

**VERIZON  
UP TO SPEED LIVE**

**April 2, 2024 12:00 PM ET**

>> JEN MARIN: Hello V Team, happy Tuesday.

[APPLAUSE].

>> JEN MARIN: I hope the beginning of your week has been off to a wonderful start and it's about to get even better after today's show because boy do we have a lot of great news to share with all of you today so let's get things started with an update to a story Raquel brought you last Thursday as you know right now everyone is buzzing about March Madness but we've got the biggest reason to brag.

DJ Horne who is the son of one of our network engineers, Lamar Horne, is one of the talented players leading the North Carolina State Wolfpack to their final -- to their first Final Four game in four decades.

Lamar even sent us this great pick of himself getting to hold the South regional championship trophy after the Wolfpack stunned Duke in their Elite Eight matchup DJ and their team are now prepping for their next big game this upcoming Saturday against Purdue so V Team you know we have family in the tournament let's do what we do best and show DJ and his family some support in the comments for today's story.

We're rooting for you DJ you can hear it right behind me and not only that but folks, the NC State women's team is also in their Final Four so a lot to cheer about for fans of the Wolfpack.

All right.

Well staying on the topic of sports recently Verizon hosted an awesome fan meet-and-greet event with international soccer superstar Patrick Kluivert in New York City.

Local fans visiting our Steinway Street store in Astoria Queens had a blast as they posed with photos and chatted with Patrick this amazing one-on-one experience was brought to local fans through the Verizon's partnership with lagging with El Partidazo program a yearlong event series with a mission to bring LaLiga clubs and players closer to the fans in the United States the event also show how Verizon continues to deliver first-of-its-kind moments to connect them with experiences they love the most from basketball to soccer and now to some racing news Verizon teamed up with Team Penske and IndyCar to release a short film called Indy From 500 Miles Away the film features Verizon's

very own Scott Hansen network performance energy preparing to conduct a first of its kind test to the world famous Indianapolis Motor Speedway putting our network to the ultimate test.

Let's check it out.

>> Hi I'm Scott Verizon engineer here at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway where we're always putting the network to the test.

What I love about IndyCar is just the sheer power and technology on the track on display every race.

We have to prepare for race day constantly.

We do testing in the stands.

Around the track.

In the pits.

In the suites.

We test everywhere.

We are monitoring the network real-time.

We collect data.

We look at the data.

We optimize based on what we find.

Verizon has built a system and a network that can meet the capacity needs of a race day with 300,000 people here.

We're here to serve the customers in the stands.

But we're also here so serve the track crews and drivers on the course IndyCar crew we're making split second decisions no compromise no breaks every millisecond counts for the driver they need that reliability instantaneously all the time the ultra low latency trustee biggest thing we have over 80 zones of 4G service here we have over 300 5G nodes here in the track we have to optimize and monitor everything to make sure it all works seamlessly for the customers and for the drivers for the pit crews.

The Verizon Network is there for them.

[APPLAUSE].

>> JEN MARIN: What a cool video.

Very, very neat.

All right well V Team can you believe it's April?

It's a pretty special month.

And you'll want to make sure you tune in on nurse because Raquel is going to talk all things diversity month with our UNITED Employee Resource Group and

some very special guests.

But I did want to take a moment to acknowledge how awesome March was with all the Women's History Month celebrations as you know we kicked off the month long celebrations right here on Up to Speed with Sam and our WAVE Global Lead Kia Wilson that was a super fun episode and I love this year's theme, Be Inspired. Be Ignited. Be Included.

Then to celebrate International Women's Day the amazing women of the Verizon Leadership Council teamed up for a really special conversation filled with nuggets of wisdom so good.

I mean, we were talking about that event for days.

So much happened in between but finally we rounded out the month with Sam, who kicked off her new Wonder Women LinkedIn Live series with co-owners of the WNBA team Seattle Storm they shared stories of overcoming tough moments, big career pivots and more.

You can check out the replay on LinkedIn by scanning the QR Code on the screen.

Now, as for our responsible business efforts many of these also had an important tie-in to Women's History Month.

Last month Verizon Innovative Learning celebrated an incredible milestone reaching 7 million students.

Many of the lives touched by this program students, teachers, educators and school leaders, are women and girls.

But that's not all.

I'm sure you've heard of Verizon's Small Business Digital Ready program.

It supports thousands of small businesses across the country with free, online resources and during Women's History Month we were able to surprise not one but two women owned small businesses with \$10,000 grants first let's highlight the innovative Charlotte Bowens who started her company Conscious Gear after a health scare inspired her to take up running and when I say she took up running I don't mean casually Charlotte now runs ultra marathons.

Like all good innovators Charlotte had a problem and created a solution when she couldn't find a hydration vest that fit her properly she took matters into her own hands.

Get this, her vest, is the world's first hydration vest designed by and for bigger bodies.

It comes in sizes large through 8X.

Charlotte used Verizon's free Small Business Digital Ready program courses and live events to help her grow her business and her vest will soon be in select

REI stores.

Congratulations.

Now, let's celebrate another incredible woman, Naomi Romo.

The current owner of Anghelo's Suit and Tux.

Her family's owned the suit and tux business for three decades.

Like Charlotte Naomi also took advantage of the incredible free resources offered by our Verizon Small Business Digital Ready program.

Sharing that the marketing course was instrumental in helping her understand the incredible value of social media and reviews even beyond just the ones on Google.

Telemundo Miami's local entertainment show Acceso Total captured the moment that our Director of small and medium businesses Jorge Zapata surprised the Hispanic business owner and her family with the grant.

Let's check it out.

(Speaking in language other than English).

>> JEN MARIN: What a wonderful surprise.

Que linda sorpresa.

[APPLAUSE].

>> JEN MARIN: And by the way if you're wondering how Naomi and Charlotte qualified for those grants folks who take advantage of at least two resources on the Verizon Small Business Digital Ready platform can actually apply for the opportunity to receive the \$10,000 grant which is awarded to a select few small businesses each year.

And listen up, and spread the word, right now, city-specific grant applications are open to small businesses in Miami, Phoenix, LA and Houston you can learn more about the Verizon Small Business Digital Ready by checking out today's story all right while speaking of Verizon's support and impact on small businesses just last week we were a proud presenting sponsor at the Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Business Expo in DC the expo is one of the largest gatherings of Latino and other minority owned small and medium businesses in the area the focus was ensuring that the thriving Hispanic business community is connected to as many resources as possible at the expo we caught up with President and CEO of the Latin American Youth Center in DC Lupe Quintero who shared how she felt about Verizon's showing up to invest in the Hispanic Community.

>> Our young people are everybody's business so to be able to see Verizon partner and see the importance of supporting organizations that support our community, it speaks volumes of Verizon. And in understanding that as a collective, like we have to really invest in our youth. And as cliché as it sounds, right, like they are our future.

>> JEN MARIN: They most certainly are. Very cool to see how we're showing up for our communities and businesses from Phoenix to Miami and DC. V Team, all of these stories are stories that you can all be proud of. And speaking of investing in Latino youth, recently Verizon and the Association of Latino Professionals For America sponsored a college seminar focusing on women in business at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. V Teamers Donna Navedo Sexton, Angelic Anderson, and Lucia Mendieta from our Lake Mary Engagement Hub spoke on a panel hosted by Marlyn Jasso, a Diversity Ambassador Lead from the universities relations HR Team. The goal during this conversation was to give the students tangible resources and advice to thrive in the world of business and the panelists shared the positive impact that working at Verizon has had on their careers. Here's an example of how the conversation inspired one of the students.

>> I definitely learned to be proud of who I am. To show my personality and to stand up for myself, to never quiet down. This is something that I'm taking away today and I want to thank you guys for speaking your heart out to really inspire me and motivated me to keep going keep being strong and you know us women, we can do it and we will succeed.

>> JEN MARIN: How touching. And in true Verizon fashion the ladies also took part in one of our Citizen Verizon volunteer activities by writing letters of gratitude to mental health workers and I'm sure they'll appreciate those big time. All right. Well before we wrap up the show let's chat about something that's generating a lot of buzz 2-Minute Break. It's a weekly Q&A series featuring V Teamers from around the world talking about their jobs. Families, hobbies and so much more.

Our current edition features Rakim Adell a Retail Specialist and a member of our VIP program.

Scan the QR Code on your screen to download the Inside Verizon app and catch up on Rakim's story plus read the great profiles of other V Teamers that we've recently highlighted.

Later this week we'll have a new edition going out featuring a wonderful V Teamer that I've had the personal pleasure of getting to know Alizanette Rodriguez be sure to check out today's story to find out how you can have a chance to be featured in an upcoming 2-Minute Break.

With that I hope you all have a wonderful rest of your day.

Be sure to tune in on Thursday for another awesome live show.

And until next time, you're Up to Speed.

[APPLAUSE].

[MUSIC PLAYS].