

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 getting married, and my fiancé's daughters, 19 and 21, are in the wedding party. I have purchased the dresses they are wearing, which are light and flowing. I have told the girls that on the day of the wedding I do not want them wearing thong underwear.

The older one then went to her dad and said she didn't want to wear regular underwear. He told her she could wear whatever she wants. I have tried telling them that as young ladies there are times you don't wear thongs, and under a flowing dress is one of them.

It's ONE DAY of their lives. How can I get my point across?

— *Wise Bride in Phoenix*

Dear Wise Bride: Explain to your fiancé exactly WHY you are concerned about his daughters wearing thong underwear under their bridesmaid dresses and, when you do, be graphic.

After that, if he still feels the same, accept it. Then pray no slip-ups occur while they are dancing, and no strong gusts of wind come along when the wedding photos are taken.

Dear Abby: I'm dating a lady and committed to our relationship, but every time I visit her at her apartment, she expects me to take her dog out. The building has a policy that if the dog poops, you have to pick it up and dispose of it, so they have bags at different locations.

I don't like doing it. I grew up on a farm where we had dogs, but never would I think

about picking up their poop. It grosses me out. OK, so I have been doing it for a couple of years, but I don't want to do it anymore. But if I say that or don't do it, she'll think I'm not committed to her. What should I do?

— *Dog Walking in Texas*

Dear Dog Walking: Stand up for yourself. Because you feel so strongly, tell her that from now on you will walk her dog TOGETHER or she'll have to do it herself. You may have been raised on a farm, but you are now part of a community with ordinances against leaving excrement on the streets. Your devotion to this person should not be predicated upon your willingness to perform a task she should have been doing herself.

Dear Abby: My wife and I are having a minor argument, and we are seeking your help in resolving it. We live in an age when we commonly experience "conversations" with robo-calls, virtual assistants (Alexa and Echo) and phone routing software. All this technology is powered by artificial intelligence. So given that we are talking to machines, do we need to follow the rules of etiquette with these robots? My wife insists we should say "Thank you" and "Please" to these software creations, while I say no manners are needed. Your thoughts?

— *Mulling It Over in Montana*

Dear Mulling It: Although it isn't mandatory, I know of at least one AI "assistant" that would acknowledge the courtesy.

NHL PLAYOFFS

Semifinals full of 'hunger' for 1st Stanley Cup title

BY STEPHEN WHYNO

AP Hockey Writer

When the Tampa Bay Lightning won the Stanley Cup last year, it was the first time most of their players and coaches had ever lifted the trophy.

Now that they have savored the taste of winning, they want to help trade deadline pickup David Savard do the same in his 10th NHL season.

"We've all been in that situation before," said Lightning forward Patrick Maroon, the only player to win the Cup in 2019 and 2020. "He wants to win his first championship. That's why we play this game. We play to win. He's been working hard for us, he's been a great addition for us, so hopefully the guys can keep working hard for him and finding ways for him because he deserves it."

Deserve has nothing to do with it in a sport with so many unpredictable bounces that create long-lasting legacies, but all four teams left in the playoffs have at least one player worth rooting for who is running out of chances to win it all.

The Vegas Golden Knights have captain Mark Stone, forwards Max Pacioretty, Jonathan Marchessault and Ryan Reaves and defenseman Nick Holden on the wrong side of 30 without a Cup ring. Andy Greene, Travis Zajac, Kyle Palmieri, Cal Clutterbuck, Matt Martin and Josh Bailey are in that club for New York. And Montreal Canadiens captain Shea Weber isn't getting any younger at 35.

"Huge hunger," said Vegas coach Peter DeBoer, who has taken two teams to the final but is looking for his first NHL championship. "Especially veterans like that: Pacioretty, Stone come to mind just because these guys have been in the league for a while now, and they know few and how rare these opportunities are."

Palmieri recently contemplated that rarity thinking back to his last trip to the third round: in 2015 as a fresh-faced 24-year-old with Anaheim. The Ducks lost to Chicago in seven and traded Palmieri to New Jersey that summer.

Until this run, he had played five playoff games since.

"I don't think you necessarily took it for granted, but it's kind of something you



Chris O'Meara/AP file

Tampa Bay Lightning defenseman David Savard (58) before Game 1 of a semifinal playoff series against the New York Islanders in Tampa, Florida, on Sunday.

expected to come at the end of the year," Palmieri said Tuesday. "Making the switch to Jersey, that's something that you kind of lost sight of. To have the opportunity to come here and help this team to achieve a goal is something you dream about, and it's an opportunity that I definitely don't want to let go to waste."

Savard never advanced this far during a decade with the Columbus Blue Jackets, so he understands that mentality. Much like Palmieri, changing teams at the deadline gave him this opportunity.

Unlike Palmieri, Savard is surrounded by teammates who have won it all recently. "They know how to win, and that's why it was so exciting for me to come here," Savard said. "It's a fun experience for me, and I'm just trying to enjoy every moment right now."

The Islanders have a general manager in Lou Lamoriello who won the Cup three times with the Devils and a coach in Barry Trotz who won in 2018 with Washington. But Nick Leddy is their only player with a Cup ring, so the hunger is deep on Long Island even if Greene was the only player alive (in diapers) during New York's early

'80s dynasty days.

"So many people have a connection to back in the glory days when they won four straight," 29-year-old Brock Nelson said. "The teams, the players that have come through here, there's lots of history."

More recent history is full of near-misses for lots of players left in the post-season. Nine Vegas players remain from the inaugural season when they reached the final before losing to Trotz's Capitals; DeBoer, Greene and Zajac got to Game 6 against Los Angeles in 2012 and Weber led Nashville to the 2017 final before getting beat by Pittsburgh.

Just as the Lightning are playing for Savard, Canadiens players are motivated by trying to get Weber the championship that has so far eluded him.

"This guy competes every day, cares for the group, has no ego," said veteran Eric Staal, who won early in his career with Carolina in 2006. "He goes out about his business every single day, and those are guys you love to play with. I think our young guys see that daily every day, and everybody knows the importance of the opportunity that we have."

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 until 9 p.m. Pacific time. The Moon is in Virgo.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 2021: You are witty, entertaining, creative and adaptable. You have a debonair, outgoing style, and yet you are a serious person with serious concerns. You can be impulsive. In a nine-year cycle, you are now in a one year, which means this a time of fresh beginnings and new starts. Be receptive to all possibilities. Open any door!

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★ Today you are aware of your health. Or perhaps your pet. (Woof!) More likely, you will have to work for the benefit of someone else, and, furthermore, you might not get credit for what you're doing. (Whaaat?) Bummer. Tonight: Patience.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ This is a relatively easygoing day. If you can, schmooze with others. You're also interested in the arts, music, movies and fun outings. Romance will be more passionate and involved today. You also feel protective of someone. Tonight: Relax.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Today you want to retire by yourself in a private place because it feels good. It's the perfect day for some navel gazing or pleasant relaxation in a private way. (You might realize how much your habits dictate your life.) Tonight: Domesticity.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★ In conversations with others today, you feel the need to establish an emotional bond. You want the real thing — the nitty-gritty. You don't want superficial chitchat. You need a meaningful conversation. Anyone? Anyone? Bueller? Anyone? Tonight: Be curious.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★ You might identify with your possessions today, which is why you might want to show something off. Or perhaps you won't lend something to someone because it's too precious. You're focused on your money today, which is why you are also more aware of your spending habits. Tonight: Watch your spending.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★ Today you feel more emotional than usual — no question. You are emotionally giving and also emotionally demanding. This is because you feel a strong need to relate to others today. Note: It's good to know that your luck is slightly better today, which is why you can ask the universe for a favor. Tonight: Explore.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★ Your pace has been a tad hectic and busy lately, which is why today you will welcome solitude in beautiful surroundings, preferably with a nice snack, something tasty. You will also have a chance to collect yourself and pull your act together before you take it on the road. Tonight: Enjoy solitude.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★ A conversation with a friend, possibly a female, will be meaningful for you today. No doubt you will feel a bonding with this person that is reassuring to you. In fact, this increased trust or closeness will encourage you to share your dreams for the future with them. Why not? Tonight: Be friendly.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★ You should be aware of the fact that people notice you more than usual today. Do you need to do some damage control? Check your zipper? This is the kind of day where you might have a public argument with a loved one. (People can hear you hissing.) Tonight: Relax.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Because you long for some stimulation and adventure today, you want something to happen! You don't want the same old, same old. Obviously, if you want a different result, you have to do something different to make this happen. Go someplace you've never been before. Meet people from different backgrounds. Tonight: Test new ideas.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★ Although this is a playful, fun-loving time for you, you can't ignore business. What's happening with your bank account and other red-tape matters? Take care of loose details or, at least, check them out so you know what's happening. Tonight: Do homework.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★ Today you have to be cooperative with others, especially those who are closest to you. Make nice with them. That's because the Moon is opposite your sign. In two weeks, when the Moon is in your sign, they have to make nice with you. Tonight: cooperate.

Track

Continued from A5

Prandini, the 2015 winner of The Bowerman Award, made the U.S. Olympic team in the 200 in 2016 with a memorable dive across the finish line to place third and prevent Allyson Felix from making the team in that event. She's entered in the 200 as well next week and has season-best times of 11.16 in the 100 and 22.43 in the 200.

"It's exciting that it's here now finally," said Prandini, who trains in Austin, Texas, and is a volunteer assistant coach for the Longhorns program. "I feel like we've been waiting for it for two years. Just the fact that we get to step on the line and race at the Olympic Trials is exciting."

Entered in the men's 100 are the three fastest Ducks of all-time — school record-holder Cravon Gillespie, No. 2 Kyree King and current freshman Micah Williams.

Gillespie has run 9.96 this season, and King (9.97) and Williams (10.0) have both set PRs.

"Leading up to this I put in tremendous work on and off the track, changing a lot of different things," Gillespie said. "Really going to go out here and do what I do best and that's going and having fun."

This will be the second Olympic Trials meet for Gillespie, who was a junior college prospect when he competed in Eugene in 2016. He didn't have a home meet during his record-setting senior season at Oregon in 2019 because Hayward Field was under construction.

"Everybody always wants to see you do well and you always get the standing ovation when you get there," Gillespie said. "It just means a lot to be able to come back for the Olympic Trials, to know you have a home-field advantage."

Williams isn't the only current Oregon team member entered in the meet. Recent NCAA champions Cooper Teare (1,500 and 5,000), Cole Hocker (1,500) are both entered, as are Jonathan Harvey (400 hurdles), Kiana Phelps (discus), Jackson Mastler (3,000 steeplechase), Jack Yearian (1,500), Isaiah Griffith (triple jump), Ben Milligan (high jump), Rhessa Foster (long jump), Alyshah Hickey (long jump) and Dominique Ruotolo



From left, Cravon Gillespie, Kyree King, and Isiah Young compete in the men's 100-meter dash final during the USATF Golden Games at Mount San Antonio College in May in Walnut, Calif. Gillespie won the race. Young finished second and King finished in fifth. Gillespie and King were both standouts for the Oregon Ducks. At right, current Oregon Ducks runner Cooper Teare competes in the men's 5,000 meters during the NCAA Division I Men's and Women's Outdoor Track & Field Championships at Hayward Field on Friday in Eugene.

AP file/Jamie Schwaberow/NCAA Photos via Getty Images



"Everybody always wants to see you do well and you always get the standing ovation when you get (to Hayward Field). It just means a lot to be able to come back for the Olympic Trials, to know you have a home-field advantage."

— Cravon Gillespie, former Ducks sprinter who is running in the U.S. Olympic Trials at Hayward Field in Eugene

(triple jump). Reed Brown's (1,500) status is still pending. Centrowitz, who won the first U.S. gold in the 1,500 since 1908, is one of eight entered at that distance with Oregon ties.

The others are Hocker, Teare, Yearian, Brown, Sam Praker, Colby Alexander and John Gregorek.

Centrowitz recently ran 3:35.26, the fastest time of any-

one in that group — but just barely, as Hocker ran 3:35.35 last weekend to win the NCAA title.

Other notables include 2016 Olympic 110 hurdles finalist Devon Allen and five-time NCAA 800 champion and 2019 World Athletics outdoor silver medalist Raevyn Rogers.

"(Hayward Field) is always special," Prandini said. "But Hayward magic is a little more magical for people who are wearing the 'O' or who have worn the 'O' before."

DON'T MISS
THIS WEEKEND'S
ISSUE



HAPPY DAD'S DAY!

Lin-Manuel Miranda & father Luis on the joys of fatherhood and the memories that sparked Hamilton and In the Heights