

NBA

# The NBA playoffs again shows it’s an international showcase of stars

By **TIM REYNOLDS**  
Associated Press

They’ll be watching in Canada, not just because of Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, though the NBA’s scoring champion and MVP favorite who plays for Oklahoma City surely helps lure in fans who are north of the border.

They’ll be watching from Serbia and Greece, the homelands of Denver star Nikola Jokic and Milwaukee star Giannis Antetokounmpo. Alperen Sengun will have them watching Houston games in the middle of the night in Turkey, too. Slovenian fans will be watching Luka Doncic and the Lakers play their play-off opener at 2:30 a.m. Sunday, 5:30 p.m. Saturday in Los Angeles. Fans in Cameroon will be tuned in to see Pascal Siakam and the Indiana Pacers. Defending champion Boston features, among others, Kristaps Porzingis of Latvia and Al

Horford of the Dominican Republic.

Once again, the NBA playoffs are setting up to be a showcase for international stars.

In a season where the five statistical champions were from five different countries, an NBA first — Gilgeous-Alexander is Canadian, rebounding champion Domantas Sabonis of Sacramento is from Lithuania, blocked shots champion Victor Wembanyama of San Antonio is from France, steals champion Dyson Daniels of Atlanta is from Australia, and assists champion Trae Young of the Hawks is from the U.S. — the postseason will have plenty of international feel as well. Gilgeous-Alexander is in, while Sabonis and Daniels (along with Young, obviously) could join him if their teams get through the play-in tournament.

“We have a tremendous number of international players in this league,” NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said earlier this sea-

son. “It’s roughly 30% of our players representing, at least on opening day, 43 different countries, so there’s much more of a global sense around our teams.”

By the end of the season, it wound up being 44 different countries — at least in terms of countries where players who scored in the NBA this season were born. For the first time in NBA history, players from one country other than the U.S. combined to score more than 15,000 points; Canadian players scored 15,588 this season, led by Gilgeous-Alexander, the first scoring champion from that country.

Gilgeous-Alexander is favored to be MVP this season. It’ll be either him or Jokic, which means it’ll be a seventh consecutive year with an international MVP for the NBA. Antetokounmpo won twice, then Jokic won three of the next four, with Cameroon-born Joel Embiid of the Philadelphia 76ers winning two seasons ago.

“Shai is in the category of you do not stop him,” Toronto coach Darko Rajakovic said after a game between the Raptors and Thunder this season.

In other words, he’s like a lot of other international guys now. Nobody truly stops Jokic, Antetokounmpo and Doncic either.

And this season brought another international first: Doncic finished atop the NBA’s most popular jersey list, meaning NBAStore.com sold more of his jerseys than they did anyone else’s. Sure, that was bolstered by Doncic changing jerseys midseason when he was traded by Dallas to the Los Angeles Lakers, but it still is significant.

The Slovenian star is the first international player to finish atop the most popular jerseys list — and the first player other than Stephen Curry or LeBron James to hold that spot in more than a decade, since soon-to-be-enshrined Basketball Hall of Famer Carmelo Anthony did it when

he was with New York in 2012-13.


“We’re so small, we have 2 million people. But really, our sport is amazing,” fellow Slovene Ajsa Sivka said when she was drafted by the WNBA’s Chicago Sky on Monday night and asked about Doncic and other top Slovenian athletes. “No matter what sport, we have at least someone that’s great in it. I’m just really proud to be Slovenian.”

All this comes at a time where the NBA is more serious than perhaps ever before about growing its international footprint. Last month, FIBA — the sport’s international governing body — and the NBA announced a plan to partner on a new European basketball league that has been taking shape for many years. The initial target calls for a 16-team league and it potentially could involve many of the biggest franchise names in Europe, such as Real Madrid, Paris Saint-Germain and Manchester City.

It was a season where four players topped 2,000 points in the NBA and three of them were international with Gilgeous-Alexander, Jokic and Antetokounmpo. Globally, time spent watching NBA League Pass was up 6% over last season. More people watched NBA games in France this season than ever before, even with Wembanyama missing the final two months. NBA-related social media views in Canada this season set records, and league metrics show more fans than ever were watching in the Asia-Pacific region — already a basketball hotbed — as well.

FIBA secretary general Andreas Zagklis said the numbers — which are clearly being fueled by the continued international growth — suggest the game is very strong right now.

“Looking around the world, and of course here in North America,” Zagklis said, “the NBA is most popular and more commercially successful than ever.”




## Echocardiograms

An echocardiogram is an imaging test used to diagnose and monitor heart conditions using ultrasound.

**ACMH offers echocardiograms every Tuesday.**

Contact your provider to have your order sent to the ACMH Radiology Department.

Your results will be interpreted by a board certified Cardiologist and sent to your ordering provider.



**Andrew Rebik, RDCS, RVT**  
Heartland Ultrasonography Group

*For questions or scheduling*  
**Call 712-563-5225**  
[www.acmh hosp.org](http://www.acmh hosp.org)

## Subscribers now get your news



**Sign up today!**

## Wherever YOU are

With your regular subscription price!

**Audubon County Advocate Journal**

[www.swianewssource.com](http://www.swianewssource.com) • Phone: (712) 243-2624

## Legal Notice

**KIMBALLTON CITY COUNCIL**  
**April 10, 2025**

The Kimballton City Council met in special and regular session on Thursday April 10th, 2025 at 6:4500 p.m. at the Kimballton Library.

Present: Mayor Millette Shores, Council members: Sheila Partridge, Tony Petersen, Adam Larsen, Thomas Lake, and Dirk Wasson. Clerk April Baldwin.

In addition to council members and Mayor Shores, in attendance were: Al Powers, Donna McClain, Donna Sargent, Ryan Hansen, Mike Shores, Colby Madsen, Peggy Mortensen, and Clint Fichter arrived mid meeting.

Mayor Millette Shores called the Special Meeting to order at 6:48 pm

Motion to Approve the Special Meeting Agenda by Tom Lake – 2nd by Tony Petersen, 5 Ayes

Public Comment questioning rate increases financial usage, future of electric plan

City Council and Mayor discussed the Proposed Increase of Current Electric Rates

Mayor Millette Shores read Resolution 4-2025-10 – Approval of Proposed Increase of Current Electric Rates – Motion to Approve via roll call - Carried Unanimously

Motion to close Special Meeting by Tom Lake - 2nd by Adam Larsen – Carried Unanimously

Mayor Millette Shores called the Special Meeting Proposed FY26 City Budget to order at 7:00 pm

Motion to Approve the Special Meeting Agenda by Dirk Wasson – 2nd by Tom Lake. 5 Ayes

Public Comment questioning budget cuts – County Tax Assessment

City Council and Mayor discussed the Proposed City Budget

Mayor Millette Shores read Resolution 4-2025-11 – Approval of Proposed FY26 City Budget

Motion to Approve via roll call - Carried Unanimously

Motion to close Special Meeting by Tony Petersen - 2nd by Tom Lake – Carried Unanimously

Mayor Millette Shores called the regular Council Meeting to order at 7:14 pm

Motion to Approve the regular Council Meeting Agenda by Sheila Partridge – 2nd by Tom Lake, 5 Ayes

Mayor Shores presented motion to approve agenda. Motion by Tom Lake - 2nd by Tony Petersen. 5 Ayes

Mayor Shores presented motion to approve April 10th,2025 meeting min-

utes. Motion by Sheila Partridge - 2nd by Tom Lake. 5 Ayes

Mayor Shores presented a motion to approve monthly POs Motion by Sheila Partridge - 2nd by Adam Larsen. 5 Ayes

Mayor Shores presented financial reports and Claims Report to pay March bills. Motion by Tony Petersen - 2nd by Tom Lake and Claims report. 5 Ayes

**The following bills were presented for payment:**

Acco, Water Plant chemicals .....	\$1823.72
Atlantic Municipal Utilities, meter removal, electrical complaint .....	
.....	\$100.00
Audubon Advocate Journal, publication of meeting minutes .....	\$708.38
Cappell’s Ace Hardware, air hose – Utility use .....	\$75.97
City of Atlantic, water testing .....	\$500.00
City of Kimballton, city paid utilities, Mar .....	\$2042.48
Crystal Clear Auto Body, snow removal .....	\$200.00
Durant Municipal Electric, 2 pad mount transformers .....	\$1000.00
EMC Insurance .....	\$35019.00
First Line Outdoor Power, Battery, oil .....	
FNIC, renewal -wind, hail .....	\$8497.95
Haulk Computers, Computer - Maintenance .....	\$548.00
IAMU, November Inserts .....	\$95.50
Kite Trucking -Hauling Gravel .....	\$145.70
Larsen Sanitation - Garbage & Landfill .....	\$2774.65
Marne Elk Horn Telephone, shipping charges water .....	\$341.81
On the Clock, time cards, 3 employees.....	\$17.00
Schildberg Construction - Gravel .....	\$327.83
State Hygienic Lab.....	\$14.50
Verizon, utility phone.....	\$63.64
Wellmark - Insurance .....	\$1708.08
.....	<b>Grand Total: \$56,101.21</b>
Number of checks & electronic payments: .....	21
Funds Revenue.....	
General .....	\$12183.89
Local Option Tax .....	\$4822.43
Road Use Tax .....	\$2392.90
Emp Benefits.....	\$894.06
Water .....	\$17248.44
Sewer.....	\$4394.64
Electric .....	\$28115.52
.....	<b>Total Funds \$70,051.88</b>
AI Powers – P& E Engineering-- Proposal for Harlan transformer contract being reviewed. Three steps in proposal. Parts of contract can be canceled if	

transformer fails testing. Bid received for transformer electric system. Motion for approval to go forward with transformer plan by Dirk Wasson - 2nd by Tom Lake. 5 Ayes

Electrical System discussed Loop system for 3Phase to improve electrical issues in to town. Electrical Voltage issues and recommended plan to fix immediate residential & business needs. This issue was brought to the previous City Council December 8th, 2022 and the problem was not addressed. Contact with AMU and AI Powers to be initiated. Tabled to next month.

Light pole connected to private line. Need voltage of light pole to figure how much energy was used. Tabled until next month.

Capacitor has been corrected and MRES notified. MRES to follow with reports in 3 months.

Chair Rental by private individual. Council agreed unanimously to not let equipment leave the town hall.

Discussion concerning property 106 E 44 Hwy. Sealed bids to start at \$1000.00. Property to be sold to highest bidder as is. Deadline for final bid May 5th, 2025. Mayor Shores presented a motion to proceed with sealed bids, Sheila Partridge -2nd by Tom Lake. 5 Ayes

Storm siren to be upgraded with Radio console located at sheriff’s office would cost \$2000.00 instead of depending on someone going to the fire station to switch on siren. Fire department willing to give \$1000.00 if the city will match the amount. Mayor Shores presented a motion to approve proceeding with installation of storm siren by Dirk Wasson – 2nd by Adam Larsen. 5 Ayes

Mermaid - Dirk Wasson has pump possibly donated to fix Mermaid. We have a company coming over to look at sandblasting and repair of mermaid. Tabled until next meeting.

Water Update concerning tank replacement and water quality. Status on replacement tanks issues on who is responsible. Tabled until next meeting.

Cost for Accu Jet Cleaning needs costs to be verified. Tabled until next meeting.

Fire Department presented their budget and City Council approved their budget. Motion presented and approved by council. 5 Ayes

Next council meeting is May 8th, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Motion presented by Mayor Shores to adjourn. Motion by Dirk Wasson and 2nd by Sheila Partridge. 5 Ayes at 8:55pm.

Approved:

Millette Shores, Mayor                      Attest: April Baldwin, City Clerk

(Published in the *Audubon County Advocate Journal*, Friday, April 18, 2025)