



NBA LOCKOUT: DAY 140
Games lost through today: 119
Best game missed today: Knicks at Lakers, New York's only visit of the season to Los Angeles.
Basketball-related income lost: \$386.75M (estimated \$3.25M/game)
 ▶ Read the players' lawsuits vs. the NBA at nba.usatoday.com



Sports 3.0

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Free agent ranking
 USA TODAY's Paul White sizes up the Major League Baseball free agent market at mlb.usatoday.com

By Eileen Blass, USA TODAY

Big prize: Will Albert Pujols return to the Cardinals?

Keeping Score

Send regrets on bowl bid, Penn State

It's Jan. 2, 2012, at the Rose Bowl, the granddaddy of 'em all, arguably the most venerable site in college sports. The warm early afternoon sun is shining as it almost always does on Pasadena in the first days of the new year, and in one glistening end zone, the name of the Big Ten's representative is painted in dark royal blue and white: PENN STATE.

The Nittany Lions have had a fabulous week in Southern California. They've been wined and dined and praised by the Rose Bowl committee and civic leaders. Their band has proudly played the fight song through the streets of Pasadena in the Tournament of Roses parade. The new university president and countless boosters and trustees

and state leaders have all traveled thousands of miles from the cold Northeast to pat themselves on the back and smile in the winter sun and bask in the glow of another wonderfully successful Penn State football season.

Can you imagine? You'd better start, because, if Penn State wins its final two conference games, then the Big Ten's first football championship game, it will qualify to play in this season's Rose Bowl. Qualifying is one thing, accepting the invitation is another. If Penn State does win three more games, which is possible, although not likely, it still should not go to the Rose Bowl, not this season, not in the wake of this awful sex abuse scandal. What's more, Penn State should go to no bowl game this season, no matter what its name, no matter where it is played.

The Penn State story already has become the worst scandal in college sports history, and it might end up being viewed as the worst scandal in all U.S. sports, ever. When a university is involved in something of this magnitude, there should be no celebration, only serious soul-searching.

The school should do the right thing — something that it hasn't done much of lately — and decline a bowl bid. It should stay home in the cold and snow and continue to deal with the massive issues that have come before it. There is precedent for this: Ohio State declined a bid to the 1962 Rose Bowl for academic reasons, and Notre Dame has declined bowl bids off and on for years, as recently as two years ago. Penn State should also consider donating its share of all Big Ten bowl revenue, which it still would receive, to a fund for the victims of the crimes Jerry Sandusky allegedly committed.

Were Penn State to make the wise decision to not go to a bowl game, we know what would come next: outrage from those still myopically focused on Penn State football. They would say that the football players, especially the seniors, had nothing to do with the Sandusky scandal and should be rewarded for their fine play with a bowl game, just as in any other year.

But this isn't any other year at Penn State, and sometimes circumstances call for unpopular yet proper decisions to be made by strong leaders. That would presume, of course, that there are such things in the Penn State hierarchy. One seriously has to wonder after stories such as this: The *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* reported Wednesday that Pennsylvania Gov. (and Penn State trustee) Tom Corbett this summer approved a \$3 million state grant to Sandusky's charity, The Second Mile, even though Corbett knew about the ongoing sex abuse investigation because he initiated it when he was the state's attorney general.

The way things are going in Pennsylvania, they might need to start importing leaders from neighboring states.

It's a privilege, not a right, to play in a bowl game, and the Penn State football program has squandered that privilege in spectacular fashion. There's no guarantee of a bowl game when a season starts; the Penn State players know that. A bowl game is an extra, an add-on. It's often looked at as a reward for the weeks and months just past.

Think of the grand jury report. Think of Sandusky's own words to NBC, that he showered with young boys in the school's football facility. Think of those boys. Then picture Penn State celebrating at a bowl game. Just picture it.



Conflict: Gov. Tom Corbett OK'd \$3 million for a kids charity while knowing of the scandal.

By Mario Tama, Getty Images

Heisman Watch

Weeden takes lead as Luck, Moore fall

What a difference a week makes. Entering a showdown with Oregon, Stanford quarterback Andrew Luck was nearly a unanimous leader in the USA TODAY Heisman Watch.

But after Luck and the Cardinal stumbled, Oklahoma State quarterback Brandon Weeden has surged into first place.

Weeden was in fourth entering the weekend, but he threw for five touchdowns as the Cowboys dominated Texas Tech 66-6. He received six of 10 first-place votes and 44 points overall.

Luck slots in second place after passing for 256 yards and being intercepted twice in a 53-30 loss to the Ducks. The junior is still within striking range at 37 points.

Trent Richardson holds down third place with 23 points. The Alabama running back broke the 100-yard mark for the seventh time this season with 127 yards in a defeat of Mississippi State.

Kellen Moore, who was the chief challenger to Luck in second place last week, slipped to fourth with 18 points after Boise State lost to TCU 36-35. Moore had a strong game with 320 yards and two touchdowns with no interceptions.

Rounding out the top five is Houston quarterback Case Keenum. The senior has led the Cougars to a 10-0 record and has the team poised to earn a BCS berth if it can close out the season with three more wins.

There is a three-way tie for sixth among Baylor quarterback Robert Griffin, Oregon running back LaMichael James and Wisconsin quarterback Russell Wilson.

By Erick Smith

[Click here for the full breakdown heismanwatch.usatoday.com](http://heismanwatch.usatoday.com)



By Sue Ogrocki, AP

Gunslinging Cowboy: Oklahoma State's Brandon Weeden threw for five touchdowns in a 66-6 win vs. Texas Tech on Saturday. He has 3,635 yards, 31 touchdowns and nine interceptions on 313-for-428 passing this year.

Book Watch

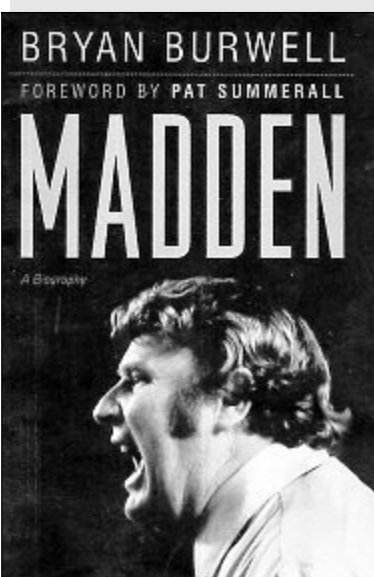
Madden may be last to read Madden biography

John Madden is in no rush to read the biography *Madden* (Triumph Books, \$24.95) by veteran sports columnist Bryan Burwell. After all, Madden has lived the book.

"I've never been one to read things about myself," says Madden, who retired from the broadcast booth in 2009. "When I used to broadcast games, I never watched replays of any of my broadcasts. I watched others. There's nothing you can do about it after the fact, so why watch? I don't enjoy listening to myself. And, if you don't like what you hear, it sounds like you don't like yourself."

Burwell says he was drawn to pursue a cooperative Madden as a subject, given his effect on popular culture thanks to being a Hall of Fame coach with the NFL's Oakland Raiders, Emmy-winning analyst and namesake of a popular video game.

"I'm always fascinated by process," Burwell says. "How do people become who they are? Usually, it's a matter of what you do when opportunities are presented to you. The great ones recognize it and do something with it."



The book explores Madden's meteoric rise as a coach — which began after he blew out his knee as a Philadelphia Eagles rookie tackle and during rehab learned from quarterback Norm Van Brocklin the art of breaking down film. Madden was 32

when in 1969 he was elevated by team owner Al Davis from an assistant to coach the Raiders.

The transition to broadcasting is also detailed. Madden's play-by-play man for his first TV "practice" game for CBS: Bob Costas.

"He looked like he was 15," Madden says in the book. Costas was 27. "I'm thinking, 'Geez, they put me in here with this kid.'"

Madden expects he'll eventually read the book. In the meantime, positive reviews have flowed since the book's September release.

"I had a long talk about it with Tony La Russa," he says of the just-retired St. Louis Cardinals manager. "He was the first person to call after they finished reading the book. He loved it. I was surprised. Here was a guy in the middle of a pennant race, yet he's reading this book. I would have imagined that he'd have to do a few other things."

By Jarrett Bell

[Click here for a Q&A with Madden nfl.usatoday.com](http://nfl.usatoday.com)

Action sports

Pro skier's death highlights avalanche danger

Professional skier Jamie Pierre, 38, died Sunday after being swept off a cliff in an avalanche at Snowbird Resort in Utah. Pierre set a world record cliff jump on skis in 2006.

Pierre's death marked the first avalanche fatality of the 2011-2012 season. "Early season is our most dangerous time of year — just the opposite of what most people think," Bruce Tremper, director of the Utah Avalanche Center, said Monday. "It's not anything you want to mess with."

During autumn months, shifting air temperatures and extreme weather variations can set the stage for an unstable snowpack.

"Early-season snow can actually increase the avalanche danger depending on what happens after it falls," said Candace Horgan of the National Ski Patrol. "It can lead to depth hoar, also known as sugar snow, which is loose unconsolidated

snow that has consistency of sugar grains. If that weak layer forms at the bottom of the snowpack, then bad things can happen."

Such instances often occur in terrain reached via ski resort lift access. Commonly referred to as side country, these unpatrolled slopes are as wild and uncontrolled as any back-country area and require specialized training, equipment and group awareness to venture into safely.

"Ninety percent of avalanche victims either trigger the slide themselves, or the slide was triggered by someone in their party," Horgan said.

"If you're going out lift-accessed back-country gates, don't think that they're safe just because they're right next to a ski area, because the patrol is not going out and bombing that terrain."

By James Sullivan, BNQT.com



Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort, via AP

Going to extremes: Jamie Pierre was a ski jump veteran.

Webline

Newsmakers from the wide world of Web and TV sports



By Kathy Willens, AP

Congrats: Bob Knight, right, greets Mike Krzyzewski.

Coach K's No. 1 forever?

Records are made to be broken, but college basketball might have one that's safely in the books.

Anyone chasing Mike Krzyzewski had better be in it for the long haul.

Getting No. 903 on Tuesday, Krzyzewski passed his coaching mentor, Bob Knight, for No. 1 on the Division I men's victory list.

Krzyzewski is in his 32nd season at Duke, a run that began in 1980 after five years at Army.

Retirement for the 64-year-old coach does not seem imminent, and his recruiting classes seem to guarantee that Krzyzewski is destined for 1,000 wins.

Considering that 67-year-old Jim Boeheim of Syracuse and 69-year-old Jim Calhoun of Connecticut are about 50 victories behind, Krzyzewski is almost assured of being the clear leader when he retires.

And as a measuring stick, a young coach like 35-year-old Brad Stevens at Butler would have to win almost 30 games for 30 years to get near Coach K.

We have Cal Ripken's 2,632 consecutive games played, Joe DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak, Jerry Rice's 22,895 receiving yards and Wilt Chamberlain's 100-point game.

Can we add Coach K to that list of records?

We asked our online readers if they thought anyone will catch Krzyzewski:

- No. If he gets to 1,000, lock it up.....34%
 - No. Coaches don't stick around long enough34%
 - Maybe. Calhoun and Boeheim could still do it..... 13%
 - Yes. There are too many great young coaches.....19%
- Votes: 1,631 at gameon.usatoday.com

By Reid Cherner

Voting ends today

USA TODAY's Michael McCarthy has been compiling votes on how fans feel about their NFL TV announcers and shows.

Among nine categories, McCarthy sought votes on top play-by-play man, best pregame show, leading insider and network with the No. 1 coverage.

He even solicited comments on the announcer "that bugs you the most."

Polls are open through today, with results posted Friday at gameon.usatoday.com.

MLB organizational report: Royals

Improving your victory total by four games doesn't make waves, especially when it's from 67 to 71.

The real evidence that the 2011 Kansas City Royals were headed in the right direction was that they were younger — on average more than two years a man than in the previous season.

"The encouraging aspect is that we know what our major league team looks like for the next three to five years," general manager Dayton Moore said.

The Royals have 24 games to make up on the first-place Detroit Tigers in the American League Central, so it's a work in progress.

The Royals are the sixth installment in a series of organizational reports appearing in USA TODAY Sports Weekly.

baseball.usatoday.com