

Daily

Sports

Point/Counterpoint: Can UConn win the Hockey East tournament?

by Danny Barletta,

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and Jorge Eckardt,

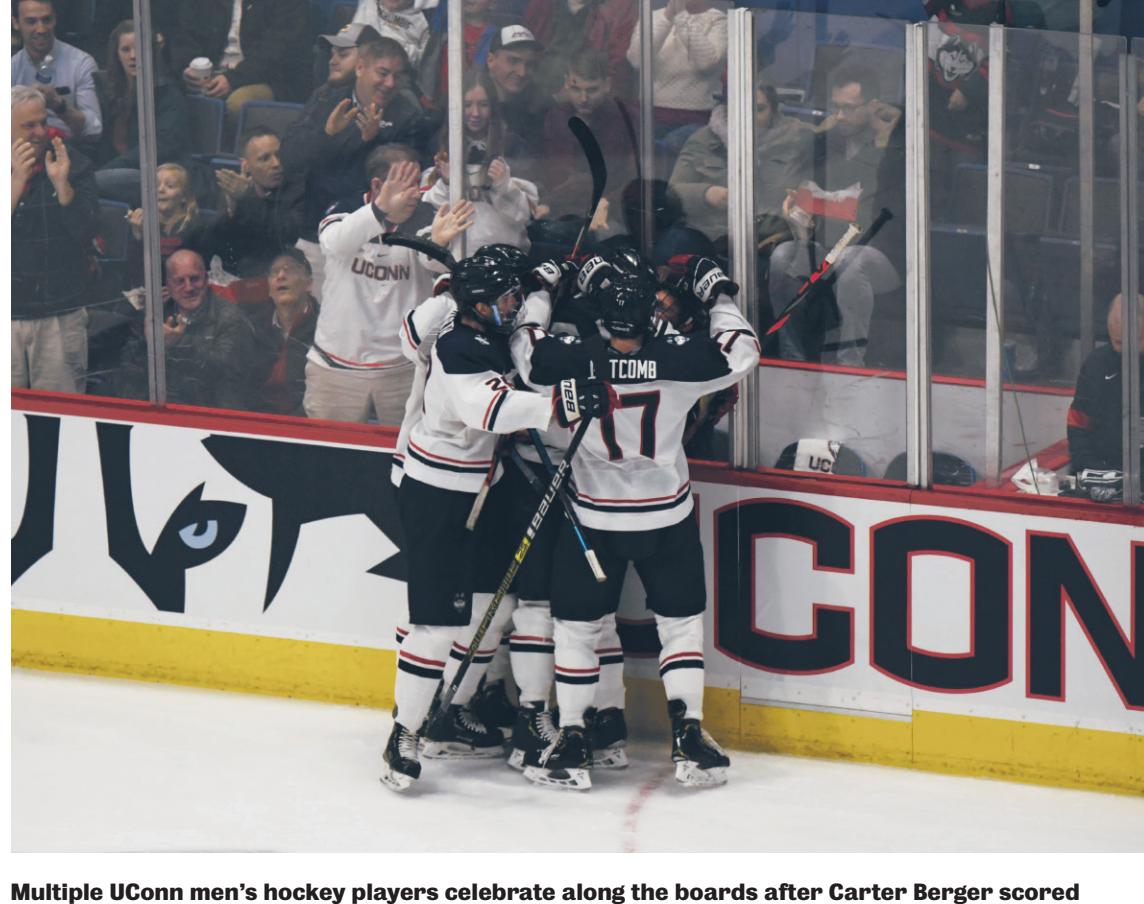
STAFF WRITER

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We are nearing the final weekend of the Hockey East regular season, and while we're not sure of the seedings yet, we do know that UConn will be competing and possibly hosting a quarterfinals series in the Hockey East Tournament. After a slow start to the season, the Huskies have had a terrific second half of the season, going 8-2 in their last 10 conference games. This week, we're debating whether or not this team can continue this magical run to win the tournament this season.

Danny Barletta

I really believe this team has what it takes to win the Hockey East Tournament this year. The team has continuously improved throughout the season and has hit its peak at the perfect time. That's what hockey is all about: getting hot at the right time. Look at the Stanley Cup Playoffs every year. Very rarely does the team with the best record win it all. There's always a surprise team that gets hot and shocks the league with a big playoff run. I believe UConn could be that team in Hockey East this year. I have full confidence that the Huskies can beat any team that they will come up against in the tourney. They



Multiple UConn men's hockey players celebrate along the boards after Carter Berger scored UConn's first goal of the game versus UMass on Friday, Feb. 28. PHOTO BY MIKE MAVREDAKIS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

have an extremely deep roster that provides production on every line. More importantly, this team has a chip on its shoulder and something to prove after years of getting no respect in the conference. When I look at the teams they can play, only Boston College stands out as a team that would give UConn any significant trouble, but hockey is one of those sports where anybody can beat anybody. I honestly think that these

UConn players have a mentality that they can beat anyone — even BC — and sometimes that's all it takes, especially in a one-game championship.

Jorge Eckardt

What this team has done in the second half of the year is nothing short of incredible. Going on a 8-2 run in the conference to not only secure a Hockey East tournament bid but also put themselves in position to host a tournament game is an amazing turnaround. While I do believe they can make a run in the tournament, I just don't see them being able to win it all. This is for one reason, and one reason alone — Boston College. The BC Eagles have been nothing short of dominant this season, finding themselves ranked as the No. 4 team in the country by USCHO.com and USA Today. Not only that, but they had the UConn's number from start to finish when the two teams played. The Eagles took Game 1 6-0, but the Huskies did get one back in Game 2. By one, I mean one goal, losing the game 5-1. Yes, that was all the way back in early November, and the team has grown tremendously since then, but it's still hard to believe that it's enough to beat BC, considering the Eagles jumped to the No. 4 spot in the country from the No. 19 spot when they first played.

Barletta

You said it, UConn has grown tremendously since that rough series against BC in November. In fact, that series represented the low point of the season, as the Huskies fell to 2-5-1. Coach Cavanaugh, as well as multiple players, have repeatedly pointed to that series as the wake-up call that the team needed. Since then, the team has done nothing but get consistently better. I feel like this team actually wants

to play BC in the tournament to show how far they've come and to show they're a completely different team now. What better way is there to prove themselves to the rest of the conference than by beating the top team on the way to a championship? I think UConn knows that to show this run was not just a fluke, they'll have to go all the way. So this team is talented enough, deep enough and motivated enough to win the tournament. And after back-to-back weeks with crazy comeback wins in the last minute, I feel like this team is destined for something special.

Eckardt

Yes, they have gotten significantly better — but so has Boston College. As I've mentioned before, when they played the last time, BC was the No. 19-ranked team in the country, which is still very good, but it doesn't compare to being No. 4. One of the biggest reasons UConn could make a run in the tournament is that they're getting hot at the right time, winning eight of their last 10 conference games. But guess what, so has BC, as they are currently riding a six-game conference winning streak that could very well reach eight by the time the tournament comes around, with two games remaining versus the No. 9 UNH Wildcats. They have three of the top-20 players in points per game in the entire country, something that can only also be said for Harvard, as well as a top-10 goalie in goals-against average. Only two other goalies in Hockey East are also in the top 10, and they both hail from UMass — but BC's Spencer Knight has over 800 more minutes in net than both of them. I guess anything can happen, but I'm really hoping that someone else takes care of BC before UConn has to play them.



UConn's Kale Howarth (29) battles for the puck along the boards with UMass' John Leonard (9) and Jack Suter (10). UConn won the Friday, Feb. 28 game 3-2 after scoring two goals in the final 91 seconds of the game. PHOTO BY MIKE MAVREDAKIS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

LCK DELAYED DUE TO CORONAVIRUS CONCERN

by Ashton Stansel

CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT

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LPL to return through online play as LCK goes on indefinite hiatus

Starting on March 9, the League of Legends Pro League, or LPL, which is China's main league, will return to the Spring Split in an online format. The league has been on an indefinite hiatus since its Chinese New Year break, following the coronavirus outbreak, which had led many to wonder if they would have a Spring Split at all. The league, which plays every day of the week, will now be playing three best-of-3s just about every day in order to get all of its games in time, which is an exhausting schedule.

Of course, nothing good can come without negatives. Inven Global reported on Monday that the LCK will soon be on indefinite hiatus. The LCK's delay is not necessarily a surprise; the number of coronavirus cases in South Korea has been rising. However, before this week, it had seemed that the league might manage to keep going. But on Monday, it was announced that the LCK would be indefinitely suspended due to the rising outbreak. The league will finish playing through the March 6 games, which mark the end of the first round robin, before the hiatus. If the situation in Korea does not improve soon, it seems likely that they may have to resort to online games like the LPL is.

Team Liquid bouncing back

When Doublelift tweeted that he would be unable to play this week as he had laryngitis, it seemed like another blow to the already struggling Team Liquid. The team was forced to play their academy bot laner, Tactical, in place of the legendary player. It seemed likely that the week would be another step back for the North American Champions for the last four splits. But following great performances from midlaner Jensen and jungler Broxah, as well as very solid games from the other three players, the team managed to haul themselves to victory over both TSM and 100T.

Going into Week 7, Team Liquid will need to prove that they can keep this form. This is especially true if Doublelift returns to play this week. If he struggles like he has so far this season, many fans might begin to wonder whether it would be smarter for the team to use Tactical. But if Team Liquid, which is currently just two games out of first place, succeeds? They have a clear chance to make playoffs, perhaps even to secure a bye.

Europe remains a tight race

While G2 remains tied for No. 1 in Europe, it continues to be a close contest. G2, Fnatic and Origen remain tied for No. 1 at 9-3, while Misfits has fallen back to 8-4 after a loss to Fnatic. With only three weeks remaining and seven teams in decent position, as the lowest of the top seven Excel boasting a 6-6 record, it seems that it's going to be a fight all the way through the end to determine which six teams are going to make playoffs. As the defending champions of that tournament, G2 is going to want another shot at that trophy, but Fnatic and Origen look to stand in their way.

THIS WEEKEND IN UCONN SPORTS

Men's Basketball



Thursday

7 p.m.

Gampel Pavilion



Men's Hockey

7:15 p.m.

Lowell, Mass.



Softball

Friday, 3 p.m.

JMU Invitational

INSTAGRAM OF THE DAY



@uconnwbb

Meg Thee Bucket

TWEETS OF THE DAY

HurleyMania

@HurleyMania

It isn't \$2m to play at Ohio State, it's \$2m to not play Tulsa.

The UConn Blog

@TheUConnBlog

Haters, tell me again how playing at Tulsa in 2025 is better than this

UConn is home

@NoEscalators

Will I be more interested in watching this or watching Tulsa play football? Who is to say?

Follow The Daily Campus @dcsportsdept

HEY SEANNY J

ZION WILLIAMSON HAS ARRIVED

by Sean Janos
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Zion National Park is a magnificent natural phenomenon located in Utah with high red cliffs. Zion Williamson is a magnificent natural phenomenon located in Louisiana with a high vertical leap. Don't get the two mind-bending wonders confused.

Williamson, one of the most anticipated athletes in recent memory, finally played his first NBA game on Jan. 22 against the Spurs, and scored 22 points in 18 minutes.

We weren't surprised by his high shooting efficiency (8-for-11); we figured he could do that. What shocked NBA fans was his Wendy's 4-for-4 from beyond the arc.

Since then he is just 1-for-8 from deep but has instead astounded us with his combination of the vertical of an Olympic high-jumper with the physique of a bodybuilder.

According to Duke head coach Mike Krzyzewski, Williamson's vertical was 45 inches in college. This is three or more inches higher than Michael Jordan, LeBron James, Spud Webb, Julius Erving, Dominique Wilkins — need I go on?

Williamson measures in at 6-foot-7 and weighs 285 pounds. This makes him the second-heaviest player in the NBA behind somebody that's 7-foot-3, and to say Zion wears it well would be an understatement.

We watched the anatomical marvel bully his way through college basketball, but after sustaining an injury right before the season started, his NBA debut



was delayed. This raised questions about whether or not a body built like Williamson's can withstand playing in the NBA.

In the 15 games that Zion has played this season, he is averaging 28.9 minutes per game. He started January on a minutes restriction, but then was given more time on the floor in February. He averaged 25 minutes per game in his first month back, then 30.6 the next.

In the March 1 game against the Lakers, Williamson tied his high for minutes played with 33 and set a new high with 35 points.

He shot a fantastic 12-for-16, and brought his season scoring average and field goal percentage up to 24.1 points per game and 59.3%.

Williamson is unstoppable in the paint. Whether he's backing down his defender, posting up, muscling his way to the rim or catching a lob, he's already one of the best finishers in the league.

Due to his low volume this season, Williamson doesn't qualify among league leaders. But if he

did, he would be averaging the most attempts and makes within five feet of the basket in the NBA.

On average, Williamson is 8.5-for-13.4 from this range. The next highest in both attempts and makes within five feet is of course Giannis Antetokounmpo with an average of 7.8-for-11. The rim isn't a bad place to operate, as proven with A n -

tetekounmpo's 2018-19 and soon-to-be 2019-20 NBA MVP awards to show for it.

Now the question on everyone's minds is, "Should Zion win Rookie of the Year?" As great as I think he is, I don't think he should or will.

If Williamson plays the rest of New Orleans' games, he will finish his rookie season with 37 games under his belt. A precedent is already set in the Rookie of the Year race for a player that played great, but missed too much time.

In 2016-17, Joel Embiid played 31 games and averaged 20.2 points and 7.8 rebounds per game for the 76ers. Fellow rookie Malcolm Brogdon averaged just 10.2 points and 4.2 assists per game, but beat Embiid because he played 75 games.

We have a similar situation this season with Williamson and Memphis' rookie Ja Morant, but the gap between these two is even smaller than Embiid and Brogdon's. Morant is scoring 17.6 points and dishing seven assists per game, and if he plays out the rest of the season, will play 76 games. These are incredible stats for a rookie, and his Rookie of the Year status is only in question because what Williamson is doing is superhuman.

Morant should, and will win the Rookie of the Year. He will likely be very good for a long time and have a great career. But Zion ... Zion is going to be special.

ZION THROUGH 15 GAMES

24.1 POINTS PER GAME

6.8 REBOUNDS PER GAME

2.1 ASSISTS PER GAME

59.3% FIELD GOAL PERCENTAGE

41.7% 3-POINT PERCENTAGE

PELICANS WITH ZION 8-7

PELICANS WITHOUT ZION 18-27

Photo courtesy of AP

Around the American: Men's Basketball Championship

by Ben Field
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The 2020 American Athletic Conference Men's Basketball Championship is almost upon us and the race for a first round bye is a tight one. The tournament starts on March 12, giving every team in The American just two more games to improve its conference record.

Tulsa and Houston lead off the division with a tie for the best record at 12-4. Cincinnati holds No. 3 with a record of 11-5 and Wichita State holds the last of the bye-week seedings at No. 4 with a 10-6 conference record. Both Tulsa and Houston have guaranteed themselves a first-round bye in the conference tournament, with the other spots still up for grabs.

No. 25 ranked Houston overcame its poor shooting with a solid defensive performance last Sunday, beating the Cincinnati Bearcats 68-55. Marcus Sasser and Nate Hinton stood out offensively with 21 points and 16 points, respectively. Houston shot 36%, ending the first half with a 2-for-19 stretch and finishing the game with 22 offensive rebounds.

"To win by shooting 36% with 22 offensive rebounds, I'd rather shoot 55% with 10 offensive rebounds. Our kids have learned how to win without making shots. That's something we preach from day one ... We needed somebody to step up ... We were getting good shots; we were getting good looks. At some point, we needed to reward ourselves for what we were doing. We were doing just about everything right," Houston coach Kelvin Sampson said, via AP Houston.

This win ties Houston for No. 1 in The American, which is now one game ahead of Cincinnati in the standings.

Wichita State recently won a very close game against SMU last Sunday, overcoming a



Houston players, from left, Marcus Sasser (0), Brison Gresham (55), Nate Hinton (11) and Caleb Mills (2) celebrate their win against Cincinnati at the end of the second half of an NCAA college basketball game Sunday, March 1, 2020, in Houston. PHOTO BY MICHAEL WYKE/AP

24-point deficit at the half to win 66-62. Wichita State guard Dexter Dennis had a career-high performance, putting up 25 points. Grant Sherfield made 4-for-5 from 3-point range and finished with 14 points and six assists for Wichita State, and Jamarius Burton added six rebounds. Jaime Echenique had 13 rebounds and four blocks. This win for Wichita State slid them into No. 4 in The American, putting them just one

game above SMU. If Wichita State can finish strong in its last performances of the regular season against Memphis and Tulsa, a first round bye in the conference tournament is theirs for the taking.

With the race for the top seeds of the American Conference being so close, this final week of conference play will determine it all. While Tulsa and Houston have guaranteed themselves the first round bye,

the race is still tight for Cincinnati, Wichita State, SMU and Memphis. Wichita State and Memphis play on Thursday, with the winner poised to take the No. 4 seed. Cincinnati has an easy road to No. 3, having faced USF (6-10 in The American) on Tuesday, and playing Temple (6-10 in The American) on Saturday. SMU has a strong route to the top four as well, playing UCF (5-11 in The American) on Wednesday, and USF

on Saturday. Wichita State has perhaps the most difficult route to the top four, having to hang on against a fellow top-four seed contender in Memphis (9-7 in The American), and finish its season against Tulsa (12-4 in The American). This upcoming week in men's basketball is an important one for teams in The American, and should have ramifications across the tournament and into March Madness.

Sports

Photo of the Day | Raise the roof



UConn beat USF 80-39 in the XL Center Monday evening. Crystal Dangerfield went 5-for-10 from the floor for 13 points while adding on five assists and four rebounds. The Huskies commanded the court with a very strong first half that led UConn to a resounding win. PHOTO BY KEVIN LINDSTROM, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

NCAAB Conference Tournament Predictions

by Tamir March
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
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The second midnight struck on Sunday, I swear I heard the all too familiar, sweet sound of the March Madness theme song running through my head. That means it is officially the best month of the year. Most teams around the country have one or two more regular season games left before survive-and-advance time is upon us. About half the field is unofficially “in,” but for the remaining 50%, conference tournament time will make or break their hopes of hearing their name called two Sundays from now. However, everyone is playing for seeding, in hopes of having the easiest path to Atlanta. March is here. Madness is coming. Here’s a preview of what’s going to unfold in the conference tournaments around the country.

Big Ten

The Big Ten once again proved itself as the deepest conference in the country, highlighted by Joe “Brackets” Lunardi’s projection of ten teams making the tournament (next highest has seven). I see eight of these as locks to make the tourney, leaving Rutgers, Indiana and Purdue with work to do. Rutgers has struggled mightily when they play anywhere outside of New Jersey so they need at least one statement tournament win and I don’t see them getting that. It’s March which means Tom Izzo has his team catching fire at the right time, and this year isn’t any different. Four wins out of their last five, including a massive road win against No. 9 Maryland. Cassius Winston is finally getting some with Rocket Watts finally showing why he was so highly rated out of high school. This momentum will set up a in-state rivalry final against Michigan, who will upset a struggling Maryland team on the way. A rematch of last year’s Big Ten Tournament final will have the same result; a victory for the Green and White. Iowa is my sleeper team as I don’t think anybody can guard Luka Garza, who’s dominance can overcome their lack of depth.

Winner: Michigan State

Sleeper: Iowa

Disappointments: Maryland/Rutgers

Pac-12

In my eyes, the Pac-12 is the weakest conference at the top, but its depth gives it a chance to have 5-7 tournament teams. This is shown most evidently



Kansas guard Devon Dotson (1) makes a basket in front of Kansas State guard Dajuan Gordon (3) during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game in Manhattan, Kan., Saturday, Feb. 29, 2020. PHOTO BY ORLIN WAGNER/AP

by UCLA, the team at the top of the conference standings being projected as a 12 seed. Colorado, Oregon and Arizona are the true best three teams in the conference. They all have serious consistency issues and a few bad losses on their resume. Come tournament time that’s all out the window. POY candidate Payton Pritchard and Oregon will meet the freshmen-laden Arizona in the final of the tournament. Oregon swept the season series against the Wildcats with a pair of one point wins, showing how evenly matched these teams are. Arizona has more raw talent than Oregon with their 5 star backcourt of Nico Mannion and Josh Green. Talent doesn’t mean as much in college as it does in the NBA, so the experience of the Ducks, as well as the slight coaching advantage Dana Altman holds over Sean Miller, will give Oregon a third win over Arizona, this time by double digits.

Winner: Oregon

Sleeper: Utah

Disappointment: UCLA

Big-12

The best two teams in the country may reside in Big-12. Kansas and Baylor (Gonzaga, SDSU and Dayton are the others) are two of the only teams who have been consistent throughout the season. After those two, the conference takes a significant dip. West Virginia had an impressive out-of-conference run, racking up wins against Ohio State and URI, but struggled mightily in conference, going 7-9. I don’t question that Bob Huggins have his team ready for March and I could definitely see them upsetting one of the big dogs. They were beating Kansas for 30 minutes on the road back in January before barely falling by seven on garbage time free throws. Nobody wants to see a Shaka Smart team in March, especially with point guard Andrew Jones coming into full form after beating cancer just last year. The Longhorns have

won four straight, including an impressive win over Texas Tech in Lubbock. They’ll be challenged, but the Devon Dotson and Udoka Azubuike led Jayhawks are too stacked to be upset by anyone in this conference.

Winner: Kansas

Sleepers: Texas/West Virginia

Disappointment: Baylor

ACC

In the beginning of the season I dubbed the ACC the best conference in the land, just for UNC, Virginia and Notre Dame to make me look dumb. Virginia is still a good team (21-7), but nowhere near the national powerhouse we’ve seen in past years. It’s a testament to Tony Bennett’s defensive schemes that they’re even this good given the bereft talent and amount of injuries to key players (Braxton Key). The clear top three are Louisville, Florida

and Duke, all of whom are still vying for a top-two seed. Louisville seemed a lock to be a one seed until they dropped three of their last six, all on the road. They need to find a consistent scorer to complement Jordan Nwora’s 20 a game and they’ll be fine. As they do every year, Duke has proved they can overcome their youth to be one of the best teams in the country. Tre Jones runs an offense nearly as well as any guard in the country, but he’s going to need freshman trio Cassius Stanley, Matthew Hurt and Vernon Carey to produce big time in order for Duke to be a championship team. Ryan McMahon is going to get hot from three and Steve Enoch is going to neutralize the threat of Carey to give Louisville an ACC tournament win.

Winner: Louisville

Sleeper: N.C. State/Notre Dame

Disappointment: Florida State

Big East

Perhaps the most unpredictable and competitive conference in the country, the Big East has seven or eight bids up for grabs. Depaul entered conference play looking like the team to beat with a 12-1 record. In what epitomizes the Big East this year, Depaul sits in last place after going an atrocious 2-14 in conference. No result in this league would be entirely shocking, as everyone has pretty much beaten each other. For people obsessed with transitive wins, you don’t have to go more than two derivations and everyone has literally beaten everyone.

My pick to win the conference tournament is Creighton, who has one of the most efficient offenses in the country. Then again they lost by 20 last time out to second-to-last place St. Johns, which I think is more of a testament to the Big East than a detriment against Creighton. Seton Hall, Villanova, Xavier, Butler and Marquette all wouldn’t surprise me if they won the tournament either. Markus Howard and Myles Powell are capable of averaging 35 over the course of a tournament and single-handedly willing their teams to victory. This may come down to coaching; in that case the advantage lays with Villanova and Jay Wright.

I have no clue with this conference and anyone who says they do is lying.

Winner: Creighton

Sleeper: St. Johns

Disappointment: Marquette/Providence

Judge, Stanton likely to start on IL; Sale elbow hurting



Boston Red Sox starting pitcher Chris Sale throws during spring training baseball camp Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020, in Sarasota, Fla. PHOTO BY JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

(AP) Injured New York Yankees outfielders Aaron Judge and Giancarlo Stanton are likely to miss New York's opener at Baltimore on March 26.

Judge is having more tests to determine the cause of soreness in the right pectoral area near his shoulder. Judge has not hit on the field since spring training started, and the right fielder felt discomfort Friday when he took batting practice for the second straight day in an indoor cage.

"He feels it more now in the pec," general manager Brian Cashman said Tuesday. "It's moved down toward the pec. We're just trying to figure it out and determine what's bothering him. In the meantime, I can just tell you he is feeling better in the last 48 hours."

Stanton strained his right calf on Feb. 26 during defensive drills. Cashman thinks Stanton will be back in April.

"For the time frame, obviously, we've got to get the healing component done for a Grade 1 strain and then rehab it," Cashman said. "With arguably, what, 3 1/2 weeks to go before opening day I think we'd rather be safe than sorry."

CHRIS SALE

Boston Red Sox ace Chris Sale has soreness in his throwing elbow and has undergone an MRI.

Manager Ron Roenicke said Sale felt the soreness in his elbow Monday morning, the day after his 18-pitch batting practice session. Team doctors reviewed the MRI results and sent them to Dr. James Andrews.

Sale's batting practice session Sunday was the first time he faced hitters since he gave up five runs over 6 2/3 innings in a win at Cleveland on Aug. 13. He went on the injured list with elbow inflammation, finishing 6-11 with a 4.40 ERA in 25 starts — his fewest wins and starts and highest ERA in a full season since 2012.

YANKEES 9, RED SOX 1

Masahiro Tanaka struck out five over three perfect innings in his second start, and DJ LeMahieu had a two-run single in a six-run first inning off Martin Pérez. Gio Urshela

hit his first home run, a solo shot. Five of the six runs off Pérez were unearned. He allowed four hits and a walk, retiring two batters. Rafael Devers hit his second home run, among just two hits for the Red Sox.

CARDINALS 6, ASTROS 3

Paul Goldschmidt homered off Justin Verlander, who allowed three runs — two earned — three hits and a walk in 2 2/3 innings. Matt Wieters also homered for St. Louis. Dakota Hudson allowed one run and two hits in four innings.

NATIONALS 5, ORIOLES 3

Max Scherzer allowed two runs and five hits over 3 1/3 innings with five strikeouts in his second start. Andrew Stevenson and Howie Kendrick had RBI singles, Juan Soto hit a two-run double and Asdrúbal Cabrera added a sacrifice fly in a five-run fifth inning. Pedro Severino had an RBI triple, Mason Williams singled in a run and Chris Davis had a sacrifice fly for Baltimore, giving him seven RBIs in six games.

MARLINS 6, METS 1

Noah Syndergaard gave up three runs — two earned — and two in five innings with five strikeouts. Garret Cooper had a solo home run and Chad Wallach, the son of former MLB player Tim Wallach, added an RBI single off Syndergaard. Jeff McNeil led off the Mets' first inning with his first home run. Jordan Yamamoto yielded one run and four hits in three innings.

RAYS 5, BRAVES 2

Brandon Lowe singled and walked twice. Austin Riley hit a two-run homer for Atlanta and Ronald Acuña Jr. went 0-for-3, dropping his average to .105. Ozzie Albies had two hits and is hitting .444 in 18 at-bats.

TWINS 5, TIGERS 1

Marwin González hit his first home run and had a two-run double, and Miguel Sanó hit his first homer. Randy Dobnak, in line for the fifth spot in the rotation, allowed one hit in three shutout innings. Closer Taylor Rogers struck out two in a scoreless inning. Kody Clemens, a son of Roger Clemens, hit his first

homer for Detroit.

ANGELS 11, INDIANS 7

Michael Hermosillo had a three-run homer and RBI single for the Angels. Andrew Heaney allowed two runs and three hits in three innings. Cleveland's Franmil Reyes hit his third home run. César Hernández also hit a two-run homer and Carlos Santana had a solo shot. Carlos Carrasco allowed two runs and three hits over two innings in his first start.

RANGERS 6, GIANTS 5

Wilmer Flores hit his first home run and Buster Posey added an RBI single for San Francisco. Logan Webb, in line for the fifth spot in the rotation, allowed one run and three hits in 2 1/3 innings. Texas started Jordan Lyles yielded three runs and three hits in three innings. Isiah Kiner-Falefa hit his third home run. Joey Gallo went 0-for-3 with two strikeouts and is hitting .188.

CUBS 10, ROCKIES 10

Nolan Arenado hit his second home run, a two-run drive. Ian Happ led off the game with a home run and added an RBI single. Willson Contreras had a two-run single for Chicago. Carlos Quintana gave up three runs and in two innings.

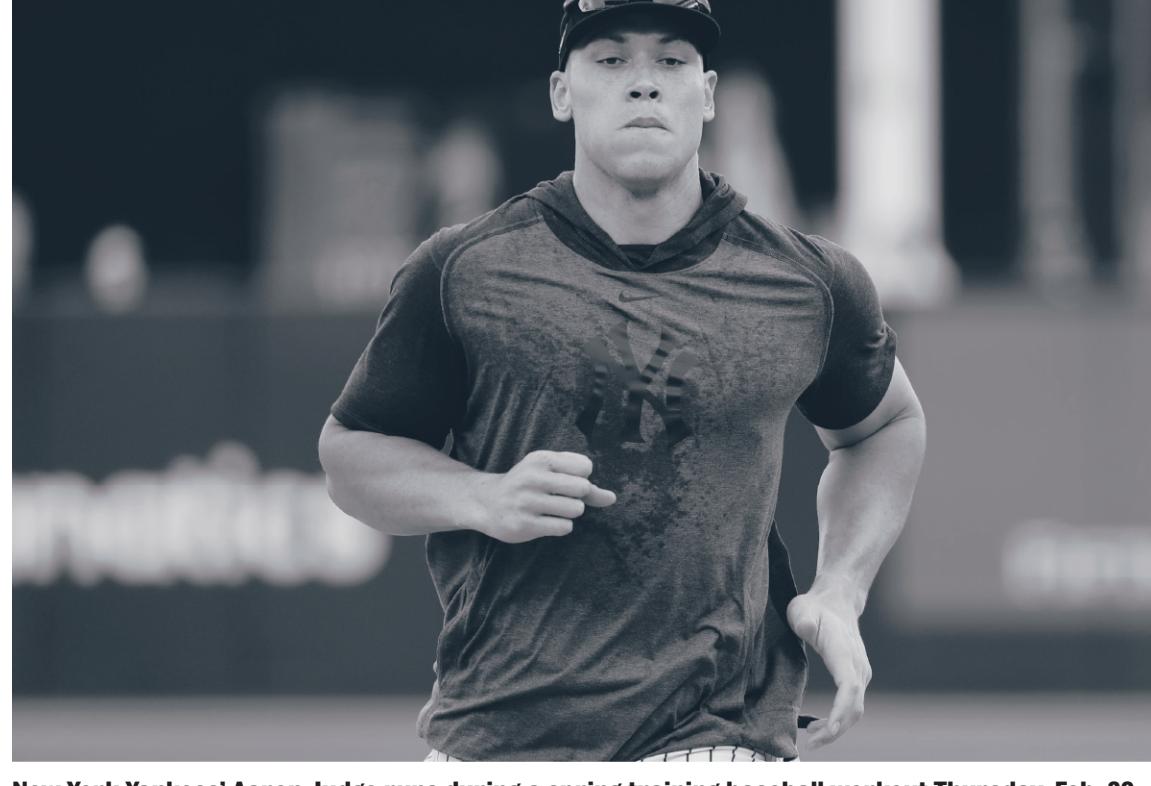
PADRES 9, BREWERS 0

Garrett Richards, who struggled in three September starts last season after recovering from Tommy John surgery in July 2018, allowed one hit over two scoreless innings in his first spring training start.

Abraham Almonte hit a grand slam in a seven-run third inning and Trent Grisham had two hits. Milwaukee starter Shelby Miller walked two with three strikeouts in two scoreless innings. Logan Morrison had the Brewers' only hit.

ATHLETICS 6, WHITE SOX 5

Top five prospect Jorge Mateo had three singles, stole his third base and drove in two runs. Ryan Goins had a two-run single. Nicky Delmonico singled and hit his first home run for Chicago. White Sox starter Reynaldo López allowed one run, three hits and three walks in three innings.



New York Yankees' Aaron Judge runs during a spring training baseball workout Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020, in Tampa, Fla. PHOTO BY FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

LeVert scores 51 points, Nets stun Celtics 129-120 in OT

BOSTON (AP) — Caris LeVert scored 37 of his career-high 51 points in the fourth quarter and overtime to help the Brooklyn Nets erase a 21-point, second-half deficit and beat the Boston Celtics 129-120 on Tuesday night.

It was a stunning end to a four-game losing streak for Brooklyn, which is trying to hold onto the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference. Boston has lost two straight.

LeVert had all of Brooklyn's 11 points in the extra period, finishing just three points shy

season was 43 points in the fourth against Charlotte on Nov. 16. The franchise record is 48 points in the fourth quarter on March 9, 1980, against Detroit. ... Nets guard Garrett Temple, who sprained his right shoulder in Saturday's loss at Miami, played 22 minutes.

Celtics:

WILD FINISH

The Nets trailed by 17 entering the fourth quarter, but rallied to 106-103 with 2:28 to play on a 3-pointer by Chris Chiozza. Walker responded



Brooklyn Nets guard Caris LeVert (22) celebrates with center DeAndre Jordan (6) late in overtime of the team's NBA basketball game against the Boston Celtics, Tuesday, March 3, 2020, in Boston. PHOTO BY MARY SCHWALM/AP

of the Nets' season high for a player. Kyrie Irving scored 54 points against Chicago on Jan. 31.

LeVert also sent the game to extra frame, getting fouled on a 3-point attempt by Marcus Smart and connecting on all of his free throws with 0.2 seconds left.

That capped a 51-point fourth quarter by the Nets, a franchise record for most points in any period.

Jaylen Brown led Boston with 22 points. Kemba Walker returned to action following a five-game absence with left knee soreness and had 21 points. Smart added 14 points and 10 rebounds before fouling out in overtime.

Boston went just 1 for 6 from the field in overtime.

The Celtics played without

Jayson Tatum, who sat out

on the Celtics' next trip with a 3 of his own. LeVert then connected on a jumper on Brooklyn's ensuing trip to make it 109-105.

It was 110-105 when LeVert made another 3. But Walker found Robert Williams under the basket, who was fouled on his dunk and completed the three-point play.

The Nets got it back to 116-112 with less than a minute to play when Brown came up empty on a jumper. LeVert was fouled on Brooklyn's next trip down the floor, but made just one of his two free throws.

Brooklyn got the rebound and LeVert had a great look at a 3, but his shot rattled in an out. Boston's Daniel Theis got the rebound, was fouled and hit both of his free throws.

DeAndre Jordan got a dunk



Brooklyn Nets guard Caris LeVert (22) drives to the basket against Boston Celtics' Daniel Theis during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, March 3, 2020, in Boston. PHOTO BY MARY SCHWALM/AP

with 6.7 seconds left to make it 118-115. The Celtics had trouble getting the ball in bounds and Rodions Kurucs forced a tie up with Walker with 3.6 seconds left. He won the ensuing tip-off and called timeout with 1.4 seconds left.

Brooklyn got the ball into LeVert, who was fouled and calmly sank his three free throws to send it to overtime.

NOT IN MY HOUSE

Smart showed off his leaping ability when he blocked Jarrett Allen's two-handed dunk attempt at the rim in the first quarter. Smart celebrated the denial by running down the court giving a Dikembe Mutombo-esque wag of his finger.

UP NEXT

Nets: Open three-game homestand at Memphis on Wednesday.

Celtics: Visit Cleveland Wednesday.

His absence didn't stop fans from taunting him with chants of "Where is Kyrie? Where is Kyrie" in the fourth quarter.

TIP-INS

Nets: The Nets' previous highest-scoring period this