

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 have a former high school classmate who, over the years, I've gotten pretty close to. He has been there for me when I was at my lowest, and I have been there for him as well. He lives several hours away, but we talked almost daily in addition to being on social media.

A few months ago I stopped hearing from him, and his social media profile went dark. I had a bad feeling, so I Googled him and was shocked to see he had been arrested! While it wasn't a violent crime, it was horrible just the same. He has called me several times from prison, declaring his innocence — always requesting money. Abby, I live paycheck to paycheck. Even if I had extra money, I wouldn't feel comfortable giving it to him.

I feel hurt and used. Part of me says I need to end the friendship; the other part says he needs friends right now and it's not my place to judge him. I have refused to accept his last few calls because I really don't know what to do. Your thoughts are appreciated.

— *Blindsided in Pennsylvania*

Dear Blindsided: This person hasn't used you — yet. The next time he reaches out, accept the call. When you do, make clear that you can offer moral support, but you cannot give him money because you live paycheck to paycheck. You may not hear from him after that. But if he continues to ask, take a giant step backward and recognize this friendship has run its course.

Dear Abby: My husband and I have been together for three years. He recently went back to his home state 1,000 miles away for what I thought

would be a two-day trip to grab some things from his late mother's estate. He has been unemployed for most of this past year due to the pandemic, so I'm somewhat conflicted about something he told me when I called to ask when he was coming home. He said he found a job and decided he wants to stay there and work for some months to save up enough money to pay off the bulk of our debt.

He did not consult me before making this decision. He told me he has worked out a COVID-safe housing arrangement with his sister and his aunt. The type of work he will be doing there is something he could do here, where our home is. I don't want to discourage him, but it baffles me that he would take a job 1,000 miles away. What if something were to happen to me or our animals? When I told him I didn't agree with his decision, he told me I should be happy he's no longer unemployed. How should I handle this?

— *Far Away in Missouri*

Dear Far Away in Missouri:

Your husband shouldn't have taken a job 1,000 miles away without first talking with you. That said, what's done is done, and you need to let this play out. There's nothing to stop you from visiting. Fortunately, you and the animals are all doing well. If circumstances change, he can always quit the job and come back.

When the time comes, welcome your debt-free husband home. There will be plenty of time for the two of you to hash out IN PERSON what caused him to make such a disruptive decision if there were similar jobs available in your own community.

Ryder Cup

Continued from A5

The losses over the years have been stunning enough, coming to European teams that on paper were never as talented as any American squad topped by Woods and Mickelson. Equally as stunning is the record of the two best American golfers of the last quarter-century.

While Mickelson holds the Ryder Cup record for most matches played (47), he also holds the record for most matches lost (22). Mickelson's winning percentage is just 46% (7 ties), and his devotion to the team concept has been questioned on several occasions over the years.

Woods, meanwhile, last won a Ryder Cup match in 2010. He's played in eight of them, and the last time he was on a winning team was when he was dominating everything in golf in 1999.

In his last Ryder Cup while reasonably healthy, Woods went 0-3-1 in 2012. He likely finished his Ryder Cup career with an 0-4 mark in France in 2018, where Europe romped to a win that was surprising if only because not much resistance was put up on the other side.

Just how bad is his overall record? A journeyman named J.B. Holmes has been on more winning Ryder Cup teams than Woods, whose Ryder Cup career will be remembered more for missed opportunities than great performances.

Why couldn't Woods and Mickelson win big in the Ryder Cup when they've won big everywhere else? That's a question that vexed Ryder Cup captains over the years who spent long restless nights trying to figure out how to match their talents to various teammates in the team matches.

They lost with teammates both good and bad. They lost in best ball and lost in alternate

shot. They even lost in singles, most disastrously when Mickelson was beaten in 2002 on the final day at The Belfry by Phillip Price, then No. 119 in the world, as the U.S. lost by a point.

And those in golf remember well the disastrous pairing of the two in 2008 when they melted down almost before they reached the first tee. The idea, according to captain Hal Sutton, was to steamroll the Euros with the game's top two players, but it didn't take long for the plan to go horribly awry.

Woods and Mickelson lost their first best ball match, then more famously were beaten in alternate shot when Mickelson sliced a shot so far left that Woods briefly covered his eyes and ended up taking an unplayable in a 1-up loss.

Now both are out of the lineup — Mickelson for the first time since his Ryder Cup debut a quarter-century ago

— and the U.S. brings a young but extremely talented team to Whistling Straits instead. While Woods remains home in Florida, Mickelson will be an assistant captain, tooling around in a golf cart and cheering his countrymen on.

The torch has been passed, and it won't be returned. Mickelson is 50, and aside from his improbable win in the PGA Championship earlier this year, is past his competitive prime, while Woods was injured so badly in his car crash that he may never hit a shot that counts again.

Hard to believe it was 22 years ago that Woods and Mickelson were on the winning team at Brookline in a U.S. final day comeback so stirring that both probably saw lots of Ryder Cup glory in their future.

"I never knew how good it feels to win the Ryder Cup," Woods said afterward.

Incredibly, he hasn't had the feeling since.



Serena Morones/ for The Oregonian

Oregon Ducks QB Anthony Brown battles the rain and Stony Brook Seawolves in a nonconference game at Autzen Stadium in Eugene on Saturday.

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 Aries.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR TUESDAY, SEPT. 21, 2021: You are energetic, friendly and always witty. You love mysteries and are a skilled and original communicator. You are also confident in your ability to put your own spin on things. This is an excellent year for you, because it's a time of achievement and recognition. You might get a promotion, an award or acknowledgement of your successful efforts. Bravo!

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★ For the next four weeks, you need more sleep. In your chart, the Sun is opposite your sign, which is as far away from you as it can get all year, and the Sun is your source of energy. You will focus more on partners, spouses and close friends. Tonight: You win!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ You will work hard to get better organized in the next four weeks, because you want to be on top of your game — plus healthier and more energetic. Yes, it's time to turn over a new leaf. Tonight: Make an effort.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Grab every opportunity to play and have fun in the next four weeks, including taking a vacation. Enjoy sports events, fun activities with kids and the entertainment world. Grab every chance to express your creative talents! (TikTok, here I come.) Tonight: Enjoy good friends.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Focus on home, family and your private life in the next four weeks. Many of you will interact more with a parent. Home redecorating and improvements, plus dealing with increased chaos and activity will demand your attention. Tonight: You are noticed.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ The pace of your days will accelerate in the next four weeks because of tasks, errands and short trips, plus increased reading, writing and studying. You'll enjoy socializing and will express yourself with intensity and enthusiasm! Tonight: Travel plans.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Your focus on money, cash flow, earnings and possessions will increase in the next four weeks. You will spend more, especially on beautiful things. Fortunately, you will attract money to you. You also will think about your values. Tonight: Accept a favor.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ The Sun is in your sign for the next four weeks, which is your chance to recharge your batteries for the rest of the year. This happens once a year and makes it easy for you to attract people and favorable situations to you. (It's an excellent time to buy wardrobe treasures.) Tonight: Cooperate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Your personal year is coming to an end, but your new year will not begin until your birthday. Therefore, the next four weeks are a time of limbo. Use this window of time to think about what you want for your new year ahead. Define some goals, because they will help you achieve what you want. Tonight: Get organized.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ You will enjoy increased popularity in the next four weeks, talking to younger people, creative people and perhaps being active in a physical competition with others. This is an excellent time to share your dreams for the future, because someone's feedback will help you. Tonight: Have fun!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ The Sun will be at high noon in your chart for the next four weeks, casting you in a flattering spotlight. This happens only once a year, and when it does, people are impressed with you, even if you don't do anything special. Use this time to advance your agenda and make your pitch! Tonight: Relax at home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ Grab every chance to travel and explore your horizons in the next four weeks, because you want stimulation! You also want to learn more. This is an excellent time to take a course or go back to school. Explore opportunities in publishing, the law, medicine and the media. Tonight: Talk to others.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ The next four weeks will be particularly passionate and intense for you. You will be passionate about everything, including romance. Keep your pockets open, because you can attract gifts, favors and money to you. It's a most fortunate time! Tonight: Check your finances.

Ducks

Continued from A5

As Oregon moves up in the polls and becomes the Pac-12's only hope for a College Football Playoff bid, who are the Ducks?

"I feel like we're a team that's not complacent and knows that we can be better and we're chasing perfection," McKinley said. "That's probably where this team is at right now."

Is the Oregon offense that out-schemed, out-coached and out-played Ohio State the true version of UO, when the playbook is wide open and key personnel isn't being reined in? Or are the struggles to protect Brown against Fresno State, which no longer looks anywhere near as worrying as two weeks ago, or lowly Stony

Brook a cause for concern entering Pac-12 play?

"We weren't satisfied with today's win, but the mentality is up there," running back Travis Dye said. "At the beginning, the first half it was a lot choppy. We played down to their level and we need to figure out how to not do that in the beginning of the game. Second half we came back, we brought it back up to our level a little bit."

"But there's nothing satisfying about this win right now. We know what we can do. We know what we should have done when we came in here and we didn't get it done in the first half."

Oregon's defense mustered just one sack and four tackles for loss on Saturday, albeit with most of the two-deep of the front seven on the sideline.

That will surely change once Kayvon Thibodeaux, Bradyn Swinson, Mase Funa, Adrian Jackson Jr. and Keith Brown are all back at full strength. But should depth of talent be an issue in preventing pass rush and penetration in the backfield against an FCS team that had eight players who played in the FBS previously?

"There was way too many yards," nickel safety Bennett Williams said. "I don't think we were initially winning the line of scrimmage like we wanted to and sometimes with a lot of young guys in there it takes a little bit to get the wheels going. But we hit our groove and we came out in the second half and really in the locker room it was telling them, 'Let's put it to them. Let's put this thing out of doubt, out of question and

let's go show them that we are the most physical team out here and they don't want to come back to Autzen and ever play here again."

Last week, Cristobal said how the Ducks approached all they do would "determine if our trajectory points to us being a great football team or just being a good football team."

After Saturday's game Cristobal said he liked the approach throughout week, while also noting both inconsistent play and "bright spots" from what was still a 48-7 win.

"What's not good enough in defeat," Cristobal said last Monday, "certainly cannot be good enough in victory as well."

The Ducks can't compromise their standards if they intend to remain on the national stage for the next several months.

Preps

Continued from A5

Cross-country

At the site of the state championship meet on Saturday, Summit's Teaghan Knox crossed the finish line first at the Northwest XC Classic at Eugene's Lane Community College with a time of 17:53.40. Her teammates Maggie Williams finished third (18:33.67),

Ella Thorsett (fourth, 18:50.50) and Barrett Justema (fifth, 18:51.97) to help the Summit girls cross-country team win the team title at the annual meet. The Storm finished 39 points ahead of second-place finisher Ida B. Wells.

The Summit boys finished third at the Northwest Classic, with Jackson Keefer leading the way with a ninth-place finish (15:54.81). Ridgeview's Finn Anspach finished sec-

ond in the race with a time of 15:38.56.

Girls soccer

With a 9-1 win on Saturday on the road against Sandy, Bend High girls soccer has pushed its winning streak to four games since its opening-season loss. During the streak, the Lava Bears have outscored their opponents 20-1. The Lava Bears open conference play next Tuesday after

one final tune-up against La Salle Prep on Thursday.

Football

Ridgeview football played in its second overtime game of the year Saturday, but the second time did not go as well as the first as the Ravens fell to Hood River Valley in an Inter-mountain Conference game, 28-27.

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