



USA
TODAY
SPORTS

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“WE ARE HOPING THAT THIS LONG QUEST FOR THE CUP TITLE WILL COME TO AN END.”

Argentine tennis player **Juan Martin del Potro**, a day before the Davis Cup final matches begin against host Croatia. Argentina has never won the Cup in the event's 116-year history, losing in the finals four times.



JERRY LAI, USA TODAY SPORTS

SPORTSLINE FIRST WORD

“Yeah, that first quarter was wild!!! I have the best teammates in the world. ... so much more I could say but man...Love you boyyys!!!”

Cavaliers forward Kevin Love on Instagram on Thanksgiving, the day after scoring 34 points in the first quarter in a 137-125 win against the Trail Blazers.

MAGIC NUMBER

\$500,000

Bonus for Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz if the Hawkeyes win eight games. They can reach that mark Friday with a win at home vs. Nebraska.

ALMOST LAST WORD

Will Trump backer Tom Brady be offered a position on the Federal Reserve Board to help keep inflation under control?

A question from reader Scott Burgess in “The Washington Post” to syndicated columnist Norman Chad for his weekly “Couch Slouch” feature.

LAST WORD

“FOR HIS ENTIRE THREE YEARS HERE, HE’S HAD ONE GOAL IN MIND — WHAT’S BEST FOR THESE YOUNG MEN. ... THAT’S GONNA BE THE LEGACY OF CHARLIE STRONG. AND THAT’S A GREAT THING. ... AND THAT’S WHY WE’RE GONNA GO OUT AND WHOOP TCU’S (BUTT) ON FRIDAY.”

Texas fan Matthew McConaughy to Fox 7 TV in Austin, when asked about embattled football coach Charlie Strong.

TWINNERS' BOND UNBREAKABLE IN CANCER FIGHT

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CHICAGO Shane Green is chatting about college basketball with his brother, Shawn, at lunch. If it weren't already evident they're identical twins, on this chilly fall day they wore matching outfits — the same winter vests — which they swear was unplanned.

As Shane catalogs some of their favorite teams, one being Wichita State, his brother perks up to offer his take. Shawn cannot speak, but through his body language, Shane picks up what he's thinking and translates.

“We love their toughness,” Shane deadpans, as Shawn gestures behind him with a grin and a head nod.

Toughness is a theme the 41-year-old Greens, die-hard fans and ex-college basketball players, have worn like armor over the last year as Shawn has battled Stage 4 cancer. He was diagnosed with a brain tumor in 2009 and had surgery to remove it.

But the tumor resurfaced, more aggressively, in October 2015, and it's taken away much of his ability to talk. He also walks with a cane or uses a wheelchair, with most



COURTESY OF THE GREEN FAMILY

Shane Green, left, has been by his twin brother Shawn's side throughout his battle with cancer. “People think I'm helping him,” Shane says. “He's the one who is fighting so damn hard. He's helping me.”

of the right side of his body paralyzed.

But much like when they were kids growing up, the twins have been there through thick and thin to pick each other up — physically and psychologically.

“His pain is my pain,” Shane says emotionally while lifting the recliner of a chair at Northwestern Memorial Hospital as chemo shoots through an IV into Shawn's veins. “People think I'm helping him. He's the one who is fighting so damn hard. He's helping me.”

Shane has a tattoo on his right side with two letter S's mirroring each other in the center of a shield. “It's me protecting him,” Shane says. And the two have “every day is a good day” tattooed on their torsos.

One of those good days included Shane pushing Shawn — in an adult-sized stroller, no less — at the Chicago Half Marathon in September in what could be their last race together. The pair had run the race for the last five years and were determined not to break tradition because of cancer. With the stroller crossing the finish line first, Shawn again beat his slower brother.

“It was an amazing moment to see them cross that finish line,” says Shawn's wife, Erin, who asserts that the twins have al-

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