FRIDAY

ואטאו		
BASKETBALL	Time	TV
Women's college, Stanford at Utah	12:30 p.m.	Pac-12
Men's college, Marshall at Western Kentucky	2 p.m.	CBSSN
Men's college, Alabama-Birmingham at Charlotte	2 p.m.	ESPNU
Women's college, California at Colorado	2:30 p.m.	Pac-12
Men's college, Bowling Green at Buffalo	4 p.m.	CBSSN
Men's college, Duquesne at St. Bonaventure	4 p.m.	ESPN2
Men's college, Cleveland St. at Wright St.	4 p.m.	ESPNU
NBA, Dallas at Milwaukee	4:30 p.m.	ESPN
Men's college, Wisconsin at Rutgers	6 p.m.	FS1
NBA, New Orleans at L.A. Lakers	7 p.m.	ESPN
Men's college, Fresno St. at Nevada	8 p.m.	FS1
FIGURE SKATING		
U.S. Championships, Rhythm Dance	1 p.m.	NBCSN
GYMNASTICS		
Women's college, Iowa at Minnesota	1:30 p.m.	Big Ten
Women's college, Auburn at Kentucky	4 p.m.	SEC
Women's college, LSU at Arkansas	5:30 p.m.	SEC
GOLF		
PGA Tour, Sony Open in Hawaii	4 p.m.	Golf
WRESTLING		
College, Northwestern at Purdue	4 p.m.	Big Ten
College, Nebraska at Iowa	6 p.m.	Big Ten
BASEBALL		
Australian Baseball League, Perth vs. Brisbane	6 p.m.	Root
SAILING		
Americas Cup Prada Challenger Series	6 p.m.	NBCSN
SOCCER		
Premier League,		
Wolverhampton Wanderers vs. West Brom	4:30 a.m. (Sat)	NBCSN
CATLIDDAY		

Premier League, Wolverhampton Wanderers vs. West Brom	4:30 a.m. (Sat)	NBCSN
SATURDAY		
SOCCER		
Premier League,		
Leeds United vs. Brighton & Hove Albion	7 a.m.	NBCSN
Premier League, Fulham vs. Chelsea	9:30 a.m.	NBC
Mexico Primera Division, Monterrey vs. América	7 p.m.	FS1
Italian Serie A, Napoli vs. Fiorentina	3:25 a.m. (Sun) ESPN2
BASKETBALL		
Men's college, Ohio St. at Illinois	9 a.m.	FOX
Men's college, North Carolina at Florida St.	9 a.m.	ESPN
Men's college, Georgia at Ole Miss	9 a.m.	ESPN2
Men's college, Syracuse at Pittsburgh	9 a.m.	Root
Men's college, Marquette at St. John's	9 a.m.	FS1
Men's college, Missouri at Texas A&M	10 a.m.	SEC
Men's college, San Diego St. at Utah St.	10:30 a.m.	CBS
Women's college, North Alabama at Liberty	11 a.m.	ESPNU
Men's college, Kentucky at Auburn	11 a.m.	ESPN
Men's college, Michigan at Minnesota	11 a.m.	ESPN2
Men's college, Creighton at Butler	11 a.m.	FS1
Men's college, George Mason at Rhode Island	11 a.m.	NBCSN
Men's college, Stanford at Colorado	noon	Pac-12
Men's college, Xavier at Seton Hall	12:30 p.m.	CBSSN
Men's college, Arkansas at Alabama	12:30 p.m.	SEC
Men's college, Baylor at Texas Tech	1 p.m.	ESPN
Men's college, Florida at Mississippi St.	1 p.m.	ESPN2
Men's college, East Tennessee St. at Furman	1 p.m.	ESPNU
Women's college, Ohio St. at Nebraska	2 p.m.	Big Ten
Men's college, Washington at UCLA	2 p.m.	Pac-12
Men's college, New Mexico at UNLV	2:30 p.m.	CBSSN
Men's college, Virginia at Clemson	3 p.m.	ESPN
Men's college, Northern Iowa at Loyola-Chicago	3 p.m.	ESPN2
Men's college, Loyola Marymount at Pacific	3 p.m.	Root
Men's college, Vanderbilt at Tennessee	3 p.m.	SEC
Men's college, Arizona St. at Oregon St.	4 p.m.	Pac-12
Men's college, Oklahoma at Oklahoma St.	5 p.m.	ESPN
Men's college, BYU at San Francisco	5 p.m.	ESPN2
		ESPNU
Women's college, Iowa St. at Baylor	5 p.m.	
Men's college, South Carolina at LSU	5:30 p.m.	SEC
Men's college, Washington St. at Southern Cal	6:30 p.m.	Pac-12
Men's college, Gonzaga at Saint Mary's (Calif.)	7 p.m.	ESPN
Men's college, California at Utah	7 p.m.	ESPNU
NBA, Atlanta at Portland	7 p.m.	NBCSNW
WRESTLING		
College, Penn St. at Rutgers FIGURE SKATING	11:30 a.m.	Big Ten
U.S. Championships, Men's Short	1 p.m.	NBC
U.S. Championships, Free Dance/Pairs Free Skate	6 p.m.	NBCSN
FOOTBALL	o p	
NFL, L.A. Rams at Green Bay	1:35 p.m.	FOX
NFL, Baltimore at Buffalo	5:15 p.m.	NBC
HORSE RACING	22 p	. 100
America's Day at the Races	3 p.m.	FS1
GOLF	2 P.111.	131
	4 n m	Golf
PGA Tour, Sony Open in Hawaii	4 p.m.	GUII
College Object at Michigan	1 n m	Dia Ta-
College, Ohio St. at Michigan	4 p.m.	Big Ten
College, St. Cloud St. at Western Michigan	4:30 p.m.	CBSSN

SPORTS BRIEFING

BASEBALL

BASEBALL

MLB hires former team exec Epstein to evaluate rule **changes** — Former Chicago Cubs and Boston Red Sox executive Theo Epstein has been hired by Major League Baseball as a consultant for on-field matters and will evaluate possible rule changes. Epstein will work with baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred, the owners' competition committee and analytics experts, MLB said Thursday. MLB is considering possible rules changes such as expanding the designated hitter to the National League. The DH was adopted by the American League for the 1973 season and was used by the NL as an experiment last year during the pandemic. Manfred would like to speed to pace of play.

Australian Baseball League, Brisbane vs. Adelaide 8:30 p.m.

Listings are the most accurate available. The Bulletin

is not responsible for late changes made by TV stations.

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

UFC won't punish fighters for pot — The UFC will no longer punish fighters for using marijuana in most cases, making a major change to its anti-doping policy. The world's largest mixed martial arts promotion confirmed Thursday that it will no longer worry about positive tests for carboxy-THC, the psychoactive ingredient in cannabis, unless it believes a fighter used it intentionally to enhance performance. All other cannabinoids derived naturally from marijuana are no longer prohibited substances, said Jeff Novitzky, the UFC's senior vice president of athlete health and performance.

- Bulletin wire reports

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

	Men	's c	ollege	9		
			NFERENC	E		
			rence		III Gai	
	W	L	Pct	W	L	Pct
UCLA	6	0	1.000	10	2	.833
Southern Cal	4	1	.800	10		.833
Oregon	4	1	.800	9	2	.818
Colorado	4	2	.667	10	3	.769
Stanford	4	2	.667	8	4	.667
Arizona	3	3	.500	9	3	.750
Washington St.	2	3	.400	9	3	.750
Utah	2	4	.333	5	5	.500
Oregon St.	1	2	.333	5	4	.556
Arizona St.	1	2	.333	4	5	.444
California	1	6	.143	6	8	.429
Washington	0	6	.000	1	10	.091
			's Games			
Colorado 89, Cali	ifornia	60				
Utah 79, Stanford	d 65					
UCLA 91, Washin	gton S	St. 61				
Southern Cal 95,			n 68			
Arizona at Orego						
Arizona St. at No						
	Satu	rdayʻ	's Games			

Stanford at Colorado, noon Washington at UCLA, 2 p.m. Arizona St. at Oregon St., 4 p.m. Washington St. at Southern Cal. 6:30 p.m. Arizona at No. 22 Oregon, ppd. California at Utah, 7 p.m.

TOP 25 SCORES Thursday's Games No. 1 Gonzaga 95, Pepperdine 70 No. 5 Iowa vs. Michigan St., ppd. No. 11 Houston at South Florida, ppd.

W	ome	en's	colle	ge				
P			NFERENC	E				
	C	onfe	rence	Α	ll Ga	mes		
	W	L	Pct	W	L	Pct		
Stanford	7	0	1.000	10	0	1.000		
Washington St.	5	1	.833	7	1	.875		
Arizona	7	2	.778	9	2	.818		
UCLA	5	2	.714	7	2	.778		
Oregon	7	3	.700	9	3	.750		
Arizona St.	3	3	.500	7	3	.700		
Southern Cal	3	5	.375	5	5	.500		
Colorado	2	5	.286	4	6	.400		
Oregon St.	1	3	.250	3	3	.500		
Utaĥ	2	7	.222	3	7	.300		
Washington	1	5	.167	4	5	.444		
California	0	7	.000	0	10	.000		
Thursday's Game								
No. 11 Arizona 57	No. 11 Arizona 57, No. 10 Oregon 41							

Friday's Games
No. 1 Stanford at Utah, 12:30 p.m. California at Colorado, 2:30 p.m. No. 25 Washington St. at Southern Cal, 4:30 p.m. Oregon St. at Arizona St., ppd. Washington at No. 8 UCLA, ppd.

Thursday's Boxscore

No. 11 Arizona 57, No. 10 Oregon 41

OREGON (9-3) Boley 0-1 0-0 0, Sabally 6-9 3-9 15, Mikesell 0-2 0-0 0, Paopao 2-9 0-0 4, Shelley 2-3 0-0 5, Giomi 0-1 0-0 0, Prince 0-2 1-2 1, Chavez 1-2 2-2 5, Dugalic 1-5 0-0 2, Parrish 2-8 2-2 7, Scherr 1-2 0-0 2, Watson 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 15-46 8-15 41.

ARIZONA (9-2)

Baptiste 4-13 4-4 14, Reese 2-4 0-0 5, Thomas 2-3 6-7 10, McDonald 6-14 2-6 16, Yeaney 1-5 0-0 2, Manumaleuga 0-0 0-0 0, Pellington 1-7 1-2 3, Pueyo 0-1 1-3 1, Erdogan 0-1 2-2 2, Ware 2-4 0-0 4. Totals 18-52 16-24 57.

 Oregon
 7
 15
 5
 14
 —
 41

 Arizona
 22
 14
 10
 11
 —
 57

 3-Point Goals—Oregon
 3-11
 (Mikesell
 0-2, Paopao

 0-3, Shelley
 1-1, Chavez
 1-2, Parrish
 1-2, Scherr
 0-1),
 Arizona 5-16 (Baptiste 2-4, Reese 1-1, Thomas 0-1, McDonald 2-6, Yeaney 0-1, Pellington 0-1, Pueyo 0-1 Erdogan 0-1). **Assists**—Oregon 6 (Paopao 2), Arizona 9 (Baptiste 3). **Fouled Out**—Arizona Reese. **Rebounds**— Oregon 41 (Sabally 4-7), Arizona 31 (Baptiste 2-6). Total Fouls—Oregon 23, Arizona 17. Technical Fouls—Ore-

TOP 25 SCORES Thursday's Games No. 2 Louisville 89, Boston College 70 No. 3 NC State vs. Virginia, ppd.

No. 5 South Carolina 106, Vanderbilt 43 LSU 65, No. 7 Texas A&M 61, OT No. 9 Maryland 90, Minnesota 73 No. 12 Kentucky at Auburn, ppd No. 13 Michigan 69, Wisconsin 40 Alabama 86, No. 14 Mississippi St. 78 No. 17 Arkansas 84, Florida 80

No. 18 Indiana 66, Purdue 45 No. 20 Gonzaga 71, Santa Clara 52 No. 21 Texas 79, Kansas 72 No. 22 Northwestern at Rutgers, ppd. Georgia 67, No. 23 Tennessee 66 No. 24 Syracuse at Georgia Tech, ppd.

NBA								
EAS	TERN C	ONFEREN	ICE					
	W	L	Pct	GB				
Boston	7	3	.700	1/2				
Phila.	9	4	.692	_				
Milwaukee	8	4	.667	1/2				
Indiana	7	4	.636	1				
Orlando	6	5	.545	2 2				
Brooklyn	7	6	.538					
Atlanta	5	5	.500	21/2				
Charlotte	6	7	.462	3				
New York	5	7	.417	3½				
Cleveland	5 4	7	.417	3½				
Miami	4	6 7	.400 .364	3½ 4				
Chicago Toronto	3	8	.273					
Washington	3	8	.273	5 5				
Detroit	2	9	.182	6				
WESTERN CONFERENCE								
W L Pct GB								
L.A. Lakers	10	3	.769	_				
L.A. Clippers	8	4	.667	1½				
Utah	7	4	.636	2				
Portland	7	4	.636	2 2				
Phoenix	7	4	.636	2				
Dallas	6	4	.600	21/2				
Golden State	6	5	.545	3				
San Antonio	6	6	.500	31/2				
Denver	5	6	.455	4				
Memphis	5	6	.455	4				
Oklahoma City	5	6	.455	4				
Sacramento	5	7	.417	41/2				
New Orleans	4	6	.400	41/2				
Houston	4	6	.400	41/2				
Minnesota	3	8	.273	6				
		s Late Ga	mes					
L.A. Clippers 111, N								
Portland 132, Sacra	mento	120						

Wednesday's Box Score Trail Blazers 132, Kings 126

PORTLAND (132) Covington 4-12 0-0 12, Jones Jr. 3-5 1-2 8, Nurkic 6-8 6-9 18, Lillard 11-23 12-12 40, McCollum 10-23 2-4 28, Anthony 2-4 0-0 6, Hood 0-2 0-0 0, Trent Jr. 6-8 0-0 16 Kanter 2-5 0-0 4. Totals 44-90 21-27 132. SACRAMENTO (126)

Bagley III 4-5 2-4 11, Barnes 3-9 5-6 11, Holmes 6-6 5-6 17, Fox 9-18 6-8 29, Hield 9-21 0-0 26, Robinson III 1-3 0-0 3. Metu 1-1 0-0 2. Whiteside 3-6 1-2 7. Haliburtor 7-10 0-0 17, Joseph 1-5 0-0 3. **Totals 44-84 19-26 126.** 33 32 35 32 — 132 **Portland Sacramento 43 25 37 21** — **126 3-Point Goals**—Portland 23-48 (Lillard 6-15, McCollum 6-16, Trent Jr. 4-5, Covington 4-7, Anthony 2-2, Jones Jr. 1-3), Sacramento 19-38 (Hield 8-18, Fox 5-8, Haliburton 3-4, Bagley III 1-2, Joseph 1-3, Barnes 0-2). **Fouled Out**—None. **Rebounds**—Portland 38 (Nurkic 12), Sacramento 42 (Holmes 9). **Assists**—Portland 28 (Lillard 13), Sacramento 35 (Haliburton 9), Total

Fouls—Portland 24, Sacramento 18. A—0 (17,608)

Phila. 125, Miami 108 Toronto 111, Charlotte 108 Houston 109, San Antonio 105 Golden State at Denver, late Indiana at Portland, late Friday's Games

Washington at Detroit, ppd Dallas at Milwaukee, 4:30 p.m. New York at Cleveland, 4:30 p.m Orlando at Boston, 4:30 p.m. Chicago at Oklahoma City, 5 p.m. Memphis at Minnesota, 5 p.m. Atlanta at Utah, 6 p.m. Golden State at Phoenix, ppd L.A. Clippers at Sacramento, 7 p.m. New Orleans at L.A. Lakers, 7 p.m.

FOOTBALL

NFL playoffs DIVISIONAL ROUND Saturday's Games

L.A. Rams at Green Bay, 1:35 p.m. Sunday's Games

(Home team in CAPS)

HOCKEY							
NHL							
Central	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	1	1	0	0	2	5	1
Carolina	1	1	0	0	2	3	0
Nashville	1	1	0	0	2	3	1
Columbus	1	0	1	0	0	1	3
Detroit	1	0	1	0	0	0	3
Chicago	1	0	1	0	0	1	5
Dallas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Florida	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
East	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GΑ
N.Y. Islanders	1	1	0	0	2	4	0
Philadelphia	1	1	0	0	2	6	3
Washington	1	1	0	0	2	6	4
Boston	1	1	0	0	2	3	2
New Jersey	1	0	0	1	1	2	
Buffalo	1	0	1	0	0	4	6
Pittsburgh	1	0	1	0	0	3	6
N.Y. Rangers	1	0	1	0	0	0	4
North	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GΑ
Vancouver	1	1	0	0	2	5	3
Toronto	1	1	0	0	2	5	4
Winnipeg	1	1	0	0	2	4	3
Calgary	1	0	0	1	1	3	4
Montreal	1	0	0	1	1	4	5
Edmonton	1	0	1	0	0	3	
Ottawa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	1	1	0	0	2	4	1
Colorado	1	0	1	0	0	1	4
Vegas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Los Angeles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arizona	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
San Jose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minnesota	0	0	0	0	0	0	(

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Wednesday's Late Games Vancouver 5, Edmonton 3

Washington 6, Buffalo 4 Boston 3, New Jersey 2, SO N.Y. Islanders 4, N.Y. Rangers 0 Carolina 3, Detroit 0 Nashville 3, Columbus Winnipeg 4, Calgary 3, OT Dallas at Florida, ppd San Jose at Arizona, late Vancouver at Edmonton, late Anaheim at Vegas, late Minnesota at Los Angeles, late

Dallas at Florida, ppd Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, 4 p.m. Toronto at Ottawa, 4 p.m. Washington at Buffalo, 4 p.m.

St. Louis at Colorado, 6 p.m

DEALS

American League
OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Acquired LHP NikTurley from

Baltimore at Buffalo, 5:15 p.m Cleveland at Kansas City, 12:05 p.m. Tampa Bay at New Orleans, 3:40 p.m

America's Line

	(
	NFL Div	visional P	ayoffs	
Favorite	Open	Current	O/U	Underdo
	•	Saturday		
PACKERS	7	6½	451/2	Ram
BILLS	21/2	21/2	491/2	Raven
		Sunday		
CHIEFS	10	10	57	Brown
SAINTS	31/2	3	52	Buc

		NHL							
Central GP W L C	T Pts	GF	GA						
Tampa Bay 1 1 0	0 2	5	1						
Carolina 1 1 0	0 2	3	0						
Nashville 1 1 0	0 2	3	1						
Columbus 1 0 1	0 0	1	3						
Detroit 1 0 1	0 0	0	3						
Chicago 1 0 1	0 0	1	5						
Dallas 0 0 0	0 0	0	0						
Florida 0 0 0	0 0	0	0						
	T Pts	GF	GΑ						
N.Y. Islanders 1 1 0	0 2	4	0						
Philadelphia 1 1 0	0 2	6	3						
Washington 1 1 0	0 2 0 2 0 2	6	4						
Boston 1 1 0		3	2						
New Jersey 1 0 0	1 1	2							
Buffalo 1 0 1	0 0	4	6						
Pittsburgh 1 0 1	0 0	3	6						
N.Y. Rangers 1 0 1	0 0	0	4						
	T Pts	GF	GΑ						
Vancouver 1 1 0	0 2	5	3						
Toronto 1 1 0	0 2	5	4						
Winnipeg 1 1 0	0 2	4	3						
Calgary 1 0 0	1 1	3	4						
Montreal 1 0 0	1 1	4	5						
Edmonton 1 0 1	0 0	3	5						
Ottawa 0 0 0	0 0	0	0						
	T Pts	GF	GA						
St. Louis 1 1 0	0 2	4	1						
Colorado 1 0 1	0 0	1	4						
Vegas 0 0 0	0 0	0	0						
Los Angeles 0 0 0	0 0	0	0						
Arizona 0 0 0	0 0	0	0						
San Jose 0 0 0	0 0	0	0						
Minnesota 0 0 0	0 0	0	0						
Anaheim 0 0 0 NOTE: Two points for a win, one pu	0 0	.0	. 0						

St. Louis 4, Colorado 1

Thursday's Games

Friday's Games Chicago at Tampa Bay, 4 p.m.

Transactions BASEBALL Major League Baseball MLB — Named Theo Epstein consultant regarding Pittsburgh in exchange for cash.

National League LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Agreed to terms with RHP
Dylan Floro on a one-year contract.
MIAMI MARLINS — Named Raquel Egusquiza vice

president of diversity, equality and inclusion.

NEWYORK METS — Agreed to terms with INF/OF Jose Martinez on a one-year contract.

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Signed LHP Alex Wood to

a one-year contract. BASKETBALL

National Basketball League
BROOKLYN NETS — Acquired G James Harden in
exchange for C Jarrett Allen, F Rodions Kurucs, G Caris
LeVert, F Jaruena Prince, the draft rights to F Aleksandar
Vezenkov, a swap of 2021 1st round picks, a 2022 of 1st round pick (BRK own), a swap of 2023 1st round picks, a 2024 1st round pick (BRK own), a swap of 2024 2nd round

picks, a swap of 2025 1st round picks, a 2026 1st round pick (BRK own) and a swap of 2027 1st round picks. CLEVELAND CAVALIERS — Acquired C Jarrett Allen, F Taurean Prince, the draft rights to F Aleksandar Vezenkov and a swap 2024 2nd round picks in exchange for G Dante Exum, a conditional 2022 1st round pick (MIL own) and a TPE. Benpounged free agents reversible pick for C Ante

TPE. Rennounced free-agent exception rights for C Ante Zizic and F/C Channing Frye.

COLORADO ROCKIES — Agreed to terms with RHP

Mychal Givens on a one-year contract HOUSTON ROCKETS — Acquired G Dante Exum, F Rodions Kurucs, G Caris LeVert, a swap of 2021 1st round noulins kuruck, G caris Everet, a wayb of 2021 is tround picks, a 2022 1st round pick (BRK own), a conditional 2022 1st round pick (MIL own), a swap of 2023 1st round picks, a 2024 1st round pick (BRK own), a swap of 2025 1st round picks, a 2026 1st round pick (BRK own), a swap of 2027 1st round picks and a TPE in exchange for G James Harden and a TPE. Waived F Bruno Caboclo. Announced termination

of 10 day contract with G Yogi Ferrell. FOOTBALL National Football League

CLEVELAND BROWNS — Activated WR KhaDarel Hodge from the reserve/COVID-19 list. DETROIT LIONS — Signed DB Godwin Igwebuike, DE Robert McCray and TE Hunter Thedford to reserve/futures contracts for the 2021 season.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — Signed QB Jordan Ta'Amu, WRs Antonio Callaway and Chad Williams to reserve/futures contracts for the 2021 season. Signed DE Austin Edwards

to the practice squad. Released C Darryl Williams.
PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Signed P Corliss Waitman, TE
Kevin Rader, WRs Anthony Johnson and Cody White, OTs Anthony Coyle, John Leglue and Brandon Walton, S John Battle, LB Tegray Scales, DE Calvin Taylor, DT Demarcus Christmas, LS Christian Kuntz and CB Trevor Williams to reserve/futures contracts for the 2021 season.
TENNESSEE TITANS — Signed OLB Davin Bellamy

and DL Daylon Mack to reserve/futures contracts for the

HOCKEY

National Hockey League
ARIZONA COYOTES — Named Jay Varady, from Tucson, assistant coach. BOSTON BRUINS — Designated C Par Lindholm for assignment taxi squad. Recalled C Jack Studnicka from

the taxi squad.

BUFFALO SABRES — Designated F Jack Quinn for assignment taxi squad.

CALGARY FLAMES — Recalled C Derek Ryan and G

Louis Domingue from the taxi squad.

CAROLINA HURRICANES — Waived G Anton Forsberg.

EDMONTON OILERS — Designated D Evan Bouchard for assignment taxi squad. Recalled G Stuart Skinner to the active roster. Assigned LW Tyler Benson to Bakers-

field (AHL). MONTREAL CANADIANS — Designated C Jake Evans for assignment taxi squad. PHILADELPHIA FLYERS — Assigned D Linus Hogberg, LW David Kase and RW Maxim Sushko to Lehigh Valley (AHL).

ST. LOUIS BLUES — Suspended F Sammy Blais for two games, without pay, for an illeghal check to the head on Colorado D Devon Toews on Jan. 13. WASHINGTON CAPITALS — Signed G Craig Anderson to a one-year contract and designated him for assign-

ment taxi squad. WINNIPEG JETS — Recalled G Craig Anderson from

the taxi squad. SOCCER

Major League Soccer HOUSTON DYNAMO — Signed F Tyler Pasher. LA GALAXY — Signed G Jonathan Bond from West

omwich Albion (EPL).

NEW YORK RED BULLS — Named Jyri Nieminen goalkeeper coach.

PHILADELPHIA UNION — Traded homegrown player rights for MF Kalil ElMedkhar to FC Dallas for general allocation money, future sell-on fees and addition GAM if he meets certain performance-based metrics.

TORONTO FC — Named Chris Armas head coach.

Audience

Continued from B3

Tag Garson, the senior vice president of properties at Wasserman, has long been a proponent of alternate broadcasts going back to his days at ESPN because viewers, especially younger ones, continue to be more fragmented by the way they watch and consume various types of content.

"The NFL because of their reach allows for the different types of distribution we saw on Sunday," he said. "In my view I think you are seeing the networks also looking to program the other channels with the content they have on. If you're not paying additional rights fees to do that but give a different look, it provides a wider reach while giving channels programming."

To prove Garson's point, Nickelodeon averaged 2.06 million viewers during the game. That was the network's mostwatched program in nearly four years and a 245% increase



Nate Burleson, Gabrielle Nevaeh Green and Noah Eagle were part of Nickelodeon's kid-focused broadcast of the NFL wild-card game between the Chicago Bears and New Orleans Saints in New Orleans on Sunday.

in viewers compared to what aired in that spot last year.

What also made the Nickelodeon broadcast successful is that appealed to parents and kids. It introduced a younger age group to the basics of the game but also focused on the action happening on the field. Some alternate broadcasts have fallen short because the onfield action was often ignored.

McManus said a point of emphasis leading up to the game

was making sure that covering the game remained the priority. The explanations of penalties from Iain Armitage of CBS' "Young Sheldon" and virtual

slime cannon animations for touchdowns added to the game instead of taking away from it. "There is a certain integrity

we needed to respect. We never wanted to cross the line," Mc-Manus said. "I have received so many emails and texts that they just loved the experience

of watching with their kids. It was fun and educational. It referenced other kids shows but never got to the point where it was pandering. Hopefully it created some new fans and made the viewing experience something they could enjoy." McManus and Robbins said

nothing is off the table as far as what the next alternate presentation might be, but that nothing is imminent. With ESPN having the NBA, MLB and NFL rights, there is a possibility of a kids-oriented telecast with Disney down the road. The MegaCasts are often on all the ESPN networks as well as its app, but Sunday's playoff game did have a watch party on Freeform.

With the CBS-Viacom merger, McManus pointed to possibly branching out to other networks. If it is with Nickelodeon again, he would have a willing partner with Robbins.

"A lot of people want to have conversations. I am a huge sports fan. I would do this all day," Robbins said.

Tennis

Root

Continued from B3

"There's not a single documented case where I would be contagious at this point. Totally recovered!"

The Australian newspaper published an online story headlined "US tennis ace sparks Aus Open virus worry."

Tennis Australia moved to clarify the situation in a statement Thursday that outlined players who've previously tested positive to COVID-19 were "required to provide additional and highly detailed medical information as proof they are a recovered case and no longer infectious or a risk to the community."

Tennis Australia added: "In the case of Tennys Sandgren, who has self-disclosed that he previously tested positive in late November, his medical file had to be reviewed by Victorian (state government) health authorities. Upon completion of that review he was cleared to fly."

The Australian Open has already been delayed three weeks because of restrictions in place for the COVID-19 pandemic, and is set to open on Feb. 8.

On Wednesday, nearly 12,000 kilometers (7,500 miles) from Melbourne, the qualifying tournament was completed for the tournament, with 16 men and 16 women set to join the singles main draw.

Due to the Australian restrictions, the men's and women's qualifying tournaments in Doha, Qatar and in Dubai - were held outside of Australia for the first time.

The women qualifiers include two-time Australian Open and Roland Garros doubles champion Timea Babos of Hungary and British player Francesca Jones, who has a rare genetic condition.

Jones has ectrodactyly ectodermal dysplasia, which resulted in her being born with three fingers and a thumb on each hand, three toes on her right foot and four toes on her

On the men's side, the qualifiers include 17-year-old ATP newcomer of the year Carlos Alcaraz of Spain.

Six women and six men will also travel to Australia as lucky losers and undergo mandatory quarantine like the rest of the international players, hoping to get a place in the main draw as cover for injuries or withdrawals.

There are 104 direct entries based on rankings for the men's and women's singles main draw, plus wild-card entries and the qualifiers.

The 15 flights will be at no more than 25% capacity, and will arrive over a 36-hour period ending early Saturday. Once a negative result has

been returned, players can train within a strictly supervised environment for five hours per day, and players and their teams will be tested every day during quarantine.

The Australian Open draw will be held on Feb. 4, four days ahead of the start of the main tournament, which ends Feb. 21 with the men's singles final.

Novak Djokovic is the defending men's champion and Sofia Kenin is the women's defending champion.

Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Serena Williams will be among a group of players involved in an exhibition event in Adelaide, South Australia state, on Jan. 29. All other tournaments will be in Melbourne, including the 12-team ATP Cup starting Feb. 1 and two WTA events in the week leading into the Australian Open.