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SPORTS

UC, XU men's basketball
Both the Bearcats and Musketeers had games canceled on Monday, **Page 6B**



Cincinnati Bearcats Head Coach Luke Fickell says, "I mean, if you're going to have a shot at the title, you've got to beat the champs. This is what we have: We have a shot to beat the champs. Regardless of what the line is, we've said it all year long, 'The best team doesn't always win the game.'" KAREEM ELGAZZAR/THE ENQUIRER

Bengals preparing for 'biggest game of the year'

Kelsey Conway
Cincinnati Enquirer
USA TODAY NETWORK

Cincinnati Bengals Head Coach Zac Taylor is right when he said being 4-1 in the division isn't going to cut it this year. The Bengals need to win at least one more game to win the AFC North and clinch a playoff berth.

"We're 4-1 in the division right now, and we need to be better than that this year, quite frankly," Taylor said. "We know how big of a test this Kansas City game is coming up for us this weekend. It's far and away the biggest game of the year for us."

Week 17 brings an interesting scenario for Taylor and his team. If the Bengals win their next game and the Pittsburgh Steelers beat the Cleveland Browns on Monday Night Football, the Bengals will win the division before entering Week 18. This would mean quarterback Joe Burrow and the rest of the starters could potentially not play and be given an extra week of rest.

But it won't be easy for Cincinnati as their next opponent is arguably the best team in the NFL right now. The Kansas City Chiefs (11-4) are coming to town as the No. 1 seed in the AFC and have already clinched the AFC West. The Chiefs will be playing for something against the Bengals as they try and hold onto the No. 1 seed which would give them a bye during the first round of the playoffs.

The Chiefs are the measuring stick for every team in the AFC in many ways as they have won two straight AFC championships, six consecutive AFC West titles and Super Bowl LIV under head coach Andy Reid. Quarterback Patrick Mahomes, a former NFL MVP, is getting hot at the right time.

After an underwhelming 3-4 start to the season, the Chiefs have rattled off eight wins. Mahomes' All-Pro weapons Travis Kelce and Tyreek Hill are back and continue to play at a high level. The Chiefs rank No. 4 in the NFL in points per game (28.1 ppg).

Many of Kansas City's struggles in the earlier part of the season came on defense. That is no longer the case as the Chiefs are now playing as good as any defense in the NFL. Kansas City ranks No. 4 in scoring defense and are among the league's best at taking the ball away. The Chiefs rank No. 4 in takeaways with 28 so far.

In order for the Bengals to beat the Chiefs, it's likely to come down to three things: Score at least 30 points, don't

See CHIEFS, Page 2B

Bearcats don't care about being underdog

Keith Jenkins
Cincinnati Enquirer
USA TODAY NETWORK

DALLAS – After a quick break for the holidays, the University of Cincinnati football team got back to business Sunday, landing in Texas and setting its sights on the College Football Playoff.

In a fleet of red and black buses with the Cotton Bowl, CFP and C-Paw logos wrapped on the side of them, the Bearcats strolled onto the grounds of the Gaylord Texan Hotel and Convention Center in Grapevine, Texas, and hopped out with the same confidence they showed while completing the first 13-0 season in program history.

It was almost as if No. 4 Cincinnati had no idea it was a 13.5-point underdog to top-ranked and defending national champion Alabama (12-1) in their College Football Playoff semifinal showdown at the Dallas Cowboys'

AT&T Stadium on New Year's Eve. "It doesn't matter," UC Head Coach Luke Fickell said. "We know. We have a good idea. I mean, if you're going to have a shot at the title, you've got to beat the champs. This is what we have: we have a shot to beat the champs. Regardless of what the line is, we've said it all year long, 'The best team doesn't always win the game.' That's just the reality. The teams that play the best win the football game."

Fickell's Bearcats, who won the American Athletic Conference championship for the second straight year, have been a double-digit favorite in nearly every game they've played this season, but that hasn't always translated to double-digit victories. Cincinnati had to eke out wins at then-one-win Navy (27-20) and against an upset-minded Tulsa team (28-20) on homecoming.

Fickell said the "greatest lesson" his team learned during the final stretch of

the season was to just focus on getting the victory and not allow itself to get bogged down in the margin of the win or the outside expectations.

"They wanted us to win this way, and you're favored by this, or you've got to do this. I think it took a toll on us," Fickell said. "I think us kind of getting in our groove the last four games of the season, we kind of put that behind us and said we've just got to be us regardless of if we're favored or if we're underdogs. Do what it is that we do, be us and let's enjoy what it is that we're doing."

What's not behind Cincinnati is COVID-19. Sunday was the first public appearance for Fickell and the Bearcats since the College Football Playoff management committee announced a series of new actions it will take to protect the health and safety of athletes as the omicron variant continues to cause a

See UNDERDOG, Page 4B

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BENGALS SPOTLIGHT

Why the victory over the Ravens was a milestone

Charlie Goldsmith

Cincinnati Enquirer
USA TODAY NETWORK

When Cincinnati Bengals Head Coach Zac Taylor addressed the team following the win over the Baltimore Ravens on Sunday, he immediately acknowledged the lone reason to doubt the significance of the Bengals 41-21 win.

The Ravens played with their third-string quarterback and with a starting secondary decimated by injuries. But Taylor told the team he didn't care about that.

"Don't let anyone try to minimize that win," Taylor said.

It didn't matter that quarterback Josh Johnson, a career backup with no starts since 2018, played the entire game for the Ravens. It didn't matter that Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow recorded his franchise-record 525 passing yards against a secondary with multiple players who have spent most of the year on the practice squad.

On Sunday, the Bengals became the favorites in the AFC North and completed a season sweep over the team that entered the season as division favorites. With the win, the Bengals are now one win away from clinching their first playoff berth since 2015.

"That's still the Baltimore Ravens out there playing meaningful football for them," Taylor said. "Our guys shouldn't apologize for one second for the performance they had. I'm dang proud of those guys for having hung in there for the full course of the game, and for handling the adversity we've had over the course of time, too."

Years from now, when the story is written about the 2021 Bengals, it won't mention Johnson or which players the Ravens had available at cornerback. A tour through Bengals history highlights that all that matters is whether the franchise has taken advantage of the opportunity presented to them.

Just like the most successful teams in Bengals history, the 2021 Bengals are taking advantage of the opportunity.

Looking back at some of the most successful Bengals teams, the opposing quarterbacks they've faced in a few key games have turned into footnotes over time.

In 1981, the Bengals broke through a half-decade of looking up at the Steelers with a division clinching win at this exact same point of the season. Earlier this week, former Bengals quarterback Ken Anderson called that game one of the most memorable wins of his career.

Forty years later, it doesn't matter that Steelers starting quarterback Terry Bradshaw was out with an injury for that game. Mark Malone, who threw five interceptions and three touchdowns in three starts that season, was the starting quarterback that day for the Steelers.

The Bengals last playoff win came over the Houston Oilers on Jan. 6, 1991. Houston's quarterback was backup Cody Carlson, who was making his second start of the entire season in the playoffs. Starter Warren Moon was injured, and Carlson completed just 16 of 33 passes for 165 yards with an interception.

Thirty years later, the fact that Moon was injured doesn't change this game being the Bengals most recent playoff win.

The Bengals have been on both sides of this



Cincinnati Bengals cornerback Eli Apple (20) and free safety Jessie Bates III (30) celebrate a stop in the fourth quarter against the Baltimore Ravens at Paul Brown Stadium on Sunday.

SAM GREENE/THE ENQUIRER

coin before 2021. They've won season-changing matchups against a backup from the other team, and they've lost playoff games when their quarterback was hurt.

The 2015 Bengals team, which had one of the most talented rosters in franchise history, played the stretch run without starting quarterback Andy Dalton. His absence was one detail in the playoff collapse that ended the season, overshadowed by the memories of Jeremy Hill's fumble and the two penalties the Bengals committed on the following drive.

Those facts didn't make the 1981 win less of a breakthrough or the 2015 collapse any less of a disappointment.

For the moment, karma is breaking the Bengals way. At this time last year, Burrow was struggling through taking his first steps post ACL surgery. Now, he has a case as the best quarterback in the AFC North and a top-10 quarterback in the NFL. Against the Ravens, Burrow had a franchise record 525 passing yards and showed how much progress he has made taking shots down the field. On Sunday, the Bengals were missing just three starters: defensive tackle D.J. Reader, linebacker Logan Wilson and right tackle Riley Reiff. Running back Joe Mixon, who left last week's win over the Denver Broncos with an ankle injury, didn't even miss a snap in practice this week. Against the Ravens, Mixon scored two touchdowns and added 135 total yards.

Wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase, who's playing the longest season of his football career, had 125 receiving yards. Wide receiver Tee Higgins, who battled through a shoulder injury early in the year, is now fully healthy and set a career-high on Sunday with 194 yards.

In Bengals history, the breakthrough moments have had no concern about who was healthy and who wasn't. It's been a combination of talent and opportunity. The 2021 Bengals now have as good of an opportunity as any Bengals team in a long time. With the win over the Ravens on Sunday, the Bengals became the clear favorites in the AFC North.

They're one win away from the division title and have a shot at accomplishing more.

COMMENTARY

What we learned from Bengals 41, Ravens 21



Paul Daugherty

Columnist
Cincinnati Enquirer
USA TODAY
NETWORK

Calling it Ten Things, without numbering it.

Joy in Mudville this AM. The most significant player in the history of the Bengals franchise – said it when he was drafted, will say it when he retires – broke the Bengals record for passing yards. Bengals win in a romp that revealed their strengths, which grow with every game, and one flaw, which needs to be fixed ASAP.

Joe Burrow and Zac Taylor conspired to drop a major butt-whippin' on the Ravens Sunday. You loved it. Why wouldn't you? For weeks and years and decades, you've watched the Men be on the receiving end of Ls such as the one they delivered Sunday to B-more. Turnabout is fair play. If were a Bengals fan, I'd be delighted, too.

They don't pay me for that. I'm not a cheerleader. The pay isn't very good, I'd pull too many muscles and I'd look kinda sketchy in one of those outfits.

What I saw, without the rose-colored shades, exceptional and not so exceptional:

Burrow, given time, playing like he was joy-sticking a video game. Making the Ravens look like everybody's favorite Homecoming opponent, barely a year after a terrible knee injury. Remarkable.

Higgins, Boyd, Chase, quite possibly the best trio of wideouts in the game.

A 19-play drive that resulted in a field goal. Abject domination.

A team that came not only prepared, but out for serious blood. . .

That barring epic collapse, will win the AFC North.

What else I saw:

The Bengals, ahead in the 4th quarter by 13 and then 21 points, intending to pass the ball on 14 consecutive plays. Ahead 41-21 with 8:02 left, Burrow intended to chuck it six times in a six-play possession that ended with a missed 50-yard field goal. He was sacked twice on that

possession. What if he'd gotten hurt? There wouldn't have been enough daggers on the planet you'd want to throw at Taylor.

This isn't how the best teams do things. One, because opponents remember games such as 41-21 and how it was accomplished. And someday, maybe soon, they will return the favor. The Ravens will play the Bengals when the Ravens have a genuine NFL team, not that traveling emergency room that limped into PBS, and they will make it harder on the Bengals than necessary. John Harbaugh won't have to remind his players next fall of what occurred yesterday. And that'll be on Zac Taylor.

If this were an isolated incident, we'd chalk it up to a young team's giddiness and let it slide. It's more of a trend. Players have said lately how good the team is. Players have congratulated themselves on their great play. Taylor has said no one wants to play the Bengals and that his defense had made the proverbial "statement" after beating a sad Broncos offense a couple Sundays ago.

I don't recall hearing Belichick or Reid say those things. Or Tomlin or Harbaugh, for that matter. Someone asked Harbaugh about the pile-on. "They call their plays, we call our plays," he said. It's called humility.

I understand how a young coach with a young team trying to overhaul an organizational attitude would do what Taylor's doing. And good for him. It's working, at the moment.

But at some point, hopefully soon, the Bengals rein in all this bravado. Or at least save it until they win something. Remember how high we were on them – and how high they were on themselves – at 5-2? At 7-4?

This has been the craziest of seasons. The Bengals are a couple major COVID cases from being the Ravens. They're a couple big hurts from being Cleveland. They are the best team in the worst division in football. That is remarkable, no snark intended. Now, keep your heads down, assume nothing, play the game and let the rest of the world tell you how good you are.

Chiefs

Continued from Page 1B

turn the ball over and eliminate explosive plays on defense.

Easier said than done.

"Our guys are going to be ready, and we're going to do a great job of getting rested and getting our best focus," Taylor said. "We've got a huge challenge coming to town, and our guys are going to be ready for it."

Bengals wide receiver Tyler Boyd didn't deny this is the biggest game of Cincinnati's season. Boyd has seen from afar how good the Chiefs have been over the last few years and believes if the Bengals want to contend in late January and into February, they'll need to play their best on Sunday.

"I think they're the best," Boyd said of the Chiefs. "They're the hot team right now in the AFC. They are the top team. You know, like I said, if we can beat them guys, then that will let us know how talented and how far we can take this because they're a great team and they won the AFC championship two years in a row now, so this is definitely going to be a huge statement game for us to go out there and play our best football."



Bengals Head Coach Zac Taylor says, "Our guys are going to be ready, and we're going to do a great job of getting rested and getting our best focus. We've got a huge challenge coming to town, and our guys are going to be ready for it." SAM GREENE/ENQUIRER

NFL ROUNDUP

Kansas City wins its 6th straight AFC West title

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Patrick Mahomes threw for 258 yards and three touchdowns, Byron Pringle caught two of the TD passes, and the Kansas City Chiefs beat the Pittsburgh Steelers 36-10 on Sunday to clinch their sixth consecutive AFC West title.

The Chiefs (11-4) remained a game ahead of Tennessee for first place in the AFC with their eighth straight win. That would give them the conference's lone first-round bye and home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs.

Clyde Edwards-Helaire had a touchdown run for Kansas City before leaving early in the second half with a collarbone injury. Darrel Williams and Derrick Gore carried the load the rest of the way with Williams running for 55 yards and Gore adding 43 yards on the ground and three catches for 61 yards.

The Steelers became the first team in NFL history to trail by at least 23 points at halftime in three straight road games. Already on the playoff bubble, Pittsburgh (7-7-1) dropped further behind the Bengals (9-6) in the AFC North.

Ben Roethlisberger threw for 159 yards with a late fourth-quarter touchdown for Pittsburgh, along with throwing an interception and losing a fumble. Najee Harris added 93 yards rushing.

RAIDERS 17, BRONCOS 13: Josh Jacobs rushed for 129 yards and Las Vegas came from behind to defeat Denver and stay relevant in the AFC playoff picture.

With the win, the Raiders (8-7) severely damaged the postseason chances for AFC West rival Denver (7-8), which dropped its third game in the last four.

Las Vegas quarterback Derek Carr completed 20 of 25 passes for 201 yards with one touchdown and an interception. Zay Jones had six receptions for 50 yards and Hunter Renfrow had three catches for 40 yards and one touchdown.

COWBOYS 56, WASHINGTON 14: Dak Prescott threw four touchdown passes, DeMarcus Lawrence returned



Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes threw for 258 yards and three touchdowns in a 36-10 win over the Steelers on Sunday. REED HOFFMANN/AP

an interception for a score and Dallas celebrated clinching the NFC East title before kickoff with a rout of Washington.

The Cowboys (11-4) tied the franchise record for points in a first half while taking a 42-7 lead and frustrating Washington to the point that defensive tackles Jonathan Allen and Daron Payne scuffled on the sideline.

Dallas didn't need to win to add the division title to the playoff berth that was sealed with San Francisco's loss to Tennessee three nights earlier.

Las Vegas' 17-13 victory over Denver took care of that about an hour before kickoff.

Prescott and company didn't seem to care, and scored the franchise's most points, playoffs included, since a 59-14 victory over San Francisco in 1980. Washington (6-9) allowed its most points since 2010 in the most-lopsided loss for either team in a storied rivalry played 123 times.

BEARS 25, SEAHAWKS 24: Jimmy Graham caught a 15-yard touchdown pass from Nick Foles with 1:01 remaining, Damiere Byrd made an acrobatic reception for the 2-point conversion and Chicago Bears (5-10) beat Seattle (5-10).

NFL NOTEBOOK

Panthers send players home after 6 positive

Steve Reed
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina – The Carolina Panthers have sent all of their players home from Bank of America Stadium after six more players tested positive for COVID-19 on Monday.

That brings the total number of Carolina players on the COVID-19 reserve list to 13. Defensive end Brian Burns, linebacker Shaq Thompson, defensive end Marquis Haynes, defensive tackle Phil Hoskins, center Matt Paradis and defensive tackle Daviyon Nixon all tested positive on Monday. Paradis and Nixon were already on injured reserve.

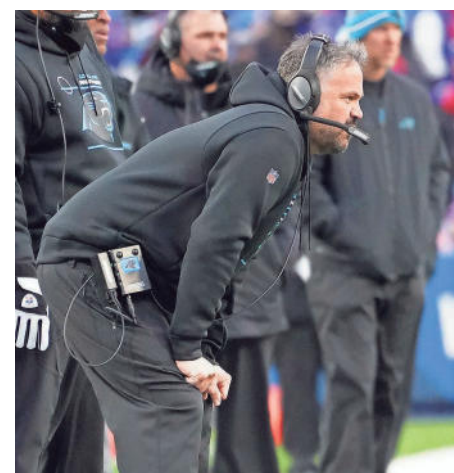
Panthers coach Matt Rhule said the decision to send players home was made "to stem the tide" and get things under control. The team will conduct its meetings virtually until then, and Rhule is hoping to have players back in the building for practice on Wednesday.

The Panthers lost 32-6 to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Sunday and have been eliminated from playoff contention. They visit the New Orleans Saints on Sunday. Also:

- The Cincinnati Bengals placed backup quarterback Brandon Allen and already-injured cornerback/kick returner Darius Phillips on the reserve/COVID-19 list on Monday. Phillips (shoulder), who was the Bengals' primary kick returner, has been on injured reserve since Dec. 9. Allen has been the No. 2 quarterback behind starter Joe Burrow. The team will likely have to add a quarterback to the roster.

- The Jacksonville Jaguars placed 10 players on the COVID-19 list Monday, including five defensive linemen and two starting offensive linemen. Because left guard Andrew Norwell is unvaccinated, he will be out at least 10 days under NFL protocols and will miss Sunday's game at New England. The other nine players are vaccinated and have a chance to play against the Pats.

- The Tennessee Titans got left guard Rodger Saffold and rookie defensive back Elijah Molden back from the COVID-19 list. They still have two other



Panthers Coach Matt Rhule said the decision to send players home was made "to stem the tide" and get things under control. GETTY IMAGES

offensive linemen still on the list, and they also put four players – including three starters – on the it, including outside linebacker Bud Dupree, wide receiver Julio Jones, defensive back Buster Skrine and receiver Nick Westbrook-Ikhine. They also put cornerback Caleb Farley, who's on injured reserve, on the COVID-19 list.

- The Cleveland Browns, who have been hit as hard as any team by COVID-19 cases the past few weeks, activated eight players, including defensive end Jadeveon Clowney and versatile running back Kareem Hunt. Starting left tackle Jedrick Wills Jr. is also back.

- Tampa Bay, hard hit by injuries on offense, put star wideout Mike Evans on the COVID-19 list, but activated wide receiver Breshad Perriman from it. Evans missed Sunday's game with an injury. Wide receivers coach Kevin Garver also went on the list.

- The Indianapolis Colts placed safety Jahleel Addae, cornerback T.J. Carrie, linebacker Malik Jefferson, running back Marlon Mack and tackle Braden Smith on the list. Smith has been a key member of the offensive line that has helped Jonathan Taylor lead the league in rushing.

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UC FOOTBALL

How the Bearcats' defense matches up against the Alabama run game

Bobby Nightengale

Cincinnati Enquirer
USA TODAY NETWORK

When a team has a Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback, it's not a surprise the running game isn't the focal point of the offense.

The University of Alabama football team's run game might be the one area where it wasn't dominant in the final weeks of the regular season. The Tide didn't rush for more than 115 yards against each of their last four Southeastern Conference (SEC) opponents, averaging 2.4 yards per attempt in those games against LSU, Arkansas, Auburn and Georgia.

Stopping the run will be integral for the University of Cincinnati Bearcats, which should already have their hands full with quarterback Bryce Young and star receiver Jameson Williams. The Bearcats rank 45th in the country in rushing yards allowed per game (137.5), but they're the 13th-best team in rushing yards per attempt (3.33).

"They are very active, they are very aggressive," Alabama Head Coach Nick Saban said of Cincinnati's defense. "They're a good group. They play a 3-3 stack. They slide over to a four-down front sometimes. They plug a lot of backers. They have a lot of good pressures. They play a lot of man-to-man, but they change it up quite a bit. They play very well together as a team. They don't make a lot of mistakes."

Alabama senior running back Brian Robinson Jr., who has totaled 1,071 yards and 14 touchdowns this year, was slowed a bit in the final two games of the regular season because of a strained hamstring. He totaled 32 carries for 126 yards and zero touchdowns against Auburn and Georgia, two schools that rank among the best run defenses in the country.

"There is a reason they've been in the playoffs seven out of the eight times that they've had the playoffs," Cincinnati Head Coach Luke Fickell said. "Obviously, we all know about their skill. I think sometimes you don't recognize what they've really got up front on both sides of the ball. To me, that's where the big matchups have got to be."

The Bearcats have allowed three 100-yard rushers this season and two of them came in the same game against Tulsa. They've been solid against the run when they've played Power Five opponents, holding Notre Dame to 84 yards on 28 carries (3.0 per attempt). Indiana had 152 yards on 37 attempts (4.1 average) and Georgia was limited to 45 yards on 24 carries in last year's Peach Bowl. Senior linebacker Joel Dublanko is key to their run-stopping efforts with a team-high 106 tackles. When the Bearcats pulled away from Houston in the third quarter of the AAC Championship, arguably their best quarter of football this season, it was Darrian Beavers and Myjai Sanders shutting down Houston's run game.

"They do the things they need to do to have success together as a group and they've got some very talented guys," Saban said.



Alabama senior running back Brian Robinson Jr., who has totaled 1,071 yards and 14 touchdowns this year, was slowed a bit in the final two games of the regular season because of a strained hamstring. He totaled 32 carries for 126 yards and zero touchdowns against Auburn and Georgia. USA TODAY SPORTS

"They've got a good secondary. They've got some guys up front that can rush and have some quickness and their linebackers are very good players. All around, this is a really good defensive team."

If the Bearcats, a 13½ point underdog, can shut down the Tide's rushing attack, it will at least afford them a better chance of aiming their focus on slowing Young.

"I think the legacy of any team is how you finish," Saban said. "That's how you'll be remembered. So, it's a great opportunity that our players have and now it's time to focus on taking advantage of it."

Underdog

Continued from Page 1B

significant spike in coronavirus cases.

According to the CFP, if any of the four CFP semifinalists is unable to play due to a COVID-19 outbreak, the unavailable team will forfeit, and its opponent will advance to the national championship. If both teams are unavailable, the game would be declared a no contest.

If three teams are unable to play, the lone semifinalist remaining would be declared the national champion.

According to the CFP, there would potentially be an opportunity to reschedule the national championship game but no later than Jan. 14, four days after the original date. If the game can't be played in that window, the team with the COVID-19 outbreak would have to forfeit. If both teams are unable to play, it would be declared a no-contest without a national champion being crowned.

Fickell, who allowed his players to go home for three-plus days to spend time with their families before returning to Cincinnati and then traveling to Texas, said he, his staff and his players are fully aware of the virus but won't "dwell" on it.

"We've got a very mature group that understands what they're here to do and understands that that means they're going to have to have some sacrifices that maybe they wouldn't on a normal six-day bowl trip or five-day bowl trip where they can go out and do some things," Fickell said. "So we'll be smart about who we're around. We'll be smart about where we're going. But we're going to be us and we're going to continue to do what it is that we've done all year. We've found a way for it to work for us."

Cincinnati has its first practice of the week Monday inside the Cowboys' practice facility.

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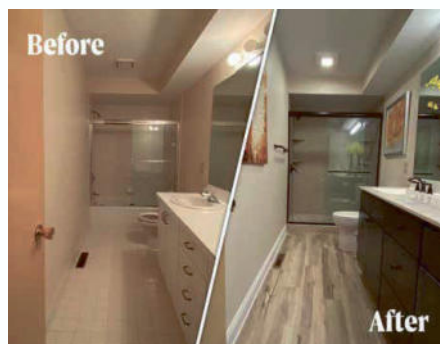
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Business Booms Despite Pandemic



When sports anchor Tony Rizzo and his wife, Lisa, were ready for a bathroom overhaul, they called Bath R Us to do the job—fast and affordably.

In the short span of 16 months, bathroom remodeling company Bath R Us has gone from a fledgling start-up to an institution. It began with one employee (owner Chad Howman) and has grown to more than 40, with nine service trucks and has just moved to a new headquarters in Medina. The family-owned and operated company began in Cleveland in March of 2020, then expanded into the Columbus, Toledo, and most recently the Cincinnati market.

"Last year on March 10, I was sitting by myself in a Chicago hotel room poring over all the materials about bathroom renovation from training with a company whose products I was interested in," says Howman. "I had just left my last job, it was my 40th birthday, I turned on the news and it was announcing the shutdown due to Covid. Not the best timing, right? Yet, I decided to move forward. I believed in serving the niche of luxury bathroom renovation with ultra-durable products that are affordable and beautiful."

Chad Howman founded Bath R Us in March of 2020 to fill a much-needed niche—homeowners who want the luxurious look of marble, quartz, granite, and subway tile, but don't want to (or can't) pay a contractor \$40,000 to get it.

Since that less-than-ideal launch date, the formula has proven to be a smashing success, transforming more than 700 bathrooms in the Cleveland and Columbus areas and expanding their business to the Toledo and Cincinnati areas.

Chad and his wife, Stephanie are proud to have built a team of employees, especially during these challenging times.

"Everywhere you look you hear about the labor shortage and businesses that are suffering and just trying to stay open due to lack of good employees," says Chad. "I feel blessed to have a fine group of people working here, with more apprentices joining us all the time once they hear this is a rewarding place to work."

Quality Materials at Customer Friendly Prices

Howman says many of their customers are getting rid of the tubs in their primary baths in favor of the high-end showers. Therefore, he works exclusively with a Chicago-based manufacturer that makes ultra-durable, high-tech, polymer showers and tubs that mimic granite, marble, quartz, and subway tiles. Perfect for any style, the panels are 100% waterproof, man-made, and easy to clean, as there are very few seams, which are fused by caulk, not grout. The product is so well-made, it comes with a lifetime warranty from the manufacturer and a 10-year warranty on workmanship.

"We selected the best-in-class products," says Howman. "To make the experience easy and convenient for the customer, we come to their home to do our initial consultation, going over samples and ideas."

Every one of these modern, durable tubs and showers are custom-built and manufactured right here in the United States. These aren't overlays. A Bath R Us certified factory technician will tear out the existing shower or tub and replace it with your selected options in just days.

"People are bowled over when they find out the showers come with a lifetime warranty and the workmanship with a ten-year warranty," he adds. The construction portion of the job is as painless as the consultation. Most jobs are completed within three to four days.

Say Yes to Less Stress

"People are looking to add a more modern and luxurious spa-like feeling to their bathroom," Howman says. "We can make that happen."

One of the roadblocks to pulling the trigger on a bathroom renovation is the underlying thought of having workers you've never met trampling through your house for who knows how long. Busy folks don't have the time to research, filter, and oversee contractors for a lengthy and overwhelming remodel process, even if it means getting rid of that hideous prefab, builder-grade shower, and oversized Jacuzzi tub that no one ever uses.

Getting the bath of your dreams doesn't have to be a nightmare.

The professionals at Bath R Us have a winning formula for busy professionals. They produce luxury bathroom rehabs that are budget-friendly in a handful of days at most. The installers are friendly, conscientious, and seasoned. To make selection and planning a snap, they even come to your home for the initial consultation, bringing lots of samples to see how they will look in your bathroom.

In addition to the many style options, customers can choose the type of bath that suits their lifestyle. Tub-to-shower conversions and replacement showers can add true value to your home and walk-in tubs help some older homeowners stay safe.

In less than a week and for a fraction of the price, you could be luxuriating in a Bath R Us bathroom makeover.

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MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Baylor stays No. 1 in AP Top 25, Michigan State up to No. 10

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A combination of cancellations and the holidays made for a quiet week in college basketball.

The latest Associated Press poll reflected the light week.

Baylor remained No. 1 for the third straight week in the poll released Monday, receiving all 61 first-place votes from a national media panel. The Bears (11-0) had 60 first-place votes a week ago and were a unanimous selection this week with a blowout win over Alcorn State and Arizona's loss to Tennessee.

The top five remained the same from last week, with Duke, Purdue, Gonzaga and UCLA behind Baylor.

The Blue Devils were among several ACC teams to postpone games this week due to COVID-19 protocols, shelving games against Clemson on Wednesday and Notre Dame on Saturday.

Arizona dropped three spots to No. 9 after losing for the first time this season, 77-73 at Tennessee last Wednesday. The Wildcats had been one of the nation's best offensive teams during their undefeated start but were smothered by the Vols, scoring 11 points below their season average.

"We weren't able to get a lot of post touches," Arizona coach Tommy Lloyd said. "At the end of the day, there's usually one recipe. The recipe is, toughen up."

Tennessee (9-2) hasn't had much trouble with toughness this season.

The Vols' only two losses were to then-No. 5 Villanova and No. 25 Texas Tech in overtime. Tennessee is 21st nationally in scoring defense, holding teams to 59.3 points, and is forcing nearly 18 turnovers a game.

The Vols jumped on Arizona with an opening 16-2 run and withstood a late run to pull out their biggest win of the season.

"We talked about it being a heavyweight fight, which it was," Tennessee coach Rick Barnes said. "It was a hard-fought win. We knew they would make a push to get back in it."

The Vols have another test coming out of the Christmas break, playing at No. 19 Alabama on Wednesday.

WOMEN'S POLL: A relatively quiet week because of the holidays left the Associated Press women's college basketball poll mostly unchanged.

South Carolina remained the unanimous No. 1, receiving all 30 first-place votes from a national media panel Monday. The Gamecocks staved off another challenge from a top opponent, rallying to beat No. 2 Stanford, 65-61, last Tuesday. Coach Dawn Staley's squad has beat five top-10 teams this season, including the No. 2 team twice.

The Cardinal stayed at No. 2 because of their strong showing against the Gamecocks. Louisville, Arizona and North Carolina State held their spots in the top five.



Guard Mike Saunders Jr. and the Cincinnati Bearcats men's basketball team will be awarded a forfeit win, and Houston will be assessed a forfeit loss, after Tuesday's game was canceled. SAM GREENE/ENQUIRER

UC men's hoops earns forfeit win; Houston game is canceled

Enquirer News Services

The American Athletic Conference men's basketball game between the University of Cincinnati and Houston scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 28, in Houston has been canceled due to the number of student-athletes available at Houston because of COVID-19.

The game will be considered a no-contest by the NCAA. As per conference policy and for the purpose of conference standings only, Cincinnati will be awarded a forfeit win and Houston will be assessed a forfeit loss.

In light of the changing public health environment, the conference's athletic directors will meet this week to determine if changes need to be made to the league's current policy.

Cincinnati (10-3) returns to action on Saturday, Jan. 1, at home against Tulane. Tipoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. ET.

WEDNESDAY'S UC WOMEN'S GAME AGAINST LIPSCOMB CANCELED: The UC women's basketball non-conference matchup against Lipscomb scheduled for Wednesday at Fifth Third Arena has been canceled due to COVID-19 protocols.

The Bearcats will return to action on Saturday, Jan. 1, to tip off American Athletic Conference action on the road at Tulsa. Tipoff is scheduled for 2 p.m. ET, and the game will air on ESPN+.

XU cancels two games in one day

Adam Baum
Cincinnati Enquirer
USA TODAY NETWORK

Monday was not a great day if you're a Xavier University men's basketball fan. First, the Big East Conference announced that Xavier's Jan. 4 trip to Washington, D.C., is canceled because of COVID-19 issues within Georgetown's program. Then, a few hours after head coach Travis Steele held his pre-game press conference in advance of Tuesday's home game against Connecticut, the league announced that Tuesday's game is canceled because of COVID-19 issues within UConn's program. The league is referring to these games as "canceled," but in reality, they're closer to postponements. Initially, the Big East instituted a forfeit policy if teams were unable to play due to COVID-19, but the league reversed that decision last week as a "result of the recent sudden and significant increases in the number of COVID-19 cases nationally and within Big East programs due to the spread of the Omicron variant." Under the new policy, conference games are now canceled in the event a school has fewer than seven scholarship players and one coach available for a game. The conference office will attempt to reschedule those games and in the event it cannot be rescheduled, the canceled game will be designated as a no contest. XU's last game was Dec. 21 at Villanova. With its next two scheduled games canceled, Xavier is looking at 17 days between games until Jan. 7 when XU visits Butler.

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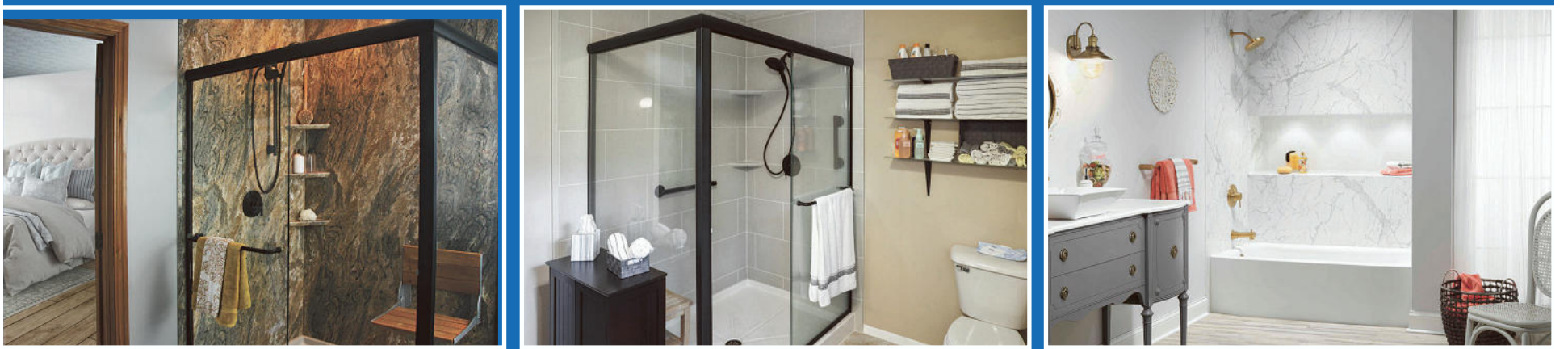
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LOCAL SCOREBOARD

PRO FOOTBALL										
Cincinnati Bengals										
Statistics after 15 games										
PASSING	ATT.	COM	YARDS	TD	INT	RATE				
Burrow	481	336	4165	30	14	105.0				
Boyd	1	1	46	0	0	118.8				
B.Allen	4	2	13	1	0	96.9				
TEAM	486	339	3885	31	14	105.7				
OPPONENTS	567	377	3792	22	12	91.5				
RUSHING	ATT.	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD					
Mixon	280	1159	4.1	32	13					
Perine	54	242	4.5	46	1					
Burrow	35	108	3.1	12	2					
C.Evans	10	42	4.2	13	0					
Boyd	2	22	11.0	14	0					
Chase	7	21	3.0	10	0					
T.Williams	6	13	2.2	6	0					
B.Allen	5	-4	-0.8	0	0					
TEAM	399	1603	4.0	46	16					
OPPONENTS	343	1382	4.0	70	12					
RECEIVING	NO.	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD					
Higgins	71	1029	14.5	54	6					
Chase	68	1163	17.1	82	10					
Boyd	63	792	12.6	68	4					
Uzomah	45	461	10.2	55	5					
Mixon	35	274	7.8	52	3					
Perine	26	186	7.2	23	1					
C.Evans	11	127	11.5	24	1					
D.Sample	10	73	7.3	19	0					
Mik.Thomas	5	52	10.4	19	0					
Tate	3	39	13.0	18	1					
Irwin	1	25	25.0	25	0					
Morgan	1	3	3.0	3	0					
TEAM	339	4224	12.5	82	31					
OPPONENTS	377	4063	10.8	60	22					
INTERCEPTIONS	NO.	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD					
L.Wilson	4	31	7.8	18	0					
Apple	2	50	25.0	50	0					
Awuzie	2	42	21.0	42	0					
Bates	1	65	65.0	65	0					
Hilton	1	24	24.0	24	1					
Bell	1	15	15.0	15	0					
Pratt	1	4	4.0	4	0					
TEAM	12	231	19.2	65	1					
OPPONENTS	14	257	18.4	99	2					
SACKS	NO.	YARDS	LONG	BLK						
Hendrickson	14	14.0								
Hubbard	7.5									
Ogunjobi	7.0									
B.Hill	5.5									
Reader	2.0									
C.Sample	1.5									
L.Wilson	1.0									
Bailey	0.5									
Bell	0.5									
Pratt	0.5									
TEAM	41.0									
OPPONENTS	47.0									
PUNTING	NO.	YARDS	LONG	BLK						
Huber	56	2635	61	0						
TEAM	56	2635	61	0						
OPPONENTS	67	3021	64	0						
PUNT RETURNS	NO.	FC	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD				
Irwin	3	0	31	10.3	15	0				
Taylor	5	0	38	7.6	12	0				
Phillips	25	0	177	7.1	17	0				
Boyd	1	0	1	1.0	1	0				
TEAM	34	0	247	7.3	17	0				
OPPONENTS	22	0	183	8.3	21	0				
KICKOFF RETURNS	NO.	YARDS	AVG	LONG	TD					
B.Wilson	13	291	22.4	44	0					
Phillips	8	169	21.1	32	0					
P.Williams	3	52	17.3	25	0					
Taylor	4	68	17.0	25	0					
Morgan	2	22	11.0	18	0					
Pratt	1	2	2.0	2	0					
TEAM	31	604	19.5	44	0					
OPPONENTS	30	647	21.6	48	0					
FUMBLES/RECOVERIES	FUM	REC.	REC.							
B.Allen	0	1	0							
Apple	1	1	0							
Bates	0	0	1							
Bell	0	0	1							
Boyd	1	1	0							
Burrow	5	1	0							
Chase	2	0	0							
Flowers	0	1	0							
Higgins	1	0	0							
T.Hill	1	0	0							
Hubbard	0	0	2							
Kareem	0	0	1							
Mixon	2	2	0							
Phillips	5	4	0							
Pratt	0	0	2							
Reiff	0	1	0							
TEAM	17	9	7							

BIG 12 CONFERENCE									
CG	W	L	AG	W	L				
Iowa St.	0	0	12	0	0				
Baylor	0	0	11	0	0				
West Virginia	0	0	11	1	0				
TCU	0	0	10	1	0				
Kansas	0	0	9	1	0				
Oklahoma	0	0	10	2	0				
Texas	0	0	9	2	0				
Texas Tech	0	0	9	2	0				
Kansas St.	0	0	8	3	0				
Oklahoma St.	0	0	7	4	0				
Tuesday's Games									
Alabama St. at Texas Tech, 2 p.m.									
Northwestern St. at Baylor, 8 p.m.									
Incarinate Word at Texas, 8:30 p.m.									
Wednesday's Games									
Texas Southern at TCU, 4 p.m.									
Harvard at Kansas, 8 p.m.									
North Florida at Kansas St., 8 p.m.									
Morgan St. at Kansas St., p.p.d.									
BIG EAST CONFERENCE									
CG	W	L	AG	W	L				
Providence	1	0	11	1	0				
Creighton	1	0	9	3	0				
Xavier	1	1	11	2	0				
UConn	1	1	10	3	0				
Villanova	1	1	8	4	0				
DePaul	0	0	9	1	0				
Seton Hall	0	0	9	1	0				
St. John's	0	0	8	3	0				
Butler	0	0	7	4	0				
Marquette	0	2	8	5	0				
Georgetown	0	0	6	5	0				
Tuesday's Games									
UConn at Xavier, 7 p.m.									
Georgetown at Creighton, p.p.d.									
BIG TEN CONFERENCE									
CG	W	L	AG	W	L				
Michigan St.	2	0	10	2	0				
Ohio St.	2	0	8	2	0				
Illinois	2	0	9	3	0				
Northwestern	1	0	8	2	0				
Purdue	1	1	11	1	0				
Minnesota	1	1	10	1	0				
Indiana	1	1	10	2	0				
Wisconsin	1	1	9	2	0				
Michigan	1	1	7	4	0				
Rutgers	1	1	5	5	0				
Iowa	0	2	9	3	0				
Maryland	0	1	6	4	0				
Penn St.	0	2	5	5	0				
Nebraska	0	2	6	7	0				
Tuesday's Games									
New Orleans at Ohio St., 6:30 p.m.									
Wednesday's Games									
High Point at Michigan St., 3 p.m.									
Nicholls at Purdue, 5 p.m.									
Delaware St. at Penn St., 6 p.m.									
UNC-Asheville at Indiana, 7 p.m.									
W. Illinois at Iowa, 8 p.m.									
Alcorn St. at Minnesota, 8 p.m.									
Illinois St. at Wisconsin, 8 p.m.									
Florida A&M at Illinois, 9 p.m.									
HORIZON LEAGUE									
CG	W	L	AG	W	L				
Cleveland St.	2	0	6	3	0				
Oakland	2	0	7	4	0				
Youngstown St.	2	0	7	4	0				
Detroit	2	0	4	7	0				
Fort Wayne	1	1	5	5	0				
Wright St.	1	1	4	7	0				
Milwaukee	1	1	3	8	0				
Green Bay	1	1	2	9	0				
Ill.-Chicago	0	2	4	7	0				
N. Kentucky	0	2	4	7	0				
Robert Morris	0	2	2	9	0				
IUPUI	0	2	1	10	0				
MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE									
CG	W	L	AG	W	L				
Ohio	0	0	9	2	0				
Toledo	0	0	8	3	0				
Akron	0	0	7	3	0				
Bowling Green	0	0	7	4	0				
Buffalo	0	0	6	4	0				
Miami U.	0	0	6	5	0				
Kent St.	0	0	5	5	0				
Ball St.	0	0	5	6	0				
E. Michigan	0	0	5	6	0				
W. Michigan	0	0	4	7	0				
N. Illinois	0	0	3	7	0				
Cent. Michigan	0	0	1	10	0				

Tuesday's Games									
E. Michigan at Ohio, 7 p.m.									
Ball St. at N. Illinois, 8 p.m.									
Wednesday's Games									
Miami U. at Buffalo, 4 p.m.									
Cent. Michigan at Kent St., 4:30 p.m.									
Akron at Bowling Green, 7 p.m.									
W. Michigan at Toledo, 7 p.m.									
PACIFIC-12 CONFERENCE									
CG	All	W	L	AG	W	L			
Southern Cal	2	0	12	0	0	0			
Arizona	1	0	11	1	0	0			
UCLA	1	0	8	1	0	0			
Colorado	1	1	9	3	0	0			
Stanford	1	1	8	4	0	0			
Utah	1	1	8	4	0	0			
California	1	1	8	5	0	0			
Washington St.	1	1	8	5	0	0			
Arizona St.	1	1	5	7	0	0			
Oregon	0	2	7	6	0	0			
Washington	0	0	5	5	0	0			
Oregon St.	0	2	2	10	0	0			
Tuesday's Games									
Sacramento St. at Oregon St., 5:30 p.m.									
Wednesday's Games									
Washington at Washington St., 11 p.m.									
SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE									
CG	All	W	L	AG	W	L			
LSU	0	0	12	0	0	0			
Auburn	0	0	11	1	0	0			
Arkansas	0	0	10	2	0	0			
Kentucky	0	0	9	2	0	0			
Tennessee	0	0	9	2	0	0			
Texas A&M	0	0	9	2	0	0			
Alabama	0	0	9	3	0	0			
Florida	0	0	9	3	0	0			
Mississippi St.	0	0	9	3	0	0			
South Carolina	0	0	9	3	0	0			
Mississippi	0	0	8	4	0	0			
Vanderbilt	0	0	8	4	0	0			
Missouri	0	0	6	6	0	0			
Georgia	0	0	5	7	0	0			
Monday's Games									

THE BACKSTOP

SCOREBOARD



Odds available as of print deadline

NCAAF			
Favorite	Spread	O/U	ML
AUBURN	1.5	51.5	-125
LOUISVILLE	1.5	54.5	-120
MISSISSIPPI St	9.5	58.5	-350
NC STATE	2.5	59.5	-135
MINNESOTA	3.5	44.5	-205

Tuesday			
Favorite	Spread	O/U	ML
Maryland	1.5	44.5	-120
OKLAHOMA	4.5	59.5	-200

Thursday			
Favorite	Spread	O/U	ML
N. Carolina	9.5	58.5	-350
Tennessee	4.5	63.5	-200
MICHIGAN ST.	2.5	55.5	-140
Wisconsin	5.5	44.5	-240

Friday			
Favorite	Spread	O/U	ML
Wake Forest	14.5	61.5	-600

Saturday			
Favorite	Spread	O/U	ML
ARKANSAS	1.5	48.5	-103
NOTRE DAME	2.5	45.5	-130
KENTUCKY	3.5	44.5	-145
Ohio State	6.5	65.5	-230
OLE MISS	1.5	55.5	-120

Sunday			
Favorite	Spread	O/U	ML
TITANS	3.5	41.5	-190
BEARS	5.5	38.5	-270
COLTS	7.5	45.5	-380
Chiefs	4.5	48.5	-210
PATRIOTS	14.5	41.5	-1400
Buccaneers	13.5	45.5	-900
Eagles	3.5	45.5	-170
SAINTS	6.5	38.5	-320
BILLS	14.5	44.5	-1200
CHARGERS	5.5	45.5	-250
49ERS	14.5	44.5	-1200
SEAHAWKS	7.5	42.5	-380
COWBOYS	4.5	49.5	-230
Rams	3.5	47.5	-180
PACKERS	6.5	48.5	-300

Monday			
Favorite	Spread	O/U	ML
Browns	2.5	41.5	-155

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NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	9	6	0.600	427	264
New England	9	6	0.600	388	260
Miami	7	7	0.500	285	312
e-N.Y. Jets	4	11	0.267	276	449

South					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tennessee	10	5	0.667	357	326
Indianapolis	9	6	0.600	420	316
e-Houston	4	11	0.267	248	401
e-Jacksonville	2	13	0.133	217	396

North					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Cincinnati	9	6	0.600	410	324
Baltimore	8	7	0.533	355	356
Pittsburgh	7	7	0.500	301	371
Cleveland	7	8	0.467	314	329

West					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Kansas City	11	4	0.733	421	306
L.A. Chargers	8	7	0.533	408	411
Las Vegas	8	7	0.533	316	387
Denver	7	8	0.467	298	260

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Dallas	11	4	0.733	457	307
Philadelphia	8	7	0.533	398	318
Washington	6	9	0.400	297	407
e-N.Y. Giants	4	11	0.267	248	365

South					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Tampa Bay	11	4	0.733	442	312
New Orleans	7	7	0.500	313	285
Atlanta	7	8	0.467	278	400
e-Carolina	5	10	0.333	277	345

North					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Green Bay	12	0	1.000	383	324
Minnesota	7	8	0.467	384	372
e-Chicago	5	10	0.333	265	373
e-Detroit	2	12	0.167	259	386

West					
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-L.A. Rams	11	4	0.733	416	326
x-Arizona	10	5	0.667	394	306
San Francisco	8	7	0.533	377	334
Seattle	5	10	0.333	303	307

Thursday's Games

Tennessee 20, San Francisco 17

Saturday's Games

Green Bay 24, Cleveland 22

Indianapolis 22, Arizona 16

Sunday's Games

Atlanta 20, Detroit 16

Buffalo 33, New England 21

Cincinnati 41, Baltimore 21

Houston 41, L.A. Chargers 29

L.A. Rams 30, Minnesota 23

N.Y. Jets 26, Jacksonville 21

Philadelphia 34, N.Y. Giants 10

Tampa Bay 32, Carolina 6

Chicago 25, Seattle 24

Kansas City 36, Pittsburgh 10

Las Vegas 17, Denver 13

Dallas 56, Washington 14

Monday's Games

Miami at New Orleans, late

Late Sunday

Dallas 56, Washington 14

Washington 0 7 0 7 - 14

Dallas 21 21 7 7 - 56

First Quarter

Dal-Elliott 5 pass from Prescott (Zuerlein kick), 7:42.

Dal-Schultz 9 pass from Prescott (Zuerlein kick), 3:08.

Dal-Lawrence 40 interception return (Zuerlein kick), 2:17.

Second Quarter

Was-Gibson 8 pass from Heinicke (Slye kick), 14:45.

Dal-Elliott 11 run (Zuerlein kick), 10:34.

Dal-Steele 1 pass from Prescott (Zuerlein kick), 2:31.

Dal-Cooper 13 pass from Prescott (Zuerlein kick), :05.

Third Quarter

Dal-Golston 0 blocked punt return (Zuerlein kick), 6:06.

Fourth Quarter

Dal-Turner 9 pass from Rush (Zuerlein kick), 14:16.

Was-Bates 13 pass from K.Allen (Slye kick), 2:46.

A-93,482.

Was Dal

First downs 14 28

Total Net Yards 257 497

Rushes-yards 20-85 28-108

Passing 172 389

Punt Returns 2-14 1-21

Kickoff Returns 0-0 1-20

Interceptions Ret. 0-0 2-40

Comp-Att-Int 15-32-2 30-42-0

Sacked-Yards Lost 5-16 3-11

Punts 7-44.0 4-53.5

Fumbles-Lost 1-0 2-0

Penalties-Yards 1-13 3-15

Time of Possession 28:29 31:31

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING-Washington, Patterson 9-33,

Gibson 6-29, Carter 1-15, Williams 3-9,

Heinicke 1-(minus 1). Dallas, Elliott 9-37,

Pollard 8-34, Prescott 4-21, Clement 4-18,

Rush 2-0, Lamb 1-(minus 2).

PASSING-Washington, Heinicke

7-22-2-121, K.Allen 8-10-0-67, Dallas,

Prescott 28-39-0-330, Rush 2-3-0-70.

RECEIVING-Washington, McLaurin 3-40,

Brown 2-53, Bates 2-45, Gibson 2-29,

Humphries 2-4, Milne 1-14, Carter 1-5,

Williams 1-2, Seals-Jones 1-(minus 4),

Dallas, Schultz 8-82, Cooper 7-85, Lamb

4-66, Turner 3-82, Gallup 2-53, Pollard

2-16, C.Wilson 2-10, Elliott 1-5, Steele 1-1.

MISSED FIELD GOALS-None.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Brooklyn	22	9	710
Philadelphia	17	16	515
Boston	16	17	485
Toronto	14	16	467
New York	15	18	455

Southeast Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	21	13	618
Washington	17	16	518
Charlotte	17	17	500
Atlanta	15	17	469
Orlando	7	27	206

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	20	10	667
Milwaukee	22	13	629
Cleveland	20	13	606
Indiana	14	20	412
Detroit	5	27	156

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	20	14	588
Dallas	15	17	469
San Antonio	14	18	438
New Orleans	12	22	353
Houston	10	23	303

Northwest Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	23	9	719
Denver	16	16	500
Minnesota	15	17	469
Portland	13	19	406
Oklahoma City	12	20	375

Pacific Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	27	6	818
Phoenix	26	6	813
L.A. Clippers	17	16	515

L.A. Lakers 16 18 .471 11½

Sacramento 13 21 .382 14½

Sunday's Games

Miami 93, Orlando 83

Cleveland 144, Toronto 99

Memphis 127, Sacramento 102

Philadelphia 117, Washington 96

Oklahoma City 117, New Orleans 112

San Antonio 144, Detroit 109

Chicago 113, Indiana 105

Denver 103, L.A. Clippers 100

Monday's Games

Houston at Charlotte, late

Chicago at Atlanta, late

Boston at Minnesota, late

Utah at San Antonio, late

Memphis at Phoenix, late

Dallas at Portland, late

Brooklyn at L.A. Clippers, late

Tuesday's Games

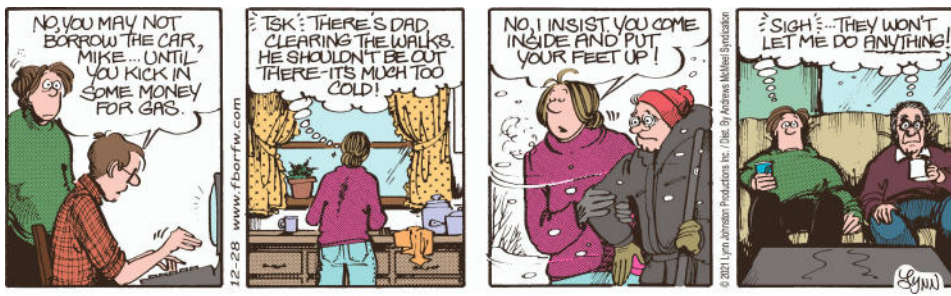
Milwaukee at Orlando, 7 p.m.

FUN

ZITS by Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



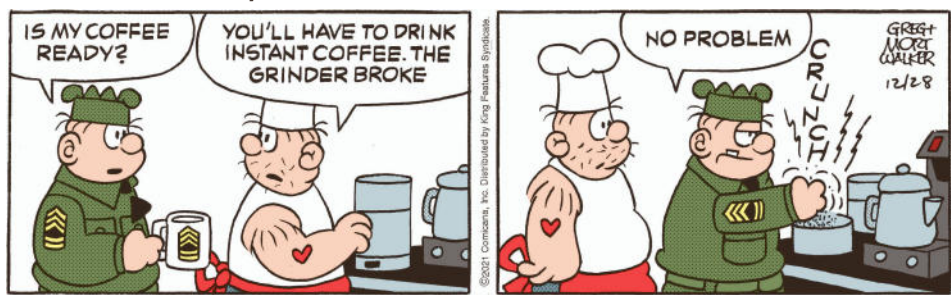
BABY BLUES by Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



HI & LOIS by Greg & Brian Walker



BEEBLE BAILEY by Mort Walker



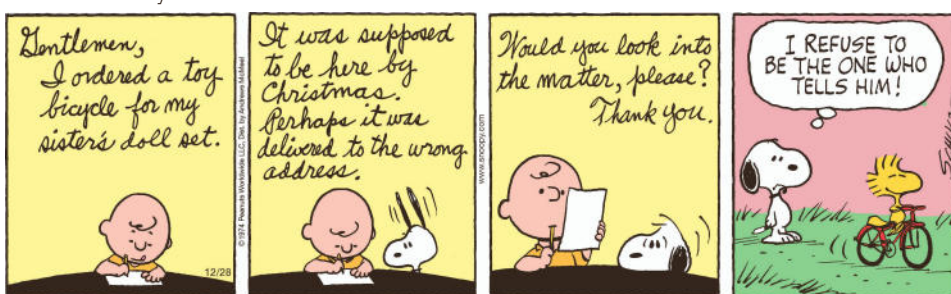
BLONDIE by Dean Young



GARFIELD by Jim Davis



PEANUTS by Charles Schulz



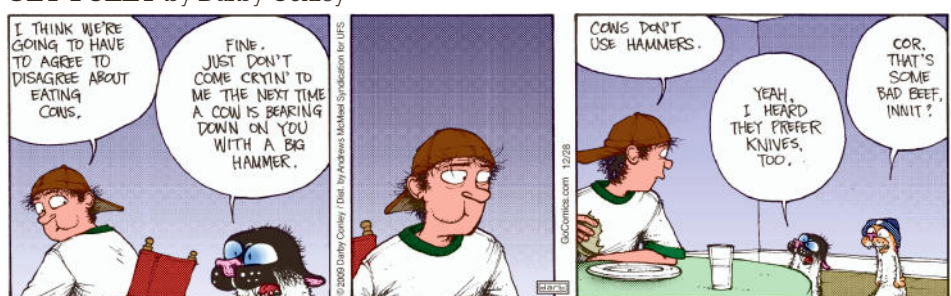
THE MIDDLETONS by Ralph Dunagin & Dana Summers



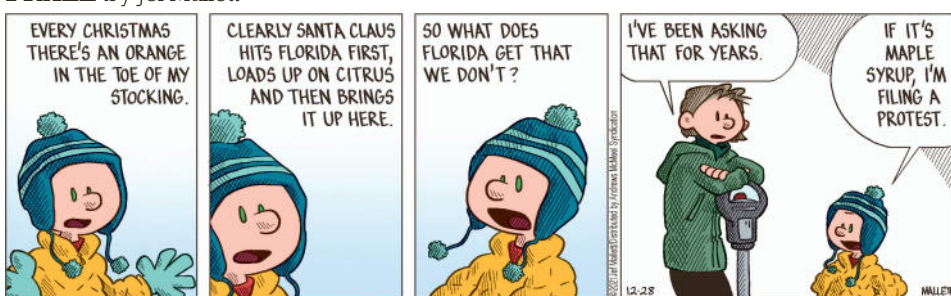
RED AND ROVER by Brian Basset



GET FUZZY by Darby Conley



FRAZZ by Jef Mallett



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



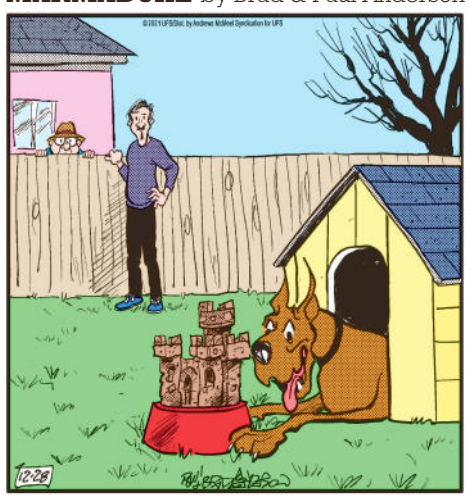
JUMP START by Robb Armstrong



NON SEQUITUR by Wiley Miller



MARMADUKE by Brad & Paul Anderson



SPEED BUMP by Dave Coverly



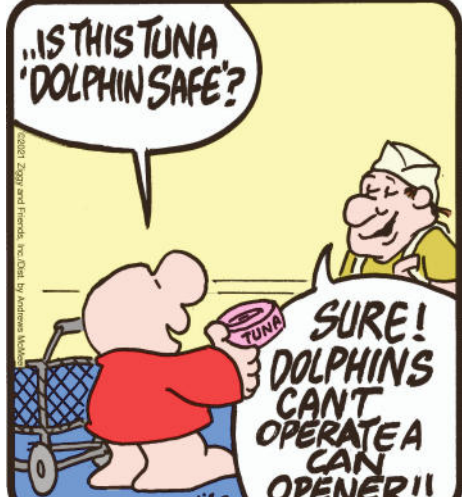
PICKLES by Brian Crane



DILBERT by Scott Adams



ZIGGY by Tom Wilson & Tom II



DENNIS THE MENACE by Hank Ketcham



WUMO by Mikael Wulff & Anders Morgenthaler

