

DEAR ABBY

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



Dear Abby: Yesterday, my daughter informed me that her boyfriend will soon come to me to ask for her hand in marriage. She also told me she intends to have both her stepfather and me walk her down the aisle. This creates a huge problem for me.

Her mother and I divorced 13 years ago because of marital infidelity on her part. She was having an affair with the man who is now my daughter's stepfather. When my daughter told me her plans, it took all my self-control not to go through the roof.

I have thought about my daughter's wedding day since the day she was born, and now she wants me to share it with this individual who has caused me so much pain. Her feeling is he has been with her her entire life, and she wants him in the wedding. I understand it to some extent, although for her to ask me to give up even a bit of this honor cuts me to my core.

One of her reasons for asking is we had a strained relationship for a number of years. I was never out of her life, although there were periods of time when we would fight constantly.

I don't want to miss the opportunity to walk my baby girl down the aisle, but I simply cannot share this honor with someone who basically stole my family.

— *Not Forgiving in Texas*

Dear Not Forgiving: I know this is painful for you, but you are not in control. If you are going to have the honor of walking your daughter down the aisle, you will have to figure out a compromise. I'm suggesting you walk her halfway to the altar and your daughter's stepfa-

ther take her the rest of the way, or vice versa. It has been done before.

Dear Abby: At what age is it no longer appropriate to share a bed with your child? My sister-in-law "Mara" is a single mom with a 13-year-old daughter. Until recently we were quite close, but we haven't spoken in a few months. Mostly it's because of COVID-19 restrictions, but we had begun drifting apart even before.

Last week I saw on Facebook that she had made a comment about them still sharing a bed. I think it's weird and creepy. It goes against every boundary I have as a mother myself.

Should I keep my mouth shut? She won't listen to my husband (her brother) because he has been branded an "abusive misogynist." Mara loves to play the victim and interprets any criticism, however slight, as abuse — especially if it comes from a man.

Getting in touch with her out of the blue to talk about this seems over the top, but I'm genuinely concerned about the long-term impact on her daughter, who has voiced in the past (not in front of Mara) that she prefers to sleep alone. Is this none of my business?

— *Over the Line*

Dear Over: If you suspect your niece is being sexually abused, child protective services should be contacted. Otherwise, it is none of your business. Not every family — or culture, for that matter — has the same standards. Until your niece finds the courage to tell her mother she no longer wants to share a bed, nothing will change in that household.

NFL | PLAYOFFS

Still playing: Bills and Bucs have risen from Super Bowl droughts

BY BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

In the 1990s, the Bills buffalooed their way to four successive — if not successful — Super Bowls. No other franchise has managed that.

About a decade later, the long-downtrodden Buccaneers swashbuckled to an NFL title.

Ever since, pretty much nothing for those teams. Until now.

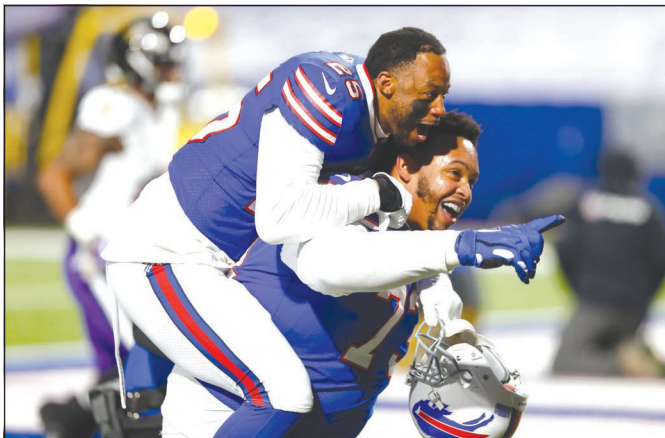
Next weekend, Buffalo, which last got this far in the 1993 season, heads to reigning Super Bowl champion Kansas City. And the Chiefs could be missing their dynamic star quarterback, Patrick Mahomes, who was concussed in a 22-17 victory Sunday over Cleveland.

"It's a special time to be a Buffalo Bill," tackle Dion Dawkins said.

Meanwhile, TB (as in Tampa Bay), led by TB (as in Tom Brady) heads to Green Bay for the NFC championship game. Yes, the same Bucs who made the postseason once, in 2007, after their 2002 league crown, and not since — until Brady and his six Super Bowl rings arrived from New England for this season. Their 30-20 win at New Orleans sent them to Lambeau Field for the NFC championship match.

"It's great for our team," said Brady, who further establishes how responsible he was for all those titles in New England with each victory in Tampa. "We worked hard to get to this point. Two road playoff wins is pretty sweet."

Which two teams will be sweetest? The teams that will head to Tampa — yes, that's



John Munson/AP

Buffalo Bills' Taiwan Jones, left, celebrates with Dion Dawkins after an NFL divisional round football game against the Baltimore Ravens Saturday in Orchard Park, N.Y. The Bills won 17-3.

where the Super Bowl will be staged on Feb. 7, and no team has played in the big game on its home field.

NFC: Tampa Bay (13-5) at Green Bay (14-3)

Both teams used key plays by their defense to win in the divisional round, and likely will need similar performances to advance. Sure, the Bucs and Pack are lauded for their offense, from their quarterbacks — Green Bay's Aaron Rodgers has had perhaps the best season of his illustrious career — to strong runners Leonard Fournette and Aaron Jones, to a bevy of receivers, to solid lines. But holding down All-Pros Rodgers and wide receiver Davante Adams is a must for Tampa Bay. So is neutralizing Brady hooking up with Mike Evans, Chris Godwin, Rob Gronkowski and Cameron Brate.

"It was huge. I think the defense was the key to the game,"

Brady said after the win over the Saints. It needs to be huge once more."

As for the conditions at Lambeau Field, well, forecasts call for temperatures in the 20s, which certainly is cold for a team from Florida, but not frigid. And remember where Brady won all those titles.

Oddly, the Packers have not won an NFC championship game at home since the 1996 season. They are four-point favorites in the earliest betting lines. If that seems low, remember who is quarterbacking the opposition.

AFC: Buffalo (14-3) at Kansas City (15-2)

So much will depend on Mahomes' condition. While journeyman backup Chad Henne did well enough after Mahomes departed Sunday in the third quarter, even making two big plays to clinch the win, the Chiefs would be severely hampered if Mahomes

can't play.

Andy Reid, whose willingness to gamble and always play to win should be lauded regardless of circumstance, has designed a nearly unstoppable attack — when Mahomes is behind center. It's hard to imagine Travis Kelce, Tyreek Hill and the other threats being, well, as threatening without him.

Reid maintains there is something else at play in KC. Asked what impressed him most about the Chiefs holding off Cleveland, he replied:

"Probably just the intestinal fortitude of the guys pounding through, not getting down when Pat went down. That's easier said than done. Somebody asked that just about the quarterback, so just that part of it, having that trust, having earned that respect from the guys I think is big.

"But listen, nobody got down. I mean, there was nobody that was hanging their head or moping throughout the game."

Nor will they against Buffalo, which has been the AFC's best team the last two months. The Bills are the most balanced of the four remaining contenders, and might have more confidence than anyone.

They lost at home to the Chiefs in a COVID-19 delayed game in October, 26-17. That game was played in wet weather.

The early betting line is Kansas City giving 3 1/2 points. Mahomes' condition, not the field conditions, will determine the odds. And quite possibly who goes to the Super Bowl.

YOUR HOROSCOPE *By Madalyn Aslan*

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, JAN. 19, 2021: Electric, creative and influential, you open people's minds. This year, you transform a hum-drum project into something exceptional, and it becomes powerful and successful. You also work on developing good work habits. If single, you need the psychic space to dream and experience so it is an extraordinary person by your side, but not until 2022. If attached, your relationship is blissfully intense. LEO truly gets you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ There will be much to celebrate today. A time of growth and opportunity commences. Select goals. Express creative ideas; attend cultural events; nurture relationships. Tonight: Whatever you focus on will grow, so take care of what means the most to you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ A lost love or abandoned project could suddenly assume new importance. You are highly imaginative and creative today. Record your thoughts and ideas that occur now for future reference. Use visualization to help affirm your future. Tonight: It's time to relax and socialize.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Today brings teamwork and cooperation to assure success. Charming and talented associates create opportunities for you to fulfill a cherished wish. The magic inherent in color, music and art can deepen your work. Tonight: Reach out to old, lost colleagues.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Career matters are of prime concern. Your deep devotion leads you above and beyond the call of duty now. A little humor and perspective are a must. Otherwise, the intensity of your feelings could overwhelm professional associates. Tonight: Take off and relax.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Discussions and written messages produce many good works today. Travel will be more rewarding than expected, if you can travel safely. It's also the perfect time to become more involved in higher education. Tonight: Call a friend currently in another land.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ The veil to the afterlife will be especially transparent today. Be flexible and objective. Important matters demand your attention. Make your best effort. Others expect much of you. Tonight: Spirit guides and loved ones on the other side communicate quite clearly.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Your closest relationships will require some effort today. The secret to maintaining harmony is to try to see both sides. Be a very good listener. Avoid legal or conflicting engagements. Kindness and patience are needed. Tonight: Have dinner with a loved one.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ If a vehicle needs replacing, start to examine your options promptly. Verify departure times and reservations. There will be some last-minute schedule changes to allow for. The weather may impact you. Tonight: Have dry, comforting clothing available, especially footwear.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Today brings a burst of artistic energy and sets the stage for commitments and meaningful creativity. A new project will be shared with one you love and admire. Be gentle and thoughtful with those you love. Tonight: Conflicts of interest involving someone close to you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Today brings some wonderful opportunities to acquire a larger, more comfortable dwelling or workspace. Shop for items you especially would like to have in your space. This could even find you planning a move. Tonight: Talk it over with interested family members.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Today finds you more relaxed than you have been in many months. Pleasant greeting cards, jokes or thoughtful telephone calls will improve all kinds of exchanges. Communicate creatively. Compose a rhyme. Tonight: Catch up with an old neighbor or sibling.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ Accept financial parameters gracefully. Security issues are accentuated. Any anger linked to work issues or past sacrifices you've made will lessen. The pressure is released. Postpone financial decisions. Tonight: Organize your desk, and you'll feel much clearer and lighter.

Tom Brady

Continued from A5

"There's only four teams left and we're one of them," Brady said. "I'm just so proud of everyone, our organization. It's a really unique team."

His team in New England was unique, too, going to nine Super Bowls with Brady under center and winning six of them. Brady's legacy was secure before he decided to leave the icy northeast and take up residence in sunny Florida, but there were still questions that followed him to Tampa Bay.

Chief among them was who was most responsible for the great run in New England, the quarterback or the coach.

One season didn't totally answer that, but it should be noted that the Patriots aren't in the playoffs and Brady is one game away from the Super Bowl with a team that went 7-9 the year before he arrived. No wonder he was all smiles in the Zoom call that followed the game.

"It feels great to beat a great football team," Brady said. "That's what feels best."

Brady beat a great quarterback, too, and not advancing might mean Brees is done at the age of 42. Long after the game was over, Brady went back on the field at the Superdome in street clothes to chat with Brees, who brought his family onto the field.

Brees didn't commit to retiring, though he looked and sounded a lot like a player who knows he's done.

"I appreciate all that this game has given to me," Brees said. "There are obviously so many incredible memories, so many incredible relationships that have come from playing

Trail Blazers

Continued from A5

Carmelo Anthony's basket with 2 1/2 minutes left in the third quarter gave the Trail Blazers an 80-78 lead.

The Spurs took over from there, later using an 11-0 run for a 95-82 lead early in the fourth period. Rodney Hood's 3-pointer on the next Blazers possession after a timeout stopped that burst, but San Antonio kept pulling away.

With his bench playing so well and extending the lead,

Popovich elected stick with a bench-heavy unit to close out the victory.

Tip-ins

Spurs: The game was played on Martin Luther King Jr. Day — the NBA celebrates the holiday with a big slate of games every year. Popovich, who is often outspoken about matters outside of the game, called the civil rights leader a "modern founding father" and the "conscience" of the country.

Blazers: After leaving Saturday night's game against Atlanta with a sprained foot, guard CJ McCollum will be out at least another week, Stotts said. McCollum will be re-evaluated next week after MRIs showed the sprain. McCollum was averaging a career-high 26.7 points and five assists per game prior to the injury. Hood got the start in McCollum's place, with Stotts citing his preference to bring Gary Trent Jr.'s scoring off the

this game."

For Brady, though, there's another game on Sunday and, hopefully, a Super Bowl two weeks after that. He knows the drill better than anyone by now, even if playing in frigid Green Bay will be a new experience.

The Packers and Rodgers are favored in the early line by 4 points, much like the Saints were favored at home against the Buccaneers. Winning three games on the road to get to the Super Bowl is a huge challenge, but when Brady is playing well everyone around him tends to play better, too.

That includes the Tampa defense, which came up big with four turnovers.

"This time they turned it over and that's usually the story of football games," said Brady, who lost to the Saints twice during the regular season.

The Bucs can't expect that story to play out against Green Bay, where Rodgers is having an MVP season and has won enough in the postseason to understand how to get it done. It's hard to imagine Brady winning that game with a 199-yard passing performance like he had against the Saints, and hard to figure out how Tampa can move the ball without throwing more downfield.

Asked how the Bucs can be successful in Green Bay, Brady had a quick answer.

"You've just got to have some mental toughness and wear some warm clothes," he said.

The mental toughness will be there, that's for sure. And after playing two decades in New England, the cold weather isn't going to be an issue, either.

He's already won more rings than anyone. And now No. 7 seems ripe for the taking.

Meet Dr. Builder

Dr. Mark Builder, DMD graduated from Oregon Health Sciences University in 2000 has had extensive education in aesthetic and re-constructive dentistry, root canal therapy, surgical implant placement, periodontal surgery, oral surgery, and bone grafting surgery. Dr. Builder, along with the rest of the Awbrey Dental Team has implemented modern technology into the office such as Cone Beam Computed Tomography (3D imaging), digital x-rays, and a dental microscope.

Mark Builder, DMD

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