



SERVING UP SPORTS FOR FEMALE FANS



Thought 2016's dumpster fire of a year would cool down for the holidays? In a word: nope. *The Indianapolis Star* published an investigation revealing that [at least 368 gymnasts have come forth](#) and accused 115 adults involved in the sport (coaches, gym owners — [even team doctors](#)) of sexual misconduct over the past 20 years. Many of the coaches were able to move from gym to gym without facing any consequences, so the actual victim count could rise as more come forward with their stories.

Friday, a video of Oklahoma Sooners RB **Joe Mixon** [punching a woman and breaking four of her facial bones](#) in 2014 made the Internet rounds. Mixon's coach, athletic director and university president all saw the tape at the time of the incident and he was suspended for (only) a year. Back to present day: Mixon is playing at Oklahoma on scholarship, about to take a trip to the Sugar Bowl.

A semi-but-still-super sad silver lining = seeing that not all schools let their students off so easily. Ten players on the [University of Minnesota's football team were suspended](#) following a sexual assault investigation. While collecting the whole story, the team almost even boycotted all football activities (including December 27th's Holiday Bowl). Several other schools have recently [had to discipline male athletes](#) for misogynistic (and, in some instances, racist) comments — multiple Columbia wrestlers and the entire Amherst cross-country team, Princeton swim team and Washington University in St. Louis soccer team have all had their seasons cut short.

Hey, guys: do better next year.

MORE LIKE LAYOFFS



coach **Gus Bradley** after he notched just 14 wins in three seasons. Quick reminder: each regular season is 16 games. Eek. Reports say that **Rex Ryan is currently coaching** his last games with the Buffalo Bills *and* he knows it.

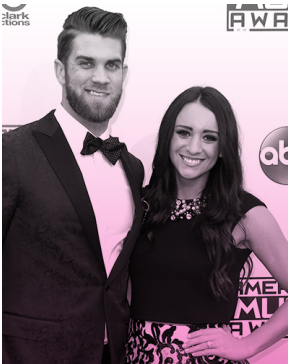
Sooo, what is happening in the actual playoffs? Yay: The Oakland Raiders clinched their first playoff appearance since 2002 with a win over San Diego. Boo: The Cincinnati Bengals were officially ousted after losing to the Steelers.

WTF: The Texans benched QB **Brock Osweiler** after two interceptions on back-to-back drives. Backup **Tom Savage** helped the team claw its way back to a victory over the Jags and the Internet roasted Brock on an open fire.



NO PARTY EMOJI ALLOWED

North Carolina Central lost the Celebration Bowl to Grambling State thanks to — get this — a penalty on WR **Quentin Atkinson** for [excessive celebration](#). The NCCU player caught a 39-yard TD pass to pull his team within one, but the tying extra point was blocked after the 15-yard penalty on Atkinson was enforced. After he danced around the end zone too hard. And we thought the NFL calling “unsportsmanlike conduct” on **Antonio Brown**’s twerking was ridiculous.

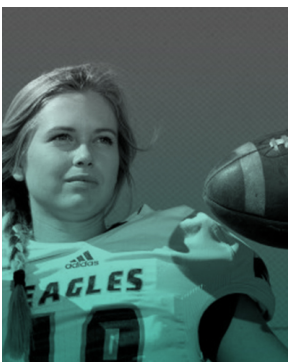


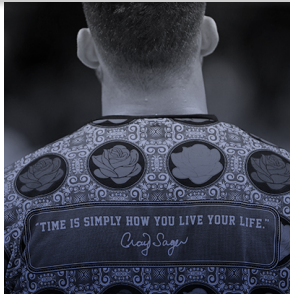
BEST WEDDING HASHTAG EVER

Michael Phelps and **Nicole Johnson** weren't the only on-and-off sports couple to get married this year: Washington Nationals stud outfielder **Bryce Harper** [just tied the knot](#) with longtime gf and former BYU soccer player **Kayla Varner**. The high school sweethearts were supposed to get married *last* year but called off the wedding. Their hashtag? #TheSequel. Genius. The cute couple got hitched at the Mormon temple in San Diego. Congrats <3!

BETTER THAN ICEBOX

High school junior **Emma Baker** is [a total badass](#). A kicker on Rancho Christian High School’s football team, she just became the first girl to score a point in a California state championship game (she actually scored EIGHT with a field goal + five extra points. YAS!). Her 99 points for the season is a new national record for a female kicker with 208 total career points and a year of high school left. She’s a star on her volleyball team, and plays club soccer too. We’ll have what she’s having, please.





The sports world is in mourning after longtime sideline announcer **Craig Sager** lost his battle with leukemia last week. Sager, known for his bright suits (which the NBA memorialized with the colorful jerseys to the left) and equally bright personality, touched the lives of current and former players and those who watched him broadcast. Former Chicago Bulls player [Dennis Rodman even credits Sager](#) with saving his life. He will be missed.

SPORTS SHORTS >>

They just like to smile, smiling's their favorite: [The Pittsburgh Penguins had some fun recreating *Elf*.](#)

Instead of the typical UFC face-off, [Paige VanZant and Michelle Waterson had a dance-off and it was pretty epic.](#)

Better not shout, better not cry. Better not pout, we're telling you why: [Santa Kawhi's coming to town.](#)



ICYMI, check out our roundups of winning sporty gifts for every kind of fan:

Running late on picking out presents for the office/book group/supper club holiday exchange? We got you. Find the [best white elephant gifts coworkers and friends of friends will love here.](#)

Cross off everyone (we mean everyone) on your list with [the best cheap and luxe gifts for sports lovers.](#)

Shop the low and high tech gifts for the [tailgating queen here.](#)

Find gifts for the [stylish sports fan on your list here!](#)



Did you watch the marquee UCONN-Notre Dame women's basketball matchup a couple weeks ago? Or Baylor's 140-32 beatdown of Winthrop on Thursday, [the largest margin of victory in women's D1 history?](#) Meet one of the women behind the scenes of women's bball, **Tracie Hitz**, Director of Business Operations for NCAA Women's Basketball, in this week's Power Players profile.

Take us through a day in the (work) life for you...

6:40 am: Alarm goes off, check Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat and read the Daily Skimm

7 am: Head to the gym to run and/or lift

8 am: Get ready, make breakfast



Committee of the Women's Final Four host city, the Women's Basketball Coaches Association, the Women's Basketball Advancement Committee, the Kay Yow Cancer Fund, the WNBA, USA Basketball, our member schools and tournament managers for our Regional host sites.

4:30 pm: Check in with a mentee or reach out to a mentor via handwritten note, email, text or phone.

6 :30 pm Grab dinner and/or drinks with friends

9:30 pm: Read a book and/or write a blog post

11 pm: Check Facebook, Twitter and Snapchat

11:30 pm Sleep!

We're having a Super Bowl (okay, or Final Four ;) party! What are you bringing?

Homemade guacamole



day check in with co-workers

9:30 am: Work on the biggest project of the day, usually involving an idea to push ticket sales for the Women's Final Four

Noon: Lunch with colleagues

1 pm : Afternoons are usually booked with meetings as we have a lot of entities that help us put on the Women's Basketball Championship, including internal NCAA staff, the Local Organizing

If you could brunch with people from the sports world, who would be on your dream team?

Joan Cronan, Mark Cuban, Robin Roberts, Bill Veeck, Billie Jean King, Mike Ditka

Tell us about a time where it wasn't so great to be one of the only women in the room?

My first year in sports, I worked donor events where guests would ask me to get them a drink or silverware. I would tell

them I would find a server to take care of that and then start talking about our football team or an upcoming facility project. By getting into the conversation I was able to establish myself as an integral part of the athletic department.

Advice you would give to a young woman who wants to work in sports:

Say yes to every opportunity even if you don't see how it will immediately impact your career. Every yes is an opportunity to expand your experience and your network so you can build your personal board of directors who will make sure you are always in your dream job.

Give props to a fellow #girlboss power player in the sports world:

Mary Pink, Associate Athletic Director of Iowa State, is a mentor and a friend to me and dozens of people in the sports industry. She is consistently winning marketing awards for the successful implementation of her creative ideas, she is active on social media sharing best practices and advice and always makes time to mentor people in the industry despite her busy schedule.

YOU'RE
UP!

HELP US KEEP THE SHINE THEORY LOVE GOING

Each week, we profile the game-changing girlbosses of the sports world in our **Power Players** series. (Proof above.) Know someone we should know? Reply to this email and tell us!

(Photos via Getty: Ronald Martinez, Brett Carlsen, Thearon W. Henderson Frederick M. Brown, Jonathan Bachman, Mike Ehrmann)



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