

Winter Olympics

Back to school, work looms for Olympic hockey players

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**
AP Hockey Writer

GANGNEUNG, South Korea — Brian Gionta could go from facing Martin Erat in the Olympics to facing Filip Forsberg in the NHL. Tony Granato will go back to coaching JD Greenway at Wisconsin after having brother Jordan play for him on the U.S. men’s team. Jordan Greenway and Ryan Donato will go back to their college teams in and around Boston after celebrating goals together on Olympic ice.

The end of the Olympics means players, coaches and everyone around the tournament return to their day jobs, some more glamorous than others. After putting their seasons on hold to focus on the Olympics, what’s next for players varies drastically from the bright lights of the NHL to bus life in the minors to plane trips across Siberia.

For players who thrived on the big stage, the no-NHL Olympics was a blessing and one that will boost them moving forward.

“It definitely helped me as a player, my confidence, and knowing how I can play at this level,” said forward Troy Terry, the youngest player on the U.S. team who is an Anaheim Ducks prospect playing at the University of Denver, last season’s NCAA champion. “I’m just trying to keep this going, and I feel good as a player. I’m coming out of here with confidence and I’m just trying to bring that back to Denver and hopefully try and make another run at a national championship.”



AP Photo/Jae C. Hong

Ryan Donato (16), of the United States, skates with the puck past Dominik Kubalik (18), of the Czech Republic, during the quarterfinal round of the men’s hockey tournament at the 2018 Winter Olympics in Gangneung, South Korea on Wednesday.

Granato’s Wisconsin Badgers, Greenway’s Boston University Terriers and Donato’s Harvard Crimson will try to prevent that as the attention turns from South Korea to getting to St. Paul, Minnesota, for the Frozen Four.

Seventeen years removed from winning his national title at Boston College, Gionta said of an NHL return “we’ll see what happens.” He said he thinks he played well in South Korea and created scoring

chances even though he had zero points and a minus-4 rating. The 39-year-old winger led the United States with 16 shots on goal.

Fellow captain Chris Kelly is in a similar role for Canada, and he and agent Pat Morris each said the 37-year-old forward is focused on the Olympics and not potentially signing a contract. Kelly, Gionta and U.S. defenseman James Wisniewski would have to sign before 3 p.m. Eastern on Monday to

be playoff-eligible.

Kelly and Canada defenseman Maxim Noreau said they’re in an Olympic bubble and trying not to worry about their NHL chances. Kelly has gotten the silent treatment from Morris on that topic — in a good way.

“I think he knows,” Kelly said. “We’ve been together since I was 1 think 19 and he knows to leave me alone.”

Some players have no interest

NASCAR heads to Atlanta with a Daytona 500 hangover, drivers feuding

By **JENNA FRYER**
AP Auto Racing Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Austin Dillon is still celebrating his Daytona 500 victory and Bubba Wallace is relishing his sudden breakout as NASCAR’s newest star.

Denny Hamlin? Well, he’s in the middle of another feud, and it’s only the second week of the season.

NASCAR moves from the Daytona 500 this weekend to Atlanta Motor Speedway with a bit of a hangover from the biggest party of its season.

Hamlin earned a call to the NASCAR hauler for a comment he made last week on the “Barstool Sports” podcast in which he claimed 70 percent of NASCAR drivers take the prescription drug Adderall to help with concentration.

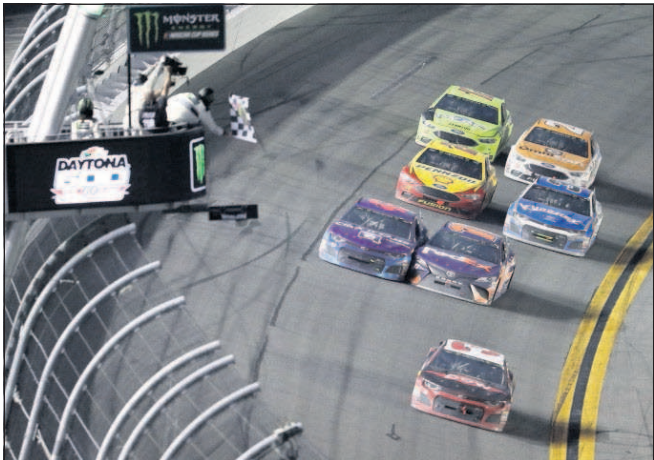
Adderall is on NASCAR’s banned substance list without a doctor prescription.

Hamlin claimed it was a joke made on an irreverent podcast, but Wallace didn’t let it go after nudging Hamlin for second place in the Daytona 500. The two raced door-to-door to the finish, and Hamlin has repeatedly said the contact cut his tire.

But after his historic second-place finish — Wallace was the first black driver in the Daytona 500 field since 1969 — he took a shot at Hamlin for the final lap racing that in Hamlin’s

Folds of Honor Quiktrip 500

- When:** Sunday, 11 a.m.
- Where:** Atlanta Motor Speedway
- TV:** FOX
- 2017 winner:** Brad Keselowski (2)



AP Photo/David Graham

Austin Dillon (3) takes the checkered flag to win the NASCAR Daytona 500 as Darrell Wallace Jr. (43) and Denny Hamlin (11) battle for second place at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla. on Sunday.

me but then went on to make personal comments about myself. I left the media center and saw Bubba 30 secs later,” Hamlin posted in a series of tweets.

“Anyone who wouldn’t take offense to the stupid things that was said has absolutely no backbone. I have one,” he concluded.

Wallace was dubious of Hamlin’s take on the last-lap racing on Sunday night, but believed the two would move on to Atlanta and be fine. He did, however, wonder if he was going to be kicked out of the Hamlin-led recreational basketball and golf leagues.

Turns out, though, that it wasn’t just NASCAR that was annoyed with Hamlin’s

Adderall assessment.

Kevin Harvick used his Tuesday night SiriusXM show to note plenty of drivers are upset with Hamlin.

“Those 70 percent of drivers he referred to are mad,” Harvick said. “Whether he thinks it was an off-the-cuff comment and something he meant to say or not to say, it still offended most everybody in the garage. If you’re going to play around, joking and think it’s not something that everybody is going to take offense to. I think he’s probably seeing that nobody really appreciated it and it put everybody in a bad spot.”

Angry drivers are just one of many things to keep an eye on at Atlanta.

There are so far only 36 cars entered for Sunday’s race, which would make it the smallest field in decades. Only 39 cars competed at Atlanta last year, and that was the smallest field in 20 years.

NASCAR had allowed a maximum 43 cars starting in 1998, and hit that number until only 42 cars showed up at a 2014 race in Kentucky. Under the charter system, with only 36 cars guaranteed spots in the field, NASCAR cut the field to a maximum of 40 each week.

But the bulk of the purse goes to the chartered teams, and it’s a financial burden for “open” cars to show up every week and fight for the remaining four slots.

The new charter system meant that only 40 cars tried to make the Daytona 500, which made the qualifying races pointless because no driver was battling for a spot in the field. Asked about the small car counts at Daytona, NASCAR executive Steve O’Donnell said the series prefers a strong entry list over backmarkers and field fillers.

“I think it is one of the best fields we’ve had, it’s deep,” O’Donnell said. “In the future, would we like to see more? We probably would. But when you look across all of sports now, the idea of sending someone home with a major sponsor, it just doesn’t happen in sports today. It’s not just a reality

for NASCAR, it’s all motor-sports, and sports in general.”

Team owner Roger Penske wasn’t bothered by the size.

“What we need is the continuity with all the same drivers and cars running across the whole season,” he said. “I think this is really a sign of the times, and that’s the way it’s going to be.”

And, keep an eye on the Toyota teams, especially Martin Truex Jr.

The most dominating manufacturer of 2017 came up empty at Daytona, and Truex, the defending series champion, led just four laps in three races. Toyota drivers did not win a single Cup event at Daytona.

But Atlanta at 1.54-miles is in Truex’s wheelhouse, and he won seven races on intermediate tracks last year. Truex’s average finish last year in 11 races at 1.5-mile tracks was second.

“While Daytona is the biggest and most prestigious race to win, the season actually starts at a downforce track,” Truex said. “Atlanta should give us a good indication how we fare against the competition.”

So, yeah, NASCAR rolls its show into Atlanta with everyone mad at Hamlin, Wallace out to prove he’s the real deal and Truex and the Toyota camp trying to reclaim their footing.

Buckle up, it’s going to be a long season.

PAC-12: Ducks beat Sun Devils as Brown scores 19 points, McIntosh scores 16

Continued from 1B

up 37-29.

The Beavers responded after halftime and Gligorije Rakocovic’s jump hook tied the game at 50-all with 9:51 remaining.

There were several lead changes from there before Stephen Thompson Jr. missed a jumper before the regulation buzzer for Oregon

State.

Arizona is appealing the suspension for Trier, who was averaging 19.6 points, 3.2 rebounds and 3.2 assists.

“The amount detected was minuscule by scientific standards and appear to be a remnant of a substance, which the NCAA agreed, that Allonzo unknowingly ingested in 2016,” the university statement reads.

UP NEXT

Arizona plays at Oregon on Saturday.

Oregon State hosts Arizona State on Saturday.

OREGON 75, ARIZONA STATE 68

EUGENE (AP) — Elijah Brown had 19 points and seven rebounds, and MiKyle McIntosh added 16 points

to lead Oregon past Arizona State 75-68 on Thursday night.

Paul White had 11 points for the Ducks (18-10, 8-7 Pac-12), who beat the Sun Devils (19-8, 7-8) for the eighth consecutive time and moved into a tie for sixth in the conference standings.

Shannon Evans II led ASU with 25 points and Remy Martin added 15 off

the bench. Tra Holder, the Sun Devils’ leading scorer at 19.3 points per game, was 0 of 6 from the field and went scoreless for the first time in 64 games, since near the end of his sophomore season.

Brown, who was coming off a 19-point game against UCLA, was 8 of 12 overall and scored 12 points in the second half as Oregon never trailed after the break. The

Ducks outrebounded ASU 40-32 and had a 36-14 edge in points in the paint.

Oregon led 43-40 after a sluggish first half by going inside, led by McIntosh with nine points. Brown had 10 straight points bridging half-time as the Ducks built their largest lead at 53-40.

UP NEXT

Oregon: Hosts No. 14 Arizona on Saturday night.

SCOREBOARD

Local slate PREP BOYS BASKETBALL Saturday No. 16 Stanfield at No. 1 Western Menno-nite (2A First Round), 2:30 p.m. No. 12 Umatilla at No. 5 Horizon Christian (3A First Round), 4 p.m. No. 12 Days Creek at No. 5 Nixyaawii (1A Second Round), 4:30 p.m. No. 10 Kennedy at No. 7 Pilot Rock, 4:30 p.m. (2A First Round), 4:30 p.m. No. 9 Catlin Gabel at No. 8 Irrigon (3A First Round), 6 p.m. PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL Friday No. 13 Weston-McEwen at No. 4 Grant Union (2A First Round), 6 p.m. Saturday No. 9 Central Linn at No. 8 Heppner (2A First Round), 1 p.m. No. 2 Nixyaawii vs. No. 15 Camas Valley (1A First Round, at Sunridge MS), 3 p.m.	L.A. Clippers at Golden State, 10:30 p.m. Friday’s Games Atlanta at Indiana, 4 p.m. Boston at Detroit, 4 p.m. Charlotte at Washington, 4 p.m. Milwaukee at Toronto, 4:30 p.m. Cleveland at Memphis, 5 p.m. Miami at New Orleans, 5 p.m. Minnesota at Houston, 5 p.m. L.A. Clippers at Phoenix, 6 p.m. Portland at Utah, 6 p.m. San Antonio at Denver, 6 p.m. Dallas at L.A. Lakers, 7:30 p.m. NCAA Men’s Basketball Top 25 Schedule Thursday No. 9 Purdue 93, Illinois 86 No. 11 Cincinnati 72, UConn 55 No. 6 Gonzaga 77, San Diego 72 Memphis 91, No. 23 Houston 85 No. 14 Arizona 75, Oregon State 65, OT No. 22 Saint Mary’s 75, Pepperdine 61 Friday Dayton at No. 18 URI, 4 p.m. (ESPN2) No. 16 Ohio State at Indiana, 5 p.m. (FS1) Pac-12 Schedule Thursday No. 14 Arizona 75, Oregon State 65, OT Stanford 94, Washington 78 Utah 84, UCLA 78 Washington St 78, Cal 76 Arizona State at Oregon, 8:30 p.m. (FS1) Friday	No games scheduled. NCAA Women’s Basketball Top 25 Schedule Thursday Michigan, 71, No. 13 Maryland 65 No. 7 South Carolina 57, No. 24 LSU 48 No. 15 Tennessee 70, Florida 42 No. 9 FSU 67 Boston College 39 No. 4 Louisville 51, UVA 39 No. 5 Notre Dame 89, Virginia Tech 59 No. 21 NC State 77, Pitt 66 No. 19 Georgia 49, Alabama 43 No. 17 Texas A&M 104, Arkansas 60 No. 2 Miss St 82, Auburn 61 No. 11 Missouri 83, Vanderbilt 68 No. 10 UCLA 73, Colorado 67 Friday No. 8 Oregon 75, Arizona State 68 Oakland at No. 22 Green Bay, 5 p.m. (ESPN3) No. 12 Oregon State at Arizona, 7 p.m. No. 16 Stanford at Washington, 8 p.m. (PAC12) Pac-12 Schedule Thursday USC 53, Utah 52, OT No. 10 UCLA 73, Colorado 67 Friday No. 8 Oregon at Arizona State, 5 p.m. (PAC12) Cal at Washington State, 7 p.m. No. 12 Oregon State at Arizona, 7 p.m. No. 16 Stanford at Washington 8 p.m.	(PAC12) Hockey NHL Thursday’s Games Philadelphia 2, Columbus 1 Minnesota 4, New Jersey 2 Toronto 4, N.Y. Islanders 3, SO Florida 3, Washington 2 Buffalo 3, Detroit 2, OT Montreal 3, N.Y. Rangers 1 Tampa Bay 4, Ottawa 3 Nashville 7, San Jose 1 Edmonton 3, Colorado 2, OT Calgary 5, Arizona 2 Dallas 2, Los Angeles 0 Friday’s Games Minnesota at N.Y. Rangers, 4 p.m. Pittsburgh at Carolina, 4:30 p.m. Winnipeg at St. Louis, 5 p.m. San Jose at Chicago, 5:30 p.m. Vancouver at Vegas, 7:30 p.m. Golf PGA TOUR HONDA CLASSIC Site: Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. Course: PGA National. Yardage: 7,110. Par: 70. Purse: \$6.6 million. Winner’s share: \$1,188,000. Television: Thursday-Friday, 2-6 p.m. (Golf Channel); Saturday-Sunday, 1-2:45 p.m. (Golf Channel); 3-6 p.m. (CBS Sports). Defending champion: Rickie Fowler.	Channel); Saturday-Sunday, 1-2:45 p.m. (Golf Channel); 3-6 p.m. (CBS Sports). Defending champion: Rickie Fowler. Olympics Pyeongchang Winter Olympics Thursday TV Schedule NBC 12 p.m. — Biathlon: Men’s 4x7.5km Relay Gold Medal Final 5 p.m. — Alpine Skiing: Team Event Gold Medal Final (LIVE); Snowboarding: Men’s Big Air Gold Medal Final (LIVE); Four-Man Bobsled; Competition; Speed Skating: Men’s 1000m Gold Medal Final 8:35 p.m. — Snowboarding: Men’s & Women’s Parallel Giant Slalom competition NBCSN 2 a.m. — Speed Skating: Men’s 1,000m Gold Medal Final (LIVE) 3:30 a.m. — Men’s Hockey: Semifinal, Canada vs. Germany (LIVE) 6:30 a.m. — Men’s Curling: Bronze Medal Match, Canada vs. Switzerland 9:30 a.m. — Women’s Curling: Semifinal; Medal Ceremonies 1 p.m. — Hockey Game of the Day (re-play); Hockey Game of the Day II (replay); Olympic Ice 5 p.m. — Biathlon: Men’s 4x7.5km Relay Gold Medal Final; Women’s Curling: Semifinal (replay) 9 p.m. — Cross Country: Men’s 50km Gold Medal Final (LIVE) 12 a.m. (Saturday) — Curling: Men’s Gold Medal Final, Sweden vs. United States CNBC 2 p.m. — Curling: Women’s Semifinal MEDAL COUNT At Pyeongchang, South Korea Through 2 of 4 medal events for Feb. 23 Through 88 of 90 total medal events <table><tr><th>Nation</th><th>Gold</th><th>Silver</th><th>Bronze</th><th>Tot</th></tr><tr><td>Norway</td><td>13</td><td>12</td><td>10</td><td>35</td></tr><tr><td>Germany</td><td>13</td><td>7</td><td>5</td><td>25</td></tr><tr><td>Canada</td><td>10</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>27</td></tr><tr><td>United States</td><td>8</td><td>7</td><td>6</td><td>21</td></tr><tr><td>Netherlands</td><td>7</td><td>6</td><td>4</td><td>17</td></tr><tr><td>Sweden</td><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>0</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>France</td><td>5</td><td>4</td><td>6</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>Austria</td><td>5</td><td>2</td><td>6</td><td>13</td></tr><tr><td>South Korea</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>3</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>Switzerland</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>3</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>Italy</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>Japan</td><td>3</td><td>2</td><td>5</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>Belarus</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>China</td><td>1</td><td>6</td><td>2</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>OA Russia</td><td>1</td><td>5</td><td>8</td><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>Czech Republic</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>Slovakia</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>0</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Britain</td><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>Poland</td><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Hungary</td><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Ukraine</td><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Australia</td><td>0</td><td>2</td><td>1</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Slovenia</td><td>0</td><td>1</td><td>0</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Finland</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>4</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>New Zealand</td><td>0</td><td>0</td><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr></table>	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Tot	Norway	13	12	10	35	Germany	13	7	5	25	Canada	10	8	9	27	United States	8	7	6	21	Netherlands	7	6	4	17	Sweden	5	5	0	10	France	5	4	6	15	Austria	5	2	6	13	South Korea	4	4	3	11	Switzerland	3	6	3	12	Italy	3	5	3	11	Japan	3	2	5	10	Belarus	2	1	0	3	China	1	6	2	9	OA Russia	1	5	8	14	Czech Republic	1	2	3	6	Slovakia	1	2	0	3	Britain	1	0	3	4	Poland	1	0	1	2	Hungary	1	0	0	1	Ukraine	1	0	0	1	Australia	0	2	1	3	Slovenia	0	1	0	1	Finland	0	0	4	4	New Zealand	0	0	2	2
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