

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 woman in my late 30s. "Tim" and I have been best friends for more than 10 years. Over the last few years, he has struggled with depression and addiction, and I have done my best to help him.

A few weeks back, Tim called me crying and said he was planning to end his life. It wasn't the first time he has spoken this way, but it was the first time he described a plan of action. Because I was alarmed, I called the police to do a welfare check. They went to Tim's home, which is across the country from mine, and took him to a psychiatric facility for several days. Now that he's out, he's furious with me for notifying the police and says I betrayed him. He said he doesn't know if we can continue to be friends.

I feel terrible, like I perhaps made a mistake by calling reinforcements, but I was more worried about the consequences of not calling. My family is telling me I should step away from the friendship altogether, but I can't imagine doing that. Please help.

— *Takes Friendship Seriously*

Dear Takes: Your family's advice to step away seems sensible. You did NOT make a mistake by calling to see that Tim got help after he told you he had a plan in place to take his own life. You were trying to help him and prevent a tragedy, and that's a good thing.

Tim is clearly very ill and, unfortunately, there is little you can do to fix what's wrong with him (which is plenty). If you know his family, inform them about what has been going on. And because he doesn't know if he can continue being friends

with you, leave it up to him to decide.

Dear Abby: My brother's wife is pregnant, and there is talk about their moving to the state where her family lives. There are only three people in my sister-in-law's family (one is elderly and two others work full time) who may provide her with support during her transition into motherhood. On the other hand, there are 10 of us who could help them emotionally and physically if they stay here.

My sister-in-law plans on being a stay-at-home mom, which I wholeheartedly support. My brother would move to the state where her family resides only in order to appease her. Our family is closer than her family. I feel we can provide them with more love and support than her family. What can I say or do to show them that living near our family is the best decision?

— *Near is Better*

Dear Near: I'm sure you mean well, but do not make the mistake of trying to "sell" your sister-in-law on staying. It appears her mind is made up. If she feels she would be more comfortable with her own family as she approaches this milestone, not much you can say will dissuade her. Of course, nothing prevents you from telling your brother how you feel, if you haven't already.

You might also suggest they consider renting for a year rather than buying a home right away, to see how they like it. That way, once the baby arrives and reality hits, she may realize she won't have the support she may need, and they may decide to return.

NCAA MEN'S TOURNAMENT | ELITE 8 PREVIEW

Not just offense: Gonzaga trusts defense entering USC game

BY AARON BEARD

AP Basketball Writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Gonzaga has spent its entire season pushing tempo, knocking down shots and rolling to comfortable wins with one of the best offenses college basketball has seen in two decades.

The Zags' push for perfection hasn't ignored the other end of the court, either.

The No. 1 overall seed in the NCAA Tournament enters Tuesday's West Region final against Southern California as one of the national leaders in defensive efficiency. And the Zags are coming off a strong performance against Creighton's outside shooters.

Do they get enough credit for their work on the defensive end?

"I don't think they do," coach Mark Few said of his players. "I think we've had some excellent, I mean, off-the-chart performances and some terrific halves."

The Bulldogs (29-0) rank seventh in KenPom's adjusted efficiency by allowing 88.6 points per 100 possessions. They've held opponents below their scoring average in 20 games, including the past six, despite playing a fast tempo.

"We play a lot of really high-possession games so our totals or total points given up is a lot higher than some of the other elite defensive teams in the country," senior Associated Press first-team all-American Corey Kispert said Monday. "But we think we're just as good and can go toe-to-toe with any defensive team out there."

Sunday's 83-65 win against Creighton — which shot 41% and made 5 of 23 3-pointers — marked the seventh time the Zags held an opponent at least 10 points below their average.

"This is not a one-trick pony," Bluejays coach Greg McDermott said. "These guys can play on both ends of the floor."

Few credited his players' attention to each scouting report. He also pointed out their perimeter size to go with bigs Drew Timme and Anton



AP photo/Michael Conroy

Gonzaga forward Corey Kispert (24) and Drew Timme (2) congratulate each other in the second half of a Sweet 16 game against Creighton at Hinkle Fieldhouse in Indianapolis on Sunday. Gonzaga won 83-65.

Watson being nimble enough to allow effective defensive switches.

The sixth-seeded Trojans (25-7) will test that unit. USC has shot 54.8% in NCAA Tournament wins against Drake, Kansas and Oregon to reach its first Elite Eight in 20 years, including making 21 of 35 3-pointers (60%) against the Jayhawks and Ducks. The matchup of USC's Mobley brothers against the Gonzaga big men will be one to watch.

"All I know is they're ranked No. 1 in the nation, they're undefeated," USC coach Andy Enfield said of Gonzaga's defense. "I don't see how you're being overlooked. We just know they're an exceptional team at both ends of the floor."

NBA prospects

There's NBA talent in this one.

USC freshman big man Evan Mobley (16.3 points, 8.8 rebounds) and Gonzaga freshman guard Jalen Suggs (13.9 points) are potential top-3 picks if they decide to enter the draft, while Kispert (19 points) has developed into a potential lottery prospect.

All three made the AP all-America teams earlier this month.

Zoned up

USC has gotten big tournament results with its zone defense.

Enfield said the team had played man defense about 90% of the season even after installing zone looks in pre-season. But the Trojans have used more zone here to keep size in the lineup against teams that spread the court, drive and kick for 3s.

The Trojans have allowed 32% shooting in three NCAA wins.

"You need a basketball IQ and I think our players have developed a comfort level of switching defenses on the fly," Enfield said, adding: "I think this group has really grown into a cohesive defensive unit where they can make the adjustments quickly."

Hello again

Facing Gonzaga won't be new for USC graduate transfer Tahj Eaddy.

The 6-2 guard previously played at Santa Clara and faced the Zags four times, averaging 6.8 points in those losses in 2019 and 2020. He's averaging 13.7 points for the Trojans.

"Kind of in a position where we're excited to play anybody,"

prepared to play anybody," Eaddy said. "But just the fact that it's Gonzaga, obviously having that history of being in the West Coast Conference, it's exciting to have the opportunity to play them again."

Milestones

Gonzaga is in the Elite Eight for the fourth time in six tournaments and looking for the program's second trip to the Final Four, the other coming in a 2017 title-game loss to North Carolina.

USC last reached a regional final in 2001, losing to eventual national champion Duke. The Trojans are chasing their third trip to the Final Four and first since 1954.

Perfection watch

Gonzaga became the 14th team to stay at No. 1 from start-to-finish in the AP Top 25 this season. The previous 13 made it at least to the national semifinals, with seven going on to win national title — most recently Duke in 1991-92.

UNLV in 1990-91 and Kentucky in 2014-15 were among the six that didn't, going unbeaten until falling in the Final Four. Indiana in 1975-76 remains the last unbeaten national champion.

YOUR HOROSCOPE *By Madalyn Aslan*

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 2021: Bold, quick and physical, accept help from others and success will be yours. This year, you sharpen your listening skills, making you a better friend, colleague and family member. Clear up debt during the months ahead, and you'll have funds to spare in time for the holidays. If single, keep your eyes open for people whose interests you share. If attached, mark off date nights on your calendar. VIRGO grounds you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Discuss long-term financial plans with a partner. Talk over all your options. If you disagree and reach an impasse, come back to it another day. A financial adviser or knowledgeable friend may provide answers. Tonight: Step up your exercise routine.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Give someone you love the upper hand. Hold back on what you really want to say. Avoid an argument, and your relationship will take a romantic turn. Share a secret with someone you trust. Tonight: Tidy up and relax.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Work to the best of your ability. Meet deadlines, and you will never go wrong. It never hurts to look at other opportunities for which you qualify. Socialize after hours with co-workers or fellow volunteers. Tonight: Time for a serious discussion.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Revive a creative project that stalled. Fresh ideas and inspired conversations give it the green light. People are attracted to your spirited personality. Do something out of character, which ensures you will have fun. Tonight: Make music or listen to it.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Continue to delve into your family tree. Online research is only part of the effort. Connect with relatives who can fill in gaps and supply memorabilia. Trace people you never met but heard about. Searching occupies spare time. Tonight: Date night.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ Someone in your extended family could use your advice. You are bursting with ideas that you want to express. Journaling will keep you busy. If you want to share your thoughts, explore social media platforms. Tonight: Maintain a positive outlook.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Expenses you did not count on emerge. Pass on items that make you happy in the short term. Use your initiative to find additional income streams. Business ideas that start small are the answer. Tonight: Night out with close friends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Your stress level is on overdrive. Stay silent rather than say something you regret. Walk or run on a steeper path than usual. Work up a sweat, but don't push yourself beyond where your body wants to go. Tonight: Home spa treatment.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Don't let sad news ruin your day. Dwell on happy memories and future successes. Make giving back a reality. Donate time or money to a group or organization whose ideals you share. Tonight: Come up with a workable plan B.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ Speak up at a lecture, group or meeting you attend. People may be surprised but will listen intently to what you have to say. Friends are powerful influences. Ask for opinions, but think for yourself. Tonight: Relax in the tub.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ You may be asked to take a leadership position or make a presentation. These requests may be challenging, but you are capable of high marks. People you love are always your greatest support system. Tonight: Keep the remote to yourself.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ An enticing travel offer may arise unexpectedly. If it does not fit into your schedule, say no and move on. There will be other opportunities. Mentor an eager student who will benefit from your knowledge. Tonight: Watch a sporting event.

Mariners

Continued from A5

Utility player Dylan Moore led the team in WAR last year despite playing in just 38 games. Outfielder Mitch Haniger is finally healthy three years after his All-Star season, as is catcher Tom Murphy, who missed all of 2020. There are also Gold Glovers in shortstop J.P. Crawford and first baseman Evan White, who are 26 and 24, respectively.

It's not as though there aren't prized minor-leaguers who will likely find their way into the majors this year, either. Twenty-one-year-old outfielder Jarred Kelenic, who found himself at the center of the service-time debate in February, is considered one of the top five prospects in baseball. Pitcher Logan Gilbert, 23, is among the top 40 prospects and could add depth to the rotation. And though he is hardly a prospect or young (by baseball standards, at least) former ace James Paxton returns to the M's rotation after an injury-riddled 2020.

All of these facts are reasons for optimism. Each of these players has the ability to shine. But the odds of them collectively outpacing expectations and ending the longest postseason drought in major American professional sports? It still seems slim.

The fact is, the M's didn't land any major free agents this offseason. Talented as some of the youngsters may be, they won't be joined by a bevy of proven vets with All-Star potential. This isn't necessarily a shot at an ownership group that may still be waiting for the right time to empty its wallet. It's simply an acknowledgment of the reality of the Mariners' situation.

In December I asked Mariners manager Scott Servais

what his expectations for the 2021 season were. He said he thought the team could be competitive throughout the year but admitted that "we still have a long ways to go" and added that "we need to be realistic around where we're at."

Three and a half months later, that still seems like the most accurate assessment. This offseason was a whirlwind for the Mariners, but not because of endless transactions and the beeping up of a roster.

Does the team have talent? No doubt. But there's little proof they have enough.

Say Happy Easter In The Bulletin

The Bulletin will feature your Happy Easter greetings in our classified section on Easter Sunday!

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