

Triple Crown

# Baffert mulling Medina Spirit's next step after the Derby win

BY GARY B. GRAVES  
Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Medina Spirit's surprising Kentucky Derby victory gave Bob Baffert a good problem to have — figuring out where to hang another sign on his barn's already crowded wall of glory.

As the Hall of Fame trainer digests a record seventh Derby win that caught even him off guard, he and the horse's connections must determine whether the dark brown colt will turn around quickly for the 146th Preakness on May 15 in Baltimore, where a collection of rested horses and revenge-minded competitors await.

"He came out of it well," Baffert said Sunday morning at Churchill Downs. "It takes about a week to determine, so I'm going to come

back next weekend and see. I don't see anything that would discourage me right now."

Similar wait-and-see decisions loomed on the backside a day after the 147th Derby returned to its traditional first Saturday in May date.

Shorter than the Derby at 1 3/16 miles, the Preakness sets up well for horses that skipped Churchill Downs for the sprint at Pimlico Race Course. Not to mention a chance for redemption for competitors that fell short to Medina Spirit.

Trainer Doug O'Neill said third-place finisher Rock Your World would not be among them, looking instead to run the 1 1/2-mile Belmont Stakes on June 5 in New York.

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Jeff Roberson/AP

▲ Trainer Bob Baffert hands the winner's trophy to jockey John Velazquez after their victory with Medina Spirit in the 147th running of the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs on Saturday in Louisville, Kentucky.

▼ John Velazquez riding Medina Spirit leads Florent Geroux on Mandaloun and Flavien Prat riding Hot Rod Charlie to win the 147th Kentucky Derby.



## PGA TOUR

## Burns pulls away at Innisbrook and claims his first PGA title

BY DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PALM HARBOR, Fla. — Eight times this season, Sam Burns has been atop the leaderboard after every round except the one that mattered. That changed, finally, at the Valspar Championship.

Burns got some help from Keegan Bradley hitting into the water on the 13th hole, and then the 24-year-old from Louisiana took it from there with two big birdies that led to a 3-under 68 and a three-shot victory Sunday.

Burns won for the first time on the PGA Tour after twice failing to convert 54-hole leads in the Houston Open last fall and the Genesis Invitational at Riviera in February.

The victory moves him into the top 50 in the world and all but assures a spot in the U.S. Open, along with his first trip to the Masters next spring.

Burns was wiping away tears when he tapped in for a meaningless bogey on the final hole, especially to see his wife, parents and other family members pour onto the green to celebrate the moment with him.

"I've worked so hard for this moment," Burns said. "They've all sacrificed so much."

He had reason to believe this moment could have come sooner. Burns wasted a good start at the season-opening Safeway Open. He closed with a 2-over 72 to tie for seventh in the Houston Open. He



Phelan M. Ebenhack/via AP

Sam Burns watches his tee shot on the second hole during the final round of the Valspar Championship tournament on Sunday in Palm Harbor, Florida.

lost a two-shot lead at Riviera, coming up one shot short of a playoff.

"Those moments in the past, you really learn a lot," Burns said. "This week coming down the stretch, I tried to stick to our process."

Bradley and Burns were tied through 36 holes and 54 holes, and they stayed that way through 12 holes on another blistering day at the Copperhead course. That changed with one swing.

Bradley came up well short on the par-3 13th and went into the water, leading to double bogey. Burns saved par with an 8-foot putt for a two-shot lead.

Burns was three shots ahead through 13 holes on Saturday and he struggled to retain a share of the lead, so he knew what was possible. This time, though, Bradley had no chance.

Burns followed with a wedge that stopped next to the hole for a tap-in birdie on the par-5 14th. He put Bradley away with a 7-iron to 18 feet and a birdie putt that brought the most emotion he showed all day, a hard fist slam.

He had a four-shot lead with two holes to play, the water and worst hazards behind him.

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## NASCAR CUP SERIES

## Busch celebrates birthday with win at Kansas Speedway

BY DAVE SKRETTA

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — Kyle Busch celebrated his 36th birthday Sunday by winning a two-lap sprint to the finish at Kansas Speedway, becoming the 10th different winner through the first 11 races of the NASCAR Cup Series season.

Busch had stalked Kyle Larson all day before beating him on a late restart to take the lead. Then, after another caution in the closing laps, Busch followed up his Truck Series win Saturday night with another trip to victory lane.

"That's a Kyle Busch win right there," he said.

Kevin Harvick overcame a tire mishap on a late pit stop and took advantage of some chaos on the final restart to finish second. Brad Keselowski dominated the early laps before following his win at Talladega last weekend by finishing third, and Matt DiBenedetto and Chase Elliott rounded out the top five.

Kyle Larson led a race-high 132 laps before his day ended in 19th place — and bitter disappointment.

Even after he was beaten by Busch on that late restart, he had another chance when Christopher Bell got sideways in Turn 4 to bring out another caution. But on the restart with two laps to go, Larson got trapped behind Ryan Blaney and wound up getting him sideways while trying to give him a push, taking both of them out of contention.

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## NFL DRAFT

### 17 players with Oregon links selected or signed

The 2021 NFL draft ended Saturday with a number of players connected to Oregon hearing their names called among the 259 players who were selected during the three-day draft. For others who weren't selected, some of those players signed undrafted free agent contracts.

Here's a list of players who joined NFL teams through the 2021 NFL draft or by signing a UDFA (Undrafted Free Agent) contract following the draft.

• **John Bates, TE (Lebanon HS)**

Bates, who played at Boise State, was selected by the Washington Football Team in the fourth round (No. 124 overall).

• **Brady Breeze, S (Oregon)**

Breeze was selected by the Tennessee Titans in the sixth round (No. 218).

• **Isaiah Dunn, CB (Oregon State)**

Dunn reportedly signed with the New York Jets as an undrafted free agent.

• **Austin Faoliu, DT (Oregon)**

Faoliu reportedly signed with the Dallas Cowboys as an undrafted free agent.

• **Thomas Graham, CB (Oregon)**

Graham was selected by the Chicago Bears in the sixth round (No. 228).

• **Jevon Holland, S (Oregon)**

Holland was selected by the Miami Dolphins in the second round (No. 36).

• **Talanoa Hufanga, S (Crescent Valley HS)**

Hufanga, who played at USC, was selected by the San Francisco 49ers in the fifth round (No. 180).

• **Jermar Jefferson, RB (Oregon State)**

Jefferson was selected by the Detroit Lions in the seventh round (No. 257).

• **Hunter Kampmoyer, TE (Oregon)**

Kampmoyer signed with the Los Angeles Chargers as an undrafted free agent.

• **Deommodore Lenoir, CB (Oregon)**

Lenior was selected by the San Francisco 49ers in the fifth round (No. 172).

• **Elijah Molden, CB (West Linn HS)**

Molden, who played at Washington, was selected by the Tennessee Titans in the third round (No. 100).

• **Osa Odighizuwa, DT (David Douglas HS)**

Odighizuwa, who played at UCLA, was selected by the Dallas Cowboys in the third round (No. 75).

• **Hamilcar Rashed, Jr., Edge (Oregon State)**

Rashed, Jr. reportedly signed with the New York Jets as an undrafted free agent.

• **Jordan Scott, DT (Oregon)**

Scott reportedly signed with the Minnesota Vikings as an undrafted free agent.

• **Penei Sewell, OT (Oregon)**

Sewell was selected by the Detroit Lions in the first round (No. 7).

• **Marlon Tuipulotu, DT (Central HS)**

Tuipulotu, who played at USC, was selected by the Philadelphia Eagles in the sixth round (No. 189).

• **Nahshon Wright, CB (Oregon State)**

Wright was selected by the Dallas Cowboys in the third round (No. 99).

—The Oregonian