



Baylor forward Flo Thamba (0) fights for a rebound with Gonzaga forward Drew Timme (2) during the first half of the championship game in the men's Final Four NCAA college basketball tournament at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. (AP)

# Sports

Latest sports scores at — <http://sports.arabtimesonline.com>

## Baylor wins historic national title

Gonzaga's pursuit of unbeaten season ends

INDIANAPOLIS, April 6, (AP) — Baylor knew it would need to play to near-perfection to end Gonzaga's flawless season.

The Bears just about did. Jared Butler and their dynamic backcourt hit their first five 3-pointers and never cooled off. Undersized big man Mark Vital delivered as many headaches as bruises. Their bench was superb, their rebounding exceptional, their game plan impeccable and the coaching of Scott Drew spot-on in the crowning moment of his long building job in Waco, Texas.

The result was a stunning 86-70 rout of the overall No. 1 seed for the first men's basketball title in school history.

Butler, the do-everything All-American, led the way with 22 points, outdueling Gonzaga freshman sensation Jalen Suggs in a matchup of premier point guards. Butler hit four 3-pointers, repeatedly broke down the Bulldogs off the dribble and, when they managed to stop him, piled up seven assists by finding someone else wide open.

### BASKETBALL

Often it was his backcourt buddies MaCio Teague (19 points) and Davion Mitchell (15 points).

Or it was Vital, the 6-foot-5, 250-pound fullback in basketball shoes. He had three offensive rebounds before the game was 3 minutes old, finished with six points and 11 boards and made life miserable for Gonzaga star Drew Timme.

The teams were supposed to play in December in Indianapolis, but an outbreak of COVID-19 within the Gonzaga program forced the game to be called off. The two teams spent most of the regular season ranked 1-2 in the AP poll, and they were anointed the co-favorites for a most unique NCAA Tournament played entirely in central Indiana.

Despite only 8,000 fans in the crowd, the vast majority of them wearing green and gold, there was a palpable excitement about the game - perhaps it was still lingering from the Final Four, when Suggs hit a buzzer-beating 3-pointer in overtime to beat UCLA in one of the most remarkable finishes in the history of the NCAA Tournament.

In any case, the Bears roared to a 29-10 lead midway through the first half, the biggest deficit Gonzaga had faced all year, and threatened to turn that highly anticipated showdown into a nationally televised blowout.

The Bulldogs somehow got within 47-37 at halftime, and Suggs got hot early in the second half, allowing them to slowly chip away at their deficit. But that's when the poise of a team long on experience - Baylor starts three juniors and two seniors - provided the kind of emphatic answer that proved this so-called upset was no fluke.

Gonzaga's Andrew Nembhard had trimmed the deficit to single digits with 14:22 when Vital answered at the other end. Butler added a couple free throws and, after a bucket by Timme, Teague scored a dazzling, twirling layup, Vital swatted a shot by Corey Kispert and backup Adam Flagler (13 points) buried yet another 3-pointer for the Bears.

In just over a minute, Baylor's 58-49 lead swelled to 16 points again. It hit 20 a few minutes later. And the Bears merely had to coast through the final 5 minutes to celebrate a national title nearly two decades in the making.

The program was mired in scandal when Drew arrived 18 years ago. The murder of a player at the hands of a teammate was still fresh in fans' minds, as was the attempted cover-up by Drew's predecessor, Dave Bliss, and NCAA sanctions that turned the Baylor program into arguably the biggest rebuilding job in the history of the sport.

Yet after a few lean years, Drew had built a Big 12 contender. The Bears began to challenge Kansas and other blueblood programs. And they finally broke through with their first conference championship since 1950 earlier this season. That was one of their goals. The other was to deliver their first national championship.

On Monday night, they reached that one, too.



Baylor players and coaches celebrate after the championship game against Gonzaga in the men's Final Four NCAA college basketball tournament at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. Baylor won 86-70. (AP)

Suns down Rockets for 6th straight win

## Doncic's 31 points pace Mavs over Jazz

DALLAS, April 6, (AP) — Luka Doncic scored 31 points and Dorian Finney-Smith added a season-high 23 as the Dallas Mavericks beat the Utah Jazz 111-103 on Monday night for their season-best fifth straight win.

The NBA-leading Jazz had their nine-game winning streak halted. Jalen Brunson scored 20 points, Josh Richardson 17 and Tim Hardaway Jr 16 as Dallas won for the first time in three games versus Utah this season. Kristaps Porzingis, Dallas' No. 2 scorer and leading rebounder, sat out with a sprained right wrist.

Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle was pleased to hold the NBA's No. 3 scoring team, averaging 117.2 points going in, to its lowest point total since Feb. 7 after losing the previous two games in the season series at Utah in late January.

Mike Conley scored 28 points to lead the Jazz, who trailed by as many as 18 points. Donovan Mitchell, Bojan Bogdanovic and Jordan Clarkson scored 16 each, and Rudy Gobert had 14 points and 15 rebounds.

Dallas beat Utah at its long-range game. The Mavericks were 23 for 49 from behind the arc; their highs this season from behind the arc are 25 makes and 50 attempts.

### Suns 133, Rockets 130

In Houston, Devin Booker scored 18 of his 36 points in the fourth quarter, and the Phoenix Suns beat the Houston Rockets 133-130 for their sixth straight win.

Deandre Ayton matched a season high with 27 points as Phoenix won for the ninth time in 10 games overall. Mikal Bridges had 20 points, and Chris Paul finished with 19 points and 11 assists.

Phoenix led 101-92 after three quarters, but Houston opened the fourth with a 9-0 run. Houston trailed by nine again with a minute left, but Jae'Sean Tate and Kelly Olynyk made back-to-back 3s for the Rockets.

Christian Wood made two free throws to cut the Suns' lead to one with 3.5 seconds remaining. Booker hit two free throws, and Houston's inbound pass was deflected to end the game.

### Nets 114, Knicks 112

In New York, Kyrie Irving scored 40 points, Jeff Green made two free throws with 3.7 seconds left and the Brooklyn Nets overcome the early loss of James Harden to beat the New York Knicks 114-112.

Harden returned after missing two games with right hamstring tightness but lasted just four minutes before having to leave again with the same injury.

But even short-handed and on the second night of a back-to-back, the Nets

had enough. Irving wore down the Knicks' defense with his dazzling dribbling moves that freed up space for jumpers, including a 3-pointer with 59 seconds left after New York had closed within two.

The Knicks scored five straight to tie it at 112 on Alec Burks' 3-pointer and forced the ball out of Irving's hands on Brooklyn's next trip. Joe Harris missed a jumper, but Green got the rebound and was fouled.

### Raptors 103, Wizards 101

In Tampa, Fla., Gary Trent Jr. beat the buzzer with a long 3-pointer and the Toronto Raptors rallied from a 19-point second-half deficit to beat the Washington Wizards 103-101.

Pascal Siakam led Toronto with 22 points, and DeAndre Bembry and rookie Malachi Flynn led a fourth-quarter charge for the Raptors, who won consecutive games for the first time since Feb. 19-21.

Russell Westbrook had 23 points, 14 rebounds and 11 assists for the Wizards, who have lost four straight.

Washington led 101-100 when Siakam was called for a charge with 27 seconds left. Raul Neto missed a reverse layup with 5.5 seconds left and Trent got the rebound.

### Cavaliers 125, Spurs 101

In San Antonio, Darius Garland scored a career-high 37 points, and the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the San Antonio

Spurs 125-101 to snap a five-game skid. Collin Sexton added 22 points for Cleveland. Isaiah Hartenstein scored a season-high 16, and Taurean Prince finished with 14.

San Antonio finished the longest homestand in franchise history at 2-7, dropping from seventh to ninth in the Western Conference. It marked the fourth time during the homestand that an opponent beat the Spurs to snap a losing streak.

DeMar DeRozan had 25 points for San Antonio. Rudy Gay, Derrick White and Keldon Johnson each had 13 points.

Cleveland entered the game as the league's lowest scoring team, averaging just 102.7 points, but it had no trouble

### BASKETBALL

scoring against a lethargic San Antonio defense.

### Timberwolves 116, Kings 106

In Minneapolis, D'Angelo Russell scored 25 points in his return from knee surgery and Karl-Anthony Towns had 23 points and 13 rebounds for the Minnesota Timberwolves in a 116-106 win against the Sacramento Kings.

Anthony Edwards scored 19 points for Minnesota and started the Timberwolves' push in the fourth after the teams went back and forth for three quarters. Russell continued Minnesota's push ahead with a pair of 3-pointers in the fourth. He scored 13 of his points in the fourth.

Russell came off the bench in his first game since Feb. 8. He missed 26 games.

### Pistons 132, Thunder 108

In Oklahoma City, Jerami Grant

### NBA Results/Standings

WASHINGTON, April 6, (AP) — NBA results and standings on Monday.

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	11	1	.686	-
Toronto	10	3	.769	103
Cleveland	12	5	.706	101
Detroit	13	2	.865	108
Minnesota	11	6	.647	106
Brooklyn	11	4	.731	112
Phoenix	13	3	.808	130

  

Division	W	L	Pct	GB
<b>Atlantic Division</b>				
Brooklyn	35	16	.686	-
Philadelphia	34	16	.680	-1/2
Boston	25	25	.500	9-1/2
New York	25	26	.490	10
Toronto	20	30	.400	14-1/2
<b>Southeast Division</b>				
Atlanta	26	24	.520	-
Indiana	26	24	.520	-
Charlotte	25	24	.510	-1/2
Washington	17	32	.347	8-1/2
Orlando	17	33	.340	9
<b>Central Division</b>				
Milwaukee	32	17	.653	-
Miami	22	26	.458	9-1/2
Chicago	20	28	.417	11-1/2
Cleveland	18	32	.360	14-1/2
Detroit	15	35	.300	17-1/2
<b>Western Conference</b>				
<b>Southwest Division</b>				
Dallas	28	21	.571	-
Memphis	24	23	.511	3
San Antonio	24	24	.500	3-1/2
New Orleans	22	27	.449	6
Houston	13	37	.260	15-1/2
<b>Northwest Division</b>				
Utah	38	12	.760	-
Denver	31	18	.633	6-1/2
Portland	30	19	.612	7-1/2
Oklahoma City	20	30	.400	18
Minnesota	13	38	.255	25-1/2
<b>Pacific Division</b>				
Phoenix	35	14	.714	-
LA Clippers	33	18	.647	3
LA Lakers	31	19	.620	4-1/2
Golden State	23	27	.460	12-1/2
Sacramento	22	29	.431	14



Barcelona's Pedri, heads the ball during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between FC Barcelona and Valladolid CF at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, Spain. (AP)

## Barcelona cut Atlético 'lead'

MADRID, April 6, (AP) — A late winner by Ousmane Dembélé gave Barcelona control of their own fate in the race for the Spanish league title.

Dembélé scored in the 90th minute as Barcelona defeated 10-man Valladolid 1-0 to move within a point of league leaders Atlético Madrid.

Dembélé scored with a left-footed shot after meeting a cross into the area to make sure Barcelona can secure the title by winning all its remaining games, as it hosts Atlético in one of the final rounds in May.

"This is the result of our work. We worked very hard in these last few months," Barcelona defender

### SOCCER

Clément Lenglet said. "Things are starting to go our way."

Barcelona had been struggling to break through the tight defensive scheme of Valladolid, which played a man down from the 80th after Oscar Plano was sent off for a foul from behind to stop a dangerous run by Dembélé.

"It's proof that this is a very difficult league, you have to fight hard to win in every match," Lenglet said. "We created many chances and scored the winner in the end. We are happy but we have to keep working because this is far from over."

Atlético lost 1-0 at Sevilla on Sunday to see their once-comfortable cushion vanish. Seeking their first league title since 2014, Diego Simeone's team have been gradually losing ground at the top of the standings. Their lead over Barcelona was more than 10 points a few weeks ago.