

Despite reports, Tom Brady hasn't made up mind on retirement

By **ROB MAADDI**
Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Only Tom Brady could turn a retirement decision into must-see drama.

Despite reports that he is retiring, Brady has told the Tampa Bay Buccaneers he hasn't made up his mind, two people familiar with the details told The Associated Press.

It's unknown when he'll make an announcement, leaving his team guessing and fans hoping for one more run that seems unlikely considering his age and family situa-

tion.

A week after leading the Buccaneers back from a 27-3 deficit against the Rams only to watch from the sideline as the defense allowed a game-winning drive, Brady's future took over the NFL landscape one day before a pair of conference championship games.

ESPN first reported Brady's retirement on Saturday, citing unidentified sources. Brady's company posted a tweet indicating he's retiring, and reaction came from around the world congratulating Brady on his career. Even the NFL's

Twitter account posted a series of congratulatory messages.

But TBI2sports deleted its tweet, and Brady's agent, Don Yee, said the 44-year-old quarterback would be the only person to accurately express his future.

Brady informed Buccaneers general manager Jason Licht he has not made a decision, according to two people who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because of the private nature of the conversations.

Brady's father, Tom Brady, Sr., told multiple reporters

that his son hasn't made a firm decision yet.

A seven-time Super Bowl champion and the NFL's career leader in numerous passing categories, Brady is under contract for 2022, but he has cited a desire to spend more time with his wife, supermodel Gisele Bundchen, and three children.

Brady may be waiting to make an official announcement on his or his brands' social media channels or his SiriusXM podcast.

After ESPN's report,

Please see **BRADY, 2B**



AP/File

Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady celebrates with the Vince Lombardi Trophy after the team's NFL Super Bowl 55 win against the Kansas City Chiefs in Tampa, Fla., in February 2021.

Mike Bobo returns to Georgia as offensive analyst

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATHENS — Mike Bobo has returned to Georgia.

The national champion Bulldogs announced Friday that Bobo, a former quarterback and offensive coordinator at the school, was joining coach Kirby Smart's staff as an offensive analyst.

Bobo and Smart were teammates at Georgia for two seasons in the 1990s.

The 47-year-old Bobo spent last season as Auburn's offensive coordinator, but he wasn't retained after a late-season skid left the Tigers with a 6-7 record.

He served as South Carolina's offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach in 2020, finishing out his lone season with the Gamecocks as interim head coach after Will Muschamp was fired.

Bobo was head coach at Colorado State for five years, compiling a 28-35 record before he was forced out after the 2019 season.

Later, the school investigated allegations of abuse and racial insensitivity within Bobo's program — charges that were vehemently denied by the former coach.

He played at Georgia under both Ray Goff and Jim Donnan, setting several school passing records. Bobo threw for 2,751 yards and 19 touchdowns as a senior in 1997.

In 2001, he joined newly hired Mark Richt's staff as quarterback coach. Bobo coached 14 seasons at his alma mater, helping the Bulldogs win two Southeastern Conference championships and taking over as offensive coordinator in 2008.

Bobo left Georgia after the 2014 season for his first head coaching job at Colorado State. Richt was fired by Georgia the following year and replaced by Smart, who this past season guided the team to its first national championship since 1980.

ROLLING ON



Sebastian Emanuel/The Brunswick News

Frederica's Bryce Reilly takes a moment to gather himself before shooting two free throws against Trinity Christian. Reilly finished the game with 11 points, 2 rebounds and several key defensive stops for the Knights.

Frederica routes Trinity Christian on senior night

By **SEBASTIAN EMANUEL**
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Despite the slow start, Frederica Academy trounces Trinity Christian 69-51.

With it being senior night, the Knights starting five had all three members take the floor together for the opening tip.

Bryce Reilly, Jacob O'Connor and TJ Jackson had their names read allowed with big men Vic Riden and William Jobe.

The game started out slow for the Knights (14-5, 4-3), as they had to find ways to break down the Crusaders' 1-3-1 zone by shooting from outside.

As Frederica's shots didn't fall, Trinity's (11-9, 4-2) shots did from 3-point range.

However, it wasn't much of a worry to head coach Carl Nash for his team to be down 12-10 after one quarter.

"I wasn't worried about it, I figured that's the way it was going to go," Nash said after the win. "It

was a must-win game for them, they've got St. Andrew's twice still. They needed this game. I knew they would come out firing. We talked about it (in the locker room), just keeping the process of the full game. We were able to do that. I liked the way we executed and how hard we played."

In the second quarter, the Knights were able to push the ball more in the open court by attacking the rim and getting to the foul line. It wasn't until the 4:50 mark in the quarter that the Knights took the lead after two made free throws by Jobe.

Jobe and Riden shined in the quarter for Frederica, allowing the offense to play through them and either kick out to an open shooter or back their way towards the rim. The two of them combined for 15 of the Knights 26 points in the first half.

With the team leading 26-25 heading into the locker room, Nash made second-half adjustments by working through the bigs.

"We started overloading the bigs

and putting a guard in the middle or in the corner and overloaded our bigs," Nash said. "We just got the ball in the right spot and those guys shared the ball with each other. It's hard to stop those two big guys. I don't care where you are at, they are both really good players."

"When we did that, our guards were able to open up a little bit of penetration. We've got great ball movement. Any time you can move the ball against a zone like that, a 1-3-1, then they will have trouble with that. We got the ball inside the zone, that's not supposed to happen, but we were able to do that."

In the third quarter alone, the Knights more than doubled their own scoring output, scoring 26 points in the third and separating themselves from the Crusaders.

A big part of the 26-point scoring barrage was Jobe. Jobe scored nine points in the quarter and grabbed five rebounds, pushing his total to 18 points and 16 rebounds in three quarters of play.

The pace of Frederica, and the cold stretch Trinity went through,

helped the Knights push out to an even bigger lead in the fourth quarter. At one point in the game, the team led by more than 24 points and made every shot possible next to the rim.

As the Knights lead grew to more than 18 points in the final minutes, starters were subbed off to a round of applause and young bench players were given an opportunity to shine in front of the home crowd.

Winning the game with ease, thanks to the 26-point third quarter, the Knights pushed themselves one game out of second place in the region.

Jobe dominated the game and finished with a near 20-20 night, finishing with 23 points and 19 rebounds. To make the game even easier for him in the route, he dished out four assists, mainly to his partner in crime Vic Riden. Riden finished the night with 15 points, 11 rebounds and four assists.

Jobe, a sophomore, and Riden,

Please see **KNIGHTS, 2B**

Raiders to go Patriot Way with new GM, possibly coach



AP/File

New England Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels looks on prior to the game against the Cleveland Browns, Nov. 14 in Foxborough, Mass. The Las Vegas Raiders appear to be headed toward making McDaniels their new head coach.

By **JOSH DUBOW**
Associated Press

The Las Vegas Raiders are trying to build their team the Patriot Way.

Owner Mark Davis tapped the NFL's most successful franchise over the past two decades by hiring Patriots director of player personnel Dave Ziegler as his new general manager. Davis is closing in on a deal to make New England offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels the new coach in Las Vegas.

The Raiders announced Sunday they had hired Ziegler to replace the fired Mike Mayock. A person familiar with the search says

they are finalizing a deal with McDaniels to make him coach to fill the void created when Jon Gruden resigned in October. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the team hadn't made an announcement.

Davis interviewed several candidates for both positions before picking a pair with a long history of working together. The two were college teammates at John Carroll and McDaniels brought Ziegler with him to Denver in his first head coaching stint.

The two have worked together in New England the past nine seasons, McDaniels as offensive coordinator and

Ziegler working his way up through the scouting department before being promoted to director of player personnel in 2021.

The two take over a team coming off just its second playoff berth in the past 19 seasons. Las Vegas won its final four games of the regular season to qualify as a wild card before losing at Cincinnati.

Interim coach Rich Bisaccia guided the team through a difficult season after Gruden resigned in October following the release of his old, offensive emails. Star receiver Henry Ruggs III was released in November after being charged with DUI

felonies following a fatal crash that killed a 23-year-old woman.

Bisaccia's work earned him the support of the players, but Davis opted to go a different direction.

McDaniels is viewed as one of the brighter offensive minds in the game with his many years working with Tom Brady on the Patriots and his work this season helping to develop rookie Mac Jones.

But his first experience as head coach fell apart quickly following a 6-0 start in 2009 after he traded away quarterback Jay Cutler in one of his

Please see **RAIDERS, 2B**

Sports

Brady

Continued from page 1B

TB12sports' Twitter account posted: "7 Super Bowl Rings, 5 Super Bowl MVPs, 3 League MVP Awards, 22 Incredible Seasons. Thank you for it all, @TomBrady"

That post was removed, and Yee released this statement: "I understand the advance speculation about Tom's future. Without getting into the accuracy or inaccuracy of what's being reported, Tom will be the only person to express his plans with complete accuracy. He knows the realities of the football business and planning calendar as well as anybody, so that should be soon."

Brady led the NFL in yards passing (5,316), touchdowns (43), completions (485) and attempts (719), but the Buccaneers lost at home to the Rams last Sunday in the divisional round.

Brady won six Super Bowls with the New England Patriots in 20 seasons playing for coach Bill Belichick. He joined the Buccaneers in 2020 and led them to the second Super Bowl title in franchise history.

Brady would leave the sport as the career leader in yards passing (84,520) and TDs (624). He's the only player to win more than five Super Bowls and was MVP of the game five times.

Widely considered the greatest quarterback to play

the game, Brady has won three NFL MVP awards, was a first-team All-Pro three times and was selected to the Pro Bowl 15 times. He is 243-73 in his career in the regular season and 35-12 in the playoffs.

Overlooked by every team coming out of Michigan, Brady was eventually selected by the Patriots in the sixth round of the 2000 NFL draft. He replaced an injured Drew Bledsoe as the starter in 2001 and led New England to a Super Bowl victory over the heavily favored Rams that season.

Brady went on to lead the Patriots to Super Bowl victories over the Panthers following the 2003 season and Eagles after the 2004 season.

No team has since repeated as champions.

But New England wouldn't win another one for a decade, twice losing to the New York Giants in the Super Bowl, including a 17-14 defeat on Feb. 3, 2008, that prevented the Patriots from completing a perfect season.

Brady earned his fourth ring when the Patriots held off Seattle thanks to Malcolm Butler's interception at the goal line in the Super Bowl after the 2014 season.

Two years later, in the biggest Super Bowl comeback, he led the Patriots out of a 28-3 deficit in the third quarter against Atlanta to win in overtime.

After losing to the Eagles and backup quarterback Nick

Foles the following year, Brady got his sixth championship when New England shut down the Rams following the 2018 season.

He joined the Buccaneers in 2020 amid a pandemic, instilling a winning culture for a franchise that hadn't won a playoff game in 18 years. With his old friend Rob Gronkowski joining him in Tampa, Brady helped the Buccaneers become the first team to play in a Super Bowl in its stadium. Naturally, Brady won again.

In the 20 seasons he has finished as starter, Brady reached the playoffs 19 times, won 18 division titles, went 10-4 in conference championships and 7-3 in Super Bowls.

Since starting his first game

on Sept. 30, 2001, Brady was under center for every game except when he suffered a season-ending knee injury in Week 1 in 2008 and the first four games in 2016 when he sat out a suspension because of the deflated footballs scandal.

Known for his work ethic, intense exercise regimen and strict diet, Brady found a funny way to congratulate Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger on his retirement earlier this week.

Brady wrote: "Ben defied the TB12 Method in favor of the 'Throw Some Ice On It' method his whole career, and ended up an all-time-great with 6 Pro-Bowls and 2 Super Bowls. There's more than one way to bake a cake!"

Nadal wins Australian Open for record 21st major title

By JOHN PYE
Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Searching for inspiration when he was down two sets and facing triple break point, with his prospects of winning a record 21st Grand Slam title almost shot, Rafael Nadal thought back to some of his most difficult defeats.

A renowned right-to-the-end competitor, Nadal dug deep in that critical moment and won the next four points to survive the immediate threat from Daniil Medvedev. Minutes later he held for 3-3 in the third set and swung the momentum of the Australian Open final around.

Nadal eventually did get to 21 first, setting the men's record for most Grand Slam singles titles after a dramatic 2-6, 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-4, 7-5 comeback win that lasted 5 hours and 24 minutes and finished early Monday morning.

The 35-year-old Spaniard now has one more major title than Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic, his long-time rivals in the so-called Big Three.

He was the only one of three who had a chance to claim the record solo in Australia.

Federer is still recovering from knee surgery and Djokovic was sensationally deported from Australia on the eve of the tournament because he wasn't vaccinated against COVID-19.

It's all history now that Nadal has become just the fourth man to win all four of the sport's major titles at least twice.

"I was repeating to myself



Hamish Blair/AP

Rafael Nadal of Spain holds the Norman Brookes Challenge Cup after defeating Daniil Medvedev of Russia in the men's singles final at the Australian Open in Melbourne, Australia.

during the whole match, 'I lost a lot of times here having chances, sometimes I was a little bit unlucky,'" Nadal said. "I just wanted to keep believing until the end."

"Tonight has been unforgettable. I feel very lucky."

Nadal was broken when serving to serve it out for the first time at 5-4 in the fifth set, but he made no mistake two games later, converting the first of his championship points.

Taking everything into account, "the scenario, the momentum," he said, "without a doubt probably the biggest comeback of my tennis career."

Certainly, he added, "The most unexpected. And most surprising, I think, for everyone."

Federer and Djokovic were

watching, from a distance, and both used social media messages to offer congratulations to Nadal for breaking their three-way tie atop the men's Grand Slam standings.

Nadal and Medvedev packed a lot of drama into the final that started Sunday night, was delayed in the 84-minute second set when a human rights activist jumped onto the court, and finished close to 1:15 a.m.

Nadal was serving for the second set but was broken in that game. Then Medvedev had his moments to break again in the third set but admitted he got tight.

"Should have done better. Should have hit a winner," Medvedev said. "Maybe would have won the match."

"Tactically nothing changed," he added, "but

Rafa stepped up."

Indeed, he did. And at 1:30 a.m. he stepped up onto the podium to give his victory speech.

"Good evening. No, good morning!" Nadal joked, looking at his watch.

In the background, Rod Laver, the ageing Australian tennis great for whom Melbourne Park's main stadium is named, was holding up his smartphone to capture the scenes. A woman nearby held up a sign that stated: "Rafa is the GOAT."

For now, in terms of men's major titles at least, Nadal is the Greatest Of All Time.

Nadal praised Medvedev for the part he played in what eventually became the second longest Australian Open final ever. Nadal's loss to Djokovic a decade ago lasted 5:53.

Nadal's 21st major title was even more remarkable considering he had two matches under his belt in the second half of 2021 because he was sidelined with a chronic foot injury. He also overcame a bout of COVID-19.

"For me, it's just amazing," he said, adding that it was only six weeks ago "I didn't know if I'd be able to play on the tour again."

Nadal won his first Australian Open title in 2009 and then lost four other finals here. His conversion rate in major finals is now 21 out of 29.

Medvedev, who was aiming to be the first man in the Open era to win his second Grand Slam title at the very next major, was ever-so-close to spoiling another 21st celebration.

Djokovic was chasing the same record at the U.S. Open last year, and a calendar-year Grand Slam, when Medvedev beat him in straight sets in the final.

Federer also had his chance at 21, but Djokovic stopped that after saving match points en route to winning the 2019 Wimbledon final.

For Nadal, this was just the fourth time — and first since 2007 — he's rallied from two sets down to win a best-of-five-set match. It's the first time it has happened at the Australian Open final since 1965.

Medvedev, who lost the 2021 final in Melbourne to Djokovic, began his post-match news conference by talking about having been "a young kid who dreamed about big things in tennis" who now has become a bit

disillusioned. He spoke a little later about being disappointed in the way spectators treated him in the final and earlier in the tournament.

"From now on, I'm playing for myself," Medvedev said. "For my family. To provide (for) my family, for people that trust in me. Of course for all the Russians, because I feel a lot of support there."

Medvedev continued his love-hate relationship with Australian crowds. He stayed calm for the first two sets before complaining about the yelling and noise between first and second serves.

After Nadal broke him in the third game of the fourth set, on a double-fault, Medvedev walked to the changeover giving an ironic thumbs-up to the crowd.

There was an exchange of breaks but Nadal got the upper hand after a long game when he converted his seventh breakpoint.

Medvedev urged chair umpire John Blom to shut the crowd up.

"Step up, man. It's the final of a Grand Slam. 'Please' is not enough," he said. "They're idiots. With idiots, 'please' doesn't work."

After Medvedev served a double-fault to open the fifth set, Blom warned the crowd that anyone yelling between first and second serves could get kicked out by security.

Medvedev did manage to hold that game but in the end he didn't quite have the endurance.

"I want to congratulate Rafa," he said. "What he did today was amazing. You're an amazing champion."

U.S. stumbles to 2-0 loss at 1st-place Canada in qualifying

By IAN HARRISON
Associated Press

HAMILTON, Ontario — Canada beat the United States for just the second time in 37 years, a 2-0 victory Sunday on goals by Cyle Larin and Sam Adekugbe to take another big step toward reaching the World Cup for the first time since 1986.

Larin scored for unbeaten Canada seven minutes in, taking advantage of a short goal kick by Matt Turner for his 12th goal of the qualifying cycle. Sam Adekugbe dribbled through the American defense and beat Turner from long range in the fifth minute of second-half stoppage time for his first international goal.

The U.S. stumbled on the road for the fourth time in

five qualifiers but remains on track to return to the World Cup if it wins its remaining two home games, the first a chilly encounter with El Salvador on Wednesday night in what could be sub-zero temperatures at St. Paul, Minnesota.

Canada beat the U.S. in qualifying for the first time since 1980 and leads North and Central America and the Caribbean with 22 points. The U.S. is second with 18 points, followed by Mexico (17), Panama (14), Costa Rica (12), Jamaica (seven), El Salvador (six) and Honduras (three).

The top three nations qualify for this year's tournament in Qatar, and fourth place advances to a playoff against the Oceania champion, likely New Zealand.

In later games, Mexico hosted Costa Rica, Panama was home against Jamaica and Honduras hosted El Salvador.

On a cool afternoon, the game was played on the artificial turf of Tim Hortons Field, a narrow surface of 70 yards (64 meters) width. The U.S. had 63% possession and outshot Canada 13-8.

Canada went ahead after Turner's goal kick failed to reach midfield. Kamal Miller headed the ball back toward goal and Jonathan Osorio touched ahead to Larin.

Larin exchanged passes with Jonathan David on a quick counter, turning around defender Miles Robinson, then beat Turner to the far post with a right-footed shot from 14 yards for his Canada record 23rd international

goal, one more than Dwayne De Rosario. It was the 16th career qualifying goal for Larin, who had an equalizer as Canada tied the U.S. 1-1 last September in qualifier at Nashville, Tennessee.

Canada had gone 15 games since 1993 without scoring in the first half against the U.S., and its only win against the Americans since 1985 had been in October 2019 in the CONCACAF Nations League, ending a 34-year, 17-game winless streak in the rivalry.

Robinson and fellow defender Chris Richards were the only American outfield starters in short sleeves on a sunny but breezy 25-degree (minus-4 Celsius) day. Only two of Canada' outfielders wore long sleeves, David and defender Steven

Vitória. Borjan wore long pants, while Turner wore shorts.

Christian Pulisic had a free kick about 25 yards in the 36th minute but sent the ball over the crossbar.

Weston McKennie nearly scored in the 43rd minute with a 6-yard header from Pulisic's corner kick, but Milan Borjan leaped and with outstretched right hand slapped the off the underside of the crossbar. Paul Arriola's 87th-minute bicycle kick was just wide.

A U.S. giveaway led to David's 70th-minute shot that Turner spilled, and the goalkeeper stopped Larin's attempt off the rebound.

Captain Tyler Adams, one of only two Americans to appear in every qualifier, came out in the 67th minute with

a strained right hamstring. Chris Richards injured a foot, forcing the U.S. to finish with 10 men, and Walker Zimmerman was held out with a hamstring injury.

The U.S. has been outscored 4-2 in the first half, going scoreless in eight of 10 qualifiers, and rallied for an 11-3 advantage in the second. The Americans have one win, two losses and two draws on the road, and four victories and a draw at home.

The U.S. is likely to qualify by winning its two remaining home games, with the home finale on March 27 against Panama in Orlando, Florida. That match is between road games at Mexico and a concluding trip to Costa Rica, where the Americans have lost nine straight qualifiers.

Raiders

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first moves. Denver finished 8-8 that season and McDaniels was fired with a 3-9 record in 2010, losing 17 of his final 22 games as coach.

McDaniels was also fined \$50,000 by the NFL for not reporting that the team's director of video operations videotaped a San Francisco 49ers walk-through practice before the teams played a game in 2010 in London. The investigation determined

that McDaniels did not know about the taping in advance and declined to view it, but he was punished for not immediately reporting the infraction to the league.

While several former assistants to Bill Belichick in New England have gotten head coaching jobs, the success rate of those coaches isn't high.

The seven coaches — McDaniels, Romeo Crennel, Eric Mangini, Bill O'Brien, Matt Patricia, Brian Flores and Joe Judge — have combined for a 410 winning percentage and five playoff

berths in 27 seasons they began as head coach. O'Brien had four of those playoff seasons in Houston, Mangini having the other with the Jets.

McDaniels takes over a team that has several key pieces in place, including quarterback Derek Carr, who is entering the final year of his contract.

Las Vegas also is set at several other positions with star edge rusher Maxx Crosby, tight end Darren Waller, left tackle Kolton Miller and slot receiver Hunter Renfrow.

The Raiders also have de-

isions to make this off-season whether to pick up the fifth-year options on 2019 first-round picks Clelin Ferrell, Josh Jacobs and Jonathan Abram,

Ferrell had a limited role this season and has struggled to make a big impact after being picked fourth overall. Jacobs has been fairly productive with two 1,000-yard rushing seasons but a guaranteed \$10.1 million salary for 2023 could be pricey.

Abram has played only 28 games because of injuries in his three seasons and struggled in coverage at safety.

Knights

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a junior, still have time in their Knights careers to capture every record possible. For Nash, he is blessed with the luxury of coaching two big men that dominate on a nightly basis.

"I'll tell you what, these two big men that will be back next year too," Nash said. "It's a luxury that you don't find at this level or a lot of levels. Both of those guys can play after high school. I like

the fact that we have them both. Our guards understand their roles of making sure we get them the ball as much as we can... I really like this team, I really do. They play hard and they come together and they have purpose and I love that."

Frederica will finish region play on Tuesday when they travel to Statesboro to take on the Bulloch Academy Gators (0-16, 0-6).

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