

**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:** While I am excited for new opportunities in my life, I cannot shake the feeling I am losing something.

I am always losing something, whether it be my phone, my keys or my wallet. Once I lost my retainers and had to pay \$300 for new ones.

I have trouble keeping track of things. I'm afraid it will create serious problems when I begin a career and lose something, which could cost me my job. I'm also worried that I'll inherit important items from my family and lose them. I'm nervous about being in charge of my own life when I can't even keep track of the \$5 in my pocket. I urgently need this bad habit to change. Is there anything that will help me?

— *Losing It in Georgia*

**Dear Losing It:** Your problem may not be as uncommon as you fear. Have you ever heard the adage, "A place for everything and everything in its place"? It's good advice. Choose one location to place your phone, your keys and your wallet when you come home. Once you form that habit, you will always know where your things are. (There is an app, Find My Device, that may help you locate your electronic devices if you have a computer. There are also companies — like Tile — that can help you locate lost items such as your keys or wallet.)

Some people with attention deficit disorder lose track of items because they are easily distracted and focus on more than one task at once. When you are holding your phone, keys, etc., reminding yourself to stay in

the present may help. If none of these techniques works for you, discuss your fears with a licensed therapist, who can help you determine what's at the root of your problem and help lessen your anxiety about the future.

**Dear Abby:** I have been with my boyfriend/best friend for about six years now. We moved in together a little over a year ago and have discussed marriage. The issue is, one of his sisters has an alcohol problem. She becomes rude and tries to bully others when she drinks. When she does that to me, I return the treatment, and she turns to her brother and attempts to make him side with her.

I know how important family is. Because I'm not related, I am left feeling vulnerable — like she may disrupt my relationship with her brother.

I love him, and I really try with her. I think she would be happy if her brother were more available to hang out with her. She's a tomboy and often hung out with him prior to us moving in together. Please help me figure out a solution.

— *Competing in California*

**Dear Competing:** One option might be for you and your boyfriend to leave when his sister starts drinking. Discuss this with your boyfriend/best friend. If you haven't done that, please do. His sister may be trying to divide and conquer, but enlisting him to her side will be much more difficult if he simply responds by telling her, "I don't want to be involved in this, Sis. Leave me out of it, and stop picking on my girlfriend."

**GOLF | THE COLONIAL****Mickelson tries to focus after historic PGA win**

**BY STEPHEN HAWKINS**

Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Phil Mickelson allowed himself to get distracted for a couple of days after his victory at the PGA Championship, taking some time to relish the historic achievement of becoming the oldest player to win a major.

"Because when I'm doing it, I'm not fully aware because I'm so in the moment," Mickelson said Wednesday.

Now Lefty is trying to get his focus back on playing. Only four days after raising the Wanamaker Trophy, after not winning on the PGA Tour in more than two years, the 50-year-old Mickelson is set to tee off Thursday in the first round of the Charles Schwab Challenge at Colonial.

"That's going to be the biggest challenge for me because I kind of went from keeping my mind off of all the distractions and the noise during the week of the PGA to really letting it come in the last two days, enjoy it," he said. "And really it hit me in the last two days what just happened."

Still, the two-time Colonial champion (2000 and 2008) said it never crossed his mind to skip the trip to Hogan's Alley. This is his last scheduled tournament before his hometown U.S. Open next month at Torrey Pines, which he is now in without any need of a special exemption.

"I feel like now that I'm playing well, gosh, I want to play," he said.

Mickelson is grouped the first two rounds with defending champion Daniel Berger and local favorite Jordan Spieth, whose six top 10s in his eight Colonials include a victory in 2016 and two runner-up finishes.

"Obviously, Phil is going to be riding a huge wave of confidence," Berger said. "I expect the crowds to be huge and obviously with Jordan being a Texas boy and being a local favorite here, it's just going to be a great experience. I love those pairings. I love to have the crowds out there. It's going to be a completely contrasting environment than to last year when we didn't have the fans."

The Charles Schwab Challenge was played in June last year without any spectators on the course, and marked the PGA Tour's return to competition after a 12-week hiatus because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Berger won on the first playoff hole when he saved par from behind the 17th green and Collin Morikawa missed a 3-foot par putt.

While there will be some limits, fans will be on the course for the 75th anniversary



Donna McWilliam/AP file

Phil Mickelson puts on the traditional red plaid jacket after winning the Colonial in Fort Worth, Texas, in 2008.

*"I feel like now that I'm playing well, gosh, I want to play."*

— Phil Mickelson

of the Colonial, which has been held since 1946 and is the longest-running PGA Tour event at the same venue.

Morikawa said the playoff hole is his only bad memory among a lot of good ones in his only Colonial appearance, and that he learned from the experience. Only two months later, he won the delayed PGA Championship at age 23. He finished tied for eighth at this year's PGA while someone much older won.

"I thought about Phil's win, and it's not like I've seen Phil's entire career. He won his first event 30 years ago. I'm 24 now. I still consider him as a competitor," Morikawa said. "He's trying every day to get better. It's cool to see someone at 50 like that come out and win because it just gives me hope. It gives me just that passion because I love this game and want to play as long as I can."

After flying home to California following his victory Sunday at Kiawah Island in South Carolina, Mickelson was up most of the night with wife Amy and got to see

highlights of his victory. He spent time at home Monday and Tuesday before flying to Texas, where he played a nine-hole pro-am Wednesday morning.

Mickelson said it was now time to get off social media, get back on the practice range and "start to get my mind quiet again and get rid of the distractions and get back in the present."

Spieth actually had a longer winless drought on the PGA Tour than Mickelson before winning the Valero Texas Open last month. Spieth had gone nearly four years since tapping in a final putt at the 2017 British Open for his third major and 11th victory overall in his first five years as a pro.

The week after the Texas Open, Spieth tied for third at the Masters. He then took a month off before a ninth-place finish at the Byron Nelson, and then was 30th in the PGA Championship, the major that now splits the two Dallas-Fort Worth area tournaments.

"I actually really like this part of the season for major prep and for the ability to play well in these hometown events. It's a stretch that I very much enjoy," he said. "I've had pretty good success with this part of the schedule, and just looking to try and build on that this year."

**YOUR HOROSCOPE** *By Georgia Nicols*

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

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

**MOON ALERT:** Avoid shopping or making important decisions from 10:15 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. PDT today. After that, the Moon moves from Sagittarius into Capricorn.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2021:** You are curious, witty and interested in many things. You are also friendly and compassionate. In large measure, your success is based on your ability to be tenacious and persevering. Many of you love to collect novelty items. Now you are headed into a completely new cycle, which is why you can open any door to begin a new world.

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

★★★★ Holy cannelloni! Check out the Moon Alert (see above), because you don't want to waste your money. During this window, it's a poor time to shop for anything other than food and gas. Nevertheless, satisfy your urge for adventure! Tonight: Go after what you want.

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

★★★★ Today's Moon Alert (see above) takes place in one of your Money Houses. Therefore, be sensible. Postpone important decisions and shopping (except for food and gas). Do your homework regarding shared property and inheritances. Tonight: Enjoy stimulation and adventure!

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

★★★★ You have to go more than halfway when dealing with others today, because today's Moon is opposite your sign. In two weeks, when the Moon is in your sign, people will have to go more than halfway when dealing with you. (See Moon Alert above.) Tonight: Money discussions will favor you.

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

★★★★ There's an element of service in your day today, which means you have to work for someone else. Fortunately, you won't mind. Nevertheless, be aware of the Moon Alert (see above) and refrain from shopping and important decisions. Tonight: Enjoy fun times with others.

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

★★★★ It is a playful, creative day! Great for you if you work in the arts or you need to use your imagination for what you do. It's easy for you to think outside the box. However, agree to nothing until after the Moon Alert is over. (See above.) Tonight: You will enjoy working.

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

★★★★ You will enjoy a chance to cocoon at home today and relax among familiar surroundings. You also might have a warm talk with a family relative. However, because of the Moon Alert (see above), agree to nothing important. Restrict spending to food. Tonight: Children and the arts will appeal to you.

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

★★★★ This is a tricky day because of the Moon Alert (see above). Enjoy short trips and discussions with others. However, this is a poor day to agree to anything important. Do not volunteer for anything! Restrict your spending to food and gas. Tonight: Entertain at home.

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

★★★ Be careful with your money and your possessions today, because most of this day is a Moon Alert (see above). Don't shop except for food and gas. Don't make important decisions about what you own. Coast until after the Moon Alert is over. Tonight: Talk to siblings, relatives and neighbors.

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

★★★ Today the Moon is in your sign, which makes you more emotional. Since most of this day is a Moon Alert, you feel like you are double parked in a parallel universe. Fear not. Postpone important decisions and restrict your spending to food and gas. Tonight: Look for ways to make money!

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

★★★★ This is a loosey-goosey day because most of this day is a Moon Alert; furthermore, the Moon is "hiding" in your chart today. This is why you feel a bit vague. However, it's a lovely day to kick back and relax. Restrict your spending to food and gas. Tonight: You feel happy and fortunate.

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

★★★ You might enjoy a heart-to-heart discussion with a friend today. However, don't change your ideas or your goals. Just enjoy a lighthearted discussion. See the Moon Alert above. Don't shop. Tonight: Mellow evening, indeed.

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

★★★★ Don't volunteer for anything if you're talking to parents and bosses today, which you might be tempted to do. Most of this day is a Moon Alert, so keep your head down and your powder dry. Restrict spending to food and gas. Tonight: Enjoy friends and groups.

**Beavs**

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But there's also a human element at play.

"In an ideal situation, you know exactly what you're going to get, right?" Canham said. "But you're also dealing with college student-athletes who are still building up. Guys didn't really throw last year. You're constantly managing not only the mental, but the physical part of it. Trying to take into account how many pitches a guy threw and how he responded the next day."

In many instances, walks have been at the heart of the late-game issues. Free passes came back to bite the Beavers in each of those aforementioned losses.

Oregon State doesn't necessarily walk too many batters, per se, but when the Beavers do issue walks, they often come at the worst possible moments.

In 27 conference games, Oregon State's pitching staff has walked 118 batters over 240½ innings.

For context, Arizona is the No. 6-ranked team in the country and has also walked exactly 118 batters this year over 268½ innings. Second-place Oregon has walked 91 batters in 245 innings.

The numbers show that the Beavers' inning-to-walks ratio is not much worse than the top teams in the conference, and they also reflect that pitching to contact doesn't necessarily always correlate with success. It's had disastrous results for the two worst teams in the league.

But all of the aforementioned issues have culminated in Oregon State's best relievers constantly working with runners on base in high-leverage situations.

"It just seems to happen at the wrong time for some guys," Canham said of the walks. "But I really think that if we can flip it — instead of getting to a full count, and we start thinking 2-2, it makes us more competitive early on. But the reality is that we need to be getting after guys in three pitches or less, not fearing contact and allowing our defense to work."

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**Don't be pressured into making poor decisions. Get the facts about hearing loss.**

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