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## Heartbreak



Rutgers' Geo Baker, left, Ron Harper Jr., middle, and Caleb McConnell walk off the court after the team's loss to Notre Dame in a First Four game in the NCAA men's college basketball tournament, early Thursday, in Dayton, Ohio. Notre Dame won 89-87 in double overtime. AARON DOSTER, AP

### Rutgers' season ends in 2OT loss to Notre Dame

**Chris Iseman**  
Rutgers sports writer  
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

DAYTON, Ohio - The tears told the story. The blank expressions of Rutgers' players, the downcast faces, the hushed tones depicted the heartbreak of a team that had fought back from the brink, turned a season that once looked destined for nowhere into one that became memorable for so many reasons.

For it to end this way, for it to come to such a sudden conclusion, turned jubilation into heartbreak within a matter of seconds.

Geo Baker, Ron Harper Jr. and Caleb McConnell sat in the postgame press conference in tears and tried to describe how it all happened, an impossible task.

"The emotion at the end," Harper said, "it was heartbreaking to see it all unfold like that."

Eleventh-seeded Rutgers and Notre Dame delivered an NCAA Tournament classic, one that ended with the Fighting Irish escaping with an 89-87 double-overtime victory in a First Four game at UD Arena that started Wednesday night but ended Thursday morning.

Each possession was a battle, every second

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Rutgers Scarlet Knights guard Geo Baker shoots the ball over Notre Dame Fighting Irish guard Prentiss Hubb in the first half at University of Dayton Arena.

RICH OSENTOSKI/USA TODAY SPORTS

### In Sports

- In epic Rutgers loss to Notre Dame, Caleb McConnell went out a warrior. **1B**
- Seton Hall vs. TCU today: NCAA Tournament scouting report and prediction. **1B**

## Woodbridge Avenue to get major face-lift

### Five-year project will revitalize key corridor in Highland Park

**Susan Loyer**  
Central Jersey Home News Tribune  
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

HIGHLAND PARK - The borough has received money from the state's Neighborhood Preservation Program to revitalize the Woodbridge Avenue corridor.

The borough will receive \$125,000 annually for five years to improve the appearance of the heavily traveled road that is the borough's gateway from Route 1.

"The Woodbridge Avenue district is where many of our residents call home," Mayor Gayle Brill Mittler said in a statement. "It's also a primary corridor into town from Route 1 and the site of many automotive businesses, light manufacturing facilities and retail stores. Yet Woodbridge Avenue has often not received the same level of attention and support as Raritan Avenue, Route 27."

The grant program allows the borough to work on ways to improve the corridor, the mayor said.

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## Trump's golf club to host controversial new tour event

**Mike Deak**  
MyCentralJersey.com  
USA TODAY NETWORK - NEW JERSEY

The LIV Golf Invitational Series, a new professional golf tour headed by Greg Norman, announced it will hold one of its first eight events at Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster.

The tournament, with a \$20 million purse, will be held July 29-31. That is the same weekend as the New Jersey Lottery Festival of Ballooning at Solberg Airport in neighboring Readington.

The event will feature 48 players and 12 four-man teams. There will be 54 holes with no cut and shotgun starts.

No players have been announced for the event.

LIV Golf Investments, which is funded by a firm in Saudi Arabia and has already invested \$300 million over 10 years on the Asian Tour, is providing more than \$400 million to launch the series.

Trump's golf club on Lamington Road in Bedminster hosted the U.S. Women's Open in 2017 and was scheduled to be the site of the PGA, one of golf's four major championships, but the tournament was switched to another venue following the Jan. 6, 2021 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

In December, the PGA announced it had settled its

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## FBI files link Saudi spy in California to 9/11 attacks



**Mike Kelly**  
Columnist  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Soon after the 9/11 attacks two decades ago, the FBI quietly launched an investigation into a seemingly obscure Saudi Arabian government bureaucrat in Southern California.

The man claimed to be nothing more than a Saudi aviation official who innocently happened to befriend two Islamic jihadists in the months before they carried

out the 9/11 attacks.

That story now appears to be false. The alleged aviation official was really a Saudi spy who reported directly to a Saudi prince who happened to be the kingdom's influential ambassador in Washington and a close friend of President George W. Bush and other top U.S. government officials.

The FBI concluded five years ago that there was a "50/50 chance" that this Saudi spy knew ahead of time that the two Islamists he befriended were about to join the plot to hijack commercial jetliners and crash them into buildings in what turned out to be America's deadliest terrorist attack. But the FBI refused to go public with its findings - until now.

The story of the spy and the ambassador-prince

emerged in recent days as the centerpiece of a startling series of revelations in a newly declassified FBI report that could shed light on a perplexing mystery that has long shadowed the 9/11 investigation:

- Did Saudi government officials play a role in America's deadliest terror attack?
- If so, what sort of role?
- And who else was involved?

While heavily redacted, the report offers the most direct link yet between the Saudi government, its secretive royal family and the team of 19 operatives of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda terror network who hijacked four jetliners on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001.

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### USA TODAY

**Watching China:** Biden's attempt to adjust foreign policy is complicated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. **3A**

### In a birthday groove

George Clinton, who grew up in Union County, celebrates his 80th with P-Funk, Questlove. **Weekend**

### Weather

High 76° | Low 52°  
Patchy a.m. fog.  
Forecast, **2A**

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