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The bartenders, housekeepers, bellmen and other unionized workers at 34 casino-hotels on the Strip and downtown Las Vegas have been negotiating new five-year contracts since February.

But wages, workplace training and other issues have kept their union and employers from reaching agreements, pushing employees to authorize the first strike in more than 30 years at any time starting Friday.

Here s a look at the negotiations and a possible strike:

Ninety-nine percent of about 25,000 workers voted last week to authorize a strike after contracts expire. No date has been set, but they have begun signing up for strike pay, financial assistance and picketing shifts.

The Culinary Union and companies that would be affected if workers walk off the job had bargaining sessions this week for five-year contracts.

Analysts with Deutsche Bank put the likelihood of a citywide strike as low and said they believe negotiations could continue past Thursday.

Recall, in 2013, the Culinary Union remained in negotiations with some Strip operators for several months post the June 2013 contract expiration, they wrote in a research note Wednesday. Business during this time was uninterrupted.

The last citywide strike was in 1984, costing the city and workers millions of dollars.

The strike would mean no bartenders, housekeepers, cocktail and food servers, porters Leighton Vander Esch Color Rush Jersey , bellmen, cooks and other kitchen workers at properties including Bellagio, Aria, Caesars Palace, Flamingo Las Vegas, Tropicana, Stratosphere, Golden Nugget and The D.

MGM Resorts International and Caesars Entertainment operate more than half the properties that would be affected by a strike. Both companies have declined to provide details of their contingency plans.

The union and hospitality experts have said the companies would use replacement workers and try to bring some in from their properties outside Las Vegas.

Casino-resorts that would not be affected include Wynn Las Vegas, Encore, The Venetian and Palazzo.

The strike could come as fans head to the tourist destination for the Stanley Cup Final. The union for professional hockey players in the National Hockey League sent a letter to the Culinary Union on Wednesday expressing its support for the casino workers' attempts to reach a fair and equitable agreement.

It is hoped that an accommodation can promptly be reached that will enable you to continue to provide the high level of service and professionalism that you have long exhibited, National Hockey League Players Association executive director Donald Fehr wrote.

The average hourly wage of Las Vegas Strip workers is \$23, including benefits such as premium-free health care, a pension and a 401(k) retirement savings plan, and \$20,000 down-payment assistance for first-time homebuyers.

The union says it has asked MGM for average annual wage increases of 4 percent for each of the next five years. It says the company has countered with an approximate 2.7 percent raise.

Caesars workers have asked for an increase of 4.2 percent effective Friday, and annual increases of about 4 percent thereafter. The union says the company has offered an approximate 2.8 percent increase for each of the five years.

The companies are making millions and millions of dollars, they are growing and that's excellent Frank Ragnow Color Rush Jersey , said Geoconda Arquello-Kline, union secretary-treasurer and a former housekeeper. We want them to



<http://www.giantsauthorizedshops.com/authentic-cody-latimer-jersey> , then changed into gold sneakers and a peach-colored jacket to watch the Sixers romp to a stunning 80-44 lead at the break. Embiid said he will likely miss at least Game 1 of the playoffs this weekend because of the injury.

#### KNICKS 110, CAVALIERS 98

CLEVELAND (AP) LeBron James played in his 82nd game, scored 10 points and then got some rest for the playoffs in Cleveland's loss to New York in coach Jeff Hornacek's likely last game with the Knicks.

James had never played every game in his 15-year NBA career. But he capped a remarkable season in which he seemed to break a record every night by adding another accomplishment to his long list of achievements. Cavs coach Tyronn Lue said he tried to talk James out of playing, but he gave in and allowed the 33-year-old to extend his record of scoring in double digits to 873 consecutive games before taking him out. James finished with 10 points and five rebounds in 10:33.

Knicks rookie Luke Kornet scored a season-high 23 points.

#### HEAT 116, RAPTORS 109, OT

MIAMI (AP) Wayne Ellington scored a career-high 32 points and set Miami's single-season record for 3-pointers, helping the Heat wrap up the No. 6 seed in the Eastern Conference.

Ellington finished with eight 3-pointers, giving him 227 for the season. He topped the mark set by Damon Jones, who made 225 in 2004-05. Kelly Olynyk, Dwyane Wade, Justise Winslow, James Johnson and Tyler Johnson each scored 11 points for the Heat.

Kyle Lowry scored 28 points for Toronto, which already had the top seed in the East wrapped up.

#### PELICANS 122, SPURS 98

NEW ORLEANS (AP) Anthony Davis had 22 points, 15 rebounds, four blocks and three steals, and New Orleans assured itself no worse than the sixth seed in the Western Conference.

Rajon Rondo had 19 points and 14 assists. Ronald Acuna Jr. Atlanta Braves Jersey , Nikola Mirotic had 21 points and 15 rebounds, and Jrue Holiday added 19 points for the Pelicans.

LaMarcus Aldridge, Tony Parker and Dejounte Murray each scored 11 points for San Antonio.

#### MAGIC 101, WIZARDS 92

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) Rodney Purvis scored 16 points for Orlando and Mario Hezonja finished with 15 points, eight rebounds and six assists.

Jodie Meeks came off the bench to score 18 points for Washington. They lost five of their last six games to take the eighth and final Eastern Conference playoff spot.

#### CELTICS 110, NETS 97

BOSTON (AP) Aron Baynes led a short-handed Boston lineup with a career-best 26 points and 14 rebounds, carrying the Celtics past Brooklyn.

Jonathan Gibson scored 18 points, Guerschon Yabusele had 16 and Shane Larkin added 12 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds for the Celtics. Nik Stauskas scored 18 points for the Nets.

#### PISTONS 119, BULLS 87

CHICAGO (AP) Rookie Luke Kennard scored a career-high 23 points and Eric Moreland set career bests with 16 points and 17 rebounds for Detroit.

Anthony Tolliver had 18 points and Henry Ellenson added 14 points and 10 rebounds. Rookie Lauri Markkanen had 20 points for Chicago.

#### KINGS 96, ROCKETS 83

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) Willie Cauley-Stein had 22 points and

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