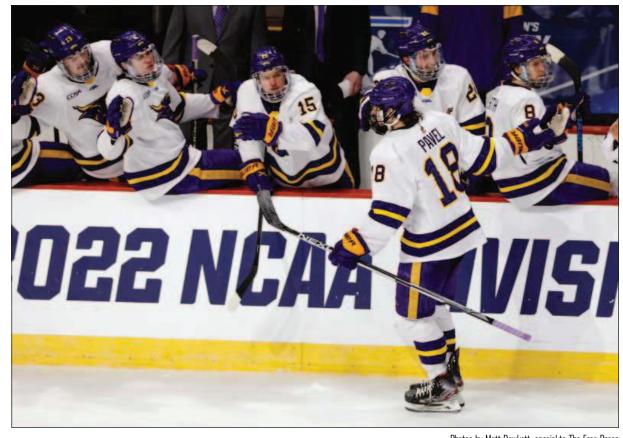
The Vikings have made a habit of signing ex-Packers over the years, including their most recent addition earlier this week: outside linebacker Za'Darius

Sullivan will likely fill the role last held by Mackensie Alexander, who became a free agent. The only other cornerbacks on the roster currently are Cameron Dantzler, Kris Boyd, Harrison Hand and Parry Nickerson. Patrick Peterson also became a free agent but remains a candidate to re-sign.

The Associated Press

For more sports news, go to The Free Press web page at www.mankatofreepress.com.

Mavericks set to play Notre Dame in



Photos by Matt Dewkett, special to The Free Press

Ondrej Pavel scored the eventual game-winning goal in the Minnesota State men's hockey team's 4-3 win over Harvard on Thursday.

MSU hopes to solve tough Irish penalty kill

By Kevin Dudley

kdudley@mankatofreepress.com

ALBANY, N.Y. — The Minnesota State men's hockey team didn't play its most complete game Thursday against Harvard, but it was enough, as the Mavericks hung on to win 4-3 despite a spirited comeback by the Crimson.

MSU (36-5-0) will now play thirdseeded Notre Dame (28-11-0) in the NCAA Tournament's East Regional final at 5:30 p.m. Saturday at MVP Arena in Albany, New York.

Here are five things to know about the matchup:

1. Another controversy: It appeared the Fighting Irish had won their first-round game against North Dakota 2-1 in regulation Thursday until ... more replayrelated controversy. Notre Dame's Adam Karashik appeared to fire a rebound into the net in the final second of the third period, clearly before the green light, as well as the TV broadcast, showed time had expired. The call on the ice was a good goal. Then, after a 12-minute review, the goal was disallowed, with the NCAA explaining in a statement that the TV broadcast clock, as well as the green light, aren't official. Notre Dame eventually ended up winning in overtime. The controversy came just five days after MSU experienced a delay of about an hour, only to have a game-winning goal disallowed in its CCHA championship game victory over Bemidji State.

"I think I've spent a lot of time here in the last couple of weeks talking overtime and goals going in or not going in," MSU coach Mike Hastings said with a laugh. "At the end of the day, I think we're all about just trying to get it right."

2. Special teams battle: The Notre Dame penalty kill ranks second in Division I at 90.68%, while MSU's power play also ranks second at 27.16%. MSU has scored eight power-play goals in five games since the start of the CCHA

"They pressure hard up the ice and they're not afraid to try to



Reggie Lutz scored a power-play goal in Minnesota State's 4-3 victory over Harvard on Thursday. The MSU power ranks second in Division I at 27.16%.

How to follow

Radio: KTOE 1420-AM TV: ESPNU

Watch parties: Buffalo Wild Wings, Tav

score shorthanded goals," said Reggie Lutz, who plays on MSU's first power play unit. "They're obviously a great penalty-killing team, and we watched a little video on that. Hopefully we're able to expose a few things on that tomorrow."

3. A day to prepare: Having a day between games is new at the NCAA regionals, as the regional final was previously played the day after the two first-round games. The change was made because the team that won the early first-round game had more recovery time than the team that won the second firstround game. Hastings said MSU practiced for just over 40 minutes Friday, using it as mostly a rest day.

'You really don't want fatigue to be a factor in the next step, because you want to try and earn that," Hastings said. "The time of day that you play shouldn't be an advantage or disadvantage."

4. The state of MSU: The Mavericks have won 25 of their last 26 games, including a program record 16 straight. They've lost just once since November. MSU secured

its second consecutive berth in the region championship with the win over Harvard, which Hastings hopes his team learned from.

'We had a good start, and then we had to face some adversity. Then we found a way to get through that adversity and move on. Those are valuable experiences," Hastings said. "You want to be playing in this game. You want to have the opportunity to move on to Boston."

5. Scouting the Fighting Irish: Notre Dame is 7-4 against NCAA Tournament teams this season. They're 4-1 against Michigan, the tournament's No. 1 overall seed. MSU lost to Michigan 3-2 in October. The Irish play a hard-nosed, disciplined style and are tied for fifth in the nation in goals allowed per game (2.1). Notre Dame features a balanced scoring attack with seven players between 24 and 28 points. Max Ellis is their leading scorer (16-12—28).

"You can tell they take a lot of pride just working their D-zone out," Lutz said. "Just watching the game last night, North Dakota had a few good chances, but overall, they just kind of smothered them.

"It's going to take a few greasy (goals).'

Follow Kevin Dudley on Twitter @Dudley7Kevin

Twins among baseball's offseason winners

Bv Mac Cerullo

CNHI Sports Boston

This has been one of the most chaotic offseasons in Major League Baseball history, with two all-out sprints sandwiching 99 days of absolute silence.

Now, with nearly all of the big free agents off the board, we finally have a general idea of the competitive landscape heading into the new

Simply put, a lot of teams got better, but some more than others. Here's a quick rundown of some of the offseason's big winners and

Winner: Minnesota Twins

Who could have seen this coming?

Not only did the Twins trade for Reds starter Sonny Gray and for Yankees catcher Gary Sanchez and infielder Gio Urshela, but they also shocked the baseball world by landing the top free agent on the market. By signing ex-Astros shortstop Carlos Correa to a threeyear, \$105.3 million deal, the Twins served notice to the rest of baseball and should be ready to quickly bounce back from last year's fifthplace flameout.

Loser: Houston Astros

Losing Correa to the Twins is

going to be a tough pill for Astros fans to swallow, especially if the reports that owner Jim Crane never reached out after the lockout are

Houston is still the favorite in the AL West but after five straight ALCS appearances, the Astros definitely won't be as good heading into 2022.

Winner: Texas Rangers

The Texas Rangers had one of the worst offenses in baseball last year, so before the lockout the club went out and spent half-billion dollars to address that.

Please see BASEBALL, Page A9

Wolves avenge loss to **Dallas**

By Dave Campbell

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Karl-Anthony Towns had 20 points and nine rebounds and the Minnesota Timberwolves made up for a narrow loss at Dallas four days earlier by tightening up their defense and blowing out the Mavericks 116-95 on Friday night.

Jordan McLaughlin had a season-high 16 points on 6-for-8 shooting for the Timberwolves. They moved a half-game behind idle Denver for the sixth spot that they badly want in the Western Conference to avoid the play-in tournament.

The Timberwolves, who stopped a two-game losing streak, play the Nuggets next week.

Luka Doncic had 24 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists for the Mavericks, who missed an opportunity to pass Utah for sole possession of fourth place in the Western Conference.

The Mavericks are tied with the Jazz, who lost at Charlotte on Friday, in the fight for home-court advantage for their likely first-round matchup. Dallas and Utah face each other Sunday.

Dwight Powell pitched in 13 points for the Mavericks. They also fumbled their chance to move a season-high 18 games above the .500 mark.

The Mavericks held on for a 110-108 victory over Minnesota in Dallas on Monday night, a game the Timberwolves had the upper hand in until a late lapse — and a whistle that didn't go their way.

Then they squandered a 15-point third-quarter advantage Wednesday night at home in a loss to NBAleading Phoenix while Devin Booker and the Suns shredded their second-half

coverages. The Timberwolves lead the league in opponent turnovers, boasting a streak of 71 games of forcing 10 or more, and they matched their usual aggression with some needed consistency on the defensive end. Doncic had to work for everything he got, pestered by Patrick Beverley, Anthony Edwards and Taurean Prince at various times.

Doncic delivered his usual array of slick passes, including a one-handed feed through Prince's legs on the bounce to Max Kleber for a dunk in the first quarter, but the cold Mavericks cost him a bunch more assists.

The Mavericks, who are missing sharpshooter Tim Hardaway Jr. as he recovers from foot surgery, went 10 for 43 from 3-point range. Reggie Bullock was 1 for 11, and Jalen Brunson was 4 for 12.

Sore in the second

Minnesota's bench had a 47-38 scoring advantage. The reserves were on a roll in the second quarter, but that was a painful stretch.

Naz Reid limped off with a leg injury, though he returned. Malik Beasley sprained his ankle and did not return.

Park Center vs. Wayzata, 8 p.m

Quarterfinal
Totino-Grace 83, Hermantown 50

Mankato East 68, Mound Westonka 55 Princeton 77, Austin 63
DeLaSalle 69, St. Cloud Tech 55

TV Today

Schedule subject to change and/or blackouts Saturday, March 26 AUTO RACING 8:55 a.m.

ESPN2 — Formula 1: Practice, Jeddah Cor-niche Circuit, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

FS1 — NASCAR Cup Series: Qualifying, Circuit of the Americas, Austin, Texas 11:55 a.m. ESPN2 — Formula 1: Qualifying, Jeddah Corniche Circuit, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Noon FS1 — NASCAR Camping World Truck Series: The XPEL 225, Circuit of the Americas, Austin,

3:30 p.m. FS1 — NASCAR Xfinity Series: The Pit Boss

250, Circuit of the Americas, Austin, Texas USA — AMA Supercross: Round 12, Seattle BOXING

9 p.m. ESPN — Top Rank: Miguel Berchelt vs. Jeremiah Nakathila (Lightweights), Las Vegas COLLEGE BASEBALL

4 p.m. BTN — Rutgers at Penn St. COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)

2 p.m. CBS — NCAA Division II Tournament: NW Missouri St. vs. Augusta, Championship, Evansville, Ind.

4 p.m.

TBS — NCAA Tournament: Houston vs. Villanova, Elite Eight, San Antonio 7:30 p.m.
TBS — NCAA Tournament: Arkansas vs.
Duke, Elite Eight, San Francisco

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S) 10:30 a.m.
ESPN — NCAA Tournament: Notre Dame vs. NC State, Sweet Sixteen, Bridgeport, Conn.

ESPN — NCAA Tournament: Indiana vs. UConn, Sweet Sixteen, Bridgeport, Conn.

3 p.m.
ESPN2 — NCAA Tournament: Tennessee vs. Louisville, Sweet Sixteen, Wichita, Kan, 5:30 p.m. ESPN2 — NCAA Tournament: South Dakota

vs. Michigan, Sweet Sixteen, Wichita, Kan. COLLEGE HOCKEY (MEN'S) 3 p.m.
ESPNU — NCAA Tournament: Minn. Duluth

5:30 p.m. ESPNU — NCAA Tournament: Notre Dame vs.

Minnesota St., Quarterfinal

COLLEGE LACROSSE (MEN'S) 11 a.m. ESPNU — Duke at Syracuse

1 p.m. ESPNU — Michigan at Johns Hopkins COLLEGE LACROSSE (WOMEN'S) 11 a.m. BTN — Northwestern at Michigan 1:30 p.m. BTN — Penn St. at Ohio St

COLLEGE SOFTBALL 7:30 p.m. ESPN2 — LSU at Arkansas FIGURE SKATING

3 p.m.
USA — ISU World Championships: Men's Free Skate, Montpellier, France 5 p.m. — ISU World Championships: Free

Dance, Montpellier, France 6 a.m. GOLF - DP World Tour: The Commercial

Bank Qatar Masters, Third Round, Doha Golf Club, Doha, Qatar GOLF — PGA Tour: The WGC Dell Technolo-gies, Match Play — Round of 16, Austin Country

Club, Austin, Texas

1 p.m.
GOLF — PGA Tour: The Corales Puntacana
Resort Championship, Third Round, Corales
Golf Club, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic
NBC — PGA Tour: The WGC Dell Technologies, Match Play - Quarterfinals, Austin Country Club, Austin, Texas 4 p.m.

GOLF — LPGA Tour: The JTBC Classic, Third Round, Aviara Golf Club, Carlsbad, Calif. HORSE RACING

FS2 — The Dubai World Cup Undercard: From Meydan Racecourse, Dubai, United Arab

11 a.m. FS2 — The Dubai World Cup: From Meydan Racecourse, Dubai, United Arab Emirates Noon FS2 — NYRA: America's Day at the Races

5 p.m.
CNBC — The Louisiana Derby: From Fair
Grounds Race Course, New Orleans LACROSSE (MEN'S)

8:30 p.m.
ESPNU — NLL: Colorado at Panther City LC MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

Bouts, Columbus, Ohio 6 p.m. ESPN — UFC Fight Night Main Card: Curtis

Blaydes vs. Chris Daukaus (Heavyweights), Co-

MLB BASEBALL

BSN — Spring Training: Minnesota vs. Atlanta, Fort Myers, Fla.

MLBN — Spring Training: Tampa Bay vs. Boston, Fort Myers, Fla.

3 p.m. MLBN — Spring Training: Cincinnati vs. San Francisco, Scottsdale, Ariz. 8 p.m. MLBN — Spring Training: LA Dodgers vs.

Kansas City, Surprise, Ariz.

NBA BASKETBALL 7 p.m. NBATV — Brooklyn at Miami NHL HOCKEY

11:30 a.m NHLN — NY Islanders at Boston 2 p.m. ABC — Chicago at Vegas

CBS - PBR: The Lucas Oil Invitational, 15/15 Bucking Battle, Albuquerque, N.M. (Taped)
RUGBY (MEN'S)

6 p.m. FS1 — MLR: Houston at Utah **TENNIS** 10 a.m

 Miami Open-WTA/ATP Early TENNIS Rounds VOLLEYBALL (WOMEN'S)

4 p.m. – Athletes Unlimited: Team De La Cruz vs. Team Cruz, Dallas

Week in sports

SATURDAY Minnesota State men's hockey vs. Notre Dame, 5:30 p.m., Albany, N.Y. Minnesota State men's, women's track at Wildcat Classic, TBA, Wayne, Neb.
Minnesota State women's tennis at Gustavus Adolphus (8:30 a.m.). Southwest Minnesota State (1 p.m.), Swanson Tennis Center
Minnesota State baseball vs. Mary, 3 p.m., Sioux City, Iowa Gustavus Adolphus women's tennis vs. Southwest Minnesota State, 5 p.m., Swanson

Tennis Center Gustavus Adolphus gymnastics at NGCA Championships, TBA, Ithaca, N.Y.

Bethany Lutheran women's tennis vs. Bemidji State, 9:30 a.m., Grand Forks, N.D.

Bethany Lutheran baseball vs. Macalester, doubleheader, 1 p.m., ISG Field Mankato East boys basketball vs. Princeton, Class AAA third place, 2 p.m., Concordia-St.

Prep basketball

Minnesota Boys Basketball State Tournament Class 4A Tuesday, March 22 At Target Center Quarterfinal Park Center 74, Andover 60

Eastview 67, Eden Prairie 51 Cretin-Derham Hall 52, Owatonna 51 Wayzata 71, Moorhead 28 Wednesday, March 23

At Concordia Univ Consolation Semifinals Andover 78. Eden Prairie 65 Owatonna 63, Moorhead 45 Thursday, March 24

At Williams Arena Semifinal Park Center 54, Eastview 39 Wavzata 59, Cretin-Derham Hall 48 At Concordia Univ.

Fifth Place

Andover 72. Owatonna 69

Scoreca<u>rd</u>

Saturday, March 26 At Concordia Univ.

Third Place

Tuesday, March 22

At Williams Arena

Wednesday, March 23 At Concordia Univ.

Consolation Semifinal

At Williams Arena

At Concordia Univ. Fifth Place

At Concordia Univ.

At Williams Arena

Class AA Tuesday, March 22

At Williams Arena

Quarterfinal

At Target Center

At Concordia Univ.

Consolation Semifinal

Minnehaha Academy 77, Glencoe-Silver Lake

Thursday, March 24

At Concordia Univ.

Fifth Place

Friday, March 25

At Williams Arena

Semifinal Minneapolis North vs. Morris Area/Chokia-

Saturday, March 26

At Concordia Univ.

At Williams Arena

Championship

Class AA

Quarterfinal

Hayfield 66, Russell-Tyler-Ruthton 49

New Life Academy 64, Sacred Heart 58

Russell-Tyler-Ruthton 74, Nevis 71

Thursday, March 24 At Concordia Univ.

Consolation Semifinal

Sacred Heart 69, Sleepy Eye St. Mary's 52

Friday, March 25

At Williams Arena

Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa 55. New Life 53

Saturday, March 26

At Concordia Univ.

Third Place

At Williams Arena

College hockey

Minnesota State vs. Notre Dame, 5:30 p.m.

W. Michigan 2, Northeastern 1, OT

W. Michigan vs. Minnesota, 3 p.m

Friday, March 25 Michigan 5, American International 3 Quinnipiac 5, St. Cloud State 4

Michigan vs. Quinnipiac, 6:30 p.m.

Minn. Duluth 3, Michigan Tech 0 Denver 3, Mass.-Lowell 2

Saturday, March 26 Denver vs. Minn. Duluth, 3 p.m

MLB

Pct. .833

.833 .667

.571 .571 .571

.500 .429 .429

.400

.333

.286

Pct. .833

.800 .667

.667 .667

.500 .500

.429 .375 .333

.286 .250 .143

Minnesota 4 LIMass 3 OT

Championship Hayfield vs. Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa, 11 a.m.

Fifth Place Russell-Tyler-Ruthton vs. Sacred Heart, 8

Vednesday, March 23 At Williams Arena

Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa 70, Sleepy Eye St.

Caledonia 51, Perham 40

Annandale 55, Pequot Lakes 40 Wednesday, March 23

Pequot Lakes 58, Perham 38

Annandale 62, Caledonia 55

Semifinal losers, noon

Semifinal winners, 1 p.m.

Cherry 68, Nevis 57

Hayfield 72, Cherry 61

NORTHEAST REGIONAL

Thursday, March 24

Saturday, March 26

EAST REGIONAL At DCU Center Worcester, Mass.

Friday, March 25

Sunday, March 27

MIDWEST REGIONAL

First Round

First Round

Championship

WEST REGIONAL

Loveland, Colo. First Round Thursday, March 24

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Kansas City

Boston

Chicago

Toronto

Baltimore

Houston

Minnesota

Tampa Bay

St. Louis

Miami

Philadelphia

Cincinnati

New York

Milwaukee

San Diego

San Francisco

Washington

Friday's Games Atlanta 6, Boston 3

Philadelphia 6, N.Y. Yankees 5 Pittsburgh 2, Minnesota 1

Tampa Bay 9, Baltimore 4 Detroit 8, Toronto 4 Colorado 17, Chicago Cubs 1

St. Louis 5, Washington 4

Oakland 6. Milwaukee 3

Texas 8, Kansas City 4

L.A. Angels 5, Arizona 5

San Diego vs. L.A. Dodgers at Phoenix, Ari-

Chicago White Sox vs. Seattle at Peoria, Ari-

Saturday's Games Minnesota vs. Atlanta at North Port, Florida,

Tampa Bay vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Florida,

Philadelphia vs. Detroit at Lakeland, Florida,

Toronto vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa, Florida,

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Oakland

Championship

At Budweiser Events Center

Minnesota State 4. Harvard 3 Notre Dame 2, North Dakota 1, OT

Albany, N.Y.

Minneapolis North 74, Glencoe-Silver Lake 69 Morris Area/Chokia-Alberta 36, Minnehaha

Mound Westonka 65, St. Cloud Tech 61 Saturday, March 26

Third Place Mankato East vs. Princeton, 2 p.m.

Championship Totino-Grace vs. DeLaSalle, 5 p.m.

Mound Westonka 64, Hermantown 59

St. Cloud Tech 68, Austin 63
Thursday, March 24

Semifinal
Totino-Grace 77, Mankato East 39

DeLaSalle 77, Princeton 65

Miami vs. St. Louis at Sarasota, Florida, Washington vs. N.Y. Mets at Port St. Lucie, Fastview vs. Cretin-Derham Hall, 4 p.m.

Florida, 12:10 p.m.
L.A. Angels vs. Chicago White Sox at Phoenix Oakland vs. Cleveland at Goodyear, Arizona,

Cincinnati vs. San Francisco at Scottsdale,

Arizona, 3:05 p.m.
Chicago Cubs vs. San Diego at Peoria, Arizona, 3:10 p.m. Texas vs. Colorado at Scottsdale, Arizona 3:10 p.m.

Seattle vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix, Arizona Pittsburgh vs. Baltimore at Sarasota, Florida L.A. Dodgers vs. Kansas City at Surprise, Ari-

NHL

zona, 8:05 p.m.

	EAS	TERN	N CC	NFE	REN	CE						
	Atlantic Division											
		GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GΑ				
	Florida	63	43	14	6	92	258	183				
	Toronto	63	40	18	5	85	232	191				
	Boston	64	40	19	5	85	194	171				
	Tampa Bay	63	39	18	6	84	209	180				
	Detroit	64	26	31	7	59	186	240				
	Buffalo	65	23	33	9	55	174	227				
	Ottawa	64	23	36	5	51	167	209				
	Montreal	64	17	37	10	44	163	242				
Metropolitan Division												
		GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GΑ				
	Carolina	64	42	15	7	91	209	154				
	Pittsburgh	66	39	17	10	88	214	177				
	N.Y. Rangers	65	41	19	5	87	198	168				
			~ ~	~ ~		~~						

Colorado 78 212 190 75 188 188 70 203 203 Nashville Dallas Winnipeg 65 24 32 9 63 20 39 4 57 175 224 44 164 228 Chicago GP W L OT Pts 63 38 17 8 84 Calgary Los Angeles 84 218 153 79 191 186 Edmonton 77 222 206 74 211 202 11 188 190 11 65 188 214 8 64 169 200 6 46 10 Anaheim 66 27 28 64 28 28 NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to

Thursday's Games Florida 4, Montreal 3 Boston 3, Tampa Bay 2 Dallas 4, Carolina 3, SO N.Y. Islanders 5, Detroit 2 Philadelphia 5, St. Louis 2 Edmonton 5, San Jose 2 Chicago 4, Los Angeles 3, SO Vegas 6, Nashville 1

Friday's Games N.Y. Rangers 5, Pittsburgh 1 Washington 4, Buffalo 3, SO Columbus at Winnipeg Arizona at Calgary Philadelphia at Colorado Saturday's Games

N.Y. Islanders at Boston, 11:30 a.m Tampa Bay at Detroit, 11:30 a.m. Chicago at Vegas, 2 p.m Florida at Ottawa, 6 p.m. New Jersey at Washington, 6 p.m Toronto at Montreal, 6 p.m. Vancouver at Dallas, 6 p.m. Carolina at St. Louis, 7 p.m Columbus at Minnesota, 7 p.m Edmonton at Calgary, 9 p.m. Anaheim at San Jose, 9:30 p.m. Seattle at Los Angeles, 9:30 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE											
	Atlantic										
	W	L	Pct	GB							
Phila.	45	27	.625	_							
Boston	46	28	.622	_							
Toronto	41	32	.562	41/2							
Brooklyn	38	35	.521	71/2							
New York	32	42	.432	14							
Southeast Division											
	W	L	Pct	GB							
y-Miami	47	27	.635	_							
Charlotte	38	36	.514	9							
Atlanta	37	37	.500	10							
Washington	31	42	.425	151/2							
Orlando	20	54	.270	27							
Oriando		Divisio									
	W	I	 Pct	GB							
Milwaukee	46	27	.630	_							
Chicago	42	31	.575	4							
Cleveland	41	32	.562	5							
Indiana	25	49	.338	21½							
Detroit	20	54	.270	261/2							
Detroit	20	54	.270	2072							
WES	WESTERN CONFERENCE										
Southwest Division											
5.	W	L	Pct	GB							
x-Memphis	51	23	.689	<u>ab</u>							
Dallas	45	29	.608	6							
New Orleans	31	42	.425	191/2							
San Antonio	29	44	.397	21½							
Houston	18	55	.247	321/2							
	orthwe			3272							
IN	W	St Divisi L	Pct	GB							
Utah	45	29	.608	uв							
Denver	43	31	.581								
	43	32	.573	21/2							
Minnesota											
Portland	27	45	.375	17							
Oklahoma City	21	52	.288	23½							
Pacific Division											
	W	L	Pct	GB							
z-Phoenix	60	14	.811	_							
Golden State	48	26	.649	12							
L.A. Clippers	36	38	.486	24							
L.A. Lakers	31	42	.425	28½							
Sacramento	26	48	.351	34							
x-clinched playoff spot											
y-clinched division											

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 Game Charlotte 107, Utah 101 Washington 100, Detroit 97 Atlanta 121, Golden State 110 Minnesota 116, Dallas 95 New York 111, Miami 103

Houston at Portland Phila. at L.A. Clippers Saturday's Games San Antonio at New Orleans, 4 p.m Sacramento at Orlando, 6 p.m. Indiana at Toronto, 6:30 p.m. Brooklyn at Miami, 7 p.m. Chicago at Cleveland, 7 p.m. Milwaukee at Memphis, 7 p.m. Oklahoma City at Denver, 8 p.m. Houston at Portland, 9 p.m.

Wolves box score

Bullock 1-11 0-0 2, Finney-Smith 3-11 0-0 7, Powell 5-7 3-3 13, Brunson 4-12 2-2 11, Doncic 8-18 3-5 24, Chriss 1-1 0-0 2, Kleber 4-10 0-0 Marjanovic 1-2 3-4 5, Dinwiddie 4-10 2-3 11, Green 2-3 2-2 7, Ntilikina 2-5 0-0 4. Totals 35-MINNESOTA (116)

Edwards 6-14 0-1 12, Vanderbilt 4-5 4-6 12, pwns 7-10 4-4 20, Beverley 3-6 3-3 10, Russell 6-16 2-3 15, Knight 1-3 0-0 2, Layman 1-2 0-0 3, Prince 5-7 2-2 14, Reid 2-3 0-0 4, Beasley 0-2 2-2 2, Bolmaro 0-1 0-0 0, McLaughlin 6-8 1-2 16, Nowell 1-5 1-1 3, Okogie 1-2 0-0 3. Totals 43-84 19-24 116.

22 28 17 28 — 95 26 35 28 27 — 116 Dallas Minnesota

3-Point Goals-Dallas 10-43 (Doncic 5-11 Green 1-1, Dinwiddie 1-5, Brunson 1-6, Kleber 1-6, Finney-Smith 1-8, Bullock 0-6), Minnesota 11-32 (McLaughlin 3-5, Prince 2-4, Towns 2-4 Layman 1-1, Beverley 1-2, Okogie 1-2, Russell 1-6, Beasley 0-1, Nowell 0-3, Edwards 0-4). Fouled Out-None. Rebounds-Dallas 45 (Don cic 10), Minnesota 45 (Towns 9). Assists—Dallas 21 (Doncic 8), Minnesota 26 (Russell 8). Total Fouls—Dallas 19, Minnesota 21. A—17,136

Underdogs bust NCAA brackets

Last chance at perfection ended during first weekend

The Associated Press

Fourth-seeded Arkansas used what amounted to a sneak attack to take down No. 1 overall seed Gonzaga, not only knocking the Bulldogs out the NCAA Tournament but taking out a whole lot of fans still hoping to win bragging rights and office pools. Then again, the number

of busted brackets before the Elite Eight just might mean everyone gets a second chance.

Defending national champion Baylor? The first No. 1 seed to go down.

Gonzaga and Arizona, two more top seeds and betting favorites, joined the Bears on the sidelines in the Sweet 16.

Kentucky, Tennessee and Auburn? All ousted before the opening weekend was even done.

In the case of the John Calipari's bunch, that meant getting bumped by No. 15 seed Saint Peter's in the opening round, a loss that probably doesn't feel any better even with the Peacocks topping Murray State to reach the Sweet 16.

It all left exasperated SportsCenter anchor Hannah Storm to say: "My bracket's busted. It's just so bad right now."

Then, after a beat: "I do have a lot of company though."

No kidding. The Bulldogs were a 10-point favorite to beat the Razorbacks and Arizona a 1.5-point favorite to beat Houston on Thursday night. Instead, they became the first 1-seeds to lose on the same day in the Sweet 16 or earlier since the 2011

"Just being the underdog, man, use it to your advan-



Arkansas guard Au'Diese Toney (left) celebrates with teammate Jaylin Williams during the second half of Thursday's game against Gonzaga in the Sweet 16 round of the NCAA tournament.

tage," Arkansas' Trey Wade said. "They never see you coming."

Very few people did anyway. There were 17.3 mil-

lion brackets filled out in ESPN's Tournament Challenge and just 8.3% of them had Arkansas reaching the Elite Eight, and less than half of those have the Hogs going to the Final Four. By contrast, nearly 23% of brackets had Gonzaga winning it all. In fact, nearly two-thirds

of brackets had Gonzaga, Baylor or Kentucky advancing through their half of the bracket to reach the final in New Orleans. Meanwhile, more brack-

ets (19.9%) had Houston losing in the first round than advancing to the Elite Eight (14.2%), even though the Cougars made it to the Sweet 16 in 2019 and the Final Four just last year. Houston, by the way, is

now the favorite to win it all, according to FanDuel Sportsbook, ahead of No. 2 seed Duke and Kansas, the lone remaining 1-seed entering Friday. The quest for a per-

fect bracket in the men's

tournament? The NCAA said that was over before last weekend, the moment that No. 11 seed Iowa State beat LSU on Friday night to eliminate the final two perfect brackets remaining after the first 24 games. And with the Cyclones playing No. 10 seed Miami

on Friday night, at least one double-digit seed will be in the Elite Eight.

that? I tell the team all the time, if you're in the dance, you've got a darned good team because you earned your way into the dance,' said Miami coach Jim Larrañaga, who knows all about busting up brackets after taking No. 11 seed George Mason to the Final Four in 2006.

"To me, it doesn't matter what you're seeded. It's not reflective of who you are," Larrañaga said. "It's just a number put by your name to start the tournament. What matters is how you play and how you match up against your opponent."

Yet plenty of well-known prognosticators have had trouble figuring those matchups out.

Television star Jimmy Fallon lamented his fortunes after picking Gonzaga and Tennessee to reach the Final Four.

Former President Barack Obama had the Bulldogs playing Arizona in the title game and he hasn't fared a whole lot better in the women's tournament, where he had Baylor advancing to the Final Four with South Carolina, UConn and Stanford. The Bears were upset by South Dakota in the second round.

"We don't need Barack Obama's bracket. We don't need Jimmy Fallon. We don't need none of that, OK?" said Hailey Van Lith, the star guard for the topseeded Cardinals. "Look, we are still here. That is what it is."

BASEBALL: Reds don't seem interested in winning

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By bringing on second baseman Marcus Semien (45 home runs) and shortstop Corey Seager (.306 average, .915 OPS), the Rangers added some badly needed oomph to their lineup. Factoring in additions like Jon Gray, Kole Calhoun and Mitch Garver, the Rangers should be a much more exciting team going forward.

Loser: Cincinnati Reds

While many clubs have embraced a more competitive ethos, the Cincinnati Reds appear to be headed in the other direction.

After finishing with 83 wins and hanging in the playoff chase much of the season, the Reds traded away Gray and all-star left fielder Jesse Winker while allowing free agent slugger Nick Castellanos to walk. The additions of Tommy Pham and Mike Minor aren't nothing, but the Reds won't be challenging for the playoffs when perhaps they could have.

Winner: Toronto Blue Jays The Blue Jays lost MVP

candidate Marcus Semien and AL Cy Young Award winner Robbie Ray to free agency and somehow still got much better. Toronto signed ex-San

Francisco Giants ace Kevin Gausman and former Mariner Yusei Kikuchi to bolster the rotation, and then swung a big trade for Oakland third baseman Matt Chapman to shore up what still looks like one of the best lineups in baseball. Loser: Oakland

Athletics

After going all in at last summer's trade deadline, the Athletics are in full fire sale mode now.

Oakland has already traded away Chapman and first baseman Matt Olson, and it's only a matter of time before starting pitchers Sean Manaea and Frankie Montas follow.

Meanwhile, the club has let virtually all of its big league free agents walk, most notably outfielders Starling Marte and Mark Canha. Given the team's untenable stadium situation, A's fans could be in for some real dark days ahead.

Winner: Los Angeles **Dodgers**

Lose Max Scherzer and Corey Seager in free agency? No big deal.

The Dodgers re-loaded by signing former Atlanta Braves great Freddie Freeman, ensuring the club's lineup will remain among the best in baseball. Los Angeles also brought back franchise icon Clayton Kershaw and re-signed super utility star Chris Taylor, keeping the club well positioned to reclaim the NL West title after finishing behind the Giants a year ago.

Loser: San Diego **Padres** While the Dodgers made

several big moves, the typically aggressive Padres failed to close the gap. San Diego's big addi-

tion wound up being Nick Martinez, a starter who has spent the last four years pitching in Japan, and before the lockout the club traded away infielder Adam Frazier for prospects. The club did hire A's

manager Bob Melvin, which could turn out to be a huge move, but the news that superstar shortstop Fernando Tatis Jr. will miss time with a broken wrist

suffered during the lockout will be a major setback.

Winner: New York Mets

Steve Cohen isn't messing around.

After a disappointing 2021, baseball's richest owner embarked on a spending spree so extravagant that small market owners insisted on including an extra luxury tax threshold in the new labor deal just for him.

The Mets signed Scherzer, Marte and Canha, plus infielder Eduardo Escobar, all of whom will combine to push New York's payroll up close to \$270 million for next year. With Francisco Lindor, Pete Alonso and others all back, there's plenty of reason for excitement in Queens.

Loser: New York Yankees

While the Yankees made some moves and should still be a playoff team in 2022, the same level of excitement probably won't be found in the Bronx. The Yankees did not

make any splashy free agent signings, instead re-signing Anthony Rizzo while tweaking the infield by trading fan favorites Sanchez and Urshela to the Twins for Josh Donaldson, Isiah Kiner-Falefa and Ben Rortvedt. Donaldson is a former

MVP, Kiner-Falefa is a brilliant defender and Rortvedt may wind up being an upgrade from Sanchez, but after watching all the big free agents sign elsewhere – and especially Trevor Story in Boston — Yankees fans undoubtedly hoped for more. Email: mcerullo@nor-

thofboston.com. Twitter: @ MacCerullo.

"You get seeded a certain spot, who cares about