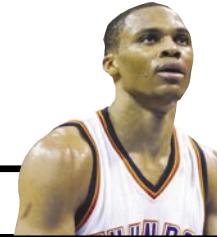


Tim Haddock, Sports Editor, (661)267-4143, thaddock@avpress.com



**Words of wisdom**  
"I remember growing up just being home, playing the video games and stuff with my pops, and my mom sitting there and my brother and just talking about maybe one day I could be the MVP. Obviously I was joking at the time"  
— Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook who won the NBA MVP award

Antelope Valley Press, Thursday, June 29, 2017 C1

## TALKING POINTS



### Cubs visit Trump, White House

President Donald Trump welcomed manager Joe Maddon and the Chicago Cubs into the Oval Office on Wednesday, their second visit to the White House in eight months since winning the World Series. Trump entertained the Cubs in an informal visit Maddon said was set up by the team's owners, the Ricketts family, which donated millions of dollars to his campaign. The Cubs were honored as World Series champions by President Barack Obama in his last week in office in January.

Page C2



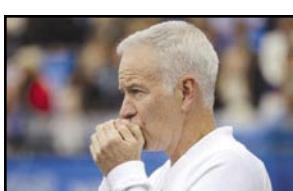
### Jackson, Knicks end rocky union

Phil Jackson wanted to trade Carmelo Anthony and wouldn't rule out dealing Kristaps Porzingis. Turns out, Jackson is the one leaving. Jackson is out as New York Knicks president after he oversaw one of the worst eras in team history, with the team saying in a statement Wednesday that they had "mutually agreed to part company." Page C4



### Billups leaves Ice Cube wondering

Ice Cube is chilling as he waits for Chauncey Billups to make a move. The rapper-turned-basketball mogul said Wednesday that he doesn't know if Billups will join Cleveland's front office and lead the Cavaliers' basketball operations. Last week, Cube, who co-founded Big3, a new 3-on-3 league featuring former NBA players, said he was certain Billups was taking a job with the Cavs and wished him well in his new endeavor. Page C4



### McEnroe might have some regret

Everywhere you look this week, there's John McEnroe, talking about how Serena Williams would be "like 700 in the world" if she played on the men's tennis circuit. You could call McEnroe's round of interviews an apology tour, except for one little thing. He's still Johnny Mac. He isn't apologizing. He explained as much repeatedly in a series of appearances ever since his comment sparked a silly debate and even in the face of criticism within his own family.

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## HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

# Bases loaded with talent

By MERISA JENSEN  
Valley Press Staff Writer

The softball talent in the Antelope Valley is evident as Valley softball players earned the top honors in four different leagues this season.

Knight senior Samantha Reynoso won Golden League Player of the Year for the second consecutive season, while Rosamond senior Marrissa Gibson was the High Desert League Player of the Year and senior teammate Isabelle Gomez earned Pitcher of the Year honors. Paraclete senior Rylee Maston was selected as the Gold Coast League Most Valuable Player

and Vasquez senior Mary Clemens and sophomore Alysha Rojan were co-MVPs in the Desert Mountain League.

Reynoso helped lead the Hawks to their second straight undefeated Golden League title by pitching past every team in the league twice.

She also helped lead the Hawks to their second straight appearance into the CIF quarterfinals. As a result, Reynoso was also named to the all-CIF-Southern Section Division 3 first team.

Reynoso was joined on the GL first team by senior teammate Rylee Alsobrook, sophomore teammates MJ

Garcia and Trinity Largy and junior teammate Shea Graves.

Knight sophomore Amaya Colson and junior Marissa Maria were both selected to the second team and junior Cristyanne Fletes received an honorable mention.

Quartz Hill had four players named to the GL first team, led by senior pitcher Briana Garrett, who was also named to the all-CIF-Southern Section Division 5 first team. Garrett helped lead the Rebels to a second-place finish in the Golden League standings.

Garrett was joined on the GL first team by senior teammate Rylee Alsobrook, sophomore teammates MJ

See ALL-LEAGUE on C2



**POY X2**  
In this March 17, 2017, file photo, Sam Reynoso of the Knight Hawks reached base safely in the second game of a double header against Silverado. She was selected as the Golden League Player of the Year for the second time.  
AV Press File Photo

## HIGH SCHOOL TRACK AND FIELD

# Bedingfield points out SACRAMENTO STATE

### Runner chose Sacramento over UNR, Fullerton

By ALEX VEJAR  
Valley Press Staff Writer

PALMDALE — Quartz Hill High School graduate Shilah Bedingfield exudes confidence in practically everything she does.

No matter how fast she ran as a sprinter, or how many races and awards she won, Bedingfield made a habit of constantly projecting greatness. Even in conversation, Bedingfield speaks as though she knows exactly who she is and where she's going.

But when it came to choosing a college, some of that confidence shrunk.

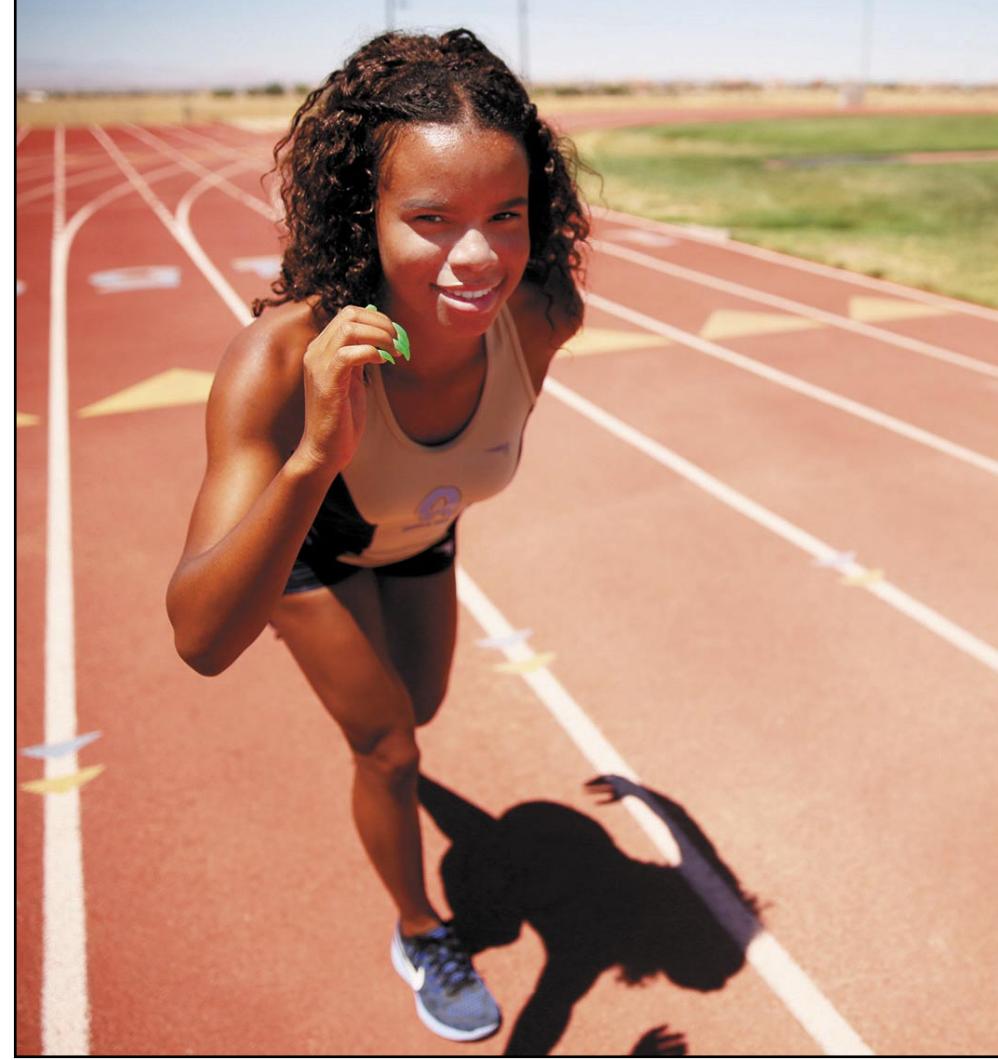
It wasn't that Bedingfield didn't get any offers. She received multiple, mostly from Division 1 programs.

The problem was none her three final choices — University of Nevada, Reno, Cal State Fullerton and Sacramento State University — initially didn't jump out at her enough.

"I was stuck. I didn't know where to go," Bedingfield said as she sat at a table inside a Starbucks. "Honestly, my mom could've chosen for me and I would've been good. That's how bad it was."

Bedingfield eventually chose Sacramento State, where she received a 75% scholarship to compete in the 200 and 400. But getting to that decision was arduous, and took some creative problem-solving.

Processing Reno and Sacramento came calling first, and See BEDINGFIELD on C4



**ON TO CAPITAL CITY** — Shilah Bedingfield, 18, who ran track for Quartz Hill High School, is headed to Sacramento State University in the fall on a track scholarship. Above, Bedingfield poses at Quartz Hill High's track on Wednesday.

TREVOR STAMP/ Valley Press

## NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

# Paul joining Harden in Houston

### Blockbuster trade sends seven players, draft pick to Clippers

By KRISTIE RIEKEN  
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Chris Paul is heading to Houston to join James Harden, giving the Rockets two All-Stars in the backcourt to lead their chase for a championship.

In the NBA's second blockbuster trade in less than a week, the Rockets acquired Paul from the Los Angeles Clippers on Wednesday in exchange for Patrick Beverley, Lou Williams, Sam Dekker, Montrezl Harrell, Darrun Hilliard, DeAndre Liggins, Kyle Wiltjer, a protected first-round pick next year and cash considerations. The Rockets acquired Hilliard from Detroit and Liggins from Dallas for cash considerations before adding them to the deal.

"It's a weapons race in the NBA and you're either in the weapons race or on the sidelines," Houston general manager Daryl Morey said. "We felt like with James Harden in his prime and Chris Paul in his prime this gives us a real shot to chase the juggernaut teams that are out there. This puts us right there with them."

Both the Clippers and Houston will look far different next season than they did in again falling short in the playoffs. The roster overhauls came five days after Minnesota sent three players to Chicago for All-Star Jimmy Butler to kick things off with NBA free agency opening Saturday.

The 32-year-old Paul will be playing for his third team after opting in for the last year of his contract so the Clippers could work on a deal.

Morey wanted to get this deal done early so Paul could help Harden woo free agents to



**ROCKET MAN** — In this Feb. 24, 2016, file photo, Los Angeles Clippers guard Chris Paul (3) goes up under the basket, next to Denver Nuggets forward Kenneth Faried (35) during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

Houston. Now that we have James and Chris I think people are going to look in free agency and say: 'Hey I can make this money there but maybe for close to the money but not quite as much I'm going to come to Houston and try to win a ring,' he said. "So that's a big difference walking in with that kind of a situation."

Paul is a nine-time All-Star who has averaged 18.7 points, 9.9 assists, 4.4 rebounds and 2.3 steals over his 12-year career, though he has been dogged with criticism in recent years for failing to help the Clippers get out of the second round of the playoffs. Los Angeles reached the postseason in each of Paul's six seasons with the team, but the Clippers were eliminated in the first round three times and in the Western Conference semifinals three other times.

Perhaps the most crushing playoff series loss of his tenure with the Clippers came to the Rockets in 2015. Los Angeles had a 3-1 lead in the conference semifinals before Houston won the last three games of the series to send Paul and the Clippers home early yet again.

The Clippers were eliminated in the first round the past two seasons and Paul isn't the only star who may be leaving. Blake Griffin informed the team last week that he is opting out of the last year of his contract to explore free agency. J.J. Redick also is a free agent.

In Houston, Paul joins a team that was eliminated by the San Antonio Spurs in the conference semifinals. With Harden's move to point guard last season, Paul's role will probably be a bit different than it has been in Los Angeles.

But he will add another scoring dimension in replacing Beverley in the starting lineup. Beverley received NBA defensive first team honors last week, but averaged just 9.3 points in his five seasons with the Rockets.

Coach Mike D'Antoni knows the biggest question people have is how Harden and Paul will play together. But he isn't worried about that and said it will be a joy to have both of them on his team.

"You can sit around all day and say why it wouldn't work, but it does because they want it to work," D'Antoni said. "And I know James and Chris want it to work and that's all it

See PAUL on C3

## NBA

# Lopez ready to mentor, compete

By GREG BEACHAM  
Associated Press

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. — Brook Lopez is much more to the Los Angeles Lakers than a big man with a big salary.

The Lakers acquired the 7-foot Lopez from Brooklyn last week, giving up promising guard D'Angelo Russell in a trade primarily designed to rid Los Angeles of the three remaining years on Timofey Mozgov's onerous \$64 million contract.

Lopez is getting more than \$22.6 million next season in the final year of his deal, making him a necessary salary match for the trade.

See LOPEZ on C4



Associated Press

**INTRODUCTIONS** — Brook Lopez, left, a new member of the Los Angeles Lakers, addresses reporters as the NBA basketball team's general manager, Rob Pelinka, listens during an introductory news conference Wednesday, in El Segundo, Calif.

## MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

# Montero out with Chicago

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — Catcher Miguel Montero says the Chicago Cubs are letting him go, one day after he blamed pitcher Jake Arrieta for allowing seven stolen bases in a game.

Montero posted a series of tweets Wednesday saying goodbye to fans and the city of Chicago and said on WMVP-AM radio that the Cubs had called to tell him they were designating him for assignment. The team had not announced any moves by early afternoon.

"When the team is not playing well, it's got to go somewhere and I hope I can be the blame and I hope the team will take off from now and I can be a blame for that," Montero said.

Montero said he called Arrieta to apologize and that the right-hander was "totally cool" about the situation, understanding that the comments were made in the heat of the moment after the Cubs' 6-1 loss to the Washington Nationals on Tuesday night.

"It was an honor to play for the Chicago Cubs organization," the 33-year-old tweeted. "Chicago will

always be in my heart."

Montero will be remembered for a huge hit late in Game 7 of the World Series that ended the Cubs' famous championship drought last fall. But tensions had been simmering since spring training over his role, and he has thrown out just one of 31 potential base stealers this season, hitting .286 with four home runs and eight RBIs in 44 games.

Still, the meltdown Tuesday night was unusually strong: Montero unloaded on Arrieta, saying the Nationals were running all over the right-handed ace who's struggled of late because they knew he was slow to the plate with his delivery.

Trea Turner stole four bases, Michael Taylor two and Anthony Rendon one for a Montreal Expos/Nationals franchise record. Montero had a throwing error that led to a run scoring.

"It really sucked because the stolen bases go to me, and when you really look at it, the pitcher doesn't give me any time," Montero said. "So it's just like, 'Yeah, OK, Miggie can't throw nobody out,' but

my pitcher doesn't hold anybody on."

First baseman Anthony Rizzo said on WMVP that Montero's comments were unprofessional and not acceptable.

"We win as a team, we lose as a team," Rizzo said. "If you start pointing fingers, I think that just labels you as a selfish player. I disagree. I think we have another catcher that throws out anyone who steals."

Willson Contreras has thrown out 16 of 31 potential base stealers this season and is the Cubs' starting catcher. After the game, manager Joe Maddon said Arrieta and Montero working together was "an imperfect situation."

"It's not about the move to first; it's about time to the plate more than anything," Maddon said. "He's a little bit slow... It's something that he works on. There are times he's quicker or better with it, but guys like Turner who are premier runners, it's really difficult to get down to the number that makes it amenable even for a Willson. The best antidote is to keep that guy off the base."

## ALL-LEAGUE: Knight senior Samantha Reynoso named Golden League Player of the Year

## From C1

team by junior teammates Maritza Arroyo, Rosie Marquez and Natalie Horton.

Seniors Victoria Mendoza and Victoria Bermea represented the Rebels on the second team, while junior Camryn Stanbro received an honorable mention.

Third-place Highland had three first-team honorees with junior pitcher Catalina Aguirre, sophomore Jocelyn Carrillo and freshman Rozelyn Carrillo. Junior Trinity Holman and freshman Mariah Jamison were named to the second team for the Bulldogs, while junior Domenique Rhodes received an honorable mention.

Lancaster senior Aricka Price and junior Alyssa Tami were named to the first team, while seniors Alexis Robles and Kayley de Leuw were selected to the second team and senior Angie Laux received an honorable mention.

Little Rock senior MacKenna Rawlins was also selected to the first team, while senior teammate Natalie Bandalos was named to the second team and junior Hunter Daly received an honorable mention.

Antelope Valley junior Eunique Morris was selected to the first team, while senior Alexis Roddy represented the Antelopes on the second team and Sarah Hamilton received an honorable mention.

Eastside senior Chanel Brown rounded out the first-team selections, while her teammate Sylvia Martinez was on the second and team and Celine Perez received an honorable mention.

Rosamond won the High Desert League title with a 9-1 record and

reached the CIF-Central Section Division 5 championship game. Gibson helped lead her team as a captain and hit .460 on the season.

Gomez missed the first month of the season and came back from an ACL injury in record time to help lead the Roadrunners in league play. She batted .517 and posted a 2.44 ERA with 116 strikeouts in 106 innings.

Gibson and Gomez were joined on the HDL first team by senior Breann Carrillo, junior Alicia Soliz and freshman Jennifer Diaz, who led the Roadrunners with a .520 batting average, 52 hits, 13 doubles, seven triples and 48 RBIs.

Rosamond freshman Victoria Gomez and sophomore Desteny Holguin were selected to the second team, while senior Valerie Ramirez was given an honorable mention and sophomore Trinity Dion was selected to the All-Academic team.

Junior Alexia Amador represented Desert on the first team, while her teammates, senior Stephanie Aki and junior Emily Jackson, were placed on the second team and junior Elena Escobar received an honorable mention. Jackson was also named to the All-Academic team.

California City sophomore Coran Rogers was named to the first team, while sophomore Ariel Dominguez and junior Breanna Naples received second-team honors, sophomore Adriana Peru was given an honorable mention and sophomore Linda Ramirez was named to the All-Academic team.

Paraclete won the Gold Coast League title for the fourth straight year, but shared the title with Sierra Canyon this season.

Senior catcher Maston helped lead the Spirits throughout league play, but was injured near the end of the season. The Spirits reached the second round of the CIF-Southern Section Division 3 playoffs.

Maston was joined on the first team by sophomore second baseman Mackenzie Atkerson, senior shortstop Myamie Thompson and junior outfielder/catcher Jasmin Vigilante.

Paraclete junior Vivien Gutierrez, senior Kassidy Trumbo and sophomores Regan Johnson and Savannah Scripter were all named to the second team.

Vasquez won its fourth straight Desert Mountain League title with a 10-0 record.

Clemens batted .609 in 16 games for the Mustangs with 32 RBIs. She and Rojan were tied for the team lead with six home runs. Rojan led the Mustangs in batting average (.689 in 14 games), RBIs (39) and doubles (12).

Clemens and Rojan were joined on the DML first team by senior teammates Natalia Colicci and Carly Moreno.

Vasquez seniors Hannah Waldvogel and Ashlee Hammer and junior Elizabeth Berger were all named to the second team, while sophomore Madi Dooros received an honorable mention.

Third-place Boron was represented on the DML first team by senior Brittany Sheridan, junior Faith Job and sophomore Raquel Morales. Senior pitcher Elissya Searcy was named to the second team, while sophomore Haley Daugherty received an honorable mention.

Desert Christian, which was fourth in the league, was represented on the first team by seniors Charity Edmond and Brooke Kersanty and sophomore Brianna Bowen. Senior Julianna Oliff, sophomore Becky Pierce and Kristi Henderson were selected to the second team, while sophomore Angelica Caiola was given an honorable mention.

Mojave's Samantha Escobedo was named to the first team, while junior Georgina Ocegueda and teammate Jacquelyn Perez were both named to the second team. Mojave senior Zilia Mondragon and junior Ashley Almendarez received honorable mentions.

Congratulations to all of the honorees.

mjensen@avpress.com

### All-Gold Coast League Softball

## MVP

Paraclete senior Rylee Maston

## First Team

Paraclete sophomore Mackenzie Atkerson

Paraclete senior Myamie Thompson

Paraclete junior Jasmin Vigilante

## Second Team

Paraclete junior Vivien Gutierrez

Paraclete sophomore Regan Johnson

Paraclete sophomore Savannah Scripter

Paraclete senior Kassidy Trumbo

### All-High Desert League Softball

## Player of the Year

Rosamond senior Marissa Gibson

## Pitcher of the Year

Rosamond senior Isabelle Gomez

## First Team

Rosamond senior Breann Carrillo

Rosamond junior Alicia Soliz

Rosamond freshman Jennifer Diaz

California City soph. Coran Rogers

Desert junior Alexia Amador

## Second Team

Rosamond freshman Victoria Gomez

Rosamond soph. Desteny Holguin

Desert senior Stephanie Aki

Desert junior Emily Jackson

California City soph. Ariel Dominguez

California City junior Breanna Naples

## Honorable Mention

Rosamond senior Valerie Ramirez

California City soph. Adriana Peru

## All-Academic Team

Rosamond sophomore Trinity Dion

California City soph. Linda Ramirez

Desert junior Emily Jackson

### All-Desert Mountain League Softball

## co-MVPs

Vasquez sophomore Alysha Rojan

Vasquez senior Mary Clemens

## Pitcher of the Year

Lone Pine junior Julianne Jones

## First Team

Vasquez senior Natalia Colicci

Vasquez senior Carly Moreno

Boron junior Faith Job

Boron sophomore Raquel Morales

Boron senior Brittany Sheridan

Desert Christian senior Charity Edmond

Desert Christian junior Brooke Kersanty

Desert Christian soph. Brianna Bowen

Mojave's Samantha Escobedo

## Second Team

Vasquez junior Elizabeth Berger

Vasquez senior Hannah Waldvogel

Vasquez senior Ashlee Hammer

Boron senior Elissya Searcy

Desert Christian senior Julianna Oliff

Desert Christian soph. Becky Pierce

Desert Christian's Kristi Henderson

Mojave junior Georgina Ocegueda

Mojave's Jacquelyn Perez

## Honorable Mention

Vasquez sophomore Madi Dooros

Boron sophomore Haley Daugherty

Desert Christian soph. Angelica Caiola

Mojave senior Zilia Mondragon

Mojave's Ashley Almendarez

Desert junior Emily Jackson

Antelope Valley senior Alexis Roddy

## Honorable Mention

Antelope Valley junior Zarah Hamilton

Eastside's Celine Perez

Highland junior Domonique Rhodes

Knight junior Cristiana Fletes

Lancaster senior Angie Laux

Little Rock junior Hunter Daly

Palmdale junior Katina Pruitt

Quartz Hill junior Camryn Stanbro

# Cubs make return visit to White House

By STEPHEN WHYNO  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — President Donald Trump welcomed manager Joe Maddon and the Chicago Cubs into the Oval Office on Wednesday, their second visit to the White House in eight months since winning the World Series.

Trump entertained the Cubs in an informal visit Maddon said was set up by the team's owners, the Ricketts family, which donated millions of dollars to his campaign. The Cubs were honored as World Series champions by President Barack Obama in his last week in office in January.

"This is a great team and they were actually here but they wanted to be here with Trump, right?" Trump said. "I just want to thank and I want to congratulate them."

Along with Maddon and Tom and Todd Ricketts, several players made the trip to the White House, including first baseman Anthony Rizzo, pitcher Jon Lester, third baseman Kris Bryant and outfielder Albert Almora Jr. Trump took photos with the World Series trophy and a Cubs jersey with his name and No. 45 — he is the 45th president — in gold on the back.

Maddon said Trump was complimentary in their "very, very quick" visit and that the pictures will be entertaining to show his grandchildren. General manager Jed Hoyer called it a "pretty cool life experience."

"It's always an honor when you get asked to go to the White House," Hoyer said before the Cubs' game against the Washington Nationals. "Regardless of your politics, it's a place that all Americans should be impressed by."

Almora laughed off a picture that made it look like he was giving Trump the middle finger, saying, "There was definitely two fingers out there."

"It is not every day you get to meet the President of the United States," Almora said. "To meet two in one calendar year, it was pretty



Associated Press

**BACK SO SOON** — President Donald Trump meets with members of the 2016 World Series Champions Chicago Cubs, Wednesday, in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington. Cubs third baseman Kris Bryant holds the other "45" sign.

special for me."

When Trump asked members of the Cubs how the Nationals were doing, Rizzo invited him to the game Wednesday night down the street at Nationals Park. Todd Ricketts, who withdrew his name from consideration after being Trump's pick as deputy commerce secretary, said,

"We're going to run into these guys in the playoffs you come down and you'll see them crumble."

The division-leading Nationals have lost in the first round of the

playoffs in each of their three trips since 2012. The Cubs entered the day one game above .500, so Hoyer wasn't in the mood to add another

## SPORTS GAMBLING

# Signs are good for sports betting

By TIM DAHLBERG  
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Jimmy Vaccaro has been taking bets in this gambling town for more than 40 years, so there's not much he won't put a price on.

That includes the chances of the U.S. Supreme Court opening the door to legalization of sports betting across the country — something Vaccaro couldn't have imagined in 1976 when he first set up a sports book just off the glittering Las Vegas Strip.

"I make it an 8-5 favorite," said Vaccaro, who operates the sports book at the South Point resort. "I feel good about it."

For once there are some things to feel good about in the push to allow more Americans to do what people in Las Vegas have been doing on a regular basis ever since the point spread was invented — put a few dollars on their favorite team.

What was once no more than a distant fantasy edged a bit closer to reality Tuesday when the Supreme Court agreed to hear New Jersey's bid to allow sports betting at casinos and racetracks in the state. That the court even agreed to weigh in on the case was cheered as a victory from a sports betting industry that has long been eager to expand outside Nevada.

"It would be a monster step for us," Vaccaro said.

Monster step might be an understatement. The legal sports books in

**GAMBLING STATE**

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie speaks during a news conference in Trenton, N.J., Tuesday. The Supreme Court agreed Tuesday to take up New Jersey's bid to allow sports betting at its casinos and racetracks.

Associated Press

Nevada took in a record \$4.5 billion in wagers last year, and it's anyone's guess how many more billions would be in play if some big states like New Jersey or New York get into the act.

And, really, it's way past time.

Nevada has shown in recent years that sports betting — if properly regulated — is no threat to either Americans with a few bucks in their pocket or the teams they bet on. Even the major sports leagues have come to accept — and even embrace — sports betting, though for some reason they are still fighting New Jersey's efforts to get a piece of the action.

It's a far cry from when Vaccaro was making book at the Royal Inn

in the 1970s and sports betting was widely seen as both morally wrong and a threat to the country's sports institutions.

"There's this black cloud from people who don't understand the industry that they keep throwing over us," Vaccaro said. "It's not fair. It's not really fair. They talk about fixed games but my answer is always this: I bet you there's more politicians in jail than bookmakers."

The case the Supreme Court will likely hear in the fall is centered around New Jersey's attempt to save struggling casinos and racetracks by offering single-game sports betting, prohibited everywhere but Nevada under a 1992 federal law. The four major sports leagues and the NCAA

sued in 2012 after the state passed a law to allow the betting, and until the Supreme Court unexpectedly agreed to hear the case it looked as if the New Jersey effort was dead.

That hasn't stopped the American Gaming Association — a casino industry group — from pushing for federal legislation to legalize sports betting, an idea that has received a lot of new interest in the wake of the explosion of the daily fantasy industry, which is basically sports betting under another name.

What will be interesting as the New Jersey case goes before the Supreme Court are the actions of the plaintiffs themselves. A lot has changed in the five years since the leagues and the NCAA filed suit, with NBA Commissioner Adam Silver now on record as saying legal betting is good for the league and the NFL allowing the Raiders to move to a state where sports betting is legal with no restrictions on betting on the team.

What the leagues really should be doing instead of wasting resources on policies of the past is getting together with all interested parties, including the sports betting industry, and helping draft legislation for Congress to allow legal sports betting in states that want it.

Put in the necessary controls, and establish a way for them to be enforced across different states. Give states the option of opting out, and carve out some restrictions on betting college games in states where betting becomes legal.

## MOTOR NOTES

# Deuschles add one more NHRA trophy to family collection

By BRIAN GOLDEN  
Valley Press Staff Writer

The soundtrack of many a family summer adventure features the kids fighting over the seating arrangements in the back seat.

But not the Deuschle Family.

Ricky, Ashley and Emma Deuschle more regularly battle over who gets the dashboard light at the end of a quarter mile traversed at well over 100 MPH.

These Deuschle's take a back seat to none.

A week after his sister, Ashley beat the Super Pro points leader at Auto Club Dragway in Fontana, Ricky beat Ashley to the finish line in the NHRA Summit Racing Series Super Pro final.

In his black '99 Chevrolet Camaro, Ricky blazed off a pass of 9.69 seconds good for 141.42 MPH to the 9.89/137.39 MPH Ashley produced in her '93 Corvette.

There are 51 racers from across Southern California competing in the Super Pro Series.

At the season's mid-point, Ricky Descale is the leader with 294 points.

Ashley is second with 281.

Emma is third, with 270 points.

"I think my brother wants to beat my sister and me," Ashley said, "more than any other drivers on the track."

**Salute to America Race Weekend at Kern County**

The largest annual fireworks show in Kern County highlights Kern County Raceway Park's Salute to America on Saturday.

The Zambelli Fireworks show will last 20 minutes and include more than 2,300 shells.

Anticipation is higher than usual, after last weekend's heatwave canceled the racing schedule at KCRP.

Seven different Bakersfield restaurants will have food trucks available, and Budweiser will operate a track side tavern.

The Lucas Oil Modifieds are scheduled for a 75-lap race. The Super Stocks, Bandoleros and Mini Dwarfs will also be on the track.

**Fireworks, trailer races and destruction derby at Irwindale**

Irwindale Speedway also resumes

the second half of its racing schedule Saturday night.

Trevor Huddleston of Agoura leads the Late Models, with five wins in nine starts. He leads second place Dylan Garner of Yorba Linda by 34 points.

Irwindale's Hot Rod Princess, Toni Maria McCray, swept both Late Models events last time out, only to be disqualified after post-race inspection found non-complying parts. Being dropped to last place in both races has also dropped her to fifth in the standings. 85 points behind Huddleston.

The holiday weekend schedule also includes a compact car demolition derby, a trailer race, a compact car enduro, a skid plate race and a Figure 8 event.

Fireworks follow the racing.

**Kevin Harvick: One from the heart at Daytona**

After crossing off the road course at Sonoma from his NASCAR bucket list, this one's personal Saturday night in the Coke Zero 400 at Daytona International Speedway.

Bakersfield's favorite son is one of four active drivers to win both the Daytona 500 and the July night race. He'd love to get his second win in a Ford less than a week after the first.

Especially when the Dumanski Family of Miltown, N.J. will be his guests in the pits.

Jenna Dumanski, 11, made the life-saving decision in 2014 to donate bone marrow to her infant brother Tommy, who was born with Chronic Granulomatous Disease.

Jenna, a huge Kevin Harvick fan, and Tommy are both doing well. A bout with meningitis forced the family to cancel a planned trip to the Daytona 500 last February.

The Dumanskis will be flown to Daytona Beach by sponsor Jimmy John's, and watch the race from a suite overlooking the tri-oval.

"Daytona just has that special place in our sport, and everybody wants to win there," Harvick said. "But we really want to win with Jenna and her family here."

bgolden@avpress.com

## CALIFORNIA LEAGUE

# Romero breaks slump, homers in win

By TIM HADDOCK  
Valley Press Sports Editor

SAN BERNARDINO — One of the newest JetHawks played a big role against the Inland Valley 66ers on Wednesday.

Avery Romero hit a home run and reached base in four plate appearances in the JetHawks 7-1 win over the 66ers in a California

League game at San Manuel Stadium.

Romero, who was 0-for-10 with the JetHawks entering the game, hit a home run in his first a-bat to give his team a 2-0 lead. He walked twice and hit an RBI double in his final a-bat.

JetHawks starter Jesus Tinoco (6-1) pitched 6 2/3 scoreless innings. He gave up 11 hits and

walked one with six strikeouts.

Jonathan Diaz singled and scored in the second inning. Wes Rogers knocked in Diaz with an RBI double. Rogers later scored on a sacrifice fly by Mylz Jones.

Rogers went 2-for-4 and extended his hitting streak to 11 games.

Inland Empire scored its lone run on a bases-loaded walk in the bottom of the ninth inning. The

66ers left 13 runners on base.

The JetHawks play Inland Empire in the four-game series finale tonight in San Bernardino. Helms Rodriguez (1-1) is set to start for the JetHawks against Jesus Castillo (3-2) for Inland Empire. The game starts at 7:05 p.m.

thaddock@avpress.com

# WHEELS: Earnhardt Jr. ready for his last race at Daytona

From C1

On a day when Stewart emerged from a terrifying 220-MPH pinwheel down the backstretch with a just a fractured ankle, Earnhardt's crash into the turn four wall while unlocking three other cars didn't seem catastrophic.

NASCAR on FOX, on the first day of a new \$2.4 billion television contract that would televise every race on an over-the-air network for the first time, signed off its broadcast without knowing Earnhardt's fate.

When NASCAR returned to Daytona for its night race, Dale

Jr. came in a day early so he could walk the track and sit down on the 31-degree banking of turn four where his father died, to reflect.

"That helped me come to terms with Daddy's death," Earnhardt said. "I told myself what I was going through was the same sadness people all over the world were going through dealing with a loss."

"Who was I to go on and about it, because somebody, somewhere, was dealing with a loss."

Dale Jr.'s victory in the Pepsi 400 a few days later is still considered the most popular victory in NASCAR history. NBC Sports Network will replay the race

Thursday from 4-6 p.m. PDT. As he has done every time he has returned to DIS, Earnhardt will again visit the spot in the turn where his father was killed, and the patch of grass off the apron where the familiar No. 3 Goodwrench Chevrolet slid to a stop.

So many lives have been saved by the HANS Device, the SAFER Barrier and other safety improvements in response to Earnhardt's death.

More than 16 years later, Dale Jr. only wishes his father could have met his wife, Amy, or seen the heights NASCAR has reached as a mainstream sport — or seen the

roadrunner who finished career-best sixth at Sonoma Sunday.

"Yeah, I would have loved it if he had stuck around a bit longer," Dale Jr. said. "But that's not the way life is."

"There's so many things I wish I could tell him."

Starting with a checkered flag on Saturday night.

Win or lose, a loving son knows his father will be riding shotgun with him again at the family race track.

bgolden@avpress.com

# PAUL: Rockets acquire nine-time All-Star in mega-deal

From C1

takes."

Beverley is the only Houston starter involved in the deal, with Williams and Dekker playing reserve roles last season. Both Morey and D'Antoni admitted shipping Beverley off was a tough decision.

"Any trade you feel great about one thing and bad about another,"

D'Antoni said. "I've probably coached 160 guys in this league and (Beverley's) one of the top 5. Just his heart and soul and what he does so you hate that. But Chris Paul is Chris Paul and I've thought for the last 10 years that he was the best point guard in the league until I coached James, obviously. So it's great to have both of them."

26, 1805 West Ave. J, Lancaster. For details, call President Jim Vernon at (661) 341-1792 or (661) 341-1793.

■ **High Desert Four Wheelers:** Do you have a 4x4, stock or rebuilt? Like the outdoors? So do we! Meet at 6:30 p.m. Call Terry Dean at (661) 917-3296.

■ **Petersen Automotive Museum:** Located at 6060 Wilshire Blvd. in west Los Angeles, the Petersen Automotive Museum showcases historic, special design, current, unusual, classic, race and hot rod vehicles. Call (323) 930-CARS or visit www.petersen.org.

■ **Porsche Club of America:** Meet 9:30 a.m., first Saturday of every month, Greenhouse Cafe, 1169 Commerce Center Drive, Lancaster. Call Alice Rivera at (661) 466-3140.

■ **Rosamond Rodrunners:** Meets at 5:30 p.m., third Thursday of every month in Rosamond. Call (661) 350-4849 or visit www.rosamondrodrunners.org.

■ **Tehachapi Car Club:** Meets at 5:30 p.m., second Wednesday of every month, Moose Lodge, Tehachapi. Call Al Baumgarten at (661) 822-5092.

High Desert Cruisers' Cruise-ins are held from 4-8 p.m. the first Saturday of every month at Tom's No. 26, 1805 West Ave. J, Lancaster. For details, call (661) 948-7865.

■ **Cruise-in and Car Show:** Hosted by the Antique Automobile Club of America, Antelope Valley Region, at 8 a.m. the first Saturday of every month at Scramblez Restaurant, 835 East Ave. Q-9, Palmdale. For details, call Milam Chrisman at (661) 285-4933.

■ **Cruise-in and Car Show:** Hosted by Hot Rod Dogz at 4 p.m. on the fourth Saturday of every month at Primo's Cafe, 4459 Valley Central Way, Lancaster. Classics, customs, motorcycles and special interest vehicles are all welcome at this family-oriented event. Prizes, trophies and a raffle are offered. For details, call (661) 948-4948.

■ **Cruise-in and Car Show:** 2 to 6 p.m. on the third Saturday of every month at Primo's Cafe, 4459 Valley Central Way, Lancaster. Classics, customs, motorcycles and special interest vehicles are all welcome at this family-oriented event. Prizes, trophies and a raffle are offered. For details, call (661) 948-4948.

■ **Second Saturday Cruise-in and Car Show:** 4 to 8 p.m. on the second Saturday of each

month at the Original Louis Burgers, 44328 10th Street West, Lancaster. For details, call (661) 948-7865.

■ **Antelope Valley Air Coolers:** The Antelope Valley Air Coolers is a local organization of Volkswagen enthusiasts. For details, visit www.aircoolers.org.

■ **Antelope Valley Corvette Club:** Meets first Wednesday of every month, for dinner at 6 p.m. and meeting at 7 p.m., at the Sizzler Restaurant, 853 West Palmdale Blvd., Palmdale. For details, call Darlene Anderson at (661) 435-7660 or visit www.avcorvettes.com.

■ **Antelope Valley 4 Wheelers Jeep Club:** Meets the third Tuesday of each month, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Round Table Pizza, 44200 10th St. West, Lancaster. For details, call President Scott Stacy at (661) 349-2416 or Vice President Don Devedas at (661) 947-7082.

■ **Antelope Valley MOPAR Club:** Meets the second Thursday of every month at Hunter Dodge for business meeting and the fourth Friday of every month at 40th Street West and Avenue L for a "Meet & Greet." Visit

www.avmoparclub.com or call (661) 943-3976.

## NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

# Knicks, Phil Jackson part ways

By BRIAN MAHONEY  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Phil Jackson wanted to trade Carmelo Anthony and wouldn't rule out dealing Kristaps Porzingis.

Turns out, Jackson is the one leaving.

Jackson is out as New York Knicks president after he oversaw one of the worst eras in team history, with the team saying in a statement Wednesday that they had "mutually agreed to part company."

Days after Jackson reiterated his desire to move Anthony and said he would listen to deals for Porzingis, Madison Square Garden chairman James Dolan reversed course and cut ties with Jackson with two years remaining on his contract.

"After careful thought and consideration, we mutually agreed that the Knicks will be going in a different direction," Dolan said. "Phil Jackson is one of the most celebrated and successful individuals in the history of the NBA. His legacy in the game of basketball is unmatched."

But his work as a first-time executive was awful. The winner of an NBA-record 11 championships as coach, Jackson couldn't engineer one playoff berth while running the Knicks. The team was 80-166 in his three full seasons, including a franchise-worst 17-65 in 2014-15.

His departure was quickly welcomed by Knicks fans such as film director Spike Lee, who posted a picture of himself on Instagram in a celebratory pose after it was first reported by The Vertical.

The move comes less than a week after Jackson led the Knicks through the NBA draft and on the eve of free agency that opens Saturday. Dolan said he would not be involved in the operation of the team, adding that general manager Steve Mills would run the day-to-day business in the short term and that former Toronto executive Tim Leiweke would advise him and help develop a plan going forward.

Jackson was a Hall of Fame



Associated Press

**KNICKS NIX JACKSON** — In this July 8, 2016, file photo, New York Knicks president Phil Jackson answers questions during a news conference at the team's training facility in Greenburgh, N.Y. The Knicks and Jackson parted ways Wednesday morning ending a three-year tenure that saw plenty of tumult and not a single playoff appearance.

coach with the Chicago Bulls and Los Angeles Lakers, delivering titles with some of the game's biggest stars like Michael Jordan, Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant. He also played for the Knicks when they won NBA titles in 1970 and 1973.

He was welcomed back to the organization with a \$60 million contract to huge fanfare in March 2014, but it soon became clear the transition would be a poor one. His first coaching hire, Derek Fisher, lasted just 1½ seasons, and Jackson's trades and free agency moves also failed to improve the club.

"I had hoped, of course, to bring another NBA championship to the Garden. As someone who treasures winning, I am deeply disappointed that we weren't able to do that," Jackson said. "New York fans deserve nothing less. I wish them and the Knicks organization all the best — today and always."

The turbulence he created off the court may have led to his departure more than the Knicks' record on it.

Jackson publicly talked about moving without Anthony — angering the National Basketball Players Association — though the All-Star forward has two years left on the five-year, \$124 million deal that Jackson gave him shortly after taking the job. Anthony has a no-trade clause and has said he wants to stay in New York, and the stalemate that hung over the team for much of last season threatened to linger throughout the summer.

Then Jackson said before the draft that he was listening to offers for Porzingis, the 21-year-old forward from Latvia whom he drafted with the No. 4 pick in 2015 in one of his few successful moves.

Coach Jeff Hornacek, in Orlando with the Knicks' team preparing for summer league, thanked Jackson for bringing him to New York last summer.

"It's a tough day for us but our group, really our focus is to get this team better, continue to build our young players and figure out a way to win," Hornacek said. "We have a

lot of time before the regular season and we will figure that out."

Jackson believed the Knicks would compete for a playoff berth last season after he traded for Derrick Rose, signed Joakim Noah and Courtney Lee and hired Hornacek. But after a solid start, they quickly spiraled toward their familiar position at the bottom of the Eastern Conference and finished 31-51.

Despite all that, Dolan said during an ESPN Radio interview in February that he would allow Jackson to finish his contract, and the sides picked up the mutual two-year option on Jackson's contract.

But the instability involving Anthony and Porzingis threatened to damage the team's ability to lure free agents and may have spurred Dolan's decision. Though he had been intent on keeping Jackson, the dysfunction within the franchise showed no sign of ending even as Jackson, 71, largely stayed out of sight.

He never spoke to the media last season after vowing openness upon taking the job and refused to provide Anthony with the communication he sought.

"It's like a total train wreck," tennis great and Knicks fan John McEnroe told The Associated Press last week.

"I mean, he's known as the Zen Master, like a master talker, and then he's not talking to anybody," McEnroe said of Jackson. "So this whole thing seems to have gone completely off the rails."

There was also incessant debate about Jackson's insistence that the team employ the triangle offense, which potential incoming players were schooled on during the run-up to last week's draft. The Knicks wound up taking 18-year-old French point guard Frank Ntilikina, who spoke highly of the triangle and Jackson's belief in the scheme.

"I think I can definitely fit with this system," Ntilikina said on draft night.

Not even a week later, the triangle is probably gone, and the Knicks will start anew.

# Ice Cube chillin', waiting for Billups to make decision

By TOM WITHERS  
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Ice Cube is chilling as he waits for Chauncey Billups to make a move.

The rapper-turned-basketball mogul said Wednesday that he doesn't know if Billups will join Cleveland's front office and lead the Cavaliers' basketball operations. Last week, Cube, who co-founded Big3, a new 3-on-3 league featuring former NBA players, said he was certain Billups was taking a job with the Cavs and wished him well in his new endeavor.

However, Billups, a five-time All-Star guard, remains undecided about leaving his TV analyst job and uprooting his family in Denver to start anew in Cleveland.

"We'll find out I guess pretty soon here," Cube said Wednesday in New York. "We hope he'd play in the Big 3 of course, but we wish him well if he decides to take the job in Cleveland. Our league is player friendly in every way you could think about. So we want him to be happy and successful in whatever he does."

Billups met twice last week with Cleveland owner Dan Gilbert about a future with the club. They've known each other for a decade and Gilbert is looking for someone to oversee the Cavaliers' front office after general manager David Griffin parted ways with the team following three straight trips to the NBA Finals.

The 40-year-old Billups lacks front-office experience, but he's well connected in the league and has an excellent reputation.

Gilbert was at the White House on Wednesday. He posed for photos with President Donald Trump and the Chicago Cubs, who were in



Associated Press

**DELAYED DECISION** — In this March 19, 2014 photo, Detroit Pistons guard Chauncey Billups watches from the sideline during an NBA game against the Denver Nuggets in Denver. Two people familiar with the negotiations say the Cleveland Cavaliers have not yet offered Billups a role in their front office. Billups and Cavs owner Dan Gilbert met for two days this week to discuss a position, but the talks did not lead to a formal offer, the people said.

Washington playing the Nationals and visited the White House to celebrate winning their first World Series title in 108 years last season.

Gilbert and Quicken Loans CEO Jay Farner were at the White House to speak with Trump about the turnaround they've helped in Detroit.

Cube's 3-on-3 venture tipped off last weekend and he's hoping that if Billups doesn't join the Cavaliers, he will play for one of the league's eight teams.

"He's one of the first guys to sign with us, so we really would love to see him in that Killer 3 Mr. Big Shot jersey with the No. 1 on it," Cube said.

AP Basketball Writer Brian Mahoney in New York contributed to this report.

# LeBron puts together NBA documentary for Showtime

By TOM WITHERS  
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — LeBron James will help tell a story he's still shaping.

The Cavaliers superstar is teaming with Showtime on a documentary that will examine the modern NBA and the league's impact on popular culture. James, who has been producing TV and movie projects for several years, will serve as an executive producer with long-time business partner Maverick Carter.

The three-part documentary will be directed by filmmaker Gotham Chopra and premiere in 2018.

James has become one of the game's most transcendent players. The 32-year-old recently led Cleveland to its third straight Finals — his seventh consecutive trip. The three-time champion continues to play at an amazingly high level after 14 pro seasons.

"We developed the idea for these films because of the incredible, generational impact some of the NBA's most successful players have had on every aspect of American culture," said Carter, CEO of SpringHill Entertainment. "Gotham is the perfect filmmaker to bring these stories to life, and Showtime is the right platform to showcase how they were able to transcend the game and shape the culture in an unprecedented way."

Chopra previously produced and directed a successful documentary on Kobe Bryant.

"Despite the fact that I am a Boston Celtics fan to the bone, collaborating with Maverick and LeBron was an inspired opportunity," he said. "Sports in general and specifically the NBA provide a great backdrop for storytelling. But these films offer us a chance to go beyond that; to weave a broader cultural narrative in our current social climate."

# LOPEZ: Acquired via trade last week from Brooklyn

From C1

Yet the Lakers also coveted Lopez for his size, veteran leadership and newly revealed 3-point shooting ability as they rebuild the franchise on the ruins of four consecutive losing seasons.

"He has adapted to the new style of play in the NBA," Lakers general manager Rob Pelinka said Wednesday while introducing Lopez at their training complex. "We don't see next year at all as a rebuilding year. We see it as a Lakers year, and a lot of that is going to be centered around (Lopez) and what he stands for, and what we know he'll give to this organization."

Lopez will be the Lakers' highest-paid player next season, but the North Hollywood native intends to do much more than collect a check before hitting free agency in 2018. Although he is moving from the NBA's worst team last season to another bottom-dweller, he sees potential and promise with coach Luke Walton and the Lakers' emerging core.

"It's an exciting time to be a part of this organization with all the young guys they've got," the 29-year-old Lopez said. "I'm just excited to be here and help teach them, to be that veteran presence in this organization. ... That being said, I'm not looking to just do that and do that only. I'm looking to help the team any way I can on the court, whatever they need done, however I fit into Luke's offense. I can be a guy the guys can rely on, an anchor in the paint, whether it's blocking shots or being on that help side. I'm going to do whatever it takes."

Lopez is likely to get plenty of

chances to shoot from the perimeter next season. He hit 134 3-pointers last year in Brooklyn after making just three in his first eight NBA seasons combined.

His emergence as a 3-point threat was one of the more unlikely developments in basketball last season, but the 7-footer says it was no surprise to him — and the Lakers want him to keep it up.

"Luke's system is predicated on having bigs that can stretch the floor and create space," Pelinka said. "Especially with Lonzo (Ball) and Jordan Clarkson as attack guards, and having bigs that can open up the floor and make plays, allow Brandon (Ingram) to kind of get in creases with Julius (Randle) running the floor, and Larry (Nance Jr.). I think it's a perfect fit, and I think he's the perfect road map to our next generation of centers here, too."

After coach Kenny Atkinson took over the Nets with a desire to have shooters at every position, Lopez had the mandate to let loose with the 3-pointers that have been a part of his offseason training regimen for several years. They've been part of his game for much longer, actually: While playing against his older brothers in the San Fernando Valley, he had to shoot from outside or they would simply block his shots.

"They weren't really nice older brothers," Lopez said with a grin.

Lopez already has a personal connection to one young Lakers forward: Nance dunked on Lopez spectacularly last season. Lopez acknowledges he thought Nance was robbed in the Dunk of the Year competition at the NBA awards show.

# Rockets add Paul, Morey wants more

By TIM BONTEMPS  
The Washington Post

Throughout Daryl Morey's tenure as general manager of the Houston Rockets, he's abided by a clear, simple game plan: collect talent, and figure out the rest.

The Rockets have plenty of figuring out to do.

There's little doubt the trade Morey pulled off Wednesday — moving guards Patrick Beverley and Lou Williams, forwards Sam Dekker and Montrezl Harrell, a protected 2018 first-round pick and some still-being-collected non-guaranteed salaries, to the Los Angeles Clippers for superstar point guard Chris Paul as sources confirmed to The Washington Post — is a coup for Morey and the Rockets. The move will pair Paul with James Harden to form one of the most lethal partnerships in the NBA.

But in making the move, Morey is pushing his game plan to the limit, as the fit between Paul and Harden, between Paul and Rockets Coach Mike D'Antoni, will be fascinating to watch. It also means something else: the Rockets aren't done chasing talent this summer.

On the surface, Paul and Harden are an awkward fit. Both pound the ball into the ground

and Paul, famously one of the most hard-driving players in the league when it comes to getting on his teammates, will no doubt be the first one to bark at Harden if he doesn't play at a much higher level defensively than in the past.

Then there is Paul's fit within D'Antoni's pace-and-space system. Paul loves to work out of the mid-range — a shot D'Antoni loathes — and prefers to play at a slower tempo and work the shot clock much more than D'Antoni teams typically do. But that, too, could prove to be a benefit for the Rockets. Anyone who saw how Houston's offense ground to a halt as its second-round series against the Spurs progressed, who saw how Harden completely ran out of gas, could see that having one eminently predictable way to play — no matter how effective it is — can be figured out over the course of a seven-game series against an elite team.

By adding Paul, Houston has created about as effective of a Plan B as it possibly could, allowing the Rockets to shift to a very different style of play when Harden is off the floor, and keeping an elite ball-handler on the floor for all 48 minutes each night.

But anyone who thinks Morey is satisfied with his team immediately following this trade is fooling

themselves. No one is more active, or tries to make more moves, than Morey, who has remarkably gone from the hot seat a year ago to resuming his spot as one of the most secure general managers in the league.

Given how insane this NBA off-season has already been (with the start of free agency still a few days away, no less), Morey has plenty of time, and plenty of reasons, to remain active. The biggest trade piece out there is Paul George, the Indiana Pacers star who has made it clear to management he will not be re-signing with them when he can enter free agency next summer. A Houston package frontlined by Eric Gordon, the newly minted Sixth Man of the Year on a fantastic contract (roughly \$13 million over the next three years) — and who played collegiately at Indiana University, to boot — could be enticing to the Pacers.

Plus, if anyone is willing to sacrifice assets for a chance at a star like George without any commitment for the future — believing he can convince said player to stick around — it is Morey. Remember his ethos: collect talent, and then figure out the rest.

Morey did that Wednesday, and now has a backcourt featuring Chris Paul and James Harden.

# BEDINGFIELD: 'Gut feeling' told her to choose Sacramento State

From C1

both schools offered Bedingfield a scholarship in February.

But Sacramento's sprint coach, Kimberly Graham-Miller, kept in constant contact with Bedingfield, which made her feel wanted, she said.

"It's almost like little marriage," Sacramento sprint coach Kimberly Graham-Miller said. "She's gonna be here. So you kinda gotta date each other a little bit to kinda see what kind of person are you. So we talk about different kind of things like track and what she wants to study and about her family. Me, personally, when I'm recruiting somebody, I just like to get to know what kind of person they are."

Because of Graham-Miller's diligence, Bedingfield felt that Sacramento was the school for her. She was all set to pick Sacramento in late May, but a call came from Fullerton, which greatly intrigued her.

Both Bedingfield's parents wanted her to attend Reno because its academic advisor assured them their daughter's schoolwork would not fall by the wayside. When Bedingfield asked her friends for their opinions, they all said she should choose Sacramento.

Then there was Fullerton. Bedingfield's teachers advised her to go there because the professors' connections could make it easier for her to obtain a job after gradu-

ating.

Bedingfield said she stayed up nights debating where she would go.

"It got really hard when Fullerton came," Bedingfield said. "I was... really torn because I really liked it."

Bedingfield went to her friend, Antelope Valley High School graduate Tyrese Dedmon, for help. He suggested she make a pros-and-cons to make her decision easier.

"She was stressing out," Dedmon said via direct message on Twitter.

Bedingfield took Dedmon's advice and made a list. She worked on it so much that she brought it to school and pored over her decision instead of doing work.

"She was stressing out," Dedmon said via direct message on Twitter.

Bedingfield went to her friend, Antelope Valley High School graduate Tyrese Dedmon, for help. He suggested she make a pros-and-cons to make her decision easier.

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# Numbers Game

## This Day In Sports

2012 — The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency files charges against Lance Armstrong, accusing the seven-time Tour de France winner of using performance-enhancing drugs throughout the best years of his career.

Antelope Valley Press, Thursday, June 29, 2017 C5

## Morning rush

Valley Press news services

### Curry to play Web.com Tour's Ellie Mae Classic

HAYWARD — Two-time NBA MVP Stephen Curry is set to test his golf game against the pros.

The Web.com Tour said Wednesday that Curry, coming off his second NBA championship with the Golden State Warriors, will play in the Ellie Mae Classic at TPC Stonebrae on Aug. 3-6.

It'll be the first PGA Tour-sanctioned event for Curry, who has competed in various celebrity events and pro-ams. The top 25 on Web.com Tour's regular-season money list will earn PGA Tour cards.

Curry will maintain his amateur status, competing on an unrestricted sponsor exemption in the event that benefits the Warriors Community Foundation.

Hall of Fame receiver Jerry Rice played in the event in 2011 and 2012. He missed the cut in 2011 with rounds of 83 and 76 and withdrew in 2012 after playing 27 holes in 23 over.

Also Wednesday, Nissan's upscale Infiniti brand announced that Curry would be its new global brand ambassador. The point guard will be featured in ads for the Q50 sports sedan beginning this summer.

### Lakers exercise Nwaba's \$1.3 million option

EL SEGUNDO — The Los Angeles Lakers have exercised their \$1.3 million contract option on guard David Nwaba for the upcoming season.

The Lakers announced the move Wednesday.

Nwaba earned a job with the Lakers after they called him up from their D-League affiliate on Feb. 28. The rookie averaged 6.0 points and 3.2 rebounds per game while impressing Luke Walton's coaching staff with his hustle and defensive play.

The Lakers signed him to a new contract with a multi-year component just three weeks after his NBA debut. Nwaba is a local product, attending University High School in West Los Angeles and Santa Monica College before finishing his college career at Cal Poly.

### USA brings 2020 Olympic Trials to LA area

INDIANAPOLIS — USA track and field says the Olympic Trials for the 2020 Tokyo Games will be held in the Los Angeles area.

Track's governing body said Wednesday its board of directors voted 11-2 to bring the event to Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut. The stadium is going through a \$62 million upgrade that's scheduled to be completed in 2019 and will expand seating to more than 21,000.

Mt. SAC beat out Sacramento, California, and Eugene, Oregon, which hosted the last three Olympic Trials at Hayward Field. The 2020 Olympic Trials are scheduled for June 19-28. USATF has been diversifying its locations for championship meets to foster relationships with cities. Max Siegel, the CEO of USATF, says the "level of interest in the 2020 Olympic Trials is a reflection of that effort."

### Ryu seeks 2nd straight LPGA major

OLYMPIA FIELDS, Ill. — So Yeon Ryu wants to halt what has resembled a game of musical chairs on the LPGA Tour this season.

The newly minted world No. 1 will be going for her third win when the KPMG Women's PGA Championship — the second major of the season — tees off Thursday on her 27th birthday. She comes in off a dominating win last week in the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship, which made her the first repeat winner in 16 events this season.

Ryu won the ANA Inspiration in April for her second major title after front-running Lexi Thompson was tripped up by a four-shot penalty. Ryu beat Thompson on the first hole of sudden death.

## Planner

### COMING UP IN THE VALLEY

#### JETHAWKS (Minor League Baseball — Cal League)

- Today at Inland Empire, 7:05 p.m.
- Friday at Rancho Cucamonga, 7:05 p.m.
- Saturday at Rancho Cucamonga, 7:05 p.m.

#### WHITAILS (Independent Baseball — Pecos League)

- Today at Bakersfield, 7:45 p.m.
- Friday at High Desert, 7 p.m.
- Saturday at High Desert, 7 p.m.

### COMING UP IN SOCAL

#### ANGELS (Major League Baseball)

- Today vs. Dodgers, 7:07 p.m. (FSW/SportsNetLA)
- Friday vs. Seattle, 7:07 p.m. (FSW)
- Saturday vs. Seattle, 7:07 p.m. (FSW)

#### DODGERS (Major League Baseball)

- Today at Angels, 7:07 p.m. (SportsNetLA/FSW)
- Friday at San Diego, 7:10 p.m. (SportsNetLA)
- Saturday at San Diego, 7:10 p.m. (SportsNetLA)

#### GALAXY (Major League Soccer)

- Saturday at San Jose, 7:30 p.m. (Univision)
- July 4 vs. Real Salt Lake, 7:30 p.m. (SpectrumSN)
- July 15 vs. Manchester United, 7 p.m.

#### SPARKS (Women's National Basketball Association)

- Friday at Atlanta, 4:30 p.m. (NBA/SpectrumSN)
- Sunday vs. Washington, 2 p.m. (SpectrumSN)
- July 6 at Minnesota, 5 p.m. (ESPN2)

### ON RADIO/TV TODAY

#### MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

- Jethawks at Inland Empire, 7:05 p.m., [www.jethawks.com](http://www.jethawks.com), AM-1380

#### AUTO RACING

- NASCAR, Xfinity Series, Firecracker 250, practice, at Daytona Beach, Fla., 11 a.m., NBCSN
- NASCAR, Monster Energy Cup Series, Coke Zero 400, practice, at Daytona Beach, Fla., noon, NBCSN
- NASCAR, Xfinity Series, Firecracker 250, final practice, at Daytona Beach, Fla., 1 p.m., NBCSN
- NASCAR, Monster Energy Cup Series, Coke Zero 400, final practice, at Daytona Beach, Fla., 2 p.m., NBCSN

#### GOLF

- PGA of America, KPMG Women's PGA Championship, first round, at Olympia Fields, Ill., 9:30 a.m., GOLF
- USGA, U.S. Senior Open Championship, first round, at Peabody, Mass., 11 a.m., FS1
- PGA Tour, Quicken Loans National, first round, at Potomac, Md., 12:30 p.m., GOLF
- European PGA Tour, HNA Open de France, second round, at Paris, 1:30 a.m. (Friday), GOLF

#### MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

- Oakland at Houston, 11 a.m., MLB
- Regional coverage, Chicago Cubs at Washington OR St. Louis at Arizona (2 p.m., joined in progress), 1 p.m., MLB
- Regional coverage, L.A. Dodgers at L.A. Angels OR Atlanta at San Diego (joined in progress), 7 p.m., MLB
- L.A. Dodgers at Angels, 7:07 p.m., SportsNetLA/FSW

#### SOCER

- FIFA Confederations Cup, semifinal, Germany vs. Mexico, at Sochi, Russia, 11 a.m., FS2

#### WOMENS NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

- Seattle at Connecticut, 5 p.m., ESPN2

## TENNIS

# McEnroe scolded for Serena comment

By CINDY BOREN  
The Washington Post

Everywhere you look this week, there's John McEnroe, talking about how Serena Williams would be "like 700 in the world" if she played on the men's tennis circuit. You could call McEnroe's round of interviews an apology tour, except for one little thing.

He's still Johnny Mac. He isn't apologizing. He explained as much repeatedly in a series of appearances ever since his comment sparked a silly debate and even in the face of criticism within his own family.

"It didn't go over big with my daughters, either, okay?" he said when "The Late Show With Stephen Colbert" crowd booted a recap of his controversial NPR interview.

There are plenty of McWomen to object, too. There's Emily, his 26-year-old with ex-wife Tatum O'Neal, and daughters Anna, 21, and Ava, 18, and stepdaughter Ruby Myers with his wife, Patty Smyth. "You remember 'The Honeymooners' — Ralph Kramden — me and my big mouth! It's a little bit like that," McEnroe said. "Do they say that about girl basketball players, that they're as good as Michael Jordan?"

"They might say 'women's basketball players,'" Colbert offered, to cheers.

And, no, he was offering no apology for the Serena comment, just as he had declined to do on "CBS This Morning."



## HOT SEAT

In this March file photo, Tennis great John McEnroe watches a Big East college basketball game at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Associated Press

"People always ask me, 'Can you beat Serena Williams?'" continued McEnroe, who in one of life's happy coincidences just happens to have that new book ("But Seriously") coming out. "My girls don't think I can beat her now. I thought I could beat her. She's pregnant, so maybe I should play her now. I'd have a better chance. But either way, I wish her the absolute best. She's the best thing that's happened to American tennis in the last 10, 15 years."

McEnroe triggered this angle of his a tour to promote his new book with his comment, which came in an interview with NPR's Lulu Garcia-Navarro. She took issue with McEnroe's qualifier in describing Williams as the best

female player in the world.

"Well, because if she was in, if she played the men's circuit she'd be like 700 in the world," McEnroe said. "That doesn't mean I don't think Serena is an incredible player. I do, but the reality of what would happen would be I think something that perhaps it'd be a little higher, perhaps it'd be a little lower. And on a given day, Serena could beat some players. I believe because she's so incredibly strong mentally that she could overcome some situations where players would choke 'cause she's been in it so many times, so many situations at Wimbledon, the U.S. Open, etc. But if she had to just play the circuit - the men's circuit - that would be an entirely different story."

Serena fired back on Twitter, asking for privacy during her pregnancy as Vanity Fair, with her nude photo on the cover, hit the stands.

"Dear John I adore and respect you but please keep me out of your statements that are not factually based," she tweeted. "I've never played anyone ranked 'there' nor do I have time. Respect me and my privacy as I'm trying to have a baby. Good day sir."

Let it be noted that McEnroe called Williams "arguably the greatest athlete of the last 100 years" when she won Wimbledon in 2015 and also that he didn't qualify that based on gender. On "CBS This Morning," he was pressed to say where, at 58, he would rank. "About 1,200 in the world."

McEnroe wasn't really saying anything Williams herself hasn't said. "For me, men's tennis and women's tennis are completely, almost, two separate sports," Williams said four years ago on "The Late Show with David Letterman." "If I were to play Andy Murray, I would lose 6-0, 6-0 in five to six minutes, maybe 10 minutes. No, it's true. It's a completely different sport. The men are a lot faster and they serve harder, they hit harder, it's just a different game. I love to play women's tennis. I only want to play girls because I don't want to be embarrassed."

That should quiet things around the McEnroe household.

## AUTO RACING

### NASCAR Monster Energy Cup Schedule-Winners

May 7 — GEICO 500 (Ricky Stenhouse Jr.)  
May 13 — Go Bowling 400 (Martin Truex Jr.)  
May 20 — x-Monster Energy Open (Daniel Suarez)  
May 20 — x-Monster Energy NASCAR All-Star Race (Kyle Busch)  
May 28 — Coca-Cola 600 (Austin Dillon)  
June 4 — AAA 400 Drive for Autism (Jimmie Johnson)  
June 11 — Pocono 400 (Ryan Blaney)  
June 18 — FireKeepers Casino 400 (Kyle Larson)  
June 25 — Toyota Save Mart 350 (Kevin Harvick)  
July 1 — Coke Zero 400, Daytona Beach, Fla.  
July 8 — Quaker State 400, Sparta, Ky.  
July 16 — New Hampshire 301, Loudon, N.H.  
July 23 — Brickyard 400, Speedway, Ind.  
July 30 — Pennsylvania 400, Long Pond, Pa.  
Aug. 6 — Watkins Glen 355, Watkins Glen, N.Y.  
Aug. 13 — Pure Michigan 400, Brooklyn, Mich.  
Aug. 19 — Bass Pro Shops NRA Night Race, Bristol, Tenn.  
Sept. 3 — Bojangles' Southern 500, Darlington, S.C.  
Sept. 9 — Federated Auto Parts 400, Richmond, Va.  
Sept. 17 — Tales of the Turfles 400, Joliet, Ill.  
Sept. 24 — New England 300, Loudon, N.H.  
Oct. 1 — Delaware 400, Dover, Del.  
Oct. 8 — Bank of America 500, Concord, N.C.  
Oct. 15 — Alabama 500, Talladega, Ala.  
Oct. 22 — Hollywood Casino 400, Kansas City, Kan.  
Oct. 29 — Goody's Fast Relief 500, Martinsville, Va.  
Nov. 5 — AAA Texas 500, Fort Worth, Texas  
Nov. 12 — Can-Am 500, Avondale, Ariz.  
Nov. 19 — Ford EcoBoost 400, Homestead, Fla.  
x-points race

### NASCAR XFINITY Schedule-Winners

May 6 — Sparks Energy 300 (Aric Almirola)  
May 27 — Hisense 4k TV 300 (Ryan Blaney)  
June 3 — OneMain Financial 200 (Kyle Larson)  
June 10 — Pocono Green 250 (Brad Keselowski)  
June 17 — Irish Hills 250 (Denny Hamlin)  
June 24 — American Ethanol E15 250 (William Byron)  
June 30 — Subway Firecracker 250, Daytona Beach, Fla.  
July 15 — New Hampshire 200, Loudon, N.H.  
July 22 — Indianapolis 250, Speedway, Ind.  
July 29 — US Cellular 250, Newton, Iowa  
Aug. 5 — Zippo 200 at The Glen, Watkins Glen, N.Y.  
Aug. 12 — Mid-Ohio 200, Lexington, Ohio  
Aug. 18 — Food City 300, Bristol, Tenn.  
Aug. 27 — Johnsonville 180, Elkhart Lake, Wis.  
Sept. 2 — Sport Clips VFW 200, Darlington, S.C.  
Sept. 8 — Virginia 529 College Savings 250, Richmond, Va.  
Sept. 16 — Chicagoland 300, Joliet, Ill.

## GOLF

### PGA Tour Schedule-Winners

June 4-14 — Memorial Tournament (Jason Dufner)  
June 8-11 — FedEx St. Jude Classic (Daniel Berger)  
June 15-18 — U.S. Open, Erin Hills, Hartford, Wis.  
June 22-25 — Travelers Championship (Jordan Spieth)  
June 29-July 2 — Quicken Loans National, TPC Potomac at Aerial Farm, Potomac, Md.  
July 6-9 — The Greenbrier Classic, The Greenbrier (Old White TPC), White Sulphur Springs, W.Va.  
July 13-16 — John Deere Classic, TPC Deere Run, Silvis, Ill.  
July 20-23 — British Open, Royal Birkdale GC, Southport, England  
July 27-30 — RBC Canadian Open, Glen Abbey GC, Oakville, Ontario  
Aug. 3-6 — WGC-Bridgestone Invitational, Firestone CC (South Course), Akron, Ohio  
Aug. 3-6 — Barracuda Championship, Montreux Golf and CC, Reno, Nev.  
Aug. 10-13 — PGA Championship, Quail Hollow Club, Charlotte, N.C.  
Aug. 17-20 — Wyndham Championship, Sedgefield CC, Greensboro, N.C.  
Aug. 24-27 — The Northern Trust, Glen Oaks GC, Old Westbury, N.Y.  
Sept. 1-4 — Deutsche Bank Championship, TPC Boston, Norton, Mass.  
Sept. 14-17 — BMW Championship, Conway Farms GC, Lake Forest, Ill.  
Sept. 21-24 — Tour Championship, East Lake GC, Atlanta  
Sept. 28-Oct. 1 — Presidents Cup, Liberty National GC, Jersey City, N.J.

### LPGA Tour Schedule

June 24-25 — ShopRite LPGA Classic (In-Kyung Kim)  
June 8-11 — Manulife LPGA Classic (Ariya Jutanugarn)  
June 15-18 — Meijer Classic (Brooke M. Henderson)  
June 23-25 — Walmart NW Arkansas Championship (So-Young Ryu)  
June 29-July 2 — KPMG Women's PGA Championship, Olympia Fields CC (North Course), Olympia Fields, Ill.  
July 6-9 — Thornberry Creek LPGA Classic, Thornberry Creek at Chaska, Chaska, Minn.  
July 13-16 — U.S. Women's Open, Trump National GC, Bedminster, N.J.  
July 20-23 — Marathon Classic, Highland Meadows GC, Sylvania, Ohio.  
July 27-30 — Aberdeen Asset Management Ladies Scottish Open, Dundonald Links, North Ayrshire, Scotland

## TENNIS

### Wimbledon Qualifying Results

Wednesday  
At Bank of England Sports Ground Roehampton, England  
Surface: Grass-Outdoor  
Singles  
Men  
Second Round  
Sebastian Ofer, Austria, def. Miljan Zekic, Serbia, 6-4, 6-3.  
Ruben Bemelmans (12), Belgium, def. Mathias Bourgue, France, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.  
Taylor Fritz (21), United States, def. Alejandro Gonzalez, Colombia, 6-1, 6-3.  
John-Patrick Smith, Australia, def. Mackenzie McDonald, United States, 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-3.  
Joris De Loore, Belgium, def. Jozef Koválik, Slovakia, 3-6, 7-5, 6-3.  
Christian Garin, Chile, def. Bjorn Fratangelo (22), United States, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-4.  
Lukas Lacko (4), Slovakia, def. Andre Arnaboldi, Italy, 7-6 (4), 6-4.  
Peter Polans