

Sixers, Simmons

Rookie point guard shines for team in playoffs

SPORTS



2018 Penn Relays

Local athletes compete against the best at annual meet

SPORTS

ON THE WEB

'PHILADELPHIA STATE OF THE MARKET'

Event in Center City discusses development driving strategies to increase interest in the city.

EXTENDED INTERVIEW:

Lieutenant Governor candidate Nina Ahmad

The Philadelphia Tribune

Vol. 134, No. 46

Friday, April 27, 2018 | www.phillytrib.com | \$1.50

VOICE OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

SEXUAL ASSAULT RETRIAL

BILL COSBY GUILTY

Entertainer, comedian convicted of drugging and sexually assaulting woman; a #MeToo win

Michael R. Sisak
Claudia Lauer

NORRISTOWN — Bill Cosby was convicted Thursday of drugging and molesting a woman in the first big celebrity trial of the #MeToo era, completing the spectacular late-in-life downfall of a comedian who broke racial barriers in Hollywood on his way to TV superstardom as America's Dad.

Cosby, 80, could end up spending his final years in prison after a jury concluded he sexually violated Temple University employee Andrea Constand at his suburban Philadelphia mansion in 2004.

The former TV star stared straight ahead as the verdict was read but moments later lashed out loudly at District Attorney Kevin Steele after the prosecutor demanded Cosby be sent immediately to jail. Steele told the judge Cosby has an airplane and might flee.

Cosby angrily denied he has a plane and called Steele an "a--hole," shouting, "I'm sick of him!"

The judge decided Cosby can remain free on \$1 million bail while he awaits sentencing but restricted him to Montgomery County, where his home is. No sentencing date was set.

Cosby waved to the crowd outside the courthouse, got into an SUV and left without saying anything. His lawyer Tom Mesereau declared "the fight is not over" and said he will appeal.

Shrieks erupted in the courtroom when the verdict was announced, and some of Cosby's accusers whimpered and cried. Constand remained stoic, then hugged her lawyer and members of the prosecution team. She left court without comment.

"Justice has been done!" celebrity attorney Gloria Allred, who represented some of Cosby's accusers, said on the courthouse steps. "We are so happy that finally we can say women are believed."

The jury of seven men and five women deliberated 14 hours over two days.

CONVICTED » 4A



Actor and comedian Bill Cosby leaves courthouse after his guilty verdict in Norristown on Thursday. — AP PHOTO

A tremendous legacy forever tarnished

Brian Lowry

The guilty verdict against Bill Cosby represents a moment of vindication for a legal system that has often seemed to tip the scales in favor of celebrities — including a previous hung jury in this case, despite a mountain of testimonials against the star.

Yet the man known as "America's dad" during the heyday of his sitcom had

already become, for many, a pariah. And if the power of his fame and image surely played a role in previously escaping such a verdict, the damage to his image and legacy had been done.

Cosby's celebrity had made the prospect of a conviction seem uncertain, even with the heightened awareness that has come from the #MeToo movement. Celebrities have weathered such cases time and again.

But the hallowed status that Cosby occupied as one of the world's most beloved entertainers — an icon who parlayed the universality of his stand-up comedy into several successful TV series, none bigger than "The Cosby Show" in the 1980s — had been irrevocably tarnished. While some fans clung to the notion of his innocence, the weight of the allegations against him has been too much for many to ignore.

That tension has been put on public display, such as the discussion between Jerry Seinfeld and Stephen Colbert last September on the latter's CBS late-night show. Colbert said he could no longer listen to Cosby's albums, which he once loved. After initially saying it was possible to separate the work from the person, Seinfeld reconsidered that position and concurred.

LEGACY » 5A

Dwight Evans pushes for second term in Congress

From opioids to bail reform, he makes his case

Michael D'Onofrio
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Incumbent Dwight Evans said he will rely on a his political record and experience as a long-time politician against a political newcomer in the upcoming Democratic primary.

"Who is most effective and who will get things done?" Evans asked during a recent Philadelphia Tribune editorial board meeting. "I provide the kind of leadership that is necessary to address the issues."

Evans, 63, who lives in West Oak Lane, is seeking a second congressional term. After spending nearly four decades as



Congressman Dwight Evans, 63, who lives in West Oak Lane, is seeking a second congressional term. After spending nearly four decades as a state representative in Harrisburg, Evans successfully ran for Congress in the 2nd District in 2016. — PHILLYTRIB

a state representative in Harrisburg, Evans successfully ran for Congress in the 2nd District in 2016. The district includes portions of Philadelphia and

Montgomery counties. But the newly drawn congressional districts, put in place earlier this year,

EVANS » 4A

INSIDE

STATE & REGION
Program offers quick fix for some violations

ENTERTAINMENT
Review of Avengers: Infinity War



COMING SUNDAY
Church of the Week
Church of the Redeemer

INDEX

State/Region...6-7A Classifieds7B
Commentary.....10A Religion.....8-9B
Across America.11A Obituaries.....10B
Lifestyles.....1-3B Sports.....11-12B

WURD's president talks recent shake up

Bobbi Booker
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Another round of programming shakeups at WURD Radio-owned urban news/talk WURD-AM this week, with the Tuesday announcement that "Wake Up With WURD" hosts Chris "Flood the Drummer" Norris and Ikey Raw were no longer the morning drive-time team.

The reorganization comes four months after Norris was named as replacement for former hosts the Rev. Mark "The AME" Kelly Tyler and Denise "The Writer" Clay, who announced their departures from WURD in late December 2017.

According to Yashira Rivera, WURD's Events/Non-Traditional Reve-



Sara Lomax-Reese

nue Coordinator, both co-hosts were aware of the change when their last show aired Monday morning.

"It was a mutual agreement between Sarah, Chris and Ikey to part ways," said Rivera,

WURD » 5A