

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 adult daughter is married. She also has a boyfriend. Both of these men live with her and share her bed. Her children are horrified by it and want nothing to do with their mother. They are embarrassed and ashamed, as am I. Her older children are of age but still in school. They would like to move out but can't afford to; the youngest is a minor and afraid of the boyfriend. My daughter's husband doesn't object to the share plan. Is there anything I can do to help the kids?

— *Crowded in Colorado*

Dear Crowded: Why is your youngest grandchild afraid of your daughter's boyfriend? Has he been physically or emotionally abusive or "grooming" her? If you don't know the answer, it is important you find out so you can intervene, if necessary. If there is physical abuse or possibly grooming going on, CPS should be notified. A potential solution might be to invite your grandchildren to live with you until they are out of school and able to live on their own. Your daughter, her husband and her boyfriend may be happier with all of the children out of the picture. Parents of the year, they are not.

Dear Abby: I need your advice on a certain topic. I'm in my early 30s, and my husband is in his early 20s. We're currently living with my mother-in-law, who has put a damper on my and my husband's relationship. She tells my husband what to do, tries to make decisions for him and doesn't give him a choice about anything.

My husband and I have been talking about moving when the time is right, but

she continues to put her 2 cents in. I have been treated like crap by his mother after doing everything possible to help her. I don't know what to do at this point. I'm slowly pulling away from the man I love, and he doesn't seem to care. What should I do?

— *Stuck in Ohio*

Dear Stuck: Your husband is barely out of his teens. It may have been an oversight, but you omitted the most important fact from your letter. WHY ARE YOU TWO LIVING WITH HIS MOTHER? She treats him like a child because that's the way she has always treated him. If you want to save your marriage, move heaven and earth to get the two of you out of there so he can grow up to be independent.

Dear Abby: My husband's birthday is on the same day as our grandson's first communion. Our grandson's family lives out of town, about a day's drive.

The problem is, my husband is not Catholic and doesn't want to go because he doesn't want to spend his birthday driving and sitting in a church. I am so torn. Should I push it? He was upset when I told him I wanted to go. He feels I should put him before the children and grandchildren.

— *In the Middle*

Dear in the Middle: Your husband is being childish and selfish. Your grandchild will have only one first communion, while you and your husband can celebrate his birthday on another day. Can you get to the site by other means of transportation to spare him the driving? He should be ashamed of himself. I hope his candle goes out before he makes a wish!

OLYMPIC WOMEN'S SOCCER

U.S. the team to beat in Tokyo, of course

BY ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

The United States women's national soccer team has something to prove at the Tokyo Olympics.

It's not so much about revenge after a surprising loss to Sweden at the 2016 Rio Games but, rather, a new goal: The U.S. can become the first team to win an Olympics following a World Cup victory.

In Tokyo the Americans will play for their first world championship under coach Vlatko Andonovski. His immensely deep and talented squad includes the sport's biggest names: Alex Morgan, Megan Rapinoe, Christen Press and Carli Lloyd.

The U.S. team, winner of the 2019 World Cup in France, is ranked No. 1 in the World. They're undefeated in 42 straight matches and show no sign of slowing down heading into the 2023 World Cup.

The biggest hurdle along that path will be the Olympics, where a small roster, a condensed schedule and the hot and humid conditions will all be challenges — along with the competition.

Andonovski emphasized versatility in choosing his squad for Tokyo. Experience counted, too, with the average age of the team at 30.8 years old — the oldest U.S. Olympic roster ever. Seventeen of the 18 players were on the World Cup squad.

"There's so many boxes that the players need to check in order to make the roster, starting from health and fitness, and very important, performance. They've got to perform. It doesn't matter if they're versatile if they don't perform well. So there's a certain level of performance that they need to have, or a certain way they need to execute the task," Andonovski said. "And then obviously the experience that they have, they've already been on this team in big tournaments."

The United States, in Group G, will open with nemesis Sweden in Tokyo on July 21. In Brazil, Sweden knocked the



David J. Phillip/AP

United States women's national soccer team coach Vlatko Andonovski, left, greets Alex Morgan before an international friendly soccer match on June 10 in Houston.

Americans out in the quarterfinals on penalties, after which goalkeeper Hope Solo famously called the Swedes "cowards" for bunkering in on defense.

One of Sweden's advantages in 2016 was coach Pia Sundhage, who was the former U.S. coach and knew her former team — and it's weaknesses — well. She's now head coach at Brazil, while Sweden is led by Peter Gerhardsson.

The basics

There are 12 teams competing, separated into three groups. The tournament starts on July 21 and will be played across six cities in Japan with the finals set for Aug. 6 at Japan National Stadium.

In addition to the Americans and Sweden, the teams competing in the tournament include host Japan, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Great Britain, Netherlands, New Zealand and Zambia.

Germany, the winner in 2016, is not among the teams in the field. UEFA qualifying for the Games was the Women's World Cup, meaning France, Great Britain and runner-up Netherlands won the berths.

Women's soccer joined the Olympics in 1996. The United States has four gold medals overall, and has advanced to

the final match in all but the 2016 edition.

Equal pay

The Olympics come as the U.S. team continues its fight for equitable pay with men's national team players. While a judge threw out the team's legal case, the women have appealed to the Ninth Circuit. And negotiations are ongoing with U.S. Soccer.

The recently released documentary "LFG" chronicles the team's efforts. U.S. Soccer countered the film with a Twitter thread. No doubt it will be a frequent topic of conversation over the course of the tournament.

Pia's move

Sundhage was named Brazil's coach following the 2019 World Cup. She was coach of the United States from 2008-12, then coach of her native Sweden from 2012-17.

Like Andonovski, Sundhage has a talented, deep Olympic roster with five-time FIFA World Player of the Year Marta, as well as Debinha and forward Ludmila. Also included is Formiga, who is a seemingly forever-young 43 and has played in a women's record six Olympics.

In announcing her squad, Sundhage sang: "I'm so excited, I just can't hide it."

"There's so many boxes that the players need to check in order to make the roster, starting from health and fitness, and very important, performance. And then obviously the experience that they have, they've already been on this team in big tournaments."

— Vlatko Andonovski, United States women's national soccer team coach

"I've learned a lot from the Brazilian players and I hope we've also taught them a couple of things about cohesion and about being on the same page and doing our best," Sundhage said.

Canada's quest

The Canadians qualified along with the United States in the CONCACAF region. Led by new coach Bev Priestman, Canada's roster includes Christine Sinclair, the all-time top international scorer among men and women who also plays for the Portland Thorns.

As captain of the Canadian team, Sinclair, 38, is making her fourth Olympic appearance. She has appeared in 15 overall Olympic matches, scoring 11 goals.

At the 2016 Brazil Games, Sinclair scored the game winner in a 2-1 victory over Brazil for Canada's second consecutive Olympic bronze medal.

Sinclair has 186 career goals in 299 appearances with the national team.

The underdogs

Zambia is the lowest-ranked team at 104. The team upset Cameroon in qualifying to earn a spot in Tokyo.

Zambia's preparation for the games was hampered when it had to pull out of a friendly with Great Britain on July 1 because of complications over coronavirus travel restrictions.

YOUR HOROSCOPE By Georgia Nicols

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

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

MOON ALERT: Caution; avoid shopping or making important decisions from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. PDT. After that, the Moon moves from Pisces into Aries.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 2021: You have an intellectual imagination, which make you outgoing, curious and keen to socialize. You notice things going on around you. You are confident and sometimes competitive. This is a year of change for you. That's why it's important to stay light on your feet and be flexible so you can react accordingly and go in the direction you want.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ Avoid shopping or making important decisions from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. PDT today. It will be easy to do this because you want to hide and be low-key. This is a good day to help a family member. Tonight: Stay calm.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ Because you are more involved with daily contacts, siblings and other relatives, be smart and avoid shopping or important decisions from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. PDT today. Enjoy socializing with others in a lighthearted way. Tonight: You might be ready for some solitude after socializing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Today people notice you, especially bosses, parents and the police. Therefore, please be aware that you should avoid shopping or important decisions from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. PDT today. Don't volunteer for anything during that time. Tonight: Define goals.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Today you want stimulation and change! However, most of this day is a Moon Alert, which means you should avoid shopping (except for food) or important decisions from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. PDT today. Forewarned is forearmed! Tonight: You are noticed.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Today the Moon Alert is in your Money House. Therefore, avoid shopping (except for food) or making important decisions from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. PDT today. Protect your assets and shared property. Tonight: Explore something new.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ This is a good day for a frank discussion with others, especially from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. PDT today. However, during that time, avoid shopping except for food, and postpone important decisions. Tonight: Check your finances.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Today you are focused on your health, work and getting organized. Be wise and avoid shopping (except for food) or important decisions from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. PDT. This way you will avoid disappointment. Tonight: Cooperate with others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ This is a fabulous, creative day for you! During the Moon Alert, from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. PDT, you will enjoy schmoozing. You also will think outside the box. (However, during this same window of time, don't shop, except for food.) Tonight: Get organized.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Today you're happy to hunker down at home and enjoy the comfort of familiar surroundings. Note: Most of this day is a Moon Alert, which means avoid shopping or making important decisions from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. PDT today. Tonight: Have fun!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Today you will enjoy socializing with others and exploring new ideas. However, avoid spending money (except for food) or making important decisions from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. PDT today. This will protect you from some minor regrets. Tonight: Cocoon at home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Be careful today! The Moon is in your Money House, and because of the Moon Alert, please avoid shopping (except for food) or making important decisions from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. PDT today. Tonight: Talk to someone.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ You might be more emotional than usual today because the Moon is in your sign. Avoid shopping (except for food) or important decisions from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. PDT today. This will protect you. Tonight: Check your finances.

Blazers

Continued from A5

Former coach Mike Schuler, for example, went to sit in a folding chair and fell off the back of a stage. Billups didn't fall. The organization did as it felt more interested in dismissing legitimate questions than letting us get to know the new coach.

Billups talked about his wife and three daughters early on. He talked about his relationship with star Damian Lillard. He was later offered a chance by veteran reporter Jason Quick to dive deeper, humanize himself and talk about how the sex-assault allegation shaped him in "unbelievable ways."

It was a great question by Quick. I sat forward to listen. Maybe you did, too.

This was the moment we needed. It had the potential to be a powerful moment but was quickly cut off by Ashley Clinkscale, the franchise's corporate public relations manager.

"We've addressed this," Clinkscale said. "It's been asked

and answered. Happy to move on to the next question."

Can we move on?

That's what the primary focus of Tuesday's news conference should have been. Billups himself said the sex-assault allegation in 1997 changed his life. How so? It promised to be an important moment, one Billups himself deserved. Also, one nobody got to hear because the Blazers inexplicably shut it down.

For Billups, it was an introduction into the ham-handed world of Trail Blazers, Inc. For the rest of us, it was another example of the basketball organization blowing an opportunity to connect with fans. The questions about Billups won't stop. They'll continue, only with added skepticism.

Let's face it — people want to like Billups. They want to accept him. We're forgiving by nature, but we need help to get there.

The news conference was the first, and maybe only, opportunity to hear Billups speak about basketball, family and

put to rest any questions in his past.

We needed it.

Billups deserved that himself, too.

Asked? Answered? That really didn't happen at all.

I don't know if Billups is going to win games in Portland. He might be a sensational

coach. He might struggle or have a steep learning curve.

But I know that Tuesday's event wasn't a great start. It was a clunky corporate production that ignored the audience.

Peace of mind isn't proprietary.

It should have belonged to the entire fan base today.

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