

DEAR ABBY

Write to Dear Abby online at dearabby.com
or by mail at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069



Dear Abby: I'm a mom of three young adults, a daughter and two sons. The oldest recently married. My youngest is finishing his last two years of college out of state. Three months ago, he met a young lady.

I have tried constantly to be close with all my children, but the youngest has always kept me at bay. He expresses how different we are. Now that he has met this young lady, I think he's trying to push me further away and continue on with her and her mom. It makes me sad because no matter how hard I try to be a good mother and be present, it doesn't work. What do you suggest?

— *Sad Mom in Mississippi*

Dear Mom Your son is pursuing not only this young lady, but also his independence, which is normal for someone his age, and he may need to separate from you for a while. Back off for now and allow him some space. Whether this college romance will pan out is anyone's guess, so calm down. If possible, concentrate on things other than your empty nest. However, if you are unable to do that, ask your physician or your insurance company to refer you to a licensed psychotherapist to help you get through this.

Dear Abby: I lost my schnauzer to diabetes five months ago. He was my best and, really, only friend. I can't get over the guilt for having to euthanize him. I hate myself. I have cried every day since because I feel like I let him down. I have never had to go through this before. It was so traumatic I just can't get over it. Why is this so hard?

— *Beyond Grief in Utah*

Dear Beyond Grief: You have my sympathy. If your dog was suffering and your veterinarian told you the time had come for him to go, you did the right thing. Our beloved pets should run and play rather than suffer. This is so painful because you loved your cherished family member and feel you should have saved him, which, of course, was beyond your power.

Every pet owner faces what you are experiencing when they leave their pet at the Rainbow Bridge. In time, your pain should lessen. But if it persists to the point that it interferes with the rest of your life, consult your veterinarian about joining a grief support group.

Dear Abby: My husband of 49 years is fighting me left and right about finding someone to help around our house. He is stubborn. He has tunnel vision and a one-track mind, and he doesn't want anyone to assist him in anything. If I hire someone, he always has a negative comment about that person's workmanship.

He's retired after working 44 years and thinks life will wait for him to complete any task, even if it takes another 49 years.

I need help with his "I can handle it" attitude while everything stays on hold until he can get to it.

— *Needs It Yesterday in Michigan*

Dear Needs It: Give your husband a deadline to either finish a project or hire it done, making clear that if he doesn't do it, you will see it gets done. Then batten down the hatches and be prepared for him not to take the message gracefully.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Beavers back to practice; Arizona game on as scheduled

BY JESSE SOWA

Albany Democrat-Herald

Oregon State men's basketball got back to the court for practice Tuesday after a seven-day pause and will host Arizona on Thursday night barring any more setbacks.

COVID-19 test results and protocols in the OSU program resulted in last week's conference games at Utah and Colorado being postponed and had all but five Beavers players in isolation for the past week after the Jan. 4 home game against Stanford.

"We're not alone though. That's the message we've been sending to our guys, is we've got to deal with what's in front of us," OSU coach Wayne Tinkle said Tuesday via a video conference with media.

Another message, delivered since the onset of the pandemic, has been that the teams that handle the adverse situations the best and stay together will have success.

That will be the challenge and a focus for Oregon State moving forward.

Tinkle said he wasn't excited about having just two practices to prepare for a game after having a week off, a situation no other Pac-12 men's basketball team has attempted to date. But he says he's "happy with the opportunity to play."

More practices would have allowed time to ensure his available players were mentally and physically ready.

"We'll be close. We've got a lot of bodies still," Tinkle said. "We'll be missing a guy or two, but we'll be ready to go when that thing goes in the air."

The break from team activities gave the coaching staff time to reassess the Beavers' (5-4, 1-2 Pac-12) progress in the seven weeks since playing their first game.

The coaches saw what Tinkle has said repeatedly after games and has been passed on to the players during practice



Karl Maasdam/OSU Athletics

Oregon State's Roman Silva (12) looks to get around Portland's Michael Henn during a game on Dec. 10 in Corvallis. Silva missed the team's last game due to COVID-19 testing results and protocols and is "working himself back in" to team activities, said coach Wayne Tinkle.

"The theme has been no excuses, no explanations.

We roll with what we have and we throw our best shot out there. So that's what we're going to continue to do. It is what it is. We've got to get games in and we'll make sure whoever we've got rolling into Thursday is prepared."

— **Wayne Tinkle, Oregon State men's basketball coach**

and film sessions: some of the same mistakes and problems are cropping up in losses.

The Beavers have had second-half leads in all of their defeats.

"We've got to get better at finishing," Tinkle said. "It's discipline, it's effort, it's having each other's backs defensively then continuing to do what's working offensively."

It's breakdowns in those areas that have cost Oregon State games.

The coach said his team needs to fight through it, be tougher and be a more cohesive unit for longer stretches.

Tinkle points to a lack of maturity and experience. He says improvement is being made but that consistency is still lagging behind.

Junior forward Rodrigue Andela, who left the Stanford game with an apparent foot injury, tested it briefly Monday

and didn't practice Tuesday. Tinkle said Tuesday that it was "too early to tell" if Andela will make it back for Thursday.

Senior center Roman Silva, who missed the team's last game due to testing results and protocols, is "working himself back in" and wasn't able to participate in any full-court drills Tuesday, Tinkle said.

Another OSU player remains in COVID-19 protocol.

"The theme has been no excuses, no explanations. We roll with what we have and we throw our best shot out there. So that's what we're going to continue to do," Tinkle said. "It is what it is. We've got to get games in and we'll make sure whoever we've got rolling into Thursday is prepared, then they've got to go out there and get after it for us."

YOUR HOROSCOPE *By Madalyn Aslan*

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

★★★★★ DYNAMIC | ★★★★★ POSITIVE | ★★★ AVERAGE | ★★ SO-SO | ★ DIFFICULT

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, JAN. 14, 2021: Courageous, indomitable and intense, you move mountains. This year, you get a project off the ground and win fame for it. More money soon follows. If single, your personal life can be difficult and stormy. Beware of becoming emotionally hard if alone for too long. Open up and be vulnerable, and you'll meet your mate this year. If attached, your mate must be faithful and understanding. SAGITTARIUS likes to flirt.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Laugh at gossip and scandal. Be discreet about what you say and to whom. There are changing relationships in your social circle. Wait until the alliances are more settled before voicing your allegiance. Tonight: A partner makes important choices.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Your professional reputation is under scrutiny. Be absolutely sure of details. Don't indulge in office gossip. Loyalties are changing and job politics are especially volatile. An investigation culminates in a success. Tonight: Celebrate.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ You will be exposed to those who have a different philosophy of life from you. An open mind and tolerant attitude will carry you a long way. A family gathering is a time to listen carefully when in conversation with loved ones. Tonight: You will concentrate on home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Analyze your drives, appetites and desires. If there are addictive tendencies, keep them under control. Sweet, rich desserts and other extravagances beckon. Try to understand the moods and feelings of others, as you could be a bit intense just now. Tonight: Intense.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ There are tremendous opportunities and an avalanche of ideas and projects. You may feel overwhelmed. Try not to take on too much. You realize that everyone needs a great deal from you. Tonight: Avoid a partner who has been a disappointment in the past.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Be patient with those who haven't had your education and other advantages. Subordinates could be difficult. An assistant or employee talks about moving on. Create neatness and order in your surroundings. Tonight: Pets are the perfect companions, bringing love and joy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ You're ready to start the weekend early. There can be a sudden romantic attraction. You can create your own good fortune. Take the initiative. Tonight: Your enthusiasm is magnetic, and you enjoy the dark, frosty days of midwinter.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ You will recognize new needs expressed by family members. Bring a spiritual, healing atmosphere to the home. Don't allow yourself to be swayed by well meant advice. Avoid legal entanglements. Listen carefully. Tonight: A leisurely family meeting and discussion over dinner.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Today's an active time with many projects in progress. An organized schedule helps you release stress and get everything done. You have a deeper understanding of the psyche of a sibling. Keep relations with neighbors peaceful. Tonight: You are learning a great deal.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ A loved one could consider a new job. You will seek security and will be protective of important belongings as well as relationships. Make conservative financial decisions. You will long to make some new purchases. Tonight: Be sensible and study your budget before overextending.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You'll be a popular companion and enjoy combining social life with serious teamwork. It's a phase of new beginnings. Don't hesitate — timing is an important factor in how effective you can be. Tonight: Refurbish your wardrobe and spend extra time on your appearance.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★ You need extra sleep. Avoid ill or negative individuals. Allow a little slack in your schedule. Projects take longer than you expect. You'll be more reserved and will shun controversy. The well-being of family members is a focus. Tonight: Concentrate on a healthy lifestyle.

NBA

Continued from A5

Say this much for Bjorkgren: He's had the Pacers in every game, no small feat in this era.

"I think this organization has been slept on for years now," Brogdon said last month. "I think it's time for people to wake up."

It's not like every night this season has seen nothing but blowouts.

Monday was the 20th day of games this season; of those days, nine have seen multiple games decided by three points or fewer, most recently a pair of such games Sunday. A glaring exception, though, was the five-game showcase lineup on Christmas Day — where the closest final margin was 13 points.

That was the first time since 2006 that the NBA had no single-digit games on Christmas, and it must be noted that year had Miami's 16-point win over the Los Angeles Lakers as the lone game on the Dec. 25 slate.

And games have tightened up a bit in recent days; in the week from Dec. 29 through Jan. 4, 15 of the 56 NBA games had one team enjoying a 30-point lead, and in the week that followed and ended Monday, only eight of 53 games had such a margin at any point. Maybe that's a sign that teams are getting into better shape, a real possibility after a truncated training camp and shortened preseason.

"When you keep that competitive spirit up, it spreads throughout the group," San Antonio guard Patty Mills said. "It's contagious."

Who knows where the scoring will go in the next few days and weeks, amid the pandemic that has forced the NBA to postpone games that were on the schedule for Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

The ripple effects of contact-tracing results will be felt in Dallas, Miami and other cities for the next several days at least.

Like Nash said, the craziest NBA season ever awaits, on the scoreboards and off.

And it's just getting started.

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