





AP Photo

Cleveland Cavaliers' Donovan Mitchell looks to shoot past Milwaukee Bucks' AJ Green during the second half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, March 9, 2025, in Milwaukee.

## Cavs' Atkinson Makes His Case For Mitchell While Praising His Team's Depth

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Cleveland Cavaliers coach Kenny Atkinson takes issue with the notion that his team doesn't have a legitimate MVP contender.

But he also realizes that it's the NBA-leading Cavs' depth that has played the chief role in helping them produce three extended win streaks during this magical season.

"It's the reason we have the best record in the league, because we're deep," Atkinson said Sunday after the Cavs (54-10) beat the Milwaukee Bucks 112-100 for their 14th straight victory. "I keep saying we go 13 deep. I think you wear people down that way."

Yet he also believes one of those 13 should get more MVP consideration.

Atkinson fielded a question Sunday about how the Cavs (53-10) have put together this remarkable season without anyone who's likely to finish in the top three or perhaps even in the top five in the MVP voting. The presumed favorites are Oklahoma City's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and Denver's Nikola Jokic.

That's when Atkinson made his case for six-time All-Star guard Donovan Mitchell, who entered Sunday's action scoring 24.4 points per game and shooting a career-best 38.8% from 3-point range.

"If you look at Shai, and Shai's having a great year, but Donovan, we think he's right there, just for argument's sake," Atkinson said. "Best team, best player on best team."

Mitchell's banner season has helped the Cavaliers produce three winning streaks lasting at least a dozen games.

only other team to win 14 straight games while scoring 110-plus points in each of them was the Boston Celtics during their 1985-86 championship season.

"We're not really focused on that," All-Star forward/center Evan Mobley said. "We're just trying to keep stacking wins."

This latest victory showcased Cleveland's extraordinary depth. Mitchell shot just 4 of 15, yet the Cavs still won decisively on the road. Eight different players scored at least nine points.

"We just keep finding ways to win," said Max Strus, who led the Cavs with 17 points, matching his season high. "That's the most dangerous thing about this team, is any given night, anybody could step up and help us win a game."

There's no doubting what the Cavs have accomplished so far this season. They own an eight-game lead over defending champion Boston in the Eastern Conference and a one-game advantage over Oklahoma City in the race for the NBA's best overall record.

The challenge is whether Cleveland can carry this success over to the playoffs. The Cavs earned their first playoff series victory since their run to the 2018 NBA Finals last year before losing 4-1 to Boston in the second round.

Bucks coach Doc Rivers says he can think of teams in the past whose sparkling regular-season records masked shortcomings that made them vulnerable in the playoffs. But he believes this Cleveland team is a legitimate title contender.

"I've seen teams win all year, and in my mind,

They also have the hunger that comes from never having made a deep postseason run before.

"We still have the edge because we haven't gotten to the mountaintop yet," Atkinson said. "We can't be on cruise control. We've got to keep improving, keep our playoff focus. We can't wait till the end to do that."

## OVAC All-Star Bowling Set For Sunday

MORGANTOWN - The 2025 OVAC All-Star Bowling Showcase will be held Sunday at 1 p.m. at Suburban Lanes. It will be an Ohio against West Virginia format.

The Ohio girls are represented by Addison Rudibaugh (East Liverpool), Mylie Gallagher (Conotton Valley), Jesse Baker (St. Clairsville), Addason Tomlin (Monroe Central), Alison Fletcher (Monroe Central), Haley Hoffer (Barnesville), Tylynn Smith (Harrison Central) and Melissa Smith (Buckeye Local). The Ohio boys include Ty-

ler Landess (Wellsville), Kobie Hennis (Harrison Central), Mason Porter (Union Local), Kyle Bake (Harrison Central), Jacob Gibas (East Liverpool), Owen Weckbauer (Monroe Central and Ethan Gillespie (Monroe Central).

The Ohio coaches are Walt Russell (Beallsville/Monroe Central) and Brian Rudibaugh (East Liverpool).

The West Virginia girls are Corissa Snider (Parkersburg South), Hailie Anderson (Weir), Sarah Seivertson (Wheeling Park), Shelby Crow (John Marshall).

Emma Wear (Wheeling Park), Ash Barlip (John Marshall), Reagan Gorby (John Marshall) and Juliana Elerick (Linsly).

Rolling for the West Virginia boys will be Rynder McLeod (Wheeling Park), Brody Allman (Parkersburg South), Darion Hilton (Brooke), Kaden Miller (Wheeling Park), Seth Schroeder (Brooke), Connor Vira (University), Noah Hagedorn (University) and Dawson Paugh (Brooke).

The West Virginia coaches are Joe Pepe (Brooke) and Ed Gorby (John Marshall).

## Yankees' Gerrit Cole To Have Tommy John Surgery

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Yankees ace Gerrit Cole will have season-ending Tommy John surgery on his right elbow on Tuesday.

The Yankees said the 34-year-old right-hander was examined Monday by Dr. Neal ElAttrache at the Cedars-Sinai Kerlan-Jobe Institute in Los Angeles. ElAttrache, the Dodgers' head team physician, will operate.

"This isn't the news any athlete wants to hear, but it's the necessary next step for my career," Cole said in a statement. "I have a lot left to give, and I'm fully committed to the work ahead. I'll attack my rehab every day and support the 2025 Yankees each step of the way. ... I can't wait to be back on the mound — stronger than ever."

Cole experienced discomfort following his second spring training outing Thursday.

New York also is missing another starting pitcher, AL Rookie of the Year Luis Gil, who will be sidelined for at least three months because of a strained lat muscle. Designated hitter Giancarlo Stanton is sidelined indefinitely because of tendon pain in both elbows, and infielder DJ

LeMahieu is out with a calf strain.

"You've got to be able to handle it and deal with it and maneuver," manager Aaron Boone told the YES Network before the team announced Cole's surgery. "It's not a death sentence for us by any means, so it's an opportunity for someone else. ... The reality is Gerrit still has a lot of pitching in front of him in his career and pitching with the Yankees and we want that to be as successful as it's been already."

A six-time All-Star, Cole threw a perfect first inning Thursday and reached 97.6 mph in the second, when he allowed Matt Wallner's three-run homer on a fastball in the middle of the strike zone. He also surrendered Brooks Lee's solo homer in the third on a 94 mph fastball with a 3-0 count.

Cole signed a \$324 million, nine-year contract before the 2020 season.

After winning the 2023 AL Cy Young Award, the six-time All-Star didn't make his first start last year until June 19 because of nerve irritation and edema in his right elbow. He went 8-5 with a 3.41 ERA in 17 starts, and then was 1-0 with a 2.17 ERA in five postseason starts.

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## SPORTS ON TV

**Tuesday, March 11**  
**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)**  
2 p.m.  
ACCN — Atlantic Coast Tournament: Pittsburgh vs. Notre Dame, First Round, Charlotte, N.C.

4:30 p.m.  
ACCN — Atlantic Coast Tournament: California vs. Virginia Tech, First Round, Charlotte, N.C.

7 p.m.  
ACCN — Atlantic Coast Tournament: Syracuse vs. Florida St., First Round, Charlotte, N.C.

CBSN — Colonial Tournament: TBD, Championship, Washington

ESPN — Horizon Tournament: TBD, Championship, Indianapolis

ESPN2 — Northeast Tournament: St. Francis (NY) at CCSU, Championship

ESPN — Southland Tournament: TBD vs. McNeese St., Semifinal, Lake Charles, La.

9 p.m.  
ESPN — West Coast Tournament: TBD, Championship, Las Vegas

ESPN2 — America East Tournament: Albany (NY) at Bryant, Semifinal

ESPN — Big Sky Tournament: TBD, Semifinal, Boise, Idaho

11:30 p.m.  
ESPN2 — Big Sky Tournament: TBD, Semifinal, Boise, Idaho

**COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)**  
Noon

ESPN2 — Horizon Tournament: TBD, Championship, Indianapolis

4 p.m.  
ESPN2 — West Coast Tournament: TBD, Championship, Las Vegas

**MLB BASEBALL**  
1 p.m.

MLBN — Spring Training: N.Y. Mets vs. Houston, West Palm Beach, Fla.

4 p.m.  
MLBN — Spring Training: Milwaukee vs. Chicago Cubs, Mesa, Ariz.

9 p.m.  
MLBN — Spring Training: Athletics vs. San Francisco, Scottsdale, Ariz.

**NBA BASKETBALL**  
7:30 p.m.

TNT — Milwaukee at Indiana

TRUTV — Milwaukee at Indiana (DataCast)

**SOCCER (MEN'S)**  
4 p.m.

CBSN — UEFA Champions League: Feyenoord at Inter Milan, Round of 16 - Leg 2

8:30 p.m.  
FS1 — CONCACAF Champions Cup: LAFC at Columbus, Round of 16 - Leg 2

10:30 p.m.  
FS1 — CONCACAF Champions Cup: FC Cincinnati at Tigres UANL, Round of 16 - Leg 2

**TENNIS**  
2 p.m.

TENNIS — Indian Wells-ATP/WTB Round of 16; Indian Wells-WTA Doubles Quarterfinals; Indian Wells-ATP Doubles Early Rounds

## OHIO BOYS BASKETBALL

**Ohio Boys Basketball State Semifinal Pairings**  
Division I

Cleveland St. Ignatius (22-4) vs. Lewis Center Olentangy Orange (24-2), Sunday, Canton Field House, noon

Reynoldsburg (25-1) vs. West Chester Lakota West (21-5), Sunday, Wright State University Nutter Center, noon

State Championship: Saturday, March 22, at University of Dayton Arena, 8:30 p.m.

Division II

Massillon Perry (13-13) vs. North Royalton (25-1), Sunday, Canton Field House, 3 p.m.

Westerville North (23-2) vs. Toledo St. Francis de Sales (16-9), Sunday, Wright State University Nutter Center, 6 p.m.

State Championship: Friday, March 21, at University of Dayton Arena, 7:30 p.m.

Division III

Garfield Heights (24-2) vs. Louisville (22-5), Sunday, Canton Field House, 6 p.m.

Sandusky (19-7) vs. Cincinnati Aiken (25-1), Sunday, Wright State University Nutter Center, 3 p.m.

State Championship: Friday, March 21, at University of Dayton Arena, 1 p.m.

Division IV

Cleveland Glenview (18-8) vs. Gates Mills Hawken (20-7), Saturday, Canton Field House, 1 p.m.

## OHIO GIRLS BASKETBALL

**2025 OHSAA Girls Basketball State Championships**  
All games at University of Dayton Arena

Division I  
Pickingering Central (24-3) vs. Cincinnati Princeton (21-6), Saturday, 8:30 p.m.

Division II  
Whitehouse Anthony Wayne (24-2) vs. Cincinnati Winton Woods (27-0), Friday, 7:30 p.m.

Division III  
Avon Lake (23-5) vs. Cincinnati Purcell Marian (22-6), Friday, 1 p.m.

Division IV  
Bellevue (27-1) vs. Kettering Archbishop Alter (19-8), Friday, 4:15 p.m.

Division V  
Creston Norwayne (25-3) vs. Portsmouth (26-1), Saturday, 10:45 a.m.

Division VI  
Rootstown (28-1) vs. Columbus Grove (26-2), Saturday, 2 p.m.

Division VII  
Waterford (26-1) vs. Fort Loramie (25-3), Saturday, 5:15 p.m.

## W.VA. BOYS REGIONALS

**WVSSAC Basketball Super Regionals**  
CLASS A  
Region 1

**Wednesday, March 12**  
#1 Clay Battelle vs. #5 Parkersburg Catholic

#2 Magnolia vs. #3 Valley

**CLASS AA**  
Region 1

**Wednesday, March 12**  
#1 Williamstown vs. #4 Tyler Consolidated

#2 Wheeling Central vs. #3 Ravenswood

**CLASS AAA**  
Region 1

**Thursday, March 13**  
#1 Fairmont Senior vs. #5 Brooke

#2 Elkins vs. #3 North Marion

**CLASS AAAA**  
Region 1

**Tuesday, March 11**  
#1 Morgantown vs. #4 Preston

#2 University vs. #3 Buchanan-Upshur

## W.VA. GIRLS TOURNAMENT

**Class AA State Tournament seeds:**

1. Wheeling Central (21-2)  
2. St. Marys (19-4)  
3. Charleston Catholic (17-6)

4. Wyoming East (14-4)  
5. James Monroe (19-3)  
6. Logan (17-6)

7. Ritchie County (16-7)  
8. Philip Barbour (14-8)

**Class AA Quarterfinals:**  
**Tuesday, March 11**  
Game 1 — No. 3 Charleston Catholic vs. No. 6 Logan — 9:30 a.m.

Game 2 — No. 2 St. Marys vs. No. 7 Ritchie County — 1 p.m.

Game 3 — No. 1 Wheeling Central Catholic vs. No. 8 Philip Barbour — 5:30 p.m.

Game 4 — No. 4 Wyoming East vs. No. 5 James Monroe — 9 p.m.

**Class AA Semifinals:**  
**Thursday, March 13**  
Game 5 — Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner — 11:15 a.m.

Game 6 — Game 3 winner vs. Game 4 winner — 7:15 p.m.

**Class AA Championship:**  
**Saturday, March 15**  
Game 7 — Semifinal winners, 10 a.m.

**Class A State Tournament seeds:**

1. Gilmer County (20-4)  
2. Tug Valley (21-2)  
3. Tucker County (16-6)  
4. Cameron (17-3)

5. Pendleton County (16-6)  
6. Greenbrier West (11-9)  
7. Webster County (13-11)  
8. Notre Dame (12-6)

**Class A Quarterfinals:**  
**Thursday, March 13**  
Game 1 — No. 3 Tucker County vs. No. 6 Greenbrier West — 9:30 a.m.

Game 2 — No. 2 Tug Valley vs. No. 7 Webster County — 1 p.m.

Game 3 — No. 1 Gilmer County vs. No. 8 Notre Dame — 5:30 p.m.

Game 4 — No. 4 Cameron vs. No. 5 Pendleton County — 9 p.m.

**Class A Semifinals:**  
**Friday, March 14**  
Game 5 — Game 3 winner vs. Game 4 winner — 5:30 p.m.

Game 6 — Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner — 9 p.m.

**Class A Championship:**

## MBB REGIONALS

**Atlantic Regional Quarterfinal Schedule**  
Saturday  
(at West Liberty)

No. 6 West Chester vs. No. 3 Virginia State — noon

No. 7 East Stroudsburg vs. No. 2 Gannon — 2:30 p.m.

No. 8 Bluefield State vs. No. 1 West Liberty — 6 p.m.

No. 5 Fairmont State vs. No. 4 Fayetteville State — 8:30 p.m.

## ECHL STANDINGS

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**  
North Division

GP W L OLSOL Pt GF GA  
T-R 56 38 12 4 2 82 199138

Whg 56 33 19 3 1 70 179154

Nor 56 33 20 3 0 69 202164

Rea 57 25 22 9 1 60 160178

Wor 58 27 25 2 4 60 169194

Mai 56 22 31 3 0 47 137193

Adir 58 20 34 3 1 44 153204

**South Division**  
GP W L OLSOL Pt GF GA

Fla 57 38 11 7 1 84 190128

SC 56 37 14 3 2 79 208133

Jack 57 35 16 5 1 76 191147

Orl 60 31 19 10 0 72 171169

Atl 58 26 25 5 2 59 154189

Sav 55 24 26 5 0 53 177196

Gre 56 22 27 5 2 51 149193

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**  
Central Division

GP W L OLSOL Pt GF GA  
Tol 59 37 14 7 1 82 196156

FW 57 34 18 5 0 73 187158

Iowa 56 29 18 5 4 67 164162

Kala 56 25 27 3 1 54 147169

Indy 54 23 24 3 4 53 132147

Blom 55 24 26 3 2 53 142156

Cinci 57 22 26 9 0 53 146165

**Mountain Division**  
GP W L OLSOL Pt GF GA

KC 57 37 15 4 1 79 204150

Tah 59 34 20 4 1 73 214195

Tul 57 32 17 5 3 72 181164

Wich 56 30 19 6 1 67 200169

Ida 57 29 19 8 1 67 200195

RC 57 24 24 6 3 57 176208

Utah 57 19 31 5 2 45 182235

Allen 58 14 34 8 2 38 139240

NOTE: Two points are awarded for a win, one point for an overtime or shootout loss. Top four teams in each division advance to playoffs.

**Monday's Games**  
No games scheduled

**Tuesday's Games**  
Norfolk at Maine, 10:30 a.m.

**Wednesday's Games**  
Trois-Rivieres at Wheeling, 10:45 a.m.

Greenville at South Carolina, 7:05 p.m.

Savannah at Florida, 7:30 p.m.

Utah at Wichita, 8:05 p.m.

## MBB REGIONALS

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' mens and womens college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, and total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking.

**MEN**  
Record Pts Prv

1. Duke (52) 28-3 1516 2

2. Houston (5) 27-4 1427 3

3. Auburn (4) 27-4 1407 1

4. Florida 27-4 1350 5

5. Alabama 24-7 1211 7

6. St. John's 27-4 1201 6

7. Michigan St. 26-5 1191 8

8. Tennessee 25-6 1163 4

9. Texas Tech 24-7 1012 9

10. Clemson 26-5 949 11

11. Maryland 24-7 836 13

12. Iowa St. 23-8 792 10

13. Louisville 25-6 723 14

14. Texas A&M 22-9 647 22

15. Kentucky 21-10 629 19

16. Memphis 26-5 602 16

17. BYU 23-8 586 23

18. Wisconsin 23-8 575 12

19. Saint Mary's 27-4 477 21

20. Purdue 21-10 339 18

21. Missouri 21-10 203 15

22. Michigan 22-9 171 17

23. Oregon 23-8 140 -

24. Illinois 20-11 137 -

25. Marquette 22-9 127 20

**WOMEN**  
Record Pts Prv

1. UCLA (16) 30-2 774 4

2. S. Carolina (9) 30-3 762 5

3. UConn (7) 30-3 737 3

4. Southern Cal 28-3 715 2

5. Texas 31-3 690 1

6. TCU 31-3 626 8

7. Duke 26-7 608 11

8. Notre Dame 26-5 565 6

9. NC State 26-6 563 7

10. LSU 28-5 505 9

11. Oklahoma 25-7 473 10

12. North Carolina 27-7 422 14

13. Kentucky 22-7 389 12

14. Baylor 27-7 383 17

15. Ohio St. 25-6 371 13

16. West Virginia 24-7 340 16

17. Oklahoma St. 25-6 242 21

18. Maryland 23-7 211 15

19. Kansas St. 26-7 204 20

20. Tennessee 22-9 148 18

21. Alabama 23-8 135 19

22. Creighton 26-5 127 23

## NBA STANDINGS

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**  
Atlantic Division

W L Pct GB  
Boston 47 18 .723 —

NY 40 23 .635 6

Brook 22 42 .344 24½

Phila 22 42 .344 24½

Toronto 22 43 .338 25

**Southeast 250**  
W L Pct GB

Atl 31 34 .477 —

Orl 30 36 .455 1½

Miami 29 35 .453 1½

Char 16 48 .250 14½

Wash 13 50 .206 17

**Central Division**  
W L Pct GB

x-Cleve 54 10 .844 —

Milw 36 27 .571 17½

Ind 35 28 .556 18½

Det 36 29 .554 18½

Chi 27 38 .415 27½

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**  
Southwest Division

W L Pct GB  
Mem 41 24 .631 —

Hou 40 25 .615 1

Dallas 33 33 .500 8½

SA 26 37 .413 14

NO 17 48 .262 24

**Northwest Division**  
W L Pct GB

Okla. City 53 12 .815 —

Den 42 23 .646 11

Minne 37 29 .561 16½

Port 28 37 .431 25

Utah 15 50 .231 38

**Pacific Division**  
W L Pct GB

Lakers 40 23 .635 —

Gold. St. 36 28 .563 4½

Clippers 35 29 .547 5½

Sac 33 30 .524 7

Pho 30 35 .462 11

**Monday's Games**  
Toronto 119, Washington 104

Boston 114, Utah 108

Atlanta 132, Philadelphia 123

Charlotte 105, Miami 102

Brooklyn 111, L.A. Lakers 108

Chicago 121, Indiana 103

Denver 140, Oklahoma City 127

Houston 97, Orlando 84

Memphis 120, Phoenix 118

Dallas 133, San Antonio 129

Portland at Golden State, late

New