Gilgeous-Alexander, Haliburton took roads less traveled to stardom

BY CLIFF BRUNT

AP SPORTS WRITER OKLAHOMA CITY Oklahoma City's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander and Indiana's Tyrese Haliburton weren't expected to ever be starring in leading roles on the NBA Finals stage.

Well, at least not by many.

"It's been a roller coaster," Gilgeous-Alexander said. "I had nights where I thought I wasn't good at basketball, had nights where I thought I was the best player in the world before I was. It's been ups and downs. My mentality to try to stay level through it all really helped me. Once I figured that out, I really saw jumps in my game."

Those jumps have made Gilgeous-Alexander the face of the Oklahoma City Thunder. This, after he was cut from his junior varsity team as a ninth grader. He came off the bench for most of the first two months of his freshman season at Kentucky, wasn't a top-10 draft pick and was traded from the Los Angeles Clippers after his rookie year.

Haliburton has traveled a similar road to NBA stardom.

Now a favorite son in the state of Indiana, Haliburton didn't get attention from major college programs until his senior year of high school when he led Oshkosh North High School (Wisconsin) to a state title. The slender guard was visited schools such as Ohio and Indiana University-Indianapolis before Iowa State offered a scholarship. He wasn't a one-and-done, wasn't a top-10 pick and got traded from Sacramento during his third year in the league.

'This is a franchise that took a chance on in me," Haliburton said of the Pacers. "Some- Kings and their crowdmvself."

Gilgeous-Alexander aren't the household names that familiar to casual basketball fans are accustomed to seeing in the Finals, like LeBron James or Stephen Curry. But they will be the engines for their squads when their teams meet in Game 1 Thursday night in Oklahoma City — and for good reason.

Gilgeous-Alexander is the this year's league MVP and Haliburton is a two-time All-Star and an Olympic gold medalist.

Gilgeous-Alexander, the 6-foot-6 OKC guard, averaged a league-best 32.7 points per game in the regular season to claim his first scoring title. He has averaged 29.8 points, 5.7 rebounds and 6.9 assists per contest in the playoffs. That's a long way from his formative days in Canada, or even four years ago when the Thunder were one of the worst teams in the league.

Gilgeous-Alexander just seems to always be focused on the task at hand. He said the ups and downs of the journey flashed through his mind when he was named MVP.

"All the moments I got, like, cut, traded, slighted, overlooked," he said. "But also all the joy, all the things that my family has comforted me in, all the life lessons. Everything that's turned me into the man and the human being that I am today."

Haliburton spent two seasons at Iowa State and appeared in exactly one postseason game, a 62-59 first-round loss to Ohio State in the 2019 NCAA Tournament. He entered the NBA draft despite suffering a season-ending fractured left wrist in February 2020.

Sacramento made to tip your hat to him him the 12th overall pick, even with De'Aaron Fox already on the vidual. And I think that, me, saw something that roster. But Haliburton regardless of who you other people didn't see never made the playoffs are, makes you dangerin $2^{1/2}$ seasons with the ous It also makes for an times I think they saw ed backcourt led to Hal- intriguing backcourt more in me than I saw in iburton's trade to Indi- matchup after a couple ana for All-Star forward of winding roads to the Haliburton and Domantas Sabonis in NBA Finals.



February 2022.

The change of scenery didn't change his postseason misfortune - at least not immediately. The Pacers missed the playoffs in 2022 and again in 2023 as Haliburton sat out the final $2^{1/2}$ weeks, costing him his first NBA assists crown.

The breakthrough finally came last season, when Indiana secured the No. 6 seed in the East and eliminated Milwaukee and New York before getting swept by Boston in the conference finals as the injured Haliburton watched the final two games from the bench.

This year, the Pacers have dispatched Milwaukee, Cleveland and New York to reach the Finals. But even with his success, Haliburton has had his detractors. The Athletic published an anonymous player poll in April saying he was the league's most overrated player.

During the postseason, Haliburton is averaging 18.8 points, 9.8 assists and 5.7 rebounds per game.

"What makes him very good is that he's very confident," Thunder All-Star Jalen Williams said. "So to be able to play as well as he's been playing through like a lot of the 'overrated' stuff ... you have for that. So he's just an extremely confident indiJOURNAL-ENTERPRISE **CLASSIFIED DEADLINE FRIDAY - 3:00 PM Contact Customer Service at** (270) 667-2068. Option 1 or classifieds@journalenterprise.com Monday-Friday 7AM-3PM Holidays advance deadlines 24 hours.



NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

June 5, 2025

City of Providence 201 E. Main Street

Providence, KY 42450-0128

270-667-5463

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural equirements for the activities to be undertaken by the City of Providence

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS, AND PERSONS: **Request for Release of Funds**

On or about **June 24, 2025**, the City of Providence will submit a request to the Department for Local Government for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 PL 93-383) to undertake the following project:

Project Name: Providence Sanitary Sewer Upgrades Project CDBG #22-033 Project Purpose: Upgrade wastewater treatment plant

rehabilitate sewer lines, and replace cast iron water lines

Project Location: 201 E. Main Street, Providence, KY 42450 Finding of No Significant Impact

The City of Providence has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environ-mental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (PL-91-190) is not required An Environmental Review Record (ERR) respecting the within project has been made by the Green River Area Developmen District which documents the environmental review of the project and more fully sets forth the reasons why such Statement is no required. This Environmental Review Record is on file at the Green River Area Development District – 300 GRADD Way Owensboro KY 42301 and is available for public examination and copying, upon request, between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 4:00



Oklahoma City

Thunder guard Shai

Gilgeous-Alexander

(2), front, celebrates

after Game 5 of the

playoffs against the

Minnesota Timber-

Nate Billings | AP Photo

wolves May 28 in

Oklahoma City.

with teammates

Western Confer-

ence finals of the

NBA basketball



NOTICE OF EXPLANATION FOR ACTIVITY IN A 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN AND WETLAND

To: All interested Agencies Groups, and Individuals The City of Providence, Ken tucky, has conducted an envir onmental assessment in ac cordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 55 and Executive Orders 11988 Floodplain Management) and 1990 (Wetlands Protection) This notice is to inform the public of the City's intent to undertake a project partially located within the 100-yea floodplain and a previously disturbed wetland area.

The proposed project, funded in part through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) #22-033, is the Providence Sanitary Sewe Upgrade located at and around 201 E. Main Street Providence, KY 42450. Activit ies include upgrades to the existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP); rehabilitatior or replacement of approxim ately 18,497 linear feet of 8 inch gravity sewer lines; and replacement of approximately 12,000 linear feet of cast iror water lines. The proposed im provements will occur entirely within previously developed and disturbed areas. A por tion of the project is located adjacent to the 100-year flood plain, where the WWTP cur rently operates. No new struc tures will be built within undis urbed floodplain or wetland areas, and no adverse im pacts to the floodplain are an ticipated.

The City evaluated the follow ing alternatives and mitigation measures to be taken to min imize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natura and beneficial values – Altern ative 1 (Selected): rehabilita tion or replacement of deteri orated sewer lines and man holes, and necessary up grades at the existing WWTP Alternative 2: Installation of separate package treatment plants in isolated problem areas and equipment up grades at the current WWTF Älternative 3: Major overhau of the WWTP only, without ad dressing the collection sys tem. This option would re quire land acquisition, ful equipment replacement, and system duplication. Alternat ive 1 was selected as the most feasible, environment ally sound, and cost-effective solution. It offers a compre hensive strategy to reduce in flow and infiltration (I&I), mod ernize the treatment facility and restore system compli ance with regulatory stand ards-—while minimizing im pacts to floodplain and wetland resources. The FEMA map was exported May 20,



Stephanie Scarbrough | AP Photo

Umberto Rispoli, atop Journalism, participates in the 150th running of the Preakness Stakes horse race May 17 at Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore.

JOURNALISM

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this year, I think they've made steady progress and it should be an interesting race.'

No. 6 Baeza, who finished third in Kentucky on the first Saturday in May, opened at 4-1. Hall of Fame trainer Bob Baffert's Rodriguez, who was scratched from the Derby because of a minor foot bruise and held out of the Preakness, was next at 6-1 and will leave the starting gate from the No. 3 post.

The field of eight horses also includes No. 8 Heart of Honor, tied for the longest shot on the board at 30-1 after finishing fifth in the Preakness. New to the Triple Crown trail are No. 1 Hill Road (10-1), No. 5 Crudo (15-1) and No. 4 Uncaged (30-1).

Journalism, who was favorited in the Derby and the Preakness and at the moment is the top 3-year-old in the country, looks like the horse to beat.

"Saratoga is very good for horses," McCarthy said. "He seems a little bit re-energized up here. We're looking for a wonderful renewal of the Belmont here on Saturday."

P.M. No further environmental review of such project is pro posed to be conducted.

Public Comments

All interested agencies, groups, and persons disagreeing with the ERR decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by the City of Providence to Mayor Tom Glover. Such written comments should be received at 201 E. Main Street Providence KY 42450-0128 on or before June 23, 2025. All such comments so received will be considered prior to authorizing submission of a request for the release of funds or taking any ad ministrative action on the within project prior to the date spe cified on the proceeding sentence. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing. Environmental Certification

The City of Providence will undertake the project described above with Block Grant funds from the Department for Loca Government under Title I of the Housing and Community Devel opment Act of 1974. The City of Providence is certifying to the state that the City of Providence and Tom Glover, in the officia capacity as Mayor, consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Fed eral Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in re lation to environmental reviews, decision making, and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect of the certification is that upon its approval City of Providence may use the Block Grant funds, and the state and HUD will have sat isfied their responsibilities under the National Environmenta Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities

Objection to Release of Funds

The state will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of Providence certification for a period of 15 days following the anticipated submission dates or it is actual receipt for the re quest (whichever is the latter) if they are on one of the following bases

- (a) The certification was not in fact executed by the City of Providence Certifying Officer.
- (b) The City of Providence has failed to make one of the two findings pursuant to S58.41 or to make the written determination decision required by SS578.57, 58.53 or 58.64 for the project, as applicable.
- (c) The City of Providence has omitted one or more of the steps set forth at Subparts F and G for the preparation and completion of an EA.
- d) No opportunity was given to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation or its Executive Director to review the effect of the project on a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places or found to be eligible for such listing by the Secretary of the Interior, in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800
-) The recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR part 58 before approval of the release of funds and approval of the Environmental Certification by HUD or the State
- Another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shal be addressed to the Department for Local Government, Office of ederal Grants, 100 Airport Rd 3rd Floor, Frankfort, Kentucky 10601

Objections to the release of funds on bases other than those stated above will not be considered by the state. No objection re beived after **July 9, 2025**, will be considered by the state. Poten tial objectors should contact the Department for Local Govern nent to verify the actual last day of the state Comment period

> Tom Glover, Mayor City of Providence 201 E. Main Street Providence, KY 42450-0128 270-667-5463

2025. Compliance with all ap plicable state and local flood plain protection procedures is acknowledged.

The City has determined there is no practical alternative to performing work adjacent to the floodplain. All work will be confined to existing infrastruc ture within disturbed areas and all sites will be restored to their original condition. This project will have no significant mpact on the environment will not alter floodplain func tion, and is necessary to address water quality violations The City's floodplain determin ation was confirmed using FEMA map software, exported May 20, 2025.

Environmental documentation related to this decision, include ng compliance with Execut ive Orders 11988 and 11990 (Steps 3-6), is available for public inspection, review and copy upon request, at the times and location delineated in the following paragraph of this notice for receipt of com ments.

Comments concerning this Notice of Explanation must be submitted in writing by June 20, 2025, to:

City of Providence Attn: Tom Glover, Mayor 201 E. Main Street Providence, KY 42450 Phone: (270) 667-5463 Email hunterphillips@gradd.com Of ice Hours: 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Local Time

NOTE: There are three primary purposes for this no-tice. First, people who may be affected by activities in flood plains and those who have ar interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to ex press their concerns and provide information abou these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissem-ination of information about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to re duce the risks associated with the occupancy and modifica tion of these special areas Third, as a matter of fairness when the Federal government determines it will participate ir actions taking place in flood plains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.