

AP sources: Twins hire Shelton as manager

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Minnesota Twins have picked former bench coach Derek Shelton as their new manager, a person with knowledge of the decision confirmed Wednesday night.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the team had not announced the hire. Major League Baseball encourages clubs to avoid spotlighting big moves during the World Series.

Shelton served as manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates for five-plus years with an overall record of 306-440 before he was fired on May 8, just 40 games into this season. The 55-year-old was the bench coach for the Twins in 2018 and 2019 under two different managers, Paul Molitor and Rocco Baldelli. With the under-funded Pirates, Shelton never finished higher than fourth place in the NL Central or better than 76-86.

Baldelli was fired the day after the regular season ended with a 527-505 record over seven years, plus 3-8 in the postseason. The Twins won three AL Central titles under Baldelli, including their 101-61 finish in 2019 when the rookie skipper won the AL Manager of the Year award, but they made the playoffs only once in his last five seasons and frequently struggled to shepherd their top prospects into becoming consistent contributors.

New York Yankees hitting coach James Rowson, who held that role for the Twins under both Molitor and



AP

Former Pittsburgh Pirates manager Derek Shelton was hired to be the new manager of the Minnesota Twins.

Baldelli before leaving to become bench coach of the Miami Marlins in 2020, was also one of the finalists. According to multiple reports, former Seattle Mariners manager Scott Servais and current Chicago Cubs bench coach Ryan Flaherty were in the mix, too. The Twins are one of

nine MLB teams who have changed managers this year.

Shelton, who was well-regarded within the Twins organization and a close friend to Baldelli, will take over a team that spiraled to a 70-92 finish after the front office decided to use the leverage of the deadline

Patriots deal safety Dugger to Steelers

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Pittsburgh Steelers have acquired safety Kyle Dugger from New England in hopes of giving the back end of the secondary another experienced option with starter DeShon Elliott out indefinitely with a knee injury.

Pittsburgh sent a sixth-round pick in the 2026 draft to New England in exchange for Dugger and a seventh-round selection.

Dugger, a second-round choice by the Patriots in 2020, had 17 tackles in seven games with New England this season. The six-year veteran has nine career interceptions, including a pair of Pick-6s in 2022.

Elliott injured his right knee in the second half of Pittsburgh's 35-25 loss to Green Bay on Sunday night. Dugger joins a safety group that includes Chuck Clark and Jabrill Peppers.

Pittsburgh's secondary is struggling. The Steelers are dead last in the NFL against the pass and have surrendered over 700 yards in their last two games to Cincinnati's Joe Flacco and Green Bay's Jordan Love.

Things won't get any easier for Pittsburgh this weekend when AFC South-leading Indianapolis (7-1) and the NFL's top offense visit Acrisure Stadium.

No. 6 Duke keeps its frequent perch as favorite in ACC

Jon Scheyer inherited a seemingly impossible task at Duke in following retired Hall of Fame coaching great Mike Krzyzewski. Yet the sixth-ranked Blue Devils have kept on winning.

They're starting this year as Atlantic Coast Conference favorite again.

The Blue Devils are coming off a 35-win season that included reaching the Final Four, while the 38-year-old Scheyer became the first coach to twice win the ACC Tournament in his first three seasons. The Blue Devils lost all five starters from that team — including Associated Press national player of the year and No. 1 overall NBA draft pick Cooper Flagg — but added the No. 1-ranked recruiting class and stand as the preseason pick to win a league race featuring No. 11 Louisville and 25th-ranked rival North Carolina.

This is the 10th time in 13 years that Duke is the ACC favorite. Winning the ACC will depend on integrating a recruiting class headlined by power forward Cameron Boozer — 247Sports' No. 3-ranked recruit — alongside returnees like Isaiah Evans and Maliq Brown.

"I think if you keep putting yourself in that position of being in that moment, being right there, it's only a matter of time before you break through," Scheyer said of the program's status as frequent national-title contender. "And I feel that's where our program is."

The Cardinals lost to the Blue Devils in last year's ACC final and reached March Madness in Pat Kelsey's first season. It was quick rise from a two-year wilderness under Kenny Payne: 12 wins, 52 losses, a 5-35 record in ACC regular-season play.

Louisville is Duke's top challenger, with Kelsey having retooled his roster through the transfer portal.

"We don't talk about the past. We don't talk about the future," Kelsey said. "Our sole focus is excellence in the now."

Top players

Darrion Williams helped Texas Tech reach the NCAA Elite Eight last year before declaring for the NBA draft. But the 6-foot-6 guard returned to college basketball for his senior season and transferred to N.C. State, where he is preseason ACC player of the year under new coach

Will Wade.

The league returns two top-tier scorers in Notre Dame point guard Markus Burton (league-best 21.3 points) and Syracuse guard J.J. Starling (seventh at 17.8).

Top transfers

Beyond the Wolfpack's Williams, the Cardinals added three of 247Sports' top 20 transfers in Ryan Conwell, Isaac McKneely and Adrian Wooley — all 6-4 guards who shot better than 40% on 3-pointers last year.

Conwell averaged 16.5 points at Xavier and will play for his fourth school in as many seasons. McKneely averaged 14.4 points at Virginia, while Wooley (18.8) was Conference USA freshman of the year at Kennesaw State.

North Carolina added 7-footer Henri Veesaar, who left Arizona to join a Tar Heels team that desperately needs reliable frontcourt play.

Top freshmen

Boozer is one of six McDonald's All-American freshmen, including Duke teammates in his brother Cayden (a point guard) and forward

Nikolas Khamenia.

UNC will lean on forward Caleb Wilson, a two-way talent with athleticism and length. Wilson joins Boozer and Louisville point guard Mikel Brown Jr. as high-end NBA talents considered to be possible one-and-done prospects.

Notre Dame also landed a McDonald's all-American in guard Jalen Haralson, the Fighting Irish's highest-ranked prospect in the modern era.

New coaches

The league has four new coaches: Wade, Florida State's Luke Loucks, Miami's Jai Lucas and Virginia's Ryan Odom.

The 42-year-old Wade is back in the power-conference ranks after his ouster from LSU amid NCAA trouble. He won big in two seasons at McNeese and replaces the fired Kevin Keatts.

Loucks, 35, arrives from years in the NBA to take over at his alma mater for longtime coach Leonard Hamilton.

Lucas, 36, left the Duke staff to take over the Hurricanes, who saw coach Jim Larrañaga step aside last

December and finished out under interim coach Bill Courtney.

Odom, 51, takes over a Virginia program that lost longtime coach Tony Bennett to retirement shortly before last season. The former VCU coach grew up in Charlottesville around the program while his father, Dave, was an assistant in the 1980s.

Shorter schedule

The ACC will have an 18-game league slate, down from 20 games, as the league tries to reverse a downward trend of NCAA bids (four last year). The move is designed to give ACC teams two more spots to schedule quality nonconference matchups that could bolster postseason résumés. The ACC had moved to 20 games in 2019-20 with the arrival of the ESPN-partnered ACC Network.

Preseason picks

Champion: Duke; 2) Louisville; 3) UNC; 4) N.C. State; 5) Virginia; 6) SMU; 7) Clemson; 8) Miami; 9) Syracuse; 10) Notre Dame; 11) Wake Forest; 12) Virginia Tech; 13) Georgia Tech; 14) Pittsburgh; 15) FSU; 16) California; 17) Stanford; 18) Boston College.

ence and opportunity."

Central Clarion will have both its boys and girls teams competing in Hershey in Class 1A races after each captured a district title last weekend.

Competing for the boys team are Hayden Weber, Jackson Baker, Drake Edmonds, Joshua Turner, Jonas Wilshire, AJ Mecusker and Ryan Rinker.

Representing the girls for the Wildcats are Adisen Jackson, Hannah Love, Eliza Datko, Julianna Schwabenbauer, Reise Jackson, Livia McGinley and Dana Coulson.

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After waiting two years for her chance to compete against the best runners the state has to offer, Smith has two goals in mind for Gahr on Saturday.

"The first goal is to be ready for the race, to not let the emotional high of achieving the ultimate goal of the year lead to a performance we are not satisfied with," Smith said.

THE DAILY SCOREBOARD

NFL STANDINGS						
AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	6	2	0	.750	213	146
Buffalo	5	2	0	.714	207	146
Miami	2	6	0	.250	174	215
N.Y. Jets	1	7	0	.125	168	221
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Indianapolis	7	1	0	.875	270	154
Jacksonville	4	3	0	.571	146	155
Houston	3	4	0	.429	153	103
Tennessee	1	7	0	.125	110	230
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	4	3	0	.571	175	175
Cincinnati	3	5	0	.375	174	253
Baltimore	2	5	0	.286	174	210
Cleveland	2	6	0	.250	126	184
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	6	2	0	.750	207	151
L.A. Chargers	5	3	0	.625	188	173
Kansas City	5	3	0	.625	214	131
Las Vegas	2	5	0	.286	103	180
NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Phila.	6	2	0	.750	208	185
Dallas	3	4	1	.438	246	250
Washington	3	5	0	.375	187	198
N.Y. Giants	2	6	0	.250	173	215
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tampa Bay	6	2	0	.750	197	178
Carolina	4	4	0	.500	154	192
Atlanta	3	4	0	.429	120	154
New Orleans	1	7	0	.125	128	209
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	5	1	1	.786	193	150
Detroit	5	2	0	.714	215	151
Chicago	4	3	0	.571	168	185
Minnesota	3	4	0	.429	155	162
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Seattle	5	2	0	.714	193	136
L.A. Rams	5	2	0	.714	175	117
San Francisco	5	3	0	.625	160	164
Arizona	2	5	0	.286	153	154
Thursday's Games						
Baltimore at Miami, 8:15 p.m.						
Sunday's Games						
Atlanta at New England, 1 p.m.						
Carolina at Green Bay, 1 p.m.						
Chicago at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.						
Denver at Houston, 1 p.m.						
Indianapolis at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.						
L.A. Chargers at Tennessee, 1 p.m.						
Minnesota at Detroit, 1 p.m.						
San Francisco at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.						
Jacksonville at Las Vegas, 4:05 p.m.						
New Orleans at L.A. Rams, 4:05 p.m.						
Kansas City at Buffalo, 4:25 p.m.						
Seattle at Washington, 8:20 p.m.						
Open: Cleveland, N.Y. Jets, Phila., Tampa Bay						
Monday's Games						
Arizona at Dallas, 8:15 p.m.						

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Montreal	11	8	3	0	16	40	33
Detroit	10	7	3	0	14	35	31
Toronto	11	5	5	1	11	38	42
Florida	11	5	5	1	11	27	31
Ottawa	11	5	5	1	11	41	44
Buffalo	10	4	4	2	10	30	31
Tampa Bay	10	4	4	2	10	29	30
Boston	12	5	7	0	10	39	44

Metropolitan

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	10	8	2	0	16	39	30
Pittsburgh	11	7	2	2	16	40	30
Carolina	9	6	3	0	12	34	28
Washington	10	6	4	0	12	27	22
Columbus	10	6	4	0	12	35	31
Philadelphia	9	5	3	1	11	26	23
N.Y. Rangers	11	4	5	2	10	24	26
N.Y. Islanders	9	4	4	1	9	32	33

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Utah	11	8	3	0	16	40	30
Colorado	11	6	1	4	16	41	30
Winnipeg	10	7	3	0	14	34	25
Dallas	10	6	3	1	13	29	31
Chicago	11	4	5	2	12	33	26
Nashville	11	4	5	2	10	28	37
Minnesota	11	3	5	3	9	31	43
St. Louis	10	3	6	1	7	29	44

Pacific

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	10	6	1	3	15	37	28
Seattle	10	5	2	3	13	28	29
Los Angeles	11	5	3	3	13	33	36
Edmonton	11	5	4	2	12	35	35
Anaheim	9	5	3	1	11	32	31
Vancouver	11	5	6	0	10	29	33
San Jose	10	2	6	2	6	32	46
Calgary	11	2	8	1	5	24	39

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Wednesday's Games

Columbus 6, Toronto 3

Thursday's Games

Buffalo at Boston, 7 p.m.

Calgary at Ottawa, 7 p.m.

Dallas at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.

Nashville at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.

N.Y. Islanders at Carolina, 7:30 p.m.

Chicago at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.

Pittsburgh at Minnesota, 8 p.m.

Vancouver at St. Louis, 8 p.m.

N.Y. Rangers at Edmonton, 9 p.m.

New Jersey at San Jose, 10 p.m.

Detroit at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

Friday's Games

Colorado at Vegas, 4 p.m.

N.Y. Islanders at Washington, 7 p.m.

Detroit at Anaheim, 10 p.m.