KINGS 96, ROCKETS 83

Autor: liny195 - 2018/08/10 05:14

The possibility of 50 Donte Jackson Color Rush Jersey ,000 Las Vegas casino workers going on strike drew closer Thursday, with their contracts expiring at midnight and the prospects of new ones still uncertain.

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:

TO STRIKE OR NOT TO 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.

ROOMS, KITCHENS AND LUGGAGE

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.

WAGES

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 Arguello-Kline, union secretary-treasurer and a former housekeeper. We want them to

share with the workers their success.

Both companies have declined to provide details of their proposals but have said they are confident they will reach agreements with the union.

OTHER DISPUTES

The union said it is asking for training on new skills and job opportunities as the companies adopt technology that can displace employees. It also wants contract language that would protect workers if properties are sold.

The labor organization, the largest in Nevada, also has proposed to MGM and Caesars an independent study paid jointly with the union to analyze the workload of housekeepers.

The union has argued that hotel rooms have changed significantly, with new furniture and other amenities, since 2002, when the last workload study was conducted.

I wouldn't be here today had not everybody gone out on strike in 1984 for those health benefits because I came down with a terminal illness, said Deborah Jeffries, a cocktail server. It was very important to me that I had that, and it was well worth the walk for two and half months.

We are ready and willing to do this again, not that we want it, but if need be, we will do it, she said.

¤÷ ?Jimmy Butler scored 31 points, Karl-Anthony Towns had 26 points and 14 rebounds and the Minnesota Timberwolves ended the NBA s longest-running playoff drought, beating the Denver Nuggets 112-106 in overtime Wednesday night in the first final-day play-in game in the league in 21 years.

When the final horn blew, the capacity and white-towel-waving crowd at Target Center stood to soak in Minnesota's first postseason appearance since 2004. Butler flashed a smile of relief as he hugged his teammates and confetti fluttered above the floor. The fans chanted MVP! MVP! as Butler conducted a postgame interview.

Jokic Deadrin Senat Color Rush Jersey, locked in a classic big-man battle with Towns, finished with 35 points and 10 rebounds, but he missed six of his last eight shots after the third quarter as Denver's late push fell a few points short.

The Timberwolves are moving on to play the NBA-best Houston Rockets in the first round.

Will Barton, who had 24 points, made a 3-pointer to beat the shot clock for Denver s first lead, 104-103, since midway through the first quarter. After Taj Gibson hounded Jokic to force an air-balled 3-point try, Jeff Teague swished a floater with 1:19 left in overtime to put the Wolves back in front for good.

Andrew Wiggins sank two foul shots with 15 seconds remaining to finish with 18 points, and the Wolves were finally on their way to a celebration more than a decade in the making.

THUNDER 137, GRIZZLIES 123

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) Russell Westbrook clinched a triple-double average for the second straight season, Paul George scored 40 points and Oklahoma beat Memphis.

Westbrook entered the night needing 16 rebounds to clinch the triple-double average. He pulled down his 16th rebound with just over nine minutes left in the third quarter and received a standing ovation. He finished with just six points, but had a career-high 20 rebounds and 19 assists.

Steven Adams scored 24 points and Corey Brewer added 17 for the Thunder, who matched a franchise record with 20 made 3-pointers. Dillon Brooks scored a career-high 36 points for Memphis.

76ERS 130, BUCKS 95

PHILADELPHIA (AP) Joel Embiid and JJ Redick watched from the bench, Ben Simmons had a scoreless first half and Philadelphia still won its 16th consecutive game to take the No. 3 Eastern Conference seed.

Fultz had his first career triple-double with 13 points, 10 assists and 10 rebounds. Justin Anderson led the Sixers with 25 points, and Dario Saric had 24.

Embiid wore a black mask during warmups to protect his broken bone around his left eye

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.

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

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