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# SUNDAY HUDDLE

## STANDOUTS

Volusia-Flagler All-Area teams announced for golf, cross country and bowling, PAGES 3B-7B



Girls golf: DeLand's Madison Dusenbury watches her drive during the District 3-3A tournament Oct. 29, 2024, at The Club at Venetian Bay.  
Girls cross country: Spruce Creek's Cameryn and Channing Irby run during the District 2-4A cross country meet on Nov. 7.  
Boys cross country: Flagler Palm Coast's Douglas Seth runs during the 2025 Class 4A state meet in Tallahassee.  
Boys golf: Spruce Creek golfer Brody Cast fires from the No. 9 fairway during the Region 1-3A boys golf tournament at Cypress Head Golf Club in Port Orange, on Nov. 4, 2024. PHOTOS BY DAVID TUCKER/NEWS-JOURNAL, NADIA ZOMORODIAN/NEWS-JOURNAL, PETER HOLLAND JR/TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT AND NIGEL COOK/NEWS-JOURNAL

### NCAA men's basketball

Meet the woman in charge of the Final Four, 8B



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## HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS GOLF



Seabreeze's Hailey Jenkins hits a drive during the Five Star Girls Golf Tournament on Oct. 23, 2024, at Cypress Head Golf Club.

DAVID TUCKER/NEWS-JOURNAL

# Meet the Volusia-Flagler All-Area Girls Golf Team

Flagler Palm Coast's Stiwich, Spruce Creek's Perry, DeLand's Dusenbury dominate local scene

### Zach Allen

Daytona Beach News-Journal

USA TODAY NETWORK

The trio of Flagler Palm Coast's Sophia Stiwich, Spruce Creek's Vanessa Perry and DeLand's Madison Dusenbury dominated the Volusia-Flagler area girls golf scene.

Perry won the Five Star Conference Tournament by two strokes over Dusenbury and Stiwich, who tied for second. Stiwich got revenge when she won the District 3-3A Tournament by a stroke over Perry. Dusenbury finished third. Stiwich also won the Volusia/Flagler Tournament by five strokes over a Perry-Dusenbury tie for second.

Dusenbury bested Perry in a round robin featuring DeLand, Mainland and Spruce Creek before Perry returned the favor later in the season.

The race for the area's top golfer was close between those three. Here's who won the award along with the other first- and second-team nominees and coach of the year.

### First Team

**Madison Dusenbury, DeLand:** Dusenbury finished third in the District 3-3A Tournament behind Perry and Stiwich. She had a 77.5 18-hole average and a 38.55 nine-hole average to finish as one of three local girls golfers to average under 80 strokes on 18 holes and under 40 on nine holes.

**Elayna Harvey, New Smyrna Beach:** Harvey led a New Smyrna Beach squad that finished second at the District 2-6A Tournament and fifth at the Region 2-2A Tournament. She averaged 40.14 strokes in nine-hole rounds and 82.5 on 18-hole rounds.

**Riley LeCompte, Spruce Creek:** LeCompte was second-in-command on Spruce Creek's District 3-3A title-winning team. The sophomore averaged 81.25 in 18-hole rounds and 41.25 on nine holes.

**Vanessa Perry, Spruce Creek:** Perry was the highest local finisher, regardless of gender or classification, after her 10th-place finish in the 3A state championship. She had a 75 18-hole average and a 37.75 nine-hole average.

**Sophia Stiwich, Flagler Palm Coast:** Stiwich led all Volusia-Flagler golfers with a 74 average on 18-hole rounds and a 35 average on nine-hole rounds. She won the District 3-3A Tournament and finished third at the Region 1-3A Tournament.

**Ivey Tsouklaris, Flagler Palm Coast:** Like Harvey, Tsouklaris also nearly averaged under 40 strokes in nine-hole rounds with a 40.81 average. Her 82.25 average on 18 holes was the fifth-best in the Volusia-Flagler area.



The Spruce Creek Hawks smile with the trophy after winning the District 3-3A girls golf tournament Oct. 27 at Cypress Head Golf Club. ZACH ALLEN/NEWS-JOURNAL

### Second Team

**Molly Boyd, New Smyrna Beach:** Boyd was the Barracudas' most-consistent second option behind Harvey. Boyd averaged 48.12 strokes in nine-hole rounds and 89.5 strokes on 18-hole rounds.

**Taylor Dytkowski, Spruce Creek:** Dytkowski finished sixth at the District 3-3A Tournament with an 85, her lowest score on 18 holes in 2025. Dytkowski averaged 86.5 in 18-hole rounds and 45.33 on nine-hole rounds.

**Jillian Heller, Seabreeze:** Seabreeze tied for third at the Region 2-2A Tournament, and Heller led the way with a 93. She paced all second-team nominees with a 44.75 average in nine-hole rounds.

**Hailey Jenkins, Seabreeze:** Seabreeze had a few second options over the course of the season, but Jenkins was the most consistent contributor. She had a 49.09 nine-hole average and a 95.25 18-hole average.

**Lauren Klockenga, Spruce Creek:** Klockenga shot a 95 at the Region 1-3A Tournament to help secure the Hawks' sixth-place finish. It was her best 18-hole round of the season.

**Mary Grace Seward, Matanzas:** Seward was Matanzas' best golfer and averaged 46.25 strokes in nine-hole rounds. She played only two 18-hole rounds and shot a 94 and a 97, respectively.

### Coach of the Year

**Tammy Graham, Spruce Creek:** Graham coached Spruce Creek to its second consecutive district title, and it wasn't particularly close. The Hawks clinched the District 3-3A Tournament victory by 27 strokes and had four golfers finish in the top 10.

### Honorable Mention

**DeLand:** Gisele Marcos

**Flagler Palm Coast:** Sydney Adams, Lilah

Cool

**Mainland:** Aquila Rivers

**Matanzas:** McKenzie Harrington, Scarlett

MacKenzie

**New Smyrna Beach:** Baily McKain

**Seabreeze:** Emily Ayers, Gianni Lomash

**Spruce Creek:** Katelynne Clark

### Girls Golfer of the Year

**Sophia Stiwich, Flagler Palm Coast:** There were five nine-hole rounds where a Volusia-Flagler girls golfer shot a 34 or better, and all five belong to Stiwich. The senior Bulldog returned from a two-year hiatus to win the individual District 3-3A championship and finished third at regionals with a 72. In a competition against Menendez on Sept. 16, Stiwich made seven birdies in a nine-hole round to finish with a 30.

## HIGH SCHOOL BOYS GOLF



Father Lopez's Jack Rossheim chips onto the green during the Volusia/Flagler Boys Championship on Oct. 9, 2023, at Crane Lakes in Port Orange.

NADIA ZOMORODIAN/NEWS-JOURNAL

# Meet the Volusia-Flagler All-Area Boys Golf Team

Spruce Creek, Father Lopez golfers lead way, but local teams have plenty of talent to go around

#### Zach Allen

Daytona Beach News-Journal

USA TODAY NETWORK

Spruce Creek boys golf had a successful season.

The Hawks swept the Five Star Conference Tournament and the Volusia/Flagler Boys Golf Championship before taking home the District 3-3A crown. The Hawks' season ended with a 10th-place finish at the Region 1-3A Tournament.

Spruce Creek's success at the local level wasn't without competition, as an improved Father Lopez team split a season series with the Hawks and finished six strokes behind them at the Volusia/Flagler Boys Golf Championship. The Green Wave placed sixth and 67 strokes behind Spruce Creek at the same tournament a season ago.

As a result, Spruce Creek and Father Lopez each had multiple golfers land on the 2025 All-Area team. But there were plenty of nominations to go around, and here they are.

#### First Team

**Quinn Brennan, Father Lopez:** Brennan is the first of a trio of Father Lopez golfers to earn a first-team bid. The junior had a nine-hole average of 38.3 and an 18-hole average of 78 to help earn the Green Wave a berth in the Region 2-1A Tournament.

**Turin Duber, Father Lopez:** Duber had a nine-hole average of 36.46 and an 18-hole average of 75, both of which led the area. Duber shot a 73 at the District 7-1A Tournament to place 13th and finished second at the Volusia/Flagler Boys Golf Championship.

**Carson Perry, Spruce Creek:** Perry burst on the scene as a freshman and is among the Volusia-Flagler area's top golfers. Perry shot a 74 to win the Five Star Conference Tournament and had the area's second-best 18-hole average at 75.16. His nine-hole average was 37.83.

**Jack Rossheim, Father Lopez:** Rossheim, a nominee in 2024, once again finds his name on the list after averaging 37.07 strokes per nine holes and 77 per 18 holes.

**Jacob Watson, Spruce Creek:** Watson was the second option on a Spruce Creek team that won the District 3-3A title. He averaged 38.57 strokes on nine holes and 77.61 on 18 holes.

**Caleb Williams, DeLand:** Williams earned a nomination as a freshman last year and slightly improved his numbers as a sophomore. Williams, who finished second at the Five Star

Conference Tournament, averaged 38.44 strokes on nine-hole rounds and 75.25 strokes on 18-hole rounds.

#### Second Team

**Brody Cast, Spruce Creek:** Cast did some of his best golfing down the stretch, and his 74 at the District 3-3A Tournament was one of the reasons the Hawks were able to beat Buchholz by four strokes. Cast fired a 40.42 average on nine-hole rounds and 81.56 on 18-hole rounds.

**Kaden Harvill, Trinity Christian:** Harvill is the fourth 1A golfer to earn an All-Area nomination. His 38.83 nine-hole average and 77.5 18-hole average rank among the area's best.

**Jacob Roster, Matanzas:** Roster was one spot from earning an individual bid to regionals after shooting a seventh-place 78 at the District 3-3A Tournament. Roster averaged 39 shots on nine-hole rounds and 77 on 18-hole rounds.

**Bentley Williams, DeLand:** Williams' 38.44 nine-hole season average tied his teammate, Caleb Williams, for the DeLand team lead. The freshman averaged a 79 on 18-hole rounds.

**Nathan Yarian, Seabreeze:** Yarian shot an 81 to lead Seabreeze to a seventh-place finish at the Region 2-2A Tournament. His nine-hole season average was 40.9 strokes, and his 18-hole average was 81.83.

**Caleb Zarraonandia, Flagler Palm Coast:** Zarraonandia shot a 76 at the Five Star Conference Tournament to finish third. He averaged 39.55 strokes on nine holes and 79.33 on 18 holes.

#### Coach of the Year

**Tom Cummins, Father Lopez:** Father Lopez made the jump to one of the best programs in the Volusia-Flagler area. Under his leadership, the Green Wave advanced to the Region 2-1A playoffs, which they had not made prior. Father Lopez also split its season series with Spruce Creek, a perennial local top team.

#### Honorable Mention

**Atlantic:** Connor Young

**DeLand:** Taylor Birnie, Cooper Smith, Hagen Stanger

**Father Lopez:** Tyler Duke

**Flagler Palm Coast:** Carson Flis, Zachary Peterson

**Matanzas:** Gianni Cerbone, Brady Peck



Spruce Creek's Carson Perry smiles with the Five Star Conference trophy Oct. 20 at Daytona Beach Golf Club.

PROVIDED BY JACLYN PERRY

**New Smyrna Beach:** Logan Brooks, Ayden Epstein, Jayden Martin

**Seabreeze:** Sam Garewal, Austin Upchurch

**Spruce Creek:** Dancer Jamieson, Dylan Kwong

**University:** Chase Ebbert, Alexander Walton

#### Boys Golfer of the Year

**Carson Perry, Spruce Creek:** The decision was between Perry and Father Lopez's Turin Duber, and Perry's performance late in the season was the difference. The freshman shot a 71 at the District 3-3A Tournament to tie for first and then shot a 77 to place 17th at the Region 1-3A Tournament. Perry also won local competitions with a 74 at the Five Star Conference Tournament and a 69 at the Volusia/Flagler Boys Golf Championship, which beat Duber's score by three strokes. Perry also defeated Duber in one of two head-to-head competitions with Father Lopez.

## HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY



Flagler Palm Coast's Arianna Slaughter runs during the Annual Spikes & Spurs event at the Flagler Fair Grounds on Aug. 24, 2024.

NADIA ZOMORODIAN/NEWS-JOURNAL

# Meet the Volusia-Flagler All-Area Girls Cross Country Team

These are the 2025 first- and second-team nominees, as well as area's top coach and top runner

### Zach Allen

Daytona Beach News-Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The race for the Volusia-Flagler area's best girls cross country runner couldn't have been much closer.

Peyton Cerasi and Arianna Slaughter were the only two runners to break the 19-minute barrier, and both of them neared the 18-minute mark. Their personal bests were separated by 0.43 seconds and both finished in similar positions at their respective state meets.

The two ran one race head-to-head that was, again, differentiated by seconds. But those seconds could've been the difference between first and second place.

In total, five Volusia-Flagler runners had personal bests under 20 minutes. Here are the first- and second-team nominees, as well as the area's top coach and top runner.

### First Team

**Audrey Bowman, Flagler Palm Coast:** Bowman set her personal record at the Region 1-4A meet. She ran a 19:38.93, which was approximately 40 seconds faster than her second-fastest time.

**Rena Carlton, Matanzas:** Carlton ran a 21:08.77 at the Region 1-3A meet for her personal best.

**Peyton Cerasi, Matanzas:** Cerasi was the individual champion for District 2-3A and finished 11th in the 3A state meet. Her personal best was an 18:16.8.

**Anna Grigoruk, Flagler Palm Coast:** Grigoruk nearly cracked 18 minutes at the Region 1-4A meet, where she set a personal best of 19:01.87. She earned top-15 finishes at districts and regionals.

**Alex Hansen, New Smyrna Beach:** Hansen earned a bid to the 3A state meet as an individual after running a 19:51.2 at the Region 2-3A meet. Her personal best was set nearly a month earlier when she ran a 19:46.5.

**Cameryn Irby, Spruce Creek:** Irby set her personal best early into the 2025 season on Aug. 23, when she ran a 20:31.3.

**Channing Irby, Spruce Creek:** Irby ran a

20:03.4 at the Five Star Conference meet to earn a second-place finish and set a personal record.

**Everly Mucciolo, Flagler Palm Coast:** Mucciolo ran a 20:43.58 at the Region 1-4A event to set a personal best and help send the Bulldogs to the state meet as a team.

**Megan Rhee, Matanzas:** Rhee did some of her best running down the stretch, finishing with three consecutive sub-21 minute times. Her personal best of 20:21.19 occurred at the Region 1-3A meet.

**Arianna Slaughter, Flagler Palm Coast:** Slaughter finished 10th at the 4A state meet. She also finished fourth at the Region 1-4A meet, where she set a PR of 18:17.23, and third in District 1-4A.

**Dayanara Suarez, University:** Suarez ran a personal-best 21:13.13 at the Region 1-4A meet.

**Sara Van Buren, Matanzas:** Van Buren's personal best was only a few seconds behind her teammates. She ran a 20:24 at the New World Fall Spectacular on Oct. 10.

### Second Team

**Erin Boyle, Pine Ridge:** Boyle ran a 22:08.4 at the Region 2-3A meet to set a personal best. She was one of two cross-country runners for Pine Ridge along with her brother, Brian.

**Liberty Conaway, Spruce Creek:** Conaway's personal best was a 21:57, and she nearly went sub-22 at the Region 1-4A meet. Conaway finished sixth at the Volusia/Flagler Freshman/Sophomore Championship.

**Razan Daoud, Spruce Creek:** Daoud ran a 22:06 personal best. She also finished third at the Volusia/Flagler Freshman/Sophomore Championship.

**Emily Dowdell, New Smyrna Beach:** Dowdell ran a 22:04 at the DeLand Invitational.

**Lucy Fulton, Father Lopez:** Fulton earned a top-10 finish at the District 3-1A meet. Her personal best was 21:59 at the Region 2-1A meet.

**Lilah Fusco, New Smyrna Beach:** Fusco's personal best was one second short of Dowdell's. She ran a 22:05 at the New World Fall Spectacular.

**Amelia Hansen, New Smyrna Beach:** Hansen's personal best was set on Aug. 23 at the

14th Annual Spikes & Spurs Classic, where she ran a 21:40.4.

**Jada Hawkins, Spruce Creek:** Hawkins' personal best was a 22:32.74 at the Region 1-4A meet.

**Emma Larkowski, New Smyrna Beach:** Larkowski's personal best was a 22:25. She also finished eighth at the Volusia/Flagler Freshman/Sophomore Championship.

**Sophia Medina, Spruce Creek:** Behind the Irbys, Medina was Spruce Creek's third-fastest runner after setting a 21:41.4 personal best at the DeLand Invitational, where she finished 18th.

**Sophia Nilsson, New Smyrna Beach:** Nilsson was the third of a group of three Barracuda runners that had personal bests in the early 22-minute range. Nilsson's was 22:06.3.

**Lauren Rutledge, Flagler Palm Coast:** Rutledge ran a 22:10.53 at the Region 1-4A meet.

### Coach of the Year

**David Halliday, Flagler Palm Coast:** Halliday led the Bulldogs to a 20th-place finish in Florida's largest classification, 4A. Five runners from the Volusia-Flagler area broke the 20-minute mark, and Flagler Palm Coast had three of them.

### Honorable Mention

**Father Lopez:** Savannah Cox  
**Matanzas:** Noemi Malinowski  
**New Smyrna Beach:** Mikayla Abdalian  
**Spruce Creek:** Jordan Martinez

### Girls Runner of the Year

**Peyton Cerasi, Matanzas:** The choice between Cerasi and Slaughter came down to seconds. While Slaughter placed one spot higher in the 4A state meet than Cerasi did at the 3A level, Cerasi defeated Slaughter in the one head-to-head matchup. Cerasi beat Slaughter by eight seconds at the New World Fall Spectacular on Oct. 10. And although it was only by 0.43 seconds, Cerasi ran the area's fastest time with an 18:16.8.

## HIGH SCHOOL BOYS CROSS COUNTRY



Seabreeze's Hunter Shuler leads a pack during the Region 2-3A cross country meet Nov. 15 at New Smyrna Beach High School.

NADIA ZOMORODIAN/NEWS-JOURNAL

## Meet the Volusia-Flagler All-Area Boys Cross Country Team

This year's first- and second-team nominees along with area's top coach and runner of the year

### Zach Allen

Daytona Beach News-Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

It was a successful season for cross country in Flagler County.

Matanzas' boys team recorded its best finish in program history by placing ninth at the 3A state meet. The Pirates were led by senior Blaine Vogel, who posted the second-fastest time in the Volusia-Flagler area this season.

Flagler Palm Coast found more success on the girls side, but the Bulldogs have one of the top up-and-coming runners in Florida. Freshman Douglas Seth was the only person in the area to run a faster time than Vogel, and he earned a top-15 finish individually at the 4A state meet.

On those teams and others across Volusia County, there are plenty of athletes to highlight from the 2025 season.

Here are the first- and second-team nominees along with the area's top coach and runner of the year below.

### First Team

**Mateo Almeida, Flagler Palm Coast:** Almeida ran a 16:52 at the New World Fall Spectacular on Oct. 10. He also finished eighth at the Five Star Conference meet.

**Carter Bell, Spruce Creek:** On Aug. 30, Bell won the DeLand Invitational that included Vogel, Sam McDuffie and a few other members of this list. He ran a 16:14 personal best on Oct. 10.

**Luke Carlson, Spruce Creek:** Carlson saved his personal best for the last race of his season — a 16:46.4 at the Region 1-4A meet.

**Dylan Ciardi, Matanzas:** Ciardi ran the fastest race of his freshman campaign at the 3A state meet, when he posted a 16:26.7. He also won the Volusia/Flagler Freshman/Sophomore Championship by 45.5 seconds.

**Maddox Kokin, New Smyrna Beach:** Kokin qualified for the 3A state cross country meet after a 13th-place finish at regionals. His personal best was 16:41.

**Sam McDuffie, New Smyrna Beach:** McDuffie finished sixth at the District 3-3A meet and fourth at the Region 2-3A meet. He

ran a 16:11.8 on Oct. 18 for a personal best.

**Enzo McGovern, Matanzas:** McGovern was the fourth of five Matanzas runners to record a personal best of under 17 minutes, doing so with a 16:53.13 at the Region 1-3A meet.

**Douglas Seth, Flagler Palm Coast:** Seth finished 13th at the 4A state finals with a 16:01.1. He set a personal-best 15:46.93 at the Region 1-4A meet a week earlier.

**Hunter Shuler, Seabreeze:** Shuler was the fastest runner on a Sandcrabs squad that qualified for the state meet. He ran a personal record 16:38.

**Brant Tarsitano, Matanzas:** Tarsitano consistently ran under 17 minutes, with a personal-record 16:29.6 on Oct. 24. The senior finished 13th at the Region 1-3A meet.

**Blaine Vogel, Matanzas:** Vogel won the boys cross-country athlete of the year in 2024 and has a case for it again in 2025. The Pirate ran a personal-record 15:54 at the New World Fall Spectacular on Oct. 10 and finished third in District 2-3A and fifth in Region 1-3A.

**Connor York, DeLand:** York ran a 16:41.6 at the Region 1-4A meet for a personal best. He finished fifth at the Five Star Conference meet and ninth at the DeLand Invitational.

### Second Team

**Brian Boyle, Pine Ridge:** Boyle ran a 17:18.5 at the Region 2-3A meet.

**Matthew Ciardi, Matanzas:** Ciardi ran a 16:57 personal record and finished 17th at the District 2-3A meet.

**Lowell Cummings, Deltona:** Cummings finished sixth at the Five Star Conference meet.

**Evan Johnson, Flagler Palm Coast:** Johnson ran his fastest race of the season at the Region 1-4A meet, recording a 17:06.51.

**James Johnson, DeLand:** Johnson laid down a 17:13.51 at the Region 1-4A meet. It was his personal record.

**Solomon Lorenzo, DeLand:** Lorenzo rattled off a 17:43.34 at the Region 1-4A meet.

**Steven Martinez, Seabreeze:** Martinez sped to a 17:51 personal best.

**Brayden Murray, Flagler Palm Coast:** Murray ran a 17:54.40 personal best.

**Thomas Ragot, Spruce Creek:** Ragot ran a personal-record 17:39.5 at the Coach Joe McKinney Classic on Sept. 20.

**Kai Shirley, Seabreeze:** Shirley finished 41st at the Region 2-3A meet to help send Seabreeze to the state meet. His personal best was 17:40.71.

**Owen Stackpole, Flagler Palm Coast:** Stackpole ran a 16:51 personal best at the New World Fall Spectacular.

**Sean Stephens, Spruce Creek:** Stephens ran a 17:51 personal best.

### Coach of the Year

**Katie Hoover, Matanzas:** Hoover led the Pirates to their highest finish in program history when Matanzas placed ninth at the 3A state meet. Hoover, who also coaches the Pirates' girls team, coached five runners to sub-17-minute personal bests, which was more than any other team in the Volusia-Flagler area.

### Honorable Mention

**Calvary Christian:** Strawder Tavarus, Logan Wingard

**DeLand:** Michael Mandell

**Matanzas:** Tanner Lagocki

**New Smyrna Beach:** Landon Secomski

**Seabreeze:** Barrett Jones

**University:** Connor Rivera

**Warner Christian:** Monroe LaVelle, Esperanza Watson, Liam Amburgey

### Boys Runner of the Year

**Douglas Seth, Flagler Palm Coast:** Seth has already earned an accolade one season into his high school career. He ran the fastest time of any runner in the Volusia-Flagler area and was one of two local runners to run a 5K in less than 16 minutes. Seth finished 13th at the 4A state meet, and he finished first among runners in his grade. The next ninth grader finished 26 spots behind him in 39th. The majority of his races were finished in the low 16-minute range and gradually got faster as the season went on.

## HIGH SCHOOL BOWLING

# Meet the Volusia-Flagler All-Area Boys Bowling Team

First- and second-team boys nominees along with area's top coach, bowler

### Zach Allen

Daytona Beach News-Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The story for the 2025 Volusia-Flagler boys bowling season was the same as it was a year ago — Seabreeze won a state championship.

The Sandcrabs successfully defended their 2024 title by marching through the winner's bracket in Orlando and eventually beating Astronaut in the finals to claim the crown. Dalton Boice, who threw the winning ball to clinch Seabreeze's first title, anchored the team again.

Logan Compton, Braydon Russell and Xavier Subia also became two-time champions, and Jonathan King won his first as the team's newcomer.

It wasn't all about Seabreeze, though. Mainland also represented the area at the state tournament, and University bowler Nathan Tillis earned a top-10 finish as an individual. DeLand bowler Ransom Fogle also bowled a perfect game during the regular season.

Here are the first- and second-team boys bowling nominees along with the area's top coach and bowler of the year.

### First Team

**Dalton Boice, Seabreeze:** Boice earned another first-team nomination after anchoring Seabreeze to its second consecutive Florida state title. He had a season average of 221.41 across 29 games.

**Logan Compton, Seabreeze:** Compton was a second-teamer a season ago, but his average of nearly 200 pins in 29 games earned him a first-team nomination in 2025. Winning a state championship also helps.

**Ransom Fogle, DeLand:** Fogle did what every bowler dreams of — rolling a 300. He bowled the perfect game against Flagler Palm Coast on Sept. 24 and had a season average of 200 pins.

**Leiten Lundell, Mainland:** Lundell headlined a Mainland squad that qualified for the state tournament. The former Seabreeze bowler finished third in District 1-1A with 695 pins in three games, and he finished 19th in the state.

**Xavier Subia, Seabreeze:** Subia bowled an average of close to 196 pins in 29 games this season as one of five bowlers on Seabreeze's title-winning roster.

**Nathan Tillis, University:** Although Seabreeze won a state title, Tillis was the Volusia-Flagler area's highest individual finisher. He placed 10th in Florida with an 893-pin four-game series.

### Second Team

**Kaleb Castello, Matanzas:** Castello starred with a season average of 197 pins.

**Kayden Coloni, University:** Coloni bowled a 697-pin three-game series to lead University to a District 4-1A runner-up finish. He finished 43rd in the state.

**Judah McMullan, Mainland:** McMullan bowled a 268 at districts and helped Mainland become one of three Volusia-Flagler schools to represent the area at states.

**Jack Patulski, Mainland:** Patulski helped Mainland qualify for the state tournament. His 288-pin game at the District 1-1A Tournament led all bowlers.

**Braydon Russell, Seabreeze:** Russell had a season average of 194 pins en route to Seabreeze's successful title defense. He finished second individually at districts with 710 pins in three games.

**Trey Wood, Flagler Palm Coast:** Wood led Flagler Palm Coast to a fifth-place finish at the District 1-1A Tournament with a 629-pin three-game series.

### Coach of the Year

**Paul Shuler, Seabreeze:** It's hard to defend a state title, but it's even more difficult without the availability of substitutes. Shuler coached the Sandcrabs to their second consecutive championship with a minimum roster of five bowlers. It helps when four of the five were part of the 2024 squad, but Shuler kept his team prepared physically and mentally to make sure it brought its A-game for every frame, individual game or Baker match.

### Honorable Mention

**Flagler Palm Coast:** Anthony Seeley, Logan



Seabreeze bowler Dalton Boice holds the trophies at Seabreeze High School after the Sandcrabs claimed the 2025 FHSAA boys bowling title on Nov. 18.

NADIA ZOMORODIAN/NEWS-JOURNAL

Beverly, Cole Osypian

**Mainland:** Riley Boyce

**Matanzas:** JP Rabbat, Timmy Rock

**Seabreeze:** Jonathan King

**Spruce Creek:** Brian Bohannon

**University:** Kolby Lyster, Daniel Tillis

### Boys Bowler of the Year

**Dalton Boice, Seabreeze:** Boice was the best bowler on the best team in Florida. His season average of 221 pins was among the Volusia-Flagler elite. He rose in numerous high-pressure situations as the Sandcrabs' anchor and delivered the ball that won his team its second consecutive state title. Boice was a commanding voice when Seabreeze was nearly eliminated in the district tournament, and again when the Sandcrabs needed to win their final Baker match against Astronaut. He already has two state trophies to his name, but he'll be adding another accolade to his collection here.

# Meet the Volusia-Flagler All-Area Girls Bowling Team

Also included: Honorable mentions, local top coach, area's best bowler

### Zach Allen

Daytona Beach News-Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Flagler Palm Coast is a team that'll frequently appear on the 2025 Volusia-Flagler All-Area girls bowling list.

The Bulldogs won the District 1-1A title under first-year coach Vicky Eaton and placed 17th in the state, one pin away from 16th. Of the six first-team nominees, three are from Flagler Palm Coast.

Matanzas' Olivia Rabbat qualified for the state tournament as an individual and finished 12th. Prior to her berth at states, Rabbat glided to a District 1-1A title by 107 pins.

Here is the 2025 Volusia-Flagler All-Area girls bowling team, complete with honorable mentions, the local top coach and the area's best bowler.

### First Team

**Kailyn Ball, Flagler Palm Coast:** Ball finished ninth at the District 1-1A Tournament with 479 pins in a three-game series.

**Destiny Bonvouloir, Flagler Palm Coast:** Bonvouloir finished one spot behind Victoria DaSilva-Carvalheira on the Bulldogs' district-winning squad.

**Victoria DaSilva-Carvalheira, Flagler Palm Coast:** DaSilva-Carvalheira finished fifth at the District 1-1A Tournament to lead Flagler Palm Coast to a title.

**Sabre Dieckhoff, DeLand:** Dieckhoff anchored DeLand to an undefeated regular season and led the Bulldogs in season average.

**Makenzie Lupo, University:** Lupo bowled a 486 at the District 4-1A tournament to individually qualify for the state tournament.

**Olivia Rabbat, Matanzas:** Rabbat had a 190-pin season average and won the District 1-1A crown by over 100 pins. She finished 12th at the state tournament.

### Second Team

**Madison Boyce, Mainland:** Boyce finished 14th at the District 1-1A Tournament with a 140.33 average.

**Bayleigh Couch, DeLand:** Couch qualified for the state tournament individually and finished 61st with 664 pins in a four-game series.

**Katelyn Miller, Seabreeze:** Miller averaged 162.44 across 25 games this season and finished 10th at the District 1-1A Tournament.

**Isabella Oliva, Flagler Palm Coast:** Oliva bowled a 139 average at the District 1-1A Tournament and captained Flagler Palm Coast to a team title.

**Skyleen Ramos, Matanzas:** Ramos averaged 137 pins over 23 games. She accumulated a 153.67 average in a three-game series at the district tournament.

**Paige Silvis, Mainland:** Silvis finished 12th at the District 1-1A event.

### Coach of the Year

**Vicky Eaton, Flagler Palm Coast:** Eaton took over for former Bulldog and current Matanzas head coach Laura Oliva. In her first season, Eaton coached the Bulldogs to a District 1-1A title. Flagler Palm Coast was one pin from earning a berth in the state championship bracket as well.

### Honorable Mention

**DeLand:** Autumn Christen, Jazzy Offermann  
**Flagler Palm Coast:** Mya Kelly  
**Matanzas:** Madelyn Haze, Emma Ball  
**Seabreeze:** Madison King

### Girls Bowler of the Year

**Olivia Rabbat, Matanzas:** Rabbat dominated her local counterparts all season. Rabbat was a nominee in 2024, but her season average improved from 167 pins to 190 to earn the title of the top girls bowler in the Volusia-Flagler area. She won the District 1-1A tournament with 652 pins in a three-game series. Second place finished with 545 pins. There were three 200-pin games at her district tournament, and Rabbat bowled two of them, including a 276-pin game. Rabbat was the area's top local finisher at the state level after placing 12th.

WOMEN EXECUTIVES IN SPORTS COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL

# Meet the woman in charge of the Final Four

Dana Hunsinger Benbow

Indianapolis Star  
USA TODAY NETWORK

INDIANAPOLIS — The months, days and minutes are ticking down on an internal clock that is always running in JoAn Scott's head. Her job is made up of deadlines and timelines and a million other things, but right now, she is in crunch time.

Scott is the NCAA's vice president of men's basketball, a job that means navigating games, brackets, tournaments, officials, venues and the beloved tradition of March Madness.

And what is coming up for Scott in just a few months is a historic moment in men's basketball, leading the NCAA as Indianapolis does what no city has done before — host the NCAA Division I, II and III men's Final Fours plus the NIT title game. Four championship crowns in one town.

"This is a unique year we've never had," Scott said. "It will be just a big celebration of basketball that this city and state loves."

For Scott, it's a major undertaking, but she is ready. Men's basketball has been her thing for as long as she can remember.

Scott was in college when she landed a job working for the men's basketball coach. She spent four years with the team, typing recruiting letters, writing practice plans, running the shot clock at games and helping the coaches put on camps.

She absolutely loved it.

She went on to work nine years for USA Basketball and the unforgettable Dream Team of 1992. She worked for Nike for 17 years. Then when the job with the NCAA came open, Scott took it. That was 12 years ago.

And through those years, she has been a steady force making everything that comes along with men's college basketball look easy.

"She can create order out of chaos," said Susan Baughman, a friend of Scott's who has worked with her on major sports events in Indy. "JoAn has got this incredible, both problem-solving mind and a creativity that you don't always find in a nuts-and-bolts operations person. That is really



JoAn Scott, NCAA's managing director of men's basketball championships, looks over the court before the 2015 Final Four at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

CHARLIE NYE/INDYSTAR, FILE

inspiring to me."

## A state-winning high school athlete

Scott was born and raised in a small farming and railroad community in the middle of Nebraska, population 600 people. Her dad and his twin brother ran the local Amoco oil gas station that delivered fuel to the farms.

Her mom stayed home and was one of those wonderful mothers, making homemade bread, cooking Scott and her three siblings — a brother and two sisters — a hot breakfast every morning and welcoming their teammates to the house before ballgames for dinner. She would put name tags on the table at the place settings with names like Larry Bird and Dr. J.

"She was always doing something to fire us up and really be our biggest cheerleader," said Scott. "My mom didn't get to play sports, so she was adamant, 'I want my daughters to play sports.'"

And play, Scott did. In high school, she helped lead her volleyball team to two state titles, the basketball team to a state championship appearance and was a shot putter and discus thrower in track. Every now and then, the coach would put her in for a relay.

Scott was good enough to walk on

the University of Nebraska-Kearney volleyball team and played all four years as an outside hitter while she worked for men's basketball and majored in business management.

After college, she moved to Colorado Springs to live with a family friend. One day, as Scott was looking for a job in sports, she opened up the newspaper want ads and found an opening at USA Basketball, which had its headquarters in Colorado Springs. There was just one problem. The deadline was the next day.

Scott went on her lunch break to buy fancy resume paper and envelopes, went home that night and sat at a manual typewriter creating her resume, which she hand-delivered to the offices of USA Basketball the next day.

Ten years later, Scott had climbed her way up to the position of director of basketball operations and worked on some incredible projects, including the 1992 and 1996 U.S. Olympic teams.

Even today when people ask what she does for a living, they want to hear about that 1992 Dream Team, made up of a superstar roster that included players like Charles Barkley, Michael Jordan, Larry Bird, Scottie Pippen, John Stockton and Magic Johnson.

"When I tell them I worked with the Dream Team, most of them don't be-

lieve me," Scott said, laughing. That's OK. She still has relationships with many of the players from that team, including Barkley, Stockton and Pippen.

## 'She is commanding in all the right ways'

In the past 12 years, Scott said she is proud of a lot of what has been accomplished, but one that stands out was the 2021 bubble — when the entire men's Division I basketball tournament was held in Indy due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The NCAA had three months to figure out how to pull that off. Scott spent her Christmas break putting together a 250-page PowerPoint, working with dozens of other organizations and agencies, including the Marion County Health Department, talking to the NBA which held a bubble in Orlando and Major League Baseball, which had used neutral-site bubbles for the 2020 postseason.

"We were calling everybody and anybody," she said. "Gathering every bit of information we could."

What most people want to talk about with Scott, however, is "they want a little bit of peek or understanding of how we select teams (for the NCAA Tournament)," she said. "Like why did this team get in or why did this team have to fly all the way to Seattle?"

Scott is in the selection room when teams are being picked but she doesn't vote. She calls herself the air traffic controller. "I'm leading it and telling them what they're voting on and what's coming up next."

Scott has had her hands in some of men's basketball's biggest events in history, pulling them off with a mix of inner confidence, modesty and the knowledge of an experienced leader.

"She is commanding in all the right ways," said Allison Melangton, senior vice president at Penske Entertainment. "She's very commanding and she's unbelievably detailed and organized. And she does a great job working across different people's personalities and different functions and then pulling them all together."

NBA TRADE DEADLINE

# Players most likely to be on new team

Mark Giannotto

USA TODAY

For a certain caliber of NBA superstar, the trade rumors often don't stop once they start. Not in previous generations of the league and certainly not in the current climate, in which what comes out of an NBA trade machine often resonates more than what comes out of an NBA game.

Milwaukee Bucks star Giannis Antetokounmpo is feeling the effect this season, partly through his own doing and lack of clarity. He's twice had to address reports about his uncertain future with the team — once during the preseason and again earlier this week as he recovers from a calf injury. It's why the two-time former NBA MVP leads the list of players most likely to be traded — and the most sought-after player — before the league's deadline arrives on Feb. 5.

Here's a breakdown of notable NBA players with the best chance to be traded by the deadline, as well as some trade rumors to watch:

## Giannis Antetokounmpo, Milwaukee Bucks

Trade rumors about Antetokounmpo haven't stopped even while he's on the shelf. The Bucks were scuffling before he got hurt and haven't gotten better. Antetokounmpo insisted he has not spoken to team officials about wanting a trade since this season began, but also didn't rule out the possibility his agent may have done so. If Antetokounmpo comes back and the Bucks aren't competing to be in the top-six of the Eastern Conference standings around the trade deadline, both sides could decide it's the right time to make a move.

## Anthony Davis, Dallas Mavericks

The Dallas Mavericks have a dilemma with Davis if they're looking to rebuild around Cooper Flagg in the aftermath of firing former General Manager Nico Harrison. Davis is still one of the NBA's best big men when he plays, and the Mavericks' recent uptick coincides



Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo watches from the bench during a Dec. 11 game against the Boston Celtics. BENNY SIEU/IMAGN IMAGES

with his season debut. But durability concerns linger for the 32-year-old, who is set to make more than \$58 million next season and has a player option for more than \$62 million in 2027-28. Are the Mavericks willing to sell low?

## Trae Young, Atlanta Hawks

Young recently returned to action after missing 22 games due to injury, while the Hawks blossomed behind new star Jalen Johnson. If the team loses its momentum with Young back in the lineup, speculation will ramp up about his future. Young has a player option on his contract for next season, which means he could become a free agent. The more complicated question for Atlanta (and potential suitors) is whether he's still worth paying like a No. 1 option long term.

## DeMar DeRozan, Sacramento Kings

The Kings are a mess with an expensive roster of players that don't fit well together. Just about the entire lineup could be available at the trade deadline this year, with Zack Lavine, Domantas Sabonis, Malik Monk and Keon Ellis among the other options prominently mentioned in rumors. But DeRozan

might be the easiest to trade because his contract is only partially guaranteed next year, and he's making less than \$25 million this season unlike Lavine and Sabonis.

## Jonathan Kuminga, Golden State Warriors

It'd probably be best for everyone involved if Kuminga and the Warriors figured out how to resolve their increasingly awkward relationship by the NBA's trade deadline. Kuminga has been in-and-out of Golden State's rotation this season. The 23-year-old ended an off-season stalemate by agreeing to a 2-year deal with the Warriors as a restricted free agent, but it doesn't appear he ever really wanted to return to Golden State.

## Chris Paul, Los Angeles Clippers

Paul is still technically on the Clippers despite being sent home by the team earlier this month. There are indications Paul would like to continue playing somewhere else this season, and outside Los Angeles if necessary, after previously announcing this would be his last season. He signed a one-year, \$3.5 million contract with the Clippers this offseason and would be an easy

throw-in if the team elects to make a major trade in response to its poor start to the 2025-26 campaign. NBA commissioner Adam Silver said at the NBA Cup he would "love" to see Paul find a new team to close his final season.

## Ja Morant, Memphis Grizzlies

Though Morant's name is mentioned frequently in NBA trade gossip, his injury issues and significant contract make a deal more challenging in the near term. Even if the Grizzlies were looking to trade Morant — the team insists they're not — he needs to be healthy for a deal to occur at the deadline, which isn't a given according to recent history. Memphis will have a hard time getting much in return for Morant in the next two months with his stock so low and two more years left on his max rookie extension. If Morant is traded, it's more likely to happen after this season ends.

## LaMelo Ball, Charlotte Hornets

Morant's situation in Memphis has some parallels for Ball, as rookie LaMelo Ball emerges as an intriguing new option for the Hornets. Unless Ball is included in a trade for Young or Morant, his max rookie extension and the potential he could still blossom in Charlotte alongside Knueppel and Brandon Miller likely outweighs what the team would get in return right now given Ball's max contract, recent injury history and reputation for lackadaisical play at times.

## Lauri Markkanen, Utah Jazz

Markkanen has quietly been one of the best players in the NBA during the opening two months of the 2025-26 season, even as the Jazz appear destined for the draft lottery again. He could change the complexion of the postseason race if he were to land on the right contender, and that comes with a steep price. Utah General Manager Danny Ainge has never been eager to deal, and there's no rush with Markkanen in the first season of a new 4-year contract worth nearly \$196 million.

## NFL WEEK 17 PREVIEW

### Saints (5-10) at Titans (3-12)

 TV: 1 p.m. ET Sunday Dec. 28, CBS  
The Titans have won two of their past three. Their rushing success on offense has opened up the field for QB Cam Ward; Tennessee managed six 10-play drives in the past two weeks. Saints rookie QB Tyler Shough has been stellar over their three-game winning streak, putting up 724 passing yards, 95 rushing yards and four total TDs with just one turnover.



**Bears quarterback Caleb Williams (18) eludes Packers defensive end Rashan Gary on Dec. 20 at Soldier Field.**

DAN POWERS/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

### Cardinals (3-12) at Bengals (5-10)

 TV: 1 p.m. ET Sunday Dec. 28, Fox  
The Cardinals have had myriad injuries. Their best shot at a win might be a fake punt or two and to go for two-point conversions if they score touchdowns. The Bengals offense showed how efficient it can be against Miami in Week 16 and just needs to control time of possession to salt the game away.

### Patriots (12-3) at Jets (3-12)

 TV: 1 p.m. ET Sunday Dec. 28, Fox  
If the Patriots come out and play their game, they should have no issues. A win and help, and the Patriots would claim their first AFC East title since 2019. If the Jets can't score TDs early and often, it'll be another long day. They likely need a breakaway play from the likes of WRs Adonai Mitchell and John Metchie III.

### Seahawks (12-3) at Panthers (8-7)

 TV: 1 p.m. ET Sunday Dec. 28, CBS  
 As sneaky as the Panthers have been, the Seahawks won't slip up against them with the NFC No. 1 playoff seed on the line. The Seahawks fell behind the Rams in Week 16 and came back to win, but they can't live like that every week. The Panthers will attack the middle of the field with

WR Tetairoa McMillan. The Seahawks will continue to constantly feed WR Jaxon Smith-Njigba, who leads the NFL in receiving, as he has been QB Sam Darnold's security blanket all season.

### Jaguars (11-4) at Colts (8-7)

 TV: 1 p.m. ET Sunday Dec. 28, Fox  
These two teams are trending in different directions. The Jaguars might be the most dangerous team in the AFC and the Colts are trying to hang on to make the playoffs. Indianapolis QB Philip Rivers can only do so much under center, and RB Jonathan Taylor can't work miracles. Jacksonville QB Trevor Lawrence is playing at an elite clip over the past several weeks, recording 14 total touchdowns over the past four games (12 passing, two rushing), helping the Jaguars to six consecutive wins. But the best stat is zero, as in Lawrence has had zero turnovers in the past four weeks.

### Steelers (9-6) at Browns (3-12)

 TV: 1 p.m. ET Sunday Dec. 28, CBS  
By the time the game kicks off, the Steelers, on a three-game winning streak, could be the AFC North champs for the first time since 2020 if the Ravens lose to the Packers. Pittsburgh outclasses the Browns in nearly every facet; on the flip side, this game will be about keeping QB Aaron Rodgers upright. The Steelers passer has been sacked five times in two games, and facing Browns DE Myles Garrett and his pursuit of the NFL season sack record will be tough sledding.

### Buccaneers (7-8) at Dolphins (6-9)

 TV: 1 p.m. ET Sunday Dec. 28, Fox  
The Bucs were once 6-2 and held a two-game lead in the NFC South. Now, they are out of first place, but they can win the division by beating Miami and then Carolina in a regular-season final week rematch. WRs Mike Evans and Chris Godwin are back for the Bucs, but it seems like QB Baker Mayfield is trying to do it all. Dolphins rookie QB Quinn Ewers completed 20 of 30 passes for 260 yards and two interceptions.

### Giants (2-13) at Raiders (2-13)

 TV: 4:05 p.m. ET Sunday Dec. 28, CBS  
The Giants hold the No. 1 pick in the 2026 draft, according to Tankathon.com projections. But QB Jaxson Dart and this current Giants iteration are desperate to win again. The Raiders will look to keep the offense going. In Week 16, RB Ashton Jeanty put it all together.

### Eagles (10-5) at Bills (11-4)

 TV: 4:25 p.m. ET Sunday Dec. 28, Fox  
Both teams are headed to the playoffs, but the Bills are at home and the game means a

little more to them in terms of the post-season. Since the start of 2024 counting the postseason, the Bills are 16-1 at home. They will have to contain Saquon Barkley running behind a top-10 offensive line anchored by star tackles Jordan Mailata and Lane Johnson. The Bills need to be two-dimensional on offense and that means someone needs to help QB Josh Allen in the passing game.

### Bears (11-4) at 49ers (11-4)

 TV: 8:20 p.m. ET Sunday Dec. 28, NBC/Peacock  
With the NFC North title on the line, Chicago will have plenty of motivation. The Bears have made a living on mounting late fourth-quarter comeback wins, including last week's over Green Bay in overtime. For the 49ers, it's protecting the ball against a takeaway-happy defense. QB Brock Purdy threw seven interceptions in his first four games, but he has gotten better. 49ers RB Christian McCaffrey is a threat to take it to the house (nine rushing TDs and seven receiving TDs).

### Rams (11-4) at Falcons (6-9)

 TV: 8:15 p.m. ET Monday Dec. 29, ESPN  
The Rams are going to be motivated and angry after giving up the No. 1 seed for the NFC playoffs. The Rams fired special teams coordinator Chase Blackburn after his group played a big part in the collapse against the Seahawks in Week 16. Head coach Sean McVay hopes that will lead to some improvement from a group that has cost the Rams two wins this season. For the Falcons, it is simple: get the ball to game-changing RB Bijan Robinson. The Panthers beat the Rams a few weeks ago by riding their running backs, and the Falcons should take a similar approach.

— USA TODAY SPORTS NETWORK

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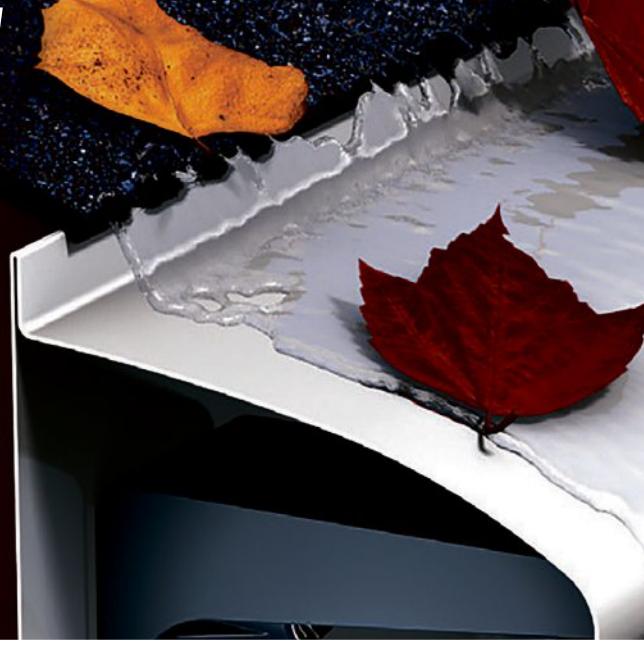
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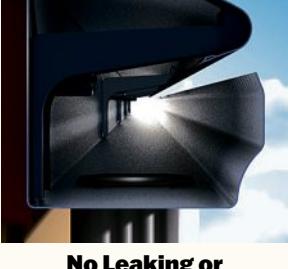
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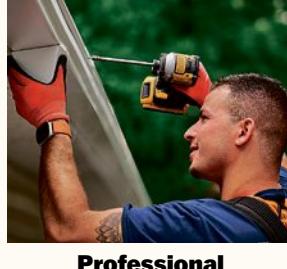
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# Stadiums are rarely a good deal for taxpayers

Nancy Armour  
USA TODAY

Coal is overrated. Nothing kills the holiday spirit quite like giving a middle finger to your loyal fans.

The Kansas City Chiefs announced Monday that they're abandoning the stadium they've called home for more than 50 years, taking their ball and moving because Missouri residents wouldn't foot the bill for major renovations at Arrowhead Stadium. This five days after the Chicago Bears threatened to move to northwest Indiana if Illinois taxpayers won't give them money.

Check that. *More* money, since the state is still paying for the renovation of Soldier Field more than 20 years ago.

"Our fans deserve a world-class stadium. Our players and coaches deserve a venue that matches the championship standard they strive for every day," Bears president Kevin Warren wrote in an open letter to fans.

No one is saying the Chiefs and Bears don't deserve first-class facilities. Or even saying they can't have new or newly renovated stadiums. If these teams want state-of-the-art playgrounds, they should get them!

But they should be paying for them themselves. Every last cent of the costs for construction and infrastructure.

• **Sports stadiums, arenas rarely deliver on promised benefits**

Now, the teams and the politicians who sign off on public funds for these taj mahals will tell you what a good deal it is for taxpayers. How these projects will create jobs, generate revenue, make the area a tourist destination, blah, blah, blah.

Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly trotted out all those economic clichés in making the announcement Monday.

"With this new stadium, we're creating thousands of jobs, bringing in tourists from around the world, attracting young people," she said.

Numerous studies over the years, however, have found this just isn't true. The economic benefits are almost always less than promised or projected. The costs to the taxpayers almost always are greater than expected or planned.

"Economic research continues to demonstrate that stadiums remain poor public investments," authors of a review of public funding for stadiums wrote in a January 2023 paper.

Especially when the team owners can af-

ford to write these checks themselves!

• **Charity for billionaires all part of the new stadium playbook**

The Hunt family, owner of the Chiefs, is worth \$25 billion, according to Forbes, and the franchise was valued at more than \$6 billion in August. Yet Kansas taxpayers will pay up to 60% of the costs of the \$3 billion new stadium.

The McCaskeys are known to be among the least-wealthy NFL owners, their fortune tied mostly to the Bears. Still, the team is valued at more than \$8 billion, according to Forbes.

The Bears at least say they will cover the bulk of the costs for their proposed \$5 billion stadium, but they want \$855 million in public money for infrastructure. Things like roads, sewers and changes to a commuter rail line.

Again, both of these teams are worth billions. As is the NFL, which offers nine-figure loans for stadium projects. If the Chiefs and Bears want new stadiums, and the riches that come with them, *they* should pay every cost associated with them.

Instead, they want fans, who already shell out for tickets, parking, concessions and merch, to give them more.

This isn't new, of course. The public has been building stadiums for sports teams for decades. But at a time when it's getting harder and harder for most Americans to put food on the table and keep the lights on, the Bears and Chiefs demanding that others foot their bills isn't just greedy, it's insensitive.

Teams like to say their fans are the life-blood of their organizations; after the Bears staged an epic comeback to beat the Green Bay Packers on Saturday night, both coach Ben Johnson and Caleb Williams gave fans some of the credit. Yet it's not enough. These teams want taxpayers, many of whom are their fans, to give them even more, and they have no problem shaking them down like a mob boss to get it.

You really think the Chiefs would be moving to Kansas had Missouri voters not rejected a sales tax in April 2024 that would have paid for renovations at Arrowhead and a new Kansas City Royals stadium? You really think the Bears would be considering a move to the suburbs, let alone across state lines, if they could have gotten public land near Soldier Field?

If you do, I've got a stadium to sell you.

This is supposed to be the season of giving. For the Chiefs, the Bears and so many other team owners, it's a one-way exchange.

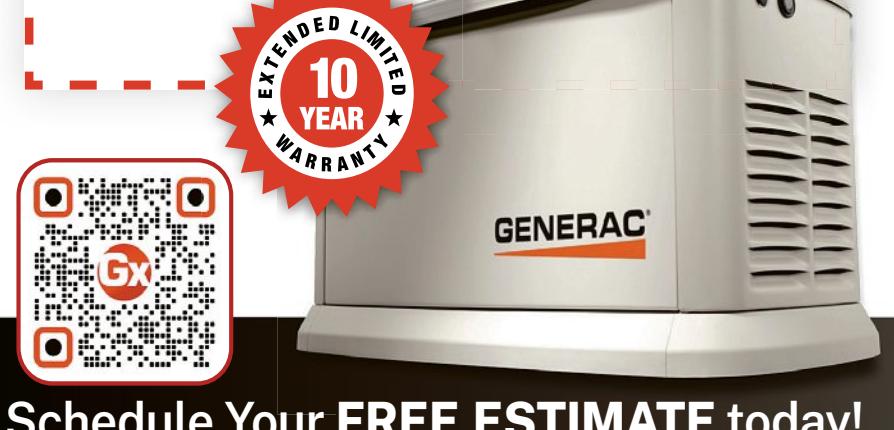
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\*Offer expires: 01/31/26. All offers apply to purchase of Kitchen Saver Custom Cabinet Renewal only and must be presented and used at time of estimate. Minimum purchase and deposit required. Qualified buyers only. Plan 2521. Subject to credit approval. Rates range from 15.85% - 21.19% APR (interest rates range from 17.99% - 24.99%). Only well-qualified applicants will receive an APR of 15.85%; some applicants may not qualify. Loan amount and rate will vary based on your income and creditworthiness. 12 month promotional period ("Promo Period") during which interest is billed but will be waived if the amount financed is paid in full before Promo Period expires. Monthly payments are not required during the Promo Period. Any unpaid balance and amounts owed after Promo Period will be paid over 84 monthly payments. For example, assuming the full credit limit is used on loan approval date and no payments are made during Promo Period, for every \$1,000 financed at a fixed interest rate of 24.99%, 12 monthly payments of \$0 followed by 84 monthly payments of \$28.29. This example is an estimate only. Actual payment amounts based on amount and timing of purchases. Call 866-936-0602 for financing costs and terms. GreenSky® program consumer loans are made by Synovus Bank, Member FDIC, NMLS #4208043, without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, disability, or familial status. GreenSky Servicing, LLC ("GSS", NMLS #1416362, [www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org](http://www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org)) is a financial technology company that manages the GreenSky® program by supporting originations and servicing the loans on behalf of banks and other financial institutions that make or hold program loans. GreenSky is a registered trademark of GreenSky, LLC and is licensed to banks and other financial institutions for their use in connection with the GreenSky® program. GreenSky LLC and GSS are not lenders. All credit decisions and loan terms are determined by program lenders. May not be combined with other offers or applied to previous purchases. Valid only at select Kitchen Saver locations. See location for details. Cabinet style and feature availability varies by location and may be different than pictured. PA HIC #PA063180, DE Contractor #201360587, NJ HIC #13VH08343300, NJ HIC #13VH12694800, SC Gen. Contractor CLG.124859, WV Contractor WV063413, and IN BTL 0158230795-002.