

## DEAR ABBY

Write to Dear Abby online at [dearabby.com](http://dearabby.com) or by mail at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069



**Dear Abby:** I am a senior male. I understand I may have some beliefs that others find old-fashioned. However, I consciously try to be tolerant of others' feelings and beliefs. That said, my problem is with my younger brother, who is a homosexual. I have always tried to ignore that side of his life and, consequently, we have always had a good relationship. He lives in another state, so we only talk on the telephone.

A couple of months ago while we were talking, the subject of sexuality came up, and I told him I find that he is gay "disgusting." I know it was a poor choice of words. I merely meant to say that I, myself, am and always have been totally heterosexual. I have never had any sexual interest in members of my own sex. I never meant my comment to be judgmental of my brother or anyone else.

I left several messages apologizing for anything I said that he found objectionable. Now, when I try to contact him, he doesn't answer my phone calls.

Abby, I miss my brother. I truly love him, and I don't want to lose all contact with him. If you have any advice for me, please give it to me. I'm desperate and can think of nothing I might be able to do to restore our relationship. Please help me.

— *Feels Like a Fool in Washington*

**Dear Feels Like:** I have never understood why so many straight people spend so much time obsessing about what gay people might be doing behind closed doors. THAT, to me, is disgusting.

I'll be frank. After what you said to your brother, he

would have to be a saint to forgive you. He is doing what emotionally healthy people do, erasing a negative influence from his life. You can continue trying to apologize by penning a heartfelt letter of apology and remorse, promising to never use those words again, and sending it to your brother. But if he continues to be unreceptive, you will have to live with it.

**Dear Abby:** I met a man online seven months ago. We hit it off right away. I checked to make sure he wasn't a "catfisher" and everything checked out. We talk on the phone at least twice a day, Facebook Messenger and video chat. He sent me a card for my birthday along with some money.

I have developed strong feelings for him, and he has told me he loves me. He has told me many times he wants to meet, but we couldn't do it because of the pandemic. He's a jewelry designer trying to get his business back up before he loses it. He's afraid to lose everything.

I don't know what to do. Should I keep waiting or just stay friends with him? We really care about each other, but circumstances prevent us from meeting.

— *Brokenhearted in New York*

**Dear Brokenhearted:** Because "circumstances" prevent you from meeting this man in person, try HARD to regain your balance and stay friends. Although you think you know him, until you finally meet in person, you really don't. Even if you confirmed he works in jewelry design, he may still be hiding something from you. Often when a significant other keeps making excuses not to meet, there's a good reason for it and not always what you want to hear.

## WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

## Stanford wins championship for all those teams that couldn't

BY JANIE MCCAULEY

Associated Press

STANFORD, Calif. — Chiney and Nneka Ogwumike had their chances at championships for Stanford that fell short before the sisters finally celebrated one in San Antonio when the Cardinal finally got it done again.

Kate Starbird, Nicole Powell, Candice Wiggins and countless others were also part of talented Stanford teams that never ended their seasons by cutting down the nets.

"It's heartbreaking to go through that," recalled Tara VanDerveer, who completed her 35th year coaching Stanford by capturing the program's first NCAA championship since 1992.

The Cardinal had made 10 Final Four appearances only to come up empty-handed since the previous championship — twice finishing as runners-up before holding off Pac-12 rival Arizona 54-53 to end the nearly three-decade drought.

"It means everything," Wiggins said of seeing Stanford come through this time.

The coach and her emotionally spent team returned to Northern California on Monday for a victory parade through campus after winning it all again.

VanDerveer took time after winning to reflect on all of those special players, deep runs and near-misses. And how this talented team did it for the others who did their part to build the perennial powerhouse.

"I really feel like we won this for all the great players that have played at Stanford," VanDerveer said. "The former players would be so proud to



Eric Gay/AP

Stanford players celebrate on the River Walk in San Antonio after defeating Arizona 54-53 in the NCAA championship game on Sunday.

be part of this team because of the resilience they've shown, because of the sisterhood that they represent."

That sisterhood became even stronger following a poor decision by players in September that could have derailed the championship season before it began.

Kiana Williams and some teammates left campus to play pick-up basketball in a gym nearby when they were supposed to be under quarantine following COVID-19 protocols after everyone reconvened on campus.

VanDerveer shared her disappointment in their choices — and her hurt.

That "incident," as the coach and her star point guard described it after Sunday night's win, made Williams strive to be a better leader. The only way she imagined making it up to her coach: hoist the championship trophy.

stood that you have to be accountable. But since then, we did have staff test positive — three staff — but no players.

"I think that incident helped us because they were quarantined for 14 days. ... It was a very tough year. That was just the beginning of it. But I think that really set the tone that said, 'We're going to be honest, we're going to be trustworthy, and we need that from all of us.' I think it was a learning experience."

It helped these close-knit women, who spent more than two months on the road living out of hotels, make it up to the Hall of Fame coach they admire.

"So many great players have passed through this program. They have all come for the same reason that we have, to be coached by the greatest, to develop not only as a player but just as a person, as a young woman," sophomore Haley Jones said. "So I think this is just an honor to be able to do this for her and with her."

The 67-year-old VanDerveer is the all-time winningest women's coach and not ready to say whether she is pondering retirement now that she is back on top — not yet anyway.

"Maybe I'll think about it later. Right now I am very excited about what we accomplished, and I'm really excited about the team that we have ... and the young people that are committed to Stanford," VanDerveer said. "I'm happy. I'm enjoying it. I don't know if I can go through another COVID year, so I hope everybody is wearing their mask. Let's get better so we can get back to normal."

## YOUR HOROSCOPE By Madalyn Aslan

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

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

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2021:** Energetic, sensual and quick-witted, your pioneering spirit propels you forward. This year, you are the spark that people count on to get things started with you at the helm. Act on creative ideas, and watch your financial fortunes multiply. Pace yourself and come up for air, or you'll exhaust yourself before you begin. If single, pursue people who let you be yourself. If attached, laugh and play more. VIRGO has a plan.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)**

★★★★ Call on your team spirit. At work or in a group, your compassion will prevent things from falling apart. Don't be shy about asserting your need for harmony and cooperation. You are more inspiring than you know. Tonight: Home shopping.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**

★★★★ Challenge yourself with a project that is a bit over your head. You have a great support system, and everyone wants you to succeed. Be prepared to put in overtime, since everything may take longer than expected. Tonight: Exercise video.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**

★★★★ Your curiosity will urge you to research a nagging idea. Use your tenacity to follow through until you're fully satisfied. A friend or family member will thank you for siding with them in an argument. Tonight: Put your feet up.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**

★★★★ Put money where your interests are, and you'll stay in focus. Advice from a pragmatic friend or adviser will keep you grounded. Your quick mind always makes amazing moves. There's no need to worry. Tonight: Ask for a back rub.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**

★★★★ Your powers of attraction are strong today. Partners for work, friendship and love want to be close to you. Choose your companions carefully and select those who will give as much as you do. Tonight: Confide in someone special.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**

★★★★ An urge to organize could influence how you treat your mind and body. Close attention to diet and exercise helps you develop greater focus and build more consistent stores of energy. Relish this "can do" mood. Tonight: Express your inner child.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**

★★★★ Find a creative outlet. There's no harm in doing something that's just for fun. Friends appreciate your ability to make ordinary things seem exceptional. Show them how to whip up exquisitely plated, healthy snacks. Tonight: Get lost in a novel.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**

★★★★ Fill your favorite, most elegant-looking vase with spring flowers. A splay of Mother Nature's colors will lift your mood. Childhood memories could spawn a candy craving. Treat yourself to something that tastes so good it makes you giggle. Tonight: Clear your calendar.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**

★★★★ Write your thoughts in a journal that you keep to yourself or a blog for others to read. A positive message could arrive from a sibling or relative that inspires you to think about a visit. Tonight: Reflect on a mystery.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**

★★★★ Be prepared for but not afraid of financial surprises. Stay frugal for a while longer, and you'll have cash on hand for unexpected repairs. Be honest about what you value and go ahead and seek it in others. Tonight: Experiment with spices.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**

★★★★ Make a change in your appearance that reflects your amazing evolution. Subtle adjustments in style help convey your confidence and enhance your attractiveness. Someone who can't help but notice you will catch your eye. Tonight: Smile at your reflection.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**

★★★★ Define what privacy means to you and insist on it. Nobody needs to know everything you're doing or thinking. A sly smile lets a friend know there are things you'd rather not share. Take time to regroup. Tonight: Zumba class.

## SOCCER

## Leagues to test concussion substitutes

BY ANNE M. PETERSON

Associated Press

U.S. Soccer, Major League Soccer and the National Women's Soccer League are joining a trial program that will allow teams two additional substitutes for suspected concussions in each match.

The International Football Association Board, which sets the rules for the game, approved the trial for concussion substitutes last December. It is expected to run through August 2022.

U.S. Soccer is working with the top men's and women's leagues, as well as the United Soccer League and the National Independent Soccer Association, to implement the pilot program protocol across the sport in the United States.

"We do think it's incredibly important for players and player safety, and it speaks to our role of being a leader in this area and prioritizing health and safety above really anything else that we do as a league," said Jeff Agoos, vice president of competition for MLS.

Starting this season, teams can make two substitutions for suspected concussions. That's in addition to the five substitutions already allowed because of the coronavirus. Normally teams are allowed three total substitutions.

Concussion substitutions can be made even if a player has returned to the field to play. If teams sub out a player because of concussion, the opposing team gets an additional sub — addressing competitive balance concerns.

"It was critical to come together as a sport with our professional leagues and proceed in this pilot program, prioritizing the well-being of our players above all," Dr. George Chiampas, U.S. Soccer's chief medical officer, said in a statement. "We've worked hard to raise awareness of head injuries in soccer over the last several years, and this change

should go a long way in protecting players suspected of suffering a concussion."

The concussion rule was in force during the SheBelieves Cup in February. FIFA is considering whether it will be used at the Tokyo Olympics this summer.

The English Premier League has allowed use of concussion substitutes since early February. West Ham United's Issa Diop became the first player subbed out because of a suspected concussion in an FA Cup match against Manchester United on Feb. 9.

In MLS, Agoos there will be additional resources to determine if a concussion substitute is needed.

"If a player is injured, ob-



Phelan M. Ebenhack/AP file

United States midfielder Kellyn Acosta (10) and Trinidad and Tobago midfielder Andre Fortune (8) battle for a header during an international friendly soccer match in Orlando, Florida, on Jan. 31.

viously the medical staff will be called on to the field for an evaluation," Agoos told The

Associated Press. "If it's a head injury, the venue medical director may come on and evaluate the player. In parallel, we have an independent group of people (spotters), similar to some of the other sports, that are reviewing the video of that play and then can send that video to the fourth official's table where the venue medical director, the VMD, is located for further evaluation."

Additionally, different cards will be used by officials during MLS matches to indicate the kind of substitution being made: White for a normal sub and blue for an additional sub.

MLS opens its regular season on April 16; the NWSL's preseason Challenge Cup tournament starts Friday.

## Smiles That Look As Young As You Feel

Dentures offer an affordable way to replace any number of missing teeth.



Awbrey  
Dental Group

965 SW Emkay Drive, Suite 100, Bend  
Call 541-383-0754 or visit [www.awbreydental.com](http://www.awbreydental.com)