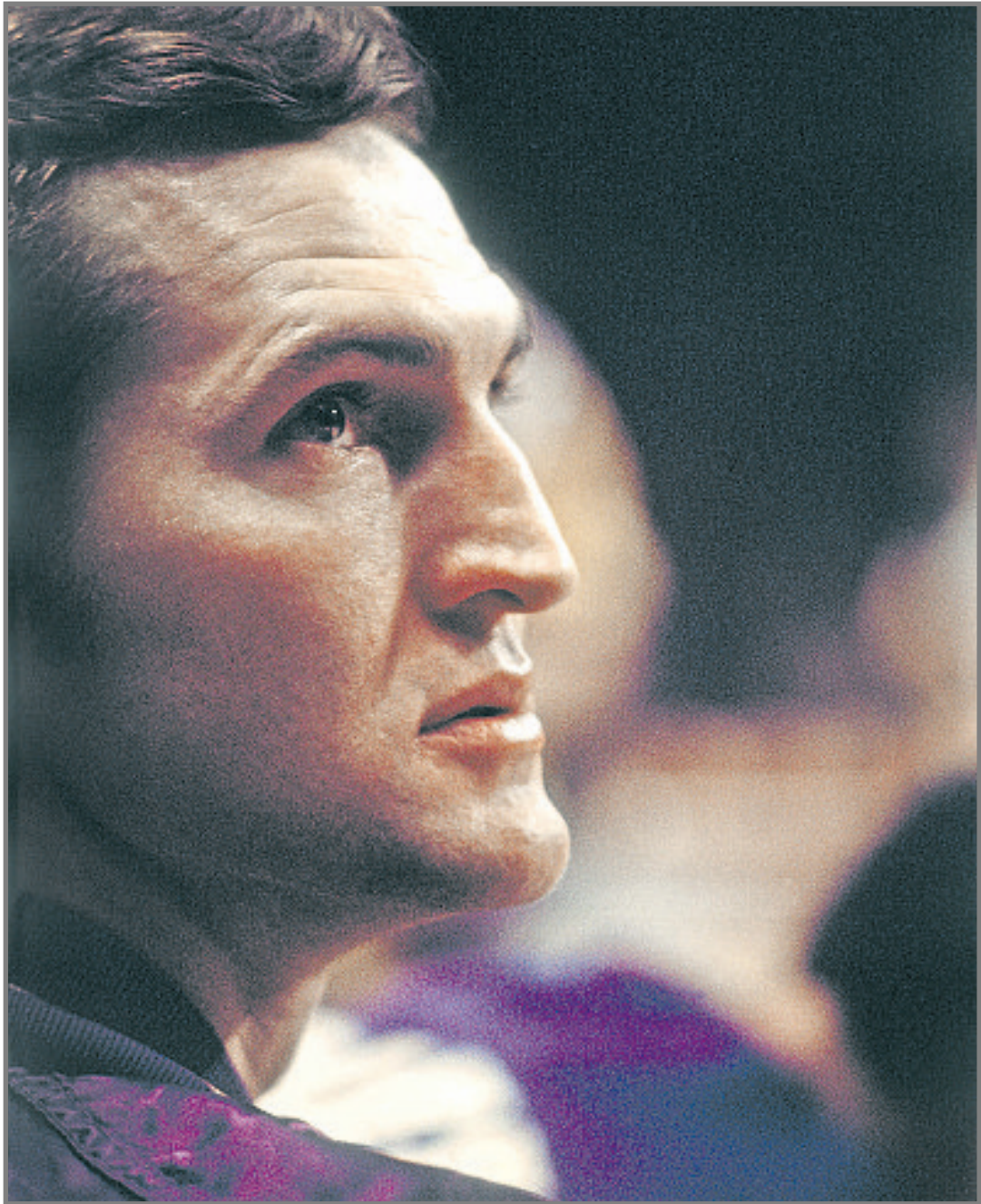


JERRY WEST, 1938 - 2024



VERNON BIEVER NBAE via Getty Images

NBA ICON

Jerry West was selected to the Basketball Hall of Fame three times in a storied career as a player and executive, and his silhouette is considered to be the basis of the NBA logo.

NBA legend and architect of Lakers dynasties

Jerry West took the team to stunning heights season after season as a player, coach and general manager and became ‘the logo’

By Mike Kupper

Lakers legend Jerry West was a hard man to please.

As a player, he ranked — and still ranks — as one of the best ever to play in the NBA. That’s his silhouette you see on the NBA logo that adorns every uniform and every NBA-related piece of merchandise.

As a coach, he never had a losing season and took his team to the playoffs in each of the three years he was in command.

As a general manager, in estab-

lishing the Lakers as a dynasty, he built some of the greatest teams in Lakers history, from refining the already fluid Magic Johnson-Kareem Abdul-Jabbar “Showtime” unit to engineering the sniping Kobe Bryant-Shaquille O’Neal bunch. The Lakers went to the NBA Finals eight times and won four championships in his 18 seasons as a Lakers executive, and teams he’d built won two more titles after he’d retired.

His statue — it looks a lot like the

logo — stands in front of Crypto.com Arena, silent testimony to his Olympic gold medal, his NCAA Final Four most-outstanding-player award, his niche in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, his 14 All-Star Game appearances, his 27-point scoring average, his most-valuable-player awards in both the NBA Finals and the All-Star Game, his executive-of-the-year awards, his game-tying 63-foot shot against the

[See West, A10]

ALWAYS A LAKER: Death a reminder of West’s estrangement from team, Plaschke writes. SPORTS, B10

UCLA names health expert as new chancellor

University of Miami president, who once served as Mexico’s health minister, will take the reins in 2025.

By Teresa Watanabe

University of Miami President Julio Frenk, a Mexico-born global health expert, will become the next chancellor of UCLA and first Latino tapped to lead the nation’s top public research university as the campus faces a dark time of divisive protests.

Frenk, 70, will bring deep expertise in public health, a medical degree and experience as Mexico’s former health minister to the Westwood campus — equipping him to oversee its comprehensive network of hospitals and clinics along with the large academic enterprise of 46,700 students.

Frenk has also proved to be a prodigious fundraiser, leading a \$2.5-billion campaign for the University of Miami’s centennial next year and quadrupling contributions as Harvard’s dean of the school of public health — helping secure a



BRIAN VAN DER BRUG L.A. Times

JULIO FRENK was a prodigious fundraiser at Harvard and at the University of Miami.

historic \$350-million endowment gift.

Frenk will succeed Chancellor Gene Block, who will step down July 31 after a 17-year tenure that included steering UCLA through a financial crisis and global pandemic to reach new heights in expanding enrollment, diversity, philanthropy and research funding.

Frenk will not take the reins until January 2025. Darnell Hunt, UCLA’s executive vice chancellor and provost, will serve as interim chancellor until then after Block returns to his faculty position as a researcher in

[See UCLA, A7]

Why mogul said no to Paramount sale

Shari Redstone’s last-minute reversal was the result of several forces playing out behind the scenes.

By Meg James

For seven months, media mogul Shari Redstone agitated for Paramount Global’s leaders to embrace her plan to hand the storied media company to tech scion David Ellison.

Paramount then-Chief Executive Bob Bakish and several board members resisted. Investors howled that the Ellison deal would give Redstone and her family a rich premium for their controlling Paramount shares — at the expense of regular shareholders. Undeterred, Redstone sacked Bakish, her longtime lieutenant, and four board members were shown the door.

By late Saturday, the Redstone family and

Ellison’s Skydance Media had agreed on major deal terms. Ellison — the son of tech billionaire Larry Ellison — was poised to capture his hard-fought prize. Paramount’s weary workers checked their email, expecting a major announcement to land at any moment. Independent board directors scheduled a meeting for 11:30 a.m. Tuesday to formally consider the deal.

But just as the meeting got underway, Redstone called with stunning news.

The Skydance deal was dead.

Redstone’s change of heart, after months of drama and tensions spilling into the public, was the culmination of several forces that had been playing out behind the scenes, accord-

[See Redstone, A7]

Ban on female pastors rejected

Southern Baptists do not enshrine formal plan to oust churches that have female pastors. NATION, A4

Imperial Beach is most polluted

A study examining the nation’s beaches finds that California is home to three of the top 10 worst. CALIFORNIA, B1

No interest rate cuts coming soon

Despite signs of a cooling economy, job growth and wages are showing strength. BUSINESS, A6

Weather

Low clouds clearing. L.A. Basin: 77/58. B6

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COVID-19 subvariants make their mark in L.A. County

Across California, wastewater virus is ticking up, entering high level for the first time since February.

By Rong-Gong Lin II

California’s COVID-19 numbers are on the rise thanks in part to new subvariants, suggesting an earlier-than-normal start to the summer season.

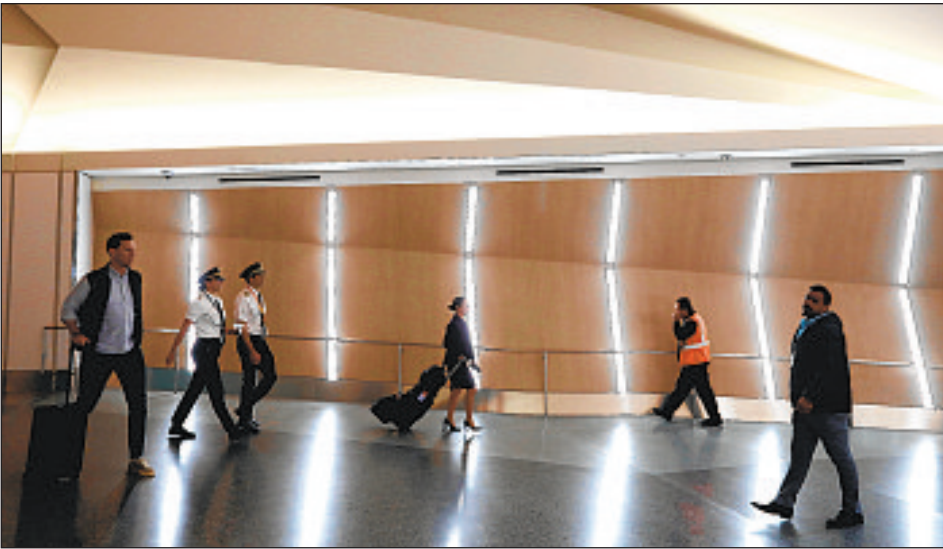
The percentage of COVID tests coming back with positive results in the state rose to 5.3% for the week that ended June 3, up from 2.2% the month before. The numbers are still

relatively low — last summer’s peak positive test rate was 13.1% — but the increases have the attention of doctors and health officials as the summer travel season begins.

“Numbers are definitely going up,” said Dr. Elizabeth Hudson, regional chief of infectious disease at Kaiser Permanente Southern California. Among Kaiser’s 4.8 million Southern California members, the increase in COVID-19 is mostly among non-hospitalized people.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health reported an average of 106 COVID cases for the week ending June 2. That’s up from 67 cases a day for the week that ended May 12.

[See COVID, A5]



GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

TRAVELERS and airline crew members at LAX last month. As the summer travel season starts, health officials are noting an early surge in COVID-19 cases.



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