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## The Week That Was

06-15-18

### 1. “We didn’t lose the game, we just ran out of time”

#### *Our Spin:*

It wouldn’t be a legislative session in New York without some last-minute drama. The drama that is sports betting has been closely watched for weeks now, but with only three days of the legislative session remaining and an Assembly controlled by Democrats who appear unwilling to roll the dice, many are doubtful. It aint over ‘til it’s over though, and there are whispers of weekend meetings and a big final push next week. All that can be said at this point is that while the clock is winding down, there will always be another game.

#### *The Story:*

A bill authorizing sports gambling in New York is not likely to move to a vote before lawmakers end session for the year next Wednesday. Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, D-Bronx, said Thursday that Democrats have a "broad spectrum of concerns" about the bill, casting doubt that these issues can be addressed with only three working days left in the 2018 legislative session.

Professional sports leagues and gambling organizations have continued to push the bill in Albany following the U.S. Supreme Court reversal of the federal sports-gambling ban last month. Speaker Heastie stated that he does not anticipate the bill being put to a vote by Wednesday, the last day of the legislative session.

Assembly Democrats, who control the chamber by a wide margin, discussed the issue in private Tuesday. “Members raised significant issues, so I would say at this point there

isn’t enough support within the Democratic conference to want to go forward on sports gambling," Heastie said.

Major League Baseball, the NBA and the PGA Tour had been among those urging lawmakers to pass a more far-reaching law that would broaden protections, offer mobile betting and include a royalty fee that would go to the leagues.

But the Assembly Democrats' concerns, coupled with a gridlocked state Senate, where Democrats and Republicans are both one vote short of a majority, appears to have led to the bill's demise for 2018. Governor Andrew Cuomo has also abstained from signaling support for the measure, casting further doubt on the prospects of getting the legislation through both houses and signed into law with such little time remaining.

A neighboring state, meanwhile, has already approved sports betting. New Jersey, which led the court battle to overturn the federal ban, allowed legal sports betting to begin within its borders Thursday.

#### [Democrat and Chronicle](#)

### 2. The Numbers don’t Lie

#### *Our Spin:*

Cynthia Nixon came out with guns blazing in March as she announced her campaign for Governor. Amidst the buzz, many wondered just how well the former actress would fare going up against the two-time incumbent Democratic Governor, Andrew Cuomo. Folks are getting a better idea with the most recent poll results out this week,

and it looks like Cynthia has her work cut out for her. Perhaps campaign poll results are pretty different from TV ratings after all.

#### *The Story:*

Governor Andrew Cuomo continues to hold a substantial lead over challenger Cynthia Nixon as the Democratic primary for governor moves into the summer months, according to a poll released Wednesday. The Siena College survey found that the two-term incumbent Governor is leading the former “Sex and the City” actress 61 to 26 percent, a bump up from the last time the same poll showed a 58 to 27 percent lead.

Nixon, who launched her campaign for Governor in March, has not gained any ground in the last two months and has in fact lost a few steps. “Nixon has a lot of catching up to do to make this race competitive,” said Siena spokesman Steve Greenberg. “Cuomo is well-known and well-liked by New York Democrats. Although similar percentages of Democrats view Cuomo and Nixon unfavorably, Cuomo has a significantly larger percentage of Democrats viewing him favorably.”

Greenberg continued by stating ““She’s not running against an empty slate. Name recognition and celebrity buy you so much. They don’t buy you the whole ball of wax. Nixon’s challenge is, yes, she’s got to become more well-known, yes, she’s got to become more well-liked and viewed more favorably by the voters. But she’s got to give a reason to vote for her as opposed to vote [against] the other guy, who they are inclined to like.”

The Siena College survey also showed Cuomo was still comfortably ahead of GOP rival Marc Molinaro, but by 19 points — 56 to 37 percent. Siena spoke with 745 likely general election voters from June 4 through 7, and the poll has a margin of error of 3.7 points.

Nixon’s campaign responded by citing other portions of the poll they said showed she could have a path to victory.

#### [Politico](#)

### **3. The Sequel**

#### *Our Spin:*

The baton has very much been passed in the New York Attorney General’s office as Attorney General Barbara Underwood filed a scathingly worded lawsuit on Thursday in State Supreme Court in Manhattan, taking aim at the Donald J. Trump Foundation. The lawsuit seeks to dissolve the foundation and bar the President and his three children from serving on nonprofit organizations. Underwood also sent referral letters to the Internal Revenue Service and the Federal Election Commission for possible further action. True to form, the President hit back at on Twitter, slamming the AG’s office and New York Democrats. Will

Underwood Vs. Trump be FightNight ticket we can all count on for years to come? Stay tuned.

#### *The Story:*

New York’s new Attorney General sued U.S. President Donald Trump, his namesake foundation and three of his children on Thursday, alleging “persistently illegal conduct” at the nonprofit, including support for Trump’s 2016 presidential campaign.

Attorney General Underwood asked a New York state judge to dissolve the Donald J. Trump Foundation, and impose bans on Trump, his daughter Ivanka, and his sons Eric and Donald Jr. from holding leadership roles in New York charities. Underwood stated that her office’s 21-month investigation, begun under her predecessor Eric Schneiderman, uncovered “extensive unlawful political coordination” by the foundation with Trump’s campaign, as well as “repeated and willful self-dealing” to benefit Trump’s personal, business and political interests.

One of the transactions the lawsuit claimed to be illegal was a \$10,000 payment to the Unicorn Children’s Foundation for a portrait of Trump purchased at a fundraising auction in 2014, in addition to \$100,000 paid to another charity to settle a legal claim in 2007.

The Republican president refuted the legitimacy of the lawsuit in a series of posts on Twitter, blaming Democratic politicians in New York: “The sleazy New York Democrats, and their now disgraced (and run out of town) A.G. Eric Schneiderman, are doing everything they can to sue me on a foundation that took in \$18,800,000 and gave out to charity more money than it took in, \$19,200,000,” Trump wrote. “I won’t settle this case!”

The Trump Foundation issued a statement criticizing the lawsuit as “politics at its very worst”, accusing Underwood and her office of holding its \$1.7 million in remaining funds “hostage for political gain.”

The lawsuit filed in the state Supreme Court in Manhattan is seeking \$2.8 million of restitution plus penalties, a 10-year ban on President Trump serving as a director of a New York nonprofit, and one-year bans for his three children.

“As our investigation reveals, the Trump Foundation was little more than a checkbook for payments from Mr. Trump or his businesses to nonprofits, regardless of their purpose of legality,” Underwood said in a statement. “That is not how private foundations should function.”

#### [Huffington Post](#)

