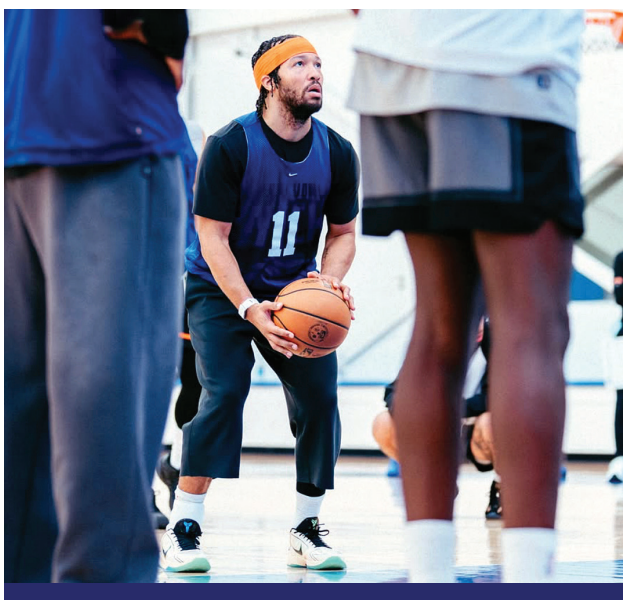


Jalen Brunson of the New York Knicks about to freethrow during practice. The Knicks won 109-97 against the Cavaliers on Nov. 7, 2026.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @NYKNICKS ON INSTAGRAM

The Big Apple:

Knicks continue win streak as Giants dominate

by James Badeau
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The reigning NBA Champion New York Knicks (saying that will never get old) haven't lost in the month of November so far. They picked up wins against Chicago and Cleveland since the last publication of The Big Apple.

Jalen Brunson was named Eastern Conference Player of the Week on Monday after averaging 27.7 points and 6.3 assists per game last week. His 31-pont performance against the Cavaliers on Saturday had a four minute and 24 second stretch where the Knicks captain scored 18 straight points.

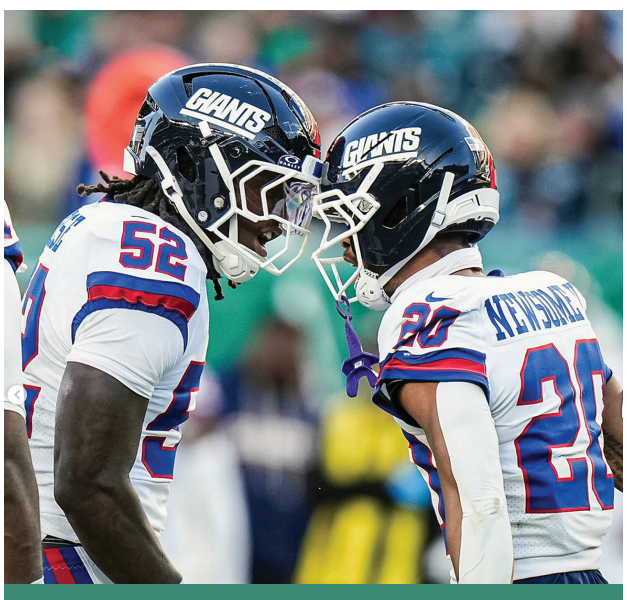
Brunson's counterpart, Karl-Anthony Towns, has also been on a tear this season, posting a double-double in all nine games the team has played. After the 0-3 start, the Knicks have won five out of its last six games, and it couldn't have been done without Towns.

The biggest Knicks news throughout the past week came from off the court. Backup point guard Tyler Kolek made some hefty remarks regarding Taylor Swift. Kolek said that Swift is one of the "fakest" celebrity fans that the team has and calls her a "performative" Knicks fan. He stated that he'd never seen the mogul at any other Knicks games besides Game 4 of the NBA Finals, where New York came back from 29 points down to defeat San Antonio.

Kolek quickly found himself in hot water after his comments. He issued an apology later to clear the air, or maybe in this case, shake it off with Swift. Knicks guard Jordan Clarkson put out a video on Instagram of Kolek singing along to Swift's song "Blank Space," captioned "He's a Swiftie."

"Taylor Swift has been a Knicks fan for many years, has a long history with Madison Square Garden, and we are incredibly appreciative of her support of the organization," a Knicks spokesperson told PEOPLE in a statement.

Shifting over to the first-place team in the NFC East, the New York Giants improved their record to 5-2-1 after defeating the Philadelphia Eagles by a score of 19-11. It is the first time the Giants beat the Eagles on the road since 2013.



Arvell Reese and Greg Newsome of the New York Giants celebrating together mid game. The Giants won 19-11 against the Philadelphia Eagles on Nov. 8, 2026.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @NYGIANTS ON INSTAGRAM

JJ McCarthy picked up his sixth straight win as a starting quarterback, both with Minnesota and New York, which makes it the longest active streak in the NFL. Impressively enough, McCarthy became the first quarterback to win four straight starts without a passing touchdown in 40 years.

On the defensive side of the ball, rookie Arvell Reese dominated the entire game, sacking Eagles quarterback Joe Milton three times, including an unreal hit which forced a fumble that New York recovered. On top of the sacks, he finished the game with a team-high 12 tackles. The fifth pick of this year's draft is now the current favorite to win Defensive Rookie of the Year.

The Giants take on division rival Washington on Thursday night. Winning that game would be the first time since 2007 that New York defeated every team in the NFC East in the same season.

After Washington, the schedule tightens up as the Giants host Jacksonville, a matchup recently flexed to a 4:25 p.m. kickoff, before wrapping up November on the road against the Indianapolis Colts. That trip to Indianapolis feels like a true must-win before a brutal gauntlet against San Francisco, Seattle, Cleveland and Detroit.

NWSL QUARTERFINALS DELIVER HISTORIC FIRSTS AND HARD-FOUGHT VICTORIES

by Meredith Lloyd | CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT | SHE/HER/HERS | meredith.lloyd@uconn.edu

The National Women's Soccer League postseason kicked off Friday evening and wrapped up with a Sunday doubleheader. The quarterfinals delivered shocking upsets, statement wins and an intense race toward the NWSL Championship Trophy.

San Diego Wave FC vs. Utah Royals FC

In Friday's quarterfinal opener, No. 7 Utah upset No. 2 San Diego 1-0. Momentum and match history favored San Diego, which went 6-0 against Utah this season.

Utah entered the match without its leading scorer, Mina Tanaka, who was sidelined with a hamstring injury. The Royals lost five of their previous six matches without Tanaka and drew the other.

Utah took the lead in the 29th minute when forward Kiana Palacios converted a cross with a left-footed finish inside the penalty area. Despite being outshot 16-8, Palacios' goal proved to be the difference for the Royals.

Goalkeeper Mandy McGlynn was Utah's rock, making 4 saves to secure the shutout and helping rally the Royals against a tough opponent.

"Why not us? Don't count us out," McGlynn said in a postgame news conference. "We're gonna go out there and play ugly soccer, good soccer; we don't care. We're gonna go win this game and find a way." go win this game and find a way."

When the final whistle sounded, the Royals had more than an upset to celebrate; they had earned their first playoff win in franchise history.

Kansas City Current vs. Angel City FC

No. 4 Kansas City defeated No. 5 Angel City 1-0 on Saturday.

After claiming last year's top seed, the Current suffered a shocking first-round upset by Gotham FC, which went on to win the 2025 NWSL championship.

This season, the Current looks to rewrite their story.

Despite 20 shots from Kansas City and 12 from Angel City, regulation ended scoreless. The Current broke through in the 94th minute when they earned a penalty kick after a foul called on Angel City goalkeeper Angelina Anderson. Kansas City forward Michelle Cooper stepped up and sent the ball past Anderson's reach.

"The players met the demands of such a tough, gritty game against a team that you could argue was the hottest in the league," Current Head Coach Chris Armas said regarding the team's resilience in a news conference. "Whatever it was going to take. They were going to will it to happen. Just really proud to be part of the group, and we're hungry for more."

This victory sends Kansas City to its third semifinal in franchise history, setting up a rematch of last year's playoff elimination.



Kaitlin Purce of the NY Gotham FC embracing a teammate on the field during a game. Gotham FC won 2-1 against the Portland Thorns FC on Nov. 10, 2026.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @GOTHAMFC ON INSTAGRAM

Gotham FC vs. Seattle Reign FC

No. 1 Gotham advanced to its fourth consecutive NWSL semifinal with a 1-0 win over No. 8 Seattle.

Seattle defender Jordyn Bugg put Gotham on the board in the fourth minute with an own goal, slicing a corner kick past goalkeeper Claudia Dickey while attempting a clearance. The own goal made Gotham the first NWSL team to win a playoff match without recording a shot on goal.

Goalkeeper Ann-Katrin Berger made three saves to preserve the lead and secure the win, proving that the defending champions don't need to make it look pretty — they just need to get it done.

Despite looking ahead to Kansas City, Gotham Coach Juan Carlos Amorós made sure to recognize his team's collective effort.

"We did not have the best game, but we added another clean sheet," said Amorós. "I think it's unbelievable the way we defend as a collective. And that was the game that we had to play today, and that's the game that we won today, so I could not be any prouder of the players because every single one of them gave absolutely everything."

Washington Spirit vs. Portland Thorns

No. 3 Washington closed out the quarterfinals with the most dominant victory of the weekend, a 4-1 takedown of No. 6 Portland.

Forward Trinity Rodman started the action early by assisting on Washington's first goal in the sixth minute. After stealing the ball from defender Carolyn Calzada, Rodman found Mélissa Bethi, who converted the finish.

Rodman and fellow striker Clara Luvanga were the dynamic duo of the match. In the 34th minute, Luvanga won the ball from Thorns goalkeeper Mackenzie Arnold and found the back of the net to double the lead.

Luvanga also assisted on Washington's third goal, setting up Rodman with a cross from the left. In the 58th minute, Rodman scored off another assist from Luvanga.

Washington will host the championship match, regardless of the Spirit's semifinal result. The opportunity to compete for a championship in front of its home crowd is an added boost for the Spirit players as they look to reclaim the title.

The NWSL playoffs will continue this weekend. Washington will take on Utah in the semifinal opener Nov. 14. Kickoff is at 12 p.m., and the match will be available on Paramount+ and CBS. On Nov. 15, Gotham will host Kansas City for a 3 p.m. start. The second match will air on ABC and stream on ESPN.



Fans watch a player from the San Diego Wave FC going for a corner kick during a game. The San Diego Wave FC lost 0-1 against the Utah Royals on Nov. 6, 2026.

PHOTO COURTESY OF @SANDIEGOWAVEFC ON INSTAGRAM