

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 faithful male reader of your column. I lost my beautiful wife of 40 years last year.

During our marriage, I had prostate cancer and decided to have the surgery to remove it. I was told by my doctor that there was a chance I would never again be intimate with my wife, and she was OK with it.

Now that she's gone, I have grown close to her childhood best friend. I don't know whether a relationship is in the making, but I'm afraid once she finds out I'm unable to perform, the relationship will die.

I have tried every pill on the market, pump, etc. Is it possible to have a good relationship with someone without intercourse? Or do you think I'm doomed?

— *Going Forward in Virginia*
Dear Abby: I do NOT think you are "doomed." If you are under the impression that all women your age (and younger) would reject you because you can no longer have sexual intercourse, allow me to reassure you. Many women would value warmth, affection, compatible ethics and morals and an intellectual equal to share their life with.

So be honest, and you may be pleasantly surprised to discover that not only are you eligible, but that you are also in demand.

Dear Abby: I have a friend who is really popular. We have been best friends since third grade, but when we started ninth grade, she really changed.

She started hanging out with the "cool" kids and acting weird. She told me that because I was her friend, I had the automatic right to hang out with them.

I don't like to hang out with large groups of people because I'm afraid of big groups, but I still want to be friends with her. When I told her I'd think about it, she suddenly turned cold. I'm confused. I don't know what I should do. She was there for me since third grade, and I was there for her, and now she seems to be fading really fast — six years of friendship just forgotten. Please give me some advice.

— *Friend Drama in Michigan*
Dear Friend Drama: Sometimes when a person says "I'll think about it," it comes across as a negative reply. Your friend's feelings may have been hurt because she interpreted it as a rejection. It would have been better if you had explained that you are uncomfortable in large groups and would prefer to see her one-on-one if she was willing.

It may not be too late to get that message across to her. If the price of her company is that you will have to learn to be more social, you will then have to decide which is more important.

Dear Abby: I have a co-worker who just built a house. When I asked her what she would like for a housewarming gift, she told me a nice wine carafe with a stopper. So that's exactly what I got her.

I recently found out she had a housewarming party, and I wasn't invited. I had asked her when it was going to be, and she didn't mention a word about it. Am I still obligated to give her the gift I got for her? Or should I write her off and give it to someone else?

— *Excluded in Corpus Christi*
Dear Excluded: Ouch! Write her off and regret it.

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL | OREGON STATE

Sharpshooter Jarod Lucas has stepped it up on D

BY NICK DASCHEL

The Oregonian
INDIANAPOLIS — As Oregon State has made its run in winning the Pac-12 tournament championship and two NCAA Tournament games, a central question has formed.

Where did this come from? How did a team picked to finish last in the Pac-12, that lost in December to one of the country's worst teams in the Portland Pilots, figure it out?

A late-season fire ignited on Oregon State's three-game road winning streak in February. But the genesis of this surge more likely occurred on Jan. 14, when the Beavers hit bottom in a 98-64 loss to Arizona in Corvallis. That night and into the early morning hours, the OSU coach staff huddled, trying to figure how to make something of the 2020-21 season.

The conversation wasn't always pleasant. Players were brought into the discussion the following day before practice. Things were simplified. Attitudes corrected. There was a lineup change.

Jarod Lucas made his first career start the following game against Arizona State. Since then, the Beavers haven't looked back. Lucas has started 21 consecutive games as OSU's shooting guard. The Beavers are 14-7 with Lucas as a starter.

There was never a question about Lucas' primary asset, shooting from long range. But it was other intangibles that kept coach Wayne Tinkle from pulling the trigger earlier. Tinkle felt the day after the Arizona loss Lucas' game had come far enough in other areas — defense, playing off the ball on offense — to merit an opportunity.

When Tinkle broke the news to Lucas about the promotion to start, the conversation was simple.

"He believed in me," Lucas said.

Lucas signed at Oregon State following a star-studded high



Paul Sancya/AP

Oregon State's Jarod Lucas celebrates a basket against Tennessee in the first round of the NCAA Tournament in Indianapolis on Friday.

school career at Los Altos, where he set a Southern California career scoring record with 3,356 points. The 6-foot-3 guard was money from 3, making 384 during his high school career. It was more of the same as a freshman at OSU. Lucas hit 3s in spurts, and made the most dramatic one of

the season, a shot from beyond the arc to help the Beavers beat Utah in a first-round Pac-12 tournament game.

But to gain Tinkle's faith and attention, Lucas had to become more than a shooter. Lucas had to show he could offer something on the defensive end. "In high school I averaged

a lot of points. I didn't play too much on defense," Lucas said. "Quickly learned that at Oregon State that it's not just offense. Coach Tinkle helped me realize that to stay on the floor, I've got to play hard defensively. ... It wasn't quick, it took some time, but I eventually caught on to some of the defensive concepts."

There's a lot to like about Lucas in Tinkle's mind. Lucas is the team's best 3-point shooter, so much so that he shoots better from behind the arc (.376) than on two-point shots (.366) during his OSU career. Six times this season Lucas has hit at least four 3-pointers in a game. Tinkle loves Lucas' confidence, and his energy because it's contagious, though there are times when the coaches need to calm him down a bit.

The tipping point was defense.

"Defensively, I told him, you've got to give me a reason to put you on the court when you're not hitting shots," Tinkle said. "He came back a little while later and said, 'Coach, I don't want to come out of games late in the game on the defensive end.' I said, that's great. Great players want to be both sides."

Since becoming a starter, Lucas has played at least 29 minutes in every game but one. Lucas has scored in double figures in OSU's last nine games; perhaps it's coincidence, but during that stretch, Oregon State has won eight of nine games.

Lucas doesn't wonder why many prominent programs didn't come calling while he was putting up the eye-catching high school numbers. Lucas is where he wants to be.

"All you need is one coach, one university, to believe in you," Lucas said. "All of us at Oregon State have one coach who really believes in us. I know I can say for my team that we all made the right decision."

OSU hopes to reap fringe benefits of tourney run

INDIANAPOLIS — Scott Barnes is like the rest of Oregon State's fan base for the rest of the Beavers men's basketball NCAA Tournament run.

The OSU athletic director will watch Saturday's Sweet 16 game against Loyola of Chicago in Bankers Life Fieldhouse with some 350 Beaver fans who have tickets.

Basketball has suddenly added a few items to Barnes' plate. He says he's hearing from those connected with Oregon State from far and wide, including former players and boosters who haven't reached out in years.

"As you can imagine, hundreds of text messages," Barnes said.

The Oregon State fan Barnes is most thinking about is Bud Ossey, the Beavers' 101-year-old equivalent to Loyola of Chicago's Sister Jean. Ossey, for obvious reasons, is not in Indianapolis but watches the games from his home in Tualatin. The 1943 OSU grad often calls coach Wayne Tinkle after basketball games.

Barnes believes the exposure Oregon State receives during its postseason run will show up down the road in terms of future student interest.

"We're introducing the multitudes to our university through athletics' door right now. That's one of the roles we serve," Barnes said. "A lot of prospective students that may not have even been looking our way as a prospective student to Oregon State will now."

— *The Oregonian*

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 25, 2021: Entrepreneurial, passionate and direct, expressing your creative voice is high on your priority list. This year, you connect with artistic groups through the magic of technology without sidestepping professional obligations. Continue to keep a watchful eye on your finances. When life gets tough, your optimism infects those around you. If single, online dating sites may intrigue you. If attached, carve time in your schedules for romantic date nights. SAGITTARIUS challenges you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Today, share spare time with a friend who makes you laugh and smile. Avoid religious and political topics. Try walking, biking, dancing or any other physical activity that you can enjoy doing together. Tonight: Send family a photo collage.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ A piece of furniture or decorative art may tempt you to overspend. Watch your impulses. What you love today you might not like tomorrow. Show your family in words and action how much you appreciate them. Tonight: Answer texts and email.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Catch up on reading. If the sun is shining, take your book or device outside. Return communication you may have forgotten about. Meet up with friends who love stimulating conversation and a friendly debate about hot topics. Tonight: Vegetarian meal.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Walk where you can smell fresh flowers. That may remind you to buy a bouquet for your home or office. Treat yourself to a frivolous item that won't impact your finances but you will enjoy. Tonight: Start a mystery novel.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Pat yourself on the back. A project you have been working on will reach its conclusion. Attend a gathering where you can network with people whose interests mirror your own. An important contact might emerge. Tonight: An emotional discussion brings closure.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Today might bring vacillating moods. Excuse yourself politely from an appointment and take alone time. Your imagination may be especially active. Catch up on journal entries and jot down creative ideas you want to run by your team. Tonight: Dance movements.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Plan to visit a friend who lives out of town. In the meantime, set a time to connect online. Someone you did a favor for may write a note that could bring a tear to your eye. Tonight: Calm your nerves.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Expect the unexpected in all areas of life. Your career may take a surprising new turn. Adapt to current trends, and you will fit right in. Stay focused and continue to be a team player. Tonight: Add to your playlist.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Someone might ask you to mentor them. Accept the challenge. You may discover teaching skills you doubted you had. Talk to people from other cultures. Learn a language online through lectures and recordings. Tonight: Dinner will be waiting for you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Today you want to be where the action is, whether at home or work. Enter an online game or tournament. You are a healthy competitor, so anyone who stands in your way better watch out. Tonight: Invite friends to dinner.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Someone might break a promise or cancel an appointment without notice. Be compassionate rather than judgmental. There may be extenuating circumstances. Make the first move to get in touch. You always know the right things to say. Tonight: Sweet-smelling incense.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Strong opinions could get you in hot water. Keep provocative ideas to yourself for now and you will succeed. Show others by example how to be diplomatic and charming. You will get rewarded for your efforts. Tonight: Pet love.

Ducks

Continued from A5

"Any time you take points off the board, does it change momentum? Sure it does," Georgia coach Joni Taylor said. "It's a tie ballgame at that time and then it turns into a four-point swing for them."

Georgia opened the fourth quarter with an 8-2 run to get within 42-41 with about six minutes to go, and it was back and forth from there until Sabally came through for Oregon.

The Ducks relied on their starters, and only four players scored. Taylor Mikesell had 11 points and Erin Boley finished with nine.

Poor long-range shooting hurt Georgia, which went 1 of 13 from 3-point range.

Promoting the game

Prince has been a vocal advocate for the sport, and her social media video highlighting the disparities between the women's and men's weight rooms at the tournament went viral and started a dialogue about the inequities in NCAA basketball.

She knows some people who don't normally watch women's basketball might have tuned in to watch her play this week and hopes her outspokenness has taught them something about the game.

"I hope they see that women's basketball is not boring," she said. "It's fun. It's exciting. It's different than men's basketball but in an amazing way. ... We just wanted to show that we're fun to watch."

Double Ducks

Both the men's and women's Oregon teams are in the Sweet 16 after the seventh-seeded men beat No. 2 Iowa on Monday to advance.

"This has been a great couple of days for the University of Oregon," Graves said.

Next up

Oregon vs. Louisville
When: 4 p.m.
Sunday
TV: ESPN



ENGLERT LeafGuard is the permanent, clog-free gutter solution!*

*Guaranteed not to clog as long as you own your home, or we will clean your gutters for free

- LIFETIME NO-CLOG WARRANTY
- MADE ONSITE SPECIFICALLY FOR YOUR HOME
- THE ONLY ONE-PIECE SEAMLESS DEBRIS SHEDDING GUTTER SYSTEM.
- SCRATCHGUARD® PAINT FINISH

541-366-4118

Call Today for Your FREE Estimate!

WINTER BLOWOUT SALE!

67% OFF LABOR! **

RECEIVE A \$25 LOWE'S GIFT CARD

WITH FREE IN-HOME ESTIMATE!†

*DOES NOT INCLUDE COST OF MATERIAL. EXPIRES 03/31/2021. †ALL PARTICIPANTS WHO ATTEND AN ESTIMATED 60-90 MINUTE IN-HOME PRODUCT CONSULTATION WILL RECEIVE A \$25 GIFT CARD. RETAIL VALUE IS \$25. OFFER SPONSORED BY LEAFGUARD HOLDINGS INC. LIMIT ONE PER HOUSEHOLD. COMPANY PROCURES, SELLS, AND INSTALLS SEAMLESS GUTTER PROTECTION. THIS OFFER IS VALID FOR HOMEOWNERS OVER 18 YEARS OF AGE. IF MARRIED OR INVOLVED WITH A LIFE PARTNER, BOTH COHABITATING PERSONS MUST ATTEND AND COMPLETE PRESENTATION TOGETHER. PARTICIPANTS MUST HAVE A PHOTO ID, BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND ENGLISH, AND BE LEGALLY ABLE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT. THE FOLLOWING PERSONS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THIS OFFER: EMPLOYEES OF COMPANY OR AFFILIATED COMPANIES OR ENTITIES, THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS, PREVIOUS PARTICIPANTS IN A COMPANY IN-HOME CONSULTATION WITHIN THE PAST 12 MONTHS AND ALL CURRENT AND FORMER COMPANY CUSTOMERS. GIFT MAY NOT BE EXTENDED, TRANSFERRED, OR SUBSTITUTED EXCEPT THAT COMPANY MAY SUBSTITUTE A GIFT OF EQUAL OR GREATER VALUE IF IT DEEMS IT NECESSARY. GIFT CARD WILL BE MAILED TO THE PARTICIPANT VIA FIRST CLASS UNITED STATES MAIL OR E-MAILED WITHIN 30 DAYS OF RECEIPT OF THE PROMOTION FORM. NOT VALID IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANY OTHER PROMOTION OR DISCOUNT OF ANY KIND. OFFER NOT SPONSORED OR PROMOTED BY LOWE'S AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE PRIOR TO RESERVATION. EXPIRES 3/31/21. LEAFGUARD OPERATES AS LEAFGUARD OF OREGON IN OREGON UNDER LICENSE NUMBER 223377.