

DEAR ABBY

Write to Dear Abby online at dearabby.com or by mail at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069



Dear Abby: My college senior daughter, "Lisa," insists on inviting her "significant other" to every holiday and to our home when she's on break. This is Lisa's first girl/girl romance, and she thinks she's in love.

This girlfriend has zero personality and adds nothing to our family dynamic. None of us can stand her. How can I nicely explain to my daughter that although she feels one way, we feel another? She honestly thinks she's going to marry this girl and is VERY pushy when it comes to inviting her wherever we are. Also, this girlfriend is only going into her junior year. She has two more years of school left. Once Lisa graduates this year, she will be five hours from the girlfriend.

She makes my daughter very weird and not in a good way. I'm praying this relationship will end after she graduates. It's horrible. If the girl isn't with her, Lisa calls her 10 times a day. Help!

— Mom Knows Better in New Jersey

Dear Mom: Be patient. Because of the circumstances you mentioned in your letter, there is a good chance your daughter's fixation on her "first love" will lessen. I assume that when she returns from college she will be socializing with other people. Cross your fingers and gently encourage it, because it may give her a different perspective. Absence does not always make the heart grow fonder.

Dear Abby: My husband and I have been together for 18 years (married for 14). He has recently been hanging around a female friend who supposedly made a move on him while I was away, but he

said he turned her down. He sends her private messages, looks her up on social media and "likes" every photo she puts up. Most of them are sexy. Now he wants to try new things in the bedroom. Should I be concerned? I have an uneasy feeling about this.

When I told him I was going to confront her, he got upset with me. He has deleted messages because he said he didn't want me to get the wrong idea if I read them. I'm not sure how I should be feeling about this whole thing.

— Something's Up in New York

Dear Something's Up: Right now you should be "feeling" your husband's relationship with this female "friend" is a threat. There's nothing innocent about deleting conversations that he knows would give you the "wrong" idea. His preoccupation with the sexy photos she is posting is hardly reassuring, and that he suddenly wants to try "new things" in the bedroom is a huge red flag in light of what else is going on.

Quietly talk to a lawyer about what your options are as a wife of 14 years in New York, gather as much financial information as you can, and then raise holy heck with your husband. You have a right to be upset.

Dear Abby: I have been with this man for more than 20 years and we still haven't tied the knot. When I told him that because I'm not his wife, I'm not willing to do wifely duties anymore, he got really upset. Do you think I should give him an ultimatum?

— On Hold in California

Dear On Hold: I think you already have!

NBA

Class of 2018 is showing up in playoffs

BY TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

Phoenix's Deandre Ayton had Guy Fieri leaping out of his courtside seat with a thundering dunk. Atlanta's Trae Young had Spike Lee leaving early in disappointment. Dallas' Luka Dončić impressed Paul George so much that the Clippers' veteran insisted on trading jerseys with the youngster.

They're all part of the NBA's draft class of 2018.

And that group, so far, might be the class of these playoffs. Dončić is gone, but plenty of others — Young, Ayton, Michael Porter Jr., Mikal Bridges, Kevin Huerter, Bruce Brown and more — from the group that got drafted three years ago remain. And they've seemed right at home in this postseason, even though for many it's the first time on this big a stage.

"I think it's the best class in NBA history," Ayton, the Phoenix center who went No. 1 overall in that class three years ago, said after the Suns won their first-round series over the 2020 NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers. "That's how I feel. ... Guys like Luka, MPJ and Trae, it's been great to watch us young guys go at it. We're not backing down."

Quite the contrary. They're showing up.

Entering Tuesday, those drafted in 2018 had combined for 21 games of at least 20 points in these playoffs. The only draft class with more so far in these playoffs was the 2011 group — which has 22, led by the likes of Kawhi Leonard, Kyrie Irving and Tobias Harris.

Dončić, whose Dallas Mavericks lost a seven-game series to the Los Angeles Clippers in Round 1, had six of those 20-point games. Young, whose Atlanta Hawks took a 1-0 series lead into Game 2 of the Eastern Conference semifinals against Philadelphia on Tuesday, also had six — in his first



Matt Slocum/AP

Atlanta Hawks' Trae Young (11) goes up for a shot against Philadelphia 76ers' Matisse Thybulle (22) during Game 1 of a second-round playoff series on Sunday in Philadelphia.

six playoff games.

"I'm not satisfied," Young said after Round 1, a series against New York that he punctuated with a theatrical bow at Madison Square Garden. "Winning feels good. It feels better."

Dončić leads — and will likely finish — as the playoff scoring leader this season, at 35.7 points per game. He's in line for a rookie extension this summer that will exceed \$200 million, and there's little doubt that the Mavericks will slide that piece of paper his way.

"He just plays with so much confidence, and his game is

just so beyond his age," George said of Dončić. "He pretty much can pick up and read almost any defense. ... He's going to be great. He's got a big, huge future ahead of him."

Dončić is far from the only one in the class of 2018 that's has a big, huge future — and some big, huge paychecks — awaiting him. Young is averaging 30.2 points entering Tuesday's game in Philadelphia. Ayton, in his first playoffs, is shooting 78% from the field, something nobody in NBA history with more than 50 shot attempts has done in their first trip to the postseason.

Suns guard Chris Paul has said all season that Ayton has all the tools — and no one would argue that now.

"It's great to see it coming together for him," Paul said.

Some of the class of 2018 are full-time starters in these playoffs, like Young for the Hawks, Ayton and Bridges for Phoenix, Porter Jr. in Denver. Others, like Brown with the Nets, got called upon to be a spot starter.

And some have the closer role; Huerter, for example, has been on the floor for most of the fourth-quarter action for the Hawks in the postseason, and his brilliant pass to John Collins late in Game 1 of the win in Philadelphia led to a clear-path foul that helped the Hawks seal the victory.

"I'm just trying to impact winning and that's any way I can right now in the playoffs," Huerter said.

YOUR HOROSCOPE By Georgia Nicols

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

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

MOON ALERT: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Gemini.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2021: You are optimistic, determined and intelligent. You are also witty and colorful. You can be distracted because you don't like to be bored. Personally, you are caring and compassionate. In this year ahead, you will get along with people and make friends more easily as well. Some of you might begin a new relationship. Work successfully with others.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ You feel sober and serious about life today. Because of this, you might not share your feelings with others, but if you do talk to someone, it will likely be someone older and more experienced because they can give you advice. Tonight: Do mental work.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ When it comes to money today, you will be careful and conservative. You will view financial deals with care and concern. If shopping, you won't be extravagant. Instead, you will focus on buying long-lasting items (impulsive). Tonight: Count your assets.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Today both the Sun and Moon are in your sign, and the Moon is dancing with Saturn, which makes you see things as serious, sober and realistic. However, it also makes you patient and ready to deal with adversity. Tonight: Make future plans.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ You will be happy if you can find some solitude today to work alone or behind the scenes. You'll be pleased to go off by yourself and evaluate your life and what's happening all around you. It feels good to take stock. This gives you a baseline so you know where you are. Tonight: Enjoy solitude.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Welcome the opportunity to talk to someone older or more experienced today, perhaps a female. You know you don't have to reinvent the wheel. Why not stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before you? Save yourself a decade! Get any advice that comes your way. Tonight: Talk to someone.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ People will admire you today, especially if you can offer practical advice. You might make some wise observations about the past and how the past might play out in the present or even in the future. Others sense your confidence and willingness to face reality. Tonight: You will impress someone.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ A teacher, professor or guru-like figure in your life might have some wise advice for you today. Or perhaps this person will teach you something. This is also an excellent day to study and work on an existing paper, because you're willing to slog away at the nuts and bolts of it all. Tonight: Learn something new.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ This is an excellent day to take a look at your finances, especially your debt. Because you're in a realistic, practical frame of mind, you will welcome knowing the facts. When it comes to money, information is power. (So, how bad does it look?) Tonight: Someone will help you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ A serious discussion with someone close to you might be productive today. If you have a problem, they might help you with practical suggestions. You also might be introduced to someone older or more experienced or, possibly, a person who is from your past. Tonight: Listen to others.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Today someone is willing to help you in a physical, practical sense. Don't reject their help even though you feel you can do the job. Not only might it make your life easier, but by accepting their help, you'll make them feel useful. Tonight: Improve your health.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ This is a good day to teach young people. It's also an excellent day to hone a particular technique, whether it's in the arts (perhaps a musical instrument) or in sports. Tonight: Seek improvements.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ You might discuss memories about the past or old family matters with a relative today. Or perhaps an older relative will help you with a problem. What you need is a practical solution today, and you will find it. Tonight: Listen to someone's story.

Kelenic

Continued from A5

Throw in the fact that he didn't get to play in the minors last season due to COVID-19, and the conditions for Kelenic's debut were far from ideal.

"He certainly is struggling right now. He is putting a little bit of pressure on himself, like all guys do when they struggle. It's no different than anybody else," Mariners manager Scott Servais said. "He's a good baseball player. He's just not getting a whole lot of hits, and a lot of luck."

This was a necessary demotion, and one that could be beneficial. It's a chance for Kelenic to take a breath and not feel as though he has to single-handedly save this franchise. He is only 21. He can mash in Tacoma for a few weeks (he hit .370/.414/.630 in the six games he played there this year) and get his mind and swing right.

Of course, one never really knows if the difference between Class AAA pitching and MLB pitching will be an enduring hurdle for a talented prospect. I remember covering Angels infielder Brandon Wood when he led all of baseball in home runs while at Class A Rancho Cucamonga. The hype for him was a mountain to Kelenic's molehill. He ended up hitting .186 for his career with a -3.8 WAR.

This is baseball, where you take educated guesses on players you hope will bloom in two, three, five years — often longer. One knows only so much based on what they see at the lower levels.

Dustin Ackley was the second overall pick in the draft and never made an All-Star Game. Mike Piazza, a Hall of Famer, was picked in the 62nd round.

This is a wait-and-see situation for Kelenic. The start to his MLB career was obviously inauspicious, but shouldn't spike anxiety levels just yet.

This is where everybody needs to be patient. Especially Jarred Kelenic.

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