

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 am a 49-year-old woman who has been in a romantic relationship with a good, caring man for two years. We live together, and he shows me all the time how much he loves me. We have amazing chemistry and are very affectionate. We enjoy spending time together, especially outdoors.

When we first started dating, he told me he was bisexual and had had relationships with men. He insists I am his true love and he is with only me now. He has never shown signs of straying, but sometimes I get insecure and wonder if I should take him at his word that he only wants me. Should I trust him?

— *Wants to Be Sure in Rhode Island*

Dear Wants: This man has been upfront with you. Because someone finds members of both genders attractive does not mean the person is incapable of monogamy.

During the last two years, he has given you no reason to believe he is untrustworthy, so take steps to deal with your insecurity and take him at his word.

Dear Abby: My son and daughter-in-law — the parents of three minor children — were divorced in 2019. Prior to their divorce, the ex-DIL got pregnant by another man. She has since had a little girl. My dilemma is, do I include the new little girl when they come to visit Grandma? She is still my grandchildren's half-sister. As they get older and come to visit me, I would feel bad leaving her out of events.

My son is livid that I would even consider including her. Her other grandparents refuse to have anything to do

with her. How do I deal with this?

— *Dilemma in the Midwest*

Dear Dilemma: You have a loving heart. I assume all the children live together with their mother. To exclude their half-sister would be logistically difficult and cruel to a child who is blameless. Your son may not like the situation, but it is time for him to grow up and face reality. You are the only grandmother that child has ever known, so remain calm, assert your right to self-determination and refuse to allow yourself to be bullied or intimidated.

Dear Abby: Unfortunately, I am not in the same income bracket as my family and some of my friends. Also, I married a guy who doesn't like to socialize because he's a recovering alcoholic, and he also has hearing problems. Family and friends rarely ask us to join them when they go out, but they never fail to call and tell me all about the great time they had and where they plan to go next. It hurts, and I resent them for it. I want to be happy for them and not feel the way I do. Help!

— *Different in New York*

Dear Different: Your husband may have hearing problems, but your relatives appear to be tone deaf in the sensitivity department. What they are doing is cruel.

Rather than compare your life to that of friends and relatives who have more freedom to socialize than you and your husband do, it would be more constructive to figure out what you CAN do. Socialize either with others or by yourselves in places that don't serve alcohol and aren't overly noisy. Ask your relatives to join you there — and put the ball in their court.

GOLF | PGA TOUR

Woods comparisons aside, Morikawa on his own course

BY DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

BRADENTON, Fla. — The red shirt for Collin Morikawa to wear on Sunday at the Workday Championship never arrived in time.

The comparisons with Tiger Woods keep coming up in other ways.

When Morikawa turned pro in 2019 after graduating from Cal, he began his PGA Tour career by making the cut in 22 consecutive events. That was the longest such streak since Woods began his career making 25 in a row.

Morikawa became a youthful footnote in history at Torrey Pines last year when he was in the same group with Woods. It was the first time Woods had played alongside someone who was born after he turned pro.

Most notable about his three-shot victory at The Concession against another stacked field was the 24-year-old Morikawa joined Woods as the only players to win a major and a World Golf Championship before turning 25.

Some context is in order.

Rory McIlroy was 25 years and three months when he had two majors and a World Golf Championship, and then he won a third major the following week. Jordan Spieth isn't on that list because he hasn't won a World Golf Championship, though capturing three legs of the career Grand Slam before turning 24 is not something he would trade for that.

Each year, the pool of young talent keeps getting deeper.

Morikawa didn't wade into the pool. It was a cannon ball. In his fourth event, he lost out to an eagle on the final hole in Minnesota to Matt Wolff. Two events later, he won the Barracuda Championship with a cool precision in the final holes that quickly is becoming his trademark.

He won at Muirfield Village last summer by making a 25-foot birdie putt in a play-off right after Justin Thomas had holed a putt from twice that long. He won the PGA Championship at Harding Park by changing his plan as the situation warranted, hitting driver on the reachable par-4 16th to 7 feet for eagle.

That's four PGA Tour victories in his first 39 starts as a pro. The only better start since 1990 was Woods, who had seven victories (including a 12-shot victory in the

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— **Billy Horschel, golfer who finished runner-up in the Workday Championship behind Morikawa**

Masters) in the same span.

No one should suggest Morikawa is on the same trajectory as Woods. It's way too early for that, and Morikawa doesn't have nearly the same skill set, starting with power.

Even so, he has done enough — and looks good doing it — to warrant a prominent spot in any conversation about golf's leading stars.

"I've said for a year or plus now, he's the one that everyone's got to look out for," Billy Horschel said after his runner-up finish to Morikawa. "Yeah, he doesn't hit it 320-plus. I can't say it's overrated — it's helpful out here — but if you can't hit straight and put it in the fairway, then it doesn't give you any advantage."

Morikawa hits it straight. He didn't miss a fairway in the final round after the opening hole, and that made it tough for anyone to catch him on the back nine.

Most telling was his thought process down the stretch at Concession. The biggest putt was a 12-footer for par on No. 11 and an 8-foot birdie putt on the short par-4 12th as a cast of contenders were closing in. He had two par 5s ahead of him. But with his lead back at three and no one making a move, he applied pressure by not making mistakes.

"Yes, I wanted more birdies coming down the stretch, but guys weren't really making birdies, so it wasn't forcing me to keep up with their pace, as well," Morikawa said.

He didn't have a red shirt, like a dozen other players Sunday, to show support for Woods as he recovers from serious leg injuries suffered in his Los Angeles-area car crash. Morikawa honored his golfing idol



Phelan M. Ebenhack/AP

Collin Morikawa, right, and his caddie watch after hitting from the second fairway during the final round of the Workday Championship Sunday in Bradenton, Florida.

by playing like he would in that situation.

McIlroy has never played with Morikawa on the PGA Tour, though he has seen enough because McIlroy pays attention to everyone, and he has been around him during TaylorMade commercial shoots.

"He makes a really good move at it; club-face stays so stable through impact," McIlroy said. "It's sort of hard to think that he could hit a ball offline. Great iron player. And I think the thing with Collin is when he gets the putter going, he's always going to have a chance."

Morikawa says he has never felt comfortable with his putting — remember, he missed a 6-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole and a 3-foot par putt in a playoff to lose at Colonial. He heard about Hall of Fame member Mark O'Meara using a "saw" putting grip and decided to try it out. Then, wisely, he caught up with O'Meara the next day and talked to him for an hour.

His chipping was a mess on the Bermuda grass at Concession. He called over Paul Azinger, a Concession member and NBC analyst, for Azinger to show him a few techniques. The chat lasted 10 minutes and paid big dividends.

"It saved my life this week," Morikawa said with exuberance and possibly a bit of exaggeration.

He already is winning big and always learning, a nice combination going forward.

YOUR HOROSCOPE *By Madalyn Aslan*

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2021: Private, intimate and autonomous, you need a cozy place in which to exist. You produce your best work this year, and it's very successful. If single, you so crave creative isolation that you don't even search for a mate this year. You wait some years before joining your soul mate. If attached, you can communicate without speaking and have an intensely psychic bond. VIRGO will never lead you on.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ An old demon no longer troubles you. Inwardly, you'll feel more peaceful and strong. New financial strategies are worth considering. Your legendary analytical ability is in top form, enabling you to find solutions to several pesky problems. Tonight: A sigh of relief.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Be lighthearted about partnerships today. Today doesn't favor a serious or committed situation. Use caution in making promises, and select closest associates with care. Trust your own instincts if a project of time-investment seems risky. Tonight: Vulnerable to peer pressure.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Today accents domestic relationships. Be alert to the needs of beloved pets; they'll be especially sensitive and emotional — also with any assistantship you hire and use. Companions surprise you with progressive plans. Tonight: A marvelous cycle for decision-making.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Your charisma is at a peak, and interesting new prospects are attracted to you. Genuine drama is followed by the fireworks clearing. A companion whom you've lost track of can resurface. Tonight: Double-check all agreements, for questions of propriety come into play.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Work hard and be patient. Quiet contemplation helps you find contentment. It's a perfect cycle for redecorating projects in your home. You'll be devoting great energy to family matters. Honor your childhood memories and heritage. Tonight: A long and soothing herbal bath.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You're ready to explore and wander. Reflect upon a world map to help intuit the best places for visits once this pandemic is over. There is an urge to be active, not to wait or postpone. Today reminds you to savor the present. Tonight: Savoring.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Today marks a wonderful time to separate the promising from the outmoded with regard to your source of income. You're very progressive in analyzing new economic trends. You get good financial news. Tonight: Investment clubs and other group activities help you with financial planning.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Today your charm and beauty impress the right people and help is offered. Pursue social and professional opportunities. Tremendous mental energy and artistic aptitude are heightened. New ideas abound. A friend is helpful and has knowledge to share. Tonight: Dance like no one's watching.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Take time for quiet reflection today. Explore your subconscious needs through meditation and dream analysis. A person from the past unexpectedly gets in touch. You will be glad. Helping others who are less fortunate brings you joy. Tonight: A good night's sleep.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Today emphasizes help, charity and wellness. A reunion of some type can be planned. Goals crystallize. Healing and growth are due. A larger-than-life quality prevails, but stay grounded and keep your perspective. Seek efficiency. Tonight: Involvement on Zoom with a large group.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Be a good listener. You may learn a lot. Today creates a limiting and somewhat frustrating career situation. Accept others as they are and use your creative ideas constructively. By the end of the day, recognition is yours. Tonight: Celebrate with older family members.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Today brings a cycle of great insight and awareness. Discussion groups and an eclectic combination of cultural traditions awaken your higher mind. Studying another language can have a positive impact too. Tonight: Watch a foreign movie or documentary.

Transgender

Continued from A5

Supporters of transgender rights say the Connecticut case gets so much attention from conservatives because it's the only example of its kind.

"It's their Exhibit A, and there's no Exhibit B — absolutely none," said Shannon Minter, legal director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights and a prominent trans-rights attorney.

The multiple sports bills, he says, address a threat that doesn't exist.

There's no authoritative count of how many trans athletes have competed recently in high school or college sports. Neither the NCAA nor most state high school athletic associations collect that data; in the states that do collect it, the numbers are minimal: No more than five students currently in Kansas, nine in Ohio over five years.

Transgender adults make up a small portion of the U.S. population, about 1.3 million as of 2016, according to the Williams Institute, a think tank at the UCLA School of Law that specializes in research on LGBTQ issues.

The two dozen bills making their way through state legislatures this year could be devastating for transgender teens who usually get little attention as they compete.

In Utah, a 12-year-old transgender girl cried when she heard about the proposal, which would separate her from her friends. She's far from the tallest girl on her club team and has worked hard to improve her times but is not a dominant swimmer in her age group, her coach said.

"Other than body parts, I've been a girl my whole life," she said.

The girl and her family spoke with The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity to avoid outing her publicly.

Those who object to the growing visibility and rights for transgender people, though, argue new laws are needed to keep the playing field fair for cisgender girls.

"When the law does not recognize differences between men and women, we've seen that women lose," said Christiana Holcomb, an attorney for the Alliance Defending Freedom, which filed the Connecticut lawsuit on behalf of four cisgender girls.

One of those girls, Chelsea Mitchell, defeated Terry Miller — the faster of the two trans sprinters — in their final two races in February 2020.

The ADF and others like it are the behind-the-scenes backers of the campaign, offering model legislation and a playbook to promote the bills, most of them with common features and even titles, like the Save Women's Sports Act.

When asked for other examples of complaints about middle or high school transgender athletes, ADF and the Family Policy Alliance, cited two: One involved a Hawaii



Matt Rourke/AP

Rebekah Bruesehoff, 14, poses for a portrait in New Jersey on Friday. The transgender teenager competes on her middle school field hockey team and hopes to keep playing in high school. "It's all been positive," she said. "The coaches have been really helpful."

woman who coaches track and filed a complaint last year over a trans girl competing in girls' volleyball and track. The other involved a cisgender girl in Alaska who defeated a trans sprinter in 2016, then appeared in a Family Policy Alliance video saying the trans girl's third-place finish was unfair to runners who were further behind.

Only one state, Idaho, has enacted a law curtailing trans students' sports participation, and that 2020 measure is blocked by a court ruling.

Chase Strangio, a transgender-rights attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union, notes that in several states with proposed sports bans, lawmakers also are seeking to ban certain gender-affirming health care for transgender young people. "This is not about sports," he said. "It's a way to attack trans people."

Some states' school athletic organizations already have rules about trans participation in sports: 19 states allow full inclusion of trans athletes; 16 have no clear-cut statewide policy; seven emulate the NCAA's rule by requiring hormone therapy for trans girls; and eight effectively ban trans girls from girls' teams, according to attorney Asaf Orr of the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

Texas is among those with a ban, limiting transgender athletes to teams conforming with the gender on their birth certificate.

That policy came under criticism in 2017 and 2018, when trans male Mack Beggs won state titles in girls' wrestling competitions after he was told he could not compete as a boy.

While Beggs, Miller and Yearwood were the focus of news coverage and controversy, trans athletes more commonly compete without any furor — and with broad accep-

tance from teammates and competitors.

In New Jersey's Camden County, trans 14-year-old Rebekah Bruesehoff competes on her middle school field hockey team and hopes to keep playing in high school.

"It's all been positive," she said. "The coaches have been really helpful."

While New Jersey has a trans-inclusive sports policy, Rebekah is distressed by the proposed bans elsewhere — notably measures that might require girls to verify their gender.

"I know what it's like to have my gender questioned," Rebekah said. "It's invasive, embarrassing, I don't want others to go through that."

The possibility that any athlete could have to undergo tests or examinations to prove their gender was among the reasons that Truman Hamburger, a 17-year-old high school student in North Dakota, showed up at the statehouse to protest a proposed ban.

"Once you open up that door on gender policing, that's not a door you can easily shut," he said.

Sarah Huckman, a 20-year-old sophomore at the University of New Hampshire, ran track and cross country for three years at Kingswood Regional High School in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire, after coming out as trans in seventh grade.

Huckman showed great talent in the sprints and hurdles but was not dominant on a statewide level. In her senior year, she won several events in small and mid-size meets, and had sixth place and 10th place finishes in the Division II indoor state championships.

The proposed bans appall her. "It's so demeaning toward my group of people," she said. "We're all human beings. We do sports for the love of it."