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December 28, 2021



## Josh Allen? Unstoppable. Joe Burrow? Rare. Week 16 NFL reality check

This week showed that a trio of young quarterbacks are poised to be major factors in the AFC championship picture for years to come.

Sheil Kapadia 54

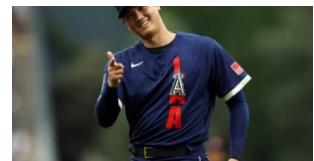
The Year in Strange but True: MLB's most amazing feats and — of course —

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**NBA Power Rankings: A look at each team's 'booster' player in support of its key three**

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**Who will replace Dave Gettleman as Giants GM? An early look at some top candidates**

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**Week 17 fantasy football waiver wire pickups**

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**Headlines**

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- Packers QB Aaron Rodgers vaults to NFL MVP lead; Chiefs favored to win Super Bowl LVI: BetMGM
- Senators sign first-round draft pick Tyler Boucher to entry-level contract
- Dolphins roll past injury-depleted Saints in Ian Book's first career start to keep playoff hopes alive
- Patriots place LBs Matthew Judon, Ja'Whuan Bentley on reserve/COVID-19 list
- Jimmy Garoppolo misses practice with thumb injury, status unclear vs. Texans
- Rams place RB Darrell Henderson, LB Ernest Jones on injured reserve
- Raiders place 6 on reserve/COVID-19 list; 11 total in protocols
- Central Michigan to play Washington State in Sun Bowl as Arizona Bow is canceled

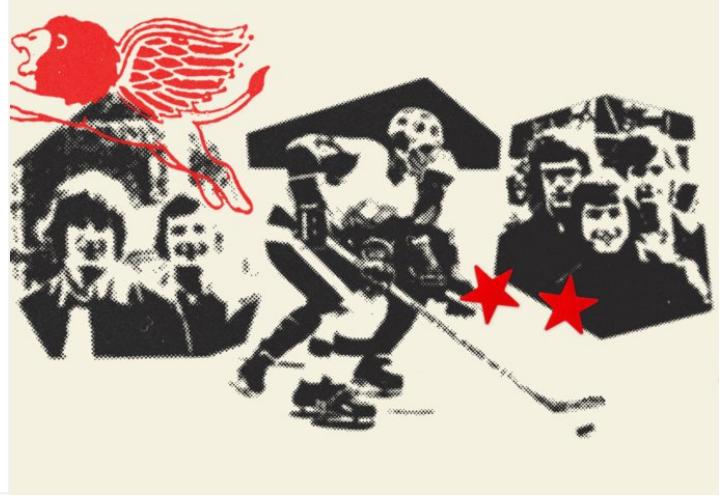
**A1: Today's Must-Read**

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## Buses, brawls and babies: When the barnstorming London Lions took 'Slap Shot' to Europe

By Eric Duhatschek



## Top picks



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## NFL Week 16



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Diving into Joe Burrow's record-breaking stats bonanza in Bengals' blowout of Ravens

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Washington implodes — on the field and off — as Jonathan Allen, Daron Payne clash in embarrassing loss to Cowboys

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## Playoff preview

No. 1 Alabama, No. 2 Michigan, No. 3 Georgia and No. 4 Cincinnati face off in the 2021 College Football Playoff.



'I'm a Bearcat': How running back Jerome Ford embraced the culture at Cincinnati

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## Best of 2021

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## Why the mass exodus from Syracuse women's basketball? 'Ego, manipulation ... fear tactics'

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The Steelers' starting QB in 2022? Here are candidates. Who won the Carson Wentz trade? Mike Sando's Pick Six



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Updated NFL playoff picture: Chiefs are first AFC playoff team; Dolphins move into wild-card position



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NFL Week 16 takeaways: Chargers' inexcusable performance; game balls for Joe Burrow, Josh Allen



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NBA Power Rankings: Warriors still on top, plus a look at each team's 'booster' player in support of its key three



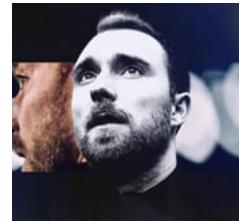
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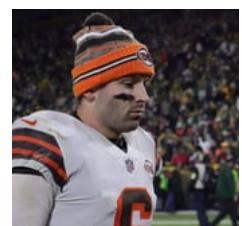
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Thompson: And the Warriors still don't have Klay Thompson yet



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Lloyd: Baker Mayfield's mounting failures might leave Browns in familiar position of looking for an upgrade



## Real Time

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Darnell Mayberry

Senior Writer, Bulls

13h ago

Final: Bulls 130, Hawks 118.

DeMar DeRozan: 35 points, five rebounds, 10 assists

Zach LaVine: 30 points, four rebounds, nine assists

Nikola Vučević: 24 points, 17 rebounds, six assists, four blocks

...

17

3



Darnell Mayberry

Senior Writer, Bulls

14h ago

After three: Bulls 98, Hawks 87.

Coby White came alive in the third quarter. He scored 10 points in the period after going scoreless on 0-for-3 shooting with three fouls in the first half.

Bulls coach Billy Donovan repeatedly talks about how White doesn't rattle. He showed as much in that quarter, with shot-making (two 3-pointers and a pu...)

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## NBA nightly recap

The biggest stories from the latest games.



A more familiar Kemba Walker arose from Knicks banishment: 'A blessing in disguise'

Fred Katz 3



James Harden returns to former self in dominating win over Clippers, and help is on the way

Alex Schiffer 9



New-look Mavericks roast Blazers as Josh Green has his best game; what's next for the Dallas roster?

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Bucks guard Donte DiVincenzo talks about his return to the lineup: 'I'm just happy that I'm back'

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Ayo Dosunmu slows down Trae Young, helps Bulls outlast short-handed Hawks

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**A.J. Griffin makes the difference for Duke against Virginia Tech, and possibly going forward**

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**The making of Tennessee's Kennedy Chandler, a point guard worth the sacrifice**

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**Handing out holiday gifts to Memphis, Alabama, Purdue, Paolo Banchero and more: Shot Takers**

Brian Hamilton and Dana O'Neil ■ 10



**The remarkable ascent of Izaiah Brockington from someone else's role player to Iowa State's leading man**

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## Latest in women's hoops



**South Carolina will win title; Olivia Miles should be up for frosh award: What I believe, know about women's hoops**

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**In 3 UConn games without Paige Bueckers, what's working and what's amiss for short-handed Huskies**

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## Women's college basketball rankings: Stanford rises, Iowa disappoints, Maryland deepens



Undefeated South Carolina's pursuit of perfection led by Aliyah Boston

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Chantel Jennings ■ 10



As Iowa State finds Cy-Hawk success, Iowa searches for its best self

Brian Hamilton ■ 9

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The Predators surprise, the Sharks fade, and wait — do we already know all the Eastern playoff teams?



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Breaking down why Eagles QB Jalen Hurts missed a wide-open Dallas Goedert in the end zone



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The origins of Oklahoma coach Brent Venables' intensity: 'Extraordinary pressure,' an ice bucket, playing to

win

Is Michigan closing the gap on Ohio State? Did Billy Napier exceed expectations at Florida? Recruiting mailbag

 **Fantasy Football**

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Week 17 fantasy football waiver wire pickups | Darrel Williams, Isaiah McKenzie and playoff scenarios

The 2021 season-wrap fantasy football mailbag is now open!

Fantasy championship start/sit calls: Roll with Tom Brady? Tyler Boyd? DeVonta Smith? Matthew Stafford?

 **Fantasy Baseball**

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Next season's four most intriguing bounce-back candidates

Top 100 Christmas songs ranked: Sia's instant classics, Ray Charles at No. 1? — plus holiday themed playlists and more!

The ultimate trading card collector's gift guide: Box breaks, shower curtains, custom cards and more

 **Mixed Martial Arts**

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No more UFC fighters: Jake Paul's next opponent needs to be an actual boxer

UFC Fight Night expert predictions, in-depth analysis, odds for Lewis vs. Daukaus, Thompson vs. Muhammad and Lemos vs. Hill

Julianna Peña's historic upset of Amanda Nunes is why we watch the fights

 **Boxing**

No more UFC fighters: Jake Paul's next opponent needs to be an actual boxer

Discuss Jake Paul's 6th-round KO of Tyron Woodley

Jake Paul vs. Tyron Woodley 2: Fight card, odds, Showtime PPV info, date, start time

 **Motorsports**

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Racing with Red Bull

Erik Jones, NASCAR's Mr. Rogers, shares his love for reading with kids

 **Fantasy Basketball**

Bones Hyland, Nicolas Claxton and 22 more widely-available players to put on your fantasy basketball watch list

Outside the Top 120 fantasy basketball player rankings: Kyrie Irving, Ben Simmons and 28 more players to watch

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 **Fantasy Hockey** >

Travel to a land where it's always 2004 and meet the people who refuse to let EA Sports' 'NHL '04' die

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 **Golf** >

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Hero World Challenge expert selections, odds: Justin Thomas, Rory McIlroy lead star-studded event hosted by Tiger Woods

Lee Elder, a pioneer and then some

 **MLS** >

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MLS betting: What we learned from a season-long odyssey

Q&A: NYCFC sporting director David Lee on building an MLS Cup winner and what's next for the club

 **UK Women's Football**



Pioneers, film premieres and unrivalled dominance: When Al-Fayed turned Fulham's women professional

Relentless, doing the double over Portsmouth and on track for the WSL – the Southampton team that wins 9-0...

Women's football quiz of 2021: Record breakers, quotes and big moments

 **NWSL**



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Kris Ward to be named Washington Spirit's permanent manager: 'I think there's a lot for us to do around culture'

Washington Spirit co-owner Michele Kang makes \$35 million offer to buy controlling interest in team, sources say

 **WNBA**



PG2K: Paul George on playing against Breanna Stewart and what his own custom controller would look like

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