



ACC MEN'S BASKETBALL: SYRACUSE 71, VIRGINIA TECH 69



Virginia Tech's P.J. Horne (14) is fouled from behind by Syracuse's Bourama Sidibe (34) as they battle for a rebound during the first half Saturday in Blacksburg.

THE ROANOKE TIMES VIA AP PHOTOS

Just out of reach

Nolley and Young take the blame in loss to Syracuse

By Mark Berman
The Roanoke Times

BLACKSBURG

On Jan. 7, the Virginia Tech men's basketball team rallied to beat Syracuse.

Eleven days later, the Hokies' comeback fell short.

Syracuse fended off the Hokies 71-69 Saturday at Cassell Coliseum, snapping Tech's three-game winning streak.

With his team trailing 70-69, Tech redshirt freshman Landers Nolley II missed a deep 3-pointer from the top of the key with three seconds to go.

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» Roundup of Top 25 ACC and state games. **B5**

"They trusted me to make a play and I just didn't come through this time," Nolley said. "I just put us in a bad situation. ... I felt like it was a better play that could've been made, that I should've made. I just didn't."

"It just hurts when you don't come through. ... I just rushed it. I felt like [there] was somebody open in the middle; I feel like both defenders jumped at me. But it happened so fast. ... I just made a bad last play and it just cost us the game."

The ball glanced off the left side of the rim. "That's a pretty tough shot to make," Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim said. Tech (13-5, 4-3 ACC) had called timeout with 7.4 seconds left to set up a final shot.

What did coach Mike Young draw up during the timeout? "Exactly what we got. You didn't like it? It looked good, didn't it?" Young



Virginia Tech's Landers Nolley II walks off the floor Saturday.

cracked. "That wasn't what we drew up, but he was going to be a part of it." "It was [drawn up] ... for me to find somebody or hopefully hit the shot," Nolley said. "Clearly I didn't do either. Young took the blame. "We made the wrong play. That is on Mike Young," Young said. "I've got to do a better job of putting them in place. "I would really like to have put the

thing into the high post." Nolley, a five-time ACC freshman of the week, had 13 points, six rebounds and seven assists. He also had four of his team's seven turnovers, including three in a key stretch of the second half. "I've just got to be better," Nolley said. "My team played amazing. ... It

SEE **HOKIES** | B3

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Teams at center of scandal face fans

Players from Astros and Red Sox discuss fallout instead of season prep

By Kristie Rieken and Jimmy Golen
The Associated Press

Players from two teams at the center of baseball's sign-stealing scandal faced their fans Saturday for the first time since the Houston Astros and Boston Red Sox ousted their managers amid the fallout from the investigation into Houston's elaborate scheme.

The Astros and Red Sox held their annual fan fests Saturday, and instead of discussing preparations for the season, players from both teams were left to answer questions about the sign-stealing that left them without managers. "It's a tough situation and as a team we have to stay together and go through this as a team like we've been doing, always," Houston star second baseman José Altuve said. "We have to talk about it at spring training and try not to let things in the past distract us for for next year."

Houston manager AJ Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow were suspended for a year by MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred on Monday after he found illicit use of electronics to steal signs during the Astros' run to the 2017 World Series championship and again in the 2018 season. Team owner Jim Crane then fired both Hinch and Luhnow. Manager

INSIDE

» Former baseball player Pete Rose uniquely qualified to answer questions on cheating. **B3**

SEE **SCANDAL** | B3

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Federer, Nadal seem confident all will be OK at tournament

Appear satisfied despite smoke from wildfires affecting the air quality

By Howard Fendrich
The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — As messages on video boards cautioned Australian Open spectators to "be aware we are expecting a reduction in air quality" Saturday, Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal seemed satisfied that all will be fine at the year's first Grand Slam tournament despite recent days of smoke arriving from wildfires burning 100 or so miles away. The haze hanging over Melbourne Park lately lightened as Monday's start of main-draw action approaches, but even if things worsen, the owners of a combined 39 major championships were among the players saying they're confident tennis officials will make sure conditions are safe before allowing competition.



Federer



Nadal

SEE **AUSTRALIA** | B3

AMERICAN EXPRESS

Landry, Scheffler break away in the desert

By John Nicholson
The Associated Press

LA QUINTA, Calif. — Andrew Landry and Scottie Scheffler broke away Saturday at The American Express.

Landry shot a 7-under 65 at PGA West's Jack Nicklaus Tournament Course to join Scheffler atop the leaderboard at 21-under 195, four strokes ahead of third-place Rickie Fowler.

Scheffler had a 66 on the adjacent Stadium Course, also the site of the final round today. "It's a tough course. It's a good track," Scheffler said. "If you're not on your game, you can really struggle. There's a lot of trouble out there, so you've got to hit a ball in quality shots to keep the lot of play. Good test."

Fowler, tied with Scheffler for the second-round lead, overcame two front-nine bogeys to shoot 70 at the Stadium Course. At the event for the first time in six years, he played the Pete



Andrew Landry (left) hits from the eighth tee during the third round of The American Express on the Nicklaus Tournament Course at PGA West in La Quinta, California, on Saturday. Scott Scheffler (right) hits from the fourth tee during the third round.

dye-designed course for the time Saturday after only taking a quick scouting drive early in the week. "I was actually surprised by the green speed early on," Fowler said. "They were a bit slower than what I've seen the last two days, so adjusting to that, really didn't have anything go in early on until the ninth

hole. But I thought I did a good job of hanging around, not getting too far behind." Ryan Moore and Chase Seiffert were five strokes back at 16 under. Moore had a 67 at the Stadium, and Seiffert shot 67 on the Nicklaus layout.

Tournament host Phil Mickelson missed the cut by six strokes. The 49-year-old Hall

of Famer finished three rounds at 3 under. He eagled the par-5 16th Saturday in a 71.

Landry lost a playoff to Jon Rahm two years ago at PGA West. The 32-year-old Texan has found something in the desert after missing the cuts in seven of eight starts this season. "It's been a heck of a week so far with my ball-striking," Landry said. "Just kind of one day's ball-striking, the next day's putting and putting's just been here all week. So, we'll just keep riding it out and see what happens tomorrow."

The 2018 Texas Open winner closed with a 12-foot par save on the par-4 ninth after bogeying the par-3 eighth. He birdied six of his first eight holes. Scheffler got a break on his final hole, escaping with par on the par-4 18th after his drive bounced out of the rocks along the left-side water and into the fairway.



NFL FREE AGENCY

Brady signs with Buccaneers

Six-time Super Bowl champion quarterback Tom Brady signed a two-year contract in free agency Friday with the Buccaneers.



ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Quarterback agrees to a two-year contract; deal guarantees \$50M

By Fred Goodall
The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — A new look for the NFL: Tom Brady in Tampa Bay pewter and red rather than Patriots red, white and blue.

The six-time Super Bowl champion quarterback signed a two-year contract in free agency Friday, embarking on a “new football journey” with the

Buccaneers. The deal guarantees \$50 million and includes a \$10 million signing bonus and \$15 million salary for 2020.

The 42-year-old quarterback who spent the first 20 years of his career with the Patriots announced his decision in an Instagram post, adding he's thankful for the opportunity.

“Excited, humble and hungry ... If there is one thing I have

learned about football, it's that nobody cares what you did last year or the year before that,” Brady wrote.

“I look forward to meeting all my new teammates and coaches and proving to them that they can believe and trust in me,” the four-time Super Bowl MVP added. “I have always believed that

SEE **BRADY** | B2

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

No Nats players tested for virus

Minor leaguers are set to receive their usual spring training stipends

By Jesse Dougherty
The Washington Post

In a 20-minute call with reporters Friday, Washington Nationals General Manager Mike Rizzo provided a micro- and macro-level look at how the team is handling baseball's indefinite pause for the coronavirus outbreak.

The highlight was Rizzo had no dire news to relay.

“We're very fortunate here with the Nationals that we've had no players show any symptoms of the coronavirus to the point where it would suggest any testing,” Rizzo said. “We've had no players tested. Players are in constant, direct contact with our medical teams on a daily basis.”

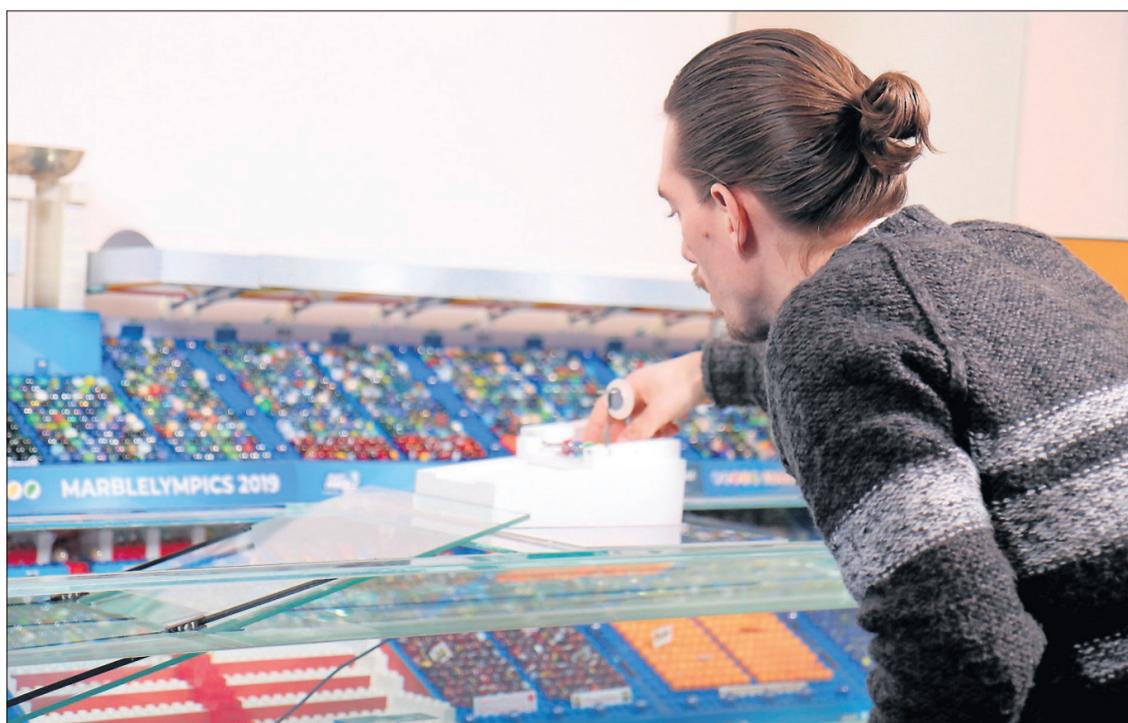


Martinez

Two New York Yankees minor league players have tested positive. Those are professional baseball's only known cases. The Nationals have split up in the past week, and are running operations from Florida, their spring training home, and Washington, their regular home.

Thirteen players remain in Florida, three are in the Washington area, and the rest have traveled to where they live in the offseason. Rizzo and Manager Dave Martinez have stayed in West Palm Beach.

Minor leaguers were otherwise sent home last Saturday with no promise of their usual spring training stipends. That changed Thursday, when MLB announced, “Each player who is under a Minor League Uniform Player Contract will receive a lump sum equal to the allowances that would have been paid through April 8th.”



ANTON WEBER VIA AP PHOTOS

In this image provided by Anton Weber, a test run is being set up for the water race event at Jelle's Marble Amusement Park Marblopolis in 2019 in Nijmegen, Netherlands. Marble racing quickly has gained in popularity on social media amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

MARBLE MADNESS

Sports fans are on the hunt for new games to watch during the COVID-19 pandemic

By Dan Gelston
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA

Welcome to the Marble Universe, where the rushing of glass balls down race tracks, around sandy beach corners or getting thumped by fidget spinners has suddenly become as captivating as any dunk contest.

Losing your marbles looking for sports to watch during the coronavirus pandemic?

Get in on Marble Madness! No bracket needed.

Wild and wacky games straight out of the halcyon days of “Wide World of Sports” are in vogue as boredom seeps in and new forms of entertainment are in demand.

With all real sports on hiatus, fans are finding pinch-hit pastimes to pass the time, like, say, marble racing, whose videos — more viral than virus — have attracted celebrity fans and erupted into a social media sports sensation.

Some loafers sit on adjacent window sills and play catch, kick around the soccer ball and even bust out ping pong



Marble fans in the 2019 Marble League grandstands are shown at Jelle's Marble Amusement Park Marblopolis. With all real sports on hiatus, marble racing has started to attract celebrity fans and has become a social media sports sensation

paddles. Broadcaster Josh Lewin has called the play by play of his routine chores, such as stacking soup (“a double stack of Minestrone! Double stack! We haven't seen that one since

mid-July!”) Golfer Matthias Schwab started a #StayAtHomeChallenge and posted videos of him using his clubs to

SEE **MARBLES** | B2

“People get attached to these marbles and they build the storylines and they weave this together through all the competition.”

— Greg Woods, provides commentary for marble races held by Jelle's Marble Runs

Without games, NBA players now using their platforms in new way

Trying to engage and even encourage fans during these unusual times

By Tim Reynolds
The Associated Press

Cleveland's Kevin Love did his best to reassure a skittish and scared public. Denver's Jamal Murray sat at his piano and played theme songs. Atlanta's Trae Young shot

ballied-up socks into a trash can. Miami's Goran Dragic, in his native Slovenian, told people to stay inside.

This is the new NBA normal in a coronavirus-dominated world.

Even without games, the league is trying to engage and

even encourage fans in these tough times.

So far, about 20 current and former players have partnered with the NBA and WNBA for a new sort of public-service announcement as the world continues dealing with the coronavirus pandemic that is

known to have struck about a quarter-million people worldwide, killed about 10,000 and essentially has shut down sports around the globe.

“We're able to reach a number probably in the hundreds of millions, but as far as kids go, tens of millions of kids just by pressing send on an NBA PSA,” Love said. “So for me, it was

COVID-19 RESPONSE

considering that community aspect as well as, you know, thinking of young kids now being at home being homeschooled, at-risk youth being homeschooled ... we have to reach them.”

Love's PSA, released earlier

SEE **NBA** | B2

BRIEFLY

TENNIS

Tours extend breaks; over 40 events off

More than 40 top-level professional tennis tournaments are off the sport's 2020 calendar because of the coronavirus pandemic as of Friday, when the men's and women's tours extended their breaks and the sport's Hall of Fame canceled its induction ceremony.

The ATP said Friday the post-Wimbledon grass-court Hall of Fame Open in Newport, Rhode Island, and a hard-court U.S. Open tuneup in Atlanta were among the events that "will not take place as scheduled."

The WTA added tournaments in Bastad; Lausanne, Switzerland; Bucharest, Romania; and Jurmala, Latvia, to its list of cancellations.

The start of the 2020 French Open has been postponed from late May to late September.

MLB

Watson, All-Star slugger and GM, dies at 74

Bob Watson, an All-Star slugger who became the first black general manager to win a World Series with the New York Yankees in 1996, has died. He was 74.

The Houston Astros, for whom Watson played his first 14 seasons in a baseball career spanning six decades, announced his death Thursday night.

Watson, nicknamed "The Bull," made the All-Star team in 1973 and '75, hit over .300 four times and drove in at least 100 runs twice while hitting in the middle of the Astros' lineup. He also holds the distinction of scoring the 1 millionth run in major league history — May 4, 1975, against the San Francisco Giants at Candlestick Park.

NCAA BASKETBALL

Virginia Tech guard Kabongo's career over

Virginia Tech announced Friday that Jonathan Kabongo's basketball career has been cut short by injuries.

As expected, Kabongo has been medically disqualified. He will remain a Tech student, but his scholarship no longer will count toward the team's NCAA maximum limit of 13.

Kabongo sat out last season because of a hip injury.

— From wire reports

NASCAR: THE REAL HEROES 400 AT DARLINGTON RACEWAY AT 3:30 P.M. ON SUNDAY, FOX

Return to the track

Comeback of Cup racing from global shutdown latest chapter in Darlington's legacy



NASCAR driver Greg Biffle (left), Darlington Raceway President Chris Browning (center) and Harold Brasington Jr. look out over Darlington Raceway in 2006 in Darlington, South Carolina. Brasington's father was the track builder. The 70-year-old raceway will host the return of NASCAR Cup Series racing Sunday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTOS

By **Pete Iacobelli**
The Associated Press

DARLINGTON, S.C.

Harold Brasington III recalls riding around the infield at Darlington Raceway as a youngster with his late grandfather, track builder Harold Brasington, watching as his granddad said hello to the likes of Richard Petty, David Pearson, Cale Yarborough and Dale Earnhardt.

The younger Brasington, 52, will see history once more Sunday: The 70-year-old raceway will host the return of NASCAR Cup Series racing, among the biggest events so far as sports makes a halting comeback from a global shutdown forced by the coronavirus pandemic.

The Xfinity Series then will fire up for the first time since March on Tuesday night at the 1.366-mile, egg-shaped oval. Cup racers come back Wednesday for a weeknight, primetime race — the kind fans have urged NASCAR to try — to cap a busy time for the "Lady in Black."

"I think Darlington is the poster child for inspiration and luck kind of linking up together," Brasington said.

It's hard to argue. The track hosted two NASCAR races every year from 1950 to 2003, including the Southern 500 on Labor Day weekend,



Ricky Craven (right) crosses the finish line two-thousandths of a second ahead of Kurt Busch to win the NASCAR Carolina Dodge Dealers 400 at Darlington Raceway on March 16, 2003.

an event considered a marquee race for the stock car series. But a push for bigger TV ratings and fancier, modern raceways — and some neglect in upkeep at the old country track — had some wondering if Darlington might join the list of shuttered, defunct Southern tracks like Rockingham and North Wilkesboro.

Instead, it has held on as NASCAR embraced its history as the oldest paved super-speedway. Since 2015, Darlington has held the circuit's throwback weekend — back on Labor Day — with a popular celebration of NASCAR's colorful past.

SEE **RETURN** | B2

NASCAR putting its safety plan to test as racing restarts

By **Jenna Fryer**
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Crew chief Chad Knaus won't get a look at the car Hendrick Motorsports built for Darlington Raceway until he gets to the track Sunday morning, a few hours before the race.

Kurt Busch? He's already sat in his Chip Ganassi Racing car and met with his crew chief.

The return to racing for NASCAR has brought with it a set of safety protocols that will be strictly enforced at the track Sunday when the Cup Series goes racing for the first time in more than two months after a pandemic-forced hiatus. The stock car series only can trust competitors to follow the guide-



Brad Keselowski will start on the pole when the NASCAR season resumes Sunday in Darlington, South Carolina. The 2012 Cup champion earned the top starting spot through a random draw.

lines away from the track — and teams appear to have different interpretations.

"No face-to-face or contact with these guys whatsoever. Everything has been on [Zoom]

team meetings," said Knaus, a seven-time championship winning crew chief. "That's the recommendation by NASCAR for the traveling teams to stay as isolated as they can and try to keep everybody at the race track as healthy as we can. That's the protocol we put into place, and that's what we've been abiding by."

Not others. Busch dropped by the Ganassi shop Thursday. He wanted a face-to-face meeting with crew chief Matt McCall before Darlington after two months of communicating via phone or computer.

"Just him and I, separated from the group," Busch said. "There's

SEE **SAFETY** | B2

NASCAR CUP SERIES

THE REAL HEROES 400 LINEUP

The lineup for the race was determined by live draw. The parameters for the live draw were as follows: Positions 1-12 determined by a random draw from charter teams in those positions in team owner points. Positions 13-24: Random draw among charter teams in those positions in owner points.

- Positions 25-36: Random draw among charter teams in those positions in owner points. Positions 37-40 were filled out by open, non-chartered teams in order of owner points
(Car number in parentheses)
1. (2) Brad Keselowski, Ford
2. (88) Alex Bowman, Chevrolet
3. (21) Matt DiBenedetto, Ford
4. (18) Kyle Busch, Toyota
5. (10) Aric Almirola, Ford

6. (4) Kevin Harvick, Ford
7. (12) Ryan Blaney, Ford
8. (48) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet
9. (22) Joey Logano, Ford
10. (11) Denny Hamlin, Toyota
11. (9) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet
12. (42) Matt Kenseth, Chevrolet
13. (14) Clint Bowyer, Ford
14. (41) Cole Custer, Ford
15. (19) Martin Truex Jr., Toyota
16. (3) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet
17. (43) Bubba Wallace, Chevrolet

18. (24) William Byron, Chevrolet
19. (32) Corey LaJoie, Ford
20. (20) Erik Jones, Toyota
21. (6) Ryan Newman, Ford
22. (1) Kurt Busch, Chevrolet
23. (47) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Chevrolet
24. (17) Chris Buescher, Ford
25. (37) Ryan Preece, Chevrolet
26. (53) Garrett Smithley, Chevrolet
27. (00) Quin Houff, Chevrolet
28. (95) Christopher Bell, Toyota

29. (8) Tyler Reddick, Chevrolet
30. (27) JJ Yeley, Ford
31. (34) Michael McDowell, Ford
32. (51) Joey Gase, Ford
33. (13) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet
34. (38) John Hunter Nemechek, Ford
35. (15) Brennan Poole, Chevrolet
36. (77) Reed Sorenson, Chevrolet
37. (96) Daniel Suarez, Toyota
38. (66) Timmy Hill, Toyota
39. (78) BJ McLeod, Chevrolet
40. (7) Josh Billicki, Chevrolet