

“Andrew was outstanding, but the ‘other guys,’ as we like to call them, did a nice job,” Daemen coach Mike MacDonald said. “We got a lot of contributions across the board and different
Please see **SISCHO B6** ▶

that the 2021 tournament itself is no sure thing.
“There were a lot of different things about this year’s selection process,” said committee chairman Mitch Barnhart, the athletic director at Kentucky.
A year after the tournament was can-

B7 ▶ Full NCAA Tournament bracket.
celeated as the COVID-19 virus was mushrooming into a worldwide pandemic, all 68 teams will gather in Indiana for all 67 games beginning Thursday and ending

April 3 and 5 with the Final Four. But all it takes is a single COVID outbreak to upend the finely calibrated beauty of that plan. More than one and the entire endeavor could crater.
Please see **NCAA B7** ▶

Lee Kuxhaus is a member of the Capital Region Nordic Alliance’s paralympic skeleton team, and is training for nationals in Lake Placid. She also competes in cycling, swimming and road racing.



Capital Region Nordic Alliance

Paralympian finds safe haven

Lee Kuxhaus, an Air Force veteran from Dallas and a below-knee amputee, is a member of the Capital Region Nordic Alliance’s paralympic skeleton team. She began training this week in Lake Placid, thanks to a Capital Region organization that provides a safe environment for disabled veterans to learn and compete in a variety of paralympic nordic and winter sports.

Karen Fagan of Troy, director of development for the Nordic Alliance, is serving as Kuxhaus’ main support during her training and competition in Lake Placid. Fagan also is coordinating a tangled web of logistics — many of them COVID-



JOYCE BASSETT
ALL IN

related — for a team of paralympic bobsledders and sliders from throughout the U.S. gearing up for nationals Saturday and Sunday in Lake Placid.

The Lake Placid Olympic Center is hosting winter athletes competing while preparing for both the Winter Olympics in February 2022 and

Paralympic Winter Games in Beijing in March 2022.

“CRNA invested in a number of skeletons to afford our veterans with disabilities the opportunity to experience and excel in skeleton without the burden of purchasing skeletons that cost approximately \$7,000 and are made in Germany,” said Russ Myer, executive director of the Capital Region Nordic Alliance. “We plan to host more veterans (men and women) as paralympians in the coming years.”

Kuxhaus is a multi-sport athlete who competes in cycling, swimming and road racing. She most recently

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Since Major League Baseball officially began keeping track in 1988, the longest at-bat in a regular-season game was a 21-pitch duel between San Francisco's Brandon Belt and Angels

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▼ CONTINUED FROM B1

is making the transition from hand-cycling to upright, and moving from wheelchair to ambulatory road races, thanks to improvements in her recovery — both mentally and physically.

"I had problems adjusting to my leg," she said, "but then I stopped worrying about walking and started living. I was on the Warrior Games team for the Air Force, and at first did all my adaptive sports in my wheelchair. That's when I really started recovering. I did the sport of triathlon, and then I felt that I was ready to try my leg again and I did it. And it worked. It was my attitude.

"Now I'm living again. My leg has worked very well," she said.

The sport of skeleton is her favorite, even though training and competition opportunities are limited.

"They just put you on the sled and push you down this ice," she said. "When I first tried it and I got to the bottom I felt so incredibly alive, it's just an amazing sport. I couldn't wait to do it again. It's the most alive I've ever felt. I didn't know how much of an adrenaline junkie I was until I tried skeleton, and then I fell in love with it."

Making people feel alive is one of the major goals of CRNA. Expert coaching from current

happened before," Hicks said. "I don't even think I've had a 13 pitch at-bat in my career."

Hicks was scheduled to pitch one inning. But after the long matchup, he was pulled. Cardi-



Capital Region Nordic Alliance

Paralympian Lee Kuxhaus and Troy's Karen Fagan of CRNA. Fagan is serving as Kuxhaus' main support during her training and competition in Lake Placid.

and former Team USA athletes, including Katie Uhlaender, Sara Roderick and Gracie Clapp-Taylor, helps provide a trauma-free environment for parathletes in Lake Placid.

Stephen Garbett, Team USA veteran and champion, has been instrumental at the Lake Placid training camps this season, Fagan said. And Kuxhaus is making the most of her return to Lake Placid.

"Kuxhaus has overcome a lot to become a world-class sledder," Myer said.

That's a huge understatement. The below-knee left amputee recently rehabbed from knee and ankle injuries to her right leg. She also suffered a severe case of COVID-19 in

in four innings for Boston. Rafael Devers and Christian Arroyo hit back-to-back home runs to start the fifth.

Nationals: Stephen Strasburg left his second spring training start in the third inning because of a problem with his left calf that he called "nothing major."

#womenworthwatching

■ **NWHL:** The National Women's Hockey League (NWHL) Isobel Cup playoffs will be held March 26-27 at Warrior Ice Arena in Brighton, Mass., with four teams competing for the championship live on NBCSN. These telecasts will mark the first women's professional hockey league championship games to air on a major national network in the U.S.

■ **NWSL:** The Challenge Cup begins in early April with network coverage.

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January that put her in the hospital. That prevented her from attending skeleton team selection in January, but she continues to train and work for a spot on the national team thanks in no small part to the efforts of a small but mighty Capital Region organization.

Her runs on a new sled Saturday got her back in the game. From the number 4 start at Mt. Van Hoevenberg, her times were 49.71, 49.89 and 50.09.

"It's like riding a bike from the low start," she said. "Nice to be back on the ice. Now the real work starts."

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Buckeyes.

No. 6 Alabama 80, LSU 79: Herbert Jones drove for a go-ahead layup with 19.5 seconds remaining and Alabama won the Southeastern Conference Tournament for the first time since 1991, holding off a late flurry by LSU. Coach Nate Oats and the Crimson Tide added to their regular-season title with a victory that should help Alabama at least match its highest seed in the NCAA Tournament — it was No. 2 in both 1987 and 2002. Alabama, the reigning national champion in football, won its seventh tournament title overall, second in the SEC only to Kentucky's 31. The Crimson Tide (24-6) hadn't even reached this game since 2002. Jones, both the SEC Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year, finished with 13 points and 11 rebounds. Jaden Shackelford led Alabama with 21 points. LSU (18-9) hadn't won this tournament since 1980, and this was the Tigers' first time in the final since 1993. Trendon Watford finished with a career-high 30 points for LSU.

No. 7 Houston 91, Cincinnati 54: Quentin Grimes scored 21 points with



Justin Casterlin

Giorgi Bezhanishvili of Illinois takes a shot against Ohio State during the Big Ten Basketball Tournament championship.